

THE BEST OF THE Crescent CityTM *Jewish News*

THE VOICE OF NEW ORLEANS' JEWISH COMMUNITY





We want to thank the New Orleans Jewish community for the overwhelming support and encouragement the **Crescent City Jewish News** has experienced in its first few years of operation. The fact is our website (www.crescentcityjewishnews.com) audience has steadily increased in viewership and we have witnessed a consistent growth in attracting frequent returning daily visitors to our site.

Because we recognize there are several segments of our targeted population who cannot access the website for a variety of reasons and because we believe strongly in the need to document and support the events of the community, we are publishing the first of what will be a continuing series of “**Best of the CCJN**” editions. This first edition will cover a span of one year. Eventually, we will increase the frequency of these publications.

Like most years, 2013 will be remembered for its continuity and its change. The New Orleans Jewish community hosted several festivities including the JCC’s annual Adloyodah, the city-wide Yom Hashoah event, Israel’s 65th anniversary celebration (Yom Ha’atzmaut,) and the unusual concordance called Thanksgiving. As usual, several gala dinners and luncheons where community leaders were honored were held, and the Jewish Federation’s year long centennial milestone culminated.

The year brought about a sense of accomplishment and a sense of loss. The early January announcement from **Rabbi Uri Topolosky** at Congregation Beth Israel set the stage for the departure of several other beloved community leaders from their long-held positions. Jewish Family Service said goodbye to executive director **Deena Gerber**. **Debbie Pesses** bade her position at the JCC farewell, while **Cathy Glaser** announced her retirement as South Regional director of the Anti-Defamation League. With the exception of Topolosky and his family, all of the others are still viable members of the New Orleans Jewish community.

In order to cover an entire year of events, most of the articles in this edition of “**The Best of the CCJN**” have been edited for space. All articles in this edition can be accessed and read in their entirety on our website. (www.crescentcityjewishnews.com)



Finally, there are those community leaders, friends and family we lost this year. Part of the CCJN’s mission has been to document the lives of those members of our community for posterity. We have included these obituaries.

As 2014 continues to progress, we want you to remember that the CCJN is always there, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep you and other members of the New Orleans Jewish community informed and supported. We have several “how to” guides included in this edition to show you how to better access and utilize the CCJN on a daily basis. Also please use our online submission forms to inform the CCJN about any simchas or other life cycle events that touch your families.

Best wishes,
Alan Smason, Editor

Rabbi Uri Topolosky Announces Departure from Beth Israel

JANUARY 4, 2013

Rabbi Uri Topolosky, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel and a charismatic figure, whose hire in 2007 was credited with reinvigorating the modern Orthodox community in the Greater New Orleans area, announced the forthcoming departure from his post in the summer.

Topolosky sent out an open letter informing the entire congregation of his decision to leave. "It is with a broken heart that I share with you our family's difficult decision to leave New Orleans and our beloved Beth Israel family this coming summer," he wrote. The Rabbi explained that the educational opportunities for his children were of concern to him and his wife.

In February of 2007, Topolosky along with his wife Dahlia came to tour New Orleans and inspected the site of the devastated Beth Israel Synagogue on Canal Boulevard. It was there they read the inscription in large Hebrew letters above the front doors: "Build me a sanctuary and I shall dwell in your midst (*Exodus* 25:8)." That same inscription had been on their wedding invitations. The Topoloskys took it as a sign.

"From the first day that Dahlia and I stood in front of the



Rabbi Uri Topolosky at the 2012 Beth Israel dedication weekend, cheering as five Torah scrolls are conducted to his new sanctuary. (Photo by Alan Smason)

old shul on Canal Blvd, we knew that this *shidduch* was *beshert*. We were meant to be here. We continue to believe that we are amongst the lucky few to experience a sense of calling in life and we have never taken that for granted. We have been blessed to work in an inspiring environment – in a big city that you can still wrap your arms around; in a town that knows how to get up when it's down; in a community that leans on each other and has learned the power of collaboration; and in a shul which has understood that mighty waters could not extinguish its love. Today our hearts are broken because we understand how

special this place is and we will miss it, and all of you, dearly," he continued in his letter.

Topolosky, who was also instrumental in getting kosher certification for Café du Monde's restaurants worldwide through Louisiana Kashrut Committee, also jokingly mentioned in his letter that "kosher" beignets must also be continued through this transition.

The 33-year-old rabbi has accomplished much during his tenure. He pushed for a successful drive to relocate the Modern Orthodox synagogue to Metairie from its devastated location in New Orleans' Lakeview. He maintained excellent relations with Congregation Gates of



Rabbi Uri Topolosky affixes a mezuzah to the doorpost of the new Beth Israel synagogue on August 26, 2012. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Prayer, the Reform Temple in Metairie that had taken in the remnants of his synagogue's members and permitted them to use a meeting room with a built-in ark as a place of worship. It was through Topolosky's studies with Gates of Prayer Rabbi Robert Loewy that a deep relationship of friendship and mutual respect evolved. He advocated for and was critical in the success of an agreement between the two entities to purchase land in order to build a new sanctuary. Through his years, an administrative director, Rabbi David Posternock, was hired to assist him and Topolosky's advocacy led to a successful \$3 million financial

campaign to pay for a new building and set up an endowment for continued operations.

Although Topolosky wrote he was proud of all of his accomplishments over the course of the past several years, he cautioned the membership that much still needs to be done to fully recover. He noted that long term leadership of the synagogue, bolstering the Community Day School more fully, re-instituting a daily minyan and establishing a community mikvah as future projects.

Coming to New Orleans with two boys, the Topolosky family will be leaving as a family of six, having given birth to two daughters in the past five years.

Berk Announces Departure from Community Day School

JANUARY 12, 2013

Community Day School head of school Bob Berk surprised his faculty, board of directors, students and parents with a letter announcing his intent to step down from his position when his current contract ends in June. Berk, under whose leadership the recent name change from New Orleans Jewish Day School and branding to Community Day School was implemented, indicated he had reluctantly made this decision because of his desire to work in

the public sector.

Speaking with the CCJN, Berk reiterated that his primary reason for moving to New Orleans was the appointment of his wife, Rabbi Alexis Berk, to the pulpit at Touro Synagogue in 2008, not for him to become the head of school at a Jewish day school. After four years, Berk said, he felt a piece of him was pushing within him to move away from the specific Jewish education field and seek work in the public education field for which he was trained.

Berk countered speculation he may have accepted a position

somewhere else. "I don't have a job. I don't have a lead on a job," he answered. "All I have is this desire to work in the public."

This past week Dashka Roth, the president of Community Day School, sent out a letter in which she reluctantly accepted Berk's decision. She also announced the appointment of former day school president Hugo Kahn to the chairmanship of a search committee for a new head of school. Both Roth and Kahn met with parents on Friday morning to survey from them any questions about the transition and



Community Day School head of school Bob Berk (Photo by Alan Smason)

to gather feedback from them about the process. Echoing Berk's feelings, Roth wrote in her letter

"Sometimes, what seems to be a sad change, turns into an unexpected opportunity."

Federation Begins Second Century

JANUARY 18, 2013

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans threw itself a 100th birthday party Tuesday night and guests of honor included New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, noted author and speaker Rabbi Joseph Telushkin and most all of the living men and women who have led Federation through the past several decades.

Beginning with a wine and cheese reception at 6:15 pm, the event started quietly at the Henson Auditorium of Isidore Newman School. Soon, however, Federation president-designate Morton Katz introduced the Panorama Jazz Band, who led a “second line” into the auditorium featuring the present and former Federation presidents sporting umbrellas and dancing rhythmically to the band.

Landrieu spoke for just a few minutes, but it was a

significant speech that spoke glowingly of the import of the Jewish community to the city at large. Tulane University professor Brenda Brasher next presented a short slide presentation on the Federation’s first 100 years titled “The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans: A century of Action, Imagination and Resolve.”

Local resident Bill Hess, wearing a top hat, portrayed his great-grandfather Julius Rosenwald. It was Rosenwald who spoke to one of the first meetings of the group that organized itself into what became the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans one hundred years ago.

The highlight of the night was when native son and chairman of the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations Richard Berenson Stone and Telushkin engaged in an on-stage conversation about influences in Stone’s life. Following their talk, everyone enjoyed kosher sparkling wine and cake made especially for the celebration.



Centennial celebration figures from left are Bill Hess, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, Centennial chair Julie Wise Oreck and Richard Stone. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

Barton Marks 10th Year as Emeritus Administrator

JANUARY 25, 2013

Herbert Barton remembers the day full well when he ventured into Temple Sinai for the first time. He had come to marry his first wife Vera (née Levy) and the wedding was being celebrated in the Reform temple on St. Charles Avenue. “I still maintained my membership at Beth Israel,” he admitted recently. He kept that membership for an additional three or four years until he made a clean break with his former shul.

Barton had been raised an Orthodox Jew and was not acquainted with Reform Jewry. “Julian Feibelman was the rabbi then,” he recalled. “He was here every day. The rabbi did everything and all the services. Rabbi Feibelman was well-liked and well-respected in the whole

community,” Barton continued. “He won the Times-Picayune Loving Cup award.”

In March of 1963 he accepted the position as the Temple Sinai Executive Director. He enjoyed a career with the temple for more than 50 years, with the last ten in an emeritus capacity.

“When I first came here, I wasn’t just the temple’s executive director,” he confessed. “I was also in charge of the religious school and the youth group. Working with this specific population had Barton expand his commitments to also serve as the Executive Director of the Southern Federation of Temple Youth (SOFTY.) In that capacity he helped to secure Macy Hart as the camp director, and acquire the land that has grown into the Southern Institute of Jewish Life.

Through the half century of his work at Temple Sinai, he

oversaw long-held traditions as well as much progress and change. Barton recalled the traditions of Temple Sinai in the early Sixties. “We had confirmations, but no bar nor bat Mitzvahs in those days,” Barton reminisced. Slowly but surely change came to Temple Sinai. The most recent rabbi, Ed Paul Cohn invited more traditions back into the services including the chanting of the Haftarah. Also bar and bat Mitzvahs now occur regularly. Also Barton commented about the positive rise of women in leadership positions at Temple Sinai. “There have been 25 presidents I served under and three of them have been women: Sandy Levy, Betty Zivitz and Anne Zivitz Kimball,” he boasted.

Having just celebrated his 90th birthday, Barton is still going strong and he is at the temple at least two or three times a week



Herbert Barton, 90, at his emeritus director desk at Temple Sinai. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

as an emeritus executive director. In addition he has maintained his position of executive secretary for the Reform cemeteries owned jointly by Temple Sinai and Touro Synagogue.

Barton looks at pride to all he has accomplished in his term of office at Temple Sinai. “Our members are satisfied and we’re still the largest you know...the largest temple in the state!”

Mardi Gras Madness Continues

FEBRUARY 8, 2013

Although there is a great deal of Catholic theology attached to the celebration of Fat Tuesday, New Orleans Jews have always enjoyed a special status with the holiday as more than dedicated outsiders wishing to take part.

The very first Rex in 1872 was Jewish. Louis Solomon was a successful local merchant and he heavily funded the first Rex parade.

Jewish New Orleans Carnival captains have included the late clothier Irving Zoller, who's parading Krewe of Mecca eventually, merged with the non-parading Knights of Sparta and permitted the latter to take over Mecca's uptown parade route when their numbers decreased. Sparta's present captain, whose identity is traditionally kept secret, is Jewish.

The Krewe of Hermes and the Knights of Babylon, reportedly had a rift over the question

of Jewish participation. Today there are several Jews who participate as riders in both krewes after these restrictions were lifted.

Touro Synagogue, located along the traditional uptown parade route annually offers a casual Friday Night service known as "Shabbat Gras" for locals to go to services and then view the parades of the Krewes of Hermes, D'Etat and Morpheus on Friday evening.

Chag Purim – Happy Purim 5773

FEBRUARY 24, 2013

The festival of Purim began at sundown Saturday night with major celebrations held in Metairie and New Orleans. A joint Purim celebration between Conservative Congregation Shir Chadash and Orthodox Congregation Beth Israel was held at Shir Chadash, the second such occurrence in as many years.

Shir Chadash Rabbi Ethan Linden and Beth Israel Rabbi Uri Topolosky also premiered a new video Saturday night at the gathering of the two synagogues just prior to the reading of the Megillah Esther. The humorous video featured the two rabbis taking in the sights of the Audubon Institute's Insectarium as well as feasting on kosher beignets at Café du Monde. The piece was supposed to have taken place during their time off for lunch, hence the title "The Lunchbreak."



Enjoying the Purim fun are Peter and Sheryl Title (photo by Alan Smaison)



A scene from "The Lunchbreak" featuring Rabbi Ethan Linden, left, and Rabbi Uri Topolosky.

Gary Negbaur Performs at JCC

FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Like so many talented performers, Gary Negbaur has been drawn to New Orleans on many occasions. A composer, pianist and vocalist who can croon, get funky or lay down a jazz groove, he returned to the Crescent City. Negbaur performed at the Uptown Jewish Community Center, featuring songs either written about New Orleans or inspired by people who have been influenced by its charms.

Negbaur's show featured a crowd of about 50, mostly older, individuals, who availed themselves of a light lunch consisting of red beans and rice. The last time he played at the JCC, his repertoire was part of an all-Jewish song festival, but this time he focused more on New Orleans music and musicians than on his own religious heritage.

The program performed at the JCC included songs by well-known natives Louis Armstrong and Professor Longhair (Roy Byrd) as well as those who have been heavily influenced by the city such as Randy Newman and Tom Waits. Among the selections he performed was a version of "Indian Red," a Mardi Gras Indian song held in high reverence by the many local tribes.

Negbaur speaks reverently about New Orleans music and considers the city as one of the most important influences over the past century. "Certainly, 'The Birthplace of Jazz,' – it has that moniker," he notes. "But (more so) because of that, so much more imbedded in that. There's a certain kind of groove, a certain tinge, a certain feel in the rhythm and a certain kind of swing." He admits that covers "everything written in popular music in the last 100 years, so it is pretty broad."

Negbaur also alludes to a mystery in the music of the city veiled in the humid Southern melting pot flavored with voodoo and other Caribbean and African rhythms.

"One of the things I point out is that the classic songs written about New Orleans were not written by New Orleanians," he muses. The song "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans," for example, was written for a Hollywood film featuring Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong, he explains. Yet, after its release, "It became New Orleans."



Gary Negbaur performs the first of three gigs in New Orleans at the JCC (Photo by William Bachman)



Negbaur performs on Tuesday at the JCC (Photo by Alan Smaison).

Ruth Kullman receives 2013 Hannah G. Solomon Award

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

It was a good day for Ruth Kullman on Monday. That was the day she was honored by her fellow National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) peers and by a procession of local officials, but most especially the man she watched grow up from a small boy into the mayor of the City of New Orleans, Mitch Landrieu.

"I'm really not standing here as your mayor, but I'm here because Ruth is my friend," an overjoyed Landrieu told the crowd of over 200 gathered in the Westin Hotel's Grand Ballroom. "I can honestly say I would not be here as your mayor if it weren't for Ruth!" Landrieu spoke glowingly of Kullman, who has served as the mayor's finance director for the past decade.

Yet the major focus of the day

was on Kullman's acceptance of the coveted Hannah G. Solomon Award for 2013. The award, named in honor of the founder of the National Council of Jewish Women, has only been given out 45 times previously since it was instituted here in 1966. The list of award winners reads like a who's who of civic leaders and community volunteers.

Kullman was presented with the award – a bust of Solomon that bears Kullman's name and year of recognition – by event chairwoman Madalyn Schenck. "She's an accomplished woman," Among the many accomplishments Schenck rattled off in rapid succession were Kullman's work as the director of Tulane University's Donor Relations, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans campaign director, Jewish Family Service's director of Family Life, where she

created the Teen Life Counts suicide prevention program, her volunteerism with Planned Parenthood, the Orleans Parish School system and as President of the Board of Trustees at Touro Infirmary and Touro Synagogue.

At her acceptance Kullman acknowledged the legacy that began with Solomon 123 years ago and how strongly she respected the list of previous recipients. Kullman went on to state that many of them had personally impressed her with their own strengths and leadership provided to the local NCJW chapter and to the city. "I truly am humbled to join their ranks," she added.

Before closing, NCJW chapter president June Leopold had several accolades to bestow upon Kullman. "Working with you has been a gift," Leopold declared. "Your integrity and your passion to serve never ceases to amaze me."

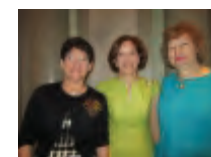


Hannah Solomon Award recipient, Ruth Kullman, accepts the award from event chair Madalyn Schenck. (Photo by Alan Smason)



from Lt to RT

Ruth Kullman and her family | Table of Past Presidents of Nola Section of NCJW | Madalyn Schenck, Ruth Kullman and current NCJW president June Leopold (all photos by Alan Smason)








8305 Airline Drive, Metairie
504-466-6000
www.bryansubaru.com



The Jewish Day School of Greater New Orleans

K-5 Private School
3747 West Esplanade Avenue
Metairie, LA 70002
www.communitynola.org
504.887.4091
Call for your tour today!



Enrollment is open to all qualified students regardless of race, gender, creed, or national origin.

OFFICE: (504) 895-1191 EMERGENCY: (504) 282-8034

HILTON MARX TITLE, D.D.S

GENERAL DENTISTRY

HOSPITAL DENTISTRY
DENTAL SNORING TREATMENT

Located in the Touro Medical Plaza
Office hours by appointment
E-Mail: hiltonmarxtitledds@gmail.com

3600 Prytania Street
Suite 48
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115



Louis S. Lederman, GRI, ABR, HHS
Serving Clients Well Since 1993!
Graduate Realtors Institute
Accredited Buyers Representative
Historic Home Specialist
Life Member Million Dollar Club
Native New Orleanian – U.N.O. Business Degree



7934 Maple Street, New Orleans, LA 70118
Office: (504) 861-7575 Fax: (504) 861-6417
Cell: (504) 874-3195
email: louislederman@yahoo.com
www.GardnerRealtors.com



Home-Grown, Locally Owned & Internationally Known

Jewish Music Forum opens at Tulane

MARCH 4, 2013

The Jewish Music Forum (JMF) opened its two-day scholarly conference, “From Europe to New Orleans: Jewish Music Past and Present” at Tulane University last night with a free concert of Jewish liturgical music at Dixon Recital Hall. Professor John Baron and Tulane Provost Michael Bernstein welcomed guests to the JMF conference sponsored by the American Society for Jewish Music.

Cantors Joel Colman of Temple Sinai and Jamie Marx of Touro Synagogue and cantorial soloist Victoria Cohen May of Gates of Prayer Synagogue took turns singing solo pieces accompanied by piano or with each other. They were joined in the second half of the concert by the Tulane University Choir conducted by C. Leonard Raybon.

Founded in 2004, the JMF is in its eighth season. This is the

first conference held at Tulane. According to musicologist professor Mark Kligman of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York, Tulane was chosen to host the forum because of the increase in Jewish presence there. In addition to Provost Bernstein and the strong Rohr Chabad Student Center and the Tulane Hillel Center organizations, Kligman points out that Tulane University President, Scott Cowen and the Dean of the Tulane Medical School, Dr. Benjamin Sachs, are Jewish.

Kligman reminisced about both local Cantors Marx and Coleman who were invested at HUC-JIR in New York. “Twenty years ago when I started at HUC-JIR, Joel Colman was there. Jamie wrote his thesis with me.”

The conference featured three sessions with academic focus on history and musicology. The event culminated with a reception held at Tulane’s Department of Jewish Studies at 7301 Freret Street.



Cantor Coleman with the Tulane University Choir and the 3 local cantors



Local cantors joined with the Tulane University Choir last night to kick off a two-day Jewish Music Forum. (All photos by Alan Smason)

Jeff Berlin to join Wolff and Clark Expedition here

MARCH 10, 2013

Two of the hippest Jews in jazz joined forces at Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro this weekend in the persons of pianist Michael Wolff and bass player Jeff Berlin. Wolff and Berlin have known each other since the Seventies when they were immersed in the New York scene as in-demand session players. They joined drummer Michael Clark on stage as part of the jazz power trio Wolff and Clark Expedition.

Wolff, who lived in New Orleans for a time as a youngster before moving to Memphis, has played with famous jazz and pop stars like Nancy Wilson and the late Nat “Cannonball” Adderly, Cal Tjader, and Warren Zevon. His musical credentials eventually got him hired as Arsenio Hall’s music director on the talk show host’s first late-night excursion. He is a highly respected composer, arranger, producer, vocalist, educator and has toured the country with his own jazz trios and quartets for many years. Wolff has made stops in New Orleans for five of the last six Thanksgivings to visit with family members who still live here.

Berlin’s experiences in music mirror many of Wolff’s early successes. He attended the Berklee School of Music, which by his own admission was much smaller in the Seventies. He immediately hit the New York jazz and fusion scene, playing with Toots Thielemans, Pat Martino and later Patrick Moraz, who was then a featured performer in the rock group Yes.

When asked about his Jewish faith, Michael Wolff stated that he is not particularly observant, but he does have a respect for his faith background. He added



Michael Wolff, left, with partner Michael Clark of the Wolff and Clark Expedition return to Snug Harbor this weekend. (Photo courtesy Michael Wolff)



Bassist Jeff Berlin plays with Wolff and Clark Expedition on Saturday and Sunday. (Photo courtesy Jeff Berlin)

that he brought up his two sons with respect for Jewish traditions, especially at holiday time.

Likewise, Berlin has not been especially observant in his approach to his faith. However, because his father is a Holocaust survivor, his feelings run very

deeply. “Judaism is in my heart and profoundly in my heart as much as anything,” he states. “My Jewishness is profound and fully in my soul.”

JCRS event rooted in comedy

MARCH 11, 2013

With a nod to the Jewish comics, comedians and writers of the past, the Jewish Childrens Regional Service (JCRS) looked to the future on Saturday night as it presented the Jewish Roots of Comedy major event at Harrah's Casino in New Orleans.

Stand-up comics Avi Liberman and Wendy Liebman entertained the crowd by availing them with humorous one-liners and quips, some risqué, but all intended to be funny.

On the serious side JCRS executive director Ned Goldberg and president Bruce Miller made presentations to honorees Shirley and Ralph Seelig and Lisa and Mark Heller for their volunteer work with JCRS. The Seeligs were singled out for their work with JCRS since 2000 as members of the board and in other volunteer positions. Most notable was their establishment of the Shirley and Ralph Seelig Education Fund that provides scholarships to low-income Jewish college students.

Likewise, the Hellers were acknowledged for their three decades worth of volunteer experience in the Jewish community and the New Orleans community at large. Mark Heller was noted as a former president of Temple Sinai, while Lisa was acknowledged as JCRS president from 2007-2009 following 20 years as an officer, committee chair and board member.

The program also included two examples of personalities who were former residents of the Jewish Children's Home in New Orleans: Louis Berkie and "Maxie"



From left Wendy Goldberg, JCRS executive director Ned Goldberg and comedians Wendy Liebman and Avi Liberman. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

Izkowitz. Berkie, who lived in the home with his sister Libbie from 1917 to 1928, became a fixture in San Antonio as a purveyor of magic tricks, novelties and gags and wooden nickles with hilarious sayings for more than 50 years. Izkowitz (born Max Galinsky) lived in the home from 1915-1917 before returning to live with his mother in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Izkowitz was a noted loan and pawn shop owner in Little Rock ("put it in hock in Little Rock"), who became famous for his continual "going out of business" sales.



Honorees Ralph and Shirley Seelig at JCRS Jewish Roots of Comedy event. (Photo by Alan Smaison)



Also honored were Lisa and Mark Heller. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

Cantor Colman makes opera debut this weekend

MARCH 15, 2013

Cantor Joel Colman, who has been a source of spiritual inspiration at Temple Sinai with his deep and profound bass-baritone voice, gets an opportunity to inspire opera goers as well when he makes his debut with the New Orleans Opera Association this weekend.

Colman, who performed in the past with the opera as a chorus member, is slated to perform the featured role of the Old Hebrew in the production of "Samson and Delilah" by Camille Saint-Saëns on Friday night and Sunday afternoon. He auditioned for the role after maestro and artistic director Robert Lyall insisted he would be perfect in the First Act role. The irony

that he is making his debut in an opera based on a biblical story is not lost on the cantor. Nor is the contrast he sees between liturgical work and the spectacle of grand opera.

"The difference is you're stepping out of a cantorial role into an operatic role," considers Colman. "Yet, the two are linked in that they both require high vocal skills."

Then there is the difference in performing in Hebrew, a language in which he has been trained to sing loudly and prominently and that of French, a romantic language with subtle nuances and trills. "You have to do a lot of listening and a lot of studying to be able to sing it properly," Colman posits. "I'm very fortunate that our organist here (at Temple Sinai), Marcus

St. Julian, is familiar with the French repertoire," he continues. "And one of our French congregants, Gisele Schexnider, has been helping me as well as her daughter Margaux, who has been having a good time correcting her cantor's French."

In a show of support for their cantor, many Temple Sinai congregants plan to attend the Sunday matinee performance at the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts. "We have people coming," he beams.

Colman considers his work with maestro Lyall, whom he calls "fabulous," to be particularly satisfying. When it came time for blocking his role, Colman was able to incorporate some of his training and experience as a cantor into the role. "I'm able to use some of the rabbinic motions

such as blessing Samson," he notes.

Colman had a flashback to that scene during the blocking for one of the scenes in "Samson and Delilah" where Samson is rallying his fellow Hebrews. "All of a sudden the Philistine soldiers come on stage and start rousing the Hebrews and I said to myself 'Again?'" Colman muses. "The funny thing is that the Samson scene happened 3,000 years ago, but I couldn't help but thinking it's happening again." The cantor smiles broadly.

So, will this debut as an operatic singer suggest a career change for Colman? "I don't know where it will go," he concedes, but quickly adds "I am pretty happy in my role as the cantor at Temple Sinai."



Temple Sinai's Cantor Joel Colman who will be the Old Hebrew. (Photo courtesy New Orleans Opera Association)

Campaign Celebration held at Audubon Tea Room

MARCH 24, 2013

BY JENNIE WALLAS

The beauty and elegance of the opulent Audubon Tea Room set the stage for honoring Dr. Julius Levy, Jr., as the recipient of the eighth annual Roger Bissinger Memorial Award at Federation's 2013 Campaign Celebration. Allan Bissinger, made the presentation to Levy, crediting him as an inspiration to all and noted "our community is lucky to have him."

Before a crowd of 175 attendees, Bissinger cited Levy's distinguished and steadfast commitment and leadership, which he said have benefited the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and other civic, educational, and cultural organizations. A past president of the Jew-

ish Federation of Greater New Orleans as well as a past annual campaign chair, Levy also served as the past president of Temple Sinai and has been a former board member of the New Orleans Jewish Community Center, the Anti-Defamation League, Woldenberg Village, the former Jewish Telegraphic Agency (now known simply as JTA) and the Joint Distribution Committee.

As chairman of the Department of Surgery at Touro Infirmary and Tulane Lakeside Hospital, Levy has enjoyed a long and distinguished career teaching anatomy at Tulane University.

