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# CCJN Covers the Jewish New Orleans Community

The Crescent City Jewish News (CCJN) was partly created out of our pride of being part of a small, but amazingly influential community that has helped to shape the city we call home. It is our sincere belief that no one outside of our community – either by location or by religious affiliation – can better report or tell our story than we can. We are humbled by the overwhelming support of our local Jewish community and we look forward to providing even better coverage in the future.

Unlike our first “Best of the Crescent City Jewish News,” which spanned a year, this edition covers just the previous six months. It is our intention to publish the “Best of the Crescent City Jewish News” on a bi-annual basis henceforth, so look for the next edition to hit the streets in time for Chanukah. The following edition will be out

in time for Passover.

As with our last edition, we are providing some lagniappe features for our loyal website readers. In this issue we have included articles about our locally adopted “favorite son” Scott Cowen, who has led Tulane University in an unparalleled reign as its 14th president. Cowen has been a shining example of local leadership in education over the past 16 years and an incredible asset to the university, our own Jewish community and especially to Greater New Orleans in a post-Katrina environment. We acknowledge him for his inspirational years of service and look forward to his impassioned dedication to improving K-12 education in the future.

We also thank him and his wife Marjorie for embracing our town so well and electing to spend the next chapter of their lives here.

Our other lagniappe feature highlights two local Jewish agencies – the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service – and the invaluable programming they offer to help our growing senior community. Special thanks are given to Joanna Russo, Allison Friedman, Rachel Ruth, Jane Levine and Joanna Sternberg for their assistance.

Another part of our mission we take seriously is raising funds to contribute to our special Zachor or “Remember” New Orleans Fund, associated with the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana (JEF). This fund has been set aside to raise funds to digitize and archive our past Jewish publications of the last century.

Starting on May 1, the CCJN began making “chai” donations to the Zachor fund in honor of our local B’nai Mitzvah celebrants. Notice from JEF was sent

to each temple or synagogue indicating each donation. Mazel tov to the teens and their families!

Our second SOURCE, a guide to Jewish living in New Orleans, will be distributed prior to Rosh Hashanah. This annual guide will serve our community throughout the 5774-5775 year. In addition to local distribution all across the metropolitan area, both major national conventions held in New Orleans this past year – Tribefest and USY – received complimentary copies for their participants to take back home.

If you wish to share any updated information for the SOURCE, please contact Arlene Wieder at [advertising@ccjn.net](mailto:advertising@ccjn.net). All Jewish agencies, synagogues, organizations, day schools and kosher establishments receive free listings in the guide.

We are humbled by the overwhelming support of our local Jewish community and we look forward to providing even better coverage in the future.

# Uptown Btsh Chabad House Formally Named

**JANUARY 10, 2014**

After years of planning, a move to another temporary location and the gutting and reconstruction of the Chabad House on Freret Street, the Chabad Lubavitch of Louisiana organization formally dedicated and named its new home on Tuesday night, January 7.

The new structure will be formally known henceforth as the Btsh Family Chabad House. It was named in honor of the parents of Issac Btsh, Pamela Farida Btsh of blessed memory and Alberto Btsh. The house is located at 7037 Freret Street.

Rabbi Zelig Rivkin and his wife Bluma were the original schluchim ("emissaries") sent to New Orleans by the late Chabad Rabbi Menachem Schneerson. Rivkin reminisced that it was almost 40 years ago when he first met Btsh who was student attending Tulane University.



From left, Rabbi Zelig Rivkin, Issac and Bety Btsh and Bluma Rivkin at the naming ceremony. (Photo by Alan Smason)

He commented how Btsh had grown stronger in his faith and practice of Judaism as a result of his contact with the Chabad organization.

Preceding the formal presentations and the evening program was a cocktail hour. A video showing the many facets of how the building will be utilized was

also shown prior to the Rivkins' presentation to the Btshes.

The Rivkins' oldest son, Rabbi Mendel Rivkin, welcomed the group with a few words. Then the elder Rivkins presented a piece of art to Btsh and his wife Bety for their generous donation to the organization.

The younger Rabbi Rivkin

thanked a number of people for their contributions to make the night's naming ceremony successful, but bemoaned of the nonappearance of the slated musical entertainer Daniel Gale due to the horrible winter weather.

"But the main ingredient is here," Mendel Rivkin stated. "The honorees are here!"

When Btsh ascended to the podium, he acknowledged the importance of the Chabad organization. "My first Pesach away from home was in New Orleans (at Chabad) and it was a very warm, spiritual experience."

As a young Tulanian with little religious background, Btsh spilled drops of wine during the seder in commemoration of the 10 Plagues. In a humorous aside, he recalled, "I ended up drinking the 10 Plagues."

Btsh is the Chief Executive Officer of Multibank of Panama that he co-founded with his father Alberto Btsh, who serves as the President of Multibank's

Board of Directors. The family held bank has many locations throughout Panama.

In 1996, the philanthropic Btsh family created the Alberto and Pamela Btsh Foundation. This foundation has provided food and donations to improve the quality of life of thousands of Panamanians of all age groups. Additionally, in 2005 this foundation created three public diners to provide free meals in San Miguelito, one of the most densely impoverished districts in Panama.

Following the Btsh presentation, Mendel Rivkin sent everyone off with the thanks of the Chabad Lubavitch organization. "Every person is a note in the symphony," he mused.

Food was provided by Kosher Cajun Delicatessen and Grocery and several baked items were made by volunteers.

## Ariel Sharon (1928-2014)

**JANUARY 13, 2014**

Ariel "Arik" Sharon, the former prime minister and Israeli soldier who was blamed for massacres in the Israeli-Lebanon crisis, was considered the single figure responsible for the second Intifada in 2000 and, ultimately, led Israel out of Gaza in 2005, died early Saturday morning, January 11, from the effects of a massive stroke he suffered in January of 2006.

Doctors had been concerned for the past week due to Sharon's vital signs ebbing, his organs beginning to fail and a report that he was suffering from blood poisoning.

A controversial figure for most of his political life, Sharon began his service to his homeland as a soldier. He only turned to politics at age 45, when he retired from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as a major general.

Sharon's exploits began as a freedom fighter before the Jewish



State was declared in 1948. He fought in famous battles waged during the Six Day War in 1967 and 1973 Yom Kippur War.

After leaving the IDF, he ran for political office and was immediately elected to the Knesset. He served as defense minister from 1981 to 1983 and was selected as prime minister from 2001 to 2006.

A state funeral was held at Mt. Herzl, the resting place of Israel's heroes.

## JCDS students learn experientially

**JANUARY 17, 2014**

Through an innovative experiential learning opportunity, the kindergarten through fourth grade students at the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) spent a total of ten hours of concentrated learning in Robotics, Art Studio or Green Dream: Creating a Jewish Organic Garden.

"The kids are loving it!" gushed parent and board member Jody Hart. Hart's twins, both first graders at JCDS, spent the week in Green Dream planting vegetable seeds in new garden beds on the recess field and engineering vehicles in Robotics.

JCDS head of school Sharon Pollin, reached out to Red Stick Robotics to lead learning for groups divided by age. "Red Stick has established the first and only BEST (Building, Engineering, Science, and Technology) Robotics hub in Louisiana, and we have been absolutely thrilled to work with them," she said.

Apparently, the students agree. "I like that we actually get to build our own robot," said kindergartner Mikey Neal.

Just in time for Tu B'Shevat (Jewish Arbor Day), the Green Dream group created the school's first garden.

Pollin instructed students in the long-held Jewish tradition of caring for the Earth. "The Torah tells us to both care for and work the earth, and additional commentary discusses the idea of Bal Tashchit, the commandment not to needlessly destroy."

Third grader Opal Radding proved to be one of several enthusiastic participants. "I like that everything about our garden is organic, which means that we are not using any chemicals. I loved going to the farm and especially building our garden."

Teacher Chris Clark led the Art Studio classes. Using the Tu B'Shevat theme, Clark encouraged first grader Sam Shaya to render replicas of local trees. "We are



A JCDS third grader fashions a palm tree at the Art Studio project. (Photo by Sharon Pollin)

making palm trees that grow here in New Orleans and also in Israel," he said. "I thought we were just going to draw and paint them, but instead we're building them so it's really fun."

Mixing genealogy, botany and art, students are using their sculptures to create family trees. The weeklong project-based learning experience culminated on Friday, January 17, as students presented their work.



# AVODAH Executive Director Makes Stop Here

JANUARY 17, 2014

**M**arilyn Sneiderman, the executive director of AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, left her well-appointed offices in Washington, D.C. to make her way to the more modest AVODAH House and office in New Orleans this week.

Sneiderman, who arrived on Monday and left Thursday, toured the local facilities meeting with AVODAH members, staffers, alumni and board members. She even put in an appearance on Wednesday night at AVODAH's Tu B'Shevat Seder, held at the Garden District home of Marc Behar.

A passionate speaker for the rights of the downtrodden, Sneiderman took over as Executive Director three and a half years ago following the departure of AVODAH founder, Rabbi David Rosenn.

"I would say David was a total mensch," Sneiderman revealed in an exclusive CCJN interview. "I feel blessed about the organization I inherited from him."

AVODAH, the Jewish Service Corps, was founded in 1998 to address social needs in low-income communities. The organization is based on growing corps that live together in bayit (house) and work together building a community that supports each other. The first AVODAH home was founded in New York City and quickly spread to a second location there. Next AVODAH expanded to Washington, D.C., Chicago and in 2007 to New Orleans.

Following the evacuation and rebuilding from the flooding associated with Hurricane Katrina, the AVODAH national board determined their presence would be instrumental in helping survivors and the disenfranchised return to normalcy. "After Katrina, the board said how could we not be there?" Sneiderman recalls.

The response to the AVODAH House, established in 2008

on Jefferson Avenue in Uptown New Orleans, has proven to be of major import to both AVODAH corps members and to those they serve that tend to be directly afflicted by poverty, according to Sneiderman. "The experience in New Orleans has been extraordinary," she acknowledged.

Sneiderman knows firsthand how important the work of corps members has been and what a difference their advocacy has made. She has been on the front lines fighting poverty for most of her adult professional life, beginning first as a social worker, and then as an education director with the Teamsters union and the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). She has served on the faculties of three universities: the Georgetown University School of Law, the University of Illinois and Cornell University.

"To me my entire life has been focusing on fighting poverty," she reflected. "I found that central to my Jewish values. Then to find AVODAH with young Jews fighting poverty through a Jewish lens and to get to know the corps members and spend time with them was so inspiring."

New Orleans AVODAH director Dani Levine agreed with Sneiderman. Levine believes what separates AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, from other similar organizations is "the ability to make real and lasting change and be involved in a community that's working toward that," she said. "It's really supportive here," Levine acknowledged.

An alumna, who now works for AVODAH, Alana Himber, had another take on why AVODAH is so effective. "In a lot of ways because the bayit's small, we're able to give a lot more to the community and we're loved and supported by the community."

Many of the AVODAH: the Jewish Service Corps members who have moved to New Orleans for their one year of service have ended up staying and contrib-

uting to the welfare of their adopted city many times over. At present 20 AVODAH alumni now call New Orleans home and with the ten members presently living at the bayit, it means 30 past and present AVODAH Jewish Service Corps members live in and around the city.

Sneiderman's appearance at the Tu B'Shevat Seder at Behar's home on Jackson Avenue was part of introducing the local community and board members to current AVODAH House residents.

The first 3 corps members introduced were: Martha Carol from Boulder, CO; Hannah Rich from San Francisco, and Leah Effron from West Orange, NJ. Each spoke about the work they are doing for the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Success Preparatory Academy, and the Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Association of New Orleans, respectively.

They were followed by David Gabriel from Newton, MA and Rayza Goldsmith from Chevy Chase, MD, who spoke on their work with the Promise of Justice Initiative and the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Louisiana, respectively.

The last three members present were Jessica Greenberg from Memphis; Mia Bruner from Calabasas, CA.; and Hannah Wolfman-Arent from Washington, D.C. Each spoke about their work with the Tulane Community Health Center, the NO/AIDS Task Force and Kids Rethink New Orleans School, respectively.

Sneiderman acknowledged how lucky she feels being at the helm of AVODAH. "It's interesting because several people said to me how difficult it is to continue an organization after a founder leaves," she admitted. "Not only have we have sustained the organization, but we're growing it." Sneiderman points to upward numbers in members as well as increased budgets nationwide.



AVODAH executive director Marilyn Sneiderman, right, with local director Dani Levine at the AVODAH Jewish Service Corps offices uptown. (Photo by Alan Smaison)



Jessica Greenberg, left, and Rayza Goldsmith, right, flank AVODAH executive director Marilyn Sneiderman (photo by Alan Smaison)



Current AVODAH participants Rayza Goldsmith and David Gabriel (photo by Alan Smaison)



AVODAH executive director Marilyn Sneiderman (Photo by Alan Smaison)



# Producer of 'Golda's Balcony' is proud Zionist

**JANUARY 24, 2014**

Producer David Fishelson is not a household name to most theater lovers, but he holds the record for producing the longest-running one-woman show ever to run on the Great White Way, "Golda's Balcony." Originally scheduled to have its regional premiere opening at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré on January 24th, a last minute decision by the producer canceled the first two performances. The lead Claire Moncreif who portrays Golda Meir was ill. After a 2 day hiatus, star Claire Moncreif was able to perform the role of Israel Prime Minister Golda Meir starting on Sunday, January 26th.

The Sunday afternoon January 26 performance benefited the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana. A limited number of tickets, each costing \$40.00 were available at the door.

Patrons originally scheduled to see Moncreif on the canceled January 24th and 25th performances had their tickets rescheduled to later performances.

Following the Sunday performance, Fishelson participated in a Skype interview and answered

questions from audience members. As the producer of "Golda's Balcony," the award-winning play that starred Tovah Feldshuh and, later, non-Jewish star Valerie Harper in its road production, Fishelson has enjoyed a string of critical and artistic triumphs. But just as important to him as the fame and reward that producing successful stage productions brings is the significance of bringing to the stage a work that articulately defends Israel's reasons for existence.

"This play is a love letter to Israel," he said, "because it is written from Golda's point of view." Even noted author and commentator Elie Wiesel was moved to tears when he saw the original William Gibson play on Broadway, a fact that Fishelson is happy to relate.

"Unashamedly and with great art it tells the story of the Jewish people in a way that you can be proud of Israel," he continued. "I didn't write it and I didn't direct it. I pulled a team together and I gave them support on the sidelines. That's been my job. I've been the shepherd on this project."

Fishelson doesn't know why someone who could best be described as a secular Jew has now become a confirmed Zionist.

"I am not a practicing Jew," he stated, "but I'll be the first one to stand up when the storm troopers come into the room ask who is the Jew. I'm an admirer of it (Judaism), but I am not a practitioner of it."

The journey to his present day position and feelings began as a young boy in Wooster, Ohio, not far away from Cleveland, a place he grew to frequent and admire for its arts scene. Yet, it was his father, Joe Fishelson, a renaissance man who was both a manufacturer of fire-fighting equipment and a university professor, who gave him his first taste of Zionist fervor.

"My dad spent a year teaching at Hebrew University," he explained. "In seventh grade when I was 12 going on 13 we lived in Jerusalem. It was the years between 1967 and 1973 and it was a time of great euphoria. It was a great time to be in Israel."

Fishelson found the overall experience moving. "As a young boy, to be in this beautiful and great country was a wonderful experience. It planted a seed of a lifelong devotion to Israel in my psyche. When I had an opportunity to produce this Zionist show, this was the realization of wanting to give something back,"



Claire Moncreif as Golda Meir (Photo by Frank Aymami)

he explained.

Yet, to be in theatre was not something Fishelson had planned. As a film student at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, he immersed himself in the study of cinema, oftentimes seeing two or more films a day. "Film was my thing," he said. "My trajectory is from a love of motion pictures."

He credits his attempts at screenwriting towards spiriting his entry into the theatre scene. The pivotal project was "City News," an independent film he wrote and directed that was broadcast over PBS's "American Playhouse."

"I guess you could sum me up as a guy who wanted to work in film, but wound up finding his niche by working in theatre," he said.



Claire Moncreif will star as Golda Meir, the only woman to ever hold the post of Israel prime minister. (Photo by Frank Aymami)

*(Editor's note: Portions of the above are printed courtesy of the Cleveland Jewish News)*

# Hadassah installs new slate of officers

**JANUARY 30, 2014**

The Audubon Place home of Sidney and Joyce Pulitzer was the opulent setting for the annual installation of the officers of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist organization, on Sunday, January 25.

Terri Gross, an attorney and former head of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, acted as the installation officer, first discharging outgoing president Julie Schwartz and her board, before installing the incoming president, Ilana Reisin, and her slate of officers.

Serving the Hadassah board for the next two years will be

Reisin and her officers, Diane Schliefsstein (corresponding secretary), Caitlyn Weber. (recording secretary), Arlene Hines (treasurer); Barbara Polikoff Katz (education and program vice-president), Fran Simon (marketing and communications vice-president), Miriam Waltzer (fundraising vice-president), and Charise Sands and Sarah Halper (membership co vice-presidents).

Following a heartfelt speech by Schwartz in which she thanked all the officers and members for their support, Reisin took her turn to speak to the Hadassah members. She reflected on the importance of Israel in her own life. "Israel is a place where ordinary people live extraordi-

nary lives," she began.

She noted that she met her husband, who is a doctor, at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem after he had made aliyah there. The two of them were both first lieutenants at that meeting before their eventual marriage. "But at home," she emphasized, "I am the general."

Reisin expressed thanks at the confidence bestowed upon her with her selection as president. While her husband now practices in New Orleans, there was a hint of sadness from Reisin that she was no longer living in Eretz Yisroel.

She vowed to work for the advancement of the local Hadassah chapter and to support all of their ongoing projects, especially their



Dr. Ilana Reisin, third from right front, as president of the Greater New Orleans chapter of Hadassah with her entire slate of officers.

massive research hospital complex in Jerusalem, with vigor. "Although I no longer live in Israel, Israel lives in me," Reisin concluded.

The event was catered by Lee

Sands, who received acknowledgement for a delicious luncheon attended by members and associates prior to the installation ceremonies.



# NCJW Honors Marjorie and Scott Cowen

**FEBRUARY 7, 2014**

BY **KAREN LOZINSKI,**  
SPECIAL TO THE CCJN

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) held its annual Hannah G. Solomon Award luncheon Monday, Feb. 3, honoring retiring Tulane president Scott Cowen and his wife Marjorie for their commitment to the public good and the city of New Orleans. The annual event was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Riverside Hotel.

The Cowens join a long list of previous Hannah G. Solomon Award recipients with extensive track records in community activism and service as well as civic leadership. The award is named for the NCJW's founder and has been bestowed 46 times since its inception in 1966.

"Hannah Solomon possessed all the characteristics I so admire: vision, courage, resilience, grit, and an unwavering commitment to make a difference in the world doing so," Cowen stated during his acceptance speech.

"Hannah Solomon and those who followed her epitomize 'transformative leadership' – something so needed in the world, but well represented in the NCJW," he averred.

Marjorie Cowen has provided steadfast support for her husband, who acknowledged she is "the power behind the throne, both personally and professionally," in his acceptance speech. Mrs. Cowen has served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of New Orleans, Touro Synagogue, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and the NCJW.

Scott Cowen is the fourteenth president of Tulane University, and is both the Seymour S. Goodman Memorial Professor of Business in Tulane's A.B. Freeman School of Business and Professor of Economics in the School of Liberal Arts.

Cowen was charged with rebuilding the public school system of New Orleans after the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina via his appointment to



Scott and Marjorie Cowen, right, accept the Hannah G. Solomon Award from event chair Shellye Farber (Photo by Karen Lozinski).



Scott Cowen listens as his wife Marjorie accepts the Hannah G. Solomon Award. (Photo by Karen Lozinski)

the Bring New Orleans Back Commission. He is the co-founder of the Fleur-de-lis Ambassadors Program, which served to showcase New Orleans' renewed vitality and viability after the storm.

New Orleans Councilmember-at-large Jackie Clarkson also participated in the program. She personally congratulated the Cowens and presented them with a city proclamation acknowledging their honor. She praised the Cowens for their post-Katrina efforts to get New Orleans back on its feet, calling them "beacons of hope and beacons of light." She stated how fitting it is the NCJW chose to honor both Cowens with this award.

"On behalf of women's health and safety, [the Cowens] are first in line. They are first in line to help others," Clarkson said. "You mean the world to me; don't stop what you do."

Event chairwoman Shellye Farber presented the Cowens with the award, a bust of Solomon inscribed with the Cowens' names and the year, after a loving recitation of many of their achievements.

"I am honored to be in the company of a group of people who have dedicated their lives to bettering the lives of others," Marjorie Cowen said, addressing the attendees. "I am honored and humbled to be counted among the list of incredibly talented people around the country who have devoted their energy, their vitality, and, when possible, their resources to make the world a better place."

After his wife's acceptance speech, Cowen also communicated his gratitude for the accolade bestowed on them by the NCJW.

"It is particularly special to me because I share this award with my wife and join an



New Orleans City Councilmember-at-large Jackie Clarkson speaks about the Cowens at the NCJW luncheon. (Photo by Karen Lozinski)



Shannie Goldstein, Rabbi David Goldstein, Shellye Farber, and New Orleans Section NCJW President, June Leopold. (Photo by Karen Lozinski)

extraordinary group of people who have received this award in the past," he said. "Of course, I couldn't help but notice that I am one of just a few men to receive this prestigious award. I must admit this give me a little added pleasure," he declared to a host of smiles and approving laughter.

"In many ways, NCJW's focus and accomplishments have been a driving force that guided the remarkable recovery of New Orleans since Katrina," he continued. "But our work is not yet done. No communities can thrive without a deep commitment to children, families, and social justice. Your organization has led the way in these areas for over a century and will continue to do so for decades to come."

Cowen's next book, *The Inevitable City: The Resurgence of New Orleans and the Future of Urban America*, comes out in June.

