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Crescent City TM *Jewish News*

THE VOICE OF NEW ORLEANS' JEWISH COMMUNITY

Spring | Summer 2015/5775

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Broza highlights community Chanukah event at JCC

DECEMBER 19, 2014
BY ARLENE WIEDER

The annual community Chanukah event, held at the Uptown Jewish Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 15, featured Israeli-born musician David Broza, an internationally-renowned talent who has been hailed as the “Israeli Bruce Springsteen.”

Broza fascinated and amazed the 200-plus audience gathered inside the JCC’s Mintz Auditorium. The entire multi-generational audience enjoyed this incredibly gifted artist as he masterfully played his guitar, while singing many of the songs he has popularized for nearly four decades.

Broza’s first comments to the crowd expressed his excitement on being able to return and perform in New Orleans. As he began singing his first set of Israeli songs, the audience sat mesmerized by his unique style of rhythmically placing his entire body and soul into the melodies, which he sang flamenco-style while forcefully stroking his guitar.

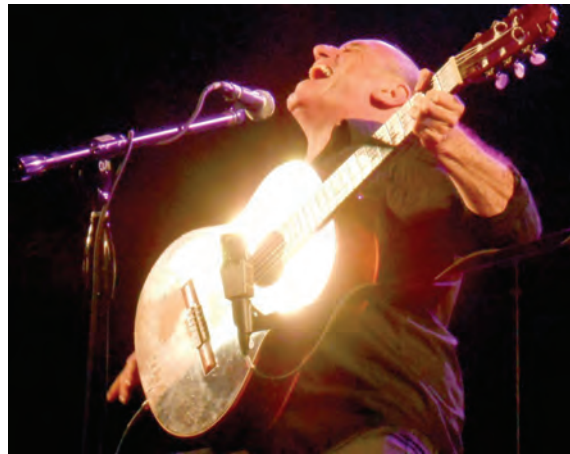
“I am stopped by strangers who want to know what Latin country I come from?” Broza confided. He continued on, “I enjoy letting them know that I was born in Haifa.” During his teen years, Broza did live in Spain, but returned to Israel at 18 to serve in the military.

His professional career began in November of 1977 when the Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat made his historic trip and stepped foot on Israeli soil. Broza explained that the entire country of Israelis believed that this trip would represent the start of a peaceful co-existence in the Middle East. He was so touched by the event that along with Yonatan Geffen he wrote his first best-selling song, “Yihie Tov” or “It Will Be Good.”

He has performed this song at every concert since its creation and he concluded this performance with the same piece. At the end of his hour and a half-long concert Broza received a standing ovation from the audience.

This was the last event culminating the first Cathy and Morris Bart Jewish Cultural Arts Series, which ran throughout November and December.

Chanukah activities included free dreidels for play, games donated by the Jewish Children’s Regional Service



David Broza performs at the JCC on Sun., Dec. 14 at the JCC’s Community Wide Chanukah celebration. (Photo by Arlene Wieder)



Latkes are handed out to attendees at the JCC’s Community Wide Chanukah event. (Photo by Arlene Wieder)

(JCRS) and free books from its constituent program, PJ Library. Young children enjoyed playing together and taking part in activities that included face painting.

Following the concert latkes and condiments of apple sauce and sour cream were served to all in attendance.



(photo by Barbara Kaplinsky)

JCDS students perform at Pelicans game

DECEMBER 19, 2014
BY BARBARA KAPLINSKY OF JCDS

Members of the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) performed “The Star Spangled Banner” on the center court of the Smoothie King Arena on the first night of Chanukah, Tues., Dec. 16, just prior to the match between the New Orleans Pelicans and the Utah Jazz.

Led by JCDS music director Lauren Gisclair, the students were smartly attired alike in white shirts and dark bottoms. Many of the boys wore kippahs. The images of the students singing the National Anthem were broadcast over the arena screens inside the arena.

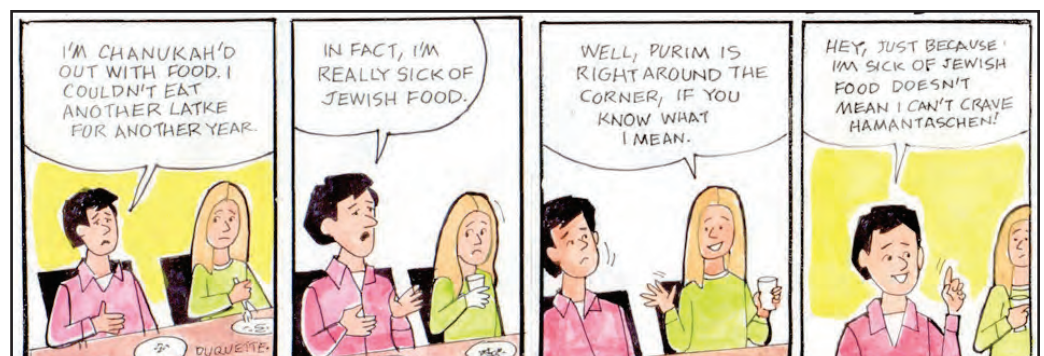
The event was part of “Jewish Education Night,” an event sponsored by the Pelicans organization. The Pelicans won the match, 119-111.

Earlier in the evening the students posed with Pelican point guard Gal Mekel, the second Israeli signed to a professional NBA contract. Mekel, a 6-foot, 3-inch player weighing 191 pounds, appeared in 31 games last season with the Dallas Mavericks. Prior to joining the Mavericks, Mekel spent five years playing professionally in Israel, winning two Israeli Super League championships, as well as being named the 2009 Israeli Super League Rising Star award. He won the league’s Most Valuable Player award twice in 2011 and 2013.

Mekel was waived by the New Orleans Pelicans on Fri., Dec. 19, a move that seemed to be born out of financial necessity. Team manager Monty Williams indicated the team had liked Mekel and what he brought to its game, leaving open the possibility that he may be re-signed by the Pelicans at a later date. Mekel, however, is free to make his own deal wherever he can in the interim.

The Menschkins

by Harvey Racklin



Introduction for Best of Spring/Summer 5775/2015:



Kenneth Snelson's Virlane Tower, located in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden (Credit and front cover: Alan Smason)

While researching back issues of the 1914-15 *Jewish Ledger* for the *Best of the Crescent City Jewish News*, a theme repeated regularly and predictably. The Jewish community of New Orleans was not at all concerned with the centennial celebration of the Battle of New Orleans. Instead, each weekly issue had an update on the appeal process involving the case against Leo Frank.

What was the obsession about this man? Why did the local New Orleans Jewish population concern themselves about a distant trial and conviction in Atlanta, Georgia?

As evinced with the rest of the United States, the greatest growth of Jewish population emigrating from Eastern Europe occurred after the 1880s and ended with the United States immigration quotas that were imposed in 1924. Many of these newly arrived Jews left Europe because of increased persecution and lack of economic opportunities. The Leo Frank case made these immigrants openly question their decision to relocate to the United States and to ponder their relative safety and security.

Leo Frank, a Cornell graduate and local Atlanta B'nai Brith president was sentenced to death for the rape and first degree murder of Mary Phagan, a worker in the pencil factory Frank managed. The conviction was based on what many have called flimsy circumstantial evidence and inflamed biases caused by sensationalized reporting and flagrant anti-Semitism.

In August of 1915, a gang of local anti-Semites kidnapped and lynched Frank from a tree in Phagan's home town of Marietta. The Frank case, which had been instrumental in establishing the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) just two years previous, had also ironically led to the rebirth of the hate group, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

In this issue of the *Best of the Crescent City Jewish News* we can't help but notice the spike in current news articles related to the incidence of hate crimes internationally. Attacks against Jewish institutions have grown alarmingly in Europe. Just last month, *The Atlantic* published an intriguing article about the new resurgence of anti-Semitism interwoven with radical Islamism in Europe entitled, "Is It Time for the Jews to Leave Europe?"

Additionally, the ADL's annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents determined there was an increase of 21% in 2014 from the previous year, and the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University found violent acts in Europe had increased by a

whopping 40%.

It seems illogical that 70 years after the defeat of Nazism and the dark forces aimed at exterminating all Jewry that we would again face such an external threat. The voices of our Holocaust survivors have not grown silent, but their ranks have grown significantly thinner.

In addition, Islamic activists interested in delegitimizing the State of Israel have sought to find redress for Palestinian issues through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. The Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. narrowly passed a divestment vote last year and more economic and political pressure is being applied to both the general U.S. Jewish population and to Medinat Yisrael on campuses nationwide.

We can't help but feel that we are experiencing the same kind of uncertainty and apprehension our forbearers felt, when they formed the New Orleans Jewish Federation and when the ADL was founded in the years between 1913-1915.

This was the period when the "War to End Wars" began in Europe. Most scholars acknowledge this led directly to World War II and the Holocaust. Only time will tell if we shall be judged as unnecessarily alarmist or if we shall be proven to be cognizant and attuned to another global disaster in the making.



November 2014

Fringe Fest with a Jewish twist

NOVEMBER 21, 2014
BY ALAN SMASON

The seventh annual New Orleans Fringe Festival held in three main areas of the city – Faubourg Marigny, Bywater and Central City – concluded on Sunday. Within its 82 different shows were four presentations that either focused on Jewish content or had Jewish performers. In many cases both were true.

One of the more interesting was performance artist Windy Wynazz (real name Wendi Gross.) She performed her one-woman show titled “Uncouth” at the Shadowbox Theatre at 2400 St. Claude Avenue.

“I would say it’s a clown show,” when she was asked to describe her act. “It combines acrobatics, slapstick and dance,” she explained. Wynazz, who recently studied at the San Francisco Clown Conservancy, based this particular character as part of a concept she developed there.

Another show with Jewish content was a one-woman cabaret work by Joanna Caplan called, “Total Verrückt!” The show’s title can be translated as “totally crazy.” It was performed at the Dancing Grounds on St. Claude in Bywater.

Caplan, a Canadian who now hails from the Boston area, included poetic readings, puppetry and original music and sounds to generate the experience of those interred in Westerbork, a transit camp during the Holocaust.

She effectively worked with a set of two rails. The rails represented the track these that real life personages were forced to travel. Her performance conjured images to reveal individuals living a comfortable life in European cities like Amsterdam. Then she displayed the trauma of being uprooted and led to trains that eventually delivered them to temporary internment camps and



Windy Wynazz, Fringe performer in “Uncouth.” (Photo by Lynne Fried)



Joanna Caplan in “Total Verrückt!” (Photo ©2014 Maria Baranova)

repeated the travel to the death camps like Auschwitz.

Perhaps the most liberal use of a Jewish theme was the provocative “A Roller Rink Temptation,” penned by playwright and actress Catherine Weingarten. It was performed at Beaubourg located on Gravier in the Central Business District. The story was one of teen angst on roller skates and performed by a company of seven. The setting was a roller rink, where the teenage girls professed their love for one another in a variety of ways.

The cast of characters included three pairings. The first was a popular cheerleader (with an unseen boyfriend) and a shy recluse. The second was an ill-advised match of a clueless “hottie” in a neck brace with her hopeful friend, who wanted to ramp up their relationship. The last was an avowed and confident lesbian roller rink worker with her more-than-curious Jewish teen. For comic relief there was a male character, who alternately acted as narrator and commentator at various times.



Claudia Baumgarten as the acerbic Dorothy Parker. (Photo by Alan Smason)



The cast and playwright of “A Roller Rink Temptation.” (Photo by Alan Smason)

Claudia Baumgarten, played the role of Dorothy Parker in “Wit and Wrath,” an immersive play in which she portrayed the acerbic Jewish-born female writer, who held residence at the Algonquin Round Table in New York with the likes of Edna Ferber, George S. Kaufman, Alexander Woollcott, Robert Benchley and Harpo Marx among many others. In character, she treated attendees to a number of pithy Parker quotes and read several passages of Parker’s poetry gleaned from her popular books

and widely read columns in *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker*.

Held in Central City on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard (the former heavily Jewish area of Dryades Street), the show was directed by local actress Diana Shortez. It was a brilliant tour-de-force for Baumgarten, who wore a hat and gloves in addition to her vintage 1940s attire to emulate the acid-tongued writer and poetess.

JCDS and Temple Sinai kids enthralled at 'Horn for Louis' event

NOVEMBER 23, 2014

A crowd of approximately 70 Jewish religious school children, parents and teachers met at Temple Sinai on Sun., November 23 to hear the author Eric Kimmel brilliantly read his latest book, "A Horn For Louis." This book was based on the true story of the young and impressionable future jazz great Louis Armstrong.

The Karnofsky family, an immigrant Russian-Lithuanian family of New Orleans Jews befriended the young and impressionable future jazz great Louis Armstrong. One of them helped advance Armstrong the money for his first cornet after the metal kazoo he often played broke apart.

Event sponsors included a Karnofsky descendant, retired judge Jacob Karno and his wife Vicki. Karno, whose father shortened the family name, never actually met the cousins, great uncle and great aunt spoken about in the Kimmel story and also recounted in the recent CCJN's SOURCE 5775 story "Satchmo and the Star."

In addition to the Karnos,



Second lining through Temple Sinai. (Photo by Alan Smason)

this event was sponsored jointly by the Jewish Community Day School and the Jewish Children's Regional Service's P.J. Library program.

Nevertheless, with several biographies including historic photos of Armstrong and a copy of the SOURCE story, containing never before published photos of his family members, Karno spoke passionately about his family members and their impact on

the boy who would become an international ambassador for jazz music.

He related to the gathering how his own father told him the story and recalled with some excitement how his father brought him to meet Armstrong in February of 1949, when the jazzman reigned as King of Zulu.

Kimmel also read from his best-selling book "Herschel and the Hannukah Goblins" and his



Judge Jacob Karno, left, speaks about his family's influence on Louis Armstrong as his wife Vicki, author Eric Kimmel and JCDS principal Sharon Pollin look on. (Photo by Alan Smason)

latest Chanukah book, "Simon and the Bear," a story based in part on a young man whose body was recovered on a floe in the North Atlantic Ocean following the sinking of the S.S. Titanic.

The Jewish Community Day School principal Sharon Pollin served as emcee for the event and emphasized the Kimmel story by distributing colorful kazoos for the children. Beignets were passed around the room

before a Louis Armstrong tribute band came into the room and performed, eventually leading a second line procession through the building.

In addition to the Karnos, this event was sponsored jointly by the Jewish Community Day School and the Jewish Children's Regional Service's P.J. Library program.



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Boy Scout 10 Commandments Hike features 3 Jewish highlights

DECEMBER 05, 2014

A contingent of 160 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, adult leaders on what has become an annual tradition for many families, the Ten Commandments Hike. Sponsored by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, the concept of the Ten Commandments Hike is simple. It's a G-d-centric, faith-based trek between three and six miles in length at ten different houses of worship or assembly halls, where a member of the clergy or a lay leader speaks about each one of the Ten Commandments and concordantly promotes hiking and physical fitness. Along the way, Scouts and other participants are taught the great lessons of tolerance and acceptance of different religions, but to emphasize the similarities they all share.

This year's hike featured three Jewish highlights. First of all, through the courtesy of department chair Brian Horowitz, registration and check-in occurred at the Tulane University Jewish Studies Department building at 7031 Freret Street. Pre-registered participants checked in and received their wristbands, event patches, water bottles, brochures and streetcar tokens for the return ride on an RTA St. Charles streetcar.

The doors to the nearby Btsh Family Chabad Center at 7037 Freret were opened to the

group at 9:45 a.m. and the hike officially began shortly after the 10:00 a.m. scheduled start.

The hike traditionally begins with the sounding of a special shofar that in Scouting circles is known as a kudu horn. It is a likeness of the very same horn blown to gather the first adult Scouting leaders who were trained under Sir Robert Smythe Stevenson Baden-Powell in 1919 at the fabled Brownsea Island Scout Camp.

Rabbi Mendel Rivkin called out the traditional blast of the Torah – *tekiah, shevarim, teruah and tekiah gedolah* – and the shofar donated for the event from Congregation Beth Israel was blown. Rivkin then spoke on the first two Commandments (“I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”)

Following his remarks and an opportunity for questions, participants later moved up Freret Street and onto Carrollton Avenue to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. Matthew's Church, Mater Dolorosa Church and Holy Name of Jesus Church before arriving at the Jewish Community Center.

At that location Congregation Beth Israel Rabbi Gabe Greenberg took care to address the crowd with a very loose explanation of the Commandment “Thou shalt not commit adultery” at an appropriate level that children and youth could



In full Boy Scout attire, CCJN Editor Alan Smason blows the shofar that begins the hike.



Rabbi Gabe Greenberg at the JCC. (Photo by Alan Smason)

understand.

After a filling Subway meal, participants continued to four other houses of worship at Watston Memorial Teaching Ministries, Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church, Unity Temple and ended at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Sanctioned and sponsored by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, Ten Commandments Hikes place the Jewish religion on the same level as much larger faith groups and emphasize four points of the Scouting Law of being friendly, courteous, kind and reverent. The commandments are not mentioned by specific numbers since the Jewish, Protestant and Catholic numbering systems differ in order.

Although a small event, this hike is intended to breed



Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi Mendel Rivkin at the Btsh Family Chabad House. (Photo by Alan Smason)

understanding and tolerance for all faiths and to share Scouting as the bridge of values which unites them all. It is the only activity throughout the year on which Girl Scouts of the USA

and the Boy Scouts of America participate jointly. Many adults have confided to that it is their favorite Scouting “family” activity throughout the year.