At the top of his acceptance remarks, Levy unveiled a keen sense of humor, explaining to the audience the difference between a street mugger and Federation, "The street mugger demands your money or your life. Federation asks for your money and



Dr. Julius Levy, Jr., the eighth annual recipient of the Roger Bissinger Memorial Award (Photo by Jennie Wallas)

our life!"

It was noted that Levy has been to Israel numerous times before on Federation missions and has traveled to many Federation "hot" spots in the former Soviet Union, Morocco and Cuba.

Following Levy's remarks, the keynote speaker was welcomed



Federation campaign contributors in the Audubon Tea Room. (Photo by Jennie Wallas)

to the podium. R. James Woolsey, the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1993 to 1995 was welcomed. Woolsey's talk centered about the interaction of energy and national security relative to the Middle East, and the panoply of issues surrounding the dominance of oil in the global economy.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Dana Shepard presented

Woolsey with a special gift of a keepsake fleur-de-lis as thanks from the Federation. She also acknowledged 2013 campaign chairpersons Lou and Susan Good, Amy and Jedd Malish, Louis Shepard and Jan Miller, and took particular notice to acknowledge event sponsors Herman, Herman and Katz, LLP and the Whitney Bank.

GOLDA'S BALCONY

A woman, a war, and the making of a nation.

Jan. 24 – Feb. 8

Golda Meir's ascent to Prime Minister of Israel is one of the most amazing stories of our time.

FORTICKETS:

www.lepetittheatre.com



504-522-2081





Yom Hashoah Community Memorial Event

APRIL 8, 2013

Last night the annual Yom Hashoah event, which sensitively focuses on the horrors of the Shoah while embracing the tenacious spirit of the displaced survivors that settled into the New Orleans community, was held at the Uptown Jewish Community Center.

The program began with a solemn processional of the few remaining local survivors. It was immediately followed by the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner” by Temple Sinai Cantor Joel Colman and the singing of “Hatikvah” by Louis Lederman, the son of survivors Abe and Toby Lederman of blessed memory.

The featured speaker at this year’s event was Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, the Chief Negotiator of the Holocaust Claims Conference (HCC.) Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn of Temple Sinai was given the honor to introduce Eizenstat whom he referred to as “a mensch, a scholar, a patriot and a great American Jewish person, whose life truly epitomizes what it means to be a public servant.”

Eizenstat’s commentary that followed did not disappoint the audience. His opening remarks were directed at giving a historical background to the anti-Semitism that began centuries ago, culminating in the mid-Twentieth Century series of events now known as the Holocaust. According to Eizenstat, the Shoah killed “fully one third of the total Jewish population of the world. In 1939 there were 17 million Jews in a world of two billion,” he cited. “Today there are only 12.1 million Jews in a world of seven billion.”

Eizenstat made an impassioned plea to the many children and youth in the audience to keep these facts in mind. “The Holocaust wouldn’t have been possible without Hitler,” he reminded them. However the lessons of history Hitler learned from the Avion Conference and



The six-tiered Holocaust menorah with the central Mogen David designed by Isak Borenstein of blessed memory. (Photo by Alan Smason)

the ill-fated S.S. St. Louis ship that was turned away from both Cuba and the United States were undeniable signals that Jews were dispensable and not a priority.

Some 60 years after the end of the war, a question that remains for Americans is: “What can we do in the aftermath of the Holocaust?”, he posited. “First we must provide justice to the survivors,” he said. “There are about 500,000 survivors and over 90 percent live in poverty in Central and Eastern Europe”

According to other figures he provided, Eizenstat also stated that 35 percent of Jewish survivors living in both the Jewish state of Israel and the United States also live in poverty. “In New York City where my wife and I have organized a (benefit) concert, a recent survey says that 50 percent of them live in poverty or close to the poverty line and that should be unacceptable to us.”

Eizenstat said that one of the biggest concerns to Holocaust survivors today is to ensure they have a decent livelihood. Another is health care. He claimed that annual negotiations have brought about \$550 million slated for home care, pharmaceuticals and socialization. “But it is a drop in the bucket,” he complained.

“The third way we can honor the memory of those who died is to combat anti-Semitism and

those who are against the Jewish State,” he said. Eizenstat pointed to a number of campaigns being waged against prominent Israeli business interests in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

The fourth way we can respond to these challenges is to assure the continuity of the Jewish people and that, Eizenstat suggested, might be the most important. “We are facing a whole range of threats internally and externally,” he admitted.

This means supporting Israel. “The United States is the ballast and defender of freedom and democracy and tolerance around the world and Israel is its *only* ally,” Eizenstat exclaimed. “I want to underscore that: its *only* ally.”

While the ambassador credited a global reliance in the marketplace by many different countries that has made the world a safer place for Israel, the Arab revolution in Egypt and the resultant rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to power as well as the civil war in Syria are making Israel feel less secure.

Also, Iran’s continuing its pursuit of nuclear weaponry is also of prime importance, he said. “2013 will be the decisive year,” Eizenstat professed. Scenarios he suggested were a negotiated settlement on one extreme or a war on the other. “I can assure you the Saudis are not going to stand still if Iran



Yom Hashoah Educator of the Year Susan Ary lights a candle on the menorah. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat lights one of the memorial candles at the Yom Hashoah Community event. (Photo by Alan Smason)

gets a bomb,” he averred.

In closing, Eizenstat examined what he considers alarming trends for the Jewish community. These include declining birth rates in all but the Orthodox segment of Jewry and the rise of intermarriage within the Reform and Conservative movements. “We have to open our institutions fully and completely to intermarried couples, encourage them to raise their kids as Jewish and talk to them about the beauty of Judaism,” Eizenstat insisted.

“We have an obligation that there is Jewish continuity in this world,” he concluded.

Other components of the program included Cathy Glaser, the regional director of the Anti-Defamation League and local president Betty Lazarus who acknowledged the 10 members of

the Donald Mintz Youth Leadership Mission to Washington, DC. These students represented private, public and parochial schools in the area.

Susan Ary, a teacher at Lusher Charter Middle School accepted the Yom Hashoah Educator of the Year Award from Holocaust survivor Anne Levy and siblings Henry Rosenblatt and Ruth Loeffelholz that are children of Holocaust survivors Ralph and Gertrude Rosenblatt of blessed memory.

Accepting the award, Ary said to Levy “Anne, I am in awe of you. I wanted to thank you for the courage and strength you showed when you shared your experiences,” she said. “You’ve had a profound effect on our students and me.”

The latter portion of the program involved several of the



honorees, survivors and offspring of survivors lighting a special Holocaust menorah crafted by Isak Borenstein of blessed memory with six candle holders signifying the six million lost Jewish souls claimed by the Holocaust.

A prayer service followed a moment of silence led by Rabbi Uri Topolosky and the singing of “Ani Ma’amin”

(“I Believe”) by Touro Synagogue Cantor Jamie Marx.

The service led by survivor Joseph Sher in which he read a special version of El Maleh Rachamim, a prayer for victims of the Holocaust, and the recitation of the names of all the New Orleans area survivors by Roslyn and Neal Morris preceded the closing prayer by Rabbi

Yonah Schiller of Tulane Hillel.

This year’s event was organized by outgoing JCC Jewish enrichment director, Debbie Pesses and the local Yom Hashoah Committee.

Jazz Fest Shabbat goes traditional

APRIL 29, 2013

Touro Synagogue’s 22nd annual Jazz Fest Shabbat went back to the roots of traditional jazz with clarinetist Michael White as the headliner for the event on Friday, April 26. The event played to a full house of approximately 800 gathered for the unique Jewish liturgical service which combines elements of jazz and other indigenous New Orleans music forms with a Sabbath worship service.

White, a renowned recording artist for Basin Street Records, is also considered an important jazz scholar, but it was his ability to integrate his performance with several pieces of Jewish liturgy that made him the selection of the Jazz Fest Shabbat committee chaired by David Hammer and implemented by Cantor Jamie Marx.

Previous headline performers at past Jazz Fest Shabbats such as Allen Toussaint, Irma Thomas and Marcia Ball played their sets without much collaboration with the Touro Synagogue Choir led by music director Terry Maddox or backing group, the Panorama Jazz Band led by Ben Schenck.

Prior to the evening service Jazz Fest Shabbat patrons attended a special private dinner and performance by White and his quartet. Then the Da Wright Band, a traditional New Orleans brass band made up of students from nearby Sophie Wright Charter School were strategically located and played several tunes to welcome attendees into the auditorium. Large lines queued up a half hour prior to the doors opening near 7:00 p.m.

Rabbi Berk and Cantor Marx

led worshippers through the Friday night liturgy prior to the secular performance of White and his quartet. This included the singing of Sholom Aleichem, the lighting and blessing of Sabbath candles, a kiddush over wine, Kabbalat Shabbat songs such as Lecha Dodi, the Shema and V’Ahavata and the Silent Amidah.

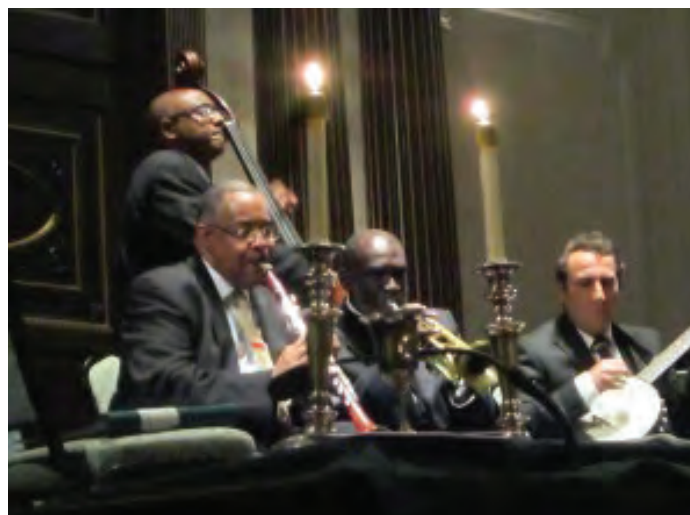
White was then called out to perform with Marx in a special arrangement he had rendered of the jazz standard “Down by the Riverside” with “Lo Yisa Goy,” the Hebrew text from the Bible (*Isaiah* 2:4), which includes the phrase “nation shall not make war no more.”

“We wanted someone who could appreciate and get into the spirituality of the service and to get the regular Sabbath attendees into the worship service as well,” said Marx prior to the event. “That was expressly what we asked for.”

The Jazz Fest Shabbat was the brainchild of former Touro Synagogue Cantor Steven Dubov of blessed memory, who wanted to combine elements of a traditional Jewish worship service with jazz music as homage to the unique American art form.

White’s quartet, which featured trumpeter Gregg Stafford on vocals, played a half-hour set of traditional tunes such as “Paul Barbarin’s Second Line.”

White received a standing ovation for his rendition of Gershwin’s “Summertime,” as previously rendered by New Orleans clarinetist and soprano saxophonist Sidney Bechet. “There are some similarities in his (Bechet’s) style and what you hear in Klezmer,” White stated prior to his appearance. At the event he joked Bechet



Michael White’s quartet inside Touro Synagogue. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

“had something very few jazz artists ever have: ‘A hit record!’ The crowd reacted with peals of laughter.

This was Marx’s second year in charge of the Jazz Fest Shabbat and he acknowledged a decision on the part of the Jazz Fest Shabbat committee to bring the focus of the event to one of prayer *first* and live performance *second*. “It’s been a priority for the last two years and certainly of mine to make it as much as a prayer service as possible,” Marx said.

Following the group’s performance, White was presented by Hammer with a specially decorated white tails topcoat, decorated by a Touro Synagogue member. A colorful silhouette of a clarinetist adorned the back, while other items such as a vinyl record album emblazoned the front, intended to symbolize his music career. The quartet members left the sanctuary while the service continued.

Following the Aleinu and the Mourner’s Kaddish, White



With Shabbat candles in the foreground, Michael White entertains at the Jazz Fest Shabbat. (Photo by Alan Smaison)



Michael White, left, holds a special coat presented to him by Jazz Fest Shabbat chair David Hammer. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

and the quartet members were invited back to join with the entire ensemble in the finale, the singing of Adon Olom to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

An Oneg Shabbat featuring an array of desserts, fresh fruit and other light refreshment was held in the social hall, where members of the Panorama Jazz Band entertained the crowd.



Jewish Women's Empowerment for Shavuot Program

MAY 14, 2013

Tonight a Shavuot program in Metairie is being co-sponsored by Reform Congregation Gate of Prayer, Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation and Congregation Beth Israel, a modern Orthodox synagogue where the event will be held. The title of the timely program will be "Authority and Leadership in the Jewish World" and will feature candidates for ordination from Yeshivat Maharat, the controversial New York yeshiva, as well as a Conservative movement rabbinic candidate and a Reform movement candidate likewise studying for ordination.

Last week, the Rabbinical Council of America, one of the largest unions of Orthodox rabbis in the world, with over 1,000 members in 14 countries, announced its refusal to accept the impending "ordination as clergy" of the first three women to graduate from Yeshivat

Maharat.

The local three rabbis participating in the Shavuot program were asked about their opinion on the Orthodox position concerning the ordination of women rabbis.

Rabbi Uri Topolosky of Beth Israel stated. "Obviously, they (the RCA) are struggling with the notion of women in these positions, which is what I think is interesting. I doubt 50 years ago they would have made the same statement, so you can look and see how the role of women has evolved."

In response to this statement, Rabbi Robert Loewy of Gates of Prayer stated, "The concept of women as rabbis is old news for us as Reform rabbis as we've had many wonderful women ordained as rabbis since 1972." Loewy continued, "That being said, I certainly understand how challenging this is to Orthodox Judaism and the Rabbinical Council of America. I look forward to the time when, perhaps, even they will fully be

able to embrace women as rabbinic colleagues."

"It's shortsighted to simply decide that women cannot be members of the Orthodox clergy," added Rabbi Ethan Linden of Shir Chadash. "It shows a jaundiced view of what a rabbi can be. Over time I think they will grow to regret that statement."

Linden believes the challenge from the RCA is only one part of a larger movement of resistance to female spiritual leaders that exists in society and is seen in other religious institutions particularly the Catholic Church. "Obviously, it shows the women who are becoming members of the Orthodox clergy in the Orthodox world are going to have an uphill battle," he mused.

Tonight's study sessions are part of the traditional form of study on the first night of Shavuot. They are scheduled to go all night long and will include the women clergy candidates and the local rabbis.

5th ANNUAL SHAVUOT TIKKUN LEIL

"AUTHORITY & LEADERSHIP IN THE JEWISH WORLD"

Featuring Female Yeshiva Students From Yeshivat Maharat (Orthodox), Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative), Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform)

Kullmans honored at Touro dinner

MAY 23, 2013

It was a night to long remember for the Kullmans – Ruth and Larry. Members of their family and their many friends, including two mayors and three rabbis, were present among the 200-plus people on hand to pay tribute to the couple for their many years of service to the congregation at Touro Synagogue.

The Kullmans were honored at the L'Chayim Dinner at the synagogue on May 19 and were presented with a symbolic glass chalice by Touro's Rabbi Alexis Berk. Her two predecessors at Touro, Rabbis David Goldstein (now rabbi emeritus) and Andrew Busch, were also effusive in their praise for the work the couple has done for the synagogue in many capacities. Goldstein, who retired after 27 years in 2005, spoke in person and Busch, who led the congregation in the immediate

post-Katrina years, sent his best wishes via a recorded video from his present home in Baltimore.

Honored guest speakers included former mayor Maurice "Moon" Landrieu with wife Verna and their son and current Mayor of the City New Orleans, Mitch Landrieu with his wife Cheryl. The Landrieus are longtime friends of the Kullmans, as well as employers both past and present. Larry Kullman, a practicing attorney, worked in City Hall during the elder Landrieu's administration and followed him to Washington, D.C. in 1978 when Moon Landrieu was named Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by President Jimmy Carter. Ruth Kullman is Mitch Landrieu's current Director of Finance.

Moon Landrieu and his wife, Verna, served as honorary co-chairs of the event, while congressmen Lou and Susan Good chaired the synagogue's L'Chayim dinner

committee. The Kullmans' three children were also in attendance at the guest of honor table.

All who were present at the \$100 and up per-plate dinner raised their glasses in a L'Chayim champagne toast offered to the Kullmans by Goldstein, and they gave a standing ovation to the couple when they were presented with the chalice by Berk.

The guest speakers, in turn, praised the Kullmans' dedication to the ongoing work of fundraising, community outreach and – especially – the restoration work that had to be done to the house of worship after Hurricane Katrina. Ruth Kullman was synagogue president during the year the storm hit and the two of them labored intensively to get the century-old synagogue back up and running.

During his brief testimonial, Mitch Landrieu alluded to the visit of the Dalai Lama that same weekend, during which the

Tibetan Buddhist leader declared that "Goodness comes from within." The current mayor noted that the description also applies to the evening's honorees, "Two very special spiritual people," as he termed them.

The evening, however, wasn't all just speeches and tributes. There were moments of levity and humor as well. Goldstein told stories of practical jokes he and Larry Kullman played on each other and the Landrieus told some funny stories about the Kullmans as well.

The Kullmans themselves added a few moments of levity to their acceptance speeches. Jokingly referring to their respective roles in the operation of the synagogue, Ruth told the audience, "He raised the money and I spent it."

On the serious side, however, the honorees both spoke about how touched they were by the tributes paid to them by the previous speakers. "We did what we had to do in



Rabbi Alexis Berk presents an engraved glass chalice to Larry and Ruth Kullman at the L'Chayim Dinner last Sunday night. (Photo by Dean Shapiro)

the wake of Katrina," Ruth said. "We knew that the synagogue was an anchor in very choppy waters. It was important to us and for all of us that it have a future. So we're doing work that we absolutely love."



MAY 2013



JWV Post hosts Memorial Day Minyan

MAY 30, 2013

Members of the Jules Lazard Post #580 of the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) gathered at Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation Sunday morning to take part in a minyan prayer service that was followed by a program and breakfast in the social hall. The event had nearly 40 participants.

The breakfast program featured Captain Forest McNeir (U.S. Navy, ret.), acting vice-commander of the post. McNeir talked about the Machal, the foreign volunteers primarily composed of World War II veterans from the United States and Canada who helped to create the Israel Air Force at the start of the war for independence. This largely unreported chapter of Jewish American service was credited by Israel Prime Ministers David Ben-Gurion and Yitzhak Rabin as crucial to the survival of the fledgling Jewish State in the early days of the war and through 1949.

McNeir distributed photos of a book "I Am My Brother's Keeper: American Volunteers in Israel's War for Independence" by Jeffery Weiss, which tells the story of the Machal in detail. He also showed a promotional video for "Above and Beyond," one of three upcoming documentary films to be released in the coming year featuring interviews with Jewish American fighter pilots who were members of the Machal.



JWV Jules Lazard Post #580 members pose at the conclusion of the Memorial Day minyan breakfast on Sunday. (Photo by Jessica McNeir)



Acting vice-commander Forest McNeir speaks about the importance of the Machal to the formation of the State of Israel. (Photo by Jessica McNeir)

Proud to call  New Orleans home!

 Crescent City
Jewish News
www.crescentcityjewishnews.com



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS SERVING THE BOOK LOVERS OF NEW ORLEANS



FIGHT
THE
STUPIDS!

7529 Maple Street
New Orleans, LA
504-866-4916

www.maplestreetbookshop.com

WEDDING OFFICIANT Cantor Samuel Krush



REGISTERED & certified as a High Holiday Cantor by the
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Will design the ceremony that you desire!

LOUISIANA LICENSED to officiate local and destination weddings

PHONE: 504-391-8292

CELL: 504-228-5071

Email: neworleanscantor@yahoo.com

Feelings Café
Step back in time Savor the moment Restaurant & Patio Bar

NOW LOCATED UPSTAIRS
BHAVA VEGAN RESTAURANT

2600 Chartres Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70117
(504) 945-2222
www.feelingscafe.com



AVODAH brunch honors Levy, Waltzer

JUNE 7, 2013

AVODAH, the Jewish Service Corps, held its second annual Partners in Justice brunch at Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation on Sunday, recognizing Holocaust survivor Anne Skorecki Levy and civil rights attorney Bruce Waltzer for their outstanding commitment to seeking justice in the world.

A pickup jazz quartet, many with connections to AVODAH corps members or alumni themselves, entertained participants on the morning of June 2 as approximately 200 individuals entered the social hall to enjoy libations and brunch. The event also put focus on the invaluable resource AVODAH has become in the Greater New Orleans area, especially in the area of civic service, social justice and dedication to insuring a better quality of life for all its citizens.

As a survivor of the Shoah, Levy has been a constant lecturer at schools studying the Holocaust, working with both the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Levy was cited by AVODAH as “a catalyst and an inspiration” in Duke’s unsuccessful campaigns for governor and senator, which ultimately led to his leaving politics and fleeing the United States.



The 2013 AVODAH Partners in Justice award. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Bruce Waltzer, a noted civil rights attorney who was arrested and accused of plotting to overthrow the state of Louisiana during the turbulent desegregation era, was selected to receive the AVODAH award for his lifelong commitment to defending free speech and promoting equality.

Both Levy and Waltzer were presented with a framed watercolor painting that contained expressive calligraphy rendered by AVODAH alumna Jordan Aiken. The Hebrew



Attorney Bruce Waltzer accepts his AVODAH Partners in Justice award. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Anne Skorecki Levy, a 2013 AVODAH Partner in Justice award recipient. (Photo by Alan Smason)

letters from *Amos* 24, flowing from right to left, bore the likeness of the Mississippi River and the unique bend in the river which circumscribes New Orleans. Just beneath the river was the English translation which read: “Let justice well up like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

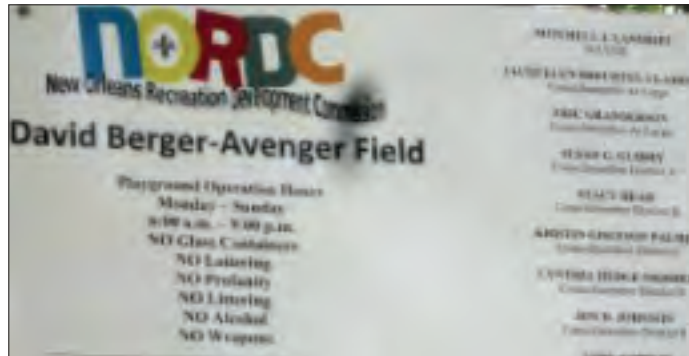
City names field in honor of David Berger

JUNE 12, 2013

Talk about a long time in coming. Nearly 41 years ago David Berger, a competitive student weightlifter athlete who had graduated from Tulane University, was one of 12 Israeli athletes tragically killed as a member of the Israel Olympics team at the Munich Olympic Games.

In 2002 the New Orleans City Council selected the former Cleveland, Ohio native’s name to adorn the very New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD) playground, Avenger Field, on which he trained as a Tulane student. Following extensive repairs to the field, a sign was finally erected last month as “David Berger-Avenger Field and was formally dedicated Monday by several members of the council and representatives of the Jewish community, friends of Berger and his younger brother Fred.

City Council member Clarkson spoke to the crowd, acknowledging the length of time it took for the honor to



NORD sign noting David Berger-Avenger Field. (Photo by Alan Smason)

achieve fruition. “How hard can one sign be?” she questioned. “It took a village.”

Fred Berger, was three years younger than his brother David and recalled with pride watching him train as a high school student. “He learned about (weight)lifting from a magazine called ‘Strength and Health,’” Berger reminisced. In speaking about his brother’s name atop the sign, Berger had one wish for the athletes who will use the field in the coming years. “I hope that rather than they remember the horrible way he died that they remember the way he lived,” he concluded.



Holding one of David Berger’s trophies for weightlifting, Fred Berger, his surviving brother, recalls his brother’s athletic achievements at the formal dedication of David Berger-Avenger Field. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Keepers of the Gate hold ‘ritzy’ tea

JUNE 14, 2013

It was tea time last Sunday, June 7, at the swank Ritz-Carlton Hotel for the Greater New Orleans chapter of Hadassah, the women’s Zionist organization of America. Other than major donors, the most celebrated group of annual contributors to this 101 year-old organization are the Keepers of the Gate, a select group of ladies who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 per year.

Approximately 25 Keepers of the Gate attended the Ritz-Carlton Sunday tea at the elegant M Bistro on the third floor. Several ladies came in from the Baton Rouge chapter, several from the Northshore and the chapter president from Cleveland, CCJN advertising and marketing director Arlene Wieder also joined in the tea. They were all treated to a speech from Bonnie Boring, the Southern region vice-president for program from Knoxville. Boring is expected to take over as region president when current president Lee Kansas’ term expires next year.

Event chair Patti Ungar and her co-chair and daughter Evette welcomed Keepers of the Gate and invited them to enjoy a libation of



Patti Ungar, left, and daughter and co-chair Evette Ungar welcome Bonnie Boring. (Photo by Alan Smason)

champagne or Mimosas before the tea service began.

“I enjoy meeting outspoken women who give of their time and their money and I really appreciate that,” said Patti Ungar at the beginning of the tea. “I’m amazed at all the things that Hadassah does.”

The most recent advance was the recent dedication last October of the new Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower in Jerusalem that cost a purported \$363 million. Almost all of this money was raised from Hadassah sources, many of them Keepers of the Gate.

Southern region president Lee Kansas and Greater New Orleans chapter Julie Schwartz concluded the event, each taking time to welcome their guest and to thank them for their monetary contributions and loyalty to Hadassah.



Trestman authoring book on Bessie Margolin

JUNE 21, 2013

When she first met Bessie Margolin, Marlene Trestman had no expectations. It was, after all, an arranged meeting by a mutual friend at Isidore Newman High School. An introductory letter in the summer of 1974 suggested the two might find mutual interests to share. Trestman, a recent graduate of the tony, private Uptown school, knew she and Margolin had some common bonds. Trestman was at that time one of the last modern orphans to attend the institution originally founded by its namesake in 1904 as a manual school for Jewish students and foundlings.

Margolin, a successful Washington, D.C. attorney, who had risen to the rank of Associate Solicitor of the Department of Labor, had started out life in Brooklyn, but moved to New Orleans with her parents as a toddler. When her mother died in 1909, she and her siblings were classified as “half-orphans.” With their father unable to support them

properly, they entered the Jewish Orphans’ Home, located on the site of the present Jewish Community Center, and became students at Newman, exactly 100 years ago. Margolin graduated from Newman in 1925 and received a scholarship to Newcomb College.

Like Margolin, Trestman had moved to Baltimore to begin her college studies at nearby Goucher College. She had no idea this one meeting would forever change her life and mark her consequence as an attorney and now, as fate would have it, an author.

That Trestman was interested in the study of law, too, created an opportunity for Margolin to mentor and advise her young prodigy. As Trestman advanced in her academic studies and was accepted to George Washington University Law school, they became even closer and Margolin took an almost personal interest in her progress.

Trestman was intrigued by Margolin. Throughout the process Margolin became a confidante, a mentor, but most important, a special friend to the young woman.



Marlene Trestman, an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland, looks over notes and photos she is preparing for her upcoming book on the life of attorney Bessie Margolin. (Photo courtesy Marlene Trestman)

As Trestman learned more about her, she knew that Margolin would serve as an inspiration in her own life and would make a wonderful subject for a biography. Trestman also shared that Margolin was called upon for her expertise that made her feel proud as an American, as a woman attorney and as a Jew. “Lent” by the Labor Department, she was assigned to the

Nuremberg Trials, where, Trestman learned, she devised the rules and procedures for all of the Nazi war crimes Subsequent Procedures, the panels that tried the lesser known Nazi criminals under military code.