"Margie and I pledge to stand with you shoulder-to-shoulder to continue your work so that New Orleans can become a model of how to build sustainable, healthy, and just communities," he concluded. "This is why we have decided New Orleans will be our home residence after I step down as president. We believe in New Orleans and New Orleanians."

Cowen's retirement as Tulane University president begins effective July 1. His replacement, University of Pennsylvania Law School Dean Michael Fitts, was announced on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

*(Cowen also received the first ever Maimonides Award from International Hillel in ceremonies on June 9 in Washington D.C.)*



# MernaLyn brings her '10 Second Diet' to NOLA

FEBRUARY 17, 2014

For those who thought “The Ten Second Diet” was just about the proper foods to eat and ways to slim down, author MernaLyn has news for you. Yes, her book will help people lose weight, but readers can also use the manifesto to improve and enrich their lives. And that takes about 10 seconds too, she says.

A stunningly attractive model, former Playboy public relations bunny, Shakespearean and TV actress with long auburn hair and deep-set green eyes, MernaLyn, chooses nowadays to go by a one-word moniker not unlike Madonna or Cher. But her new career path as an author and motivational speaker has the former research assistant at the psychology department at Wayne State University using many words to describe how readers can turn their lives around by following the steps she recommends in her book.

Hadassah members along with the general public attended an event to listen to MernaLyn explain her book in full detail.

Born in Michigan and a resident of metro Detroit again, the self-described workaholic has formerly called mid-town Manhattan and Beverly Hills home. She

professes to having been a writer since her younger years, having first published a piece in the New York Times when she was about ten-years-old.

“I’ve written all of my life. I was an early reader,” she states. “My father completely believed in reading books. He was highly educated and loved history. He was an avid reader. We were brought up that way.”

MernaLyn confesses to having written quite a lot of poetry as a youngster and to putting her insights into life onto paper. “I was also questioning and was always interested in delving deeper,” she admits. “I used to keep diaries, which I still do.”

It may be those insights and the wordly experience she has gained through the years are what

make “The Ten Second Diet” so complete for her and so compelling to her readers.

“The word ‘diet’ doesn’t refer to the food you eat. It refers to the life you live,” she continues. “The actual techniques can be applied to life. It’s important, not just for what you put into your body, but what you put out into the world.”

This ties in with Jewish ethics and values, she points out. “When you think about it, it’s about putting ethics and

values into your daily living.”

Hired from a group of over 450 young ladies, MernaLyn’s cherished her former work as a Playboy public relations bunny. As a B-list bunny, she was always welcome at the Playboy Mansion and did her work for them at the same time as working as a personal shopper at Tiffany’s. Her schedule was hectic with only four hours of sleep most nights. Yet she thrived at it.

“I had an excellent reputation,” she boasts. “I did the last international televised (broadcast) event which was remoted from Australia on the night the club closed. They knew I could speak well,” MernaLyn recalls about the Playboy gig. She refers to herself as “the bunny with the brains.”

For MernaLyn, most of what she gleaned from her work at Playboy with A-list celebrities and sports figures can be distilled into a fairly simplistic, yet compelling statement: “Life is not a reality show; life is showing you can live real.” She believes American society needs to embrace values like tikun olam (“healing the world”) rather than mollicoddling false idols who embrace material things.

“Our society has to stop genuflecting to superficiality and learn to value intelligence, education and empathy and



Author MernaLyn spoke on Sunday morning February 16th at Congregation Beth Israel. (Photo courtesy MernaLyn)

emulate these qualities instead of living vicariously through so-called celebrities and sports figures,” she demurs.

MernaLyn has also become an ambassador for the Alzheimer’s Association in the fight against the disease. She donates a percentage of her book’s sales receipts for research to improve the lives of present and future Alzheimer’s patients.



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# 'Mr. Basketball' puts Israel on the map

FEBRUARY 21, 2014

BY ALAN SMASON,  
EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN

While some refer to him as "Mr. Basketball," Tal Brody is frankly more insistent that he should rather be known as "the man who put Israel on the map." The map he refers to is not only one found on an atlas or a globe, but moreover one found in the hearts and consciences of sports enthusiasts worldwide.

Brody, a professional basketball player for Israel and a Maccabi Games and Goodwill ambassador, journeyed to New Orleans last week as part of the National Basketball Association's (NBA) All-Star Game festivities. In addition, he was the guest speaker at a luncheon sponsored by the Jewish National Fund and coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

The very personable 70-year-old is an American-born Israeli, who was a standout member of the 1977 Israeli national team that bested the Soviet Union's CSKA-Moscow team made up of Red Army regulars during the European Cup Basketball Championship.

In 1977 the reigning champs and heavily favored Soviet team had not lost a game in over four years. Diplomatically, they did not recognize the State of Israel and, in fact, were supportive of Israel's avowed enemies. This latter-day David versus Goliath match played in neutral Belgium was won by the

Maccabi Tel Aviv team 91-79. It led the way for Israel to enter the European Cup finals for only the second time.

Brody was carried off the field by excited teammates. His heartfelt remarks right after that unexpected victory galvanized Israelis and Israel supporters around the world. Brody shouted, "We are on the map! And we are staying on the map – not only in sports, but in everything."

Years later Brody would help lead his team to an unbelievable five times as champions of the European Basketball Cup, reaching the finals 13 times.

For Brody, the opportunity to play basketball for Israel meant giving up an NBA career that would, no doubt, brought him much fame and wealth had he elected to stay in his native home.

Born in Trenton, NJ, Brody started to play basketball at the local Jewish Community Center on Stockton Street. The facilities were spare to say the least, he recalled. "At half court, if you took a shot, you always hit the ceiling."

He led Trenton Central High School to an undefeated 24-0 season, beating Camden in the finals in Rutgers to win the New Jersey state basketball championship and was named to the first All-State Team that year.

Despite scholarship offers from more than 40 colleges, Brody elected to attend the University of Illinois. Eventually he helped his team win the Big Ten championship and secure a number three

ranking. In 1965 Brody was named an All-American with his longtime friends Bill Bradley and Rick Barry.

Following his graduation, he was picked overall 12th in the NBA draft. The Baltimore Bullets (now the Washington Wizards) expected he would be on their roster, but Brody asked for permission to journey for the first time to Israel in August of that year to participate in his first Maccabi Games as a member of the United States delegation.

Brody and his teammates captured the gold medal that year. But for the youngster whose Judaism was always part of his makeup, to play against teams of Jews in a country intended to be a Jewish homeland was revelatory to him.

Eschewing his NBA career, Brody left to embark on a career in Israel as a member of an Israeli Maccabi team and, following the Six Day War, elected to stay on longer than his expected one-year commitment.

Brody was forever changed in his outlook towards Israel. He was named the Sportsman of the Year in Israel for 1967 and stayed in Tel Aviv until 1969, when it was time for him to begin his military service in the United States.

The Army made use of Brody's talents on the court and he was named to the United States Armed Forces All-Star Teams, eventually playing as a starting guard for the U. S. Men's National Basketball Team with NBA great Bill Walton.

Following an entreaty from Defense Minister Moshe Dayan,



Basketball legend Tal Brody, the man who put Israel on the map and gave up an NBA career. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Brody returned to Israel, but this time as an olim. He made aliyah in 1970 and enlisted in the Israel Defense Force in order to serve his commitment to the state. During his tenure for the next decade, the Maccabi Tel Aviv team won ten Israeli championships and six Israel State Cups.

Brody is a national hero, but his greatest thrill is having made Israel a legitimate contender on the world sports stage. And it brought smiles to faces of Israelis.

"Winning those five championships has picked up the country and encouraged other athletes that we can do it," he said. He credits the achievements in basketball as having inspired others to earn Olympic medals in Judo and windsurfing.

Brody was given the prestigious honor and was the youngest

recipient ever of the Israel Prize, an achievement he is still proud of today.

These days, a retired Brody works in concert with the Jewish National Fund to emphasize the importance of the Maccabi Games and to engage with the NBA during special events such as the All-Star Game last week.

As an ambassador, he frequently meets with NBA commissioner David Stern and NBA Retired Players Association CEO and former New Orleans City Councilmember-at-large Arnie Fielkow.

After his first marriage failed, Brody remarried and has been happy ever since with one child from his first marriage and two from his second.

So, the question was posed: knowing what he gave up to pass up the NBA for an Israeli career, would he have done things differently?

"If I didn't know what I went through in all those 47 years in Israel, I would stay with the NBA decision," he mused. "But knowing and experiencing what I went through all those 47 years and, of course, being married with six grandchildren, I would make the same path because it's been a beautiful ride."

The smile on Brody's face answered any lingering doubts.

*(Editor's note: The Maccabi Tel Aviv team won the Euroleague basketball championship on May 18, 2014 in Rome. It was their sixth Euroleague title.)*

## MENSCHKINS: Jewish unity

FEBRUARY 21, 2014





# THE JEWISH THROWS OF MARDI GRAS (2014/5774 SEASON)

## A Jewish Slant on Mardi Gras

Despite the designation of Mardi Gras as a Roman Catholic holiday, New Orleans Jews have long found themselves quite at home enjoying the festivities associated with this unique celebration.

It might surprise some to learn the first King of Carnival was Louis Solomon, a successful Jewish merchant who helped bankroll the inaugural Rex parade in 1872. While no other Jewish Rex has ruled the streets of New Orleans since, Jews have been an integral part of several of the Mardi Gras krewes who organize the many parades featuring colorful floats and

festooned riders.

The founding captain of the Krewe of Mecca was retailer Irvin Zoller. When his New Orleans organization merged into the Metairie-based Knights of Sparta, Zoller became the captain emeritus. The current captain of the Knights of Sparta, whose identity is traditionally kept secret, is also Jewish.

Of all the Jewish religious institutions only Touro Synagogue is situated along major parade routes. The Reform synagogue builds a reviewing stand for members and guests to view parades, especially for the Saturday and Sunday prior to

Carnival Day.

This year's Queen of the Vista Shores assisted living facility was none other than resident Mildred Covert, the beloved Jewish cookbook author and erstwhile actress. A New Orleans City Council resolution recognizing her was read by City Councilperson Stacy Head on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at the facility amid great hoopla among the residents and guests.

Approximately 175 people showed up to see Covert and the two other members of the royal court.



Touro Synagogue ready for Carnival 2014. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Closer to home, CCJN editor Alan Smason has served several Mardi Gras krewes as their narrator and Carnival ball manuscript writer for decades. Smason also serves as narrator for several street parades at Gallier Hall where he is called upon to announce the theme and work with city officials as they welcome "krewe royalty" to the reviewing stand, which was the former New Orleans City Hall. Here he is seen with New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Hail, Queen Mildred! Mildred Covert regined as queen of Vista Shores Mardi Gras celebration. (Photo by Alan Smason)

## OTHER JEWISH GARNISHES OF CARNIVAL

### TWO JEWISH 'SUB-KREWES' PARADE ANNUALLY WITH THEIR "MOTHER KREWES"

The Krewe du Mishegas and the Krewe d' Jieux are Jewish sub-krewes that parade 17 nights prior to Fat Tuesday. These small, but very devoted sub-krewes of the Krewe du Vieux and Krewe Delusion, respectively, provide many local Jews a way to celebrate Mardi Gras at the start of the parade season.

First, the Krewe du Vieux begins their parade composed of their many sub-krewes. It travels along a traditional route that moves from the Bywater and Faubourg Marigny areas into the French Quarter. Then the Krewe Delusion commences with its sub-krewes and follows the same route.

This year in recognition of their 18th year, the Krewe du Jieux hosted the organization's first Chai

Ball. It was held a week prior to their parade. Members and invited friends paid tribute to the group's "past royalty" from the last 18 years. The event was held at the Valentino Conti House. Additionally, funds raised throughout the evening were donated to AVO-DAH: The Jewish Service Corps.

There was no cost to attend, but RSVPs were required. The food was catered by the Kosher Cajun and the spirited beverages were provided by The Bombay Club. Music was performed throughout the evening by Right Reverend Soul Revue.

### B'NAI B'RITH'S ANNUAL MARDI GRAS PARADE

The local B'nai B'rith Unit # 182 has a Mardi Gras tradition that was started 35-years ago. They assemble musicians and second liners with throws to give the patients at Touro Infirmary and the residents



B'nai Brith Revelers (Hunter Thomas Photography)

of Malta Park assisted living facility. It's a morning spent giving individuals a taste of the Mardi Gras season.

The assembling of 30 or more costumed participants begins at Touro's security station desk off Prytania Street. It takes the group about ½ hour to organize and around 10 a.m. the music starts

with the jazz musicians playing Dixieland and traditional New Orleans Mardi Gras music. The walking parade travels along the ninth, sixth and fourth floors, which houses the rehabilitation units at the hospital. Non-musicians dispense Mardi Gras beads and other throws.

"We do this to bring Mardi



Gras to those who cannot partake of it," said parade organizer, Dr. Hilton Title. The parade then travels to Malta Park, where participants play music in the dining hall during the residents' lunch hour.



## Ina Davis to be installed as NCJW national board member

MARCH 6, 2014

Ina Weber Davis, a past president of the Greater New Orleans section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), will be installed Sat. evening, March 8, as a member of the organization's national board of directors.

Davis, a longtime volunteer with the NCJW, the South Central Region of the Anti-Defamation League and Tulane's Hillel, also sits on the board of ViaLink 2-1-1. She has advocated for women's issues, promoted voter enrollment and strengthened community ties to the New Orleans Public Library and the Operation Headstart program.

Davis will serve a three-year term as a member of the board of directors, joining with other delegates at the 46th National Convention, commemorating the organization's 120-year anniversary in St. Louis, Missouri.

The convention will lay out policy and advocacy goals for the 2014-2017 term, elect



Ina Weber Davis (photo by Alan Smason)

officers, and honor national leaders making a difference on issues of concern to NCJW.

"We are fortunate to have Ina Weber Davis as a member of NCJW's new slate of officers and board directors," said NCJW President Debbie Hoffmann. "NCJW's convention reinforces our commitment to today's pressing issues – including sex trafficking and reproductive rights. I know Ina will be a strong leader for NCJW's mission of social justice for women, children, and families."

## Federation Campaign Celebration Jazzes NOCCA

MARCH 14, 2014

Amid the splendor of the Lupin Auditorium at the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA), the state's official school of the arts, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans gave itself a post-Mardi Gras celebration designed to express a job well done for campaign co-chairs Brian Katz and Susan Good.

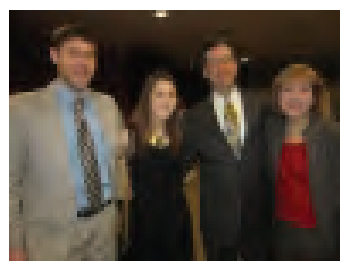
Katz's father, Morton, who happens to be the Federation president, acknowledged that even though he is president, tonight he would simply be known as "Brian Katz's father."

Following a d'var Torah from Touro Synagogue Rabbi Alexis Berk, Katz turned the podium over to his son, who introduced his co-chair. The two of them expressed thanks to the audience, many of whom were former campaign chairs or former presidents of Federation themselves.

On behalf of the Bissinger family, Nancy Bissinger Timm was called upon to recognize Kathy Shepard as the recipient of this year's Roger Bissinger Memorial Award, given annually to the top community volunteer since 2005. Shepard spoke lovingly of Bissinger's high ideals



Campaign co-chairs Brian Katz and Susan Good frame NOCCA Jazz Department chair and pianist Mike Peller with bassist Martin Masakowski at right. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Hal and Kathy Shepard Family (photo by Alan Smason)



Federation President Morton Katz (photo by Alan Smason)

and how she felt her long and hard volunteer work was never a chore, but a pleasure.

The evening was capped off by a performance of the Mike Peller Trio with Khari Lee on saxophones and Martin Masakowski on bass. Between the musical numbers, Peller recounted his trip last summer to Israel. He

participated in a music festival with Rosh HaAyin musicians that was sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Federation's partnership2gether committee. He said he was looking forward to a repeat performance of another New Orleans-Rosh HaAyin music festival this summer too.

## NJC's Rabbi Nimon opts out of contract renewal

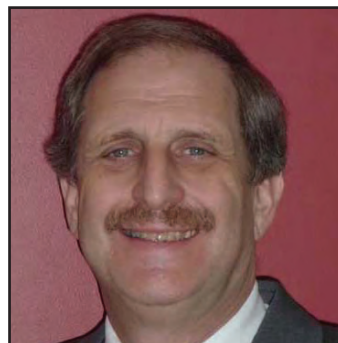
MARCH 16, 2014

Rabbi John Nimon, the spiritual leader of the Northshore Jewish Congregation (NJC), informed the Reform Jewish congregation's Board of Trustees on March 14 that he will not be seeking to renew his current contract when it expires at the end of this fiscal year.

Nimon has agreed to assist NJC during this transition period, but since most fiscal cal-

endars expire at the end of June or July and just prior to the onset of the High Holidays, it is not apparent how much assistance this will entail and how this will impact what is the only Jewish congregation on the North Shore.

According to the statement released today by NJC, the Board of Trustees is "already exploring the options available to NJC, based on our financial resources and spiritual needs." An important annual congregation meeting will be held on April 29 and the



Rabbi Nimon (courtesy of NJC)

board expects to deliver a report on its "expectations and hopes for the future."

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# TribeFest 'second lines' into New Orleans

BY MARISA KAHN AND ALAN SMASON

MARCH 18, 2014

In a city defined by its groundbreaking musical heritage, it should probably surprise no one at TribeFest that music would circumscribe and inform attendees during its first full day of activities at the New Orleans Sheraton Hotel.

TribeFest, which is a biennial convention for young Jewish professionals sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), was hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. It is estimated to have over thirteen-hundred attendees between the ages of 25 and 45 from the United States and Canada. The participants will attend various series, lectures and themed programs with over 90 world-wide speakers. Some of the topics will cover philanthropy, environmental responsibility, advocacy and other areas of interest to younger Jewish leadership.

The evening opening of the 4 day event was promoted as the largest Purim party in the South. It was complete with deejay, a massive sound system, lots of free-flowing cocktails, free Mardi Gras beads, and over 500 attendees. The energetic attendees partied for several hours in the Napoleon Ballroom of the New Orleans Sheraton Hotel.

The Sunday afternoon sessions in earnest following morning worship services for the Purim holiday and leadership training for several participating attendees. Attendees from across the United States were joined by those from Canada and as far away as Israel. They all filled the Big Show located in the Grand Ballroom with conviction, chanting on cue from where they hailed.

The local group "The Roots of Music" got the crowd of 1300 into a festive mood with traditional New Orleans street band music.

Then, the music that unifies nations ensued. First, everyone sang in unison the "Star Spangled Banner" for attendees from the U.S. Next "Oh, Canada," the national anthem of Canada was sung. Finally, in unison led by Gates of Prayer's cantorial soloist Victoria May Cohen the entire room sang "Hatikvah" together in unison.

With blaring music in the background, event organizers thanked local TribeFest co-chairs Hallie Timm and Sam Cohen as well as JNOLA chairs Austin Marks and Ashley Merlin for their hard work to make TribeFest in New Orleans a reality.

The next morning started with morning worship services for the Purim holiday which was followed by leadership training for several participating attendees. Attendees from



across the United States were joined by those from Canada and as far away as Israel. They all filled the Big Show located in the Grand Ballroom with conviction, chanting on cue from where they hailed.

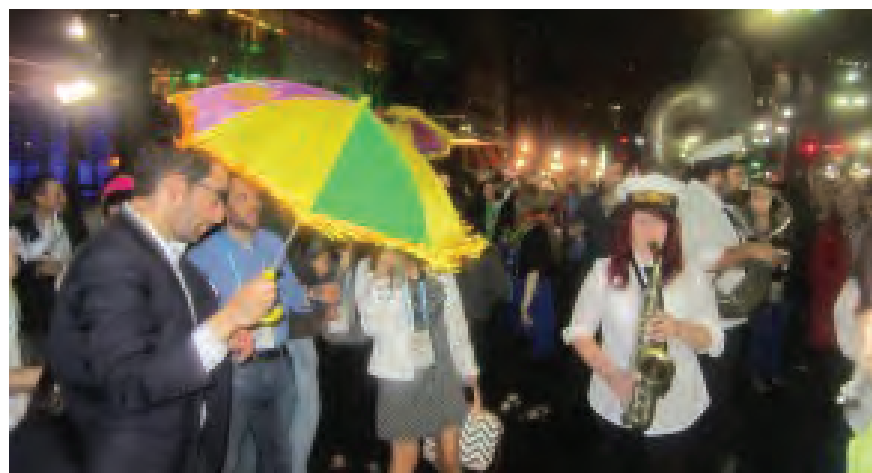
Academy Award nominated screenwriter David Weiss got attendees into a good mood talking about many of his successful films and TV productions, which include "The Smurfs," "The Smurfs 2," "Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius," "All Dogs Go to Heaven" and "The Rugrats" movies and series.

Weiss said he always puts something to show his Jewish pride in all of his films. The Pickles of "The Rugrats" were Jewish, for example. In the case of "The Smurfs," he stated there were 612 other "shades of blue." Weiss applauded the TribeFest attendees. He shared his motto to which he adheres—"We are all here for a reason." Weiss stressed, "Take one step every day, because tomorrow you can start over."

David Kline of Austin and Emma Samuels of Boston both gave different inspirational speeches to the group.

Then TV, film and stage actor Josh Malina spoke. He broke into Broadway in Aaron Sorkin's "A Few Good Men," and has scored in several Sorkin TV and film productions. He co-starred in NBC's "The West Wing" and was featured in the critically acclaimed "Sports Night." More recently, he played a role on USA Network's "In Plain Sight."