Issacson speaks on ‘Innovators’ at JCC

DECEMBER 05, 2014
BY ALAN SMASON

Walter Issacson returned home again with a new book. This time his tome was not on just one individual as he had done previously for the likes of Benjamin Franklin, Henry Kissinger, Albert Einstein and Steven Jobs. This time he focused on similarities between several pivotal figures responsible for ushering in the digital age.

In “The Innovators: How

a Group of Hackers, Geniuses and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution,” Issacson points to misunderstood figures like British computer scientist and cryptanalyst Alan Turing and Lord Byron's daughter, Ada Lovelace.

Turing was a brilliant man, whose algorithms and theorems have established him in the minds of many as the father of modern computer technology. He was cited by Prime Minister Winston Churchill as having contributed significantly to the

war effort by his breaking the Germans' Enigma Code.

The theme of this book and every theme of entrepreneurship that we do,” said Issacson, “is it's always been this ability to bring the humanities and technology together.”

All of these innovators, Issacson said, stood at the crossroads of the arts and the humanities with technology. He believes their understanding of how to apply the two made success for the likes of Steve Jobs, Steve

Wozniak, Bill Gates and others and helped bring about the modern technological giants like Apple and Microsoft as well as to create the Internet.

Following his talk before a packed audience of 300 and a brief period for questions, Issacson adjourned to the hallway and proceeded to sign copies of his work.

The event was sponsored by the Jewish Community Center through a gift from Cathy and Morris Bart and Octavia Books.



Biographer Walter Issacson talking about his book “The Innovators” on December 1 at the JCC. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Berensons and Bensons receive ADL's top award

DECEMBER 07, 2014
BY ALAN SMASON

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) apparently considers having a last name starting with the letter “b” as a good thing. The organization’s founder and longtime director, A.I. “B” Botnick, is the first example of this. Since 1995, he has been memorialized with the A.I. Botnick Torch of Liberty Award, presented to members of the local community who have followed the organization’s tenets designed to lessen prejudice and fight racism throughout America.

This year the South Central Chapter of the ADL bestowed the award upon two couples whose last names also begin with “b” – Dr. Gerald and Joan Berenson and Tom and Gayle Benson.

The opulent Empire Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel was the site for the annual ADL award dinner on Thursday, Dec. 4, the first under the helm of recently installed South Central Region director Allison Padilla-Goodman.

Tom Benson, the owner of two professional sports franchises, the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League and the New Orleans Pelicans of the National Basketball Association, was unable to attend the dinner, due to an inflamed knee that recently went through a surgical procedure.

Dennis Lauscha, who serves as president of both teams, spoke about his boss, who grew up in the Ninth Ward under meagre means and rose through businesses in New Orleans and San Antonio to become one of America’s richest men. Lauscha accepted the award on Benson’s behalf.

Following personal remarks by Margot Garon on her friend Joan Berenson and her commitment to supporting the State of Israel, Berenson went to the dais to deliver her acceptance speech. “Anti-Semitism is not a Jewish issue,” she stated. “It’s an American issue. It’s not a new problem. It’s an enduring one.”

She cited the ADL’s ongoing message in schools with its “No Place for Hate” programming and its commitment to fighting against bias for immigrant groups that have sought refuge in the United States as of great significance to the local community.

“New Orleans is extremely fortunate that we have had an extraordinary ADL and the turnout tonight and the names of those on the board attest to that,” she pointed out.

At first, she spoke on the need for leadership and the importance of successful fund-raising drives. “The success of fundraising to me is not in the numbers,” she mused, “but it’s the number of people whose lives we touch.”



Joan and Dr. Gerald Berenson hold their A.I. Botnick Torch of Liberty Award, left, with presenters Margot Garon and Dr. Keith Ferdinand at right. (Photo by Alan Smason)

“Thank you for being here. Thank you for being involved and what would the world be like without each and every one of you?” she said in concluding her speech.

As Dr. Berenson took his turn at the podium, he realized he had an unenviable task. “Man that’s tough trying to follow my wife,” he said with his typical drawl.

On behalf of his wife, Berenson thanked the ADL for their honor, but took time to also recognize his outstanding fellow co-recipients, the Bensons. “You’ve heard about all their accomplishments that they’ve done in New Orleans and for the state and in the United States,” he noted. “We have to thank you.”

Berenson applauded the ADL for their efforts in not only combatting anti-Semitism, the reason behind its founding over 100 years ago, but also as a vehicle that addresses social injustice and social inequity.

Berenson also decried the effects of poverty, poor nutrition, lack of family structure and a 40% dropout rate from high school as continuing factors that contribute to poor health, as evinced by the famous Bogalusa heart study he conducted and is quoted still today by heart disease researchers worldwide.

Berenson vilified the fanaticism associated with the Islamic State (ISIS or ISIL) and for its indoctrination of ninth graders to “kill the infidels.” He said he looks to the words of the Kaddish prayer that read in part “‘Let there be grace and kindness, compassion and love for them and for us all.’ To me that is the tent of Judaism,” he said.



Gayle Benson, second from left accepts ADL Torch of Liberty Award with Dennis Lauscha framed by Joyce Pulitzer, left, and ADL South Central director Allison Padilla-Goodman. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Barney Mintz Leadership Award recipients Irving Warshauer, left, and Caroline Good, right, flank Nancy Timm. (Photo by Alan Smason)

“ADL has done a wonderful job,” he concluded. “It has the highest esteem. It needs to be extended to a greater number of children, particularly at a young age.”

Earlier in the evening, Irving Warshauer, a successful attorney, and Caroline Good, an adjunct professor at Tulane University, were both presented with the Barney Mintz Leadership Award by ADL Regional Board chair Nancy Timm.

The Menschkins

by Harvey Racklin



Chabad returns with Chanukah at Riverwalk

DECEMBER 19, 2014
BY ALAN SMASON

The Honorable Mayor Mitch Landrieu was chief among a number of high profile personalities who welcomed Chanukah at the Riverwalk back to New Orleans after a two-year absence on Tuesday evening, Dec. 16, the first night of the eight-day festival.

The annual event sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch of Louisiana was held for the past two Chanukah holidays at different locations within the Lakeside Shopping Mall in Metairie due to ongoing construction at the Riverwalk site. The rebuilding efforts had been undertaken by the new owners of the Riverwalk complex, the Howard Hughes Corporation, who have since renamed it the Outlet Collection at the Riverwalk.

Landrieu extended his greetings to the crowd and personally thanked Chabad for bringing the event back to New Orleans after the two-year hiatus. "May the blessings of Chanukah extend to all people and let them be blessings of peace extended to all people," he said before leaving the stage.

A crowd of 200 jammed the area surrounding the fountain at Spanish Plaza enjoying free latkes passed out by Chabad volunteers. Other food and Chanukah necessities like menorahs and candles were sold by Kosher Cajun New York Delicatessen and Grocery. A Dreidel House filled with fun activities for the younger set kept kids busy through the night, while some children enjoyed having their faces painted colorfully.

The highlight of the night was the lighting of an 11-foot tall Chanukiah, constructed out of wood by New Orleans Holocaust survivor Isak Borenstein of blessed memory, reported to be the largest in the state.

This year David Halpern was selected to light the shamash and first candle position to commemorate the first night of the eight-night holiday. Prayers for the lighting were accompanied by prayers recited by two young boys, both students at Torah Academy.

Yoel Sharabi, an Israeli musician and singer, played guitar and sang a number of Chanukah melodies for the enjoyment of the crowd both before and after the lighting ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Sharabi continued his performance, encouraging the crowd to dance in separate groups of men and women. Ooh La La Entertainment provided the sound system and background music when Sharabi was not performing.



New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu at the Chanukah at the Riverwalk event on Dec. 16, 2014. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Rabbi Zelig Rivkin of Chabad Lubavitch of Louisiana addresses the crowd at the Chanukah at the Riverwalk event for 2014. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Chanukah at the Riverwalk featured the biggest Chanukiah in the state built by Isak Borenstein of blessed memory. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Chef Alon Shaya prepares latkes at JCRS event. (All photos by Alan Smason)

JCRS 'Latkes' event at Hotel Modern a success

DECEMBER 14, 2014

The Jewish Regional Children's Service (JCRS) held a Chanukah-themed mixer and fund-raiser for young professionals on Thursday night, Dec. 11, at Bellocq, the upscale bar located in the Hotel Modern.

The event titled "Latkes with a Twist" began at 8:00 p.m. and featured musician Mark Rubin, who entertained the crowd of 100 inside the bar for three hours. Meanwhile, Chef Alon Shaya and his staff from Domenica Restaurant prepared latkes by the dozens with an amazing array of condiments to adorn the traditional Chanukah staple.

Inside the bar an assortment of drinks and catered kosher food items were also available for party guests.

Funds raised through \$25.00 entry fee went to support the PJ Library program, which provides free monthly books to Jewish children. Proceeds from the event also benefited JCRS aid programs to large numbers of at-risk Jewish youth and families. Many of the programs include funds for college assistance, Jewish summer camp grants, and aid to families



Domenica Restaurant offers latkes.



Musician Mark Rubin with clarinetist Ben Schenck, right, entertains at JCRS event.

with children with special needs.

According to its own research, JCRS campaigns reach 35% of all Jewish youth in the Greater New Orleans area and extend to more than 1500 youth across seven states located in the Mid-South.

Etzkin family gathers for Mama's 90th

DECEMBER 21, 2014

Members of the Etzkin family gathered from across the country, assembling for four days of fun and sight-seeing while honoring the matriarch of the clan, Aline "Mamaline" Etzkin Abrams, who celebrated her 90th birthday.

With entertainment by a local traditional jazz band, and a video slide show, the event was planned and organized by Jeffrey Etzkin, one of Abrams' sons, who is a professional event planner.

The party was held Saturday, Dec. 20 in the Versailles Room at the New Orleans Riverside Hilton Hotel.

The eight original sibling members of the Etzkin family – four girls followed by four boys are in order – Yael, Sylvia, Lynn, Sandra, Aaron, Ian, Jeff and Michael. Today they range in age from 69 to 53. Abrams was toasted by family members with a "Betty Boop," theme, the image with which she identified years ago.



With "Mamaline" in the center, the members of the Etzkin family gather to celebrate. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Israel's population at 8.3 million at close of 2014

DECEMBER 30, 2014

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's population on the eve of 2015 stands at 8.3 million.

Some 6.2 million of that population are Jewish and 1.7 million are Arabs as 2014 comes to a close, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics reported Monday.

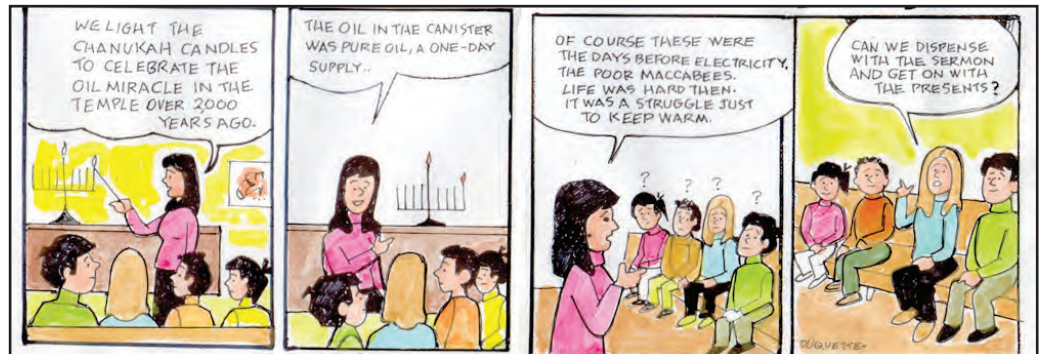
The population's percentage breakdown is 74.9 percent Jewish, 20.7 percent Arab and 4.3 percent others, including Christians and people who do not identify with any religion or nationality.

Israel's population grew by 2 percent in 2014, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. Some 176,600 babies were born during the year and some 23,000 new immigrants arrived.

At the end of December 2013, Israel's population was estimated at some 8,132,000.

The Menschkins

by Harvey Rachlin



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THE VOICE OF NEW ORLEANS' JEWISH COMMUNITY

It's the most confusing time of the year!

DECEMBER 25, 2014
BY ARLENE WIEDER, FIRST
PERSON EXCLUSIVE TO THE
CJJN

I was very lucky to have been raised in a very protective and insulated bubble in the Uptown section of New Orleans during the early 1960's. It was a time when "Jim Crow" laws were still followed because that was the expected behavior of the era. I instinctively conformed and accepted these rules. I never openly questioned why certain guidelines were placed on individuals of color.

The truth was the restrictions did not apply to me, so I simply acted in accordance. However, because I was Jewish, I, too, felt limitations placed upon me for one month each year. Starting right after Thanksgiving Day, the Christmas metamorphosis would take place in New Orleans.

Overnight the city shifted its focus from turkeys to reindeer. I dreaded this time of the year, because it caused in me tremendous uneasiness and anxiety. Throughout every neighborhood decorations would appear on the houses and in front yards. Some of the houses had long strands of colored lights that resembled long Mardi Gras beads hanging from their overhangs and roofs. Many people would add white lights to their large live oak trees. The effect of the flickering lights on these trees was truly breathtaking.

Even the simplest house decorations that only had a traditional wreath hung on the front door looked inviting. The most stately homes that generally had drawn curtains throughout the year exhibited the most beautifully decorated trees for all bystanders to view. The less affluent areas of the city also had lavishly decorated houses with exterior colored lights that flickered throughout the night.

The final decorative touch in the metropolitan area was the seasonal decorated St. Charles Avenue streetcars. They were garnished with holiday greenery

and red trim ribbons to help create holiday cheer. Besides noticing the physical changes in all the neighborhoods, my first indication as a youngster that the Christmas season was approaching was the addition of the seasonal advertising campaign skits inserted in the after-school television programming to target children.

In New Orleans we had ("Jingle, jangle, jingle here comes...") Mr. Bingle, who was a flying snowman puppet with a very high pitched voice. The daily skits were proudly sponsored by the Maison Blanche department store, the largest in the South at that time. Mr. Bingle would act in these daily vignettes both on television and in live shows performed inside the large display windows. These shows were silly and fun to watch for all ages.

Apart from being Santa Claus's helper, I honestly can't recall what this funny and quite animated little character had to do with the holiday of Christmas, but he was an annual treat to watch on TV. He always wore his ice cream cone hat, carried a peppermint stick candy cane and had wings fashioned from holly leaves that enabled him to fly. Mr. Bingle became one of New Orleans' biggest icons.

As an adult, I found out that the voice of Mr. Bingle was actually that of a local Jewish Puppeteer named Edwin Harmon "Oscar" Isentrout. His grave in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3 bears an engraving of the beloved holiday figure.

Of course, my first destination was to go to Maison Blanche's fifth floor. After all, this was the home of Mr. Bingle, a marketing tool created for that originally Jewish-owned department store. Locals commonly referred to the Canal Street location as "M.B." On the fifth floor one could find all manner and sizes of Mr. Bingle plush dolls and other popular toys available for purchase.

At Maison Blanche, I would stand in a long line and impatiently wait for my turn with Santa. Once it was my turn, someone

dressed as an elf or helper would lead me to the main man! I was immediately guided to the area where Santa was located and I would sit on his lap. Then I had to pose and smile for a picture that I knew would never be purchased. When I was finished someone would guide me away and present me with a free gift!

Then, without missing a beat, I would leave the store and walk another block to D.H. Holmes Department store's fourth floor. There I would experience and recreate the same scenario with yet another Santa Claus. Additionally, I also received a free gift from that store, too. For me, the toy was a well-earned reward and the primary purpose for the excursion.

At my elementary school there was a different experience. The PTA would purchase live trees for each classroom. It was the responsibility of the classroom teacher to coordinate the decorating in each classroom. Many times I was expected to make an ornament for my non-existent tree at home. Other times, my teacher would single me out and announce to my classmates that I was Jewish. My teacher would explain that being Jewish meant that I wasn't allowed to have a tree at home for Christmas. I don't know what felt worse—being singled out for being different or being told that my religion was lacking because it didn't include a Christmas celebration!

Some teachers made it their job to see that I was placed first in line to place the ornaments on the tree. After all, the trimming of a Christmas tree was an important lifecycle event of which I was deprived in my "Jewish" home. I remember once a classmate stood next to me and cried because she knew my life was so incomplete. I never understood why the teachers each year felt it was their obligation to share my personal information. I was Jewish, however I didn't feel my life was lacking anything until I was told by my teacher that I was

CONFUSING on page 13



The St. Charles Avenue streetcar decorated in holiday trim during the December 11, 2008 snowstorm. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Gravestone of "Oscar" Isentrout. (Photo by Sean Patrick Doles)





Red and yellow jello mold for the holidays. (Photo by Douglas Wieder)

CONFUSING from page 12

a disadvantaged and horribly deprived child. I felt so embarrassed and certainly not one of the “chosen people.”