Margolin died in 1996 at the age of 87.

Last August LSU Press announced Trestman had been offered a contract to submit the



Bessie Margolin photographed on the steps of the Supreme Court building. (Photo courtesy Marlene Trestman)

entire work of Margolin’s life and career for possible publication by them. Trestman has been moving ahead as best her time affords her, finalizing the work, which she calls a work in progress.

“I expect to have the manuscript in acceptable form to LSU Press by no later than January 1, 2014” she promised.

Local rabbis react to SCOTUS decisions

JUNE 28, 2013

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 5-4 decisions on Wednesday to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and California’s voter-mandated Proposition 8, several national and community leaders have weighed in on the matter.

By striking down DOMA, legally married same-sex couples will no longer be denied federal benefits traditionally enjoyed by heterosexual couples. These include Social Security benefits and rights to claim married partners when jointly filing taxes.

Locally, Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn of Temple Sinai, who has long advocated for LGBT rights, was emphatic in his praise of the decisions. In a telephone interview with CCJN Rabbi Cohn stated how thrilled he was to hear the “fabulous news!” Cohn continued, “It’s another step of liberation which first began when we Jews came out of Egypt. The

times in which we are living are truly inspiring.”

At Touro Synagogue Rabbi Alexis Berk was equally pleased with the outcome. “It’s a great step in the right direction,” she said. “My whole feeling is that the genie cannot go back into the bottle. We cannot go backward. We cannot use religion as a crutch and cannot use religion to maintain bigotry.”

The senior rabbi of the Reform community, Rabbi Robert Loewy of Congregation Gates of Prayer was contacted through email by the CCJN. “It is a victory for justice and equality directly impacting not only the LGBTQ community, but their families and friends and all Americans. I look forward to the time when I will not only be able to perform commitment ceremonies for same-sex couples, but actual legal weddings in the State of Louisiana. We are not there yet, but borrowing from Theodore Herzl, ‘If you will it, it is no dream,’” he concluded.

Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue’s Rabbi Ethan Linden was also full of praise of the decision. “I’ve spoken a *D’var Torah* (Torah commentary) on the need to legalize gay marriage, certainly from the perspective of civil law,” he stated. “It’s absolutely the correct position,” he said in talking about same-sex partners who marry in other states and move to Louisiana. “Now they will be protected regardless of what the State of Louisiana does.”

Congregation Beth Israel’s Rabbi Uri Topolosky took some time to consider a proper response. “From my perspective we have to do a better job in making sure that people feel welcome regardless of *anything*,” he said. “There’s no reason to judge somebody based on *anything* – on race, on ethnicity, on gender or sexual orientation. We have a commandment to love everyone. That should be our guiding principle,” Topolosky averred.

Congregation Anshe Sfard’s



The U.S. Supreme Court, pictured above, issued decisions on the Defense of Marriage Act and California’s Proposition 8 this week to the delight of most non-Orthodox Jews. (Courtesy U.S. Supreme Court)

Rabbi David Polsky preferred to hearken back to a *drosb* (commentary) he delivered recently. “I can say that Parshat Kedoshin, which was two months ago, I did actually give a talk discussing homosexuality and Judaism,” he recalled. “I did discuss marriage equality and I said I was in favor of it being legalized on a civil level,” Polsky continued.

He went on to state his personal opinion that “at the very least I thought it was a bad idea and counterproductive for Judaism to be at the forefront of opposing it.”

Rabbi Mendel Rivkin, a

spokesman for Louisiana Chabad Lubavitch, said the organization prefers to keep out of commenting on politics. “Our job is to promote Judaism and that’s what we do and we stay out of political commentating. We certainly don’t see that as our job to be involved in those sorts of things,” he said.

According to a recent poll, 52% of Americans nationwide are in favor of same-sex marriages, while 81% of Jews favor them. That makes American Jewry the largest organized religious group in favor of same-sex marriages.

Ben Katz, retired merchant and Jewish War Veterans Commander

January 02, 2013

BENJAMIN "BEN" KATZ, a former retail merchant and longtime volunteer as the commander of New Orleans' Jules Lazard Post # 580 of the Jewish War Veterans of America (JWV) passed away on January 2 after an extended illness. He was 96. A retail merchant by trade, Katz was noted for his good natured personality and his dedicated work ethic.

Born in Erie, PA, Katz attended the University of Pennsylvania, but prior to graduation, entered the U.S. Army Air Force, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant. He was involved in several businesses in his native state prior to moving to New Orleans in 1960, where he succeeded as a retail merchant. Throughout his career, he maintained connections with other Jewish war veterans, serving as the local post commander for over a quarter century and also selected as the Regional Commander of the Southern Region of the JWV.

He was an active member of Congregation Anshe Sfard and, recently, Congregation Beth Israel. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Miriam Barber Katz, daughter Roberta A. Katz Sollender, sons Michael Katz (Jane Olds Katz) and Allan Katz (Terry Katz) of Boca Raton, FL, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, Nathaniel of Baltimore, MD, brother-in-law Sol Barber and sister-in-law Esther Rosenberg. A graveside funeral service was held on January 4, at Anshe Sfard Cemetery, conducted by Rabbi Uri Topolosky of Congregation Beth Israel.

Bernice Paillet Richmond, teacher and coach

January 07, 2013

BERNICE PAILET RICHMOND, 85, a teacher and sports coach who taught in the Orleans Parish School system for 39 years, died on January 7. A New Orleans native, she attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, graduating with a degree in sports education. She was involved as a gym coach and intramural sports coach for much of her career. She also went on to receive a Master's degree and, after 30 years of experience, was awarded a Masters + 30 degree from the University of New Orleans. Notoriously dedicated to the school system, she retired after 39 years, but was paid as a 40-year employee because she did not use up her paid leave and vacation time.

Widowed by the late Robert Lee Richmond, she is survived by her son Shael Paillet Richmond (Karen) and daughter Avri Richmond Hagerty (Edward), five grandchildren and one great grandchild as well as her sister, Mildred Paillet Schiffman.

Graveside services were conducted by the Rabbi Uri Topolosky on Wednesday, January 9 at the Beth Israel Cemetery at 4321 Frenchman Street.

Lillian Gurry Rodos, real estate manager

January 09, 2013

LILLIAN GURRY RODOS, a manager for a local real estate firm, died at her French Quarter residence on January 9. She was 94. Rodos raised her family in the Uptown area, but elected to move to the French Quarter in her later years. A gifted businesswoman, she acquired two apartment buildings in the Vieux Carré, which she managed. She was a frequent visitor to a number of establishments in the historic district and well-regarded by residents there.

A longtime member of Congregation Beth Israel, she was widowed by her husband, the late Robert Rodos, and is survived by her three daughters Deborah Rodos Harris (Harvey), Evelyn Rodos and Marlene Trestman (Henry Kahn) and two grandchildren. Graveside services were held at the old Beth Israel Cemetery, 4321 Frenchmen Street, and conducted by Rabbi Uri Topolosky on Thursday, January 10.

Ronald Warner, retired securities attorney and Tulane supporter

January 17, 2013

RONALD WARNER, a successful attorney whose specialty was in areas of finance, banking and securities and who retired to New Orleans less than two years ago, died suddenly on January 17.

Warner was noted for his love of sports, especially baseball, which he developed at an early age. Born in Brooklyn, Warner moved with his family as a young boy to Linden, NJ. Despite meager beginnings, Warner was a great student athlete and a brilliant student. He worked as a printer's assistant and at various odd jobs before accepting a full scholarship to Tulane University. He played on the Tulane University baseball team and established a lifelong attachment to the various sports programs as well as a love for the city of New Orleans. Following his graduation from Tulane, Warner enrolled at the New York University (NYU) School of Law, from which he graduated first in his class.

He was known as a highly ethical attorney, which oftentimes presented problems with several clients from the banking and securities industries. Partners and associates noted he would fire a client if there were any hint of impropriety or suggestion that he not conduct his business within the framework of what was permissible under the law.

Warner was known as a supportive father of his three children, and frequently attended all softball games, soccer matches, and in recent years became an avid supporter for volleyball games in which his daughter played. Even though he lived in Los Angeles for much of his professional career, Warner was a season ticket holder for Tulane baseball games. He donated the tickets to St. Michael's Special School for Children.

Ten years ago Warner's son Brad died. Warner established a garden memorial in Brad's name outside Turgeon Stadium, where Tulane plays their baseball games. After Warner retired, he and his wife moved permanently to Uptown New Orleans.

He is survived by his wife Nehama, his son Steve and daughter Ali and several grandchildren. A chapel service conducted by Rabbi Yonah Schiller was held on Sunday, January 20 at Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home with interment at Dispersed of Judah Cemetery, 4937 Canal Street.

Bertha Paglin Ferman, Washington, D.C. realtor & teacher

January 19, 2013

BERTHA PAGLIN FERMAN, a teacher and successful realtor in the Washington, D.C. area, passed away unexpectedly in Denver, Colorado on Saturday, January 19, 2013. Bertha was a New Orleans native; she was affectionately known as "Birdie" and attended Isadore Newman School and graduated from Sophie Newcomb College.

She was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, Professor Irving Ferman, who served as the director of the American Civil Liberties Union during the height of the McCarthyism period from 1948 to 1959. She loved to play tennis and was a patron of the arts and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. During the four decades of her residency in Washington, D.C., she spent her summers residing at the family vacation home in Sullivan Harbor, Maine, where she explored the coastline, oftentimes capturing it on paintings. She was a longtime member of the New Orleans section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Ferman is survived by daughter Susan Baldwin of Denver and son James of Wickenburg, Arizona. Graveside services officiated by Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn took place at Hebrew Rest Mausoleum (Frenchmen at Pelopidas Streets) on Sunday, February 17, 2013.

Edward Max Heller, bankruptcy lawyer

February 12, 2013

EDWARD MAX HELLER, a renowned attorney specializing in bankruptcy law and mergers and acquisitions, died February 12, 2013, at Ochsner Medical Center from complications from pneumonia related to his ongoing battle against Parkinson's disease. He was 86.

A New Orleans native, Heller was known as the "Dean" of the Louisiana Bankruptcy Bar. He was associated with the law firms of Heller and Heller, in which he worked with his father, the late Issac Heller, and in later years with the firm Heller, Draper Patrick, & Horn, LLC. He was recognized as lead attorney for several high profile bankruptcy cases including the reorganization of the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans. Heller was listed in the Best Lawyers in America and was inducted into the first class of Fellows of the American College of Bankruptcy.

In addition to his practice of law for over six decades in New Orleans, Heller served as chairman of the board of the Louisiana Health Service and Indemnity Company, also known as Blue Cross of Louisiana. A volunteer for several community organizations, he was the president of the Jewish Welfare Federation of New Orleans and the Harvard Law School Association of Louisiana. He also served on the board of directors of Temple Sinai, the Metairie Park Country Day School and the Community Chest.

Heller was a graduate of one of the first classes from Metairie Park Country Day School and matriculated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts degree, where he was inducted as a member of Phi Beta Kappa Society. He also was a wing end of the war, he returned to Tulane to earn his Masters of Business Administration degree in 1947. Koltun became a practicing CPA, eventually founding the firm that bore his name and serving as its president until his retirement in 1999.

Professionally, Koltun was a chairman of the Louisiana Society of CPAs' Taxation Committee, a past president of the New Orleans Association of Business Economists, a former chairman of the Advanced Tax Program for the State Society and Louisiana Bar, a former executive committee member and president of Jeffreys Henry International, an international association of independent accounting firms.

Koltun was an associate professor of taxation at Tulane's Graduate School of Business and taught courses on tax planning and tax research. He was a professional member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant's Taxation Committee, Estates and Gifts Division as well as the Small Business Division. Koltun published articles in the Journal of Accountancy, Management Services, and Taxation for Accountants and was a member of the program committee for The Tulane Tax Institute. He was a frequent lecturer on the subject of taxation on both a local and national basis.

An active member of the Jewish community, he was a past board member of the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Anti-Defamation

League, the Jewish Children's Regional Service and Tulane Hillel. He served as vice-president of the Jewish Community Center and was a member on the boards of Temple Sinai and the Jewish Endowment Foundation. Additionally, he served as a member of the board of Goodwill Industries.

Koltun never forgot his naval career. He was past president of the Tulane Naval ROTC alumni and a charter member of the National D-day Museum, now known as the National World War II Museum. Koltun had a long association with WYES-TV, the first public television and PBS affiliate in New Orleans. Koltun presented a series of televised accounting programs in his role as a Tulane professor over WYES and served as a member of the WYES Advisory Committee until the time of his passing.

Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated at a memorial service in the Feibelman Chapel of Temple Sinai, on Sunday, March 24. A private interment was conducted in Hebrew Rest Mausoleum.

Steven Latter, Tujaque's Restaurant owner

February 18, 2013

STEVEN E. LATTER, the owner of Tujaque's Restaurant, the second oldest restaurant in New Orleans, passed away suddenly from a suspected heart attack at his residence on February 18. He was 64.

Latter was responsible for bringing the old institution made famous by celebrity chef Madame Begue back from the verge of extinction when he purchased the venerable restaurant and building from the Guichat family in 1982. He personally researched its history and brought it back to its original 1856 state as much as possible. Latter covered the walls with press clippings related to Tujaque's and maintained the quality of the restaurant's signature dishes: shrimp remoulade and beef brisket topped with horseradish sauce. He peppered the walls with pictures of celebrities with him who had eaten at the restaurant. He also had an incredible collection of miniature liquor bottles he had assembled from customers the world over. Through the years he also amassed one of the greatest collections of memorabilia regarding Tujaque's and Madame Begue. He loved hanging out at the restaurant and personally welcoming his guests.

Latter graduated from Alcee Fortier Senior High School in 1967 and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Rho high school fraternity. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in math from Louisiana State University at New Orleans (now the University of New Orleans) and worked for a time at Wembley Manufacturing before embarking on his restaurant career.

He is survived by his wife Miriam (née Lincove) Latter, a past president of Congregation Gates of Prayer; daughters Shayne and Rachel Latter; son Mark Latter (Candace); brothers Stanford and Jerry; sister Ann Light and one grandson.

Rabbi Robert Loewy officiated the services with interment in Gates of Prayer Cemetery in Uptown New Orleans.

Ruby Lassen Goldberg, former chemist, librarian

March 15, 2013

RUBY (REBECCA) LASSEN GOLDBERG, a chemist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, later, an elementary school educator and librarian for Orleans Parish Schools, died March 15. She was 91.

A native of New Orleans, she was a graduate of Louisiana State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. She matriculated to Rutgers University in New Jersey and received a Master's degree in chemistry there. She then worked as a chemist for the Department of Agriculture and married her husband of 58 years, the late Morton Goldberg.

Following her retirement and the death of her husband, Goldberg lived at Woldenberg Village, where she was fondly remembered as a kind friend to staff and residents alike. She was a longtime member of Congregation Beth Israel and a lifetime member of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

She is survived by her daughter Ann Goldberg Goldblatt (Michael), son David Goldberg, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were conducted on Monday, March 18 at the New Beth Israel Cemetery, 4400 Elysian Field Boulevard in New Orleans, with Rabbi Uri Topolosky officiating.

Lillian Levin, preservationist and volunteer

March 17, 2013

LILLIAN WRIGHT LEVIN, a preservationist and volunteer for many community organizations including the New Orleans Museum of Art and the National Council of Jewish Women, died today in New Orleans. She was the devoted wife of the late Dr. Irving A. Levin for 58 years.

A native of Eunice, LA and a resident of New Orleans since 1945, Levin was a graduate of Sophie Newcomb College and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She was married for 58 years to the late Dr. Irving R. Levin.

Levin is survived by her sons Dr. Alan Louis Levin (Marilyn) and Dr. Louis Wright Levin (Donna), brothers Morris Wright and Sidney Wright, sisters Sylvia W. Stern and Beth Bloch Rosenthal and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Feibelman Chapel of Temple Sinai, on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn officiated with interment immediately following at Hebrew Rest Cemetery.

Betty Greif Zivitz, Historic URJ and Temple Sinai leader

March 20, 2013

BETTY GREIF ZIVITZ, a property manager and the first woman to lead a Jewish congregation as president in the Southern region of what is now called the Union for Reform Judaism, died Wednesday, March 20 at Touro Infirmary after a protracted illness.

A native of Mobile, AL, Zivitz moved to New Orleans in 1965 and was a property manager for the now defunct Meltzer Management. She also worked for a time as an administrative assistant to the Judah Touro Foundation, while maintaining a strong leadership role at Temple Sinai. Zivitz assumed the presidency of Temple Sinai from 1981-1983 during a time when women were beginning to take the reins of power in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. She was the first woman to be elected as president at Temple Sinai and set the pattern for the rest of the Southern region and the nation. Even after she left office, she immersed herself in volunteering for the Reform temple and when longtime executive director Herbert Barton announced his retirement, she took over his post in 2006. Her daughter, Ann Zivitz Kimball, followed her as president from 2007-2009. It was the first time a mother and daughter followed each other as synagogue presidents.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Harrel A. Zivitz; Kimball and two other daughters Carol Lange (Joseph) and Lois Morgan; and seven grandchildren. Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated graveside services at Hebrew Rest Cemetery Number 3 on March 22.

Allen B. Koltun, CPA and Tulane tax professor

March 21, 2013

ALLEN BUSH KOLTUN, a certified public accountant for 52 years and the founder of the firm Koltun, Buckman and Ortiz, Ltd., died from heart failure, passing peacefully on Thursday, March 21 at his home in New Orleans. He was 90.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Fleurette Lurie Koltun; his daughter Fran Koltun Averett; his son Dr. Douglas Koltun (Eila); his sister Shirley Koltun Schiffman; and three grandchildren.

Koltun received his Bachelor of Business Arts degree from Tulane in 1943. Following graduation, he served as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. SC1028 in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Following the end of the war, he returned to Tulane to earn his Masters of Business Administration degree in 1947. Koltun became a practicing CPA, eventually founding the firm that bore his name and serving as its president until his retirement in 1999.

Professionally, Koltun was a chairman of the Louisiana Society of CPAs' Taxation Committee, a past president of the New Orleans Association of Business Economists, a former chairman of the Advanced Tax Program for the State Society and Louisiana Bar, a former executive committee member and president of Jeffreys Henry International, an international association of independent accounting firms.

Koltun was an associate professor of taxation at Tulane's Graduate School of Business and taught courses on tax planning and tax research. He was a professional member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant's Taxation Committee, Estates and Gifts Division as well as the Small Business Division. Koltun published articles in the Journal of Accountancy, Management Services, and Taxation for Accountants and was a member of the program committee for The Tulane Tax Institute. He was a frequent lecturer on the subject of taxation on both a local and national basis.

An active member of the Jewish community, he was a past board member of the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Children's Regional Service and Tulane Hillel. He served as vice-president of the Jewish Community Center and was a member on the boards of Temple Sinai and the Jewish Endowment Foundation. Additionally, he served as a member of the board of Goodwill Industries.

Koltun never forgot his naval career. He was past president of the Tulane Naval ROTC alumni and a charter member of the National D-day Museum, now known as the National World War II Museum. Koltun had a long association with WYES-TV, the first public television and PBS affiliate in New Orleans. Koltun presented a series of televised accounting programs in his role as a Tulane professor over WYES and served as a member of the WYES Advisory Committee until the time of his passing.

Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated at a memorial service in the Feibelman Chapel of Temple Sinai, on Sunday, March 24. A private interment was conducted in Hebrew Rest Mausoleum.

Rosalyn Fingerman passes away; burial in NY

March 23, 2013

ROSALYN WEISSMANN FINGERMAN, a homemaker and the widow of Milton Fingerman, passed away after a protracted respiratory illness on Saturday, March 23 in Birmingham, AL. Fingerman met and married her husband during World War II and the two of them lived in New York until he moved to New Orleans for business reasons several decades ago. The Fingermans lived in New Orleans and Metairie for 52 years and were longtime members of Conservative Congregation Shir Chadash.

Following the death of her husband, Fingerman moved to Birmingham. She also recently lost her grandson Seth, who lived there. She is survived by her son Dr. Irwin Fingerman (Cathy) of Birmingham, AL, daughter Ellen Fingerman (Laura) of Arlington, VA and one grandchild.

The burial took place at Beth Moses Cemetery in Farmingdale, NY on Thursday, March 29..

Dorothy Zander, mother and community volunteer

March 31, 2013

DOROTHY LEVY ZANDER, 85, a wife and mother whose love of life was imbued in all she did – from dancing to telling jokes – died peacefully in her sleep in her adopted home of Sun City, FL on Sunday, March 31.

At the time of her passing, Zander was a resident of the Sun City Center retirement home and assisted living facility. She had evacuated her beloved New Orleans in anticipation of Hurricane Katrina FL, but was never able to rebuild or return following the flooding, which claimed her residence.

Born in St. Paul, MN, Zander attended Newcomb College for two years, but met and soon wed Earl Zander, her husband of 37 years, in 1947. He predeceased her in 1984.

Through the years, she kept her mind active and was particularly good at bridge and mah-johng and, later, had many games of Rummikub with her grandchildren. Zander also enjoyed acting on stage and performed many roles at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré and other community theaters here as well as performing in small productions for the members of her community at Sun City. A member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority, Zander continued to support their chapters throughout her life. She also was an active volunteer for several charities, especially those that dealt with the deaf and hard of hearing.

She is survived by her daughter Diane Jacobson (Peter) of Brandon, FL, her son Ronald Zander (Sherry) of Dallas and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon, FL on April 4. Her final interment was at Hebrew Rest Cemetery in New Orleans.

Irving Novick, retired attorney dies at 98

April 04, 2013

IRVING NOVICK, a retired lawyer and longtime member of the American Bar and Louisiana Bar Associations recently died at the age of 98. Novick, who acted as a notary public, was particularly knowledgeable in all practical matters of the law, handling successions and conducting real estate and commercial law for clients. His voluminous collection of legal documents dating back from before Louisiana became a state until 1952 was donated en masse to the Tulane University Howard Tilton Library. Most of these documents were related to the Cadish, Littell and Collins families in and around the Opelousas area.

Novick, who was a resident of Lambeth House, was born in New York City in 1915. Following his graduation from New York University Law School in 1938, he began a long career as an attorney. He became a resident of New Orleans in 1942. During World War II, he was stationed at various military installations in the United States including Camp Plauche in Metairie and Saipan in the Philippines. As an attorney, he participated in many court martial trials. Under the auspices of General George C. Marshall, Novick was chosen to deliver a weekly lecture on "Why We Fight" to various U.S. Army officers.

After returning from World War II, Novick graduated from Tulane University School and soon became a member of the Louisiana Bar Association in 1947. He was honored in 2007 for 60 years of membership and was additionally a member of the New Orleans Bar Association. He was a member of Temple Sinai and a past president of Temple Sinai Brotherhood. Novick also served as a former board member of Woldenberg Village.

Novick made headlines in 2011 when it was revealed that a four-inch Japanese detonator he had brought home from the war as a souvenir had turned out to be a live explosive. The detonator he purchased for two quarts of whiskey on Saipan had been polished, engraved with the word "Saipan" and enshrined in a special display case in Novick's home for decades. Wishing to have the item shipped to his grandson, Novick contacted the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and asked them to certify it was not dangerous to be shipped over a flight from New Orleans. Alerted to the possibility the detonator might have degraded over time, NOPD officers and an FBI agent carefully examined and removed the device from Novick's home.

They later exploded the device at nearby Fort Polk out of precaution for public safety.

Mr. Novick was predeceased by his wife, Bertha Rose Miller Novick, and is survived by daughters, Ann Novick Trevor and Dale Novick Gaber, three grandchildren and five great granddaughters.

A graveside memorial service was conducted by Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn at Hebrew Rest Cemetery #3 on Friday, April 5, 2013

Marvin 'Buddy' Jacobs, real estate manager

April 04, 2013

MARVIN "BUDDY" JACOBS, a successful real estate manager and developer, who owned several shopping centers, office buildings, warehouses and the Best Western St. Charles Avenue Inn, succumbed to cancer after a lengthy battle on April 4 at his home in New Orleans. Jacobs was 84.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Jacobs moved to New Orleans in 1954, following his graduation from Peabody College. He managed the local chain of Royal Castle restaurants until they were sold in 1967. Jacobs then became involved in managing commercial real estate for himself and his clients.

Jacobs was very involved as the president of the boards of Touro Infirmary, Touro Synagogue, the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. In addition he sat on numerous boards, including those of the Greater New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the Jewish Community Center, the Visiting Nurses Association, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Hebrew Rest Cemetery Association, the National World War II Museum, the Touro Infirmary Foundation and the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.

Jacobs was noted as a philanthropist and supporter of the arts in New Orleans, working with such organizations as the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

He is survived by his constant companion, Dorothy "Dotty" Jacobs, his son Andy Jacobs (Carmen); daughters Betsy Rubenstein (Randy Garland) of St. Louis, MO and Barbara Aland (Jack) of Birmingham, AL; sister Sylvia Shepard and brother Dr. Kenneth Jacobs (Ellen), both of Nashville, TN; 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were held at Touro Synagogue on Sunday, April 7, 2013. Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated with burial immediately following in Hebrew Rest Cemetery #3.

Lane N. Meltzer, realtor, developer dead at 91

April 06, 2013

LANE N. MELTZER, who rose to become one of the titans in the local real estate industry and a major developer of office buildings, shopping centers and malls died April 6, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 91.

Meltzer learned the real estate industry from the bottom up, starting as a gofer and assistant to his Uncle Harry Latter. Eventually, he learned the business operations so well that he became the chairman of the board of Latter and Blum Realtors and its development company, the Westminster Corporation. Later, he started Meltzer Associates. Over the course of decades for himself and other strategic partners, he initiated the construction of numerous office buildings, shopping centers, industrial, and residential properties. Among the largest of his projects were the 1010 Common Building and the Pan American Life Building, both in New Orleans, and the 111 Capitol Building in Jackson, MS.

Born in New York City, Meltzer moved to New Orleans as a boy and graduated from Isidore Newman High School. Although he enrolled in college, the start of World War II saw Meltzer demonstrate his leadership qualities when he joined the Army Air Corps as a way to contribute to the war effort and he began to experience a lifelong love of flying.

As a glider pilot during the war, he flew forces into enemy territory in the first invasion over the Rhine, landing his platoon safely in a wheat field while under fire. Meltzer proudly recounted his exploits as a member of The Quiet Birdmen, a group of former glider pilots that was formed after the war. His passion for flying lasted well into his seventies. At one point Metzler achieved the speed record for flying a twin engine aircraft from New Orleans to Atlanta.

Meltzer also had a penchant for traveling and did so well into his eighties. Oftentimes, his travel with family members would combine his other hobbies of golfing and snow skiing. An extremely experienced traveler, Meltzer toured Canada, China, Europe and local sites, and photographed all he witnessed with his Minox or Leica camera. As a skier, he kept up well into his seventies.

Meltzer was a lifelong member of Temple Sinai and a founding member of Royale Airlines and the Downtown Development District. He served on the board of directors of the Upper and Lower Pontalba Commission and was a very generous local philanthropist. Graveside services officiated by Temple Sinai Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn were held on Wednesday morning, April 10 at Metairie Cemetery.