Numerous breakout sessions in various smaller rooms with a large range of different speakers represented six different tracks for participants. These included: Justice and Inclusion, Faith and Culture, Global Jewish Life, Innovation, Hot Topics and Leadership Development Institute. In some cases the same topic was presented to more than one track. Other times more than one presentation was presented for the same topic. For example, both "A Wandering Jew's 'Global Jewish Comedy Show' with comedian Noah Gardenswartz and "Strategic Crossroads:



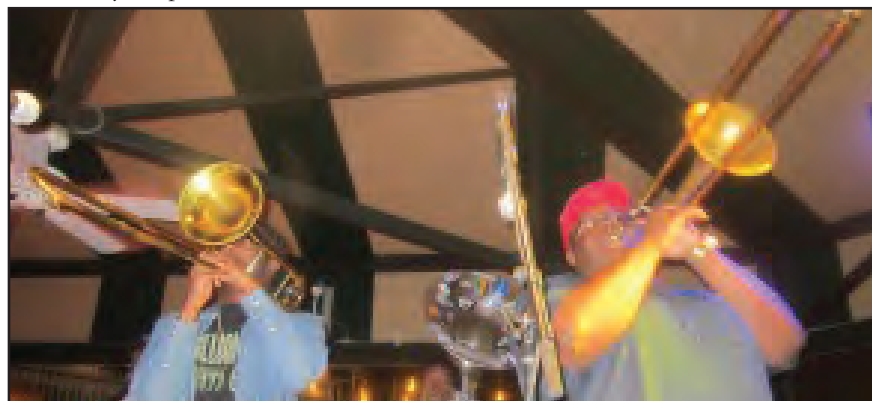
TribeFest attendees enjoyed a New Orleans "second line" to the Steamboat Natchez on Sunday night. (Photo by Alan Smason)

An interactive Defense Department Strategy Simulation" examined Global Jewish Life. One presentation was more lighthearted, while the latter had a more serious approach to the topic.

Music and partying marked the evening hours. TribeFest attendees danced a true New Orleans "second line" celebration from the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel along Canal Street and onto Decatur Street.

The large "second line" was escorted by New Orleans Police Department motorcycles, and a squad car. Several hundred TribeFest attendees literally partied in the street as the Elysian Brass Band provided traditional New Orleans songs like "Bourbon Street Parade" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" as well as ditties like "Bi Mir Bist Du Schoen" and "Silver Wedding," the klezmer wedding dance.

The party continued at the boat landing for the steamboat Natchez, where attendees were treated to cocktails and wild music from the Soul Rebels. After a short delay while other passengers disembarked, attendees boarded the boat to find an array of delicious kosher dairy and pareve desserts and coffee.



The Soul Rebels kept things moving at the Steamboat Natchez landing till midnight. (Photo by Alan Smason)

The Soul Rebels shut down at midnight, but the music in the TribeFest attendees carried them into Monday's full day of activities.

The Monday morning schedule offered six different service projects for attendees. Space was limited and all six projects had maximum participation. Then the conference offered expert lecturers on Israel, feminism, leadership roles, spirituality and religion. In the evening session the National Young Leadership Summer Trip to Israel was unveiled in great detail. It is a JFNA objective to have hundreds of Jewish young adults participating in this trip.

On the final day of TribeFest a reflective session ended the conference. Ideas were reviewed about why being Jewish is important to the attendees. Also follow through discussions emphasized that only individuals have the capacity to spark change in their own community. The participants of TribeFest were encouraged to make change happen when they return home!

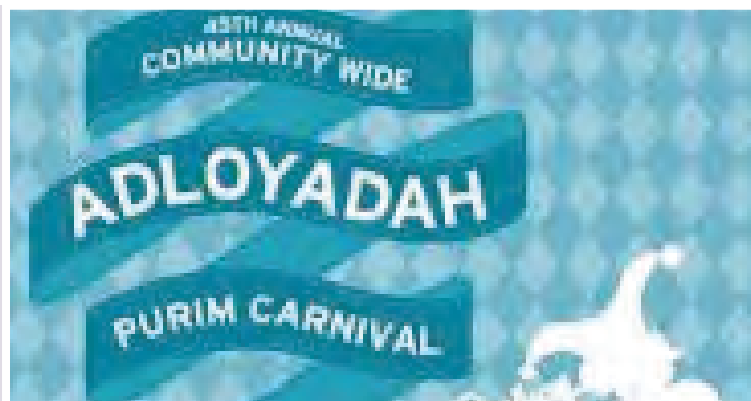


## Community Adloyadah held inside the Uptown JCC

MARCH 16, 2014

The annual Adloyadah was celebrated inside the uptown JCC facilities on Sunday with full participation by the community. The event is intended to emulate the way Israelis celebrate Purim with a full festive

atmosphere, including a number of free games and rides for the children. In addition to the fun activities there were plenty of food items available for sale by the Kosher Cajun and Casablanca and lots of nosh foods like traditional hamantaschen and New Orleans snoballs.



## Richard Stone receives Newman Alumnus Award

MARCH 20, 2014

Richard Berenson Stone, attorney, philanthropist, humanitarian, teacher and national Jewish leader, was recognized as the Isidore Newman 2014 Distinguished Alumnus of the year.

Founded in 1903, the Uptown private school recognizes one former student each year as a Distinguished Alumnus. To earn this award a Newman graduate must make significant contributions through their achievements, both professionally and in the community. It is viewed as the highest honor Newman can bestow on an alumnus.

Stone graduated in Newman's class of 1960, and matriculated to Harvard University, where he graduated magna cum laude from the undergraduate and Law School. He began his legal work in private practice before being appointed an assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States. Stone was one of a few attorneys who represented the United States at the Supreme Court level.

He co-founded Lev Pharmaceuticals and Powermat, a wireless recharging device company, and is the chairman of the board of Espro Acoustiguide, the second largest provider of hardware and other materials for acoustical museum guides.

Stone first distinguished himself as a major player in the Jewish world when he became chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry during the period of protests



2014 Isidore Newman School Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Richard Stone. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

that occurred during the Cold War. He has also chaired the policy arms of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

Stone has been a longtime resident of New York. During the tenure of Mayor Rudolf Giuliani, he served as the Mayor's Manhattan representative on the Board of the City Universities of New York.

From 2011 to 2013, Stone was the chairman of the Conference of American Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which represents more than 50 of the most influential American Jewish groups. It has been at the forefront of Jewish leaders and thinkers for decades.

He has been on the faculty of the Columbia School of Law in New York City since 1974 and currently holds the Wilbur Friedman Chair in Tax Law.

## Tulane graduate honors wife in naming new dormitory

BY MIKE STRECKER  
(COURTESY TULANE  
UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS)

Jerry Greenbaum was so in love with his college sweetheart, Barbara, he would have promised her anything — except to name a building in her honor at Tulane University, where they were both students in the early 1960s.

"Are you kidding me? I didn't think I would even be able to afford a house to live in at the time," Greenbaum said.

But now some 55 years later, thanks to his lead gift, Tulane's newest student residence hall will be named the Barbara Greenbaum House at Newcomb Lawn.

And how does his wife of more than 50 years feel about the honor?

"She fought it like crazy," Greenbaum laughed. "To this day Barbara would be very relieved if they named it something else."

But Greenbaum says the honor is long overdue. He credits Barbara with helping him grow the family's business from a six-employee liquor store in Atlanta to CentraArchy and Affiliates, which employs 2,500 and includes upscale restaurants such as Chophouse New Orleans, retail alcohol beverage outlets and industrial real estate companies throughout the Southeast.

After graduation, Barbara used her Newcomb education



Busy construction crews work to ensure the opening of Tulane's latest dormitory named for Barbara Greenbaum by her husband. (Photo by Alan Smaison)

degree to teach school before retiring to focus on raising the couple's three children. When the children left, she was able to assist Greenbaum in the various businesses — especially concentrating on the design and decor of the firm's restaurants. "She has always been my sounding board, helping me make the hard decision over my 50-plus years in business," said Greenbaum.

The Barbara Greenbaum House at Newcomb Lawn, scheduled to open in the fall at the corner of Zimple and Broadway streets, will be Tulane's third residential college. In addition

to 256 students, it will house a faculty member and his or her family who will host dinners, lectures and other activities to foster an intellectual community and faculty-student interaction.

The building's four-story and six-story sections will be connected by a courtyard and bridges at the upper stories. It will include a demonstration kitchen for cooking classes, a 35-seat classroom, a large living room, study and social lounges and a name befitting a lifelong romance.

"It's time Barbara got the recognition she deserves," Greenbaum said. "I am still so much in love with her."



# JCRS thrills crowd at Boeing Pavilion with Broadway show

MARCH 22, 2014

BY ALAN SMASON

What could be more Jewish than a celebration with Broadway music as its theme? In an homage to the Great White Way titled “Jewish Roots of Broadway: A Musical Night from Gershwin to Godspell,” the Jewish Regional Children’s Service (JCRS) put on its largest gala ever Saturday night, celebrating the service of the Scharff and Tolmas families with a crowd of just under 500 at the Boeing Freedom Pavilion of the National World War II Museum.

With vintage World War II fighter planes suspended above its huge atrium and giant TV screens and a huge sound system blaring, JCRS presented an extended program in which the accomplishments of noteworthy Jewish composers and lyricists were acknowledged including Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Kurt Weill, Jerry Adler, Jerry Herman, Jerry Bock, Julie Styne, Sheldon Harnick, Cy Coleman, John Kander, Fred Ebb, Leonard Bernstein, Charles Strouse, Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Marvin Hamlisch, Mel Brooks, Stephen Sondheim and Stephen Schwartz.

Harry Mayronne played piano and served as music director while vocalists Chris Wecklein, Darcy Malone and Amy Alvarez sang



Lee Scharff accepts his family’s award from JCRS president Leon Rittenberg, III. (Photo by Alan Smason)

selections to the accompanying music of violinist Dr. Sick, bassist Mark Brooks and most recent JCRS president Bruce Miller on drums. Hank Greenwald served as narrator, while WVUE-TV’s Bruce Katz was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Earlier in the evening, attendees gathered for a cocktail reception outside the newest addition to the National World War II Museum’s complex of buildings. Once ushered inside, long buffet serving lines snaked around the interior of the Boeing Freedom Pavilion as hungry guests availed themselves of food catered by John Besh of the American Sector Restaurant associated with the museum.

Following the meal, Katz invited JCRS president Leon Rittenberg, III to welcome the crowd and thank them for all the work they make possible through donations and support.

Katz then called executive director Ned Goldberg to the po-

dium to make the first of several separate presentations of specially designed awards by noted artist Gary Rosenthal to members of the Scharff and Tolmas families. Lee Scharff accepted on behalf of his wife Susan and his parents Dan and Florence. Sons Erik and David were also in attendance.

Goldberg next presented Dr. Jeanie Tolmas one of several Rosenthal-designed awards to members of her family, which included her parents Dr. Hyman Tolmas and wife Connie as well as her brother Alan and his wife Gina. Daughters of Alan and Gina Tolmas – Sheina and Cara – were also at tableside.

Colorful reproductions of “Playbill” magazine culled from Broadway shows decorated each table, while an extensive program listed the accomplishments of Jewish Broadway performers like Sophie Tucker, Zero Mostel, Danny Kaye, Al Jolson and Barbra Streisand. Notes inside the



Dr. Jeanie Tolmas accepts her family’s award from JCRS president Leon Rittenberg, III. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Music director Harry Mayronne, left, singers Chris Wecklein, Darcy Malone and Amy Alvarez are seen with musicians and narrator Hank Greenwald at the JCRS’s Jewish Roots of Broadway” gala. (Photo by Alan Smason)

program were written by local playwright Jon Broder, who wrote the script for the performances and helped determine with Mayronne what selections would be heard during the show.

Extensive information on all of the JCRS programs, which include providing funds to deserving students for college tuition,

the administration of the PJ Library program, the wrapping of Chanukah gifts for needy children across the region, summer camp scholarships and assistance for Jewish youth with special needs were also acknowledged in the program and on the large TV screens throughout the night.

## Review: ‘The Story of the Jews’ a must for Jewish libraries

MARCH 13, 2014

BY ALAN SMASON

THE STORY OF THE JEWS – By David J. Goldberg. Andre Deutche Books. Design by Carlton Books Limited. 2014. 100 p. not including inserts. \$49.95

Jewish educators have long had a problem in connecting students to the history of the Jewish people via important documents. That is, until now.

With the new release of “The Story of the Jews” by British author Rabbi David J. Goldberg, students and teachers alike can read about the his-

tory of the Jewish people from earliest recorded times to the progress of the modern State of Israel. That is much like many other books of scholarly weight which been issued previously. But Goldberg’s impressive book packs a powerful punch in just 100 pages and the reasons are apparent at first glance when the case which holds and protects it is removed.

Included in the chapters are replicas of 15 rare, historic documents, examples of which include pages from the Vienna Genesis, which is the oldest illustrated biblical codex; a handwritten 12th Century responsum from Moses Maimonides from the

Cairo Genizah; an example of a 17th Century ketubah from the Netherlands; a decree by Napoleon issued in 1808 restricting the rights of Jews in France; an abstract from Theodor Herzl on Zionism written only days before the opening of the First Zionist Congress; a portion of a manuscript from Sholom Aleichem’s drama titled “Teveye the Milkman,” from which sprang the musical “Fiddler on the Roof”; a manuscript from Albert Einstein’s special theory on relativity; and David Ben-Gurion’s speech in Hebrew declaring the independence of the State of Israel in 1948.

A protective outer sleeve and

several of the rare replicas showing for “The Story of the Jews.”

Each of these documents is found in four sleeves strategically placed throughout the book that give the reader a never before imagined view into the past. Thoughtfully designed to bring the reader into an immersive experience, the documents would, under normal circumstances, only be available to museum attendees or scholarly researchers. Each of these special replicas is completely removable and for Goldberg to have assembled them, received permission to showcase them and ultimately published them in this beautifully illustrated work is nothing

short of a mitzvah.

“The Story of the Jews” is an absolute must for every Jewish library and should win many awards for Goldberg’s accurate research and painstaking attention to detail. The vibrant colors of the pictures and artwork draw the reader into each of the book’s breathtaking 24 chapters with superb graphic design to enhance the experience.

Looking to complete your Jewish library or considering a gift for a young scholar? This work may well be just the ticket.



# Rabbi Hoffman examines the familial relationship of Judaism, Christianity

MARCH 25, 2014

BY KAREN LOZINSKI,  
SPECIAL TO THE CCJN

Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, considered by many as one of the foremost Jewish thinkers from the Reform world, has a clever scientific nomenclature by which he describes the close, binding relationship between the Jewish and Christian faiths. Hoffman introduced these bonds recently in a lecture at Loyola University's Danna Student Center titled "Christianity and Judaism: God's Double Helix."

In his own double helix – both visceral and erudite – Hoffman sees the two religions as siblings, formed together in the womb, and coming into the world at a critical time, when Jews were reinterpreting biblical scripture and Christians were telling the first stories of Jesus.

Hoffman's lecture leads one on a journey through the commonalities of the two faiths via ritual, metaphor, culture, and history, pulsing with vitality and zest.

One of his first references was to Vatican II, calling it a "remarkable time, when dialogue replaces dissertation between Judaism and Christianity."

From there, Hoffman brought attendees back to the First Century CE, asking them to look past the prevailing belief that Christianity emerged from Judaism to the truth that the two faiths – as we know them today – came into being together with the shift from biblical to rabbinic redefinition of Judaism in 70 CE and the writing of the gospels.

Since the Middle Ages, Hoffman noted, the two faiths have "swirled around each other, and not always happily," but they are the same tradition branching off the Hebrew bible.

Hoffman's winning combination of deep scholarship, affability, dynamism, and humor throughout his presentation underscored his confidence in the subject at hand. His delivery speaks to an assurance of the intelligence and receptivity of his audience, thus giving the lecture an ease of learning. Combined with Hoffman's profound sagacity, passion for his subject matter and a positive worldview overall, this intellectual experience possessed a high level of intrigue and fun.

Anecdotally, he spoke about a class he taught at a Jewish summer camp for advanced children and an experience with a young girl who proved to be a listless student more interested in tennis than in religious tenets.

When Hoffman presented the story of the Last Supper to the children, and told them Jesus' words, as he referred to himself as the bread, the young girl huffed and expressed how she thought that proclamation was "dumb." Her reaction provided Hoffman with a springboard to answer questions existing between the faiths. In this way he hoped to find a better way to



Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman speaks to a Loyola University crowd attended by members of the Jewish community of New Orleans on March 24. (Photo by Karen Lozinski)

explain Christianity to Jews.

From that point he turned to bread, both in his scholarly life and in his lecture.

He spoke of the eating of the afikoman, the piece of matzoh consumed as dessert at the end of a Passover Seder. Hoffman spoke of the rigid strictures governing its consumption during the meal, citing Judaism's rhetoric of law versus Christianity's rhetoric of theology.

After the destruction of the Second Temple and the shift to rabbinical Judaism, the bread became the equivalent of the Passover offering, in place of the paschal lamb. Jesus referred to himself in these terms, Hoffman explained, as the sacrificial lamb, with the bread as metaphor—a clever means of communicating with the Apostles, who were already engrained with the rites and rituals Jesus was referencing.

Hoffman illustrated the transformation of the symbolism of bread as salvation taking place far before the Last Supper. He traced it back to Genesis and the Garden of Eden, mentioning the bread tree as "the best tree from which to eat."

Once cast out of Eden, the hardship of bread making was foisted upon the people, an arduous task many of us take for granted today, given the vast selection and wide availability of bread. Hoffman then explained that for rabbis, the distinguishing sign of paradise is the bread tree, and that these three representations are seen by Jewish theology as three eras: perfection in Eden, followed by the historical age in which people toil at bread making (in which we now exist), and the promise of redemption. Bread is the symbol of that redemption.

In an exclusive CCJN interview, Hoffman said he was delighted to spend time in New Orleans and become more acquainted with the diversity of the city outside the "glitz of the Quarter."

Though his visit may have been brief – he spent Shabbat at Gates of Prayer Synagogue in Metairie – Hoffman was able to view several neighborhoods, now recovered from the flooding associated with Hurricane Katrina. He acknowledged that the changes he saw and

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the rebuilding process was an "enormously spiritual experience" for him. "(I am) filled with gratitude for the human spirit and humbled by the city and what it has managed to do," he expressed.

Asked why people are drawn towards literal interpretation of religious texts, and if can they be encouraged to transcend this inclination, Hoffman replied that biblical literalists really aren't what they believe they are—they are selective literalists, he said, with a purpose-driven selectivity. This is, itself, an interpretation, he proffered

Hoffman's lecture also touched on topics such as the similarities between "The Lord's Prayer," found in the Christian canon, and the Kaddish, one of the most powerful prayers chanted by observant Jews.

He touched on the rabbinical practice of "table-ship," during which a meal was eaten followed by ideally meaningful discussion. This he claimed is taken from pagan gorges and the philosophical debates that accompanied them. Hoffman spoke about Jesus' proclamation that the apostles "Do this in memory of me," not as a literal command, but as to how the Talmud addresses the human boundaries of memory set against time and experience. Hoffman related that the phrase indicates the Hebrew interpretation of the term "pointer," that Jesus was relating to his followers that he was their salvation.

Another salient point made by Hoffman was that Jesus' use of bread as a metaphor is an egalitarian gesture—his followers also became

the lamb, and "owned" it in this process, a reference to the collective ownership of the paschal lamb by multiple families without great means in pre-70 CE.

Ordained as a rabbi in 1969, Hoffman received his Ph.D. in 1973, and has taught regularly since then at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), in New York City. He additionally directed the HUC-JIR School of Sacred Music from 1984-1987.

Hoffman was named the first Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual in 2003. He teaches classes in liturgy, ritual, spirituality, theology and synagogue leadership. For almost 40 years, he has combined research, teaching, and a passion for the spiritual renewal of North American Judaism. He is credited with either writing or editing over 40 books.

The free lecture was sponsored by Loyola University's department of Religious Studies in conjunction with and recognition of the Centennial Celebration of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, and with gifts from The Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana, Lester and Beverly Wainer, The Luther and Zita Templeman Foundation, The Goldring Family Foundation, and the The Woldenberg Foundation.



# Tony Kushner talks about 'Lincoln' screenplay at NOMA

MARCH 28, 2014

BY ALAN SMASON

Tony Kushner has always felt the influence of Abraham Lincoln, even as a youth growing up in Lake Charles a century after his death, he admitted to a packed audience gathered at the New Orleans Museum of Art this past Wednesday evening.

Kushner, who identifies as an American writer, a Jewish writer and a gay writer, said he first perceived an enormous admiration that his father, the conductor of the Lake Charles and Lafayette symphony orchestras, had harbored for the assassinated 16th President of the United States. Later, he, too, was drawn to this bold and impressive leader.

Kushner appeared in the NOMA auditorium to help promote the museum's latest exhibit titled "Photography and the American Civil War." Rare photographs and daguerreotypes are featured in the exhibit that runs till May 4.

As screenwriter for the Stephen Spielberg directed film "Lincoln," Kushner

devoted six years working on the manuscript, starting with a 500 page tome that covered four months of the president's life. That draft was eventually discarded when Spielberg decided to concentrate, instead, on the passage of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, better known as the Emancipation Proclamation.

Kushner talked about the momentariness and permanence of his writing. "I think that writing is an attempt to resurrect the dead," he said. "That's what all art is and it always fails. It is an attempt to go to where the rational sciences cannot go."

Kushner, who is a Tony Award winner for his 1993 play "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," was selected by Spielberg to shape the manuscript for the film that starred Daniel Day-Lewis in the title role following his critically acclaimed script for "Munich," also directed by Spielberg. For his portrayal of Lincoln, Day-Lewis captured the Academy Award as Best Actor two years ago.

Kushner said he eventually tried to write inside Lincoln's head. "I used some of Lincoln's words, but most of the dialogue was me," he admitted. "I felt I



Award winning playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner at the New Orleans Museum of Art on Wednesday. (Photo by Alan Smason)

would have to write the words if I was going to write the character."

Day-Lewis's uncanny resemblance to Lincoln was the reason both Spielberg and Kushner kept pushing for him – and only him – to play the role.

"Go look in the mirror," Kushner remembered telling the actor when he was still mulling over the role. "God is trying to tell you something."

Kushner also credited historian Doris Kearns Goodwin with providing him with plenty of historical facts about Lincoln and the Civil War era. He himself read several volumes on the era and Lincoln in particular to steep himself in his persona.

"He was a manipulator," Kushner proffered in his evaluation of Lincoln. "He played people and not for malicious reasons."