The other annual tradition at my school included weeks of preparation to present the annual Christmas program to our families. The band would play some musical numbers and the school choir (of which I was a member) was required to sing numerous seasonal songs. I always recall the difficulty I had with the song, “Away in a Manger.” I cringed because it was an extremely uncomfortable song for me to sing the lyrics about loving the lord Jesus. I remember in fourth grade I actually cried to the music teacher and requested that she eliminate this song from the revue. I expressed my discomfort and frankly I didn’t think it was an unreasonable request. Well, I was naïve. Not only did the music teacher ignore my request, but she made it her mission to keep this song in the concert each year. She also would purposely single me out and demand that I sing the line for the class to hear my beautiful voice. I felt this was her way of trying to convert me to her philosophy.

All I know is from that day on I knew there were mean people that existed in the world. I concluded this because although she praised my singing skills, I sang as an alto, not as a soprano. Even I knew my voice was not exceptional.

My only recourse and satisfaction came on the actual day of the concert. I would stand up with

the rest of the choir, but in protest I just smiled during the entire rendition of that song. I purposely would not utter a word. It was a private war played out annually between the music teacher and me. From my perspective, the season of Christmas was just a very awkward time to be Jewish.

I remember the teachers at Sunday school telling me about the miracle of the Maccabees’ oil that sustained the ner tamid’s (eternal light’s) illumination for eight days. It was a fascinating tale, but it just didn’t compare to all the stories associated with Christmas and the beautiful music of the season. It didn’t matter what rationalized explanations I would be told, Chanukah was not magical like Christmas! It was lame to compare the two. I felt it was like comparing our local amusement park of Ponchatrain Beach and claiming it even came close to the magic of Disneyland.

Later I realized I wasn’t the only Jewish person who felt that something was lacking and a little envious of the Christian holiday. Irving Berlin and Mel Tormé created two of the most popular Christmas season songs and they were both Jewish. Within my extended Jewish family in New Orleans, some of my cousins were raised with Christmas trees and exchanged holiday gifts in Christmas wrap. My immediate family, however, did not. I must admit these actions only helped to cement my confusion and anxiety. During that generation, my family still had very little interfaith marriages, unlike today. I must admit,



A detail from a holiday poster by the Coca-Cola Company. (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia)

though, that I secretly envied my Christmas-celebrating Jewish cousins.

The most baffling behavior was from my shomer Shabbat grandmother who worshipped at an Orthodox Synagogue and maintained a kosher home. She would consistently present me with a Christmas – not a Chanukah gift – sometime around the December 25th date. Of course, she made it into a secret ritual. If asked, I was not allowed to tell my parents that she gave me the additional Christmas toy. Years later I did confront my grandmother and she explained that she didn’t want me to feel deprived or denied the perks of Christmas!

I also recall that one year at Christmas time while I was not yet a teen, I made a pact with myself. I decided when I had a family, “Christmas would not enter into my house.” My children would not feel uncomfortable with their own religion. Christmas would be a moot issue.

As an adult I relocated to the Midwest and found myself living in a much larger Jewish community than New Orleans. I remembered the pact I had made to myself years earlier. Unfortunately, in the United States it is unrealistic to believe that one can make it through December and ignore Christmas.

Through research over the years I discovered that Christ was not born anytime close to December 25th. Our present day Santa Claus was a creation by the American artist named Haddon Sundblom. He was commissioned by the Coca Cola Company to develop a drawing for a 1931 advertising campaign. He based his drawing

on the image conjured through Clement Moore’s 1822 poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas.” Rudolph was a reindeer story that came out of a Montgomery Ward marketing campaign.

A few years back someone developed the tradition during the Christmas season of the Elf on the Shelf. This year for Chanukah two Jewish versions, The Maccabee on the Mantel and the Mensch on the Bench, were marketed.

My family traditions have developed over the years. We have Chinese food every Christmas Eve and I usually serve a “Christmas” dinner the next day at my home. It’s not a celebration of the holiday, but it’s a family day that brings everyone together. No one has work on Christmas Day and because our extended family and friends are usually too busy to make time for each other during December (which is our sad reality), our traditional gift exchange occurs at our December 25th dinner.

Everyone brings either dessert or a side dish. My sister-in-law always arrives with her seasonal multi-colored and layered gelatin mold, oftentimes red and green in color. This causes me to think back to my frustrated days as a child. Now, as a seasoned adult, I realize that unless a Jewish family lives an extremely observant and isolated existence, it’s hard to ignore the Christmas holiday.

Additionally, now with so much intermarriage in many Jewish American families, we don’t want to be unreasonable and make any of our family members unwelcome in our homes. Although I don’t go out of my



A holiday place setting replete with snowmen, a reindeer and a jello mold. (Photo by Douglas Wieder)

way to celebrate Christmas in my home, I would be a fraud to say that I didn’t enjoy the music and the beautiful decorations of the season. It’s a great time to watch the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life” or chuckle to one of Tim Allen’s “Santa Clause” movies.

As most of us appreciate it, Chanukah only became a popular holiday in the 1920’s as a response to the Jewish populations’ feeling of guilt that our indulged children were lacking something in our American way of life. As Jews we should be tolerant of others’ beliefs and we need to be more respectful of our own holidays. Chanukah is a time for candles, dreidels, chocolate coins, softganyot (jelly donuts) and believing that miracles can happen.

It is wrong to make Chanukah into some holiday it was never intended to be. For the Christians they, too, have a mission at this time of year. They need to remember the reason for their season and be more in tune to their faith.

In short, we all need to just listen to the message of peace and love at this time of year. Appreciate the good things in life and be respectful of others. Here in New Orleans we can also celebrate the fact that king cakes and Carnival activities are just around the corner!

Historic battle has meaning for Jewish New Orleans

JANUARY 08, 2015

**BY ARLENE WIEDER, EXCLUSIVE
TO THE CCJN**

Two hundred years ago – January 8, 1815 – the final of four skirmishes between a ragtag army of American defenders and an invading force of seasoned British soldiers took place on a field in present-day Chalmette. We know this decisive victory as the Battle of New Orleans, but the effect of an earlier battle on January 1 may have had far bigger consequences for the Jewish community than most realize.

The Red Coats, the aggressive interlopers who had first landed at Lake Borgne on December 12, were a well-trained and disciplined fighting force, having had experience fighting the Napoleonic Wars. They outnumbered their opponents by a factor of two-to-one.

Despite having home field advantage, the American underdogs were composed of a diverse group of players from varied backgrounds, experiences and communities. This eclectic group was formed from a combined

force of local Creoles, freemen of color, Choctaw Indians and volunteer riflemen from Tennessee and Kentucky. And, yes, there were pirates, too!

Many historians go on at length to point out that the Treaty of Ghent that officially ended the war had been signed on December 24 and that the decisive battle fought during the early days of 1815 was not necessary. It is doubtful, however, that the British would have returned the land had they secured a victory.

More to the point, New Orleans and the still young United States of America might have emerged as different entities. First, Andrew Jackson would not have become a celebrated national hero, eventually propelled into office as our nation's seventh president. Jean Lafitte would most likely be known more for thievery and privateering and not for supplying the necessary ammunition and manpower he offered to the home defenders from his foothold of Barataria Bay.

But probably, most important to the local Jewish community was that our greatest 19th Cen-

tury figure, Judah Touro, might never have emerged as the great community leader and philanthropist we remember him as had he not been critically injured during the opening volleys of the first of the battles.

In his article "When Bad Things Happen" on the Aish HaTorah site, David Baum is quoted as saying: "We can understand the rules, but we cannot begin to fathom all the calculations that go into God's interactions with us, balancing our eternal needs, the needs of our society and the needs of mankind."

In Touro's case, few locals know he was one of the first casualties of the battle against the British forces.

Jerry Klinger of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation reported his research on the bravery of Touro, who had volunteered to stem the British invasion.

"Mr. Touro was attached to the regiment of Louisiana militia... After performing severe labors as a common soldier in the ranks, Mr. Touro on the first of January volunteered his services to aid in carrying shot and shell from the magazine to Humphrey's battery," Klinger wrote.

"In this humble but perilous duty he was seen actively engaged during the terrible cannonade with which the British opened the day, regardless of the cloud of iron missiles which flew around him and which made many of the stoutest hearted cling closely to the embankment or seek some shelter. But in the discharge of duty this good man knew no fear and perceived no danger."

Touro was struck in the leg by a twelve-pound shot fired from one of the British cannon. It was a ghastly wound and he was carried off the field to the nearby field hospital. A physician there, Dr. Kerr, examined the soldier, but pronounced his wound beyond his medical capabilities to cure. Touro was essentially left alone, made comfortable and given up for dead.

Luckily, for Touro, his friend Rezin Davis Shepherd, attached to a horse troop, was working as



The Battle of New Orleans. (Photo courtesy of Wikimedia)

an aide to Commodore Patterson, assisting him with the charge of defending the city by erecting a battery on the right bank of the Mississippi River.

"While engaged in this task, Shepherd crossed the river to procure two masons to do some work on the Commodore's battery," Klinger continued. "The first person Shepherd saw on reaching the other side of the river told him of the condition of Touro. He was shocked. Shepherd rushed to the place where Touro was lying."

Near a wall of an old building at the rear of Jackson's headquarters, Shepherd confronted the doctor.

"Kerr, who was dressing Touro's wounds, shook his head, indicating that there was no hope for Touro," Klinger recounted. But Shepherd refused to accept that prognosis for his friend.

"He commandeered a cart and brought Judah back to his home," Klinger continued. "Rezin refused to stand by and let his friend simply die. For a full year Touro lay in a bed of agony and pain. Shepherd hired nurses, attendants and personally assisted his injured friend," Klinger stated.

In the end Touro survived and went on to amass one of the greatest fortunes in the nation. "He never forgot the selfless act of his friend," Klinger said.

So, had the British not invaded and Touro not suffered a near-



Judah Touro (Courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection)

death experience, it is possible that much of what we have come to know and love about our Jewish community in New Orleans might be drastically different.

The confidence his friend placed in him not being left for dead, insured that Touro would respect life and appreciate what a positive outlook could overcome. His desire to be healthy no doubt contributed to his drive in business.

We should not forget that without his philanthropy, Touro's immense wealth might never have been used to help establish sections of the Jewish community that survive into present-day time. And for that we should all be grateful.

Alan Gerson show opens at LeMieux Galleries

JANUARY 03, 2015

Alan Gerson, an artist who has found mastery in a number of different disciplines, will be opening a new show at the LeMieux Galleries tonight from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The new exhibition is titled "Monuments and Excavations: Works in Plaster" and features works cast in plaster.

Gerson, who is a highly regarded painter, has also had several

other exhibitions at LeMieux Galleries, such as "Children's Garden," "Child's Play" and "Asteroids and Other Heavenly Bodies." Gerson has rendered prints, illustrated books and sculpted hundreds of rubber erasers into displays of grotesquely large faces.



Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival

JANUARY 16, 2015

The tenth annual Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival got off to a great start on Wednesday night with its opening film, "The Sturgeon Queens." This documentary centered on a New York Jewish family that specialized in sales of pickled herring for three generations. Special tastings of the firm's pickled herring and Stolichnaya Vodka were enjoyed by attendees following the film.

The festival continued Thursday evening with two documentaries: "The Lady in Number Six" and "Hitler's Children," a disturbing exploration of the children and grandchildren of Nazi leaders who must deal with their ancestors' legacies of hate.



Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival attendees enjoy Stolichnaya Vodka and pickled herring. (Photo by Ara Rubyan)

The event continued with Saturday night's "The Wonders," a film dealing with would-be superheroes. The festival cul-

minated with a feature matinee of "Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story" and "Under the Same Sun."

Dansker's program looks for Kern's 'Silver Lining'

JANUARY 21, 2015

BY KAREN LOZINSKI, EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN

The first installment of 2015's Jewish Composer Lecture Series presented by librarian, writer, music critic, and scholar George Dansker took place in the Garden Pavilion at Touro Synagogue this past Friday. Titled "Look for the Silver Lining: The Exquisite Music of Jerome Kern," it focused on Kern's substantial influence on the growth of distinctly American musical theater, as well as the personal life of the composer. Naturally, it included a selection of his songs.

Dansker helmed the evening for the seventh time in the run of the series as guest lecturer, and orchestrated an ambitious, yet user-friendly program punctuated with snippets of Kern's compositions. Jesse Meeks adroitly provided much of the music for the evening, on piano and accordion, though Cantor Mintz took over keyboard duties when his wife, Deborah, sang "The Way You Look Tonight."

Every performance was lively and beautiful, infused with joy or pathos and expertly delivered. Colman filled the Garden Pavilion with his sonorous bass-baritone voice, especially with his rendition of "Old Man River" gleaned from Kern's most important musical "Showboat."

Dansker was sure to bring up the very salient point that though Kern, as a composer, is remembered more for his individual songs rather than his stage works, the major exception is "Showboat," based on the story first published by Edna Ferber.



The Jerome Kern "Silver Linings" program included (from left) keyboardist Jesse Reeks, historian George Dansker, Cantor David and Deborah Mintz and Cantor Joel Colman. (Photo by Karen Lozinski)



Music enthusiast and scholar George Dansker. (Photo by Karen Lozinski)

Roselle Ungar announced as new JFS executive director

JANUARY 23, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON

Roselle Ungar, the most recent president of the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans (JFS), was hired on Wednesday as the agency's executive director, effective January 28. Ungar, a fundraiser and former registered nurse (R.N.), takes over the position from Michael Steiner, who is on long-term medical leave.

Ungar, a New Orleans native and a certified fundraising executive with credentials from CFRE International, brings with her more than 30 years of experience to JFS, whose overarching mission is "dedicated to preserving, strengthening and enhancing the well-being and self-sufficiency of individuals and families."

Contacted by the CCJN, Ungar said she was pleased to be able to take over such a major community agency, whose many programs include individual and group counseling, the suicide awareness and prevention program Teen Life Counts, the Lifeline emergency response system and many others.

"I'm thrilled," she said. "It's exciting and (I'm) happy to be working within the Jewish world again, especially with an agency that makes such a tremendous difference in people's lives every day."

Besides her volunteer post at JFS, Ungar has enjoyed a highly visible career in New Orleans working closely with non-



New JFS executive director Roselle Ungar takes over on January 28. (Photo courtesy of JFS)

profit organizations in helping develop management skills, leadership training, donor relations and community outreach. She has recently served as the owner-consultant of Strategic Nonprofit Consulting, a firm she founded in 2013.

JFS was founded in 1948, following the closure of the Jewish Children's Home. JFS has offices in Metairie, Uptown New Orleans and the Northshore and serves people of all faiths.

A constituent agency of the Jewish Federation, it is also a partner agency of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana.

Trixie Minx reigns as 'empress' of Krewe Delusion

JANUARY 30, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON, EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN

Burlesque performer and producer Trixie Minx remembers the day well when she received her royal invitation to become the reigning monarch of Krewe Delusion. It was in the form of a mysterious text message from a friend – a member of the krewe – who insisted they meet in person.

"He had something really important to tell me," Minx recounted. "I asked what was going on, but he was very elusive as to the subject matter." While they were trying to decide an appropriate time that didn't conflict with each other's schedules, another member of the krewe asked her if she had accepted the offer to be Queen of Krewe Delusion.

Initially confused, it finally dawned on her what was going on. "We all ended up laughing about it, but basically, after a lot of runaround, they asked me to be queen and I accepted," she continued.

Minx took to the streets as Empress of the Insane and Captain of New Orleans Saturday night with the Krewe Delusion parade that moved along the traditional route in the Bywater and Faubourg Marigny neighborhoods and then into the French Quarter.

As a person working in burlesque, Minx is quite familiar with the term "queen," which is used in official performance competitions within the entertainment field. The producer of Fleur de Tease at One-Eyed Jacks on Toulouse Street for nine years, Minx has made a name for herself as a performer, but her emphasis these days is producing revues such as Burlesque Ballroom, Creole Sweet Tease, Jewel Box Burlesque and Voodoo Burlesque, all of which have deep connections to New Orleans.

Originally from Kendall, FL., just south of Miami Beach, Minx was raised with a younger brother and sister in a Jewish home. She took up ballet when she attended the New World School of Arts in Miami Beach. Her parents were originally New Yorkers, having hailed from Buffalo and Rochester, so they pushed for her to find her passion in dancing. "Growing up, my parents were both involved (with Judaism)," she said. "When we were little, we would go to temple, but my dancing was conflicting with services. My mom gave me the choice: 'You can have a Bat Mitzvah or you can do ballet.'" Minx chose ballet, but they would still celebrate the High Holidays. "But, we didn't do much more beyond that."

She admired her parents for allowing her to find her own way and being loving of respectful of the decisions she has made. Minx, who has raised more than eyebrows when she has used Star of David pasties within her act, is nevertheless proud of her past. She admits, though, she would have found it hard to imagine her life today.

"I didn't want to be a burlesque dancer," she confided. "I thought it was trashy. I thought it was stripping and I didn't think there was an art form to it."

Dancing to classical music and ballet was her proving grounds and she worked hard to excel in it, even when her shapely frame grew into a statuesque shape beyond the normal range for a ballet star.

But then came an injury that cut her career in ballet short. "When I injured my foot, I thought I would never dance again and that was the end of my story," she said.

Minx had to give up ballet, but continued to do some ethnic dancing to keep herself active. She could not longer get up on point

like she used to, but was still strong as a folk dancer in samba or dancing with a partner. It was then a friend suggested she would love burlesque.