Lillian Lebed Glazer, supporter of arts

April 13, 2013

LILLIAN LEBED “BUBBIE” GLAZER, a tireless supporter of the arts who was president of the Louis A. and Lillian L. Glazer Family Foundation, died peacefully at home on Saturday, April 13 at the age of 92.

A life master bridge player, Glazer was noted by friends and family as having an especially keen mind. She was a particular lover of the arts and surrounded herself with beautiful things, especially fine arts. Her homes were full of colorful paintings and sculpture. An avid gardener, Glazer took especial pride in her garden and labored throughout the day at making it a showcase for all to see. Glazer also delighted in cooking and serving well planned meals to family and friends. One of her most prized recipes was for her delicious “square” matzah balls. She will be remembered as having possessed a wonderful sense of humor and some will also recall her many hats she wore as fashion statements.

A longtime supporter of the arts and cultural institutions of New Orleans including the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Contemporary Arts Center, and New Orleans Museum of Art, Glazer had been a steadfast philanthropic contributor for many years.

Born in Lancaster, PA, she was living in Fayetteville, NC when she met Louis A. Glazer, who was serving in World War II at nearby Ft. Bragg. They were married soon after and opened a short order restaurant serving local soldiers. Later, the Glazers moved to Knoxville, TN to help run the Glazer family steel factory interests there and began to raise a family. It was a break in the family business that forced their final relocation to New Orleans, where they became members of the Conservative Synagogue of New Orleans, later renamed Tikvat Shalom and, when merged with Chevra Thilim Synagogue, Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue. She is survived by son Jay Glazer and daughters Shelley Middleberg and Carole Jacobson, seven grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

Relatives and friends attended the graveside service at Tikvat Shalom Cemetery (in Jefferson Memorial Gardens) in St. Rose, LA on Monday, April 15, with Rabbi Ethan Linden officiating. Rabbi Uri Topolosky of Congregation Beth Israel also assisted with the services, performing the El Mali Rachamim.

Kevin Lampert, collections specialist dies at 59

April 20, 2013

KEVIN LOUIS LAMPERT, a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans who specialized in collections for businesses since he was 19, died unexpectedly on April 20. Lampert, who was predeceased by his wife of 16 years, Cheri, was 59. He received a graduate equivalency diploma at 19 and worked for four decades a collector, most recently for American Thrift and Finance. Lampert was a member of Congregation Gates of Prayer synagogue.

He is survived by two sons Brandon (Vanessa) of Houston, TX and Steven Lampert; sisters Leonie Caplan (Ralph) and Jane Hersherg (Howard); and brother Jack Lampert (Jim Barry), all of Baton Rouge.

Graveside services were held on April 23 at Hebrew Rest Cemetery #1, 4100 Frenchmen Street at Pelopidas Street. Rabbi Robert Loewy officiated.

Blanche Gewirtz, former Beth Israel rebetzin buried in Maryland

April 28, 2013

BLANCHE GEWIRTZ, the former rebetzin of Congregation Beth Israel, died of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease. The funeral was held April 28 in Maryland. She is survived by her husband, Rabbi Jonah Gewirtz and daughters Debra (Shim) Kurtz and Miriam (Larry) Kramer and sons Danny (Adina) Gewirtz and Jonathan (Esther Toby) Gewirtz.

Gloria Cohen, rebetzin and piano instructor

April 28, 2013

GLORIA COHEN, a piano instructor and the wife of the late Rabbi Bertram Samuel Cohen, died in Birchwood Place, an assisted living facility in Skokie, IL on Sunday evening, April 28. She was 78.

Cohen was noted for always giving gifts. She always made small donations in honor of special occasions or as memorials for the departed and was known for knitting items to be given or sent to loved ones and friends. A native of New York, she was a longtime Brooklyn Dodgers fan and followed the club even after they left for Los Angeles.

After meeting and marrying her husband, the couple moved to New Orleans, where she became a noted piano instructor and taught multitudes of students how to play piano. She was also a major supporter for the New Orleans Saints. The couple remained married for 48 years until the time of the rabbi's passing.

Following Hurricane Katrina, she was forced to relocate to Skokie, IL to be near her only child. She shared living space for a short time before living in her own apartment for several more years. Due to her health, she relocated to Birchwood Place about two years ago.

Cohen is survived by her son Isaac Cohen (Rusi) and a grand-

daughter. A graveside funeral service was officiated by Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik of Chicago, IL and Rabbi Uri Topolosky of Congregation Beth Israel. It was held on April 30 at the New Beth Israel Cemetery, 4400 Elysian Fields Avenue.

David Bernstein, founder and president of Delta Tire World

April 30, 2013

DAVID BERNSTEIN, a man who transformed a small tire firm into the largest independent tire company in the state of Louisiana, died on Monday, April 29, 2013 at the age of 92.

A native of Decatur, AL, Bernstein moved to New Orleans in 1928 and graduated from Alcee Fortier Senior High School. He attended Louisiana State University on a football scholarship. A sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II, Bernstein turned to business after leaving the service. He was the founder and longtime president of Delta World Tire. He was a longtime member of Congregation Gates of Prayer and served as an officer of Bnai Brith. Bernstein was also remembered as the founder of the Fortier Alumni Breakfast Group. Throughout his life, Bernstein was remembered by friends and family as having possessed great warmth and a wonderful sense of humor.

Bernstein was predeceased by his wife of many years, the late Lila Willer Bernstein. He is survived by two sons Steven W. and David B. Bernstein. and the grandfather of one. Additionally, he is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at the Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home Chapel in Metairie on Wednesday, May 1 with Rabbi Robert Loewy officiating. Interment followed immediately at Gates of Prayer Cemetery, 1412 Joseph Street in New Orleans.

Sylvia Reiner Shushan, worked at Sak's Fifth Avenue

May 01, 2013

SYLVIA REINER SHUSHAN, who became a saleswoman for Sak's Fifth Avenue in New Orleans' Canal Place department store mall, died Wednesday, May 1 after a lengthy illness.

Natives of New Orleans, she and her sister Dorothy “Dot” Reiner, famously married two brothers named Abraham Louis “A. L.” and Shepherd “Shep” Shushan. They thus ended up trading their maiden names for identical married names. They were associated with Reiner's Fine Jewelry Company located off Canal Street.

Shushan was survived by daughter Sandra Lynn Shushan, her sister Dot, three nieces and several great-nieces and great-nephews. Her son Andy predeceased her in 1993.

Private graveside services were conducted on May 3 at the Old Chevra Thilim Cemetery. Rabbi Alexis Berk of Touro Synagogue officiated.

Dotsy Fisher, devoted wife and mother

May 09, 2013

DOROTHY “DOTSY” SAMUELSON FISHER, widowed last June by her husband of 63 years, Jack Fisher, died at home early on May 9. She was 84. Fisher was a housewife and community volunteer for much of her life. She did work with her husband Jack at Lane's Shoe Store and later, after the store was closed she assisted him with his commercial real estate sales.

Fisher was a native New Orleanian and was a graduate of Sophie Newcomb College, majoring in Fine Arts. She met her husband, while still a teenager and was married shortly after her graduation. Aside from her work with her husband's business, she was noted for her wonderfully pleasant disposition and a pronounced sense of humor.

The Fishers were longtime members of Chevra Thilim and became affiliated with Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue at the time of the merger with Tikvat Shalom. A member of the sisterhood at Chevra Thilim and, later, at Shir Chadash, Fisher was also a lifetime member of the National Council of Jewish Women and Hadassah.

Fisher is survived by daughters Briann (Melvin) Shear and Jodi (Scott) Levitan of Baltimore, MD and sons Dr. Marc (Jimmie Kay) Fisher of Meridian, MS and Ricki Fisher of Austin, TX; nine grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, May 12, at Chevra Thilim Memorial Park, 5000 Iberville Street (at Helena Street), New Orleans. Rabbi Ethan Linden officiated.

J. Philip Stein, attorney and businessman

May 09, 2013

J. PHILIP STEIN, 82, an attorney and businessman died suddenly of a heart attack on May 9, 2013. A lover of all things related to his adopted home of New Orleans, Stein was, at the time of his passing, a retired attorney whose professional life had revolved about the Orleans Parish Criminal Courts Building at Tulane and Broad for most of his life.

Stein was also an astute businessman and oversaw a number of unusual endeavors, co-founding By-Water Hospital and a CAD/CAM computer company.

A one-time candidate for Traffic Court judge, he was always interested in politics, served on a number of community boards and was a

very active member of several civic organizations.

Among his other pursuits, Stein enjoyed traveling and spending time with family. He was an avid sailor and a racing horse enthusiast.

Born in Elizabeth, NJ, Stein was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He journeyed to New Orleans where he was stationed as an army recruiter during the Korean War, eventually enrolling at the Loyola University School of Law from where he received his law degree.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Glaser Stein, (whom he married twice); his son, Joshua Alan Stein; two step-daughters; Jamie Miller and Jordan Miller; his sister Roslyn Stein and several nieces and nephews.

A private service was held at Temple Sinai Synagogue.

Howard Rosen, retired travel agent dead at 86

May 12, 2013

HOWARD JACK ROSEN, a retired travel agent who lived and worked in Metairie, died at his residence on Sunday, May 12. He was 86. Well-known and well-liked in his industry, Rosen was a longtime member of Tikvat Shalom before it merged with Chevra Thilim Synagogue and became Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue. Rosen was president of the brotherhood for many years, sponsoring numerous breakfasts for congregation members.

Rosen was a Navy serviceman, who served honorably during World War II.

He is survived by his wife of many years Doris Weinstein Rosen, his daughters Alisa Weiner (Jon), Robin McQuinn (Tim), Eydie Pryzant (Rodger), his son Glen Rosen (Amy) and eight grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on May 14, by Rabbi Ethan Linden at Tikvat Shalom Cemetery in Jefferson Memorial Gardens.

Byrde Berenson Haspel, community volunteer

May 27, 2013

BYRDE BERENSON HASPEL, a housewife and community volunteer who worked most notably for the boards of Jewish Children's Regional Service and Touro Infirmary, died peacefully at home in her sleep on May 27. She was 96.

A native of Bogalusa, she attended Louisiana State University, where she was a noted beauty. Like the fabled song title, she was selected as “The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi” before matriculating there and later attended the University of Illinois for a short time. Haspel was married for almost a half century to New Orleanian Joseph Haspel, Jr., who preceded her in death. She was a resident of New Orleans for seven decades.

Haspel is survived by her daughter, Susan Haspel Lipsey (Richard), of Baton Rouge, and her son Edward Marion Haspel (Beth) of Los Angeles. She is survived by two granddaughters, three grandsons and five great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Sara Berenson Stone, and brother, Dr. Gerald Berenson, in addition to many nieces and nephews.

Services were held on May 30 at Touro Synagogue Chapel with a burial followed at Hebrew Rest Cemetery.

Phyllis Bloom Bruchis Finger, housewife and mother

May 31, 2013

PHYLLIS BLOOM BRUCHIS FINGER, a housewife and mother who had a penchant for poetry, died in New Orleans on May 31. She was 90. Finger had been residing at the Willow Wood Living Center at Woldenberg Village for several years.

Finger kept several notebooks of unpublished and published poetry on a number of subjects, many of which she shared with family and friends. When a bookstore was holding an event where the public could read their own works a few years back, Finger appeared with her book of poetry to proudly read her own words.

She was born in Chicago and moved to Miami because it was thought the warm weather would be beneficial for her brother Marvin, who suffered with childhood diabetes. She moved to New Orleans, but also spent time living in Illinois and Texas. She was married twice to her husband, the late Edwin Bruchis, once in the late 1940s and then again in 1961. She later married David Finger, also of blessed memory.

In recent years Finger was a volunteer at East Jefferson Hospital and edited the newsletter for the Woldenberg Village.

She is survived by daughter Diane Bruchis Cotlar (Sidney) and son Martin Joel Bruchis. Another son, Gary Bruchis, predeceased her. She is also survived by six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was conducted on Sunday, June 2 by Rabbi Uri Topolosky at Hebrew Rest Cemetery # 3, 2100 Pelopidas at Frenchmen Street.

Maurice L. Burk, retired attorney and chorus singer

June 10, 2013

MAURICE L. BURK, 82, a retired attorney died at his Kenner residence on Monday, June 10, 2013. A New Orleans native, he was a veteran of the United States Air Force and a longtime member of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation.

Burk graduated from the Tulane School of Law prior to beginning his practice. A devoted singer, he was a member of the Mardi Gras Chorus and the Society for the Preservation of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

Burk was married to Jeannine Burk, a noted Holocaust survivor. He was survived by sons Jan M. Greenberg (Laura); Kenneth N. Burk (Lucia), Sidney R. Steabman and Jeffrey S. Greenberg as well as daughters Rachelle A. Berk (Fred Kropp) and Lisanne S. Davenport (Donald). He also leaves behind two brothers, Dr. Kopel Burk and Bernard E. Burk, and 14 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Shir Chadash Synagogue on Wednesday, June 12. Rabbi Ethan Linden officiated and interment followed in Chevra Thilim Memorial Park.

Babette Neuwirth, former resident of Peoria

June 16, 2013

BABETTE “BOBBY” DESSAUER NEUWIRTH, a resident at the Vista Shores Assisted Living facility, died Sunday, June 16. Neuwirth moved to New Orleans in 2006 and was 96 years old.

Newirth was born in Ft. Wayne, IN and enrolled at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. While there, she was active in student government and was inducted as a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. At the time of her graduation with a bachelor's degree in psychology, she was inducted into the Mortar Board Honor Society. She was still involved as a member of the Northwestern University reunion committee.

While married and living in Peoria, IL, Neuwirth was a noted volunteer and served on the boards of many community organizations there. She was also an active sisterhood member at Congregation Anshai Emeth there.

Newirth is survived by a daughter, Cindy Rittenberg (Leon, Jr.). Her son, James D. Neuwirth, predeceased her. She is also survived by three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was conducted by a family member at Hebrew Rest Cemetery #3 on Frenchmen Street at Pelopidas Street on Wednesday, June 19.

Carolyn Rubenstein Rumm, homemaker and expatriate

June 19, 2013

CAROLYN RUBENSTEIN RUMM, a native New Orleanian who was a resident of the city for most of her life before taking up residence in Europe and Canada, died Wednesday, June 19 in Austin, Texas. Rumm, who was 86 moved in 2010 to be closer to family members before her health began to fail.

A graduate of Isidore Newman School in 1943, she attended college briefly at the University of Texas before returning to her birthplace to be married to the late Julius Willenzik in 1945 for nearly 30 years. She was an avid contract bridge player and was a president of Touro Synagogue's sisterhood. The couple divorced in 1974.

Having raised four sons at that time, she chose to spend time living abroad in London, England and a few years later in Toronto, Canada. While living in Toronto, she met her second husband, Leon Rumm, who was a resident there. Married for another 30 years, she and her second husband were snowbirds, also owning a winter residence in West Palm Beach, FL.

When her second husband died in 2009, Rumm moved back to New Orleans briefly. When her health deteriorated, she moved to the Lambeth House. While in New Orleans, she was under the care of her son David Wollizek. Eventually she chose to take up residence in Austin to be close to two other sons who live there.

She is survived by sons David, Bruce, Alan and Robert E. Willenzik (Lisa), two of whom reside in Austin, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, June 25 at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 2. Rabbi Alexis Burk officiated.

Carolyn Falk Katz, 85, merchant and author

June 28, 2013

CAROLYN FALK KATZ, who along with her husband Ralph Katz, was a merchant for more than five decades in Starkville, MS, died in Houston on Tuesday. She was 85.

Married for 57 years, she and her husband ran Katz's Department Store, the store that was first opened by her father-in-law at the turn of the last century. The store went through several iterations, first as a mercantile establishment, later growing into a department store specializing in clothing for men and women. When it eventually closed in 1995, much of the store's business was in the selling of bridal gowns and formal wear.

A New Orleans native, she lived in both Kosciusko and Jackson,

MS, attending Millsaps College for two years before leaving to support herself following the death of her father.

When she was 65, Katz enrolled at Mississippi State in Starkville, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree with honors five years later. At 70, she is still listed as the oldest graduate in Mississippi State University history.

Katz recently enjoyed success as an author, having penned the book “The Peddler,” which was based on the life of her father, a peddler living in and around the South at the turn of the last century. She enjoyed playing contract bridge, was an inveterate piano player and volunteered for a number of civic groups including the Starkville Symphony (in which she played cello), the Starkville Symphony League and Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood.

Following the death of her husband of 57 years in 2006, Katz was uneasy. She moved to Houston in 2012 to live with family members there. She was living in an assisted living facility, but still found time to volunteer as a member of the Temple Sinai community there.

She is survived by her son Keith Katz (Evie), her daughters Debra Katz Pesses (Leon) and Karen Katz Westall (Tommy) and six grandchildren.

Graveside services were held in the Jewish section of Friendship Cemetery in Columbus, MS, on June 28.

Lillian Pulitzer Smith, 92, owner of The Uptowner Store

June 26, 2013

LILLIAN PULITZER SMITH, the former owner of The Uptowner clothing store, died on Wednesday June 26, at the age of 92.

Orphaned at four years old, she grew up in the Jewish Children's Home in New Orleans. She was predeceased by her husband Emanuel Simon Pulitzer of many years and their only son, Marshall, in a plane crash when he was just 20 years old.

She was credited with being an asset to her husband during the years that he and his brother built the Wembley Tie Company into the largest neckwear manufacturer in the world.

Pulitzer is survived by daughters Susie Pulitzer, who lives in Alabama, and Carol Pulitzer and one grandson.

Miriam Cahen Radlauer, New Orleans teacher

July 01, 2013

MIRIAM CAHEN RADLAUER, a teacher in the New Orleans Public Schools system who also taught at Communal Hebrew School, died on July 1.

She was predeceased by her husband Arthur Radlauer and her son Leonard Radlauer, of blessed memory. She is survived by her son David Radlauer (Julie Schwartz), her daughter Kay Radlauer (Dennis Demcheck) and six grandchildren.

Nat Halpern, retired insurance agent

July 26, 2013

NATHAN “NAT” HALPERN, a retired insurance agent for Stone Insurance Company for decades, died Friday afternoon, July 26 at the Carpenter House, a hospice in Baton Rouge. He was 91.

Halpern, an outgoing and gregarious man was also an inveterate poet and a song composer, billing himself as a “well known songwriter of little known songs.” Oftentimes, he would carry his notebooks filled with lyrics of his songs and sing them for clients and friends.

A New Orleans native, Halpern had been living in a residence in Prairieville after his retirement, but moved to Baton Rouge for hospice care. A longtime member of Temple Sinai, he is survived by his wife Marianne Hinkley Halpern; a stepdaughter Anette Lomm and a brother Leonard Halpern. Halpern was predeceased by his former wife, Regina Goldberg Lomm, a Holocaust survivor.

Graveside services were conducted on Sunday, July 28 by Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn at Hebrew Rest Cemetery.

Julian Good, retired real estate attorney

August 18, 2013

JULIAN GOOD, a retired real estate attorney who was a senior partner in the law firm of Lemle & Kelleher, an integral part of his more than 50-year legal career, died August 18 of complications from pneumonia in Savannah, GA, where he had been living since 2006. He was 82.

Prior to his retirement, Good was the Louisiana counsel for many prominent corporate and financial companies and played a leading role in finalizing many major real estate projects that included Canal Place, Riverwalk, Harrah's Casino and the Oakwood Mall. He was also among the first Louisiana attorneys to be admitted to the prestigious American College of Real Estate Attorneys.

A native of New Orleans, Good attended Isidore Newman School before enrolling at Tulane University, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate. He matriculated to the Tulane School of Law and graduated Order of the Coif and a member of the Tulane Law Review. Following graduation, Good served in the Judge Advocate General department of the United States Air Force as a first lieutenant and was honorably discharged prior to his practice of law in New Orleans.

An avid reader and an accomplished bridge player, Good was noted as a mentor to his fellow attorneys, especially inspirational to many who number among the most influential in the city today.

Good was an active member of the New Orleans Jewish community, having served Touro Synagogue as its president and maintained close ties even after his move to Savannah. He was also a member of the boards of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and Willow Wood (now the Woldenberg Village) and served on the boards of his alma mater, Isidore Newman School, and Metairie Park Country Day School. Good was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Dean of the Tulane School of Law.

Good is survived by his wife of 59 years, Peggy (née Greenwald) Good; his son, Julian H. Good, Jr. of New Orleans (Wendy Schornstein Good); his two daughters, Lisa Good Dissinger of Philadelphia, PA (Donald), and Danyse Good Skelton of Longmont, CO (Steve); and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday, August 23 at Touro Synagogue.

Helen Levkowitz, Holocaust survivor

August 19, 2013

HELEN CHAJA LEVKOWICZ, a Holocaust survivor who lived a quiet life in New Orleans as a homemaker and mother, died on April 19. Levkowitz, 84, had been a resident in recent years at the Poydras Home.

A native of Krakow, Poland, she was the wife of the late Joseph M. Levkowitz. She is survived by sons Sam Levkowitz (Diane Cali) and Harold Levkowitz (Barbara Gordon), four grandchildren and one step-granddaughter.

Private family graveside services were conducted by Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn with interment in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3 on Friday, August 23.

Morris Krilov, retired furniture store owner dead at 96

August 30, 2013

MORRIS KRILOV, 96, a retired furniture store owner died in Metairie. A longtime member of Congregation Chevra Thilim (Orthodox and later Conservative), Krilov and his family became members of Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue at the time of the merger between Conservative synagogues Chevra Thilim and Tikvat Shalom.

In recent years he had been living at the Vista Shores Assisted Living Center.

Married to Selma Gloria (née Weinstein), he is also survived by two sons Sandy (Leslie) and Alan of Hammond, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was also the foster father of Dr. Robert Trestman of New York, NY and the brother of Joyce Sherman and Anita Sonnefeld.

Graveside services were conducted at by Rabbi Ethan Linden at Chevra Thilim Memorial Park, 5000 Iberville Street at Helena Street.

Millie Greenberg Brickman Merlin, real estate agent

August 31, 2013

MILLIE GREENBERG BRICKMAN MERLIN, a former real estate agent and stay-at-home mother, passed away peacefully at Chateau Living Center on Saturday, August 31, 2013. She was 98.

Merlin, the widow of second husband Jack Merlin, had in more recent times also been a docent at the New Orleans Museum of Art and had given walking tours in the Vieux Carre. She was a volunteer for many civic organizations and was very involved in the school functions of her children. An avid reader, she was a member of several book review clubs and enjoyed sharing her love of reading with others.

Born in Chicago, she was first married to the late Irving Brickman for 26 years before remarrying. Merlin is survived by two children, Dr. Fred E. Brickman (Shelley) and Robette Brickman Shurman, three grandchildren and a great-grandson. She is also survived by a sister, Eleanor Balfour of Maine.

In her later years, she was a docent giving tours in the French Quarter and the New Orleans Museum of Art. She also belonged to several book review clubs and loved sharing her enjoyment of reading with others.

Graveside services were performed at Jewish Burial Rites Cemetery on Tuesday, September 3. Rabbi Ethan Linden officiated.

Jerome Goldman, naval architect and engineer

September 05, 2013

JEROME L. GOLDMAN, an engineering pioneer, philanthropist, and civic leader, died September 5, 2013, at his home in New Orleans after a lengthy illness. He was 89.

Goldman received various national and international naval architecture and engineering recognitions including the coveted Elmer A. Sperry Award. He became the first engineer and the second person to receive the Offshore Technology Conference Distinguished Achievement Award for Pioneering Work in Offshore Design, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers as well as the David W. Taylor Medal for Innovation Achievements in Naval Architecture. He was a recipient of the C. Alvin Bertel Award, was an inductee into the Offshore Pioneers Hall of Fame for being an "industry pioneer," was awarded the Most Distinguished Alumni at the opening of the Robert H. Lurie Center for Engineering at the University of Michigan and was bestowed with honorary Doctorate of Science degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of New Orleans (UNO). The Goldman Wing at the University of Michigan Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Building was built in his honor.

Besides his numerous engineering accomplishments, Goldman designed and built both the Chevron building on University Place and One River Place. The high-rise condominium was one of the first residential buildings in New Orleans built on the banks of the Mississippi River and one of the first in the country to be built on air rights.

His devotion over the years to the New Orleans community was expressed by his time and philanthropy to organizations such as the UNO School of Naval Architecture, Tulane University, the National World War II Museum, Temple Sinai, the Metropolitan Crime Commission, Court Watch NOLA, Liberty's Kitchen, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Jewish Federation of Louisiana, Touro Infirmary, and Metairie Park Country Day School.

The son of Lithuanian immigrants, Goldman was born in Kankakee, IL, and attended Emerson High School in Gary, IN. He obtained his undergraduate degree in 1944 from the University of Michigan School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering in the relatively short term of two years and nine months. He was the only civilian in the graduating class.

Immediately upon graduation, he contributed to the war effort by working closely with Andrew Jackson Higgins at Higgins Industries in New Orleans. In 1946 at the age of 22, Goldman started his own naval architectural firm and after working with Standard Oil of California (Chevron) and other companies, Goldman and Cdr. V.H. Friede created Friede and Goldman Ltd., which became an international leader in ship and offshore rig design.

Goldman contributed to the design of the first jack-up rig in 1952, and continued his innovative work on jack-up rigs, submersibles, semi-submersibles and catamaran drill ships. He held numerous numbers of patents for his inventions.

In the 1960s, he designed the revolutionary Lighter Aboard Ship, known as LASH. These ship designs made it possible for easy interchange of cargo from ship to ship, made shallow ports around the world accessible, and significantly reduced the turnaround time required for loading and unloading.

His earlier claim to fame, which has gone down in ship design history, is being the inventor of the All-Hatch concept, which provided safer and more efficient ship operation. By the 1970s, the All-Hatch concept became a worldwide standard for general cargo and container ships.

Goldman is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lynne Weinberger Goldman; his daughters, Anne Goldman Brinkley of Austin, TX (Douglas), Hope Goldman Meyer (James); a son, Edward Karp (Anne-Marie); and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Leah Goldman Karp, and his son, Scott Goldman.

A memorial service was held Monday, September 9 at One River Place and was officiated by Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn.

Carolyn Lazarus, community volunteer

September 13, 2013

CAROLYN LAZARUS, a housewife, mother and community volunteer died at Lambeth House on Friday, September 13, 2013. She was 91.

Lazarus was born in Shreveport and attended Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, the same school her future husband, Dr. Wilbur Lazarus, D.D.S., attended. Ironically, they did not meet until she came to New Orleans in the spring of 1945, while he was on leave from the U.S. Army. They were married in the fall of that same year in the Crescent City and maintained a residence in the Uptown area for many decades. In recent years she had been living at Lambeth House, an assisted living facility.

A member of the Audubon Golf Club, she was also a longtime volunteer for Touro Infirmary Surgery Lounge. Lazarus was a long-established member of Temple Sinai and a noted volunteer for its Sisterhood. In more recent years she and her husband also became members of Congregation Gates of Prayer.

Beside her husband of 67 years, she is survived by sons Dr.

Edward Lazarus (Vicki) and Harry Lazarus (Betty), six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Because it was Erev Yom Kippur, graveside services were held on the same day of her passing at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3. Rabbi Robert Loewy of Congregation Gates of Prayer conducted the service.