Kushner said he felt Lincoln's decisions were usually very wise, but that he made one big mistake in dumping his first term vice-president in favor of Andrew Johnson in his run for a second term.

Kushner also felt Lincoln was a brilliant wordsmith and incredible speechwriter, pointing to the speech in the film that was central to the passage of the 13th Amendment. "He had a sense about the right word at the right moment having a tremendous effect," he reflected.

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# LIMMUD NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 7 – 9, 2014

The Jewish learning conference concentrated on nine different tracks of interest including Arts and Culture, Contemporary Jewish Life, Family, History, Israel, Social Justice, Southern Jewish Life, Spirituality and Text and Thought.

Limmudfest New Orleans began on Shabbat at Congregation Temple Sinai with an historic gathering of six separate Reform, Conservative and Orthodox congregations under one roof. A unified Reform worship service was held in the main sanctuary with Touro Synagogue Rabbi Alexis Berk and Gates of Prayer Rabbi Robert Loewy joined Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn on the bimah. Rabbi Ethan Linden conducted a Conservative service in the Temple Sinai chapel, while a smaller group of Orthodox worshippers prayed in the Youth Lounge led by incoming Beth Israel Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg.

Strictly kosher meals prepared by Andy Adelman were served under the supervision of Rabbi David Polsky of Congregation Anshe Sfard through his association with the Louisiana Kashrut Committee.

Following Friday night dinner, a short program titled a “Shabbat Tisch” was held and Clive Law-

ton, one of the founders of the Limmud movement from London, remarked that the word “tisch” means table and was derived from very observant gatherings centered around a table. “This is the first tisch without a table,” he remarked to the crowd gathered in the Temple Sinai Chapel.

Immediately after morning worship on Saturday, a Kiddush luncheon was served in the main auditorium. Sessions met between the meals. A Seudah Shlishit (light supper) was held at 6:00 p.m. prior to a joint Havdalah service in the main sanctuary.

Evening performances were by violinist and violist Ruth Navarre, who played several klezmer tunes, and by storyteller Noa Baum, who presented her work “A Land Twice Promised” in which she related her friendship with an Arab Palestinian in Davis, CA. Both she and her friend were born in Jerusalem with different perspectives on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

At the same time that Noa’s work was being presented, a film “God in a Box” was being shown in the main auditorium.

On Sunday a full slate of sessions were held at the Lavin-Bernick Center (University Center) at Tulane University.



Barry Ivker conducts dance instruction.



Reform Rabbis Alex Berk, Ed Paul Cohn and Robert Loewy at Friday night worship services for Limmudfest New Orleans, (Photo by Clifford Kern)



Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg, holding siddur, conducts Orthodox Havdalah service. (Photo by Alan Smaison)



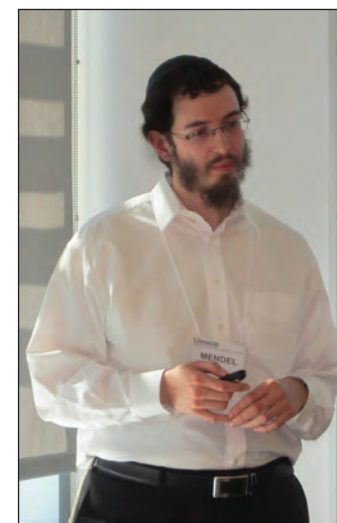
Arts and crafts (Photo by Alan Smaison)



CCJN editor Alan Smaison with Limmud founder Clive Lawton. (Photo by Alan Smaison)



“Yiddishe Shtunde” players (Photo by Donald Rees)



Rabbi Mendel Ceitlin (Photo by Alan Smaison)





## Hartwig Moss III, Insurance agency CEO rites held

January 11, 2014

HARTWIG MOSS III, an insurance broker who made a success as the founder of his own agency specializing in property and casualty insurance, died at Touro Infirmary on Saturday January 11, 2014. He was 69 years old. A lifelong resident of New Orleans, Moss was a graduate of Isidore Newman School and matriculated from Yale University. He served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged as a lieutenant.

At the time of his death, Moss was the CEO and chairman of the board of Hartwig Moss Insurance Agency on Canal Street.

He is survived by his wife Nancy Robinson Moss; daughters Stefanie Moss Baker (Josh) of San Francisco, CA. and Marcie Moss Gelfand (Dean) of Santa Monica, CA.; son Hartwig Moss IV (Robby and wife Leigh); sister Ann Moss Zenowich of Sagle, ID. and four grandchildren.

A memorial service took place in the main sanctuary of Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Ave., on Wed., Jan. 15, 2014 at

1:00 p.m. Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated.

Arrangements were made through Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home.

## Mary Byer Liswood, oldest Temple Sinai member, dies in TX at 105

January 13, 2014

MARY BYER LISWOOD, who was the oldest member of Temple Sinai, succumbed on January 13, 2014 at the age of 105 in Katy, Texas, surrounded by her loved ones.

She was a teacher for all of her professional life and was credited with giving unselfishly as she guided her students towards ethical and moral lives.

Liswood was predeceased by her husband of many years, Sidney Liswood. She is survived by daughters, Keren Ann Liswood and Judy Stokes (Chuck) and three grandsons.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, January 16th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Pelopidas at Frenchmen St., with Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn officiating.

Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

## Peter Rothstein, 62, passes away and is buried in NJ

January 20, 2014

Temple Sinai released news that its member Peter Rothstein had passed away on January 20, 2014. He was 62. No further details were available.

Rothstein was survived by his wife of many years, Carole Haber, his son Noah and his daughter Emma Rothstein as well as a brother, Ken Rothstein.

Funeral services were held on January 24, 2014 at Gutterman and Musicant Jewish Funeral Directors in Hackensack, N.J. Interment followed at Cedar Park Cemetery in Emerson, N.J.

## Peggy Cohen Bennett, Medical Technician and mother dies in Dallas

January 21, 2014

PEGGY COHEN BENNETT, a medical technician who spent most of her lifetime raising a family in New Orleans, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 in Dallas. She was 84.

Bennett was a native and longtime resi-

dent of New Orleans, who attended Isidore Newman School and graduated from Loyola University with a Medical Technician degree.

Bennett proved to be active in the Jewish community, both as a member of Touro Synagogue and of the National Council of Jewish Women. She was noted for her love of family and was an able baker. She and her family enjoyed watching the Saints whenever they played.

Bennett is survived by two daughters, Ann Krueger of North Caldwell, NJ and Janet Jacobs of Dallas as well as son Stephen Bennett of Fort Worth, TX and two grandsons.

Graveside Services were held at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No.3, 2003 Pelopidas St.(at Frenchmen Street), on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. A shiva followed at the home of Lance and Karen Turkish in Metairie.

Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



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## **Mildred Hyman Gitter, Community Volunteer in Atlanta & N.O.**

January 27, 2014

MILDRED HYMAN (GITTER), a native New Orleanian, who was a dedicated community volunteer and homemaker both here and in her adopted home of Atlanta, died peacefully on January 27, 2014.

While still living in New Orleans, she became a life member of Hadassah and a member of Tikvat Shalom, now Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation. She was a member of Brandeis Women and took many trips to Israel. She chaired the Jewish Welfare Fund Campaign in 1978, was president of the Women of Federation in 1981, and was commended by the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, now the Jewish Federations of North America.

Following her move to Atlanta, she was honored with the Gerald H. Cohen Award, an annual award presented to newcomers to Atlanta who have distinguished themselves as promoters of Federation during the previous seven years. She was a member of The Temple in Atlanta.

Survivors are Linda Gitter Gerstley (Jim), Gregory Gitter (Laura), Dr. Richard Gitter, and Douglas Gitter (Cathy); 11 grandchildren and sisters Ethel Schnitt, Marian Jacobson, Dorothy Lobel (Bernard), and Sylvia Senter.

Funeral services were held on Friday, January 31, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Metairie chapel of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. at 43rd Street. Rabbi Robert Loewy officiated. Visitation began at 12:30 p.m. and interment followed immediately in Gates of Prayer Cemetery on Canal Street.

## **Honore Schill Fox, Homemaker and Mother Dies**

February 6, 2014

HONORE SCHILL FOX died at her New Orleans residence late on Thursday, February 6, 2014. A homemaker and mother, she was the widow of the late Albert Fox.

Fox is survived by children Barry (Susan), Marcie Goldberg (Myron) and Ellie Wetsman (Howard), six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, Frenchmen at Pelopidas St. Rabbi Robert Loewy officiated.

Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

## **Engineer Kenneth Cheskin rites on Feb. 14**

February 15, 2014

KENNETH H. CHESKIN, a former engineer for the Boeing Company and Erichson Company, Inc., died on Saturday, February

15 in Metairie. He was 78.

A native of Newark, NJ, Cheskin was a graduate of Seton Hall University and served in the U.S. Army and the U. S. Army Reserves for many years.

Cheskin is survived by his wife of many years, Lynn Oppenheim Cheskin and sons Barry K. Cheskin and Bryan Cheskin (Monique) and one grandchild.

Graveside services were held Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. III, 2100 Pelopidas at Frenchmen St. Rabbi Yossi Nemes officiated.

Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

## **Harry Freiberg, Investor and Financial Planner dies at 97**

February 21, 2014

HARRY A. FREIBERG, an investor and financial planner, passed away peacefully at his home on Fri., February 21. He was 97 years old.

Although he was a long time resident of the city, Freiberg was born in Cincinnati. As a student Freiberg attended Harvard University before moving to New Orleans during the Great Depression. At first he worked in the family lumber business. Eventually, though, Freiberg retired to enjoy life as a private investor.

Through his many years here, he grew to love his adopted home. He was involved in the earlier days of the Community Chest, which later became the United Way. Freiberg was also active with the Boys and Girls Club of New Orleans. He was noted for his interest and expertise in saltwater tropical fish.

An avid gardener, Freiberg's Bayou St. John home was especially noted for its fine gardens and landscaping. He was a noted and successful orchid grower and when he moved to an apartment later in life, he donated his collection of prized orchids along with other rare plants to the New Orleans Botanical Gardens at City Park.

Freiberg was predeceased by wives Edna Bottolfson Freiberg and Peggy Loeb Freiberg and his long-time companion Lillian P. Smith as well as his daughter Jill Freiberg Kemp.

He is survived by his son, Harry A. Freiberg III of Brookings, Oregon and his sister-in-law Norma L. Freiberg and several nephews.

Private graveside services officiated by Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn of Temple Sinai took place at Metairie Cemetery on Monday February 24, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## **Tess Levy Schornstein, Former Social Worker**

February 23, 2014

TESS LEVY SCHORNSTEIN, a former social worker, who spent much of her professional life working at Charity Hospital, died on Sunday, February 23 at the St. James Place retirement community in Baton Rouge. Schornstein, a native New Orleanian and longtime resident had moved permanently in Baton Rouge following Hurricane Katrina.

Schornstein graduated from Isidore Newman School in 1942 before earning a bachelor's degree from Sophie Newcomb College and receiving a masters degree in social work from Tulane University. Early in her career, she was employed by the Social Services Division at Charity Hospital. She was married to Moise Schornstein, Jr., from 1962 until the time of his death in 2004.

Schornstein was a lifetime member of Temple Sinai in New Orleans.

She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Byron and Carol Levy, a stepson, Michael Schornstein, and a granddaughter.

Graveside services were held Thursday, February 27 at 11:00 a.m. in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. III, 2100 Pelopidas St. at Frenchmen Street. Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn officiated. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## **Former N.O. CFO Kurt Steiner dies, burial in Austin**

March 25, 2014

Kurt David Steiner, who fled Nazi Germany at the age of 10 and served as the chief financial officer of the City of New Orleans during the Sidney Barthelemy administration, died on March 25. He was 82.

A certified public accountant, Steiner was also the managing partner of the New Orleans office of Grant Thornton, one of the largest of accounting firms in the nation.

Born in Kitzingen, Germany on April 9, 1931, Steiner was only seven years old when his father was arrested on Kristallnacht and incarcerated at Dachau concentration camp for nine months. Following his father's release, Steiner fled the country with his mother, arriving in America in 1941. His father eventually joined his family in Cincinnati, Ohio. Most of the other members of their extended family did not survive the Holocaust.

Growing up in Cincinnati, Steiner graduated from the University of Cincinnati and began his work as a certified public accountant. He met and married his wife of 56 years, Joyce Skolnek, while working as a linen salesman. Eventually, they moved to New Orleans and enjoyed their adopted city for most of the remainder of their lives.

Known for his quick wit, Steiner thrived in the climate of politics and was the city

CFO from 1986-1989. He enjoyed playing tennis and was a constant player at the Hilton Hotel Riverside. He also was an avid yachtsman, often seen boating on Lake Pontchartrain.

Even though their Lake Terrace home was unscathed by storm or floodwaters associated with Hurricane Katrina, the Steiners did not want to live in fear of another brutal storm. They sold their home and opted to move to Austin, Texas.

Steiner was a longtime member of Congregation Beth Israel in New Orleans and, more recently, became associated with Agudis Achim in Austin. He served as a board member of Touro Infirmary and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

Pre-deceased by his wife, Steiner is survived by his son, Dr. Rodney Bruce Steiner (Jane), and daughter, Marci Steiner Dell of Austin, and eight grandchildren.

Steiner was buried in an adjacent plot with his wife in Austin. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

## **Bennie Koretzky, hardware merchant, retailer dies at 96**

March 26, 2014

BENNIE KORETZKY, a native New Orleanian who was both a hardware merchant and a retailer specializing in ceramics, died Wednesday, March 26, at East Jefferson General Hospital. He was 96.

For many years, Koretzky and his wife Ninnette (née Deiches) ran Bennie's Hardware in the Carrollton area and Ninnette's Ceramic Cottage on Metairie Road.

A World War II veteran, Koretzky served in the U. S. Army Air Corps and was stationed in India for the duration of the war. Following his return to the city, he opened up his hardware business. He was a past president of the Hardware Club. Among his many pursuits, he enjoyed traveling on the road in his recreation vehicles. After he retired, he would often travel as a fan in his RV to cheer LSU and the Saints on to victory.

Six years ago, Koretzky was honored by Jefferson Parish on the occasion of his 90th birthday, with the designation of September 22, 2007 as "Bennie Koretzky Day in Jefferson Parish."

He was pre-deceased by his wife and his son, David Koretzky. Survivors include his son, I. Harold Koretzky (Julie) and daughter-in-law Cheryl Penner Koretzky, a grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

Relatives and friends attended the graveside services at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28 at Ahavas Shalom Cemetery, 4400 Elysian Fields. Rabbi David Polsky officiated. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.





## **Nettie ‘Nat’ Forman, 87, rites held**

March 29, 2014

Nettie ‘Nat’ Regenbogen Forman, a housewife, mother and New Orleans native, died Saturday, March 29 at the Westchester Gardens Rehabilitation and Care Center in Clearwater, FL. She was 87.

Married to the late Benjamin Forman, she is survived by her sons Ron (Sally) and Harold (Sandi), her daughter Sandra Gardner, her brother Albert Regenbogen (Gloria), six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted on April 2, at 10:30 a.m. by Temple Sinai Cantor Joel Colman at Gates of Prayer Cemetery, 1411 Joseph Street. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp was in charge of arrangements.

## **John Clemmer dies at 92, Renowned artist and teacher**

April 11, 2014

John Clemmer, an artist, teacher and longtime Tulane University professor, regarded as a mainstay of cultural life in New Orleans since the late 1930s, died Friday, April 11 in Milwaukee. He was 92.

Clemmer’s first solo exhibit in 1948 was held at the Arts and Crafts Club of New Orleans. His last public exhibition opened at LeMieux Galleries here in early January. He was widely recognized as an abstract painter, but his work was diverse and encompassed a broad range of materials and styles. Modest and self-effacing to a fault, Clemmer preferred to show many of his works in his own family home, rather than display them to the public.

He was widely traveled, but spent most of his time between his home state of Louisiana and that of his adopted second home in Sheboygan, WI. Even when he was separated from the local landscapes of Louisiana, much of his work still reflected his love of the Bayou State. He maintained a second studio in Sheboygan.

While working as a painter, Clemmer never was hemmed into a corner. He regularly painted portraits in addition to landscapes and abstract works. He maintained a significant body of three-dimensional work, many of which were substantial commissioned pieces.

Clemmer was a dedicated fan of classical music and typically spent several hours each day in his studio listening to compact discs or radio, while contemplating his work, drawing, writing or painting.

Born on a plantation near the town of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, Clemmer was steeped in the history of Louisiana and Wisconsin, from whence he father hailed. His mother’s family’s roots could be traced back to 18th Century Louisiana. When Clemmer

was seven, his family moved to New Orleans. When he was 18, he received a scholarship to enroll at the the New Orleans Art School, operated by the Arts and Crafts Club of New Orleans on Royal Street in the French Quarter.

Clemmer quickly established himself as one of the better known artists of his day, associating with other significant artists like Paul Ninas, Enrique Alferez and Xavier Gonzales.

Married to the former Marjorie Fischer in 1941, the couple lived in New Orleans prior to America’s entry in World War II. He worked for a short while at Higgins Industries in New Orleans building landing craft and PT boats and later served in the U.S. Army and the Army Air Force during the war.

Following his discharge from service, Clemmer’s relationship with his first wife ended in divorce. The couple had two children – a daughter, Trina, and a son, Erik.

He later married the former Elizabeth Scoville. They, too, divorced in 1953. In December of that same year, Clemmer married the former Dorothy Iker of Chicago, who was living in the French Quarter and attending Tulane Medical School. They had two sons, Jonathan and David.

John Clemmer’s long association with Tulane University began in 1951 when he was first hired to teach color theory, basic design and drawing to students at the School of Architecture. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and then to full professor in 1974.

Appointed chairman of the Department of Art at Tulane’s Newcomb College, Clemmer become the first recipient of the Ford and Maxine Graham Chair in Fine Art in 1981. He retired from an active teaching schedule in 1986, but remained associated with Tulane as a professor emeritus of art at Newcomb College.

Clemmer’s work was exhibited regularly throughout his career locally, nationally and internationally. In 1999 the New Orleans Museum of Art mounted a career retrospective exhibition of his work encompassing the years from 1940 to 1999.

Following their respective retirements from Tulane University, both Clemmers divided their time equally between their homes in New Orleans and Sheboygan.

Clemmer is survived by his wife, Dorothy, his daughter Trina of Abita Springs, his sons Jonathan of Danville, IL. and David of Santa Fe, NM., his sister Marie Louise Dorsey in addition to numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial in Clemmer’s honor was held at Touro Synagogue on May 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

## **Herbert Lingoni, railroad worker, bookkeeper**

April 12, 2014

HERBERT JOHN LINGONI, a retired executive with the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, who also worked as a bookkeeper at Advance Lock Company, passed away peacefully at his Metairie home on Saturday, April 12. He was 86.

Lingoni began work with the railroad in 1953 and retired in 1986 after 36 years. After his retirement, he worked and helped in the running of the locksmith service run by his son David. The business was sold in 1995, but Lingoni knew the business so well, he was asked by the new owners to stay on in his capacity as a bookkeeper. He retired from that job in September of 2013. A member of Congregation Gates of Prayer Synagogue, Lingoni was a past Gates of Prayer brotherhood president.

He also was very involved in the Masonic fraternity as a member and was elected twice as Worshipful Master of John F. Purdy Lodge (later renamed as Sam B. Dryfuse Lodge) # 396, Free & Accepted Masons. He later became a member and was the Worshipful master of Fidelity Lodge # 426, F & AM. Lingoni also served as a District Deputy Grand Master of the 18th Masonic District.

A New Orleans native, Lingoni never left the Greater New Orleans area for very long, first living in Orleans Parish before becoming a resident of Metairie in 1985. He graduated from Warren Easton High School in 1946 and served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1946 to 1949 and the Air Force Reserve until 1952.

Lingoni was married for 52 years to the late Bridget née Adler, who had immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1941 until the time of her death in 2007. The couple enjoyed dining out, visiting local casinos and traveling. Lingoni fancied bottles of Chardonnay wine and watching old TV westerns.

During his eulogy, Loewy reminded family and friends that Bridget had also died at Passover time. He elected to recall the remarks he delivered at the previous funeral to tie the couple together in death.

He is survived by his two children, son David H. Lingoni (Melissa) and daughter Deborah Lingoni Stillman (Thomas) as well as two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Gates of Prayer Synagogue, 4000 West Esplanade Ave. in Metairie on Wednesday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. Visitation began at 9:30 prior to the service, which was officiated by

Rabbi Robert Loewy. Interment in Lakelawn Metairie Cemetery followed, first with a brief Masonic funeral service, conducted by members of Sam B. Dryfuse Lodge. Loewy then officiated over the actual interment. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## **Reita Franco, mother of Alan Franco, dies in Mobile**

April 14, 2014

REITA ANNE PAPLANUS FRANCO, the 80 year-old mother of former Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans president and community leader Alan Franco, died in Mobile, AL on Monday, April 14.

Prior to moving to Mobile from Atlanta in 1976, Franco was a buyer for a department store. Once in Mobile, she embarked on a 28-year career as a successful travel agent.

A native of Winchester, TN, she attended the University of Alabama where she was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society, past president of Sigma Delta Tau sorority, and graduated with honors in 1955. Franco was a member of Springhill Avenue Temple where she was a longstanding member of the board. She also served on the boards of the Jewish Community Center and the Mobile Jewish Welfare Fund.

Preceded in death by her husband, Edward Morris Franco, she is survived by her three sons, Alan (Diane), Paul (Leslie), and Bryan Franco of Mobile; a brother, Dr. Samuel H. Paplanus, also of Mobile; and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Springhill Avenue Temple in Mobile on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. Interment followed in Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery.

## **‘Ted’ Sternberg, owner of Ted’s Frostop, dies at 85**

April 18, 2014

SAMUEL THEODORE “TED” STERNBERG, the owner of Ted’s Frostop, an initial Uptown restaurant franchise that he transformed into a fast food empire with 15 locations throughout New Orleans and elsewhere, died Friday, April 18, 2014.