Burlesque, she pointed out comes from the Latin word meaning "to joke," so it should be done tongue-in-cheek. "Some aspect of the burlesque show should be a comedy or have some aspects of comedy in it."

After getting over her initial reluctance around 2004, Minx poured herself into her performances and along the way made friends with other seasoned burlesque performers like Kitty Twist. Twist also performed as a stripper, which was a line Minx was not willing to cross, but she appreciated the ease with which Twist performed and the flexibility she maintained in working the different forms of her art. "She was so talented," Minx stated. "She could jump from one world to the other and she was so knowledgeable."

Taking the lead from others, Minx began to book other would-be burlesque performers and began to promote her shows at One-Eyed Jacks and other local venues. As time went on she found she was taking more of a management position and was not performing as often. It is what she laughingly refers to as a graceful transition.

"I work with women who are not just burlesque performers; they are burlesque icons," Minx went on. "They will perform until they die."

For the past two summers she has performed weekly in Atlantic City as a soloist with the Burlesque Show at the Borgata Casino and Hotel there. The stress of traveling each week, performing, flying back to New Orleans and doing it all again the next week doesn't seem to dampen Minx's spirits.



Trixie Minx rules as the reigning monarch of Krewe Delusion tomorrow night. (Photo by Roy Guste)

"I love traveling whenever I can to perform as a guest with other shows," she confessed. "But what I find myself doing more and more recently is creating custom designed shows for private parties, corporate events and festivals."

Last year she produced "Fantasy, the Naughtiest Show at Sea" for Couples Cruises. "It was an amazing experience and we literally did a full-scale Vegas style show on a ship!"

When asked prior to the parade, what she would have under her sleeve, she replied with a smile: "I don't know. Like Gypsy Rose Lee said 'Always leave them wanting for more.'"

Goods earn L'Chayim Award at Touro

JANUARY 30, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON

Touro Synagogue turned out in force on Sunday night, January 25 to honor two of its own, Lou Good, a former president of the Reform temple and wife Susan, who will soon ascend to the presidency.

The Goods were honored at a kosher-style meal catered by Chef Rommel with the presentation of the seventh L'Chayim Award presented to them by Rabbi Alexis Berk.

Following the presentation of the cup by Berk, both of the Goods spoke

to those in attendance and expressed thanks for their selection.

Lou Good stated he has received a number of awards throughout his work with the Jewish community, but that "none can mean more than this one."

Susan pointed out she will be celebrating another milestone soon. "In August, I will have completed my 40th year as a member of Touro Synagogue and a member of the Good family." A small-town girl from Arkansas, she said she was especially glad to link her own history to that of Touro and to the long history the Good family has enjoyed there.



Rabbi Alexis Berk presents L'Chayim Award to Susan and Lou Good. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Hadassah chapter installs officer slate

JANUARY 31, 2015

BY ARLENE WIEDER, EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN

Ilana Reisin enthusiastically accepted a second year term of office as the president of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah, capping off the installation of a slate of officers on Sunday, January 25 at Congregation Gates of Prayer. The installing officer was past president, Patty Ungar.

The evening began with Helen Stone and immediate past president Julie

Schwartz leading the group in the singing of Hatikvah followed by the National anthem. The appetizing kosher-style buffet was prepared by chef Andy Adelman.

Following the installation ceremony, Reisin addressed the approximate 40 attendees that made up the audience.

The upcoming year has a varied assortment of programing from an Israeli book discussion to a fall fundraiser that will be chaired by younger generation members Carrie Paillet, Rachel Kansas and Talora Gross.



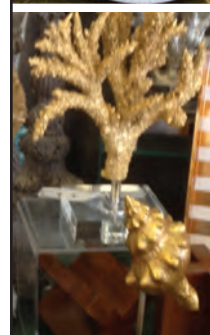
Ilana Reisin, left, is installed by Patty Ungar. (Photo by Arlene Wieder)

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February 2015

Julie Schwam Harris accepts highest NCJW honor

FEBRUARY 06, 2015
BY ALAN SMASON

After serving in city government for two city administrations over the course of 16 years and representing a continuing advocacy for women and women's rights, Julie Schwam Harris received the 2015 Hannah G. Solomon Award from the New Orleans Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) on Monday, February 2.

The award, a bust in the image of and named for the founder of the NCJW, is a symbol of the organization's recognition of her achievements. It places her name at the upper echelon of community leaders who have similarly been acknowledged for leadership since 1966.

The luncheon of over 200 people was held in the Crescent Ballroom of the Westin Hotel atop Canal Place and drew dignitaries like Mayor of the City of New Orleans Mitch Landrieu, his wife Cheryl as well as his big sister, former U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu.

Mayor Landrieu, who followed his sister on the podium, did speak on Schwam's behalf, but was forced to depart early due to another commitment on his schedule.

The mayor complimented



NCJW event chair Madalyn Schenk presents Hannah G. Solomon Award to Julie Schwam Harris. (Photo by Alan Smason)

her on her upbringing and in particular cited her father, Stanley Schwam, and mother, Ruth Freedman Schwam of blessed memory, as instilling in her a commitment to find justice and fight for human rights.

Before he presented Schwam Harris with the key to the city, the mayor acknowledged that "she always finds a way to do good for other people." He also recognized her commitment to the cause saying "she put her money where her mouth is."

Former First Lady and First Mother of the City of New Orleans, Sybil Morial, the widow of Ernest "Dutch" Morial, and

mother of Marc Morial was also called upon to speak about Schwam Harris. Morial read a letter written by her son Marc, who was the first of two mayors who employed Schwam Harris as an integral part of his administration as the director of Public Advocacy.

After the commendations were over, Schwam Harris took time to thank the assembly and addressed the issue of the sullied administration of Mayor C. Ray Nagin. "I appreciate my allies and friendships working for Mayor Nagin as well," she stated, "though his political career's ending has shrouded the



First lady of New Orleans Cheryl Landrieu with husband Mayor Mitch Landrieu and friend Ruth Kullman at NCJW luncheon. (Photo by Alan Smason)

work we did, and that he did, in dark, ugly clouds."

"I know we worked hard and effectively in many efforts before and during in the trying early post-Katrina days and I am proud of our work," she said.

She called her association with the Gumbo Coalition, the group that helped elect Marc Morial to two terms in office, as her "political" family. She thanked Sybil Morial for her kind words and said that she had hoped that the matriarch of the Morial family would have run for political office herself.

"I am honored that you think

my role in this work today and in our community from the past makes me worthy of this award," she concluded. "I just hope that whatever attention this gets me will help me continue to inspire people (as well as myself) to continue this work."

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King Cake Challah

FEBRUARY 06, 2015
BY SHANNON SARNA

(The Noshers via JTA) — I have always had a love of affair with the city of New Orleans. I have traveled there nearly 10 times since my early 20s: for work a few times, but more often to visit our growing number of dear friends who live there. I love the warmth of the city, the vibrant culture and history, the music, and of course, the food.

While I enjoyed many delicious eats over my travels to the city, the first time I tasted a King Cake was three years ago, just a few months before our daughter was born. I was seven-and-a-half months pregnant, waddling around Mardi Gras with an enormous protruding stomach, enjoying every moment, especially all the food. To welcome us to the Mardi Gras festivities, our dear friend Melanie arrived with a beautiful, colorful King Cake from Cake Cafe. This was no ordinary King Cake – it was stuffed with goat cheese and apples, and it was one of the best treats I have ever enjoyed. So much so that each year since, my husband longs to have another one, but there is just nothing comparable in the New York area.

For those not familiar with a King Cake, it is a Christian tradition that marks Kings Day (when the three kings brought gifts to the baby Jesus) and so a small baby Jesus is traditionally baked inside a King Cake. It also marks the coming of Mardi Gras season in New Orleans, when it's common to encounter many varieties of King Cake throughout the city between early January and Mardi Gras itself.

A King Cake should also not be confused with The King's Cake, or a galette des rois, a beautiful French pastry that to me tastes like an enormous buttery almond croissant. You may see it in your local bakery topped literally with a crown. It is absolutely delicious as well, but different from a King Cake. A King Cake in its modern form tastes most closely to a cheese danish or Entenmann's coffee cake.

So what is a challah queen like me supposed to do with a love of King Cake but no quality one available? Make a King Cake challah of course.

I flavored the dough with some traditional King Cake flavors, such as cinnamon, nutmeg and lemon zest. But the most fun parts of this challah creation are the icing and the colorful sprinkles. Gold, purple and green are the colors of Mardi Gras, and are the distinguishing factor between merely



King Cake Challah, recalling a New Orleans delicacy, is perfect with afternoon coffee or even for breakfast. (Shannon Sarna)

a round cheese danish and a King Cake for Mardi Gras.

I didn't bake a baby Jesus in the challah, of course, but it would be perfect with a cup of coffee in the late afternoon. Or for breakfast: Who am I to judge how you start your day?

And while it won't ever be the same as the amazing version from our time in New Orleans, at least it brought back some fond memories of New Orleans and our dear friends who welcome us back time and time again.

KING CAKE CHALLAH

Ingredients:

- 1½ Tbsp dry active yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1¼ cup lukewarm water
- 4.5-5 cups of all-purpose, unbleached flour (preferably King Arthur flour)
- ½ Tbsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp fresh lemon zest
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 eggs + 1 egg for egg wash
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 3 Tbsp milk or almond milk (more if needed)
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

1 tsp fresh lemon zest

Gold, green and purple sprinkles for decorating

Directions:

In a small bowl, place yeast, 1 tsp sugar and lukewarm water. Allow to sit around 10 minutes, until it becomes foamy on top.

In a large bowl or stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, mix together 1½ cups flour, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon zest and sugar. After the water-yeast mixture has become foamy, add to flour mixture along with oil. Mix thoroughly.

Add another 1 cup of flour and 2 eggs and mix until smooth. Switch to the dough hook attachment if you are using a stand mixer.

Add another 1½- 2 cups of flour, mixing thoroughly, and then remove from bowl and place on a floured surface. Knead remaining ½ cup flour into dough, continuing to knead for around 5 minutes.

Place dough in a greased bowl and cover with damp towel. Allow to rise at least around 3 hours, punching down at least once if possible.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Split dough into 3 even pieces and form into 3 long snake shapes. Braid challah and form into a circle, pinching the end tight. Place on a parchment or silpat lined baking sheet.

Allow challah to rise another 45-60 minutes, or until you can see the size has grown and challah seems light. This step is very important to ensure a light and fluffy challah.

In a small bowl beat 1 egg lightly for the egg wash.

Brush egg wash liberally over challah.

If making one large challah, bake around 27-28 minutes.

While challah is baking, whisk together milk, powdered sugar, vanilla and lemon zest for the glaze.

After the challah has cooled out of the oven for around 20-30 minutes, glaze challah covering as much surface as you can. Immediately cover with sprinkles in a decorative pattern. Allow to dry before serving.

The Noshers food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNoshers.com.



WRJ conference attendees from Gates of Prayer in Austin. (Photo by Amy Thomas)

Locals attend WRJ conference in Austin

FEBRUARY 06, 2015

Local members of Congregation Gates of Prayer were the lone representatives from New Orleans who attended the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) Fried Leadership Council in Austin, TX this past Fri., Jan. 30 through Sun., Feb. 1.

Jennifer Daley, Claudia Shabetai, Joanne Fried and Amy Thomas represented the Gates of Prayer Sisterhood.

Among the topics covered were control conflict and

how to lead effective meetings. Shabbat services were led by district leaders from across the country with singer Julie Silver the prominent leader of the worship.

In total some 250 attendees were represented at the conference. "We left feeling pumped up and empowered," quoted attendee Amy Thomas.

B'nai B'rith Mardi Gras Mitzva Makers parade held Feb. 1

FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Members of the remnants of the local chapter of B'nai B'rith staged their 36th annual Mardi Gras Mitzva Makers Parade this past Sun., Feb. 1 at three indoor hospital or nursing institutions Uptown.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Touro Infirmary, participants gathered, bringing with them bags of beads, plush toys and musical instruments to accompany their visit.

The parade, which is designed to meet the needs of patients

who are having rehabilitation or long-term care, and to bring a positive Mardi Gras experience to them. In addition to Touro, the parade toured Kindred Hospital and Home Life in The Gardens on nearby Aline Street.

Parade members appeared in colorful costumes or put one on upstairs and moved in a second line to the beat of the musicians. In addition clowns from the Jerusalem Temple Shiner's Clown Unit appeared with the parade.



Members of the Mardi Gras Mitzva Makers pose before their parade on Feb. 1. (Photo by Hunter Thomas)

Shaya Restaurant opens on Magazine

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON

With an almost reverential nod to the Israeli home of his birth, award-winning Chef Alon Shaya – in partnership with John Besh – has opened his shiny new Shaya Restaurant, the first-ever Israeli restaurant located in New Orleans.

Nestled in comfortable and bright quarters at 4213 Magazine Street, Shaya has brought about a brilliant concept of a menu with emphasis on the Israeli cuisine he once cooked with his grandmother while growing up in Philadelphia. Shaya emigrated to the United States when he was just a four-year-old, having been born and lived in the small Israeli town of Batyam, located south of Jaffa.

The influence of other countries from North Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Turkey and Greece is also evident in the menu items, which Shaya selected in the hope of marrying to fresh New Orleans and other locally raised food items.

"Shaya is something I've been



Chef Alon Shaya with several of his offerings at his new Shaya Restaurant on Magazine Street. (Photo by Alan Smason)

dreaming of a long time," says the friendly chef. "Through the success of Domenica (Roosevelt Hotel) and Pizza Domenica, it's really allowed

me to create this restaurant." With the encouragement and support of Besh and his other partner Octavio Mantilla, Shaya seized the moment



A medley of items include clockwise from top left: pita, ikra, roasted beets, heirloom carrots, tabouleh, stuffed grape leaves and pickles. (Photo by Alan Smason)

and started planning for the opening of the restaurant that now bears his name, only 10 months since the opening of Pizza Domenica.

"They're not only my partners, but my friends and mentors – people I've been working with for the last 11 years."

Mardi Gras a busy week for most

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

The last week has been something of a blur to most of us. Another Mardi Gras has come and gone. Although locals view the Mardi Gras or Carnival season as an accepted annual event, how each family in the city celebrates the season can be what Tevye and the villagers of Anatevka called “tradition.” There is a small population that takes flight — literally. They enjoy Mardi Gras because it allows them a break. These families follow their passions and use this getaway time to travel to either the ski slopes, the beaches in the Caribbean, or treks to amusement parks bearing names like Disney or Universal on

either coast.

The locals that choose to remain have developed their own unique family traditions, too. These include membership in various krewes as Carnival revelers, participating as spectators in the crowds, or attending magnificent extravaganzas of the superkrewes — Bacchus and Orpheus at the Convention Center or Endymion at the Mercedes-Benz SuperDome. Membership into the old line “society” krewes for most Jews is still problematic. There are some, a smattering of members of the Jewish community, that are broaching on becoming accepted, but as Mardi Gras historian Errol Laborde has explained, these are

considered “family affairs.” Make no mistake about it. There are still outright bans for our “members of the tribe,” however with the commitment and determination of many millennials that belong to these clubs, there is hope that the exclusions may one day fade.

Regardless, New Orleanians generally don’t dwell on negatives when it comes to bragging about their city’s “Greatest Free Show on Earth.” For local politicians, it’s a time to show their faces at numerous events, especially to recognize royalty with a toast at Gallier Hall. Even that tradition has been altered as the city has had to move the toasting across the street to Lafayette Square,



The Queen of Okeanos receives the key to the City of New Orleans from the Honorable Mitch Landrieu. (Photo by Alan Smason)

while awaiting repairs to its crumbling façade.

However one celebrates Mardi

Gras, it’s the time of year when football is not the only king in our city.

Technion medical headhunter speaks at Tulane

MARCH 02, 2015
BY ALAN SMASON

Dr. Paul Alexander is on a cross-country medical headhunt, seeking the brightest of minds headed for medical school to consider applying to the Technion American Medical School program in Israel.

As part of his mission to find applicants, Alexander was in New Orleans last week to speak to interested students at Tulane University on the possibility of becoming medical doctors through the Technion program.

The opportunity has many perks for those that are accepted.

First of all, there are only 32 students admitted to the school each year. That guarantees an almost unheard-of personal attention few medical schools can deliver. The courses follow the traditional American system of medical training, but have required conversational Hebrew, not typical for other

American medical schools and for those that are observant, there are no courses or work required on Shabbat.

Technion differs from other medical schools in other ways, he continued. “From the first week, they start seeing patients with a doctor,” said Alexander, who calls Providence, R.I. his home, but who has made more than 15 trips to Israel and spent a year at Technion as a visiting professor while a member of the faculty of the Brown School of Medicine.

Alexander also enjoys telling potential students about the difference in the human anatomy course as taught at Technion School of Medicine. Instead of just dissecting a cadaver, as is the case for all first year medical students, there is a clinical radiologist assigned to work with Technion students. They take MRIs, CATscans and regular x-rays of the body.

“They’re learning how to read x-rays as a

freshman, which is amazing,” Dr. Alexander noted. Unless they specialize in radiology most students don’t get exposed to these kinds of scans until later in their careers. “They’ll know more about reading x-rays than students who have graduated from medical school,” he said.

Alexander considers it a better way of teaching. “We’re the only medical school that requires every student to do research. They have a one-on-one relationship with someone on the faculty,” he explained. Students can report on findings as easy as analyzing data from patients or conduct stem cell research, which he said they can and do.