Marjorie Skinner Tolmas, former chief nurse dead after lengthy illness

September 17, 2013

MARJORIE SKINNER TOLMAS, a former chief of Nursing at both Touro Infirmary and Oschner Foundation Hospital, died Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

A resident of New Orleans for the past 65 years, Tolmas graduated from the Charity School of Nursing. She is survived by her husband Oscar J. Tolmas and her brother-in-law, Dr. Hyman C. Tolmas, sister-in-law Constance Cohen Tolmas as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A member of Congregation Beth Israel, Tolmas was also a former member of Congregation Temple Sinai and Anshe Sfard Synagogue and Sisterhoods. She was a noted philanthropist, making many annual donations to various charities in addition to many social organizations. Her philanthropy was especially recognized by the Jewish Welfare Federation of Greater New Orleans and the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana.

Among her many hobbies and pursuits, she enjoyed preparing meals and was an avid traveler.

Graveside services were held at the New Beth Israel Cemetery on Wednesday, September 18 by Rabbi Yossie Nemes of the Chabad Center of Metairie.

Jonathan Silverman, 33, laid to rest

October 01, 2013

JONATHAN FRANK SILVERMAN, an information technology network administrator, succumbed to a longtime illness on Tuesday, October 1. He was 33.

A native of River Ridge, Silverman was a graduate of Ridgewood High School and attended ITI Technical College in Baton Rouge. He was an employee of Security Comp at the time of his death.

Services were held Oct. 3 at Congregation Gates of Prayer, 4000 West Esplanade Avenue with Rabbi Robert Loewy officiating. Silverman is survived by daughters Sadie Jade and Kylie Maegan Silverman; his parents, Daniel and Jackie Curtis Silverman; his brother Jeffrey Alan Silverman; his grandmother Eileen Leder Curtis and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Leopold Breen, retired furniture store owner and manufacturer's representative

October 08, 2013

LEOPOLD "LEE" BREEN, a former owner of Breen Furniture and a retired manufacturer's representative, died October 8, following a long illness. A native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, he was 93.

Breen had recently been living at Lambeth House, an assisted living facility following the effects of a stroke he suffered six years ago.

He graduated from Alcee Fortier High School and during the Second World War enlisted in the U.S. Army. He became a member of the Army Air Corps and rose to the rank of major before returning home to New Orleans to begin to raise a family and to start his first career as a furniture store owner for 30 years. He then worked as a manufacturer's representative, a career he excelled in, matching up manufacturers with potential retail outlets. He retired from that job when he was 80.

Breen married his wife Lillian N. Breen, whom he had met when he was just 16 and she was 12. They were married in 1944 and enjoyed 69 years of married life together.

Breen was a longtime member of Chevra Thillim and Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation.

He is survived by his wife and daughters Linda Wiener (Sander), Janet Task (Harold) and Carole Chackers (Ken), eight grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on October 10, 2013 in Chevra Thilim Memorial Park. Rabbi Ethan Linden officiated the service.

Liselotte Weil, Holocaust survivor, philanthropist dies at 92

October 11, 2013

LISELOTTE LEVY WEIL, a Holocaust survivor, who was forced to flee Nazi Germany in 1939, and became a well-known figure in New Orleans, died October 11 at her home. She was 92.

Weil was an active volunteer at Touro Infirmary and was a member of the Board of Directors at Willow Wood Auxiliary. She was a tireless promoter of their annual raffle and regularly played bingo with residents there.

An energetic woman with a warm, engaging smile, Weil was noted for her understanding and kindness. A generous philanthropist, she established memorial funds in honor of her family members at the

Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana, the National World War II Museum, and the Southern Institute for Education and Research at Tulane University. She was a longtime member of Temple Sinai.

She was born in Neuwied, a German city located along the Rhine River that had been noted for tolerance and acceptance of Jews for centuries. Her father was a veteran and decorated hero of World War I, who later became a kosher butcher.

Following the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, her father began a letter writing campaign to relatives living in Mississippi hoping to save his three children. The letters eventually were forwarded to Liselotte's cousin Issac Greenwald. Greenwald obtained U.S. visas for Weil and her brother Leo, just prior to November 10, 1938, the night now known to Holocaust students as "Kristallnacht," or "the night of the broken glass." It was during Kristallnacht that their home was ransacked and their father was assaulted and killed in full view of his family members. Weil and her brother left Germany two months later, leaving their mother and younger sister behind.

Adopted by another cousin, Amelia Greenwald, Weil came to Eunice, LA and worked for several years at La Vogue, a ladies dress shop. It was after the war she learned that both her mother and sister had died while interred in a Nazi concentration camp.

After moving to New Orleans, she married her husband Leo Weil in June 1959. A fellow refugee, Leo Weil had been married previously and had a daughter they raised together. Both Weils enjoyed traveling, visiting West Germany and Israel on several occasions.

Funeral services were held at the Temple Sinai on October 15. Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn and Cantor Joel Colman officiated. Weil is survived by a daughter, Linda Weil Alsberg (Steve), two grandsons and two great-grandchildren.

Arnold Levy, past Temple Sinai president dies at 92

November 14, 2013

ARNOLD LEVY, the former owner of Modern Flooring, who also served previously as Temple Sinai president from 1969-1971, died on Tues., Nov. 14. He was 92.

Private services were held on Wed., Nov. 15 and were closed to the public. Levy is survived by his wife Maline, a son Marc and a daughter, Brenda Schneider of Napa.

Norine Marks Alltmont, homemaker and community volunteer

November 17, 2013

NORINE MARKS ALLTMONT, a homemaker and community volunteer for decades, died November 17 at her home in Laplace. She was 95.

Alltmont had been a longtime member of Touro Synagogue was very involved with the Sisterhood for many years. She was a past board member of the River Region Arts and Humanities Council and a founding member of the American Heart Association of St. John Parish.

Born in Sherman, TX in the summer of 1918, Alltmont was married to the late Alfred Charles Alltmont. She is survived by her sons Jack Alltmont (Phyllis) and Charles Alltmont (Mary Lynn) of Laplace; her brother, Louis B. Marks of Houston; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Monday, Nov. 18, at Hebrew Rest Cemetery # 3, Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated.

Fred Glassman, aerospace engineer

November 21, 2013

FRED GLASSMAN, an aerospace engineer and a longtime resident of New Orleans died at his home Thursday November 21, 2013. He was 90.

Glassman was the Project Engineer at RCA for the Ranger Satellite that took the first successful pictures of the moon. He was the Project Engineer for numerous Tiros weather satellite and spy satellites and worked at Boeing and was involved with the Apollo XI mission that landed on the moon. Upon retiring he became involved in selling insurance for business accounts.

A graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in electrical engineering, Glassman later served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He saw combat in the Asian theater, fighting in Burma, India and China. Glassman was credited with the design of an electronic device for all Navy gun-firing combat aircraft that prevented overheating of the equipment.

He was married to Rhoda Felberg for over 50 years until she died in 2001. Over the last few years, Glassman enjoyed working as a volunteer at the National World War II Museum. He is survived by his daughters, Gail Glassman and Rochelle Glassman Aronson (Jon); a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services took place at Tikvat Shalom Cemetery (inside Jefferson Memorial Gardens), on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013 with Rabbi Ethan Linden officiating.

Michael Berenson, law partner and community leader

November 30, 2013

MICHAEL ALBERT BERENSON, a true renaissance man, who was an engineer, a rocket scientist, a successful businessman and an attorney as well as a Jewish community leader, died Saturday morning, November 30, at his home, surrounded by family members. Berenson, 75, died peacefully after a 12-year battle with a rare, progressive non-degenerative process – multiple system atrophy.

At the time of his death, Berenson was a law partner in the firm Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel, LLC, but he came to that career later in life following the sale of his data processing firm, Quanta Data Systems, in 1985.

A native of New Orleans, Berenson was a graduate of Isidore Newman School in 1957. He graduated from Tulane University with a Bachelor of Science degree and continued there, earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1963. He was hired as a rocket scientist at Martin Marietta in Denver, CO during the years of the Gemini and Apollo space programs.

In 1969, Berenson returned home to New Orleans to found Quanta Data Systems, which was one of the first data processing firms, specializing in accounting, accounts receivable, payroll and inventory for hundreds of businesses in the Greater New Orleans area.

Following the sale of his company, Berenson enrolled at Tulane University's School of Law, became editor of the Tulane Law Review and graduated with honors in 1990. He joined the firm of Sessions and Fishman, before being named partner there.

Over the course of three decades, Berenson was well known in the New Orleans Jewish community, having served as president of Touro Synagogue and president of the New Orleans Jewish Community Center. He was chairman of the board of Touro Infirmary and was a recipient of the Judah Touro Award for his outstanding contributions to the hospital.

Berenson is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mat Shushan Berenson, sons Andy and Mark Berenson, daughters-in-law Jamie and Brooke Barradale; sister Jill Berenson and two grandsons. Services were held at Touro Synagogue on Monday, December 2, 2013.

Lenore Gross internment in Covington

November 30, 2013

LENORE GROSS, the mother of former Florence Melton Adult Mini-School director Teri Gross, died in Mandeville surrounded by family members on Saturday, November 30.

Gross, a former resident of Cranston, RI, later moved to Madison, AL, a small town in the Huntsville area. She was a member of Temple B'nai Shalom in Huntsville and was a lifetime member of B'nai B'rith Women's Organization.

Gross is survived by her husband Paul B. Gross; her daughters Teri (Michael Hertzog) and Beth Gross-Santos; her son Fred Gross (Yvonne); six grandchildren; and a sister Shirley Shapiro.

Graveside services were held on December 2, at Pinecrest Memorial Gardens, in Covington.. Rabbi John Nimon of the Northshore Jewish Congregation officiated.

Oscar Tolmas, real estate developer, investor dies at 93

December 02, 2013

OSCAR JUDAH TOLMAS, a real estate investor, developer, homebuilder, attorney and businessman died suddenly on Monday, December 2. He was 93 years old.

Much of the development in the heart of the Metairie shopping district corridor, located along present-day Veterans and Causeway Boulevards can be credited to Tolmas. Although he excelled at building homes in both Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, his lifelong passion was thoroughbred horseracing. Tolmas was the chairman of the Louisiana Racing Commission and was a member for 14 years. He was a fixture at the clubhouse at The Fairgrounds for much of his life.

Tolmas was a longtime member of Congregation Beth Israel, a respected Jewish community leader and an unsung supporter of Jewish community events.

Following graduation from the Tulane School of Law in 1943, Tolmas served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, seeing action in the Pacific during World War II. He was honored as a 70-year member of the Louisiana Bar Association.

Predeceased by his wife Marjorie in September, he is survived by his brother Dr. Hyman Tolmas (Connie) and several nieces and nephews. Graveside funeral services were held at the New Beth Israel Cemetery on December 3 by Rabbi Yossie Nemes.

Helen Slipman Kohlman, attorney and political activist

December 04, 2013

HELEN SLIPMAN KOHLMAN, a distinguished lawyer and ad hoc judge, died in her apartment on December 4, 2013. She was 83. A native-born and life-long New Orleanian, Kohlman had a distinguished 45-year law career, practicing with her husband Herman Kohlman as Kohlman & Kohlman. She served as an ad hoc judge in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Courts and was a member of the Louisiana

legislative committee that re-wrote Louisiana domestic and community property laws, eliminating the gender oppressive “head and master regime” that allowed husbands to encumber or sell community property without the wife's permission or knowledge.

A product of the New Orleans public schools, she graduated from Eleanor McMain High School. One of only three women in her law school class, Kohlman was the valedictorian of her class at the Loyola University School of Law, and an editor of the Law Review.

A life-long Democrat and political activist, especially for causes that promoted racial and gender equality, Kohlman was president of the Independent Women's Organization and a founding member of the Committee of 21, formed to solicit and promote female candidates for political office.

Kohlman was the longest-serving member of the New Orleans Library Board for over 32 years, first being appointed by Mayor Ernest Morial. In her term Helen oversaw three new libraries built in Algiers, Gentilly and the Rosa Keller branch in Broadmoor. Kohlman served on the RDC board, and was instrumental in negotiating the contracts that brought Harrahs to New Orleans. Her most recent involvement was bringing the Saenger Theatre back to its original glory.

As an active member of the New Orleans Jewish community, she continued to give of herself to the causes she cherished most. A staunch supporter of Israel, Kohlman chaired the Israel Bonds campaign in New Orleans for many years, raising millions of dollars for the benefit of the Jewish State.

She served on the board at the Willow Wood Home for the Jewish Aged, ultimately becoming the president. She was part of the committee that started the planning of what was to become the Woldenberg Apartments, making Willow Wood a premier destination for the elderly who would need that care and support.

Kohlman shared her love for learning with over 20 years of students as an adjunct professor of the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University, where she taught business law, winning the best professor award on multiple occasions.

She is survived by her children, Sandra Friedman (Barry), Marsha Morak (Glenn), Neil Kohlman (Hannah) and Ira Kohlman (John Thompson); a sister, Marion Slipman Cohen and seven grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Congregation Gates of Prayer by Rabbi Robert Loewy on December 7. Internment followed at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3.

Albert Hendler, radiologist, dies at 86

December 08, 2013

ALBERT I. HENDLER, M.D., a general radiologist certified in diagnostic roentgenology, died on, Sunday, December 8 at his River Ridge residence. He was 86. Hendler was a member of Congregation Beth Israel.

He was predeceased by his wife, Rea Silverstein Hendler of blessed memory, who died less than two years ago on May 18, 2012. Hendler is survived by daughters Nedda Beth Hendler (Michael Mielke), Lori Hendler and Marc Hendler (Esther) and four grandchildren. Private family graveside services were held on Tuesday, December 10 at the New Beth Israel Cemetery. Services were conducted by Rabbi Ethan Linden with the assistance of Beth Israel administrative director Rabbi David Posternock.

Milton Cohen, attorney dead at 87

December 11, 2013

MILTON H. COHEN, a retired attorney, died on Wednesday, December 11. He was 87.

Cohen was a lifelong resident of New Orleans and graduated from Isidore Newman School in 1943, prior to serving in the U. S. Navy during World War II. After the war, he returned to New Orleans and using the G. I. Bill, enrolled at Tulane University, where he graduated from the School of Law.

A member of the Scottish Rite Masons, Valley of New Orleans, Cohen was also a member of the Abou Saad Shriners in Panama. He was a member of Touro Synagogue. Cohen is survived by a sister, Peggy C. Bennett of Fort Worth, TX, several nieces and a nephew. Graveside services were held at Hebrew Rest Cemetery # 3, on Sunday, December 15. Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated.

Maurice Kansas, real estate developer and retailer

December 13, 2013

MAURICE SAMUEL KANSAS, a New Orleans native who was a real estate developer and founding retailer of Brothers Clothing Store and Polo Carpets, was memorialized in ceremonies on Dec. 27, at his home. Kansas, who died on Dec. 13, was also known affectionately as “Brother” and was 72 at the time of his passing.

A graduate of Alcee Fortier Senior High School, Kansas had a deep appreciation of the beauty of nature and was an avid photographer. He also enjoyed listening to music, using computers and was a student of architecture.

He is survived by his wife Sally (née Stich); son Eugene (De Anna); daughter Ann Kansas Cross (Michael); brother Fred of Austin, TX;

sister Marilyn Kansas Schragger (Marty) of Boca Raton and two grandchildren.

Pearl Daube, community volunteer

December 17, 2013

PEARL JACOBS DAUBE, a volunteer at the National World War II Museum and in the Jewish community, died in the early morning hours on Tuesday, December 17 at Ochsner Foundation Hospital. She was 89.

Daube was a volunteer for Temple Sinai for many years and was an active supporter of Hadassah.

She was the wife of Albert J. Daube for 68 years and is survived by her daughter Faye Miller (Herbert) and son David Daube (Sue), four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Graveside funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 18 at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3. Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated.

Artist JoAnn Flom Greenberg, artist dead at 85

December 18, 2013

JOANN FLOM GREENBERG, an artist, died Wednesday morning December 18, 2013 at the age of 85. Greenberg's work in pottery was especially prized and received critical acclaims from art enthusiasts the world over.

Greenberg was a lover of all the arts and was a supporter of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, New Orleans Museum of Art among other pursuits.

She was the widow of Dr. Harry B. Greenberg of blessed memory and is survived by daughter Jane G. Schramel (Christopher); sons Albert G. Greenberg (Kathryn) of Seattle, WA, and John F. Greenberg (Brenda) of Bethesda, MD.; siblings Mary Sue F. Rothenberg and brother Edward Flom, both of Tampa, FL.; and eight grandchildren. A memorial service took place at Temple Sinai on Friday December 20, 2013 with Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiating. The burial was private.

Melba Steeg, civic leader and philanthropist dead at 90

December 25, 2013

MELBA LAW STEEG, a community leader and civic volunteer, died Wednesday, December 25, 2013 at her New Orleans residence. She was 90.

Steeg was a true patron of the arts and fundraiser, serving on the boards of many non-profit organizations including the New Orleans Museum of Art, the national boards of the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine and the National Council of Christians and Jews.

Born in Mansfield, LA, Steeg attended Northwestern State University and was a longtime supporter of the institution after her graduation. The Melba L. Steeg Endowed Professorship in Primary Education was established in her honor and in 2002, while serving as president of the Foundation Board, Steeg led a successful \$1,000,000 fundraising campaign, which resulted in the university's first endowed chair also named in her honor, The Melba L. Steeg Endowed Chair in Educational Technology Leadership. The university honored Steeg in 2004 with an honorary doctorate in humane letters.

During her college years, Steeg learned to fly and over the course of her lifetime maintained a love for aviation. She became the first woman to chair the Aviation Committee of the New Orleans Area Chamber of Commerce and later she was the first woman president and chair of the Board of Directors of the Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission. Additionally, she was appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards as the first chairwoman of the Louisiana Airport Authority.

Steeg married attorney, philanthropist and civic activist Moise S. Steeg. Together they contributed to several major arts institutions while living in New Orleans and raising a family. They were dedicated collectors of paintings by prominent artists Marc Chagall, Joan Miro and others and enjoyed displaying Chinese figurines and ceramics they collected through the years. The Steegs' Tiffany glass collection was considered one of the finest in the nation and was lent to the New Orleans Museum of Art for an exhibit in 1991. Both Steegs were the recipients of the Mayor's Arts Award in 2002.

Though she was predeceased by her husband in 2010, Steeg is survived by her children, Robert Steeg (Pamela), Marion Steeg Bustamante (Chava) of San Jose, CA and Barbara Midlo of Jerusalem, Israel; siblings Georgie Roenigk (Robert) and Gordon Law (Diane); five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Private family graveside services were held at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 2, on Sunday, Dec. 29.

BIRTHS

MOORES WELCOME SON ON FEBRUARY 22

Bert and Rachel Moore of Prairieville, LA announce the birth of their first child, son Harrison Edward Moore. He is the paternal grandson of the late Herbert E. Moore, for whom he is named, and Betty Moore of Metairie. His maternal grandparents are Karen Presser and the late Melvin Presser, also of Metairie. His paternal great grandmother is Una Moore Pierce.

SON TO CHANDLERS BORN ON OCTOBER 4

Beryl and Nathan Chandler announce the birth of their son John William Chandler. Maternal grandparents are Mary Sue and Steve Katz and his great grandmother is Celia Lubritz Katz

SON TO SCHLAMs

Ilana and Greg Schlam announce the birth of their son Hunter David Schlam. Hunter's older sister is Payton Schlam. Grandparents are Sue and David Daube and the great grandparents are Pearl and Albert Daube.

SON TO PFEFFERS ON OCTOBER 7

Jennifer and Brad Pfeffer announce the birth of their son Reid Cameron Pfeffer. His maternal grandmother is Sandra Cameron.

BABY BOY TO MARX FAMILY ON OCTOBER 17

Cantor Jamie and Anna Marx announce the birth of their first son Issac Benjamin Marx. He is the younger brother of Elli Marx.

SON BORN TO FUCHS FAMILY ON NOVEMBER 2

David and Kristal Fuchs announce the arrival of son Noam. The paternal grandparents are Laszlo and Shula Fuchs.

SON BORN TO UNGAR FAMILY ON NOVEMBER 4

Lauren and Hal Ungar announce the arrival of their first born, a son named Jonah Lev Ungar. Paternal grandparents are Roselle and Stanley Ungar, and the maternal grandparents are Leslie and Steven Loeb of Baton Rouge. His great-grandmother is Marion Cohen.

DAUGHTER TO JURAN FAMILY ON NOVEMBER 4

Ashley and David Juran announce the birth of their daughter, Jovi. Paternal grandparents are Leo and Mona Juran.

DAVIS FAMILY WELCOME SON

Sara Jane Davis and Jamie Davis announced the birth of William Levi Davis. Maternal grandparents are Martie and Art Waterman.

MARKS FAMILY WELCOMES SON

Carrie and Austin Marks announce the birth of their son Samuel Mason Marks. Maternal grandparents are Cathy and Morris Bart, III. Great-grandparents are Sandra and Jerome Kanter and Hertha Bart.

B'NAI MITZVAHS

JACOB AND MARIELLE SMITH

First cousins Jacob Smith of Sarasota, FL and Marielle Smith of Tampa, FL celebrated their becoming B'nai Mitzvah at services at Conservative Temple Beth Shalom in Sarasota on February 16. Jacob, the son of Dina and Hal Smith, and Marielle, the son of Dr. Amanda and Sam Smith, celebrated with family and friends at a Kiddush luncheon at the shul followed by a party at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota that night. The event featured deejay, games and a colorful Mardi Gras theme with tables representing famous New Orleans streets.

RENATA SCHAFFER

Renata Schaffer, daughter of Lonnie Zarum Schaffer and Phillip Schaffer became a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, March 2 at services at Conservative Synagogue Shir Chadash.

HARRY REINER

HARRY REINER, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reiner, became a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 6 at services at Conservative Synagogue Shir Chadash in Metairie.

RACHEL LEA KIRBY

RACHEL LEA KIRBY, daughter of former New Orleanian Naomi Usprich Kirby and Gary Kirby, became a Bat Mitzvah at the Leo Baeck Center for Progressive Judaism in Melbourne, Australia on April 6, 2013.

ALEXANDER SOBEL

ALEXANDER HOF SOBEL became a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 19 in evening services at Temple Sinai at 6:15 p.m. Sobel, the son of Vicki and Steven Sobel, was called to the bimah to read a portion of the Torah in both Hebrew and English and also led afternoon and Havdalah services with the assistance of Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn and Cantor Joel Colman. Following the services, a festive party for Sobel's friends and relatives was held in the Temple Sinai social hall with a DJ providing dance music and video memories.

ENGAGEMENTS

ZOLLER-STONE

Rebecca Elizabeth Zoller, daughter of Linda and Dr. Michael Zoller of Savannah, GA and granddaughter of former New Orleanian resident, Mildred Zoller now of Scottsdale, AZ, recently became engaged to Eric M. Stone of New York City.

Ms. Zoller earned her undergraduate degree from Washington University of St. Louis and her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She is vice president of

partnership development with American Express in New York City. Mr. Stone earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master's degree from Harvard University and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He currently is the vice president of sales and marketing for Molecular Health in New York City, co-founder of two early-stage companies and a member of multiple boards. A May wedding in Savannah, GA is planned.

SCHWARTZ-GERTLER

Marci and Mike Gertler announce the engagement of their son Josh Gertler to Carli Schwartz, daughter of Randi and Ira Schwartz of Great Neck, NY.

Miss Schwartz, the granddaughter of Len and Loretta Klein of Manhasset, NY, received her undergraduate degree from Boston University. She served her dietetic internship at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Presently, she is a registered and licensed dietitian at Tulane University Hospital. Mr. Gertler, a New Orleans native, holds both a Masters of Business Administration degree and a Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University and is employed at the Gertler Law Firm.

The ceremony is slated to be performed on May 10 at City Park's Arbor Room and will be officiated by Rabbi Robert Loewy of Congregation Gates of Prayer



Teach me something, Mister!

Limmud is dedicated to Jewish learning in all its variety.

Attend LimmudFest New Orleans 2014
and experience the transformative power
of Jewish learning and community!


 www.limmudnola.org
 MARCH 7 - 9, 2014

CCJN LIFE CYCLES POLICY

The CCJN will publish the names of recent area births, B'nai Mitzvahs, either an engagement or wedding announcement, unveilings, or milestone anniversaries **free of charge**.
*Photos may be submitted for a fee of \$18.

Obituaries are produced by the editorial staff and document the highlights of a person's life. There is no fee for an obituary. *An electronic file photo for an obituary may be submitted to the CCJN. The photo fee may be waived for an obituary only.

* Photos may be submitted for publication, but they must meet minimum size standards and will also incur a processing fee of \$18.00 (obituary photo fees only are sometimes waived.) All copyrighted materials must be accompanied with an express release from the photographer. All photos become the property of the CCJN. Payments for photos may be submitted to CCJN, 3810 Nashville Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125 or paid securely online through PayPal.

Death notices are submitted by family members and may fully list all of the family survivors and/or close relations. They are never edited, however they are assessed a processing fee according to the length. *Photos may also accompany a death notice.

Submission forms are found on the CCJN website at
www.crescentcityjewishnews.com.

EXCLUSIVE TO CCJN: LAGNIAPPE FEATURE ARTICLE

The Crescent City Jewish News (CCJN) held its first annual “Jewish Art and Jewish Artists” event on Sun. afternoon, Dec.1 at Congregation Beth Israel, 4004 West Esplanade Avenue in Metairie.

The afternoon event was designed to spotlight both Jewish artists working in various media and non-Jewish artists who focus on Judaic themes.

Among the celebrated artists who appeared in person were painters Anna Gil, Aidi Kansas and Justin Smith, photography artist Tom Oelsner and sculptor Joan Zaslow. In addition an art piece representing the work of painter Hannah Chalew was also on display at the synagogue and community center.

Gil, who was a finalist in the Golden Ghetto Jewish Art competition in Venice, Italy last summer and who had a showing in Paris, was featured in the pages of the CCJN's 5774 SOURCE and in several related online stories. Her “Letters of Light” paintings, which feature the letters of the Hebrew alphabet as well as paintings of Hebrew words, have been shown at several local Royal Street galleries and are currently on display at Naghi's Gallery at 637 Canal Street.

Kansas displayed her large paintings of pets she has rendered as part of a campaign for the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (ASPCA) and also showed various sculptures in primary colors, which mimicked the senses not affected by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The debilitating disorder is incurable and invariably fatal in a short period of time. Former New Orleans Saints player Steve Gleason is one of the most well-known of those afflicted. Kansas lost her mother to the disease and was additionally prompted to dedicate herself to the eradication of ALS after a close friend of hers was also diagnosed with it.

Oelsner, a physician, uses his work in photography to superimpose unusual, sometimes iconic images onto roofing slates complete with roofing nails he attaches to each slate.

Zaslow, a highly-regarded local sculptor, showed sev-

eral of her bronze sculptures of male and female figures.

Smith's primitive and tribal art were shown recently in two presentations at the New Orleans Healing Center. He previously had his work shown at a Royal Street gallery along with photographs taken by his famous father, Sidney Smith.