A native New Orleanian, Sternberg thoroughly loved the local culture, especially Mardi Gras and jazz. Early on he embraced the National Football League and was a proud original New Orleans Saints season ticket holder.

A graduate of Isidore Newman School, Sternberg attended the University of Illinois and Tulane, and graduated from the Spartan School of Aeronautics, where he received his initial flight training. He served as a fighter pilot during the Korean War and was stationed in Japan. Upon his return to New Or-



leans, he became involved with the Frostop Drive-In restaurant franchise with its iconic frosty root beer glass mug and "Lotta-Burger." The Frostop franchises were identified by large replicas of the root beer mug that stood high above each location.

Sternberg's franchise ownerships spread throughout the Greater New Orleans area and spread as far as way as Little Rock, AK. for more than 50 years. He was a long time member of the Louisiana Restaurant Association and had only recently retired from an active role in the business.

Sternberg was a charter member of the Krewe of Bacchus and served as a float lieutenant for many years. He was a lover of traditional jazz and a member of the New Orleans Jazz Club. An avid fisherman, he supported the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana.

Sternberg most loved his family and passed on his love for New Orleans to them, promoting the 1984 World's Fair, the Jazz and Heritage Festival and the French Quarter Festival throughout his life. He was a mem-

ber of Temple Sinai.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Susan; daughters Melanie S. Borek (Rich) and Gail Sternberg (Richard); four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a brother, Dr. Melville Sternberg.

Graveside Services were conducted at Hebrew Rest Cemetery III, Pelopidas and Frenchmen Streets, on Monday, April 21, at 11:00 a.m. Cantor Joel Colman officiated.

## **Dr. Isadore Brickman, surgeon and head of Charity Hospital dies at 75**

April 22, 2014

ISADORE DAVID BRICKMAN, M.D., a thoracic and general surgeon who was director of New Orleans Charity Hospital under the first Governor Edwin Edwards administration in 1972 through 1974 and spent most of his professional career on the staffs of several local hospitals and at LSU Medical School, died after a long battle with heart and kidney disease on Tuesday, April 22. He was 75.

Brickman was a native New Orleanian,

who lived to serve his patients, providing them with excellent care throughout his medical practice. In later years he converted his practice to general medicine, especially after the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

A graduate of Isidore Newman School, School, Brickman earned an undergraduate degree from Tulane University and received his medical degree from LSU Medical School. He started his training while serving as a major in the U.S. Air Force in Biloxi, Mississippi. He also was an intern at Touro Infirmary and would become a talented board certified thoracic surgeon and general surgeon. Practicing medicine and serving his patients with compassion and excellent care were central to his life, particularly those who were less fortunate.

Brickman spent much of the following decades in private practice keeping his energies devoted to his patients and to his medical students at LSU. In more recent times, he transitioned from surgery to general medicine. Even though he lost his home to flood waters associated with Hurricane Katrina

and recovered from illness in 2005, Brickman was always available to serve his patients. After a short evacuation, he returned and lived in his office while rehabbing his home, oftentimes making house calls across town to those unable to come to his office.

He is survived by his wife of many years Jean (née Brown) Brickman; sons Philip, Brian and Robert (Caroline) Brickman and three grandchildren. Brickman is also survived by a sister Beverly Brickman.

Burial on Friday, April 25 was private. A memorial service was held on Sunday, April 27, at Temple Sinai at 1:00 p.m., officiated by Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.



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## **Janet Wallfisch, Newspaper writer dies at 95** April 27, 2014

JANET KAHN WALLFISCH, a reporter for the Times-Picayune for 25 years and whose early writing dealt largely with the Jewish community, died on Sunday, April 27. She was 95.

Wallfisch's career began in the mid-1960s, when the newspaper office was still located on Lafayette Street. She was considered the Jewish society editor for many years and wrote from her home.

Later, when the newspaper set up shop in its new facility on Howard Avenue, she was advised to report to the office on a continuing basis. She wrote about ladies clubs regularly before she became known as a prominent features writer for the paper. Her work frequently appeared in the Vivant section before the name was changed to the Living section. Wallfisch conducted many feature stories in which she would conduct interviews with the leading celebrities of the day.

A native of New Orleans, she was a graduate of Eleanor McMain High School. The story of her life as a retired reporter was featured in a National Public Radio Story Corps interview broadcast nearly four years ago. Wallfisch noted her career and gave insight into her personal life, accounting for how she happened to meet her husband of 50 years, Nathan "Nat" Wallfisch during World War II. The Army Air Corps private was an accountant on leave from Monroe, visiting a friend who lived next to Wallfisch's Uptown home. According to the broadcast, the two began a courtship and he traveled from Monroe each weekend to date. The two were married in Baltimore prior to his final deployment in the South Pacific for two years.

When he returned, her husband and she moved to New York, where they lived for several years while he was an accountant for the state. She became very acquainted with the city's theaters during the day and frequented a number of Broadway performances, becoming a devotee of the theatre. The couple vowed to return to New Orleans and eventually they did, raising their family here. Wallfisch began her writing career when her children were grown.

A longtime member of Temple Sinai, Wallfisch was a president of the Sisterhood, a vice-president and member of the board of the Jewish Community Center and volunteered at Touro Infirmary. She was an active theatre supporter and served on the boards of both Gallery Circle Theatre and Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré.

She was predeceased by her husband in 1999, but is survived by two sons, Dr. Harry Wallfisch of Galveston, TX. and

Mark Charles Wallfisch; a brother, Charles Newman Kahn, Jr. of Kennebunk, ME.; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn conducted the private graveside service in Hebrew Rest Cemetery #3 (Pelopidas at Frenchmen Streets) on Monday, April 28 at 3:00 p.m. "She was a gracious, super intelligent person, who never missed the true and best of her worthy life," Cohn wrote of her.

A memorial ceremony of her life will be celebrated at Temple Sinai on a future date. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

## **Lucille Germain, accountant, laid to rest** April 28, 2014

LUCILLE GERMAIN, a self-employed accountant, wife and mother, died Saturday, April 26 at her New Orleans residence. She was 88.

She was the wife of the late Saul Germain and mother of daughter Lisa Germain (Bennet Koren), and Amy Germain and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held graveside on Monday, April 28, at 1:30 p.m. at Hebrew Rest Cemetery # 3. Rabbi Alexis Burk officiated. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

## **Dr. Ralph Lupin, physician, attorney, and philanthropist dies at 83** May 01, 2014

DR. ELLIS RALPH LUPIN, M.D., a well-known New Orleans physician, attorney, and civic leader died Thursday May 1 of cancer. He was 83.

A lifelong New Orleanian, Lupin was a true pillar of our community and his lifelong commitments will touch many of our citizens for generations to come.

Lupin earned numerous degrees of higher education throughout his lifetime. He obtained a B.S. in Pharmacy from Loyola University in 1952, then a Medical Doctorate Degree from Louisiana State University in 1956. He served as a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Touro Infirmary until 1958, when he served his tour of duty in England. He served as the chief of the OB-GYN Department at the 48th United States Air Force Hospital in Laken Heath, England. Then in his later years he went back to school and in 1988 he obtained a law degree from Loyola Law School.

When Dr. Lupin started his medical career he became a partner and founder of the Women's Medical Center across the river in Gretna, LA. He held senior positions on the staffs of Meadowcrest and West Jefferson hospitals and was an officer of the Westbank Physicians Network (WPN.) He also served as an original board member of the state commission on home health care and joined

the first Private Home Health Agency in Louisiana.

Along with his equally successful brothers, Dr. Arnold Lupin and Dr. Sam Lupin, St. Charles General Hospital in New Orleans was founded and successfully operated until its sale to the Tenet Healthcare Corp. in 1985. The brothers' financial successes lead them to form the Lupin Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation that has helped individual causes and other non-profits. Annually the foundation gives grants and donations up to 2 million dollars.

Lupin was a lifelong supporter of the arts and contributed to both performing and visual arts. He was instrumental in not only financially supporting many established institutions in the city, but he actively served on an incredible number of boards. These boards ranged from civic, historic, cultural and professional organizations and foundations. Some of these included the Vieux Carré Commission, the Louisiana State Museum Board, the Louisiana Museum Foundation, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Lupin Foundation, the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), the New Orleans Symphony, Children's Hospital of New Orleans, Jewish Family & Children's Services, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the University of New Orleans Foundation, the Audubon Institute, the National World War II Museum, the Upper Pontalba Commission, the Sophie Gumbel Guild, the New Orleans Opera Association, the New Orleans Ballet Association, the Jewish Foundation, Young Audiences, and the Bridge House.

The New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA) was also one of Ralph's commitments and he was able to help secure its future with his gift that established The Lupin Endowment for NOBA. Specifically he believed in the power of the arts. He worked vigorously to aid and establish educational programs for the children of the city.

The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) was also another cause that was dear to Lupin. He chaired the board and the performing arts theater is named for his family. One of the last major recipients to receive his generous tzedakah (charity) was the World War II Museum in New Orleans. Lupin secured the funds to underwrite the creation of the Holocaust Wing and added a major personal contribution to the Lupin foundation's donation to help ensure successful completion of the wing.

"His community service often put him in the public eye, and he had many friends in the political arena. He ran for the City Council in 1990. Although not successful in that race, he continued to serve the city in a volunteer capacity on many levels.

Current Mayor of New Orleans Mitch Landrieu affectionately described Ralph Lupin as "a great friend and one-of-a-kind person. He gave his life, his time and his treasure to improve the lives of the people of New Orleans. We will miss him."

When Hurricane Katrina ravaged his beloved city of New Orleans, Lupin refused to leave. Instead, he donned his military uniform and stepped in to serve at the Superdome during the storm and as a first responder by helping those in need — then in helping to rebuild. He received numerous honors and awards attesting to his years of public service and many private acts of kindness.

Lupin was preceded in death by his first wife, Freda Merlin Lupin, and their beloved son, Michael Jeffrey Lupin.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Pam Halter Lupin; son Dr. Jay Stephen Lupin (Judith) of Scarsdale, NY; step-daughter Shaney Woods (Robbie) of New Orleans; brothers Dr. Arnold M. Lupin (Celia) of Metairie and Dr. Samuel Lupin (Linda) of Monsey, NY; sisters Fagey L. Fischman and Reva E. Lupin (Sanford Kutner); two grandchildren and a step-granddaughter plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation began at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 2 at Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue, 3737 West Esplanade in Metairie. Funeral services officiated by Rabbi Ethan Linden began at 1:00 p.m. followed by interment in Anshe Sfard Cemetery. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

## **Catherine Foreman dies at 79** May 2, 2014

CATHERINE CLEMENTE FOREMAN, age 79, died on Friday, May 2, 2014. She was the beloved wife of Jerome H. Foreman.

Foreman was an inveterate traveler and an avid reader. She was a highly competitive and accomplished tennis player, but also enjoyed spending time tending to her garden. A gregarious and compassionate person, Foreman genuinely enjoyed her time spent with family and close friends.

She is survived by her husband, Jerome H. Foreman; son Randall K. Foreman (Elizabeth); daughters Sandra F. Katz (Geoffrey), Cassandra M. Foreman, and Jacqueline A. F. Pottinger (Austin); a brother, William Clemente of New York, NY and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services took place from the Metairie chapel of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. at 43rd Street on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. Rabbi Robert Loewy officiated. Interment followed in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Pelopidas at Frenchmen St.



## **Ruth Freedman Schwam, housewife, early famed N.O. Triplet and mother succumbs to Alzheimer's**

May 03, 2014

RUTH FREEDMAN SCHWAM, a member of Touro Synagogue, wife and mother died on May 3, 2014 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 83.

Born one of a set of very rare triplets back in May of 1930, she, her brother Ben and sister Betty, became celebrities of the day. Doctors credited their unusual survival at the time to a recently donated set of infant incubators. Their births created such a popular sensation that their birthday was celebrated annually in the pages of the Times-Picayune, New Orleans States and the New Orleans Item newspapers.

Following her graduation from Eleanor McMain School, she married her sweetheart, Stanley Schwam, 63 years ago. Together, the two began raising a family almost immediately. She was a loving mother and caregiver, supporting her husband and her children in whatever way she could. She loved staying close to home and hearth.

Friends and family members were always struck by her generous spirit and ability to be a confidante in times of stress. She was an accomplished needlepoint enthusiast and enjoyed playing Mah Jongg.

She is survived by her husband Stanley, her daughters Julie Schwam Harris (Seth) and Shira Baird-Schwam (David), her son Nathan (Danielle Nice) and five grandchildren as well as her triplet brother Ben Freedman of Morgantown, WV and various nieces and nephews.

A graveside funeral service was held at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Pelopidas Street at Frenchmen Street on Tuesday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated, assisted by Cantor Jamie Marx. Immediately following the service, friends were received at the home of Captain Seth and Julie Harris. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

## **Gulnare 'Guber' Bernstein Marks, community volunteer, dies at 91**

May 4, 2014

GULNARE 'GUBER' BERNSTEIN MARKS, a member of Touro Synagogue and an active New Orleans community volunteer, died on Sunday, May 4 at the age of 91.

A woman who exuded style and elegance, she was a tireless worker for her synagogue and charitable causes she found worthy. At Touro, she was a member of the board of directors and even found time to work with the temple youth as the Youth Group advisor. She helped organize the Tuesday Discussion Group, a book club to encourage reading and awareness among the Touro ladies.

A lifetime member of Hadassah and the New Orleans chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, Marks also served as a Den Mother during the time her sons were of Cub Scout age.

She also was a member of the local chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Predeceased by her two husbands – Gilbert Bernstein and Samuel Marks – and her older son Roger Bernstein, she is survived by her remaining son David H. Bernstein, and four grandchildren and a step-daughter Meryl M. Rosenbloom plus numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No 3, 2100 Pelopidas at Frenchman Street. Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated with assistance from Cantor Jamie Marx. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of the arrangements.

## **Jerrold Packler, Economics professor and former N.O. resident is killed**

May 5, 2014

JERROLD PACKLER, who grew up in New Orleans before embarking on a long career as a professor of economics over the course of the last four decades, was killed in a car crash on May 5, 2014. Packler, who also lived previously in Birmingham and Houston, lived in Speedwell, TN at the time of his death. He was 68.

Although he did work for a time in the private sector, Packler's foremost passion was teaching and he was never far from working with his students, whom he dearly loved. His last academic post was held at Strayer University in Knoxville, but he also previously worked at the University of Houston and Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1945, Packler moved with his parents to New Orleans and graduated from Fortier High School. He enrolled at Southern Mississippi State University and, following his earning a bachelor's degree, matriculated to the University of Alabama, where he earned both a master's degree and a doctorate degree in economics and finance.

He met his wife, Judy, when she was a student at Tulane University, working on her master's degree in social work. They married within six months of meeting in 1969 and began raising a family. Packler was a devoted family man and especially enjoyed spending as much time as possible with his grandchildren. Outside of his family, he was an avid reader, who enjoyed everything from military histories to best-selling novels.

Packler is survived by Judy, his wife of almost 45 years, his daughter Heidi (Sean)

Mueller of Atlanta, GA; a son Lt. Col. Marc (Major Deborah) Packler, United States Air Force, of San Antonio, TX; a sister Judy (Dr. Danny) Danziger of Houston, TX; four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Packler was laid to rest in a graveside service at Crest Lawn Memorial Park in Atlanta on Friday, May 9, 2014. Funeral arrangements were by Dressler's Funeral Home.

## **Richard Light, CPA, is laid to rest at 59**

May 8, 2014

RICHARD STEVEN LIGHT, a certified public accountant and native New Orleansian, died suddenly on Thursday, May 8.

Light was a graduate of Louisiana State University, where he received both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's degree in accounting. He became a certified public accountant with a private practice in Metairie. Light was a member of many different organizations.

Private graveside services were conducted by Rabbi Robert Loewy prior to Shabbat on Friday, May 9 at Jewish Burial Rites Cemetery, 4321 Frenchmen Street.

## **Donald Miller, Engineer dies at 85**

May 9, 2014

DONALD MILLER, an engineer for more than half a century in New Orleans, died on Friday, May 9, 2014. He was 85 years old.

Miller specialized in civil engineering and was called upon to work with a number of construction projects throughout his career. A veteran of the United States Army, Miller was a member of Congregation Gates of Prayer. He is survived by his wife Helen; sons Gregory (Colleen) and Jeffrey and his daughter Fayleah Evans.

Funeral services were private. Arrangements were under the direction of Jacob Schoen Funeral Home, 3827 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.



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## **Jeffrey Raymond, accountant and real estate manager**

May 23, 2014

JEFFREY KLINGER RAYMOND, an accountant and real estate manager, died on Friday, May 23, 2014, in Metairie, Louisiana, after a prolonged illness. He was 59.

Although he never married, Jeff had many friends. His greatest affection was reserved for his nephew, Robert, the pride of his life, whom he helped raise and treated as a son. Among his many hobbies, raising and photographing orchids was a source of great fascination for Jeffrey. He collected orchids from all over the world and was a member of the American Orchid Society. He was also an avid firearms collector and was a member of the National Rifle Association. In addition, he was renowned locally as founder, president and sole member of the Society of South Louisiana Satsuma Wranglers.

A native of New Orleans, Raymond was born in 1954 and graduated from Alcee Fortier High School in New Orleans. He later attended the University of New Orleans and received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from there prior to being employed by Joseph Barbe, CPA, of Chalmette, Louisiana. Years later he became a partner in a new firm, Barbe and Raymond, PC, which became Jeffrey K. Raymond, APAC, of Jefferson, Louisiana. Jeffrey was also was the primary administrator for the Raymond family's real estate holdings.

He is survived by his sister, Donna Rose Raymond of Metairie and a nephew, Robert Max Raymond, also of Metairie.

Graveside funeral services were held Monday afternoon, May 26, at 2:00 p.m., at Chevra Thilim Cemetery, 4824 Canal Street. Rabbi Robert Loewy officiated.

Funeral arrangements were by Sharp Sontheimer Sharp, 1600 North Causeway

Blvd, Metairie, Louisiana 7001.

## **Courtney Giarrusso, 33, dies; overcame lifelong disability**

May 27, 2014

COURTNEY ELIZABETH GIARRUSSO, who overcame difficulties as a spina bifida patient since birth and went on to earn her master's degree in mental health counseling two years ago, passed away on Tuesday, May 27, 2014. She was 33.

Giarrusso graduated from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in 2012, shortly before her father, attorney and former Magistrate Judge Joseph Giarrusso, died. However, both he and his wife, Orleans Parish Civil District Judge Robin Giarrusso, got to see their daughter's hard work and determination pay off when she received her diploma in a wheelchair. Her test scores were noted as among the highest in the school and, in the face of tremendous hardships, she still managed to display an unexpected, upbeat spirit throughout her academic career.

Paralyzed from the shoulders down, Giarrusso was aided in her studies by the use of a number of computer programs including voice-assisted commands for a mouse and keyboard.

Spina bifida, a congenital deformity of the spinal cord, has three different levels of involvement. Giarrusso was diagnosed with myelomeningocele spina bifida, which is the most severe and debilitating. Giarrusso underwent several surgeries throughout her life to correct problems, but was still unable to sit up for more than a few hours at a time. She was confined to a bed for much of her life and assisted by her devoted parents, who always supported her efforts to help other people. Her decision to become a mental health counselor was born from that desire.

Giarrusso, who attended Edna Karr Magnet School on the West Bank, lived

with her parents in a spacious home in the tony Lakewood South subdivision prior to Hurricane Katrina's landfall and the eventual breach of the 17th Street Canal. The family evacuated to the Fairmont (now Roosevelt) Hotel for safety prior to the storm's landfall, but had to be rescued after the flooding had occurred by a high police official from a neighboring parish, according to Giarrusso's own account. During the rescue, she suffered a broken arm in a fall and required treatment in a Baton Rouge hospital for two weeks also due to severe dehydration and bedsores. Despite her relocation during the recovery period in Baton Rouge and later in Algiers, where the family purchased a new home, she continued her studies online and attended classes at nighttime. She became a graduate of the University of New Orleans with a bachelor's degree in general studies in May of 2007.

She is survived by her mother Judge Giarrusso and her brother Joseph (Cassie) Giarrusso, III.

The funeral was conducted on Friday, May 30 in the Temple Sinai sanctuary at 6227 St. Charles Avenue. Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn officiated, assisted by Cantor Joel Colman. Burial followed immediately in Metairie Cemetery. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home was in charge of funeral arrangements.

## **Dr. Saul Silverman, optometrist, dies at 86**

June 01, 2014

SAUL SILVERMAN, an optometrist who worked both in New Orleans and Bogalusa for 65 years, died on Sunday, June 1, 2014, a mere two years since his second retirement. He was 86.

Dr. Silverman retired from his earlier private practice nearly a quarter of a century ago, but elected to begin work with America's Best Contacts and Eyeglasses and retired

for the second time when he was 84.

A native of New Orleans, Silverman graduated with honors from Alcee Fortier High School. He studied a pre-medicine curricula for two years at Tulane University, before enrolling at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN.

Although he graduated in 1947 and passed his state boards at the early age of 19, Silverman was not permitted by state law to practice optometry until he turned 21. He interned at a Canal Street practice under Dr. Samuel B. Fellman and eventually joined Fellman's practice.

Additionally, Dr. Silverman served two years in the United States Army, which included tours of duty at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C., and in Pusan, Korea.

In 1961, Dr. Silverman began a practice in Bogalusa, which he maintained for twenty years.

Returning to New Orleans, he began another 20-year career with America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses.

In 1949 Dr. Silverman married the former Myra Fellman. She was the daughter of the optometrist with whom he worked. They were happily married and devoted to each other for 52 years until her death in 2001.

Known as an impeccable dresser, Silverman loved to travel and to dine at fine eating establishments in New Orleans restaurants.

A member of Temple Sinai, Silverman is survived by his daughters Sue Silverman Singer (Harold) and Alicia "Lisa" Silverman; his son David M. Silverman; two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Pelopidas Street (at Frenchmen Street). Rabbi Edward P. Cohn and Cantor Joel officiated the ceremony.