Despite the requirement for Hebrew, the doctor emphasized that students don’t have to be Jewish. Additionally acceptance into their school is determined by the student’s undergraduate grades, MCAT scores and the candidate’s letters of recommendation.



Dr. Paul Alexander visited Tulane University while searching for medical students at Technion School of Medicine. (Photo by Alan Smason)

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Swastikas painted on Babi Yar memorial in Kiev

Terror attack in Har Nof synagogue; 4 people massacred during morning prayers

Jewish veterans testify against sectarian prayer in military

Study: More than half of U.S. Jewish college students encountered anti-Semitism

Shipment of weapons bound for eastern Jerusalem intercepted

Israeli forces prevent Hamas attack on Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman

ADL: Anti-Semitic incidents in U.S. up by 21 percent

Paris regional council supports French recognition of Palestine

Antwerp Jewish parents demand teacher's ouster over anti-Semitic Facebook post

Palestinian woman stabs Israeli at Gush Etzion junction

Tufts University vandalized again with swastikas

Police: Terrorism behind deadly fall of Israeli construction worker

Shin Bet thwarts planned terror attack in Tel Aviv

Israel's Jewish teens have seen more online anti-Semitism in '14, ADL reports

British soccer star apologizes for racist anti-Semitic post

Terrorist stabbed Israeli in marketplace

Berlin approves plan to support recognizing Palestine

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Stabbing outside West Bank supermarket injures 2

Knife attack at Chabad headquarters in New York raises security questions

Five arrested for threats to attack French synagogue

Shots fired at Israel embassy in Athens

Univ. of California union approves BDS motion

Several injured in terror attack in Jerusalem

FBI investigating threat to Hasidic lawmaker in N.Y.

Portugal's legislature is latest to recognize Palestinian state

Bullet fired through Paris synagogue window

11-year-old clings to life after West Bank terror attack

Jewish cemetery vandalized in Greece

Two teens arrested in firebombing that severely injured Israeli girl

Vandalism strikes Jewish deli in Copenhagen

The case of Leo Frank and his lynching a century later

BY ARLENE S. WIEDER

It will be 100 years next month that in his final days as governor of the State of Georgia, John Slaton commuted Leo Frank's sentence from death to life imprisonment for the killing of Mary Phagan. This one act set into motion events that would eventually result in Frank's lynching two months later. It is today the only known lynching of a Jew in America.

Ironically, the hate associated with this case may have not only helped to strengthen the newly formed Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, but may well have fueled the 20th century resurgence of the racist Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. These two organizations still exist today, but are, obviously, at odds with each other. There are numerous sites online – especially that of the U.S. Library of Congress – which contain digitized primary newspaper accounts or other sources for anyone to access. Here are the facts about this infamous case.

Frank was born in Texas, but raised for the majority of his life in Brooklyn. He graduated from Cornell University as an engineer, but after a few jobs as a draftsman, his wealthy Uncle Moses, sent Frank to Germany as an apprentice to learn the pencil business. After some nine months abroad, he was sent to Atlanta, where he was given the position of superintendent in the National Pencil Company.

Once he had moved to Atlanta, Frank was encouraged to settle down, find a wife and start a family. Frank accepted an invitation to meet Lucille Selig, who was the youngest of three girls born to an extremely prominent and wealthy Jewish family in Atlanta. Several ancestors of the Selig family had helped found the first synagogue two generations earlier. In many ways this was an arranged marriage for both individuals. Frank was attracted to the Selig family's elevated status in Atlanta's Jewish community. She was his ticket for immediate acceptance into the upper echelon of Jewish society, which was important to him. For Selig, she desired a Jewish marriage and Frank fit the bill of being both well-educated and extremely presentable.

Married in November 1910, the Franks immediately took up residence in the Selig's stately manor. Most accounts suggest the young couple was satisfied with the arrangement, although no children ever came out of the union. At the time of his arrest, Leo Frank was 28 and seemed rather comfortable in his new position and lifestyle. He also was the newly elected president of

the Atlanta Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

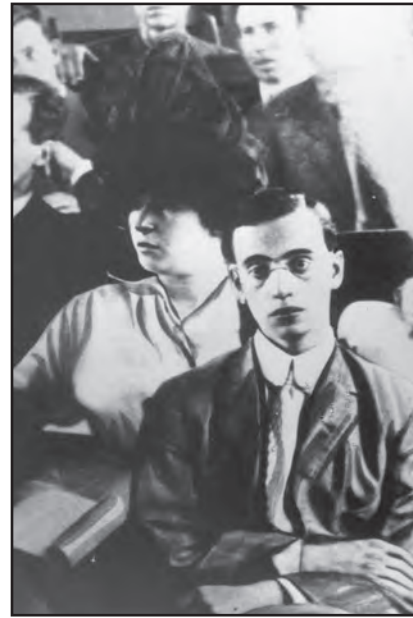
Frank was convicted of the April 26, 1913 murder of Phagan, a 13-year-old factory worker. Frank's conviction stemmed from a confession by a black custodian in the building, Jim Conley. Conley, who was also arrested in connection with the murder, claimed he assisted Frank in moving the dead body and removing any trace evidence.

In New Orleans, evidence suggests this case was very much of a concern to the Jewish community. Although Jews had existed peacefully in the South for a few generations without any notable anti-Semitism, many of the newly arrived East European Jews, possessing thick accents and wearing foreign, strange appearing garb, experienced rampant prejudice. Having left countries with active pogroms being waged against them, many of these immigrants questioned their decision to move to the United States—particularly the South. The prejudice and bigotry was exaggerated because of three key conflicts—rich versus poor, Jew versus Christian and “outsider” (Yankee) versus Southerner. Within the Jewish community of Atlanta, the established, mostly German Jews, viewed these non-assimilated immigrants with uneasiness and misgiving.

Conversely, Phagan was from a lower class white family, a child laborer forced to work in a factory to help support her family. She was portrayed in the press as a “good” Christian child, who was a tragic victim of a heinous crime.

Frank's character was taken to task, much to the disgust of his young wife. During the course of the trial it was revealed that he had apparently had carnal relations with young female factory workers in a back room on a regular basis. Four women came forward to testify against him.

The people of Atlanta railed for justice. Whipped into a dither by the sensationalized aspects of the trial, thousands of citizens rallied outside the courthouse during the course of the trial. The attorneys that appealed Leo Frank's conviction claimed the case was biased by the sensationalized and “yellow journalism” that helped rally, provoke and prejudice the local population. The most sensational of these papers was Tom Watson's inflammatory paper, The Jeffersonian, as well as his own Watson's Magazine. But even the Hearst-owned Atlanta newspaper, The Georgian, also ran many unsubstantiated stories with boldface headlines on one day, which would be recanted in smaller print the next day. The case became a cause célèbre when national



Leo Frank seen at his 1914 trial and as a lynching victim in August of 1915. Courtesy of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio. americanjewisharchives.org



publications like The New York Times provided daily, mostly pro-Frank national coverage.

Questioned after the decision, many of the jury's members stated they felt that anything short of a conviction of first-degree murder might put their own lives at risk. This is especially compelling when it was learned that three jurors were themselves Jewish. When the judge was asked to review the testimony on appeal, he stated honestly that, after reviewing all the testimony, he could not say for certain if Frank was innocent or guilty. However, as he explained wrongly, it wasn't the defense team's place to convince the judge, but the jury's.

After the defense team exhausted all avenues for appeal, the lawyers approached outgoing Governor Slaton to review the case. Slaton's law partner was involved with Frank's defense team, which may have also inflamed protestors. Nevertheless, one day before Frank was sentenced to die by hanging and four days before his term of office was set to expire, the governor commuted Frank's sentence to that of life imprisonment.

Slaton reasoned that the Frank verdict fell in the territory of “beyond a reasonable doubt and absolute certainty,” for which the law allows commuting an execution to life imprisonment. This case has been marked by doubt at all levels of review. Aside from the trial judge doubting Frank's guilt, two justices of the Georgia Supreme Court and two U.S. Supreme Court Justices

also indicated their reluctance to find Frank guilty.

Additionally no one would ever testify nor was anyone indicted for the lynching. It would take an additional 85 years before they would be named. It turns out the group that called themselves “the Knights of Mary Phagan” was not composed of hoodlums or thugs, but some of Georgia's finest members, including a former governor, two former mayors of Marietta, several elected state officials, lawyers, bankers and many members of the Cobb County Sheriff's Department. The list discovered in 1957 was eventually posted online by Phagan's great-niece in the interest of transparency.

Also, due to the perseverance of members of the ADL, Frank was pardoned on March 11, 1986 only because Georgia failed to protect him and failed to bring his killers to trial. The state will never again address the question of Frank's guilt or innocence.

Were the case to be tried today, it is likely that evidence – not rampant speculation and conjured testimony – would be presented in an impartial, non-biased manner. However, with the current rise in anti-Semitism around the world and a spike in reports of such occurrences in our own country, there is a lingering question about whether Frank could receive a fair and non-sensationalized trial today.

Adloyadah termed a success

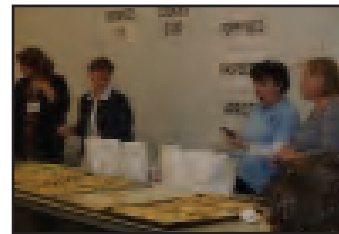
MARCH 02, 2015

Hundreds of parents and kids made this past Sunday's community wide Adloyadah celebration a success, according to organizers at the Jewish Community Center.

The indoor event, originally scheduled for the athletic field at the rear of the facility, was held both in the gymnasium and the Mintz Auditorium from 11:30 – 3:30 p.m. Games were held inside the

auditorium, while inflatable rides stood like massive sentinels rising up from the gymnasium floor.

Food purveyors stayed busy the entire afternoon. Kosher Cajun New York Delicatessen and Grocery offered hot dogs and sandwiches, while Casablanca Restaurant offered Middle Eastern treats like falafel and pita. New this year was Waffles on Maple, the kosher waffles and pizza location. They offered fanciful desserts.



Photos by Arlene Wieder



Study: Global anti-Semitism reaches seven-year high

MARCH 02, 2015

(JTA) — Global anti-Semitic incidents reached a seven-year high, a new study found, while social hostilities involving religion declined somewhat in 2013 following a six-year peak.

The Pew Research Center's annual study of global restrictions on religion, released Feb. 26, reported that approximately one-quarter of the world's countries are "grappling with high levels of religious hostilities within their borders."

Christians and Muslims, together making up more than half of the world's population, faced harassment in the largest number

of countries. However, the study noted a "marked increase in the number of countries where Jews were harassed."

In the 77 countries in which Jews were harassed, Jews were "much more likely to be harassed by individuals or groups in society than by governments."

The study reported that in Europe, harassment of Jews and Muslims was "particularly widespread," with Jews experiencing harassment in 34 European countries and Muslims in 32 countries.

As in the previous years of the study, social hostilities involving religion were highest across the Middle East and North Africa.

Rio 2016 Olympic Village to commemorate Munich massacre, other deaths

MARCH 02, 2015

(JTA) — The International Olympic Committee will erect a place to mourn family and friends at the 2016 Games in Rio, including the 11 Israeli athletes killed by terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The closing ceremony also will feature a moment of reflection to remember those who have died at the Olympic Games, such as the Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, who was killed in a training accident at the start of the Vancouver Olympics in 2010.

The moves are seen as an attempt to appease critics of the IOC who have said that it has not gone far enough in memorializing the Jewish athletes in Munich who were taken hostage and then killed by the Palestinian group Black September. The games were suspended for a day before resuming.

IOC President Thomas Bach said Sunday that the IOC will "remember all those who have lost their lives at the Olympic Games."

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THE VOICE OF NEW ORLEANS' JEWISH COMMUNITY

JCRS hits high note at Hyatt fundraiser

MARCH 08, 2015
BY ALAN SMASON

Celebrating Jewish contributions to popular music, nearly 500 community members turned out to celebrate the Jewish Children's Regional Service's (JCRS) 160th anniversary on Saturday night, March 7 at the Imperial Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

WVUE meteorologist Bruce Katz served as master of ceremonies through the night. Honored for their dedication to JCRS were the five generations of the Cahn family and the Klein family, both of whose family members received assistance from the JCRS and have in more recent years established

programs or served on the organization's board. Jimmy Cahn spoke on behalf of his family and received a special award designed by famous Judaica artist Gary Rosenthal from outgoing JCRS president Leon Rittenberg, III.

Elias Klein, who along with brother Ike escaped the Holocaust and received care through JCRS, spoke on the important work JCRS has done and continues to do. They established the Klein/Broniatowski College Assistance Fund named for their original family surname and also their Americanized "adopted" name. Additional outgoing president Leon Rittenberg, III also presented Klein with an award.

The Goldring Family Foundation and the Woldenberg Foundation were both acknowledged for the impressive philanthropic work they have achieved in the Greater New Orleans area and for their vision in creating a legacy through their commitment to Jewish causes. Magnolia Liquor Distributor and Sazerac Company founders Stephen and Mathilde Goldring and Malcolm and Dorothy Woldenberg were cited for their past donations that today are carried forward by Billy Goldring and his children, Diane Franco along with her husband Alan and Jeffrey Goldring with his wife Walton. Both Francos and Jeffrey Goldring accepted

the award from Rittenberg.

The final recipient of the night was the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which created the popular PJ Library administered by JCRS. Although Grinspoon could not attend the dinner, Tamar Remz, a spokesperson for his foundation, accepted the award on his behalf.

Remz stated that PJ Library donates 400,000 books each month in four languages and to five countries in order "to bring families together."

The remainder of the evening turned ever more musical as the areas two cantors and cantorial soloist performed two selections together. Temple Sinai Cantor

Joel Colman and Touro Synagogue David Mintz were joined by Gates of Prayer cantorial soloist Victoria Cohen May. Additionally May remained to welcome music director and pianist Harry Mayronne to the Imperial Ballroom stage. Mayronne accompanied singers Chris Wecklein, Mary Viguiera and May as they performed a number of popular tunes connected to Jewish composers or performers.

The evening ended with "Water in the Well" written and most often connected to Debbie Freedman, the late Jewish song composer, whose influence in the modern world of contemporary Jewish song is legendary.

Federation changes by-laws to include non-Jews

MARCH 17, 2015
BY DEAN SHAPIRO, SPECIAL TO THE CCJN

With no comments from the floor and only one "nay" vote, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, at a special meeting on Monday, March 16, amended its charter's by-laws to open up membership to former spouses or former domestic partners of Jews who may not actually be practicing Jews themselves.

The vote came exactly six months after the issue first came to the floor during a contentious Annual Meeting in September 2014. Concerns were voiced at that time that opening up membership in this manner could possibly weaken and undermine the structure and intent of the Foundation itself. No action was taken at that meeting and, instead, it was deferred initially to a meeting in December, where discussion was postponed to a later date in 2015.

On January 22, following substantial input from concerned Federation members, the Federation's Board of Trustees voted to approve the wording changes that defined "domestic partnerships." Then they approved wording that would allow former domestic partners and former spouses to

become Federation members, even if they are non-practicing Jews, provided that they meet the other membership requirements of supporting the Federation's mission and making regular financial contributions.

At the start of the March 16 meeting, Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn of Temple Sinai delivered a dvar Torah from Vayikra (Leviticus 1) on "the spirit of inclusion" and the importance of "opening the tent so that all may enter." Cohn cited numerous examples throughout the history of Jewish tradition of helping others in need, including many services provided by the New Orleans Jewish community since its earliest roots.

Following up on Cohn's message, Federation president Morton Katz told the gathering at Metairie's Goldring-Woldenberg Community Center that the origin of the issue of non-Jewish spouse participation stemmed from a recent controversy involving one of the Federation's constituent agencies. The surviving spouse of a major donor to Tulane University Hillel was informed that she could not serve on its board of directors because she was a non-Jewish widow.

The by-laws at that time said all board members of the constituent agencies must be Jewish.

So, to accommodate the widow's request, Hillel officials asked if the Federation could change its by-laws.

Katz went on to explain that the issues regarding the proposed bylaws changes that were raised at the September annual meeting had been "thoroughly vetted" by the board with "substantial input" from those who objected to the original phrasing.

"It was with great thought that this was done and this is not a great deal of change," Katz noted as he read the proposed wording revisions. The full revised text of Article III, Section 2 of the Federation's Articles of Incorporation that was approved by the board reads as follows:

"All persons of the Jewish faith, their spouses, domestic partners (as defined in the By-Laws), former spouses or former domestic partners and who are over the age of majority, support the Mission and Purposes of the Corporation, and contribute to the Corporation's Annual Campaign shall be Members of the Corporation from the date on which the contribution is made through the end of the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year during which the contribution is made. Members shall be entitled to vote beginning July 1 of the year after



Jewish Federation president Morton Katz, left, and executive director Michael Weil, center, listen to a dvar Torah by Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn on inclusivity. Following the talk, the changes to Federation's by-laws to include non-Jews as members of boards passed. (Photo by Dean Shapiro)

the contribution is made."

The measure passed with only one dissenting vote at the January board meeting, Katz said, then he opened the floor for discussion. With no one coming forward to speak, he called for a motion for approval which was made, seconded and voted on by voice vote. Only one "nay" vote was vocalized and there were no abstentions. With more than a two-thirds approval and a quorum present, Katz declared the measure passed, the pronounce-

ment of which was greeted by applause.