“There are very few opportunities for the entire New Orleans community to see the talented work of Jewish artists in one place or to see how the beauty of the Jewish faith has inspired non-Jews in such moving ways,” CCJN editor Alan Smason stated prior to the event.

Kosher food from Casablanca Restaurant was served at the event, which was free and open to the public.

The Jewish Art and Jewish Artists event marked the first time contributions were solicited for the recently established Zachor New Orleans fund. Established as a donor advised fund at the Jewish Endowment Fund of Louisiana, it is intended to establish a digital archive of former Jewish community newspapers such as the New Orleans Ledger. The archives will be created for the benefit of scholars researching the Greater New Orleans Jewish community and will be maintained through the Zachor New Orleans fund.



On the task bar “click” the features category and then use the CCJN drop down menu and “click” the “Cartoons” category. This will take you to the webpage with all of the most recent Menschkins entry.

“Click” on the title that will open up the page, wherein readers will see a small picture of the cartoon. “Click” on that small image and it will render the cartoon large enough to easily read it.

**TO GET YOUR WEEKLY MENSCHKINS “FIX”
IT’S SIMPLE WITH 4 EASY “CLICKS!”**



Gabriel Greenberg offered contract as new Beth Israel rabbi

JULY 1, 2013

The good news for Congregation Beth Israel is the Modern Orthodox synagogue does have a new rabbi, poised to take over the position being vacated by Rabbi Uri Topolosky at the end of this month. The bad news is that due to prior commitments in California, Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg won't be able to accept this position until May of 2014.

According to search committee chair and synagogue gabbai Irwin Lachoff, once they interviewed Rabbi Greenberg it was agreed he should be brought in to meet the members of the congregation, "There was overwhelming feedback from the members of the congregation that he was the right fit for us," acknowledged Lachoff.

Following the general mem-



Beth Israel Rabbi-elect Gabriel Greenberg
(Photo courtesy Moments in Time.com)

bership vote, a contract was extended to Greenberg by executive board members. Once Topolosky exits, Greenberg is expected to make regular, perhaps monthly, appearances at the synagogue until he takes over the position full time in May.

'Freedom' enjoys world premiere

JULY 12, 2013

When successful playwright and local New Orleansian Joyce Pulitzer along with David Seelig began to write a play back in 1998, neither of them could suspect that the project would develop the longest of legs. Over the course of several years they collaborated on a play in which an elderly Holocaust survivor would accost a young Irish immigrant at a U.S. naturalization center.

As Seelig's health began to fail, the two finished their collaboration on the play. Pulitzer recalls in a CCJN interview, "The play was complete, but it wasn't good," she admitted. "It wasn't right."

Pulitzer approached her friend Kitty Greenberg, who had been president of Touro Synagogue and was the Assistant to the Headmaster at Isidore Newman School. Pulitzer recalls that Greenberg was reticent. Greenberg emphasized to her friend, "There's a difference between reading a play and writing one!" However, applying what Pulitzer calls her "doctorate in chutzpah," she left the play at Greenberg's home and wouldn't take no for an answer.

Once Pulitzer and Greenberg completed the project, Pulitzer contacted another friend, theatre luminary Francine Segal. She asked Segal to help set up and secure actors for a local reading of the play, now simply titled "Freedom."

After the reading, Sean Patterson, who was one of the contracted actors approached Pulitzer because he felt the project was good enough to be staged. Working on his second master's degree at New York University's Tisch

School for the Arts, Patterson felt he could provide the necessary elements that were needed to develop "Freedom" into a stronger play. With the additional help of Patterson the play was fairly well tweaked and the final scripts were prepared last year.

Southern Repertory Theatre's artistic director Aimée Hayes read the script and was intrigued with the possibilities. "I liked the play first and foremost," she related. "Both Sean and Joyce are writers that Southern Rep has worked with before," Hayes explained. "I think they are part of our mission, which is to nurture our local artists, especially our writers. It's an ongoing relationship and that's what we do."

After a preview on Wednesday and a fundraiser for Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana (JEF) on Thursday night, the world premiere of "Freedom" by Joyce Pulitzer, David Seelig, Kitty Greenberg and Sean Patterson opened officially at the Contemporary Arts Center as the final entry in of Southern Repertory's 2012-13 season.



Lorraine LeBlanc and John Neisler star in "Freedom," a play about a Holocaust survivor and an Irish expatriate. (Photo by John Barrois)

Peter Wolf authors new N.O. memoir

JULY 6, 2013

Peter M. Wolf has established himself as a noted scholar in his many architectural history and art studies and as a preservationist in many of his civic endeavors. But the 77-year-old New Orleans native was scarcely prepared for his most recent literary effort, "My New Orleans Gone Away: A Memoir of Loss and Renewal," a 336-page memoir that more than touches on his early life in New Orleans, his schooling in New England and his eventual determination to seek his fame and fortune outside the city of his birth.

"A memoir is not a biography," he explained in an exclusive interview with the CCJN. "It's a snippet – a part of a life. It can be sort of a fragment of a life." Wolf said. As much of the story is dealt in a series of flashbacks, Wolf described the book as a coming-of-age work. "It has almost a theatrical structure," he mused.

Wolf is a highly respected art

and architectural historian, who graduated from Yale University, received his master's degree at Tulane University and earned his doctorate degree from New York University. He has received national recognition in the fields of urban policy, land planning and assets management and has published six previous books on scholarly subjects related to those fields.

Wolf is a sixth-generation member of one of the oldest established Jewish families in the region with former holdings that included the Godchaux Sugar Company and Godchaux's Department Store on Canal Street.

Yet, as Wolf relates in the course of the book, his family was full of incongruities. Although they attempted to maintain propriety in their private lives, his parents spent much of their time at night gambling and drinking. Although ancestors had helped found Temple Sinai, the Wolf family had very little adherence to Jewish observance. In fact, Wolf notes in his book, his family was especially noted

for throwing spectacular annual Christmas parties at which Rabbi Julian Feibelman was always an honored guest.

The memoir recounts Wolf's early life in Old Metairie where he felt isolated from family members. He remembers driving to Pass Christian to bask in the sun there at a house owned by his grandfather. Wolf's father was a major player in the then still thriving cotton business, having had expertise in computers that allowed him to keep track of government surplus cotton supplies. Yet, the business was destined to fail as fewer and fewer customers traded in futures.

Wolf touches on his decision to follow in his father's steps in many ways. Like his father, he was schooled at Phillips Exeter Academy and later was accepted to Yale University. But, even while working at his father's business and attending Tulane University at night to work on his master's degree, he knew deep down that he was not happy. The memoir reveals much of Wolf's inner turmoil to please

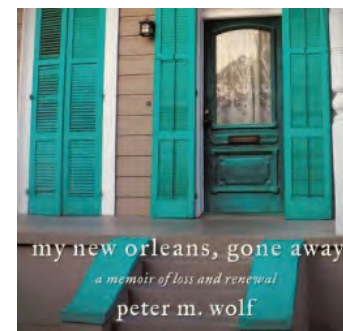


Author Peter M. Wolf, back in town this week. (Photo courtesy Delphinium Books.)

his father and to please himself.

Also of interest is how Wolf receives much of his appreciation for Jewish faith and practice from fellow Yale classmates, who give him his most in-depth study of the religion and expose him to Hebrew and cultural points of interest.

One of the prevailing themes in the book is that of risk. There is risk, he pointed out, in his leaving New Orleans to begin his life in New York. There was even risk in his testing the academic waters to determine if medicine would have been a rewarding field for him. His associations with women were also full of risks. Some of the risks



The cover of Peter M. Wolf's memoir. (Courtesy Delphinium Books)

worked out, while others didn't. But if Wolf had regrets, he never expressed them.

"It's been a fascinating experience," Wolf added. "I like to write from my own visualization. I see the scenes and I see the situations and I enjoy translating that into language." Because his previous works has been scholarly in scope, he was not exposed to this style of writing.

"This kind of writing is very exciting," he concluded. It requires a certain kind of style and restraint, but it also brings back a lot of memories.



Peace Baker now under kosher supervision

JULY 19, 2013

The Peace Baker, a vegan and gluten-free bakery open for the past year, is now certified kosher under the authority of the Louisiana Kosher Committee. The bakery at 6601 Veterans Memorial Boulevard is located in the Lafreniere Plaza strip mall. Rabbi Yossi Nemes, who serves as the head of the committee, can thank committee member Congregation Anshe Sfard Rabbi David Polsky for bringing the Peace Baker into the select number of kosher eateries in the Greater New Orleans area.

Owner Kelly Boffone previously was trained and worked as an executive pastry chef for Emeril Lagasse's restaurants before open-

ing the bakery. But Boffone had not planned on providing kosher food to area consumers.

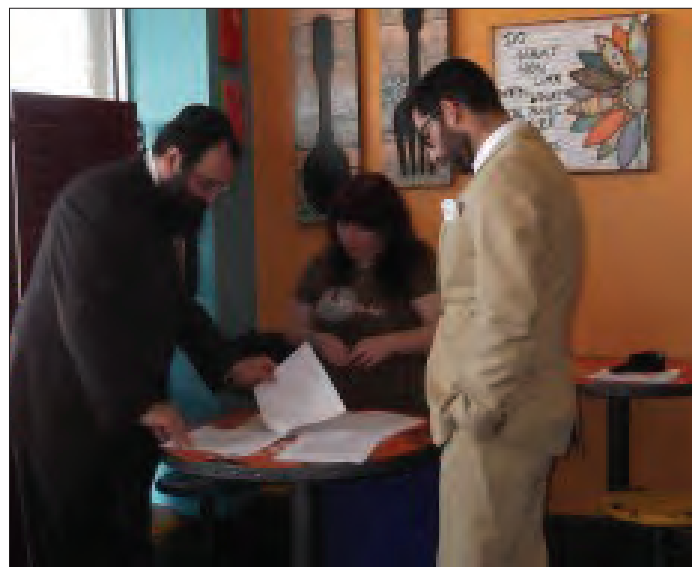
Polsky credits his wife Mindy with discovering the bakery and approaching Boffone with the idea of gaining kosher certification. She explained to the baker that expanding her line of pastries to be kosher would allow them to be sold to the observant religious community and make her establishment the first kosher bakery in the area in many years.

Raised as a Christian and a graduate of Archbishop Chapelle, Boffone had concerns. She was not aware of what was necessary to gain certification, but needlessly worried that her religious background might hinder her certification as a kosher bakery. She met with the rabbis

to find out more.

"I was pleasantly surprised that about 90% of the bakery already met the requirements of being kashrut," said Nemes. Following replacement of some pans and key ingredient changes, all of the store's products are now considered pareve (neither meat nor milk) and kosher under the organization's authority.

The "official" designation involved some paperwork being signed this past Wednesday morning, July 17. Buffone had several family members on hand as she signed the documents with the rabbis. "The whole process wasn't as scary as I initially thought," said Buffone. "I am thrilled to be able to make a valued contribution to the New Orleans community."



Peace Baker owner and pastry chef Kelly Boffone, center, prepares to sign documents with Rabbi Yossi Nemes, left, and Rabbi David Polsky. (Photo by Arlene Wieder)

BIASCHA captures SSL crown

JULY 19, 2013

The combined teams of Congregations Beth Israel and Anshe Sfard and Chabad Lubavitch (BIASCHA) won the New Orleans Synagogue Softball League (SSL) 2013 Playoff Championship by defeating Congregation Gates of Prayer ("Gates.") It was an exciting championship game held on Sunday, July 14th at Girard Playground in Metairie. The BIASCHA team came-from-behind and won the game with a score of 11 to 7.

In the 2013 season, the SSL had 7 teams representing 10 different Jewish congregations in New Orleans, Metairie, North Shore, and Baton Rouge. A total of 140 individuals participated during the March through July season.



2013 Synagogue Softball League (SSL) champions, team BIASCHA. (Photo by Rick Epstein)



- Supervised Boarding
- 4 Convenient Locations
- Complete Wellness Care
- 24 Hour Emergency Care
- Grooming & Pet Boutique



MSAH
METAIRIE SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Main Hospital • 101 Metairie Rd. • 835-4266 • msah.com




Michael Steiner takes over at JFS

AUGUST 2, 2013

With his thin statuesque frame and redoubtable smile, Michael Steiner cuts a dashing, almost Hollywood leading-man figure that belies his new job description as executive director of Jewish Family Service (JFS). Yet, his easy and self-assured manner gives every indication that he is in charge and well prepared to tackle this important community leadership role.

Steiner, 55, a New Jersey native who grew up outside of Philadelphia, has had 30 years of experience in the community-related health and medical fields. He assumed his JFS position last month, replacing Deena Gerber, the much respected and admired social worker and administrator who had guided the agency for the past two decades.

Unlike previous directors of Jewish Family Service, Steiner is a health care professional administrator and does not possess a masters of social work (MSW) degree.

Steiner's hands-on experience has been in forming a bridge between clinical personnel and technical personnel.

Steiner asserts his past experience will allow JFS to focus on committing to those area community members who are underserved or may not have access to healthcare services presently.

"We are an organization that provides access to services that they may have difficulty accessing at other organizations," Steiner said. "One of the things we need to do is to better inform the public of the services that we provide."

Because he is lacking an MSW degree, the JFS board of directors elected to promote two-year veteran Rachel Lazarus to be in charge of the counseling programs. These include counseling for children and family therapy.

Steiner says that JFS was blessed to have a talented administrator and a MSW degree holder in the person of Gerber for those many years she held his position. But he does not believe this new, shared responsibility will be a problem.

"It will be giving me the freedom to do what I do best and giving her the freedom to do what she does best," he claimed. "Her experience is in the clinical area and she knows how it's supposed to work." In his 30 years of work as a professional, Steiner says, this kind of dichotomy has always existed.

One of Steiner's other areas of responsibility will be in handling fundraising and philanthropic efforts for JFS. Funding for JFS comes from the Jewish Federation and the United Way accounts between 12 and 17% annually. The remainder of the JFS budget requires fundraising efforts from individual donors and an annual fundraiser.

Not only does JFS market services to Jews and non-Jews, Steiner stated, but it does so without any regard to income level, gender, race or sexual orientation. JFS also provides services in Metairie, Uptown and on the North Shore, which makes it very convenient for all members of the local community, no matter where they live, to take part.



Michael Steiner, the new executive director of Jewish Family Services. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Rachel Lazarus, clinical director for JFS, chats with new executive director Michael Steiner. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Kornfeld starts job as JCC family life director

AUGUST 16, 2013

Liba Kornfeld, a young, bespectacled mother and wife can't help but beam a blatant smile as she sits behind the desk of her sparse new office in the Uptown JCC. Soon, the office will be filled with more photos adorning the walls and shelves will brook volumes of books and programming helps as she begins taking on her new responsibilities as the Jewish Community Center's director of family life. But in a very real sense this is a job for which she has been preparing her entire lifetime.

Kornfeld is the mother of three young children, and the wife to Rabbi Ethan Linden of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation. She has been steeped in Jewish learning all her life. Born

in Israel to two American parents who had made aliyah prior to her birth, Kornfeld returned to the United States when she was still a one-year-old as her parents sought more educational opportunities here. She returned to Israel when she was six and remained there until her teen years when she and the family moved to New York.

All of this traveling between the two countries served to reinforce her deep attachment to Medinat Yisrael and America.

After graduating from high school, she returned to Israel to complete her compulsory two years of service to the country. Then she returned to New York at 21, where she enrolled as a student at the Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), the Conservative movement's center of learning.

Her commitment to learning and teaching has been a cornerstone of her professional life. While still at JTS in New York, she taught Hebrew, helped to develop course curricula and taught classes at Abraham Joshua Heschel School and Solomon Schechter School. She enrolled at Bank Street College of Education and achieved a master's degree in education.

Kornfeld replaces the recently-retired Debbie Pesses. It's taken a few years, but Kornfeld feels she has turned the corner, adjusting to the New Orleans lifestyle. "Everything was pretty strange, but it's pretty normal now," she says. "I love living here now. I love Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest. I love the craziness of this crazy city."

Liba Kornfeld looks forward to making Jewish programming more vital at both the Uptown and Metairie JCC locations.



Liba Kornfeld, the new JCC director of Jewish Family Life. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Alan Veingrad: the journey to Shlomo



Alan Veingrad, (Courtesy Alan Veingrad)

AUGUST 23, 2013

Alan Veingrad makes a living these days as a motivational speaker. But back in college and for six years in the National Football League (NFL), he was a tackle and guard who made his presence known with his hulking frame, powerful muscles and incredible agility. He was a member of the 1992 Superbowl champion Dallas Cowboys squad under Coach Jimmy Johnson. These days, though, he tackles more philosophical objects and guards his religious faith much more closely as he has become an observant Orthodox Jew.

In an exclusive CCJN phone interview, Veingrad explained, “Generally I talk about my life as a Jewish football player and what that experience was like, being the only Jewish player.” How-

ever when he speaks to a Jewish group, as he will this Wednesday night, at the Gerson Katz Chabad Center of Metairie, it’s all about the spiritual journey he has taken. Veingrad will openly talk about how he went from being raised in a Conservative Synagogue environment to becoming a non-observant Jew to eventually returning to Judaism and reconnecting to his faith. Veingrad is now a practicing Shomer Shabbat Jew living in Boca Raton and prefers to be called by his Hebrew name Shlomo.



Green Bay Packer Alan Veingrad’s football card. (Courtesy Alan Veingrad)

UPDATE: SOURCE hits New Orleans

AUGUST 26, 2013

SOURCE, a free year-long guide for living in the New Orleans Jewish community during the Jewish year of 5774 and published by the Crescent City Jewish News, is in the process of being distributed all over town. Copies of the 48-page glossy magazine are available at all area synagogues and temples (NJC in Mandeville,) both the Uptown and Metairie locations of the Jewish Community Center, The Peace Baker, Woldenberg Village, the Kosher Cajun, Casablanca Restaurant, Dorginac’s and WYES-TV at 915 Navarre Avenue.

An electronic version of SOURCE is also available on the CCJN website. Click on the navigational link at the top of our CCJN website titled SOURCE 5774. Please allow sufficient time to download this very large file.



Topolosky responds with ‘open letter’ to the Community

AUGUST 29, 2013

BY RABBI URI TOPOLOSKY

(Editor’s note: The following is a letter sent to the Jewish community of New Orleans in response to the recent JTA article which can be read in its entirety on the CCJN website.)

Dear Friends,

Dahlia and I wanted to send out to all of you our warmest greetings and blessings for a sweet new year! We are missing you deeply and feeling amiss that we will not be with you for Rosh Hashanah. May your Holy Days be filled with clear skies in the Gulf and clarifying moments in the shul!

Our family is settling in up here in Maryland and trying to adjust to wearing sweatshirts at night, congestion on the roadways, and fast talkers. We will be spending our High Holidays in my new pulpit in Rockville, MD, trying to communicate our ingrained southern values to a bunch of Yankees (and a few Red Sox fans).

Unfortunately, the appreciation we feel towards all of you, and the extent to which we cherish our NOLA community, was mischaracterized in a recent article about our family’s departure to Maryland. It is true that our family’s decision to leave was largely based on our desire to provide a different educational environment for our children. This I shared openly with

all of you back in January and in the interview with JTA.

However, in no way did I ever insinuate that our move was the result of an overall decline in the state of the NOLA Jewish community. (Certainly, the word “crumbling” never came out of my mouth!) In fact, I offered the exact opposite narrative of our larger community. I highlighted the resurgence of our Orthodox synagogue, as well as the terrific strategic plan implemented by our Federation after Katrina. I discussed the new Torah Academy being built, the existing mikvahs (ritual baths), the community mikvah project that is underway, the multiple kosher options, and the community eruv (community enclosure).

I spoke about the unique cooperative spirit that exists amongst the various religious denominations in New Orleans – one that serves as a model for our entire American Jewish community. (And not just on Katrina anniversaries!) I shared my appreciation for the warmth and closeness of our entire Jewish community – big enough to offer variety, yet small enough to wrap your arms around. Finally, I talked about the Big Easy. And while it was hard for me to put our city into words for the benefit of a New York writer, I still managed to say a few things about what New Orleans might teach to the great beyond.



Rabbi Uri with his family (photo supplied by Rabbi Topolosky)

In some parts of our religious Jewish world, there are only one or two measuring sticks that determine the vitality of a community. That might be because they have never spent a good weekend in some of the special places where Jews have gathered outside the giant metropolises of our country. Compared to New York and Los Angeles, I did say that New Orleans isn’t a haven for orthodoxy. (The context was lost there.) But I also said it is the exact type of Orthodoxy we have loved for the past six years. And it is the kind of Jewish community that broke our hearts to leave.

Many communities, large and small, share the struggles of maintaining a Day School – that is not unique to New Orleans, and

should not be waived as a red flag to undermine all the good work that has been done. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for smaller communities to hire young rabbis, who often serve short terms before seeking different options for their growing families. But as one of those rookie rabbis, I feel blessed to be a New Orleanian – it was there that I learned some of the most fundamental teachings about what it means to live in a healthy Jewish community.

Shanah Tovah U’Metukah!

With love (and a nod to giving the benefit of the doubt, and the joy of being taken out of context),

Rabbi Uri (with Dahlia and the kids)

Brown praises YU summer program

SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

Ruth Brown, the daughter of Kosher Cajun's Joel Brown and Natalie of blessed memory, was one of just 60 Yeshiva University's student volunteers selected to participate in the eighth year of a summer camp program called, Counterpoint Israel.

Arriving in Israel during the first week of July, Brown underwent several days of orientation in Jerusalem. Then she was assigned along with 10 other counselors to work with teens from Kiryat Gat, a developmental town located about an hour's drive southwest of Jerusalem. The 50 to 60 teens participating in the program were from very low socio-economic status.

It was Brown's and her fellow counselors' jobs to teach English to the Hebrew speaking youth. "It took a lot of translating back and forth, so they would understand the English words and a lot of them didn't want to learn and many had learning disabilities," Brown explained.

There was also a big disconnect between the YU counselors, who were all religiously observant and their daily charges, most of whom were largely secular in practice. But it was the enthusiasm of the counselors and their commitment to making a difference in the lives of the young teens that began to pay off. "As time went on, they



Ruth Brown, right, with fellow counselor, left, frame three Kiryat Gat campers. (Photo courtesy Ruth Brown)

got more comfortable with us," Brown related.

Each day the counselors focused on a specific topic ranging from social media to hobbies. The camp experience appealed to the youngsters more than their typical classroom experience and Brown and her counselors found ways to make learning English fun. Vocabulary worksheets would accompany a board game or a game of charades. "The English instruction was more like games than school," she continued.

The changes in the campers' attitudes were noteworthy



Brown with two Counterpoint Israel teen participants at the Kotel (Photo courtesy Ruth Brown)

as trust was built with the counselors and friendships made. "When we got there that first day, they were resistant," Brown noted. "Towards the end (though), it was amazing. They were really connected with the counselors and even the toughest of the kids – even the ones who were resistant to learning or violent – made a connection with the counselors."

It was an amazing experience," she concluded. "I feel like I really made a difference to the kids."

Franco at Federation's Centennial Event

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

Last night on the 12th anniversary of the attacks on America, the New Orleans Jewish Federation hosted an upbeat affair celebrating the 100th anniversary of the organization while thanking the outgoing Federation president, Alan Franco.

Franco reflected at the onset of the program on his work with Federation. "I really have a lot of fun doing this," he said. "I know that our community has a great spirit and I know that our community is a place where people want to come and where people want to be involved." He cited a recent figure that put Jewish community member involvement at 61%.

A diehard University of Alabama fan, Franco recalled his tenure with the words of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, whose exact 100th birthday was September 11. "He always said 'The price of victory is hard, but so are the rewards.' Every day has been a

victory," Franco said.

The incoming president Morton Katz gave an upbeat initial address. Katz expressed that nothing has changed. He further explained that, "We keep growing and we still need you. In fact, we need you more than ever."

Katz announced plans to stimulate the present annual campaign, which he described as "flat" over the course of the more recent post-Katrina years at \$2.5 million. He said he hopes to stimulate giving to push that fund to an annual mark of \$3 million. This year the campaign brought in \$2,568,572, according to Federation sources.

Michael Weil, the current Federation director outlined four goals he hopes will see Federation into its next century. Where necessary, the Federation needs to respond to the future and make changes. He said the city should strive and try to grow the Jewish population to 25,000 Jews, which is more than doubled the current size of 10,000.

A 17-minute professional film



Alan Franco (Photo by Alan Smason)

detailed the past 100 years of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans with filmed interviews of several of the noted past presidents of Federation such as mother Carol Wise and daughter Julie Wise Oreck, Hugo Kahn, and community leaders such as Billy Goldring, Margot Garon and Bill Hess.

JCRS holds successful Chanukah Wrap-a-thon

SEPTEMBER 17, 2013

The Jewish Children's Regional Service, the nation's oldest Jewish children's welfare agency, conducted an extraordinarily busy campaign this past Sunday, September 15, drawing over 100 individual members of the local community to wrap Chanukah presents for deserving at-risk, underprivileged and needy Jewish youth across the region. The attendees prepared 160 of the needed 220 gifts needed for wrapping.

JCRS spokesperson Bonnie Lustig was most impressed with the cross section of individuals who committed to wrap the gifts with materials provided by JCRS between 9:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. on the first and third floors of the Woldenberg-Goldring campus of the Metairie Jewish Community Center and Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

"The youngest volunteer was seven," she said. "We had school aged kids. We had teenagers. We had 20-somethings and young professionals as well as older adults. We had the entire age spectrum."

Community leaders such as South Central Anti-Defamation League director Talora Gross and Jewish Family Service executive director Michael Steiner were sighted wrapping presents along with a number of newcomers from the ranks of JNola and longtime natives of the local community. Classes from both the nearby religious schools of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation and Congregation Gates of Prayer also participated, according to Lustig.

"JEWCCY and BBYO, the two largest teen groups in the community were there as well," she noted.



(Photo by Alan Smason)

Chabad gathering celebrates Succot

SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

Inviting guests to enjoy food and say blessings inside their large succah, Rabbi and Bluma Rivkin, the original Chabad-Lubavitch of Louisiana shuluchim (emissaries) hosted a Succot gathering Sunday, September 22 at their Uptown residence.



Approximately 200 attended the event held between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Served were home baked items such as pies and cookies, Jambalaya, an array of fresh vegetables, pasta and hummus.

Rabbi Mendel Rivkin, the oldest of the Rivkins' sons, officially welcomed attendees to the house in the 900 block of Broadway that he and his siblings have called home for the past three decades.

Live and recorded music were provided throughout the evening as a means of entertainment. Kids were able to use crafts to make colorful drawings with Succot themes.