Obituaries, the stories of the lives of deceased New Orleanians, are printed free of charge

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# MAZEL TOV

## CELEBRATIONS JANUARY-JUNE 2014

### **BIRTHS:**

**Sasson Abbott Chalew**  
(March 27, 2014)

Proud parents:

Talia and Justin Chalew  
Proud Grandparents:

Gail and Stuart Chalew  
and Chris and John Abbott

**John Buis Greenberg**  
(Temple Sinai)

Proud Parents: Jennifer  
(Niffer) and Mark Steven  
Greenberg, Jr.

**Louis Irving Hill**  
(Touro)

Proud Parents:  
Amanda and Graham Hill

**Emily Harper Mintz**

(February 7, 2014)

(Shir Chadash)

Proud Parents:

Jennifer Kitner and Mark  
Mintz

**Landon Jacob Morris**  
(Shir Chadash)

Proud Parents:

Karlin and Max Morris

**Connor Victoria  
Wakeman**

(Temple Sinai)

Proud Parents:

Lauren and Devin  
Wakeman

**Nathan Aaron Ziffer**

(Shir Chadash)

Proud Parents:

Thalia and Lee Ziffer

### **MARRIAGE:**

**Marcy and Mike Gertler**  
announce the marriage of  
their son, Joshua Gertler  
to Carli Schwartz (Beth  
Israel)

### **B'NAI MITZVAHS**

January 18, 2014

(Temple Sinai)

**Ethan Miller**

February 1, 2014

(Gates of Prayer)

**Griffin Gansar**

February 22, 2014

(Gates of Prayer)

**Phoebe Metzger-Levitt**

March 27, 2014

(Touro Synagogue)

**Bnai Mitzvahs of Max  
Robert Baron and  
Gabriel Hugo Kohn**

May 10, 2014

(Touro Synagogue)

**Brenan Alan Kronen-  
berg**

May 10, 2014 (Temple  
Sinai)

**Jarred Feibleman**

May 10, 2014

(Anshe Sfard Synagogue)

**Zach Smith**

May 17, 2014

(Shir Chadash)

**Eva Coman**

May 24, 2014

(Touro Synagogue)

**Jessica Rachel Neal**

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Georgia Glenn Plotkin  
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David Edens Scharff  
Avery Rose Seelig  
Bevin Lyell Zlatkiss





# Joe Krown Trio to highlight Touro Synagogue's 23rd Jazz Fest Shabbat

APRIL 11, 2014

BY ALAN SMASON, EXCLUSIVE  
TO THE CCJN

Joe Krown will bring a bit of his own brand of yiddishkeit to the Touro Synagogue pulpit this year as his trio headlines the annual Jazz Fest Shabbat on Friday, April 25.

The Joe Krown Trio which features Krown on boogie woogie and blues keyboard also includes legendary blues guitarist Walter "Wolfman" Washington and highly regarded jazz drummer Russell Batiste, Jr.

Krown, who was raised Jewish in the Westbury community on Long Island, has been a long-time resident of New Orleans. He was originally pulled here by the lure of playing with celebrated stars like the late Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown. However even after 25 years, he still feels he is regarded as an outsider.

"You have to understand there's this big occupation about



Joe Krown Trio members. (Courtesy Joe Krown)

where you grew up in this town," he said in a CCJN telephone interview. "For someone who didn't grow up here, I'm treated like an outsider and I understand it because people have a very strong feeling about that."

But local or not, Krown has made great inroads in the local blues, jazz and rhythm and blues community. Since the recovery from Hurricane Katrina, he has

quietly established himself as a major player, bringing in full houses at regular club dates at the Maple Leaf Bar on Oak Street and at Ralph's on the Park Restaurant on City Park Avenue.

"Obviously, after 25 years, I'm established," he admitted. As a local resident at the time of Katrina, his revenue and home had been destroyed. Krown dug in deep. "I got back in. I rebuilt. I



Headliners for this year's Jazz Fest Shabbat are Joe Krown, left, Walter "Wofman" Washington, center, and Russell Batiste, Jr. – the Joe Krown Trio. (Courtesy of Joe Krown)

was always working on my own and took it up a notch," he said.

Krown started playing more and more regularly, lining up jobs on tours with others like Anders Osborne, Herman Ernest and on tour with Charlie Musselwhite, Mavis Staples and the Mississippi All Stars.

The Joe Krown Trio he continued, "It's my band. My name is out front because I am the

point person and I manage the band." However, when it comes to musicianship, the process is much more democratic. "When you hear the music, we play all of our songs – those written by me, by Walter or by Russell. We take turns talking on the mike. It's a collective unit musically and on stage."

## Jazz Fest Shabbat fires on all cylinders

APRIL 27, 2014

While not every religious service becomes a religious experience, the annual Jazz Fest Shabbat at Touro Synagogue comes close to firing on all cylinders. The combination of jazz, blues and funk set against a traditional Friday night worship service sung in Hebrew and English makes for an unusual event and one that might not easily be appreciated by the non-Jewish crowd.

But this is Jazz Fest Shabbat, a concept invented by the late Cantor Steven Dubov 23 years ago as a way of expressing love of music with love of worship during the opening weekend of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Over the years a succession

of cantors have carried on in Dubov's stead, leading the worship services with Rabbi David Goldstein, then Rabbi Andrew Busch and, since 2009, Rabbi Alexis Berk. Most recently, Cantor Billy Tiep was replaced by Cantor Joshua Kaufman and then by Cantor Jamie Marx. It is the cantor who coordinates the affair, which involves a full adult choir, musicians and special guest performers. Occasionally, the cantor will arrange a special rendition of a liturgical work for the benefit of the attendees.

This year it was the Joe Krown Trio with organist Joe Krown playing a Hammond organ complete with a Leslie. Krown's other collaborators were singer and guitarist Walter "Wolfman" Washington and drummer Russell Batiste, Jr.

While not as well-known as

some of the previous headliners like Kermit Ruffins, Irma Thomas, Marcia Ball, Dr. Michael White and Allen Toussaint, Krown brought his A-game with him, letting his adept keyboard work highlight and lead the vocals and guitar play emanating from Washington. Batiste's peripatetic drumming kept the beat moving along all night. The three focused their energies into a sound that was loose, but ordered.

The night began with a traditional marching band from Sophie Wright Charter School playing selections from near the pulpit.

When things kicked off, they did so with the blasts of a shofar played by David Bernstein. The religious service started off with traditional liturgy accompanied to anything but traditional music,



Members of Sophie Wright High School marching band (photo by Alan Smason)

some arranged by Marx and others written by Kurt Weill, Debbie Friedman and Craig Taubman.

Jews and gentiles alike were moving and swaying to the beat of "Adon Olam/When the Saints Go Marching In" when the night officially ended.

The Jazz Fest Shabbat has be-

come so well attended in several years in the past that regular worshippers were denied entrance to their own synagogue on the Friday night event. Attendees have been urged in more recent years to become patrons, paying for reserved seats, private entertainment and a catered meal prior to the public performance.





APRIL 2014



# Yom Hashoah program: a solemn and dignified affair

APRIL 28, 2014

The Community-Wide Holocaust Memorial Program featured a changing of the guard last night. The Holocaust Memorial Committee that sponsors the event welcomed a new chairman, Henry Rosenblat, and the Jewish Community Center ushered in a new era under the leadership of Jewish Family Life director Liba Kornfeld.

The traditional procession of the survivors took place with Joseph Sher, the oldest of the New Orleans area Holocaust survivors being escorted by wheelchair into the Mintz Auditorium of the Uptown Jewish Community Center at 5342 St. Charles Avenue.

Survivors held a memorial candle in their hands while they were escorted by their children or, in some cases, their grandchildren.

Rosenblat, the son of survivors Ralph and Gertrude Rosenblat of blessed memory, welcomed the approximately 200 attendees on behalf of the Holocaust Memorial Committee. In addition he acted as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Following an opening prayer by Rabbi Ethan Linden of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Hatikvah" were sung in unison with the audience by Congregation Beth Israel administrator Rabbi David Posternock.

Betty Lazarus of the South Central Region of the Anti-Defamation League introduced the nine members of the Donald Mintz Youth Leadership Mission



Joe Bialowitz, left, with his father Philip Bialowitz, after the program. (Photo by Alan Smason)

to Washington, D.C. These high school juniors are chosen from private, parochial and public area high schools. They participate in a comprehensive program to study hate and intolerance that exists around the world.

Tony Behan, the lead teacher of the Religion Department and director of the campus ministry at nearby De La Salle High School accepted the Educator of the Year Award from former ADL South Central director Cathy Glaser. A check made out to De La Salle was presented by Rosenblat and his sister Ruth Loeffelholz in memory of their parents.

Keynote speaker Philip Bialowitz was introduced by his son Joe, who gave insight into the remarkable string of events that kept his father alive during the Holocaust.

The elder Bialowitz recounted how he was picked out of a line by happenstance and how he

pretended that he and his brother possessed skills the Nazis needed in processing the prisoners to the Sobibor death camp. As Bialowitz explained, the purpose of the camp was not to utilize the labor there. On the contrary, he stated, the camp was intended to kill as many Jews and other prisoners as possible in an organized, efficient fashion.

It is estimated 250,000 Jews perished at the hands of their Nazi tormentors during the period between 1943 and 1944.

Bialowitz and his brother were part of a revolt in which 600 prisoners attempted to escape. 200 of them did manage to flee the facility, but after a year only 42 still survived, two of them being Bialowitz, now 88, and his brother.

Bialowitz and his son were among the many including Behan and Glaser, who were called to light the six-tiered memorial



Chaperones (at left) stand with members of the ADL's Donald Mintz Youth Leadership program. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Holocaust survivor Philip Bialowitz lights one of the candles on the Holocaust menorah as his son and JCC director of Jewish Family Life Liba Kornfeld look on. (Photo by Alan Smason)

menorah constructed by Isak Borenstein of blessed memory, himself a Holocaust survivor. Others called to light the six candles in memory of the slain six million Jews were Behan and Glaser; Rabbi Ed Cohn and survivor Jeanine Burk; Eugenia Yuspeh and Issac Niederman; Margo Berger and Ernest Holz-

mann; and survivor sisters Anne Levy and Lila Millen.

At the conclusion of the event a Yizkor service was conducted, which was followed by Rose Langley, who recited each of the names of the former New Orleans area Holocaust survivors who are now deceased. A closing prayer concluded the event.






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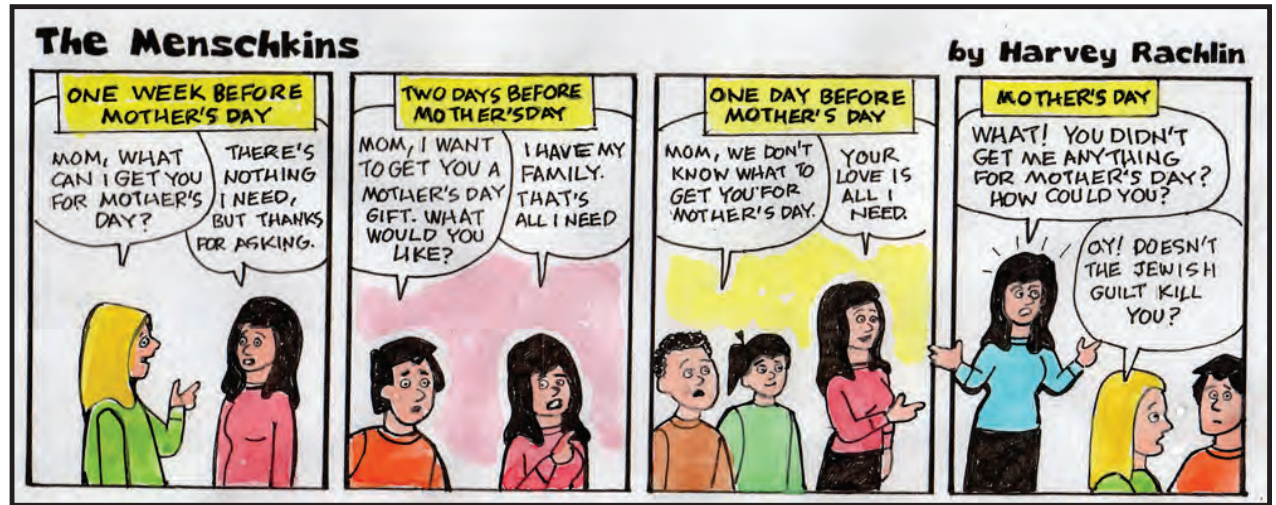








# MENSCHKINS: Shopping for Mother's Day



## Israel's population grows to 8.2 million

**MAY 2, 2014**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's population increased to

nearly 8.2 million, according to figures released just ahead of Israel Independence Day, or Yom Ha'atzmaut. The population grew by 2

percent, about 157,000 people, according to the report released Thursday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Jews make up 75 percent of

the population, or 6.135 million people. Arabs are 20.7 percent, or 1.694 million people. About 178,000 babies were born in the last year and about

42,000 deaths were reported. In addition, some 24,000 people moved to Israel in the last year.

## GiveNOLA Day merits big bucks for Jewish non-profits

**MAY 11, 2014**

GiveNOLA Day, an organized effort to benefit 300 non-profit organizations, paid off handsomely for the six Jewish non-profits participating in the 24-hour long event last Wednesday, May 6.

In the end \$2,264,511.83 was raised in the form of donations from 19,625 participants and of that amount \$46,061 went to the six Jewish non-profits.

Of the six Jewish non-profits participating, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans led the GiveNOLA campaign with \$20,761, or approximately 45% of the total.

Here's the total breakdown for each of the six Jewish non-profits with the numbers of donations each received:

- Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans – 151 donors raising \$20,761.00
- Jewish Endowment
- Foundation of Louisiana – 40 donors raising \$10,351.00
- Jewish Children's Regional Service – 70 donors raising \$5,814.00
- Jewish Community Center – 87 donors raising \$4,020.00
- Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans – 78 donors raising \$3,544.00
- National Council of Jewish Women – 31 donors raising \$1572.00



## Morton Katz uncorks his love of wine at lecture

**MAY 12, 2014**

Morton Katz may have many hats he wears by day. He is a successful law partner, a dutiful husband, proud father and president of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. But Katz is one thing more. He is an oenophile, a lover of wine.

Katz used the opportunity to uncork several bottles of wine as part of a tasting he held at the Morris Bart Sr. Memorial Lecture series on May 12 at the Uptown Jewish Community Center.

Katz took a full audience of nearly 50 attendees on a journey to the wine growing regions of France, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Italy, Spain and, closer to home, in California and New York.

He used the opportunity to sample four wines: two white varieties and two heavier-bodied reds. Katz talked about the wine tasting experience and how experts have come to appreci-



Federation president Morton Katz speaks on his love of wines at the Morris Bart Sr. Lecture on May 12. (Photo by Alan Smason)

ate wines in a process by which they look at the wine, inspect its properties, smell the bouquet and swirl the contents along the

side of the goblet before tasting.

Attendees were treated to a lunch catered by Andy Adelman as part of the series.



# ADL survey: A lot of the world hates Jews

MAY 15, 2014

BY URIEL HEILMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) – A lot of people around the world hate the Jews.

That's the main finding of the Anti-Defamation League's largest-ever worldwide survey of anti-Semitic attitudes.

The survey, released Tuesday, found that 26 percent of those polled — representing approximately 1.1 billion adults worldwide — harbor deeply anti-Semitic views. More than 53,000 people were surveyed in 102 countries and territories covering approximately 86 percent of the world's population.

"Our findings are sobering but, sadly, not surprising," ADL National Director Abraham Foxman said at a news conference Tuesday morning at ADL's national headquarters in New York. "The data clearly indicates that classic anti-Semitic canards defy national, cultural, religious and economic boundaries."

Among the survey's key findings:

- Some 70 percent of those considered anti-Semitic said they have never met a Jew. Overall, 74 percent of respondents said they had never met a Jew.
- Thirty-five percent of those surveyed had never heard of the Holocaust. Of those who had, roughly one-third said it is either a myth or greatly exaggerated.
- The most anti-Semitic region in the world is the Middle East and North Africa, with 74 percent harboring anti-Semitic views. Eastern Europe was second at 34 percent. The least anti-Semitic region was Oceania (Australia and New Zealand) at 14 percent.
- The three countries outside the Middle East with the highest rates of anti-Semitic attitudes were Greece, at 69 percent, Malaysia at 61 percent and Armenia at 58 percent.
- About 49 percent of Muslims worldwide harbor anti-Semitic views, compared to 24 percent of Christians.



Swastika is seen graffitied on a wall in the Volgograd soccer stadium on Nov. 16, 2011 in Volgograd, Russia. (Harry Engels/Getty Images)

- The West Bank and Gaza were the most anti-Semitic places surveyed, with 93 percent of respondents expressing anti-Semitic views. The Arab country with the lowest level of anti-Semitic views was Morocco, at 80 percent. Iran ranked as the least anti-Semitic country in the Middle East, at 56 percent.
- The least anti-Semitic country overall was Laos, where 0.2 percent of the population holds anti-Semitic views. The Philippines, Sweden, the Netherlands and Vietnam all came in at 6 percent or lower.
- Approximately 9 percent of Americans and 14 percent of Canadians harbor anti-Semitic attitudes.
- Thirty-four percent of respondents older than 65 were deemed anti-Semitic, compared to 25 percent of those younger than 65. Men polled were slightly more anti-Semitic than women.

"The ADL's Global 100 index will serve as a baseline," Foxman said. "For the first time we have a real sense of how pervasive and persistent anti-Semitism is today around the world."

The survey gauged anti-Semitism by asking whether respondents agreed with an index of 11 statements that the ADL believes suggest anti-Jewish bias: Jews talk too much about what happened to them during the Holocaust; Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the countries they live in; Jews think they are better than other people; Jews have too much power in international financial markets; Jews have too much power in the busi-

ness world; Jews have too much control over global affairs; people hate Jews because of the way Jews behave; Jews have too much control over the U.S. government; Jews have too much control over global media; Jews are responsible for most of the world's wars; Jews don't care about what happens to anyone but their own kind.

Respondents who agreed that a majority of the statements are "probably true" were deemed anti-Semitic.

Over the years, the ADL has been criticized for overstating what qualifies as anti-Semitism, with critics suggesting that some of the statements used to measure bias actually are more indicative of admiration for Jews than anti-Jewish hostility.

Foxman addressed such criticism on Tuesday.

"We frequently get accused of seeing anti-Semitism everywhere, and we're very conscious about the credibility," he said. "We were cautious, we were conservative, to understate rather than overstate."

The survey was overseen by First International Resources and conducted by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research. It included telephone and in-person surveys conducted in 96 languages between July 2013 and February 2014. At least 500 adults were interviewed in each of the countries surveyed. The margin of error is 4.4 percent in countries with 500 interviews and 3.2 percent in countries with 1,000 interviews. The study was funded by New



Palestinian children play in a damaged building with a swastika and the Star of David painted on it in a Gaza refugee camp in 2005. The ADL's survey found that 93 percent of respondents in the West Bank and Gaza have anti-Semitic views. (Abid Katib/Getty Images)

York philanthropist Leonard Stern; the ADL declined to say how much it cost.

The survey also questioned respondents about their attitudes toward Israel. Outside the Middle East, Israel's favorable rating was 37 percent, compared to 26 percent unfavorable. Within the Middle East, Israel's unfavorable rating rose to 84 percent. The only other region where Israel's unfavorable rating outweighed its favorable was Asia: 30 percent unfavorable, compared to 26 percent favorably.

Asked how many Jews they believe there are worldwide, more than half of the respondents significantly overestimated the number. Some 30 percent said Jews comprise between 1 and 10 percent of the world's population, 18 percent said the figure was larger than 10 percent, and 9 percent said more than 20 percent of all people are Jewish. The actual figure is 0.19 percent of the world's population, according to the ADL.

After the Palestinian-populated territories, the most anti-Semitic places were Iraq, where 92 percent harbor anti-Semitic views; Yemen at 88 percent; Algeria and Libya at 87 percent; Tunisia at 86 percent; Kuwait at 82 percent; and Bahrain and Jordan at 81 percent.

Israel was not included in the survey.

"It is very evident that the Middle East conflict matters with regard to anti-Semitism," Foxman said. "It just is not clear whether the Middle East conflict is the cause

of or the excuse for anti-Semitism. There is no statistical data at this moment to support causality."

After Laos, anti-Semitism was lowest in the Philippines at 3 percent; Sweden at 4 percent; the Netherlands at 5 percent; Vietnam at 6 percent; the United Kingdom at 8 percent; the United States and Denmark at 9 percent; Tanzania at 12 percent; and Thailand at 13 percent.

In Western Europe, the most anti-Semitic countries were Greece (69 percent) and France (37 percent). In Eastern Europe, Poland (45 percent) and Bulgaria (44 percent) topped the list, and the Czech Republic was the least anti-Semitic, at 13 percent.

In the Americas, Panama (52 percent) and the Dominican Republic (41 percent) ranked as most anti-Semitic. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Senegal was the most anti-Semitic, at 56 percent. The least were Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania, all at between 16 and 12 percent.

The most commonly held stereotype among the ADL's list of 11 statements was that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their home country — a view held by 41 percent of respondents. More than one-third agreed with the statements that Jews have too much power in the business world and in international financial markets that Jews think they are better than other people and that Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind.





# Fountainheads rock JCC with Israel Independence Day celebration

**MAY 12, 2014**

The Fountainheads, a group of singing and dancing musicians founded at the Ein Prat Academy in Israel, rocked the Uptown Jewish Community Center with modern music and hip hop interspersed with Hebrew and infectious Jewish lyrics.

The event, made possible by sponsorship of Cathy and Morris Bart, was held in the JCC's Mintz Auditorium on Monday, May 12 in advance of Israel Independence

Day, the date on the Gregorian calendar date of May 14, when the modern State of Israel was declared in 1948.

The Fountainheads served as the inspiration behind the program of solidarity and appreciation for the modern State of Israel. Casablanca Restaurant provided free Israeli style food and two blue and white frosted cakes bearing Mogen Davids, which were served prior to the start of the Fountainheads show.