"That means that the by-laws changes that we made on January 22 are also approved and that means that those of you who are presidents and executives of constituent agencies who might desire to have their own non-Jewish board members or members, you are eligible to do that now," Katz explained.

OP-ED: The trade

MARCH 13, 2015

BY RABBI ETHAN LINDEN



It seems to be biggest story of the year so far, if I only judge by the letter height on the front page story above the fold in yesterday's newspaper. It seems to be biggest story of the year, if I judge by the sheer number of people in the JCC, at Shir Chadash and in line at CVS who are talking about it. It's the biggest story of the year, if I judge by the vitriol of the local radio call-in shows.

The Saints traded Jimmy Graham.

Now, as many you know, I gave up watching and following the NFL over two years ago, but a local news story this momentous cannot simply be ignored. I mean, I would seem hopelessly out of touch if I did not seek to address the spiritual crisis which has engulfed Who Dat Nation.

The Saints traded Jimmy Graham. How could this have happened?

I do not pretend to be expert on professional football and still less on the complexities of building a winning football team in the salary cap era.

But allow me one observation as a football naïf: the Saints went 7-9 last season, broke even at 3-3 in their division and failed to take the top spot in an historically bad NFC South. They lost twice to the Atlanta Falcons. This was

not a successful football team by almost any measure, not in absolute terms and surely not given the high expectations with which the Saints began the 2014 campaign. Given the lack of success, does it not stand to reason that major changes should be made? If the team could not compete at a high level in 2014, should not those responsible for putting a winning roster together be willing to think radically about how to change the team for the better? I wonder if the sadness and befuddlement people seem to feel about Jimmy Graham going to Seattle is less about Graham per se than it is about the prospect of change in the football team they love. Change, after all, is hard, just ask this now famous kid, who mourns the departure of her favorite baseball player in a trade. Although most of us would not react quite so strongly to a favorite player leaving our favorite team, those of us who follow sports can identify with the feeling of loss.

And in the end, change is accompanied, by necessity, by a sense of loss. That is, after all, what change means: something is lost, and hopefully something is gained. But even if we can see the gain, we are always acutely aware of what has been lost. And in any change the losses tend to be unequally distributed throughout the system. (So, for example, Drew Brees' very public negative reaction to the Jimmy Graham trade, is totally understandable, since in his role as quarterback losing a top receiving target is far worse from his

perspective than whatever gain the Saints will realize in the long term.)

What makes this difficult is that change is also a necessary part of any system and institution. To keep the football example going for one more (rather risky) step: one of the most successful football teams of the last decade, the New England Patriots, have managed to remain excellent partly by virtue of the fact that head coach Bill Belichick is absolutely unsentimental (perhaps even ruthless) when it comes to letting players go when they no longer fit his scheme. He rarely holds on to veterans for too long, a problem that plagues other teams and inhibits their ability to win by impeding the progression of younger players and clogging up the roster with ill-used salaries.

Synagogues are not football teams, but the challenge to change and adapt that we face is just as real as that facing any institution attempting to stay relevant or team hoping to stay competitive as time passes. And just as professional sports is littered with franchises that were great and then refused to change for too long and thus lost their momentum (the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers of the NBA are two great examples this year) so too there are many synagogues around the country that remained complacent for too many years in the face of too many shifting trends. Change is hard, and it is always accompanied by loss, but the consequences of refusing to change can be devastating.

The hardest part in all this is to maintain the essential core of the system, institution or team as the change is happening. If the delicate balance between meaningful change and maintenance of the core identity can be achieved then the losses experienced within the system can be absorbed. If the trade of Jimmy Graham is just some random step in an unfocused plan then fans have a right to complain.

But if the loss of Graham is a considered change towards the larger goal of a successful team then the loss-while still painful for some-will be justified. So, too, with change in a synagogue: change for the sake of change will hurt and it will fail. But change for the sake of preserving the core values of the place is worth the loss and the risk. The trick, of course, is knowing the difference between change because change sounds good and change that is the result of careful and thoughtful planning and analysis. We hope the Saints' front office knows the difference when it comes to the Saints, and we hope we know the difference when it comes to our institutions and communities. We will not always get it right, but if we're careful, we will succeed more often than we fail.

(Rabbi Ethan Linden is the spiritual leader of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation in Metairie, the only Conservative congregation in Louisiana.)

NCJW spring fundraiser is a 'Gem of a Party'

MARCH 16, 2015

Music and food flowed fast and furious as the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) held its annual spring fundraiser "Puttin' on the Glitz with a Gem of a Party" on Sunday, March 15 in the Napoleon Room of the New Orleans Hilton Hotel.

Following an earlier patron party, the doors were opened to

rank and file members with background music and song provided by guitarist John Rankin. After dinner another musical offering was heard and seen as the Big Easy Buddies, a dancing and singing male quartet backed by a seven-piece band performed a number of popular tunes from the Fifties and Sixties.

Four past presidents – Joan Berenson, Celia Katz, Flo

Schornstein and Sara Stone – were made permanent honorary vice-presidents as a measure of thanks by the current administration for their continued involvement and commitment to the New Orleans section for more than a half century.



Permanent honorary NCJW vice-presidents are, from left, Flo Schornstein, Celia Katz, Joan Berenson and (seated) Sara Stone. (Photo by Michael Maples)

Lee Kansas honored by Hadassah



Kansas

MARCH 22, 2015

Lee Kansas, past New Orleans chapter president and current president of the Southern Region of Hadassah was honored with the Woman of Valor Award. This tribute is only presented to Hadassah volunteers who display exceptional leadership, outstanding commitment and dedication to the women's Zionist organization. The event was held at Ralph Brennan's Heritage Grill Restaurant, 111 Veterans Blvd in Metairie.

In addition to her service to Hadassah, Lee locally has actively served on the boards of Congregation Beth Israel, Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, Communal Hebrew and the Jewish Community Day School (formerly the New Orleans Jewish Day School), Tulane Hillel and Jewish Family Service. Professionally she was employed with the Orleans Parish school district for more than 40 years, spending most of her career at Benjamin Franklin High School. Currently Kansas works with her family's realty company.

Barri Bronston signs book, sells out at Octavia Books

MARCH 22, 2015

Former Times-Picayune journalist and current assistant director of public relations Barri Bronston spoke briefly before a crowd of more than 100 supporters before selling out of the 100 copies being held at Octavia Books, 514 Octavia Street. Bronston signed her book, "Walking New Orleans," a series of walking tours designed to delight walking enthusiasts living or visiting the Crescent City, between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Published by Wilderness Press of Birmingham, AL., the book is one of a series of similar short one- or two-hour walking treks the company has printed. Bronston was selected to cover the city of New Orleans in a series of emails that stretched back to August, 2013.

"They felt New Orleans was really a city that deserves a book like this," Bronston told the CCJN in an exclusive interview. The publisher sent her two of its previous releases so that the author could get an idea of what the finished product would resemble.

Because of her full-time job, Bronston was forced to embark on the project over the course of weekends, holidays and at night,

beginning in the fall of 2013. She broke the city into 30 different treks, each designed to take advantage of area businesses or rest stops to make each trip memorable and pleasurable.

As part of her research, she began to explore areas of the city with which she was unfamiliar. A find for her was the Bywater neighborhood with its newly-opened Crescent Park. "It's fantastic," she said about the riverfront botanical area that runs all the way to the Moon Walk across from Jackson Square.

Bronston also saw first-hand the formerly heavily Jewish neighborhood of Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, formerly Dryades Street, and its recent transformation following Hurricane Katrina. With restaurants like Café Reconcile and Purloo, located in the new Southern Food Museum there, Bronston noted that "The renaissance in that neighborhood is amazing."

Some areas, like St. Charles Avenue, are just one street. Others required more forethought and planning.

She broke the French Quarter into three



different areas in order to route walkers to a variety of sights, but also to provide adequate and interesting rest stops along a one- to three-mile course. "I wanted it to be easy for people to park," she recalled in setting up the various treks.

Bronston also included walking tours of Metairie with Lafreniere Park and a walk for North Shore walking enthusiasts of downtown Covington.



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'Outrageous Sophie Tucker' movie shown; book authors in town

MARCH 22, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON, EXCLUSIVE TO THE CCJN

Back a century ago, there was no Lady Gaga, Madonna or Beyoncé. But in the waning days of vaudeville, there was a no-nonsense woman who captivated audiences and spoke and sang so provocatively that she was considered something of a scandalous woman. Yet, she was beloved by millions nationwide, who made her one of the most popular stars in America for more than half a century.

That star was Sophie Tucker, a woman who made frequent trips to New Orleans performing at the fabled Blue Room in the Roosevelt Hotel. Tucker's influence is still felt today by performers like Bette Midler, who continue her brassy and risqué manner on stage.

For Susan and Lloyd Ecker, the authors of "I Am Sophie Tucker: A Fictional Memoir," the road to producing a major documentary film, "The Outrageous Sophie Tucker," that was shown Sunday at the Uptown Jewish Community Center at 1:00 p.m., is all a part of a continuum that began with Midler. Now, it is all about to lead to the next stage, the development of their material into a major Broadway musical and a possible film project with Harvey Weinstein.

Married for 39 years, the two's first date was to a Bette Midler concert at Ithaca College

in upstate New York. Susan Ecker recalls the two were sitting on the front row when "Mr. Big Shot" told her he would be right back. He climbed onto the stage and, to her surprise, introduced Bette Midler to the audience with Barry Manilow playing piano and serving as her musical director. He made an obvious impression and the two were soon inseparable and big Midler fans.

But Midler's love of Tucker piqued the Eckers' interest. The Eckers became successful in business and eventually sold their Internet business, babytobee.com, for an unbelievable sum of cash that left them financially independent, but also left them with a lot of time on hands. "What do you want to do now?" he remembers asking his wife.

They read Tucker's autobiography and found her character fascinating, but Lloyd thought there might be more to the story. "Let's find out who Sophie Tucker is," he told Susan. "From that (book) we'll make a documentary and then after we make the documentary we'll make a Broadway musical. Then after that, we'll make a film that Bette Middler can star in. And after she wins the Academy Award, then we will have dinner with her."

Some might call it overreaching. "It was a grand plan," Lloyd Ecker recalls. But so far it's working.

Their book refutes a number of items Tucker wrote in her autobiography, "Some of These Days." The Eckers were able to secure the rights to many of Tucker's scrapbooks along with much of the correspondence she had over the course of her long show business career. That's when they noticed that given a choice of writing the truth or inventing a legend, Tucker chose the latter.

After meticulously scanning the stories in her scrapbooks found at Brandeis University and the New York Library at Lincoln Center, the Eckers began to find inconsistencies in her accounts. "We realized that 85% of that book was false. It never happened the way she said it did or it never happened," Lloyd continued.

Instead of writing a typical biography, the Eckers elected to write what they call "a fictional memoir" spoken in the first person by Tucker. "It would give you a feel for her talking and we feel like we got her," Ecker said.

The Eckers now say that their research is probably 85% accurate. There are areas that can never be verified, but they believe the final result is closer to the truth than Tucker's own autobiography. "The other 15%...who knows?" Lloyd Ecker posits.

With their first 400 page book released, the Eckers took to producing the documentary aptly titled, "The Outrageous Sophie Tucker." It stars clips of Tucker along with remem-



Susan and Lloyd Ecker stand in front of a portrait of Sophie Tucker. (Photo courtesy of Susan and Lloyd Ecker)

brances by musical enthusiasts like Michael Feinstein, reporters like Barbara Walters and fellow stars like Carol Channing. It is expected to be released commercially first in the fall before running over cable and eventually being issued on DVDs and BlueRay discs.

And as to Lloyd Ecker's grand plan, there has already been one meeting with Hollywood tycoon Weinstein at which a pitch was made for Lady Gaga to be considered to portray Tucker. Time will tell if the dinner with Midler becomes a reality, too.

Federation celebrates 2014-15 campaign

MARCH 29, 2015

2014-15 Jewish Federation campaign chairs are Cathy Glaser, second from left, and Joshua Force, right with spouses Dr. Charles Glaser and Mara Force. (Photo courtesy Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans)

The audience composed of contributors to the campaign paid an additional \$18 to the annual campaign that has raised slightly under \$2 million thus far.

Guest speaker for the evening was Olivier Guitta, the Director of Research at the Henry Jackson Society, who is an expert on security and counterterrorism. Guitta discussed the increase of anti-Semitism and jihadism in Europe.

Allan Bissinger presented the tenth Roger Bissinger Memorial Award to Carol Wise. The annual award named in honor of his father of blessed memory is given to a single volunteer, whom family members believe has contributed to the overall benefit of the Federation and its constituent agencies in the spirit of Roger Bissinger.

Entertainment for the evening was performed by the conservatory dancers from the city of Rosh Ha'ayin, which is New Orleans' Partnership 2Gether sister city in Israel.

The 2014-2015 campaign chairs are Cathy Glaser and Joshua Force and the current drive ends on June 30.



The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans gave its membership a thank you gift on March 26 in the form of a reception at The Cannery, a former American Can Company warehouse that has been converted into a swank reception hall.

The 'Jewish' cake that dethrones the king cake

MARCH 27, 2015
BY JOANNA BRODER

Most locals are familiar with the glittery king cake, which in recent years has become more than a simple cross between a coffee cake and a cinnamon roll sprinkled with colored sugar. Today's varieties with fruit and cream fillings have taken the simple king cake and transformed it into more than the dessert of choice on Mardi Gras.

What many people outside of New Orleans may not know is that there is another popular dessert that a Jewish woman brought to the New Orleans market about 80 years ago. The Doberge cake stands aloft, bravely standing the test of time in what most everyone concedes is the original foodie city.

Doberge cake is special because it is a New Orleans original, says Judy Walker, food editor at The Times-Picayune. "When you look at it, it doesn't look like anything else. It's tall and pretty."

Beulah Ledner developed Doberge cake in about 1935 by adapting the popular Dobos torte, a cake originating from Austria-Hungary, to make it better suited for the hot, New Orleans climate.

Doberge is a multi-layered butter cake that has somewhere between six and eight layers. Each layer of cake is baked individually. The layers are so thin—not more than 3/8 of an inch—that one needs a special pan to bake them, notes Ledner's son Albert Ledner, 91.

In between the cakes lies a spread of custard. A thin film of buttercream frosting coats the cake and on top of that is a hard layer of chocolate, lemon, caramel or raspberry icing, Albert Ledner and his daughter Catherine Ledner said. "It's a lot of layers," Catherine Ledner said. "You open that thing and it looked like, you know, a pin stripe shirt on the inside."

Beulah Ledner was known affectionately as the "Doberge Queen of New Orleans," according to an article penned by her daughter Maxine Ledner Wolchansky, in 1987. Writing from her home in Atlanta, Wolchansky acknowledged her mother based her Doberge cake on the Dobos torte—a cake

made up of thin layers of sponge cake with buttercream between the layers and on the outside of the cake and a layer of hard caramel or chocolate on top.

"... She intuitively knew that it [Dobos torte] was too rich and heavy for the New Orleans' climate," Wolchansky of blessed memory, wrote in a self-published cookbook of her mother's recipes titled "Let's Bake with Beulah Ledner: A Legendary New Orleans Lady."

The Dobos torte on which the Doberge cake is based used to be very popular in Jewish communities around the country and especially in New York City in the early twentieth century, said Joan Nathan, Jewish cookbook author. Her most recent book is "Quiches, Kugels and Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France".

She remembers the Dobos torte as a seven-layer, white cake with chocolate buttercream and a layer of caramel or chocolate at the top. What made it so good is the buttercream frosting between the layers, she said.

"I love it," she said, and fondly remembers eating the cake as a child.

Rose Beranbaum, author of "The Cake Bible", has her own version of Dobos Torte in her cookbook "The Melting Pot" which she based on her time working in the Hungarian bakery Gundel and which she slightly tweaked so that the butter cream was less grainy.

Beranbaum said that there is something "magical" about skinny, multi-layered cake: "Think of it," she said. "If you just have two layers, you don't get as much butter cream. This way, you get almost as much butter cream as some of the bakeries in New Orleans use a fondant over the thin layer of butter cream frosting."

Beranbaum said fondant is generally used to keep things fresh so that you have time to decorate them. It is not exactly the ingredient of choice when there are options.

"Most people don't want to eat fondant," she said, "but of course in New Orleans people have a much bigger sweet tooth and so I can see why they wouldn't have any

objection to it, but that's not my way of using fondant."

Some bakeries use poured fudge instead of fondant to coat the cake; Beranbaum said that fudge is also very sweet.

"See my goal is to make things not cloyingly sweet," she said. "[In the South] they still go for their pralines and sugary things so I think that wouldn't be the way I would do it, but there's a market for it, especially in New Orleans."

While Ledner's version of the cake used custard instead of buttercream frosting between the layers, she also made butter cake rather than sponge cake.

"This produced a torte with subtle richness and lighter quality," Wolchansky wrote in her cookbook.

The cake stayed cool because it required refrigeration, especially in the semi-tropical clime of the Big Easy. "She felt like it was great for New Orleans."

Beulah Ledner created the French-sounding name Doberge (pronounced either Do-bash, Do-bage or Doberge by New Orleanians), because she thought the name should reflect regional traditions, her daughter wrote.