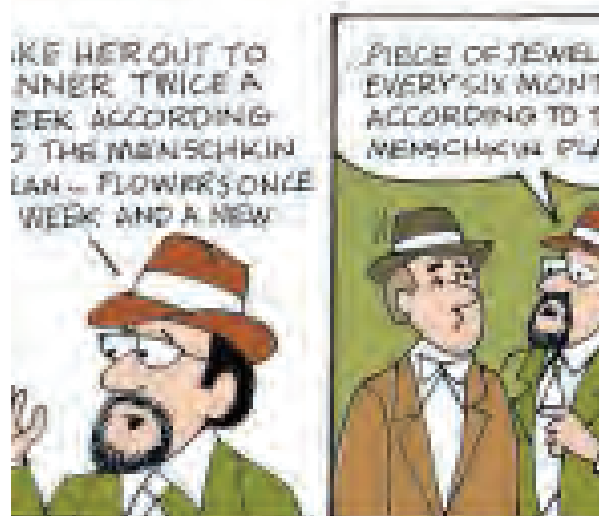
New weekly cartoon bows in CCJN

"The Menschkins," a weekly cartoon series by Harvey Rachlin and syndicated through JNS.org, begins its first week as an online service of the Crescent City Jewish News today.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

On the task bar "click" the features category and then use the CCJN drop down menu and "click" the "Cartoons" category. This will take you to the webpage with all of the most recent Menschkins entry. "Click" on the title that will open up the page, wherein readers will see a small picture of the cartoon. "Click" on that small image and it will render the cartoon large enough to easily read it.

TO GET YOUR WEEKLY MENSCHKINS "FIX"
IT'S SIMPLE WITH 4 EASY "CLICKS!"



Plotkin to host dinner at Tableau

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

It was a fortuitous meeting of the minds some time ago when native New Orleanians Mark Plotkin, an ethnobotanist, and Dickie Brennan, a renowned restaurateur, elected to share a good bottle of wine and discuss New Orleans Creole fare.

Visiting his hometown on one of his all too brief annual visits, Plotkin remarked to Brennan how truly dependent the local cuisine has been upon items originally cultivated from the Latin American rainforest. He reeled off item after item of local cuisine standard ingredients: red pepper, black pepper, okra, mirlitons, bananas, rice, coffee, chocolate, vanilla, cinnamon, red beans and sugar cane. Brennan was nonplussed.

"New Orleans red beans are native to Mexico," Plotkin pointed out, "and sugar cane is from the tropics of New Guinea and India."

"Imagine Bananas Foster with no banana, no vanilla, no cinnamon and no sugar," he told the restaurateur, whose family invented the dish back in the early 1950s.

Brennan became ever more interested and paid close attention to what Plotkin had to say about the importance of the work he is conducting, literally, in the field. Before the evening was over, Brennan was convinced to help Plotkin in whatever way he could.

Plotkin elaborated many of these same points in a recent CCJN telephone interview from his Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) offices in Arlington, VA. Plotkin's work with the indigeous peoples living in and around the rainforest has taken him to the remotest areas of Latin America. Over the course of the last two decades, he has worked with local shamans – medicine men – who know the rainforest curatives and medicines as intimately as any local pharmacist knows his stock.



Ethnobotanist Mark Plotkin, center, with shaman Don Luciano Mutambajoy, right. (©ACT)



Mark Plotkin with indigenous Amazon tribe members (©ACT).

This sophisticated scientist has learned much from these simple tribesmen, who wear loin cloths and walk around bare-breasted, yet carry with them impressive knowledge passed down to them orally from similar shamans over untold generations.

"They are the original locovores (local eaters)," Plotkin stated. "They don't go anywhere to get the stuff they eat or use in their medicines. They either grow it, they hunt it or they pick it."

This Tuesday evening, Brennan and Plotkin will team together to host a lecture and benefit dinner at Brennan's Tableau Restaurant on St. Peter Street. The dinner will highlight many of the food staples that originated in the rainforest and will be covered in Plotkin's

address.

In addition the paramount shaman of the Ingano tribe of the northwest Amazon, Don Luciano Mutambajoy, will be on hand to greet supporters of conservation at the event. According to Plotkin, many of the most promising leads for curing so-called "incurable" disease will come from the rainforest.

Funds raised at the dinner will help ACT (Amazon Conservation Team) continue its important work in managing and helping to protect some 32 Indian tribes and over 70 million acres of rainforest lands. This is especially important in the case of several tribes who wish to have only limited contact with the outside world.

Survey reveals alarming trends

OCTOBER 2, 2013

BY URIEL HEILMAN
NEW YORK (JTA) —

There are a lot more Jews in America than you may have thought — an estimated 6.8 million, according to a new study. But a growing proportion of them are unlikely to raise their children Jewish or connect with Jewish institutions.

The proportion of Jews who say they have no religion and are Jewish only on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity or culture is growing rapidly, and two-thirds of them are not raising their children Jewish at all.

Overall, the intermarriage rate is at 58 percent, up from 43 percent in 1990 and 17 percent in 1970. Among non-Orthodox Jews, the intermarriage rate is 71 percent.

The data on Jewish engagement come from the Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Jews, a telephone survey of 3,475 Jews nationwide conducted between February and June and released on Tuesday.

The population estimate, released Monday, comes from a synthesis of existing survey data conducted by the Steinhardt Social Research Institute and the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University.

While the Steinhardt/Cohen study, called “American Jewish Population Estimates: 2012,” is likely to be a matter of some debate by demographers and social scientists, it is the Pew study that offers an in-depth portrait that may influence Jewish policymaking for years to come.

Among the more notable findings of the Pew survey:

- * Overall, 22 percent of U.S. Jews describe themselves as having no religion, and the survey finds they are much less connected to Jewish organizations and much less likely to be raising their children Jewish. Broken down by age, 32 percent of Jews

born after 1980 — the so-called millennial generation — identify as Jews of no religion, compared to 19 percent of baby boomers and just 7 percent of Jews born before 1927.

- * Emotional attachment to Israel has held steady over the last decade, with 69 percent of respondents saying they feel attached or very attached to Israel. Forty-three percent of respondents said they had been to Israel.

- * Far more respondents said having a good sense of humor was essential to their Jewish identity than observing Jewish law — 42 percent compared to 19 percent.

- * Approximately one-quarter of Jews said religion is very important in their lives, compared to 56 percent among Americans generally.

- * Less than one-third of American Jews say they belong to a synagogue. Twenty-three percent of U.S. Jews say they attend synagogue at least once or twice a month, compared with 62 percent of U.S. Christians.

The Pew study is the first comprehensive national survey of American Jews in more than a decade. The last one, the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS), was conducted by the umbrella organization of North American Jewish federations and counted 5.2 million Jews, including children. But critics said that study’s methodology was flawed and undercounted American Jews.

Both the Pew survey and the Steinhardt/Brandeis study put the number of U.S. Jewish adults at about 5.3 million, including Jews who do not identify as Jewish by religion. The Steinhardt/Brandeis study counted an additional 1.6 million Jewish children for a total of 6.8 million Jews in America. The Pew study counted 1.3 million Jewish children.

Overall, Jews make up about 2.2 percent of Americans, according to Pew. By comparison, 6.06 million Jews live in Israel,

according to Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics.

Because of the differences in methodologies between the new surveys and the NJPS, the increased number of U.S. Jews likely overstates any actual growth.

Leonard Saxe, one of the authors of the Steinhardt/Brandeis study, told JTA there has been some growth during the last decade, but he could not put a number on it. Saxe attributed the growth to the immigration of Russian-speaking Jews, programs to bolster Jewish identity and shifts in attitude that have enabled many children of interfaith marriages to be raised with a Jewish identity.

The Pew study found that about 10 percent of American Jews are former Soviet Jews or their children.

About 65 percent of American Jews live in just six states, according to the Steinhardt/Cohen estimates: New York (20 percent), California (14 percent), Florida (12 percent), New Jersey (8 percent), Massachusetts (5 percent) and Pennsylvania (5 percent). The other four states in the top 10 — Illinois, Maryland, Texas and Ohio — add another 15 percent. The three most Jewish metropolitan areas are New York, South Florida and Los Angeles.

Among Jewish denominations, the Reform movement remains the largest: 35 percent of respondents identified as Reform, according to the Pew study. The second-largest group is Jews of no denomination (30 percent), followed by Conservative (18 percent) and Orthodox (10 percent).

As with other studies, the Pew study found that the Orthodox share of the American Jewish population is likely to grow because Orthodox Jews tend to be younger and have larger families than Jews generally. In addition, while past surveys showed about half of respondents raised as Orthodox were no longer Orthodox, the



Pew survey of U.S. Jews: soaring intermarriage, assimilation rates (Shutterstock)

Orthodox retention rate appears to be improving, with just a 17 percent falloff among 18- to 29-year-olds.

Most denominational switching among American Jews, however, remains in the direction of less traditional Judaism.

In the Pew survey, 90 percent of those who identified as Jews by religion and are raising children said they are raising them Jewish. By comparison, less than one-third of those who identified themselves as Jews of no religion are raising their kids as Jewish.

Among inmarried Jews, 96 percent are raising their children as Jews by religion (as opposed to ethnicity), compared to 45 percent among intermarried Jews.

On Jewish observance, some 70 percent of respondents to the Pew survey said they participated in a Passover seder in 2012 and 53 percent said they fasted for all or part of Yom Kippur that year. The numbers represent declines from the 2000-01 NJPS, which found seder participation rates at 78 percent and Yom Kippur fasting at 60 percent.

The new Pew survey found that about 23 percent of U.S. Jews say they always or usually light Sabbath candles, and about 22 percent reported keeping kosher at home.

While most of those surveyed by Pew said they felt a strong connection to Israel, and 23 per-

cent reported having visited the Jewish state more than once, the respondents expressed significant reservations about the current Israeli government’s policies vis-a-vis the Palestinians.

Forty-four percent said West Bank settlement construction hurts Israel’s security interests, and only 17 percent said continued settlement construction is helpful to Israeli security. Thirty-eight percent of respondents said the Israeli government is making a sincere peace effort with the Palestinians.

The Pew survey also asked respondents about what it means to be Jewish, offering several options. The most popular element was remembering the Holocaust at 73 percent, followed by leading an ethical life at 69 percent.

Fifty-six percent cited working for justice and equality; 43 percent said caring about Israel; 42 percent said having a good sense of humor; and 19 percent said observing Jewish law.

Sixty-two percent of respondents said being Jewish is primarily a matter of ancestry and culture; 15 percent said it was mainly a matter of religion. Most Jews said it is not necessary to believe in God to be Jewish. In the survey, 60 percent said a person cannot be Jewish and believe that Jesus is the messiah.

JEF annual event honors Cahn family

OCTOBER 11, 2013

Amid hundreds of supporters and well wishers, the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana held its major annual event on Sunday evening, October 6, at the Grand Salon of the Hilton Hotel Riverside. The spotlight was on the Cahns – a family of philanthropists, whose quiet and ongoing support of Jewish community institutions was hallowed. Also honored with special awards were three key Jewish community leaders – Rabbi Yehuda Schiller, Larry Lehmann and Alan Franco.

The inspirational keynote address was delivered by motivational speaker Loren Galler Rabinowitz, a 27-year-old medical school student, whose résumé includes poetess, classical pianist as well as titles earned as an international ice dancer and a pageant participant in the 2011 Miss America contest. She was the first Jewish participant vying for the title of Miss America since Bess Myerson had won it 65 years earlier.

Galler Rabinowitz's talk titled "Surviving, Thriving and Making a Difference," highlighted the story of her grandparents, Henry and Eva Galler of blessed memory. Both Gallers were Holocaust survivors, who were sweethearts living in Poland before the war. They were separated and, despite all the odds against it, found each other and were married shortly before immigrating to the United States and moving to New Orleans.

Galler Rabinowitz noted that the date for her grandfather's headstone unveiling in New Orleans coincided with the same date as the JEF event. "For the first time since

Katrina my aunts, my mom and I – the Galler girls – are back in New Orleans!" she beamed from the podium. "This is the best day ever," she continued, "and I couldn't have helped feeling my grandfather had something to do with it."

Galler Rabinowitz spoke also of her grandparents' story being the inspiration behind her involvement as a Holocaust activist and spokesperson for the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

After winning the title of Miss Massachusetts, she earned her scholarship money by meeting with schoolchildren throughout the state and informing them of the dangers and horrors of the Holocaust. "I realized I had an opportunity to educate," she said.

"I made some very very good friends by telling my grandparents' story," she claimed.

Earlier in the evening, through a series of videos, JEF introduced honorees to the audience and their stories. The Cahn family's involvement with giving began with acknowledgements to Jules and June Cahn of blessed memory, the parents of Richard and Jimmy Cahn, as well as their uncle, the late Emile "Sleepy" Cahn. Adele Cahn, his widow and aunt and great-aunt to others in attendance, could not join the event due to ill health.

Many Jewish community leaders including Sara Stone, Ned Goldberg of the Jewish Children's Regional Service (JCRC) and Deena Gerber, the now-retired executive director of Jewish Family Service (JFS), spoke on the video about how the Cahns had given anonymously on several occasions.

"This is a remarkable family," said Levy in presenting three large



Keynote speaker Loren Galler Rabinowitz, left, with honoree Larry Lehmann and father René at JEF Annual Event. (Photo by Alan Smason)

plaques to family members, "and we're proud to call them our own."

Rabbi Yonah Schiller received the Jewish Community Professional Award for his work as the executive director of the Tulane Hillel Center. Schiller was noted as having re-energized the Hillel House there and in particular was singled out for his work in realizing the \$4 million capital campaign that resulted in the construction of the Goldie and Morris Mintz Center for Jewish Life on Broadway. That building is now used by Tulane University for regular academic classes in addition to housing a kosher kitchen and serving as a meeting place for Hillel activities.

Schiller's efforts in bringing the center into fruition and engaging the students at Tulane has brought national attention to his leadership.

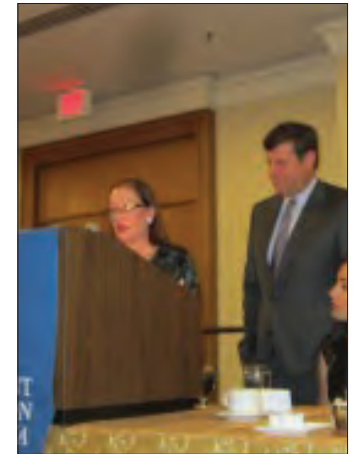
Larry Lehmann was presented the Young Family Award for Professional Excellence from his father, René Lehmann, also a previous recipient of the same award. When the elder Lehmann received his award

over a decade ago, it was his son who made the presentation. This time the positions were reversed.

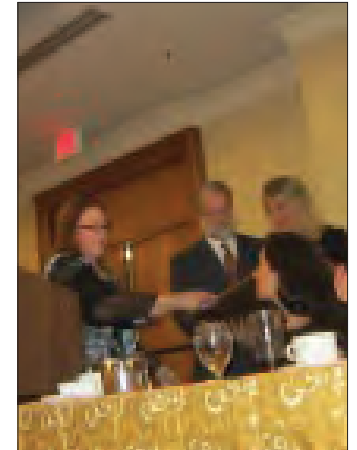
Larry Lehmann was singled out for his creation of Pilots for Patients, a group of local pilots who ferry injured and disabled patients to regional hospitals at no charge. According to Lehmann's own estimates, the pilots have participated in over 1400 medical missions since they began.

Alan Franco, who recently retired as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, was presented with the JFNA (Jewish Federations of North America) Endowment Achievement Award. Franco was cited for establishing a Jewish legacy and encouraging others to do so prior to, during and following his term of office at Federation. "It's not a job for me," he noted. "It's truly a labor of love."

Franco, a member of the JEF Board of Directors, noted he and his wife had set up a legacy fund for



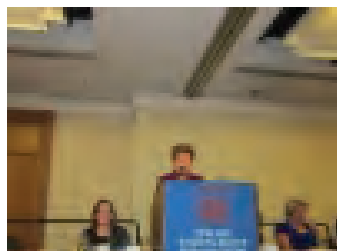
Sandy Levy presents Alan Franco the JFNA Endowment Achievement Award as keynote speaker Loren Galler Rabinowitz looks on. (Photo by Alan Smason)



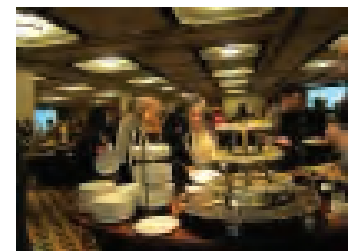
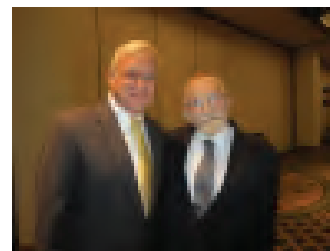
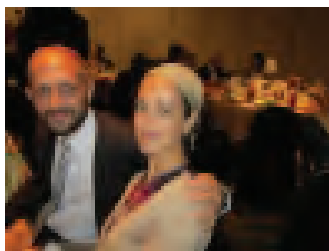
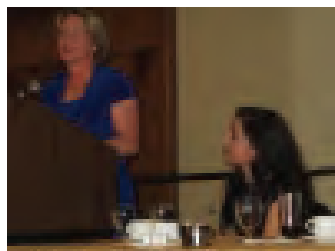
JEF executive director Sandy Levy presents the third of three plaques to Richard and Vivian Cahn as part of acknowledgment of the Cahn family. (Photo by Alan Smason)

the future of the Jewish community in New Orleans. He urged audience members to consider doing the same. "I hope you will join us in this great endeavor," he entreated.

Photos from the JEF's 2013 Annual Event:



(All photos by Alan Smason)



Israeli consul honors state treasurer

OCTOBER 14, 2013

BY DEAN M. SHAPIRO

Following an informative and, at times entertaining, speech by Israeli Consul General Ido Aharoni, Louisiana State Treasurer John Neely Kennedy was honored last week for arranging the state's investment of millions of dollars in Israel Bonds during his tenure in office.

The well-attended event took place on October 10 at Congregation Beth Israel in Metairie. Kennedy was presented with a plaque by officials from the Israel Bonds regional office in Atlanta for his role in the purchase of \$36 million in bonds since taking office in 2000. Of that \$36 million, \$10 million was purchased by the state in the past year alone.

In his brief remarks after accepting the award, the state treasurer termed his support of Israel and its bonds as "very vocal." He also pointed with pride to the fact that ten other states are now following Louisiana's lead in investing in Israel Bonds.

"A partnership exists between our country and the state of Israel," Kennedy said. "I think it's accurate to say that the United States and Israel share interests, but it's more than that."

We also share values. We both believe in human dignity. And we both believe that freedom is a gift given to all God's children," he continued. "The security of Israel must be sacrosanct to all Americans. And I believe it is. It certainly is to me."

In his speech, preceding the presentation to the state treasurer, Aharoni, Israel's consul general in New York, delivered what could be termed a rousing pep talk about what Israel Bonds mean to the Jewish state. Aharoni concentrated on one of his areas of expertise, specifically advances in Israeli technology.

Aharoni is also considered one of the foremost experts on media, particularly as to the manner in which Israel is depicted by members of the Fourth Estate. In a recently published letter to the editor of the New York Post, Aharoni challenged remarks made by renowned African American author Alice Walker critical of Israel's efforts to promote itself through an organization called Brand Israel. Aharoni is the founder of that group.

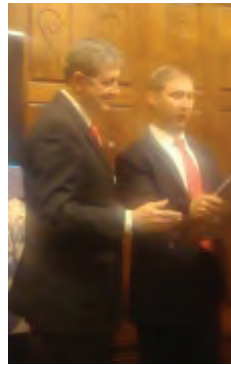
"Israel is the land of milk and honey but not of oil and money," Aharoni told the gathering, generating a few laughs. However, he quickly followed up with a serious, positive report of recent discoveries of natural gas just offshore in the Mediterranean Sea. The ambassador said it is possible Israel may realize enough natural gas reserves to start exporting to other countries in next few years.

The Israeli Consul also lamented the lack of widespread recognition for some of the positive things his nation is doing. He cited the example of hospitals set up on the Golan Heights that have treated thousands of Syrian victims of their ongoing civil war. "That humanitarian effort has gotten little or no publicity in the world's media," he said.

During his roughly 20-minute talk, Aharoni enumerated the multitude of technological innovations that originated in Israel, especially those of more



Louisiana State Treasurer John N. Kennedy, left, accepts a certificate from Israeli consul Ido Aharoni. (Photo by Dean M. Shapiro)



Louisiana State Treasurer John N. Kennedy, left, with Israel Bonds regional chair Bradley Young. (Photo by Dean M. Shapiro)

recent years. Among those innovations were the cell phone and Instant Messaging (IM). "Without Instant Messaging there is no Facebook. Young Israelis in their twenties developed that," Aharoni said.

He also expounded on "the most recent innovation coming out of Israel," Waze, a navigation software similar to MapQuest but more advanced. "You'll never get lost with Waze," he said, adding that it was recently purchased by Google for \$1.2 billion with the promise that they will retain all Israeli employees.

Aharoni cited a number of other economic and technological markers of Israel's #1 world ranking, including leading all other nations in the number of patents per capita, the amount of money invested in research and development (4% of the GDP), and the number of scientific papers published per capita. He also noted the quality of Israel's combined research in universities is the highest in the world.

"To hear these indicators is to understand you're making an investment in a brand that is on the rise, in a country that is making a positive contribution to the world every day," Aharoni said. "It is a society that is all about the promotion of goodness. It's the secret to our perseverance over the years," he beamed. "You look at the Bible and it's teaching us to promote goodness. This is the DNA of who we are."

Aharoni added that "rather than constantly perpetuate the conflict with our neighbors, our job as a collective is to begin a conversation that centers around Israel's relative advantages." He cited Israel's number one advantage as the great Israeli spirit. "It's the Israeli entrepreneurial zeal. It's the unbelievable degree of innovation which is inspirational to the whole world," Aharoni claimed.

Aharoni expressed his nation's gratitude for the support Louisiana and the entire southeastern region have given to the purchase of Israel Bonds. He likened the support of Israel through this purchase of bonds as the ultimate form of caring, a form of unconditional love. "I say this because this is what we're getting in the state of Israel," he concluded. "We Israelis don't get to say thank you too often, but I think I should say this tonight. Thank you to each and every one of you for your support, for your friendship, and most importantly, for your unconditional love."

Berger assumes Tulane leadership

OCTOBER 20, 2013

BY ALAN SMASON,
EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN

Growing up two blocks away from Tulane University, it seemed inevitable Darryl Berger would attend the sprawling Uptown campus. Yet, after attending Newman School, he was accepted to Vanderbilt University and instead traveled to Nashville for his undergraduate work.

Nevertheless, following his graduation, the irresistible lure of Tulane drew him back to New Orleans as he entered the School of Law and embarked on a career in the commercial real estate business and land development.

"Never having lived four blocks from the Tulane campus my entire life, it is my first and deepest love, because it is in my home town," he professes. "I've had a lifelong love affair with Tulane."

That love affair began with a myriad of experiences from riding his bike on the well-manicured lawns of the university to swimming in the pool at the university center to being a Cub Scout and selling programs at Tulane football games. He also fondly remembers attending many of the hotly contested Sugar Bowl football games played in the 80,000-seat former Tulane Stadium. All of these experiences have blossomed recently as Berger has now assumed the chairmanship of the Tulane University Board of Administrators, one of a handful of Jews to hold that esteemed position.

The extremely fit and handsome developer seems much younger than his years. He speaks from his own building in an office suffused with light and a vaulted ceiling, overlooking the French Quarter.

As a Tulane alumnus, Berger has always felt the need to give back to the institution he's known all his life. Even

though he never practiced law, he considers the social experience and training he received in its hallowed halls as among the most important and invaluable of his life. "It was at the core of any success of what I've been able to achieve and at the core of my life experience," he states.

Berger's work as a developer has had him oversee a number of revitalization projects including the former Claiborne Towers into the Delta Towers and his most massive projects located on and near the former Jax Brewery downtown.

Berger began working with Tulane president Eamon Kelly and the Tulane School of Law in a variety of positions a quarter of a century ago. He was chairman of the president's council from 2000-2003 and then accepted an appointment to the Board of Administrators at the time that term of office expired.

As a member of the Tulane board he has had an overview of the competitive nature of modern college campuses, particularly as Tulane recovered from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. "One of our challenges to go from great to really great is resources," he explains. "Our peer institutions – most have them have great endowments on a student basis – and one of the biggest challenges is to grow the resources."

Tulane's endowment recently topped the \$1.1 billion mark. Berger says he and the Tulane board are grateful for student enrollment, which has remained high, even after the destructive effects of the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. "We had 40,000 applications a few years back," he recalls.

With room, board and tuition rates running at well over \$50,000 per year, Berger is fully aware of the hardship endured by current students who seek a quality education at Tulane. "Regardless of need, we need to reach out and provide this fantastic Tulane experience and

this fantastic Tulane degree, which carries great currency throughout your life,” he opines. “Regardless of their ability to pay, we have to reach the best and the brightest. You need resources and scholarship and other means to assist the building and reaching of that student body.”

Recent resignations of longtime and beloved Tulane president Scott Cowen, slated to take place next year, and Tulane vice-president Dr. Ben Sachs as head of the Tulane School of Medicine mean that Berger’s administration will be replacing two key Jewish administrators.

In particular, Cowen is credited with reviving the Tulane campus as its most desperate hours, following the flooding of the Uptown campus and the dispersal of its student body in 2005 after the storm. A search committee has been put into place to determine the next president.

“He retires as a true heroic figure,” Berger says, admitting he will be hard to replace and hard to follow. “Having said that,” he continues, “Tulane and the institution of Tulane is greater than any one individual. Scott would be the first one to admit that. It’s greater than any one board or administrator. The Tulane University president is one of the most attractive of higher institutions. We are very confident that we will find a marvelous person to fill that spot and that person – he or she – will begin to carve their own path.”

As to Sachs, Berger says “Dr. Sachs did a marvelous job here, but a person of his great talent is going to be seeking other things. We have a wonderful new head of the medical

school, Lee Hamm, and he will be a marvelous replacement for Ben and continue to build and work upon the great work Ben has done.”

Among other key asset problems being worked on at the Uptown campus are the lack of parking and the need to upgrade living facilities. A new dorm is being constructed on the corner of Broadway and Zimple to add to the living space for students, but Berger says he is unaware of any specific programs being put into place at present to address the upgrading of parking spaces there.

In recent years controversy swirled over a new downsized Tulane Stadium being constructed on the Uptown campus in a part of the much larger footprint formerly enjoyed by the original stadium. Berger says the controversy has died down as neighbors have accepted the plan and certain provisos have been put into place to limit the facility’s use.

Since 1975 Tulane has played its games at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome (formerly the Louisiana Superdome), but Berger saw the massive facility as a liability for the student athletic program. “It is not the best venue for college football presented by a university like Tulane,” he explains. “The best venue for college football is on your campus for all kinds of reasons, but first and foremost in having the sense of community.”

But both he and the Tulane board are firmly committed to the support of its athletics programs. “Let me say this. Since Katrina we have invested nearly \$100 million

in sports facilities at Tulane. If there’s any question about it, that should answer that question,” he points out. With such an impressive set of facilities and a new stadium that can help promote student pride in its football team, Berger believes Tulane has turned the corner and can now enjoy having true student athletes. Having a good student athletics program is important to him as to how many students the university graduates and what kinds of citizens they become, he says. “I’m very bullish on Tulane athletics.”

Tulane’s football team is thus far 5-2 on the year. Obviously, he is pleased with the team’s progress this season.

Concluding the interview, he is posed one last question. When Vanderbilt plays against Tulane University, who will the alumnus of both colleges promote?

“You gotta pull for the Greenies,” he smiles.