Three of the singing members of the Fountainheads perform on May 12 at the JCC. (Photo by Alan Smason)

## Cowen reflects on tenure as Tulane president

**MAY 18, 2014**

**BY ALAN SMASON, EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN**

When Scott Cowen presided over his final Tulane University commencement on Saturday, May 17, at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, it signaled the end of an era and the beginning of a new one for the private educational institution founded in 1834.

Moreso, it signaled a new chapter in the life of the man who has served as the 14th president of Tulane University and, arguably, the university's most pivotal leader.

In his new book "The Inevitable City: The Resurgence of New Orleans and the Future of Urban America" (Palgrave Macmillan) to be released on June 10, Cowen recounts many of the onerous decisions he made to keep Tulane University intact and to aid in the city's recovery efforts following the destruction associated with Hurricane Katrina's landfall in August, 2005.

Soon after reaching out to sister institutions across the nation, Cowen announced an unprecedented program that would allow all Tulane students to continue their studies elsewhere about the nation where they were dispersed, while the Uptown campus infrastructure

and downtown medical complex were made ready to reopen in winter. In all, Tulane experienced \$650 million of losses directly attributed to damage from the storm and related flooding.

Cowen's decisions made in concert with his handful of dispersed administrators flung in far off Houston forever changed the face of the now 180-year-old institution. He eliminated the costly electrical, civil and environmental, and mechanical engineering departments and combined other departments into the School of Science and Engineering; merged the formerly separate Newcomb College and Tulane College of Arts and Sciences into the Newcomb-Tulane College; scrubbed one-third of the doctoral programs on campus and suspended half of the athletic programs.

Another judgment call was the elimination of several faculty positions at the renowned research university. Those that stayed behind or moved back to New Orleans needed housing while their homes were being rehabbed. Under the helm of Cowen's leadership, Tulane made the unusual decision to rent a cruise ship to house faculty and staff members in the interim.

Recovering from the storm's fallout, faculty and staff at Tulane and sister institutions like Dillard University and Xavier University needed a charter

school to fulfill the needs of their children's education. Prior to the storm, the contentious Orleans Parish School Board denied a request to charter a school to Tulane. Using a velvet glove in an iron fist bargaining style, Cowen gave the same board a 24-hour deadline and a \$2 million offer on the post-Katrina table.

This time, the cash-strapped board readily approved the charter. That resulted in the creation of the Robert Mills Lusher High School on the campus of the former Alcee Fortier High School.

It's exactly that kind of outside-of-the-box thinking that has marked Cowen's career as a Tulane University president and, prior to that, as a professor and dean at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Time Magazine hailed him one of the Top Ten Best College presidents in the nation and his leadership skills have made him one of the most recognized voices in matters of higher education and urban recovery. He has accepted presidential appointments and chaired a number of esteemed academic bodies, all the while keeping in demand and busily serving on a multitude of prominent academic and civic committees.

Cowen has received numerous citations and awards from being named a recipient of



Tulane University president Scott Cowen in his Gibson Hall office. (Photo by Alan Smason)

the Times-Picayune's Loving Cup Award to his selection of Gambit Magazine's "Man of the Year" in 2010 and the Hannah Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women, which he received earlier this year along with his wife Marjorie.

Yet, as happy as the twinkle in his eye indicates he is, Cowen admits Hurricane Katrina, the \$700 million rebuilding effort, the mobilization to increase the endowment to over \$1.2 billion and the need to captain both the university's and city's recovery forever altered his original plan to retire within ten years of accepting the presidency.

"When I came in 1998, I told the Board (of Administrators)

I would serve ten years," he recalled. "So, therefore, it was my view that I would step down in 2008."

But the intersection with Hurricane Katrina and the associated citywide flooding caused Cowen to rethink his retirement plans. With all that had to be done, he knew he could not turn over the Tulane presidency to anyone else. Also, it was important to make certain that when he did retire, the timing would be right. "I would peg my ultimate retirement from the presidency when I felt we were far enough behind Katrina and that the university would be on a very sound foundation and, therefore, my successor could build on that foundation," he stated.



That successor, professor Michael Fitts of the Ivy League's University of Pennsylvania, was announced earlier this year. He'll take over as Tulane's 15th president when Cowen steps down on July 1 after 16 years of service.

"If Katrina had not happened, the university wouldn't have gone through this tremendous transformation," he averred. "I do believe the university is better and stronger for having gone through that transformation."

Cowen also mused that a 16-year-long presidency will be highly unlikely in the future due to a number of factors. By the time a president at a research institution like Tulane hits his 10-year mark, Cowen suggested, he has either created his own programs or else could not solve the problems. In either case, it would be time for a transition.

Suppose Katrina had not happened and he was on target to retire 2008. What would he claim was his greatest accomplishment at that juncture?

"I would say that at that moment in time, we had put together a fairly ambitious plan in 2000, substantially increasing the quality of the undergraduate body in terms of their SAT scores and selectivity," he boasted. "The second thing would probably have been the very successful completion of a capital campaign that had started out at \$550 million and ended up being 700 million."

But, speculation aside, the unthinkable did occur. Just as was the case with Tulane, a post-Katrina city of New Orleans has also been transformed and Cowen had been one of its most important architects.

In the midst of strife, New Orleans endeared itself to the Cowens. "Most of all is this: we really admired their resilience and grit after Katrina. This is a city that people could have given up on. And I really respect people, who in the face of adversity, continued to fight for what they believed and they accomplished a lot in the last nine years," he beamed.

"It's a very iconic city. It's the only city I know of that can claim its own language, its own music and its own architecture," he continued. "I like how unusual it is and how unique and special it is. The second thing I really enjoy is the people here. They have this wonderful blend about living in New Orleans and about the South. I find them to be open and gregarious."

When Cowen announced his decision to step down, speculation ran rampant

that he might be leaving New Orleans for greener pastures. Those rumors were shot down quickly as the Cowens let others know they were putting down their roots in New Orleans for good. Although they will still maintain separate residences in Cleveland and on the eastern end of Long Island in New York, the Cowens will be living in a downtown condominium on the riverfront.

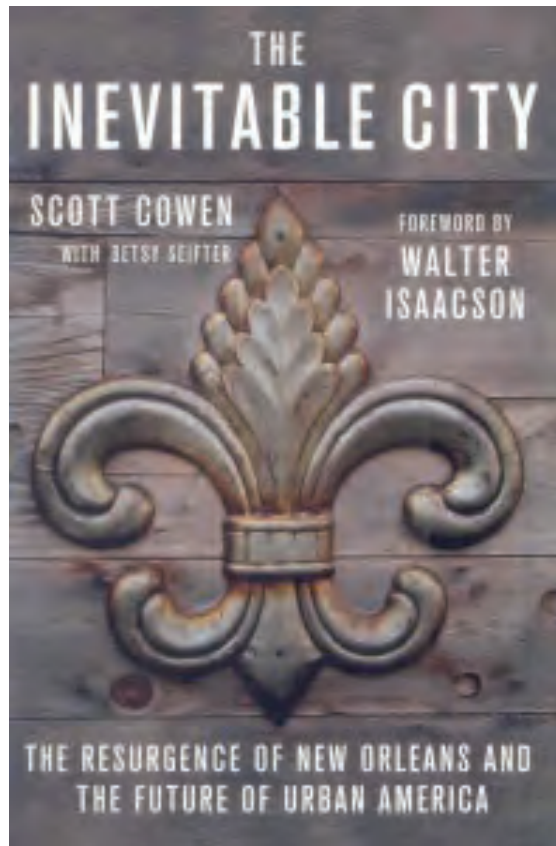
In his foreword to the book, Walter Isaacson describes Cowen as "the greatest leader" in post-Katrina New Orleans. Cowen dismisses the compliment from the renowned biographer ("Stephen Jobs," "Benjamin Franklin" and "Albert Einstein") as "hyperbole and exaggeration."

Yet, Cowen knew Isaacson, a native New Orleanian and former Times-Picayune and CNN CEO, was in a unique position to comment on his work. "I thought it was very important," Cowen explained. "First off, he's a good friend. He co-chaired the Louisiana Recovery Authority and, of course, he's a well-known name. He read the book and put it in into context and was able to relate as to what is happening with the city."

The book is a road map for recovery from disasters and how to apply vision to reshaping the future of America's decaying urban areas.

Cowen was humble when asked to evaluate his legacy. "I think I'll let historians write about my legacy," he said, pondering two points. "(First,) I'm most proud of the way we rebounded from Katrina and the second is the culture of engagement."

Part of that engagement is shown in Cowen's establishment of the Center for Public Service at Tulane University, which requires public service hours from students for graduation. The recent "Cowen Service Challenge" netted 750,000 service hours in 250 days by Tulane students, faculty staff and alumni. Other colleges and universities have paid attention to the program at Tulane, but have made stu-



Cowen's new book with a forward by Walter Isaacson is set for a June 10 release. (Cover: Palgrave Macmillan)

dent service hours voluntary. "We're still the only major university that integrates it into the core curriculum," he pointed out.

"My view is that our job is to develop the next generation of engaged leaders in the world, so a lot of what we do is to get them to understand what leadership is about," he continued. Programs like these reinforce the goal for them to be engaged as leaders and citizens, he affirmed.

He does not believe he would second guess himself. Cowen said for the record that everything he did, even when alumni were unhappy, was required and borne out by experience as absolutely necessary.

Carried along by word of mouth, Jewish student enrollment, which had traditionally been high at 26-27%, reached new heights under Cowen into the mid-30% range. "After Yeshiva (University) and Brandeis (University), we have the highest of Jewish students on the undergraduate level," he acknowledged.

The Rohr Chabad Student Center, the Goldie and Morris Mintz Hillel Student Center and the development of a Jewish Studies Department and a building dedi-

cated to it were all constructed during Cowen's tenure.

The Hillel Center, which also houses a kosher kitchen, is an actual academic building attached to Tulane as part of its curricula offerings. Cowen said he was pleased with the collaboration between Rabbi Yonah Schiller at Hillel and Tulane officials, calling it "a very close, symbiotic relationship" similar to one put in place at Tufts University. The fact that non-Jewish students will be using the building for their classwork is also important to both Schiller and Cowen.

As to the rise in influence of Chabad at Tulane, Cowen also expressed a deep appreciation for them. "They play another very important role obviously for more Conservative or Orthodox students. I think it's important we have Chabad here. I like what we're doing," he mused.

Although Cowen is a member of Touro Synagogue, he said he has been far too busy to be engaged as a Jewish community member on the scale he and his wife had been when they lived in Cleveland. Yet they are connected to the Jewish community in other ways.

"The most important part is I believe in tikun olam. I am very connected through my basic beliefs in Judaism," he continued. "But that's what is, in fact, my involvement. All of that was ingrained in my years in Cleveland."

While Cowen may be stepping down, he will still be maintaining a busy schedule at Tulane tending to his non-profit Cowen Institute for Public Education and teaching classes at the A. B. Freeman School of Business. He will also be consulting to a number of non-profits across the nation and has plans to write and release yet another book.

Meanwhile, he is preparing for a number of local and national book signings once the book hits retailer's shelves in the coming weeks. He acknowledges the work of Betsy Seifter and Heide Winston for their many contributions to "The Inevitable City," the title of which was suggested to him by the publisher, but which he grew to love. "Heide really has been the lead person on the fact checking and all the notes and professional researching," he noted. "Betsy has been with me in the writing and helped with some of the basic research topics."





MAY 2014



## Jewish Community Day School unveils STEAM, new logo

MAY 23, 2014

The Jewish Community Day School of Greater New Orleans (JCDS), renamed in January to reinforce the school's commitment to teaching a Jewish curriculum, is working to implement several other changes, according to head of school Sharon Pollin.

An innovative, interdisciplinary program that integrates the abstract concepts found in the sciences and mathematics with those found in the arts – STEAM – will be incorporated into the school's curriculum beginning with the fifth grade class next year. STEAM derives its name from the leading initials of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

By using this approach a student will learn to make connections between the disciplines and develop higher level thinking skills.

Educator Lisa Vaughan will be attending an intensive two-day training session and will head the STEAM program in the fall.

By using this approach a student will learn to make connections between the



disciplines and develop higher level thinking skills.

"I'm excited because STEAM doesn't 'teach to the test,' explained Vaughan. "STEAM allows students to work together in real-world situations to achieve a goal and develop skills that will help them become successful life-long learners!"

A new, attractive logo was also unveiled recently to go hand in hand with the renaming of the school. It incorporates the image of 5 books with that of an outline of a Magen David.

Another fall development was the school's strategic decision to suspend its kindergarten class for next year only. JCDS deemed this action necessary to stay focused to its ongoing mission of academic excellence and Jewish values in their school.

## Tulane donors to give \$6 million for 60 scholarships honoring Cowen

MAY 22, 2014

BY MIKE STRECKER, COURTESY TULANE UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

Three of Tulane University's most dedicated families are spearheading a \$6 million initiative to create 60 endowed scholarship funds in honor of Tulane president Scott Cowen, who will retire June 30, after 16 years of service.

Louellen and Darryl Berger, Valerie Zondorak and Michael Corasaniti and Jill and Avie Glazer provided \$3 million in matching gifts for scholarships for students, who will be known as "Cowen Scholars."

This scholarship challenge is a unique opportunity to leverage giving and impact students for years to come. The exemplary generosity of these three lead gifts has already inspired many new donors, and the university is seeking matching donors to meet this challenge and capitalize on the full potential of this momentous effort.

"There is no need more pressing to a university than the availability of scholarships, which ensure access to all qualified young people regardless of their circumstances," says Darryl Berger, chair of the Board of Tulane and 1972 graduate of the School of Law.

These prestigious scholarships will help

Tulane attract and retain top students.

"One of the greatest assets for Tulane students is unlimited opportunity to pursue their dreams," says Jill Glazer, a 1985 Newcomb College graduate. "These scholarships will enable and encourage young Tulanians as they prepare to build a better world."

Scholarship recipients will embody the qualities that Cowen has exhibited during his tenure—a strong commitment to community engagement, leadership ability and high emotional intelligence: grit, resilience and determination.

"This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to his efforts and what he did for Tulane after Hurricane Katrina," says Corasaniti, a 1987 graduate, adding that he chose to challenge other alumni to help him make college affordable for those who need and deserve it most.

Each Cowen Scholar will receive critical scholarship support and partake in enrichment activities, such as a leadership seminar with Cowen and an annual dinner with him and donors to the program.

"I am humbled but very pleased to be honored in this way," says Cowen. "These gifts, while extraordinary by any standard, are typical of the generosity and commitment of the Glazers, Berbers and Corasanitis in ensuring that more students can realize the dream of a Tulane education."



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# Padilla-Goodman becomes fifth community director of ADL

MAY 23, 2014

BY KAREN LOZINSKI, SPECIAL TO THE CCJN

The walls of Allison Padilla-Goodman's office at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) are papered with maps in bold colors—maps of the states that define the South Central Region: Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Their bright hues contrast with the deep, churning grays of the quick spring thunderstorm that punctuates the afternoon.

Padilla-Goodman is welcoming, open and confident; she's ready to talk about her myriad experiences and achievements in education, research, writing, and social work, and what she plans in her role as the recently installed fifth community director of the ADL's South Central Region.

"One thing that has been a driving philosophy in my life is that I—very honestly and very humbly—really believe that everybody in this world has the power to do something great. Everybody has a gift to share," Padilla-Goodman asserts.

She's careful to temper this hopeful claim with a dose of realism, courtesy of her work. Many of her published works and academic presentations confront the societal and economic obstacles faced by diverse populations in a post-Katrina New Orleans environment.

"Of course, as a sociologist, it's important to also consider context: socioeconomic status, gender, institutionalized racism, history, (and) experience," she relates. "If there were more of a push to understand people and their context, history, situations, and experiences, there could be more understanding of (people's) value too."

Much like the Mississippi River has continually defined the shape, character, and destiny of the Crescent City, an abiding love of education and scholarship runs through Padilla-Goodman, which is understandable when one considers her impressive history of service in education in three diverse settings: New Orleans, New York, and Hong Kong.

A fourth-generation New Orleanian, she is grateful for her work and experiences abroad. Yet, no matter where she has lived, Padilla-Goodman has always remained steadfast in her conviction that New Orleans is home. She carries an enduring love for the city and reflects romantically on the pre-Katrina home she shared with her husband in the Seventh Ward, an area that afforded the two of them regular



New South Central Region ADL community director Allison Padilla-Goodman fields a call to her office (Photo credit by Karen Lozinski).

opportunities to revel in Sunday afternoon "second line" parades.

She assumed the directorship in April, after Talora Gross' abbreviated stint in the position in 2013. Padilla-Goodman follows in the fabled footsteps of local ADL founder A. I. "B" Botnick, who served as the director for almost three decades. He was succeeded by Jerry Himmelstein and, more recently, by Cathy Glaser, all of whom have held this important and highly visible position.

A sociologist who recently completed her doctoral dissertation at the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, Padilla-Goodman's journey in the education profession and service to the causes of social justice began with Summerbridge, now known as Breakthrough Collaborative. Founded in 1978, the organization provides an accelerated summer program for underserved and overlooked middle school students, with a staff comprised of pre-professional, hands-on teaching residents.

Padilla-Goodman credits this experience as profound, both personally and professionally, stating: "[It] opened my eyes and inspired me to understand other people better."

Through her career, Padilla-Goodman has served as both the dean of faculty for Summerbridge in New Orleans and Hong Kong. She has also had several stints as the program director in Hong Kong.

Padilla-Goodman's academic background and achievements at the collegiate level have afforded her travel and work both in the United States and abroad. A semester in Florence, Italy spent as an undergraduate at Middlebury College in

Vermont proved life changing. It provided the fodder for her eventual baccalaureate thesis when she met and befriended a group of Albania refugees from Kosovo.

Through their eyes, Padilla-Goodman gained perspective on growing up and living in a war-torn region and the intense loss and atrocities that invariably result from that situation.

"I met these people and they were really fun, but there was so much more behind their everyday than my everyday," she explained. "There was so much resiliency and wisdom they had, that I didn't."

Upon her return stateside, Padilla-Goodman switched her major from Art History and Italian to Anthropology and Sociology, a move which then took her to Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies for her master's degree. Later, she matriculated to CUNY for another master's and very recently worked both in New York and New Orleans on her doctoral degree.

Padilla-Goodman taught at the collegiate level while researching, writing, and publishing articles and papers and also working in the field as a sociologist, most recently as the director of Special Projects at the Harriet Tubman Charter School in Algiers.

She also served as the director of youth programs at SilenceIsViolence, which was founded following the horrific and senseless murders of local musician Dinerral Shavers in late 2006, and filmmaker Helen Hill in early 2007.

According to its website, the mission of SilenceIsViolence is "to call upon both citizens and public officials to achieve a safe New Orleans across all communities." The organization engages youth in positive expressions in order to counter the culture of violence that has characterized the city.

When asked about possible links between her efforts with SilenceIsViolence and the ADL, Padilla-Goodman, is quite forthright.

"SilenceIsViolence is a wonderful organization that works with victims and perpetrators of violence and tries to get [the latter] to stop," she explains. "They understand there's an important space in New Orleans that needs to be cultivated for violence to stop, and that's culture and education."

She continues: "I think ADL is similar in some ways. ADL is willing to get in the trenches. There's work to be done on the ground that's really important. ADL has put education at the forefront of their policy initiative."

But the education to which she refers is not necessarily aimed at instructing the younger set. "It's not just training youth—there's police training, and training community leaders on how to respond to hate crimes and extreme violence," she emphasizes.

Padilla-Goodman views the ADL's South Central office as particularly critical to the organization's mission as a whole, acknowledging the encompassing framework of ADL's efforts with fighting anti-Semitism as a springboard to secure justice for all.

"The Deep South is one of the most important regions to do social justice, anti-racism, understanding, and empathy-centric organizing. The Deep South is a hotbed for those issues," she states.

Some of the work Padilla-Goodman has planned for the ADL involves interfaith and intercultural efforts, predicated on a belief that Judaism is more than faith—that it is a means of deep cultural affiliation and identity.

"I think there are some interesting places to do more alliance building, and building a bigger umbrella for people willing to fight against hate in New Orleans," she explains.

An enthusiastic proponent of arts education as well as scholarship in general, Padilla-Goodman also takes a strong stance as a sociologist on the woeful state of arts education in this country.

She believes the consistent and regrettable devaluing of arts education is a byproduct of recent education reform. This disturbing development, along with overwhelming advances in technology, the deep permeation of the media in societal psyche, global-economic integration, and the growth of the corporate model have all contributed to the lack of teaching creativity to youth, she says.

"I think, in a lot of schools, teaching creativity is not one of the goals, and creativity is one of the most important things you can get out of a K-12 education," she muses. "If you can't be creative, you don't know what you can do, and you can't unlock your potential."

Padilla-Goodman concludes: "The state has kind of put its foot on the neck of music and arts education, and it's been squeezed and squeezed. It's really important to support arts education—music, art, creative writing, dance—those things are crucial for people to know who they are."





# Local agencies provide services for seniors

BY ARLENE WIEDER, SPECIAL TO THE CCJN

**A**ging is often associated with gradual, undesired changes that can increase over the course of time. More than mere physiological changes, our perceived age can also be determined by how well we cope with these changes, both individually and with our family members or loved ones. Keeping fit, both physically and mentally, is the best medicine to handle the progression of the aging process.

Both the Jewish Community Centers and Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans (JFS) provide numerous programs and services to aid this growing population and their families. Even though these agencies were created to address specific needs of the Jewish community, both are non-discriminatory and accessible to all regardless of race, religion or gender.

JFS was founded in 1948 and has three service locations: Uptown New Orleans, the North Shore and its largest office located on West Esplanade Avenue in Metairie, just a few blocks from Lakeside Shopping Center.

Since its founding, JFS has earned a distinguished reputation for providing skilled counseling services, support groups and prevention programs. The agency offers four unique services exclusively for seniors: the Lifeline medical alert system, Bikur Chaverim (Visiting Friends), the Homemaker and Catch-a-Cab programs.

For more than 35 years, JFS has maintained Lifeline, an exclusive association with the Phillips Corporation. “Phillips founded the medical alert service industry. Lifeline has set the standards for which other companies have tried to replicate,” explained Jane Levine, the Lifeline representative.