A love for the cake requires a sweet tooth that even some of Ledner's descendants don't possess.

Albert Ledner, well known for his residential and commercial architecture around New Orleans and the country, says he likes it, but it is a bit too sweet and rich for him.

Catherine Ledner, a photographer based in Los Angeles, said that although the cake is supposed to be lighter than Dobos torte (pronounced do-bosh), it is still pretty rich. "I'm really not into icing and there's a lot of icing on that cake," she said.

Still, not too many people in New Orleans will dispute the popularity of Doberge cake.

"I think the importance of it is self-evident because ... 90 percent of bakeries in New Orleans do their own version," Albert Ledner said.

No bakery in New Orleans makes the Doberge cake exactly the way his mother made it, Albert Ledner says. That is because the baking process is so labor-intensive



The famous Doberge cake, half chocolate and half lemon as made by Gambino's Baker in Metairie. (Courtesy of Gambino's)

that commercial bakeries today cannot make it the way she did and still recoup their money. His mother never made much money on Doberge, Albert Ledner said. She did it on the basis of 'this is the way it should be done.'

Unsurprisingly, bakers in New Orleans tend to think they are the best at making Doberge.

That is not to say that individuals cannot make the cake the right way. Last year, when Albert Ledner turned 90, a neighbor and caterer made a Doberge cake, which he described as "very close and very good."

Unsurprisingly, bakers in New Orleans tend to think they are the best at making Doberge.

So the pop-up bakery and supplier of desserts to restaurants also uses their own spin on the custard. Theirs is actually a pudding with more updated flavors such as cream cheese, cherry and banana. Traditional flavors for doberge have always been chocolate, lemon and then caramel, Mary said.

Scelfo said a lot of bakeries and grocery stores in New Orleans try to emulate Gambino's Bakery's doberge cake but it's a lost cause.

"They'll take one layer and slice it and we literally bake each layer individually ... because you don't want your custard to be absorbed within the layer," he said.

Even though she had sold her recipe to Gambino's, in 1946, Beulah Ledner opted to go back into the bakery business as a competitor to Gambino's.

Scelfo recalls having visited Ledner in her bakery, which she opened

in Metairie. She was charming, but tough, he recalled: "You did it right or you just didn't do it."

Ingredients were hard to come by during World War II and so Albert Ledner said his parents had to close the bakery during the war. Afterwards, Gambino's approached the couple with an offer to buy the name and the recipe. They decided it was best to sell it, but after a year of idleness, Ledner reopened a new bakery under a new name in what was then the nascent Metairie area.

Jean-Luc Albin, owner of Maurice French Pastries in Metairie, said his bakery follows Beulah Ledner's original recipe. The cakes appeal to people who remember them from Beulah Ledner's time, but also are big on major holidays like Thanksgiving, Father's Day and birthdays.

Not to miss out on Mardi Gras, he started offering a petitfours version of Doberge cake as well.

Albin bought the bakery 26 years ago from Maurice Ravet, who purchased the bakery and Doberge cake recipe directly from Beulah Ledner in the early 1980s, when she retired at age 87 after 50 years in baking and catering.

Everyone knew that Beulah Ledner was Jewish, Catherine Ledner said. She went to synagogue. She was a member of the Jewish Community Center in New Orleans. But her Doberge cake is more of a New Orleans thing than a Jewish thing, she said.

"It's the birthday cake of New Orleans," she concluded. "We love to celebrate."

Temple Sinai turns 145 with colorful gala

APRIL 12, 2015
BY ALAN SMASON

Colors abounded at the Temple Sinai Gala on Saturday night as members and friends of the largest synagogue in Louisiana, celebrated its 145th anniversary, rallying in support of its past and looking favorably towards its future.

The aptly named Gold Standard, a band that played a variety of jazz and popular tunes, entertained the crowd through the evening. The hot pink costumes of the Pussyfooters, a popular marching dance troupe, also gave a rosy tint to the night's activities. Four of the Reform temple's membership are also members of the Pussyfooters, who eagerly sold raffle tickets to benefit Temple Sinai before later performing in front of the crowd.

A full buffet, which included catering from Shaya Restaurant and others, offered a diverse menu for attendees from Israeli food to a hand-carved roast beef station and to homemade chopped liver adorned with sliced olives.

Following the Pussyfooters performance, Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn welcomed attendees and introduced incoming president Bob Brickman. Brickman took the occasion to note the past



Temple Sinai educators Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn, Ann Kientz and Cantor Joel Colman. (Photo by Alan Smason)

involvement of the synagogue in promoting progress in human and civil rights as well as promoting social justice in the Crescent City. A proclamation issued by the City Council of the City of New Orleans last week for its 145th anniversary recognized Temple Sinai for its leadership role, he said.

Brickman thanked Cohn for his spiritual leadership at Temple Sinai for the past 28 years and also acknowledged the work of Cantor Joel Colman and educator Ann Kientz, all teachers in the religious school. Brickman proudly acknowledged that the school has 100 students enrolled and that 40 children are following tracks to

learn Hebrew. He also added that 13 bar or bat mitzvahs have been performed in just the past year.

"Many are from interfaith families," Brickman added. "I think that's a tremendous achievement in any community."

Cohn took back the microphone to echo the theme of the night, honoring the achievements of the synagogue's past and in particular noting how well off it is today, despite the challenges of a decade ago when Hurricane Katrina forced the largest evacuation in the nation's history and scattered its membership to the four winds.

As Colman lead the attendees



Members of the Pussyfooters dance troupe help Temple Sinai celebrate 145 years. (Photo by Alan Smason)

in a rendition of "Happy Birthday," the Pussyfooters wheeled out a massive white cake adorned with blue and gold icing. Flanked with the numbers "1," "4" and "5" along both the left and right sides, the inscription in gold icing read "Happy Birthday Temple Sinai 145 Years."

A silent auction of donated items capped off the remainder of the evening's activities with Gold Standard providing musical accompaniment until 10 p.m.



Temple Sinai birthday cake (Photo by Alan Smason)

Zapruder cites diaries at Yom Hashoah event

APRIL 15, 2015
BY ALAN SMASON

Diaries written during the Holocaust by adolescents like Anne Frank were a major focus of the tenth annual Yom Hashoah Community Wide Event on Sunday evening, April 12, at the Uptown Jewish Community Center. Discovered after the war, the diaries are important as both historical records and literary devices, according to Alexandra Zapruder, the program's keynote speaker.

Zapruder, a Harvard graduate and one of the earliest researchers at the National Holocaust

Museum in Washington, D.C., is the author of "Salvaged Pages: Young Writers Diaries of the Holocaust." She read from her collection of diary excerpts, giving insight into many of these unsung literary heroes, who documented the horrors, fear and guilt they experienced, never knowing if the words they were writing would be their last.

"They had their own way of articulating what it was they experienced and it cut through any attempt to generalize or simplify what the Holocaust was about," Zapruder said about the young writers.

While Frank is the most

famous, several of the 60 young diarists whose work had been published after World War II are now out of print and many of their works are of unknown or anonymous origin, according to the researcher. Perhaps, the most surprising of the items that came out of these diaries was the attention to details that might have been left out by other writers, Zapruder noted.

"These writers were historians of themselves," she continued. "They put down a record of their experiences and they left a record for us to contemplate. They captured the texture and the complexities of daily life

without the knowledge of what the outcome was going to be," she continued.

Beyond viewing these unique sources as simple glimpses into history, they also serve to give insight into a generation of skilled writers, Zapruder stated. "From a literary standpoint they used the written word to communicate their experiences. They grappled with language. How is it possible to express the inexpressible? How to articulate the inarticulated?" she posited.

The sentiments expressed in the six diaries from which Zapruder read went from the factual and mundane to the poetic

and artistic.

Another common thread running through the diaries was that of guilt. Many were forced to steal food or compelled to take more than their fair share. "It was amazing to see how reductive hunger is," Zapruder said. "One of the elements of their torment is shame."

When caught up in the maelstrom of the Holocaust, everything else seemed minuscule or unimportant, she added. "They leave us with this material to grapple with for ourselves and to honor this labor of leaving a historical record for those who are

HOLOCAUST on page 31



Rabbi Barbara Metzinger escorts liberator John Rogers to the lighting of the menorah as Liba Kornfeld prepares to place the candle. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Holocaust survivor Eugenia Yuspeh, left, and second generation member Rachel Ladder Merlin, hand a memorial candle back to JCC director of Family Life Liba Kornfeld as Henry Rosenblat looks on. (Photo by Alan Smason)



Keynote speaker Alexandra Zapruder (Photo by Alan Smason).

HOLOCAUST from page 30
to follow,” Zapruder concluded.

Earlier, the program began with the procession of the survivors, its ranks now shortened to just seven members. Several of the members of the Anti-Defamation League’s Donald Mintz Leadership Mission to Washington, D.C. accompanied the survivors and their family members, who each carried memorial candles to remember the lives of those who had survived the war and settled in New Orleans.

Allison Goodman-Padilla, the ADL’s South Central Region executive director introduced the members of the mission by name and school. The students from an assortment of Orleans and Jefferson Parish schools each read passages from famous Holocaust figures, New Orleans survivors and others. After reading each passage, the students lit a candle which was extinguished after the tenth and last student read his quotation.

The educator of the year award was presented to Samuel J. Green Charter School 8th grade

English Language Arts teacher Caitlin Meehan-Draper. Meehan-Draper accepted a check for her school from Ruth Loeffelholz on behalf of her and her brother, Holocaust Memorial Committee chair Henry Rosenblat, from the Ralph and Gertrude Rosenblat Fund they administer.

Meehan-Draper was selected by the Holocaust Memorial Committee to receive the honor from a slate of teacher candidates who incorporate Holocaust studies into their classroom curricula.

Survivor Anne Levy welcomed John Rogers, a 97-year-old veteran of the U. S. Army’s Second Armored Division, who was honored as one of the Holocaust liberators. Rogers was the subject of a short video presentation which captured his memories of passing one of the death camps as he and his comrades marched towards the war’s conclusion.

Rogers accepted a certificate from a visibly moved Levy on behalf of the Holocaust Memorial Committee.

Temple Sinai Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn opened the memorial event

with a prayer evoking the memory of Frank and her hopeful spirit despite the dire conditions she and her family endured in hiding from the Nazis. “How could anyone declare someone like Anne Frank to be their enemy?” Cohn asked rhetorically.

The lighting of the six-tiered wooden menorah constructed in memory of the six million souls lost to the Shoah by survivor Isak Borenstein of blessed memory began with Meehan-Draper and Goodma-Padilla lighting the first candle. Rabbi Barbara Metzinger escorted Rogers who was in a wheelchair. Next up were survivor Jeannine Burk and second generation member Betty Moore. Survivor Eugenia Yuspeh followed with second generation member Rachel Ladder Merlin. The fifth candle was lit by children of deceased survivors Margo Berger and Henry and Peter Boraks. The final candle was lit by survivor sisters Anne Levy and Lila Millen.

Following a moment of silence led by Rabbi Yossi Nemes of the Chabad Center of



Educator of the year Caitlin Meehan-Draper, second from right, displays her certificate with (from left) Ruth Loeffelholz, speaker Alexandra Zapruder and Holocaust Memorial Committee chair Henry Rosenblat. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Metairie, Cantor Dave Mintz from Touro Synagogue led the attendees in the singing of “Ani Ma’anin (“I Believe”),” a song long associated with the Holocaust and sometimes referred to as “The Hymn of the Camps.”

Survivor Joseph Sher chanted the El Maleh Machamim in honor of the victims of the death camps, after which Morris Brum

recited the names of all area survivors and then led the assembly in the recitation of Kaddish.

Following closing remarks from Rosenblat, Congregation Beth Israel Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg recapped much of what happened earlier in the evening, thanking all who had participated as well as those that attended the event.

Hadassah and Shir Chadash discuss human trafficking

APRIL 17, 2015

Sex, Lies and Politics: A Panel on Human Trafficking was held to a large audience at Shir Chadash Synagogue in the evening on April 16, 2015. An informed panel presented information about human trafficking and global human rights violations against women and children

Panelists included Loyola University faculty members Laura Murphy and Rae Taylor, and Tulane University faculty

member Tania Tetlow. The moderator was Michelle Erenberg,

Louisiana State Policy Advocacy Chair for the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). Erenberg has worked and volunteered as a grassroots activist and organizer for more than a decade. Locally she founded the Louisiana Women's Roundtable, a collaborative effort of progressive organizations to educate the community about issues that matter to women, children and families.

Tri-Region Hadassah conference



APRIL 20, 2015

The Greater New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah hosted a Tri-Region gathering over the weekend. The event was billed as the Big and Easy Super South Tri-Region Conference. It was a Shabbaton-centered weekend.

The three regional presidents Lee Kansas, Southern Region; Toby Parker, Southeastern Region; and Janice Bernstein, Southern Seaboard, all lead their respective delegations at the events that

were held

April 17-19 at the New Orleans Hilton Hotel in Kenner.

Guest speakers included New Orleans Jewish Family Services executive director Roselle Ungar, herself a national board member, and Rachel Schonberger, a Super South Area keynote speaker. Other national board members included Ellen Hershkin and Debbie Friedman as well as Renee Resnick, a national honorary council member and trainer.

Jazz Fest Shabbat spotlights Preservation Hall Jazz Band

APRIL 21, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON

It's taken more than two years for a favorable confluence to occur so that the Preservation Hall Jazz Band can headline this year's 24th annual Touro Synagogue Jazz Fest Shabbat on Friday, April 24.

"We've had an open-ended invitation to do this for the last two years," admits Preservation Hall Jazz Band leader Ben Jaffe. "It's just our schedule hasn't allowed us to do it, to be free enough and to coincide with the service."

The world famous traditional jazz ensemble founded by Jaffe's father of blessed memory, Allan Jaffe, is always in high demand during the period of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. In addition to the concert events, their schedule has to expand so as to include rehearsal times too.

"We prioritized the service because they've been after us for a while," Jaffe explained. "We actually booked this show right after Jazz Fest last year."

Following the legacy of another Jewish lover of jazz, Larry Borenstein, Jaffe's mother Sandra and her husband Allan took over the operation of the business at 726 St. Peter Street in 1961 that today bears the name Preservation Hall. Allan Jaffe had played tuba with the group until his death from cancer in 1987.

Their son Ben, now 44, has lived in the building for most of his life and has

become a formidable upright bass and tuba player in his own right, holding his own with highly regarded jazz standard bearers Mark Braud, Charlie Gabriel, Freddie Lonzo, Clint Maedgen and Joe Lastie, Jr.

A graduate of the renowned music conservatory at Oberlin College, Ben Jaffe took over the reins of the venue as creative director and began touring with the Sony Records recording artists in 1993.

Just a couple of years earlier in 1991, the Touro Synagogue Jazz Fest Shabbat began as the brainchild of then-Cantor Steven Dubov of blessed memory. "I've seen it grow over the years," says Jaffe. "Many of the musicians that play at Preservation Hall have performed at this event. It's become as much a part of Jazz Fest as Jazz Fest itself. It's not a new tradition anymore."

Getting set to oversee his very first Jazz Fest Shabbat is Touro's freshman Cantor David Mintz, whose job it is to integrate with the guest stars as well as with longtime participants, the Panorama Jazz Band and the Touro Synagogue Choir under the direction of music director Terry Maddox.

"We've been rehearsing for several months leading up to this," says Mintz, who has also enjoyed the working relationship the temple has with Panorama and their frontman Ben Schenk.

"We're really happy that this partner-

ship," he continues. "They also play with us for our Simchat Torah celebration in the fall."

Fortunately, Mintz has reviewed videos of past Jazz Fest Shabbats, so he feels he understands how the combination concert and prayer service will go. "Musically, we'll draw from that tradition, but bring some of my own influences as well," he explains.

Two new works have been commissioned for this year's Jazz Fest Shabbat by composer and arranger Toby Singer. "He's not just an experienced composer and arranger, but he also has a background in Jewish music as well," Mintz adds.

Also new this year is the fact that the entire service and celebration, which has been broadcast over WWOZ-FM (90.7 Mhz) will also be streamed over the Internet. This should ensure an even bigger audience than can possibly be contained within the massive sanctuary at 4238 St. Charles Avenue.

Jaffe sees this year's Jazz Fest Shabbat as bringing together important values he cherishes. "What's interesting is what Preservation Hall brings to the service, which is the idea of tradition and family legacy," he points out.

"The musicians who comprise the Preservation Hall band come from very big and important New Orleans musical families. That is something that is still very important to our city," Jaffe states.



Allan and Sandra Jaffe with son Ben. (Photo courtesy Preservation Hall)

"Many of the traditions we embrace date back over a hundred years. That's something I've come to understand and something my father appreciated, honored and respected."

Jaffe recalls his Bar Mitzvah at the former Chevra Thilim synagogue as

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having been a veritable who's who in traditional jazz players. "I probably had one of the most diverse Bar Mitzvahs ever attended for services in New Orleans," he contends.

The younger Jaffe thinks that his father would have been especially honored and excited to have the Preservation Hall Jazz Band take part in this year's Jazz Fest Shabbat. Both sets of grandparents hailed from Pennsylvania from fairly observant, but small Jewish communities. When the Jaffes moved to New Orleans, it was important they maintain their Jewish heritage.