Chairman of the Tulane University Board of Administrators, Darryl Berger, in his downtown office. (Photo by Alan Smason)



COME SHOP HERE FOR Pesach 2014 / Nisan, 5774

- We are offering the Best Selection of Kosher for Passover food in New Orleans
- All the groceries you need... All kinds of Matzoh, special Passover cakes, chocolates, dairy, pareve, canned, and beverages
- An extensive selection of hard to find Kosher Products
- Brands including Kedem, Manischewitz, Lieber’s, Gefen, Naturally Good Kosher, Paskesz, and more from across the USA and direct from Israel

Gras Mardi Zone® SUPERMARKET OPEN 24/7

Best Selection and Inventory of Grocery, Dairy, Vegan and Vegetarian, International, Kosher and Organic Food, Pet and Green Cleaning

**Fresh and Delicious home-baked breads and pastries
CHALLAH EVERY FRIDAY
MEDITERRANEAN SALADS, HOMEMADE HUMMUS AND
BABA GHANOUSH**

Hand Tossed Brick Oven Pizza

NOLA deli™ - Classic New Orleans entrees, sides, salads and po-boys made here every day. Catering available.

**100% Cajun® Live Local Produce, Farm Fresh Eggs daily, Free range poultry available from our own farm and others
100percentcajun.com**

CUSTOM MEDALLIONS FOR YOUR MITZVAH CELEBRATION AND GROUP EVENTS

MARDIGRASZONE.COM

**2706 Royal St. New Orleans 70117
(504)-947-8787
mardigraszonesupermarket.net**

Sarna: Jews are doomed! (again)

NOVEMBER 1, 2013

With wit, sagacity and the insight born by years of historical research, Jonathan Sarna, the renowned Brandeis University professor and author, suggested that the naysayers are right: the American Jewish people are doomed.

They are doomed, he added, just as they have been throughout every historical period. Yet time after time, they have risen to the challenges both from without and within the community, said Sarna, the former chief historian for the 350th commemoration of the American Jewish community.

Sarna spoke behind an imposing podium on the stage of Nunamaker Hall at Loyola University. This diminutive and dynamic New York Times bestselling author and university professor proclaimed: "I'm glad to report after 359 years, now, that the Jews are still here."

The unusual Jewish studies event was held on Wednesday evening, October 30, at the Catholic (Jesuit) institution of higher learning, in the spirit of interfaith dialogue and religious outreach. Loyola's College of Humanities and Natural Sciences co-sponsored the event in recognition of the Centennial Celebration of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

Sarna's talk for the evening was titled "American Jewish History, Backwards and Forward" and was a survey of the history of the American Jewish community through its creation up to present day.

Sarna referred to the recently released Pew Research Center study. Despite these somewhat unsettling trends, Sarna seemed non-plussed. Critics have always charged that Judaism can't survive in a climate of freedom and church-state separation, as exists in America, he said.

Through a constant process of assimilation and revitalization, the Jewish people living in the United States have continually reinvented themselves, Sarna asserted. "Sometimes you promote continuity by promoting discontinuity," he said.

The period beginning from 1820 was the flowering of



Brandeis professor and author Jonathan Sarna, left, with Rabbi Robert Loewy, center, and Father James Carter at Loyola University event. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Sponsors and participants at the Centennial Celebration event gather around the cake. (Photo by Alan Smason)

the American Jewish community through immigration from a population of 3,000 Jews to over 3,500,000 Jews in 1920. "Jews spread out across the country wherever roads the railroad tracks took them," he said.

As they spread out to new areas, the central questions remained, Sarna said. "Is America a land that is good for the Jews, but bad for Judaism?" he queried.

The questions remain today for American Jewry. "Should Jews compromise for the sake of Jewish unity or stand together to preserve Jewish unity?" he asked rhetorically.

Jews are a global people, but several facts are disturbing, according to Sarna. Eighty percent of all Jews live in either the U.S. or Israel and half of those living in America reside in just four cities. Jewish communities of 5,000 residents or more only exist in 37 countries and

most of the remaining 200-plus countries are barren of Jews or have communities of less than 1,000, he declared.

"Jews now live in the most economically advanced countries in the world," Sarna continued. "That is a benefit, but it comes at a huge price."

Several former Jewish communities in countries like Yemen, Syria and Iraq no longer exist, he pointed out.

But while uncertain, Sarna seemed optimistic about the future of American Judaism. "American Jews will find enduring ways to broaden Jewish life with the help of creative Jewish leaders," he said.

It's a terrible system of government, Sarna confided, "except for all the other ones!"

Jody Braunig listed as Gambit Magazine '40 under 40

NOVEMBER 3, 2013

Jody Portnoff Braunig, the executive director of Girls on the Run (GOTR), was selected as one of Gambit Magazine's "40 under 40" for 2013. The annual list of 40 New Orleanians, who have achieved importance at a relatively early age and added to the business, social or artistic landscape is compiled by the magazine after a rigorous nomination and selection process.

Braunig credited her five years of work at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans in preparing her to develop the needed skills to locally lead the GOTR, a national non-profit organization that emphasizes physical fitness and healthy habits for young women. At present, the organization partners with 16 area schools.



In a phone interview with the CCJN, Braunig stated, "It is an honor to be working for such a wonderful organization with such a meaningful mission." Braunig continued, "I have worked hard to double our program participants, worked hard to build relationships with the school sites and volunteers and feel supported by my board who allow me to work towards the vision I see possible for GOTR!"

Additionally, Braunig said she felt both honored and excited to have been selected for the Gambit listing.

From evangelical Christian to Chasid

NOVEMBER 15, 2013

It is a curious tale, a tale of religious fervor and a tale smacking of incredulity. A familiar-looking Chasidic figure clad in traditional black hat garb and wearing a long beard grabs a microphone in front of a crowd and announces proudly, he is a Jew! But when Rabbi Yaakov Ephraim Parisi explains that he arrived at his present convention following a rite of passage as, first, a Roman Catholic and, later, a Christian evangelist minister, the crowd of Jews begins to pay close attention.

Parisi spoke at the Chabad House on Freret Street this past Tuesday night, in front of a crowd of approximately 80 individuals interested in hearing his story.

"We came out of the mikvah (ritual bath) 16 years ago," he beamed in speaking about his

immersion, the final step in the conversion process. That conversion took place in Denver under the authority of Orthodox Rabbi Mordechai Twerski, who was Parisi's spiritual advisor at that time. The beit din (rabbinical court) convened to interview the couple took six three-hour sessions held over the course of three months before the Parisi and his wife were allowed to bathe in the mikveh and be accepted as Jews.

Parisi was born as son of Italian immigrants, who were strict Roman Catholics. They raised their son immersed into the world of the church assisting the parish priests as an altar boy. Although it was suggested to his parents to encourage him to enter the priesthood, Parisi elected to become an engineer.

Parisi graduated with an engineering degree and just prior to his marriage, left the Catholic

Church for good. He and his wife raised their family and gravitated to non-denomination evangelical Christianity as the basis for their faith and practice.

His work as a construction engineer had taken him to Israel, where he was offered a job while visiting as a tourist. As Parisi recounted his story, he later moved to Oklahoma to what he called “the buckle” of the Bible Belt. He became associated with a small church and became ordained as a minister. During this time, however, he began to more closely delve into the Tanach (Jewish cannon), and several other books including the Chumash (Five Books of Moses) and a siddur (prayerbook). As time continued, Parisi began to read from the Jewish canon more

regularly and began to encourage the members of his small church to do likewise.

Eventually, the Parisis and the local community’s relations became strained. The family announced that they were closing their church and headed to Denver to study under Rabbi Twerski and prepare for a conversion to Judaism.

Today, both he and his wife are proudly Jewish. Parisi is so busy on the lecture circuit that he and his wife sometimes don’t see each other for extended periods. But they are both happy in the practice of their chosen faith.

“We have a mission as Jews here,” he continued. “Our ancestors gave their lives so we could have a Chabad House, so we could learn Torah and so we could go to



Rabbi Yaakov Ephraim Parisi (at podium) speaks as Rabbi Zelig Rivkin (far left) and Rabbi Mendel Rivkin (right) listen. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Israel,” Parisi said.

Parisi ended by encouraging everyone to cling to their observance of traditional Judaism. “When you don’t compromise your Torah, people change,” he concluded.



Yaakov Ephraim Parisi speaks about his road to Orthodoxy following a life as a Catholic and a Christian evangelist. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Blackman Lecture features Rabbi Zimmerman

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman will be the scholar-in-resident this weekend at Temple Sinai’s annual Murray Blackman Memorial Weekend. The theme for the entire weekend will be on the Torah.

Zimmerman is a past president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinic arm of the Union for Reform Judaism (the URJ, formerly the United American Hebrew Congregations, or UAHC) and a past president of the Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, the URJ’s major seminary. He is a longtime leader of both the URJ and the CCAR and was chosen to speak on a number of topics throughout the weekend.

Zimmerman will be working in coordination with Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn. The regular Shabbat evening worship services that begin at 6:15 p.m. will feature Zimmerman’s opening lecture “Coffee or Kindness? The Search for Social Texture in Our Lives.”

Saturday’s lecture is titled “What is the Most Important Verse in the Torah?” and will occur during the worship services that begin at 10:15 a.m. A



Murray Blackman Memorial Weekend scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman. (©Liz Robertson)

Kiddush luncheon will follow the talk.

At 6:30 pm Zimmerman will deliver his next talk titled “The Two Happiest Days in Judaism—what are they?” This event will take place at the home of Joan and Julian Feibelman.

Finally, on Sunday at 9:00 am, Zimmerman will have an interactive session with Temple Sinai Religious School members. The title of his final lecture will be “Law or Love? What Are We All About?”

Maccabeats Perform at the JCC Chanukah Event as the Community Readies for the “Double Holiday Celebration”

NOVEMBER 28, 2013

The community wide Chanukah celebration seemed a bit early this year, but nevertheless all attendees at the Maccabeats performance this past Sunday thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This year marks

an extremely rare occurrence. Chanukah and Thanksgiving are being celebrated on the same date. According to the “experts” this phenomena is so rare it will not occur again until 2165.

Many individuals are combining their menus for the two holidays by uniquely serving items

like pumpkin latkes, cranberry-filled sufganiyot, or Chanukah cookies in the shape of turkeys. Whichever way one chooses to celebrate the holidays, it is a special time to appreciate and be thankful! Happy Thanksgiving!



CCJN creates ‘Zachor New Orleans’ fund

NOVEMBER 28, 2013

The Zachor (“Remember”) New Orleans fund, a Jewish Endowment of Louisiana administered fund, was established this week by the Crescent City Jewish News as part of its long-range goals of preserving and archiving the history of the Jewish community of New Orleans.

This is the first step in the process of securing the funding necessary to digitize the Jewish newspapers of New Orleans’ past including The Jewish Ledger, whose only copies are presently housed at Tulane University’s Joseph Merrick Jones Hall across from the Howard Tilton Memorial Library. Estimates say the project will take years and substantial funding to make a true digital library of New Orleans’ past Jewish community.

Once the project is finalized, the library and archives will be made available to the public and to scholars for research through



Annette Smason, left, treasurer of the CCJN, presents a check establishing the Zachor New Orleans fund to Sandra Levy, executive director of JEF on Monday, November 25. (Photo by Arlene Wieder)

an online portal. Pictures out of the past will also be digitized and corrected.

Annette Smason, treasurer of the CCJN Executive Board, met with Sandra Levy, executive director of the JEF, on Monday to create the fund on behalf of the board. Now that the fund has been created through JEF, all donations are tax-deductible. Donations for the project are now being accepted to the JEF’s Zachor New Orleans fund.

For more information, call Sandra Levy at 504-524-4559.

Chabad at Lakeside a big hit

DECEMBER 5, 2013

The Chabad Lubavitch of Louisiana organization held its 2013 annual Chanukah event in front of Dillard's department store at Lakeside Shopping Center on the seventh night of Chanukah, December 3.

Prior to the ceremony, a kids area beyond the Starbucks kept children entertained with an interactive computer dance game, a Legos board, dreidel spinning and face painting. Several prizes were offered in a raffle picked by random at the end of the evening festivities. The largest prizes included lo-

cal hotel stays and a gift basket valued at \$300 by Dillard's.

A powerful sound system provided by Ooh La La Music Company allowed attendees to hear and the Paulin Brothers Brass Band provided traditional jazz and New Orleans music prior to the ceremony. Amanda Trotenberg, the web editor of New Orleans CityBusiness served as mistress of ceremonies.

Major corporate support for the event came from nearby Lakeside Toyota, represented by Bob Licht, while Cathy and Morris Bart were singled out as the largest individual supporters of the event from the Jewish community.



The Chanukah menorah is lit on the seventh night by Aaron Stross in front of Dillard's department store at Lakeside Shopping Center (Photo by Alan Smaison)



Pre-ceremony entertainment from the Paulin Brothers Brass Band made the event a true New Orleans experience. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

ADL honors Glaser, Gershaniks & Boyle

DECEMBER 8, 2013

A century after its founding in Atlanta, the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) South-Central Regional Office honored four of its own at a special awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Grand Ballroom on Thursday evening, December 5. The theme of the evening's presentations was "ADL 100: Imagine a World Without Hate."

Selected to receive the prestigious A.I. Botnick Torch of Liberty Awards for 2013 were New Orleans attorney Kim Boyle and Dr. Juan and Ana Gershanik. Cathy Glaser who recently retired as the community director of the ADL's South-Central Regional Office, was recognized with a special award for her many years of service.

Kim Boyle expressed humility and honor at being selected to receive the ADL's highest honor. "I am truly honored, privileged and humbled to be here tonight receiving this award and to be recognized in the company of the Gershaniks and Cathy Glaser."

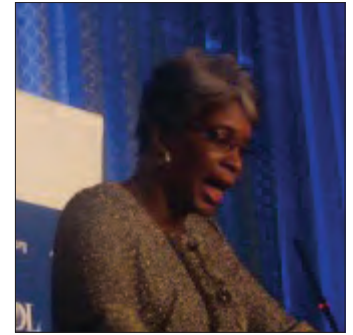
Boyle also paid tribute (as many others that evening) to South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela who had passed away earlier that day. She discussed the award's namesake, Adolph Ira (A.I.) Botnick, a longtime ADL leader from the New Orleans area who passed away in 1995. She also praised African-American civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Thurgood Marshall "and many others who followed in their footsteps."

In accepting their award, the Gershaniks spoke separately about the struggles they went through as they left their native Argentina following a military coup in the mid-1960s.

In her brief acceptance speech, Ana spoke about the examples set by her parents and her grandfather in her native Rosario, Argentina. "My grandfather was among the pillars of the Jewish community in Rosario when I was growing up. He instilled in me at an early age the values of equality for all and always standing up to



Former ADL South-Central Region director Cathy Glaser accepts a special award for her years of service combatting prejudice and hate at the Torch of Liberty Dinner on December 5. (Photo by Dean Shapiro)



Kim Boyle accepts A.I. Botnick Torch of Liberty Award at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on December 5, 2013. (Photo by Dean Shapiro)

defend those whose rights were violated," she said.

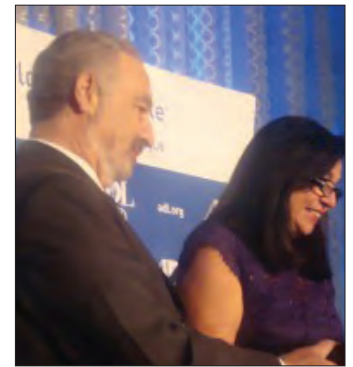
Gershanik said she followed his example by taking part in protests and marches set up to call attention to discrimination. "I marched against government oppression and discrimination in Argentina. My role models growing up were Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, and the Kennedys. It was not surprising that, at 16, I fell in love with someone who shared the same passion for equal rights as I did. And that's the guy standing next to me," she said, pointing to her husband.

She added that the struggle is still not over and that everyone needs to be watchful and vigilant. "It is with great humility, emotion and pride that Juan and I accept the Torch of Liberty award. Muchas gracias!" she concluded.

The evening's highlight was the presentation of a special award to Cathy Glaser who took the helm of the regional office shortly after 9/11 and stepped down this past June.

Following a standing ovation, Glaser spoke. She stressed that "anti-Semites, racists and bigots are not born, they are made; and the antidote against prejudice and hatred in all of its forms is education. Everyone has to do their part to show we can change hearts and minds one person at a time."

Glaser went on, "ADL has given to me this opportunity to give back to the community." "The ADL hat is not one you put on in the morning and take off at 5:00 in the afternoon. Hate has no time limits. It doesn't sleep at



Juan Gershanik and wife Ana accept their award at the ADL Torch of Liberty dinner. (Photo by Dean Shapiro)

night. When something happens, you have to be ready. It is a 24/7 experience," she said.

In calling up the imagery of the Shoah, Glaser looked to the ADL's powerful record in assembling eyewitness accounts as lessons for generations to come. "Testimonies of Holocaust survivors are the most powerful tools in teaching respect and understanding to students so they can say, 'Never again!'" she said.

"I also learned about Southern Jewry and what a great treasure it is. And what this office has accomplished since it was established in the early 1950s.

Noticeably absent was Glaser's replacement, Talora Gross, who departed her position at the beginning of November. Joshua Force, the ADL Board chairman, declined to comment on Gross' "departure" other than to state it was not a termination. A committee has been formed to seek out a new South-Central Region director.

Hadassah doctor reveals life-saving measures

DECEMBER 13, 2013

Dr. Avraham Rivkind, one of 13 healthcare officials visiting New Orleans from Israel at the behest of the local Jewish Federation used statistics and graphic emergency room photos to demonstrate how effective his team has been in saving the lives of terrorist victims.

Rivkind, the head of the Department of General Surgery and Shock Trauma Unit at Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem, spoke at length about how his team has saved the lives of bombing victims in Israel and made a difference in the crucial seconds that count between triage and surgery.

Members of Rivkind's team spoke to doctors at Boston Mass General Hospital three to four years ago and set up emergency trauma measures there that were already in place at the time of the Boston Marathon bombings on April 15. The Boston Mass General Hospital staff acknowledged the importance of what they learned from the Israelis.

Rivkind and others appeared in New Orleans as part

of the Partnership on Emergency Response and Medicine facilitated by Federation. The objective Rivkind stated at the outset of his talk is how to save lives by reviewing hospital preparedness and to propose simple out-of-the-box solutions.

Rivkind discussed the mechanisms of injuries from terrorist bombings including the primary blast injuries and shock wave from those closest to the explosion. Injuries to the lungs took on a "butterfly appearance" on chest x-rays, he said. Injuries in the secondary and tertiary radii from the blast were largely due to penetrating missiles expelled from the point of the blast.

Rivkind pointed out that burns from blasts were usually quite severe and stated that temperatures at the heart of explosive blasts could reach as high as 3,000 degrees Centigrade.

Rivkind revealed the process by which terrorist victims at Hadassah Hospital undergo triage to determine if they will go immediately to surgery or to a waiting room for treatment. His figures state that half of the admissions will require a hospital stay of indeterminate length. The fatality rate is 18.5% for all victims, he said.



New Orleans Hadassah members (from left) Bonnie Lustig, Southern Region president Lee Kansas, Paula Picker, chapter president Julie Schwartz and Stacey Weinreb proudly pose with Dr. Avraham Rivkind, center. (Photo by Alan Smason)

New Orleans welcomes USY's IC

DECEMBER 22, 2013

With colorful Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold and the music of a traditional New Orleans street parade marching band, 700 members of United Synagogue Youth (USY) joined in unison to jump, shout and celebrate the opening ceremonies of the IC NOLA (International Convention, New Orleans, LA).

The underlying theme of the annual USY gathering is tikun olam, which means "repairing the world." USY members will engage in a variety of projects, meet with

New Orleans community leaders and prominent USY alumni, study, celebrate, and tour. It's about "rebuilding, reflecting and rejoicing!"

Award-winning director and film executive Andy Fickman will be honored with the USY Alumni of the Year award. Fickman claims, "I would not be directing movies with Channing Tatum. I would not be directing movies with 'the Rock' were I not in USY." Further he acknowledged, "Everything I learned in Hollywood, I learned in USY."

NY1 news reporter and USY alumna, Jessica Abo will deliver the keynote address during the Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society



inductions. Abo stated, "I loved spending time with my region, seeing my friends from USY on Wheels and USY Israel Pilgrimage/Poland Seminar and meeting people from all over North America. I feel honored to be joining everyone in New Orleans."



USY international president Michael Benjamin Sacks rides a float inside the Hilton Hotel at opening ceremonies for IC NOLA. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Hollywood director and producer Andy Fickman accepts the USY's Alumni of the Year Award at IC NOLA. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Proud to call  New Orleans *home!*



 **Crescent City Jewish News**
www.crescentcityjewishnews.com

EXCLUSIVE TO CCJN: LAGNIAPPE PICTORIAL RECAP



BLOWING OUR OWN SHOFAR FOR 5774! (WE'RE KVELLING!)

The Crescent City Jewish News (CCJN) acts as an independent voice for New Orleans' Jewish community. Proud of our heritage, we love giving back to our community and know first-hand about *tzedakah* ("charity") and supporting the arts. It is our honor to provide professional coverage of Jewish events throughout the year that are uniquely New Orleans.

At the start of the Jewish New Year, we released the CCJN **SOURCE**. It was a means of showing our commitment to the New Orleans Jewish community and to provide an attractive and handy guide for any information you may seek from area synagogues, Jewish organizations or other religious institutions. We look forward to providing an updated and improved **SOURCE** for 5775.

Our commitment to public service and through *tikun olam* ("repairing the world") was demonstrated with the creation of the CCJN sterling silver charms bearing the image of our logo. The proceeds of \$1,500 from the initial run of charms went entirely to the **Community Day School (CDS)** to continue their mission of Jewish youth learning and instruction in the community.

In terms of promoting the arts, the CCJN has focused several stories throughout the year on the local arts

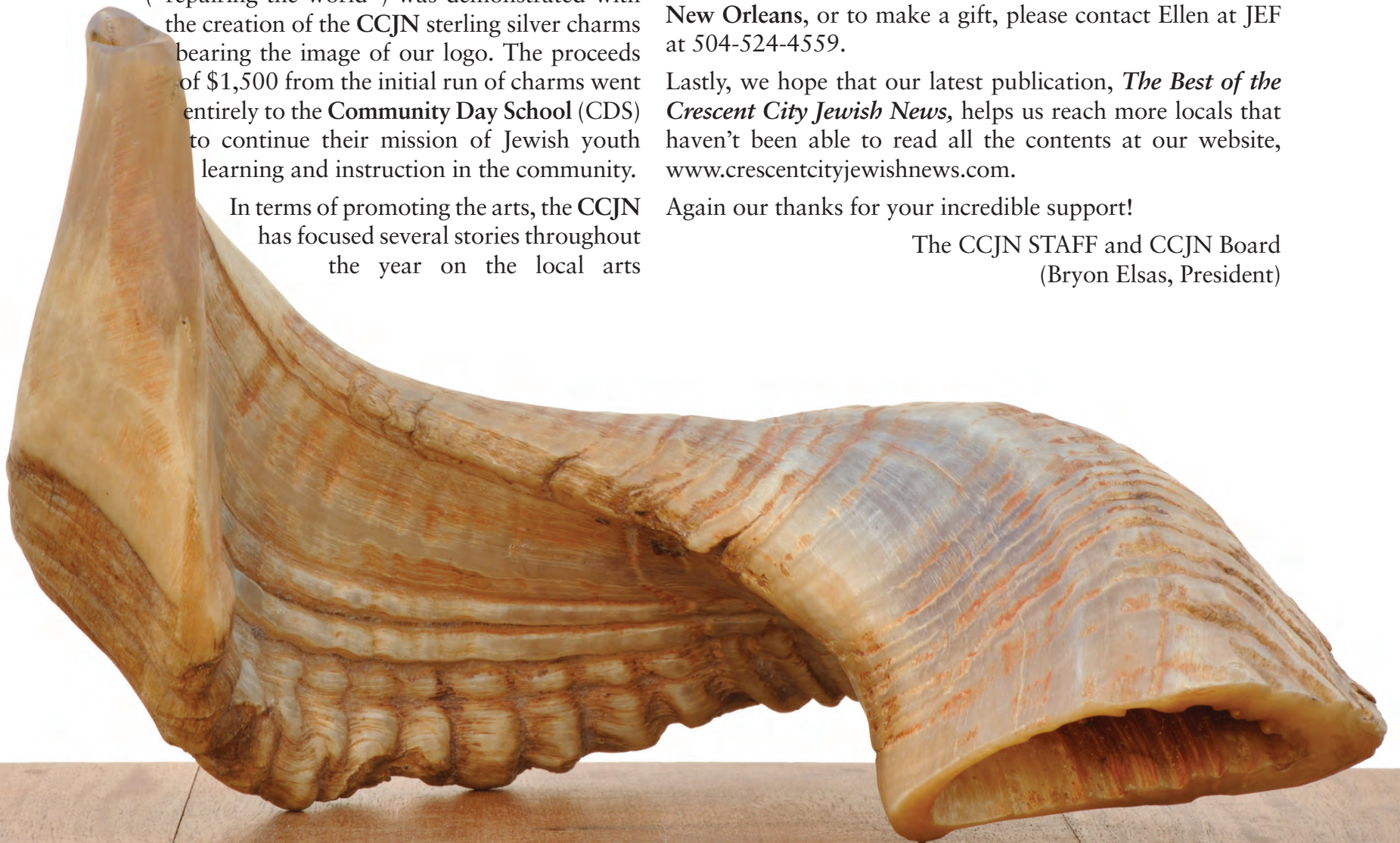
scene. In addition this past December 1, the CCJN hosted the first of what we envision as an annual **Jewish Art and Jewish Artists** event. This year's show featured the artwork of **Hannah Chalew, Anna Gil, Aidi Kansas, Tom Olsner, Justin Smith** and **Joan Zaslow**. We can't thank them enough for their contributions to our local art scene and for their time in making the event so special.

Our commitment to the Jewish community of New Orleans by enhancing the documentation of archival material into modern digital formats was made clear by our creation of the **Zachor New Orleans Fund**, an advised **Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana (JEF)** fund. We are presently soliciting tax-deductible donations to bring about the digital archiving of past editions of *The New Orleans Jewish Ledger*, the *Jewish Civic Press* and other credible Jewish publications and newspapers, which previously served the local New Orleans Jewish community. To find out more about **Zachor New Orleans**, or to make a gift, please contact Ellen at JEF at 504-524-4559.

Lastly, we hope that our latest publication, *The Best of the Crescent City Jewish News*, helps us reach more locals that haven't been able to read all the contents at our website, www.crescentcityjewishnews.com.

Again our thanks for your incredible support!

The CCJN STAFF and CCJN Board
(Bryon Elsas, President)





A COMPLETE HOME
CARE AGENCY
DEDICATED TO
PROVIDING
IN-HOME LONG TERM
CARE / PERSONAL CARE
FOR CHILDREN
AND ADULTS WITH
DISABILITIES.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

New Opportunities Waiver
Children's Choice
Early & Periodic Screening
Diagnoses & Treatment
LT/Personal Care Services
Elderly & Disabled Adult Waiver



*Celebrating 18 years of
dedication and service!*

**CALL FOR FREE
CONSULTATION!**

3920 Old Gentilly Road | New Orleans, LA 70126

PHONE: (504) 942-7171 | FAX: (504) 942-7174

WWW.REJUVENATINGCONCEPTS.COM

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DéLisa Rowe-Tate