JFS provides installation, product servicing and courtesy visitations to assure each sub-



Seniors at Southern Rims exercise classes. (Photo courtesy New Orleans JCC)

scriber's equipment worn on the body – the AutoAlert button – is maintained and tested monthly.

The Lifeline service involves a month-to-month service contract, but there is no long-term commitment. The AutoAlert button is 100% waterproof and can be worn in the bath or shower. For additional information, contact Levine at Lifeline at 504-831-8475, ext.128, or email jane@jfsneworleans.org.

Another unique program to JFS is the Bikur Chaverim (visiting friends). Committed volunteers make weekly home visits or initiate phone calls to a participating adult, who is either partially or fully confined to home. Fran Dinehart, a licensed master of social work (LMSW) coordinates this program.

Dinehart also oversees the Homemaker program in which paid household workers provide assistance to seniors with light housekeeping, meal preparation, personal care, laundry and limited local transportation for errands or grocery shopping. Each homemaker visit lasts for two hours and 15 minutes and seniors can request the service to be weekly or bi-monthly. Fees are based on the senior's income level and this service is limited to residents of New Orleans west of

the Industrial Canal and Metairie only.

To find out more information about the Bikur Chaverim or the Homemakers Service, contact Dinehart at 504-831-8475, ext. 132 or email fran@jfsneworleans.org.

Catch a-Cab is funded through a generous grant from the Cahn Family Foundation and is only available for the 65+ Jewish senior community to assist those senior who no longer drive. Qualified individuals must subscribe to participate and purchase a \$20.00 book of taxi coupons for \$5.00. Participants are limited to a five-book purchase per quarter. The taxi coupons are used like cash for Ron M's Cab Service, Metry Cab, White Fleet and the Yellow Checker Taxi Company. This service is particularly needed to assist those seniors who no longer drive.

With two locations in Uptown New Orleans – 5342 St. Charles Avenue – and Metairie – 3737 West Esplanade Avenue – the JCC is a non-discriminatory environment where all members of the community “can participate in a center where they can enjoy, learn, experience and share in quality activities in a Jewish environment.” It is strongly encouraged for participants to



ACE participants enjoy art. (Photo courtesy New Orleans JCC)



Jane Levine, right, explains Lifeline service and AutoAlert button. (Photo by Joanna Sternberg)

become JCC members to support its varied programming mission, but it is not a requirement. For those individuals who are 68 and above, there is a Senior Club, which allows them to participate in all senior activities.

The “Center” at the Uptown JCC has developed into a highly respected facility for quality and stimulating activities for active seniors. Adult program director Rachel Ruth coordinates the numerous presentations, activities, lectures and short excursions to different places of interest. She also oversees the monthly

newsletter, Southern Rims Journal that informs seniors of the upcoming activities. In addition there are continuous weekly senior programs like Southern Rims exercise classes with Hazel Schluter, and Games Day at both facilities.

Generally, there is a monthly book discussion, a movie day, a bus excursion trip, and – now in its third year – the highly praised Morris Bart, Sr. Lecture Series. These programs are offered to the community-at-large, but JCC members or Senior Club members either have a negligible



fee or participate at no cost. Transportation to attend these events is available to all Senior JCC members at a reduced rate for \$4.00 round trip through the generous donation of the Krieger Senior Citizens Transportation Fund. However, reservations must be made a minimum of one day prior to the event by either by calling Ruth at 504-897-0143 or emailing her at [rachel@nojcc.org](mailto:rachel@nojcc.org).

There are two other specialized programs that are offered only at the uptown JCC location. Both are opened to any qualified community individual and membership to the JCC is not necessary.

Mind Matters is a specifically designed course aimed at improving memory for any individual who is 50 and above. The class utilizes proactive techniques and combines memory strategies such as chunking, mnemonics, repetition, and visual cues based on the latest brain research. The class is held weekly and lasts for 4 hours. The class also includes some physical exercise intended to improve mental health as well integrates some arts activities. Individuals can enhance their classroom experience by working independently at their homes on weekly assignments. For more information or to

register, contact Allison Freeman, Mind Matters director, at 504-897-0143 or email [allison@nojcc.org](mailto:allison@nojcc.org).

The ACE Program (Alzheimer's Care & Enrichment Program) offers respite for primary care givers of Alzheimer patients. This four-hour program provides a safe environment with qualified staff for seniors with varying degrees of Alzheimer's. The senior participants engage in numerous activities involving art, music, exercise, group discussion and weekly visits from the JCC nursery students. The program is offered weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For further information contact Allison Freeman, ACE Program Director at 504-897-0143 or email [allison@nojcc.org](mailto:allison@nojcc.org).

As Mark Twain stated, "Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." As the area's senior population continues to increase, it is valuable to know that such quality programming is available.

*(Editor's note: Both the JCC and JFS have numerous volunteer opportunities for individuals who would like to donate their time.)*

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# Maple on waffles? No! It's Waffles on Maple

JUNE 1, 2014

Whether by luck or design, the cleverest location for a new business sprang up this past April as Waffles on Maple, the city's newest kosher food enterprise, opened its door to offer sweet and savory varieties of waffles with or without syrup. Located in a snug building at 7712 Maple Street, its exterior design looks very much like a waffle.

Owner Rotem Dahan, an Israeli, and manager Zev Attias, who was born in Miami, but grew up in Mid City since high school, embarked on the restaurant concept after Dahan saw a similar, tiny "hole in the wall" business dispensing waffles near a university in Jerusalem.

"I saw the students over there," Dahan recalls. "It was a very easy thing - just dessert - and people came and took it and ate it on the spot."

When asked if he thought it was a viable idea for a business, Attias, who has been known to the Jewish community as a baker of challah and other bread for several years signed on right away.

"We just took it to the next level," Dahan continues. "We went a little more gourmet with the toppings."

The two were long associates of the Chabad Center of Metairie, so it was natural to approach Rabbi Yossie Nemes of the Louisiana Kashruth Committee to see what would be necessary to open as a kosher facility. Knowing that the restaurant would be considered a dairy kitchen, they decided to investigate the possibility of having the restaurant designated as "Cholov Yisrael."

"They approached me with that idea," relates Nemes. "They came along and wanted to do Cholov Yisrael, which means that Jews are involved in the manufacturing process."

Nemes explains that this system ensures that no non-kosher dairy products are used in any step of manufacturing. "It enhances our faith and our spiritual being that the milk that we drink and that we



The outside of the Waffles on Maple store looks like a waffle. (Photos by Alan Smaon)

purchase, a member of the Jewish community was involved in the actual process."

Being a new restaurant, Nemes found it relatively easy to certify the new kitchen as kosher. All the new dishes and glasses were toveled (immersed in a mikveh). That both Dahan and Attias already keep kosher didn't hurt either. "They were very knowledgeable about kosher (adherence)," Nemes states.

Following the certification by Nemes with additional input from Congregation Anshe Sfard Rabbi David Polsky, a former kosher expert with the Orthodox Union (OU), the two would-be waffle barons hired a staff and opened their doors to a large selection of unusual compliments and other items to place atop waffles or adorn crepes.

The problem was that the opening occurred just shortly before Passover. Because all of their products involved bread and other items deemed chometz (not kosher for Passover) during the Passover period, Waffles on Maple was forced to shut down operations after only a few days of ringing up successful sales.

"It gave us a good idea to see what we were getting into," Attias considers.

The concept has been so well received that the two are already considering expansion with possible locations in the Warehouse District and the French Quarter. The two are surveying locations with a large

amount of foot traffic and heavy numbers of young people. Another possible enhancement to the business is the prospect of delivery.

"We're not delivering yet, but a lot of people have called for take-outs," says Attias.

Following the end of Passover, when the store once again opened, the waffle makers were once again dispensing dozens of different and unusual waffles like the savory Heart Attack and the sweet Banana Split.

So what about this Heart Attack Waffle? "It happened by circumstance," explains Attias. "We has a good friend who asked up to put caramelized onions, mushrooms, jalapenos with cheddar, Muenster and mozzarella cheeses on top. We thought of the name after that: that's a heart attack!"

Overhearing the ingredients, Belinda Dahan, the co-owner, exclaimed that it was the perfect name for the waffle. It stuck.

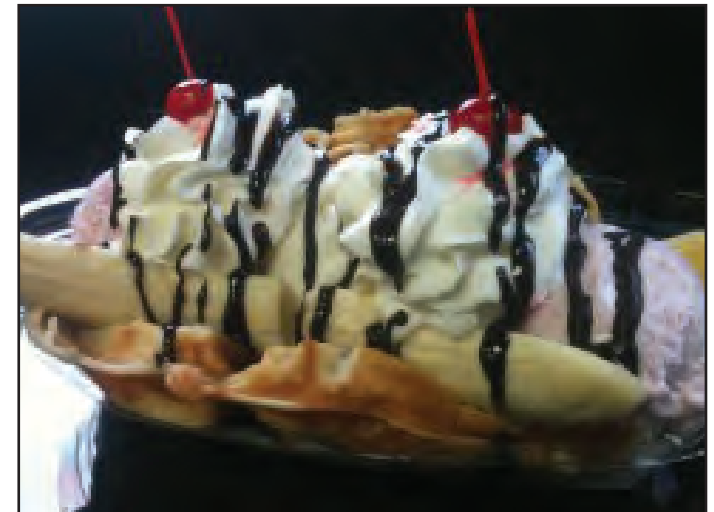
Fresh ingredients are also a part of the menu at Waffles on Maple. When strawberry season was in full bloom, for example, the restaurant offered several options for strawberry waffles.

Special kosher items are trucked in from Miami on a semi-monthly basis, while all other items are purchased locally.

"Savory was my idea," exclaims Attias. "I really like the one I did yesterday. It's called the Fade Away. It's a blend of roasted vegetables



Owner Rotem Dahan, left, with manager Zev Attias at Waffles on Maple.



Banana split waffle - a sweet waffle.

with dates, rosemary, crumbled feta on top and it's a little spicy. The roasted vegetables have creole seasoning."

Another savory waffle he thinks is special is the Crazy Maize. Attias describes it as "a spicy creamed corn with melted cheese, a dollop of guacamole and fresh home-made salsa and lime sour cream striped on top." Could he describe its taste? "It just tastes good," he replies.

For those that are watching their weight, the two are quick to point out that theirs is not a restaurant for dieters. Nevertheless, those that want to shy away from waffles can order crepes.

The restaurant is also the only

Louisiana distributor of Nespresso espresso makers. These special machines and packets of pre-mixed coffees offer a complimentary beverage for those enjoying waffles or crepes. Several coffees available through Nespresso include Lungo, chocolate mocha and caramel mocha.

They also offer ice coffee and Klein ice cream for the upcoming hot summer months.

"We're looking into catering," Dahan continues. "Maybe a portable waffle cart or getting a food truck might be in the future. The longest you'll ever wait is 10 or 15 minutes. It all fits into the concept of fast food, gourmet food."

The two plan on instituting



A savory cheese and jalapeno waffle with sour cream on top is prepared to go. (Photo by Alan Smason)

several specials in the next several months, electing to advertise in the Clipper coupon booklets for June specials. There's also a possible Monday or Tuesday special they are thinking about putting in where you buy one waffle and get 50% off the next.

Already they are the darlings of the local kosher world with reviews on kosher sites as well as Yelp. The two say a lot of frum travelers have found out about their restaurant and sought them out. "This part of Uptown is really blowing up," Dahan beams. "It is becoming as hip and trendy as Magazine Street. We get a lot of tourists that walk around here."

Meanwhile, Attias is constantly

looking to improve the menu items. He is toying with several options. "I've got a multiplier for a gluten-free flour. I just have to source it and then make the product," he says. Anything is possible; it's just finding the items, he avers.

In the end, it's a working relationship that works well. Dahan continues to shore up his side of the business model, while Attias whips up new creations in the kitchen. "I don't interfere with what he does and he doesn't interfere with what I do," Attias contends.

And neither of them is waffling on that subject.

## Rabbi Loewy celebrates 30 years at Gates of Prayer

JUNE 1, 2014

Rabbi Robert Loewy, the senior rabbi in the New Orleans Jewish community celebrated his three decades of pulpit leadership at Congregation Gates of Prayer with a celebratory dinner and a special service of re-dedication at the May 30th services.

A pre-dinner began at 6:00 p.m. and was followed by worship services at the regular 8:00 p.m. time.



Rabbi Robert Loewy (Photo by Alan Smason)

## Rucker, Smason speak at Morris Bart lecture

JUNE 3, 2014

In the tradition of the theatrical adage that the show must go on, CCJN editor Alan Smason stepped in at the last minute to assist Gary Rucker, artistic director of the Kenner Rivertown Theaters for the Performing Arts, at the June 2 Morris Bart, Sr. Memorial Lecture.

At 11:30 p.m. the JCC adult program director Rachel Ruth learned there was a mix-up in the dates. Originally, the lecture had been planned for the second Monday in the month.

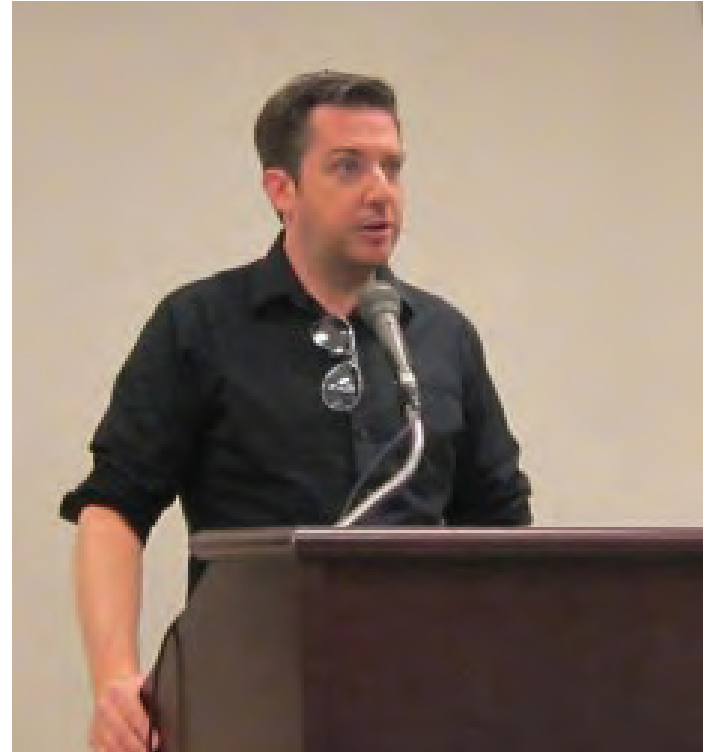
With Rucker located in Covington and Fouchi committed to be elsewhere on a personal matter, there was no way for a speaker to arrive until close to 1:00 p.m.

Smason, a theatre critic and member of the American Theatre Critics Association, offered to cover for Rucker until he arrived. He spoke briefly on the history of theatre in New Orleans. Smason acknowledged from the start that it was disquieting for him to be the subject of the story rather than a reporter. "For me it's like the turkey calling in on Thanksgiving Day and asking what's for dinner," he began.

Prior to Rucker's arrival, he covered a wide range of theatre history talking about past theaters in New Orleans such as Gallery Circle Theater, New Orleans Repertory Theater and the Beverly Dinner Playhouse and brought attendees up to date about the progress at various theaters still open such as Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carré and Southern Repertory.

Smason also gave a brief history of the Kenner theater location and the events leading up to the awarding of the artistic contract in 2012 by Kenner city officials to Theatre 13, the company Rucker and Fouchi own that runs Rivertown Theaters for the Performing Arts.

Rucker and Fouchi received the Entertainers of the Year Award from the Big Easy Theater Awards



Kenner Rivertown Theaters for the Performing Arts artistic director Gary Rucker speaks at the Morris Bart Sr. Memorial Lecture on Monday, June 2. (Photo by Alan Smason)

in March. Rucker just finished his run in the title role of "Young Frankenstein," a production directed by local comedian, actor and director Ricky Graham.

Once he arrived, Rucker took charge passing out season subscription pamphlets and reinforcing and elaborating on many of the items Smason had previously covered.

He mentioned that the original building, now called the Lagniappe Theater, had formerly housed a movie theater and, they had just learned, had also been a brothel at one time. The most passionate part of his talk was when he explained why he and Fouchi had elected to make their endeavor a "for profit" company, even though he said the company has yet to achieve a great deal of profit, citing huge costs associated with running a theater such as electricity.

"It's because we don't have to answer to a board," he said, stating that he and Fouchi both have

a vision that would be adulterated by "too many chefs."

Rucker stated that season subscriptions have now surpassed 1,300 subscribers, up from the initial 900 in the theater company's first year of operations. He stayed until 1:30 p.m. fielding questions from the audience.

As revealed in the pamphlets, their 2014-15 season opens in September with the first community theater production of "Shrek: The Musical" followed by regional premieres of the 2013 Tony Award winner "One Man, Two Guvnors" and Alan Menken's "A Christmas Carol," seen for many years at Radio City Music Hall (an add-on production to the season).

Musicals "The Will Rogers Follies: A Life in Review" by Cy Coleman in January and "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" in May will sandwich the Ricky Graham comedy "When Ya Smilin'" in March.





# Silvermans receive honor at AVODAH Jazz Brunch

BY ALAN SMASON

JUNE 6, 2014

AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps honored its very first partners at the third annual Partners in Justice brunch. This year's honor went to Dan and Jackie Silverman, the two individuals who, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, set up the New Orleans Women's Shelter to house, feed and promote the welfare of homeless and abused women across the city.

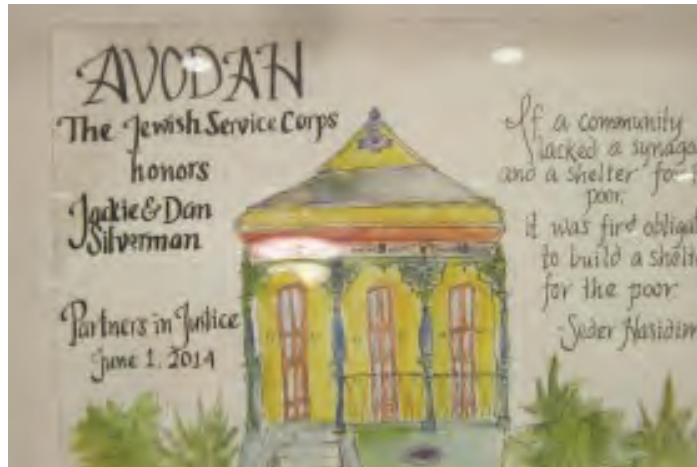
When AVODAH first arrived in New Orleans in 2008 under initial director Joshua Lichtman, he selected the New Orleans Women's Shelter as the recipient for the first of its corps members. "What began as a post-Katrina activity, quickly became a passion for them," said Rabbi Robert Loewy at the Gates of Prayer social hall on the anniversary weekend of his 30th year as rabbi.

"Helping homeless women evolved into a sophisticated non-profit homeless shelter that brought stability to Central City and to as many as 40 residents at a time," Loewy beamed.

"Today is a celebration recognizing the great work of AVODAH and all those who are part of the organization past, present and future, along with Jackie and Dan, who serve as role models," he concluded.

AVODAH executive director Dani Levine followed Loewy's remarks with specific insight into the work of the volunteer organization and its focus on the effects of poverty and righting social injustice.

"We've been successfully engaging young men and women for the past eight years," she started. Levine said that nationwide the organization also located in New



Avodah presentation. (Photo by Alan Smason)

York, Washington and Chicago, has 700 alumni over the course of the past 16 years. Seventy percent continue to work in the non-profit sector after they leave AVODAH, she stated. "Three out of four go on to dedicate their careers in the pursuit of justice," Levine pointed out.

Jessica Greenberg, a present AVODAH corps member with roots to New Orleans talked about her grandfather, Harry Nowalsky of blessed memory. She talked about her inspiration to work towards social justice after reading the hundreds of letters and photos he sent back and memorabilia he retrieved following World War II from occupied Berlin.

Greenberg, who works at the Ruth Fertel Cancer Center at Tulane University, expressed her gratitude for AVODAH allowing her to reconnect with her ancestors' home town and to be engaged to help others under the umbrella of its program.

"AVODAH has given me the tools to make my own personal connection to Judaism," Greenberg said. "Today I am honored to be a part of AVODAH."

Aliza Baron, a former AVODAH corps member, recalled her placement at the New Orleans Women's Shelter during the first year of operations. She spoke of her initial commitment to help New Orleans recover after the storm as a volunteer and how her mother plotted to get her involved with AVODAH by contacting Lichtman so he would talk to her about the program. She referred to the Silvermans as her second mother and father.

A note of sadness was reached when Baron talked about the Silvermans' son Jonathan, who died last October after a long illness.

Longtime friend and educator Leslie Jacobs also spoke. "What really distinguishes Jackie and Dan is what they have done for the most vulnerable residents of our city," she said. "Each of us reacted differently. The plight of homeless women and their children became their calling."

Jacobs pointed out that they had no previous experience setting up such a shelter and had to learn how to run a successful shelter from scratch. "They became experts as new challenges would come their way, they



Rabbi Robert Loewy looks on as his congregation members, Jackie and Dan Silverman, are honored on the weekend of his 30th anniversary as Gates of Prayer's rabbi. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Leslie Jacobs presents the Avodah Partners in Justice Award to Jackie and Dan Silverman. (Photo by Alan Smason)

would figure out how to overcome them," Jacobs continued.

The presentation was a specially drawn painting representing the first New Orleans Women's Shelter. It has since been replaced by a new structure in Central City.

"We feel just so pleased this morning," Dan Silverman said. "First, we are honored for this lovely recognition from Avodah. Second, we feel pleased to have so many of our friends and colleagues here."

Jackie Silverman echoed similar statements about AVODAH, comparing the growth of the organization to that of a cactus she had nourished for many years. "Avodah is teaching so much to us all if we would just stop and listen," she said. "Dan and I stopped and listened to the needs of homeless women."

The event featured a jazz combo playing earlier in the day. Catering for the brunch was by Andy Adelman.



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