"My dad had a respect for the older members of the synagogue," Jaffe reflects. "I think he saw his father in them."

Sandra Jaffe is also proud to have her son and the band play at Jazz Fest Shabbat. "It's very meaningful to her that

we're participating," says her son. "In very many ways it's a continuation of my parents' vision of unifying communities through music."

The cantor feels excitement building towards the event. "This Jazz Fest Shabbat that Touro is a truly special event," says Mintz. "I haven't experienced it yet, but everything that is leading up to it shows how important it is for the Touro community and the (New Orleans) community more broadly." I'm so thrilled to be a part of it."

A patron party for the Jazz Fest Shabbat begins at 6:00 p.m. with Preservation Hall Jazz Band members mixing, meeting and playing selections prior to the services, which begin at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend at no charge this Friday, April 24. Doors open an hour before the service and seating is on a first-come, first served basis.



Tuba player and Preservation Hall creative director Ben Jaffe will play with Preservation Hall Jazz Band as the featured stars at this year's Jazz Fest Shabbat at Touro Synagogue. (Photo courtesy Preservation Hall)

New Orleans celebrates Israel; views Spielberg film

APRIL 24, 2015

BY ALAN SMASON

As the final hours waned on Yom Hazikaron, Israel Memorial Day, the New Orleans Jewish community gathered at the National World War II Museum to stand in solidarity with the Jewish State and to welcome the arrival of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

They did so first with solemnity and ceremony as members of the New Orleans Rabbinic Council gave readings to make the audience mindful of the 23,085 victims lost during the Israeli war for independence and all other conflicts up through last summer's Operation Protective Edge in Gaza.

Following welcoming remarks from National World War II Museum Board president Dr Nick Mueller and Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans president Morton Katz, past Federation president Alan Franco ascended the stage. Franco, who served as a host for the reception in BB's Stage Door Canteen, introduced his friend, film producer Nancy Spielberg, to address the expectant crowd who had gathered to see her film "Above and Beyond."

The film, which took almost two years to conceive and edit, was filmed in Israel

and had several computer-generated (CG) effects added by George Lucas's Industrial Light and Magic company. It tells the story of a band of ragtag, expatriate American, British, South African and Canadian pilots, who, in violation of the law and at great peril to themselves, smuggled planes out of the U.S., flew them to Europe and eventually to Palestine, where they were instrumental in providing relief to Jews fighting for independence in 1948.

Spielberg said the idea for the film had literally come to her after she was sent an obituary on Al Schwimmer, one of the Americans considered chiefly responsible for the creation of the Israel Air Force. She was intrigued and when she began to do the research on those who were still alive, she was amazed at what they had accomplished.

Following a short introduction by Spielberg who gave background on the Machal, the Hebrew acronym for "volunteers from beyond the land" as the pilots and others came to be called, the sold out audience of 200 moved into the Solomon Victory Theater to view a screening of the documentary film.

The film was directed by Roberta Grossman ("Hava Nagila: The Movie" and "Blessed is the Match"), who was suggested to Spielberg as a likely collaborator

by more than one source during the early planning phase for the film. Grossman captured the esprit de corps among the men and their joie de vivre as young rakes and adventure seekers.

"I had not seen her work but quickly set about watching "Blessed is the Match" and "Hava (Nagila)," Spielberg admitted to the CCJN. "Blessed" had a lot of recreations and I specifically wanted to see how she dealt with that. That's what sold me first, and then watching how well she handled the subject matter and how well she interviewed sealed the deal."

"I am so honored that this film is the community's Yom Hazikaron program at the museum and I do feel that this is the perfect place- the perfect crossroad for this film," Spielberg continued. "Here we have a group of American veterans who felt it was their duty, or part of their continued responsibility from their service in WWII, to ensure that the survivors that were pouring out of the camps they had just liberated found safety in their homeland."

Spielberg's father Arnold had been slated to attend with her, but the 98-year-old World War II veteran was denied permission to travel due to health concerns.

"My father was part of the Burma Bridge Busters bomb squadron," Spielberg



Producer Nancy Spielberg speaks at the National World War II Museum following the showing of her film "Above and Beyond." (Photo by Alan Smason)

noted. "He was Army, but flew in B-25s doing radio communications. As I was filming, editing and scoring, I kept him in the loop and asked for his advice and opinion on every step."

The elder Spielberg took an active role in helping to shape the final version of the **ISRAEL** on page 34

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film. "He was very helpful and eager to be a part of the process," related the daughter. "He's so sharp and has a great eye. When he saw the film the first time, we were in Israel at a special private screening of 600 people. He was so very proud- he cried! He's my biggest fan!"

Among the biggest regrets Spielberg admitted was the fact that she had not undertaken the project a decade prior, when she would have had Schwimmer and others to add their thoughts to the project. Schwimmer's actions, which violated the U.S. Neutrality Acts, cost him his American citizenship from 1950 until he received a pardon from President Bill Clinton in 2000. Schwimmer never campaigned for a pardon, insisting that his right to help the nascent Jewish State as a Jew was not a criminal act.

Spielberg met with former Israel President Shimon Peres and interviewed him for the documentary. Schwimmer, who went on to create Israel Aerospace Industries and act as its CEO, received the Israel Prize for his lifelong commitment to Israel. "Above and Beyond" reveals that Schwimmer arranged for the purchase of surplus World War II planes and their reflagging to Panamanian registry.

Peres spoke in hushed tones about Schwimmer. "He was a quiet figure, getting things done in the background," Spielberg stated. "He was almost like the 'Godfather.'"

Since the principal filming ended and the documentary film has been shown, two of its main cast of characters have expired. "It's the final moment we have to listen," Spielberg said. "We captured a story that would have been gone."



Film producer Nancy Spielberg and friend Alan Franco, who served as host for the event in BB's Stage Door Canteen. (Photo by Alan Smason)

Rosenthal, Schliefsstein honored at AVODAH jazz brunch

APRIL 24, 2015

AVODAH, the Jewish service corps, held its annual Partners in Justice luncheon on Sunday, April 19, honoring two community members who have made a difference in reporting on environmental issues or advocating for change to prevent possible future disasters.

Times Picayune environmental reporter and author Mark Schliefsstein and Levees.org founder and civic activist Sandy Rosenthal were both selected for their contributions on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the British Petroleum Gulf disaster and in advance of the tenth anniversary of the failure of the levee and drainage canals following the passage of Hurricane Katrina.

The reception held for the first time at Congregation Beth Israel, 4004 West Esplanade Avenue in Metairie, began with a jazz trio providing background music to the nearly 200 attendees.

Following an invocation and welcome from Beth Israel Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg, New Orleans AVODAH director Dani Levine welcomed guests as well as acknowledging AVODAH's executive director Cheryl Cook and national board chair Benetta Mansfield, who were both in attendance.

Rachel Kipnes, an AVODAH corps

member, discussed her experience within the structure of living in the AVODAH house and working in the outside public to ensure justice and freedom.

Naomi Orlansky, the New Orleans Advisory Council Chair introduced Rabbi Ethan Linden of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, who, in turn, introduced Schliefsstein.

The rabbi noted that Schliefsstein is his congregant and reminded them of his many journalistic awards including a 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News and Public Service News Reporting as well as a George Polk Award for Public Service Reporting. Schliefsstein's work as an environmental reporter for the Times-Picayune and Nola.com led to his publication of "Path of Destruction," a book that recounted the landfall of Hurricane Katrina and flooding from the federal system of levees put into place and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Following on the heels of Schliefsstein's acceptance of a special painting made to honor him, Dan Silverman, one of last year's honorees, was called upon to introduce Rosenthal, the woman who founded Levees.org, a volunteer organization that attempted to hold the Corps of Engineers responsible for the destruction to the city. She also received a special painting dedi-



Honorees Sandy Rosenthal, second from left, and Mark Schliefsstein, right, stand with event chairs Hugo and Liz Kahn. (Photo by Alan Smason)

cated to her honor.

Schliefsstein and Rosenthal have both been active in reporting on the British Petroleum catastrophic oil spill five years ago and in Rosenthal's case, attempting to hold them responsible for damage to the

environment.

Closing remarks were made by Lynne Wasserman, who now serves as a member of the AVODAH national board.



Al Jolson, considered the greatest performer of the first half of the Twentieth Century, oftentimes performed in blackface. (Photo courtesy of the National Museum of American Jewish History.)

JEW AND JAZZ

(PART TWO)

BY ALAN SMASON

(Editor's Note: This article is a continuation on the influence of Jews on the development of jazz as an art form. While part one of "Jews and Jazz" focused on the local Jewish community, part two focuses on the prominence of famous Jews in its development nationally and internationally.)

If jazz had its birthing process in New Orleans, then it's first formative steps as a toddler were taken out of town in Chicago and later in New York.

Chicago produced Jewish pianist Art Hodes and drummers Vic Berton (whose original family name was Cohen) and Ben Pollack.

Although some have questioned his playing technique, Pollack established himself as a noted drummer in the early 1920s in Chicago through his association with the New Orleans Rhythm Kings. Pollack's influence was such that he fronted for an amazing number of stars that would go on to much more brilliant careers than his own during the Swing and Big Band Eras.

Pollack fronted his own big band in the Park Central Hotel in New York. Among the stable of performers he introduced were Glenn Miller, Jimmy Dorsey, Jimmy McPartland, Muggsy Spanier, Bud Freeman (whose father, a tailor, was Jewish) and an upcoming clarinet player named Benny Goodman.

Goodman, who has been credited at having broken the race barrier in music, was

actually not the first Jewish bandleader to invite African-Americans to play with his on recording sessions. Big band leader Ted Lewis, who was also Jewish, apparently included Fats Waller on a session in 1931, according to author Michael Gerber in his book "Jazz Jews."

Goodman accompanied Bessie Smith on her final recordings and on Billie Holiday's debut sessions in 1933, only a few weeks later. But the Holiday recordings were recorded in secret without any photos that might have attested to their historical importance. The American public was not ready to see whites and blacks play together, Gerber asserts.

However, when Goodman and his Catholic drummer Gene Krupa invited black pianist Teddy Lewis to join them in 1935 and form the Benny Goodman Trio, history was made. In August, vibraphonist Lionel Hampton officially made the group a quartet. Beginning the next year, Goodman toured with the quartet providing breaks between his big band.

The swing era was often credited as having begun when

Goodman's big band and his quartet performed at a sold out concert on January 16, 1938 at Carnegie Hall along with members of the Count Basie and Duke Ellington Orchestras.

Another Jewish big band leader and exceptional performer was Goodman's fellow clarinetist Artie Shaw, whose real name was Arthur Jacob Arshawsky. Unlike Goodman, though, Shaw attempted to cover up his Jewish heritage by changing his name and attempting to deny his Jewishness.

Ironically, one of his early friends, Willie "The Lion" Smith was a light-skinned black man who claimed a rare Jewish parentage. Smith's Jewish father, Frank Bertlehoff, was given the boot by his girlfriend, who later married Smith's stepfather and gave her son his surname. Smith, who considered himself Jewish, even went by his Yiddish name of Velvala, according to Gerber.

The heyday of the swing and big band eras included many well-known Jewish musical figures. Included in this number were trumpeters Ziggy Elman, Les Elgart, Max Kaminsky and Charlie Spivak; trombonists Si Zentner and Buddy Morrow; drummers Buddy Rich, Shelley Manne and Milt Raskin; saxophonists Larry Elgart, Bud Freeman and Boomie Richman; pianists Joe Harnell, Joe Bush-



Teddy Riley, left, joined Benny Goodman, center, and Jewish drummer, singer and songwriter Mel Tormé. (Photo courtesy of the National Museum of American Jewish History.)



Irving Berlin in his World War I uniform became known as the "King of Ragtime." (Photo courtesy of the National Museum of American Jewish History.)

kin and Mel Powell; and a host of others.

Popular Jewish singers from the era with major jazz influences were Mel Tormé, Dinah Shore (real name Frances Rose Shore), Georgia Gibbs and Al Jolson, considered "the world's greatest entertainer" and, at the height of his fame, the most famous and highest paid performer in America.

While Louis Armstrong performed some of his early singing career in whiteface, Jolson became the archetypal white performer playing in blackface. His early association with another Russian-born Jew, Irving Berlin (born Israel Baline), known as "the King of Ragtime," became the stuff of legend.

Jolson's depiction of the fictional Jakie Rabinowitz, in the 1927 musical film "The Jazz Singer," was frighteningly simi-

lar to his own experience. Like the fictional Rabinowitz, who altered his name in the film to the more mainstreamed Jack Robin, Jolson, also the son of a cantor and a rabbi, changed his name from Asa Yoelson.

According to Lisa Naomi Silberman Brenner, the ability for Jews to obfuscate the lines of racial identity by performing in blackface accomplished an important task. "Conflating Jewish identity with Black identity allows the Jew to remain marginalized while at the same time engaging in American popular culture," she writes in her paper "The Jazz Singer's Legacy: Racial Role-Play of African-Americans and Jews in 20th Century American Performance."

"By blacking up and singing 'Mammy' at the end of the film, Robin has not only changed his genealogy, but he has also

blurred the racial makeup of his mother," Brenner suggests. "In other words the Jew has reconstructed his identity."

There is also the commonality of expression between the oppressed slaves of the African-American and ancient Hebrew experiences. Jewish scholar Irving Howe sees blackface as "a mask for Jewish expressiveness, with one woe speaking through the voice of another."

Jolson may have been the most well known of blackface performers appearing in vaudeville and its less regarded cousin, burlesque, but he was certainly not alone. Among the Jews whom Brenner gives as examples of performing in blackface are Fanny Brice, George Burns, Eddie Cantor, George Jessel and Sophie Tucker, certainly the cream of the American entertainment field of the day.

Tucker first appeared on stage in vaudeville in 1907 and joined a burlesque troupe a year later in Pittsburgh. Because of her girth, she was advised to perform in a thick southern accent and to wear blackface because she would be taunted. When her luggage, including her makeup kit was lost, Tucker was forced to go out on stage without the blackface or the accent.

She never returned to the practice and began to sing "fat girl" songs like "Nobody Loves a Fat Girl, But Oh How a Fat Girl Can Love" and "I Don't Want to Be Thin." Only a year later, Tucker was performing as a headliner at the Ziegfeld Follies.

While her popular repertoire never did establish her strictly as a jazz performer, she has been credited as incorporating a number of jazz devices

in her act through the several jazz players who were in her supporting orchestra and the friendship she maintained with fellow performers Mamie Smith and Ethel Waters. It was Waters who was credited with exposing Tucker to jazz in the 1920s and to appreciate it as a true American art form.

Again, while the influence of jazz ran across all ethnic groups, the members of the extended Jewish community did much to establish it and to promote it through their drive and industry. We have seen how the local New Orleans Jewish community embraced jazz in the "Satchmo and the Star" and "Jews and Jazz, Part One" articles. Now we have come to learn of the importance of Jews in its development and promotion across the nation and around the globe.

Faye Daube Miller dead at 64 November 28, 2014

FAYE DAUBE MILLER, died at her residence in Metairie on Friday, November 28, 2014. She was 64.

Miller was a housewife and mother and a member of the Greater New Orleans Chapter of Hadassah as well as a longtime member of Shir Chadash Conservative Synagogue.

She is survived by her husband, Herbert I. Miller, her father, Albert J. Daube and daughters Gia M. Doron and Cara Striegold (Brian). She is also survived by four grandchildren and a brother, David S. Daube (Sue).

Miller was a graduate of the University of Georgia and received a Master's degree from Georgia State University.

Funeral services were held on, Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, 3737 West Esplanade Avenue, Metairie, LA with Rabbi Ethan Linden officiating. Interment followed at Tikvat Shalom Cemetery in Jefferson Memorial Gardens, 11316 River Road, St. Rose Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society, Hadassah International or your favorite charity. Tharp-Sontheimer Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.



Pollack

Furniture representative Jack Pollack dies after brief illness December 05, 2014

JACK POLLACK, a local furniture industry representative, died Thursday, December 5 at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston after a brief battle with leukemia. He was 65.

Pollack, who ran his company, Bottom Line Sales, originally hailed from Pittsburgh, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's of social work degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Pollack was an advisor to B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and moved to New Orleans in 1975 to follow his pursuit of being a Jewish professional social worker. He soon met and married the first of his two wives in 1977 and raised his two daughters.

Later, he became a furniture manufacturer representative and traveled throughout his regional territory and abroad.

A lover of New Orleans culture, Pollack lived for Mardi Gras and especially the annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. He was a music enthusiast who never let a good time get away if he could

help it. He also kept his love for his native Pittsburgh alive and was an avid supporter of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Pollack was an inveterate photographer and combined his love of New Orleans food and culture with recording history through his photographic lens. He was a member of both Congregation Gates of Prayer in Metairie and the Northshore Jewish Congregation (NJC), which was closer to his residence.

In recent years Pollack was a much beloved religious school teacher at NJC and was very active at the school.

He is survived by his daughters, Jennifer (Andrew) Friedberg and Lisa (Jim) Walsh and three grandchildren; his sister Teri Cox; and two former wives, the mother of his daughters, Peggy Blum, and Anita Sabiston Pollack.

Conducted by Rabbi Robert Loewy, funeral services were held on Sunday, December 8, at Congregation Gates of Prayer, 4000 West Esplanade, at 2:30 p.m.

Burial followed immediately at Hebrew Rest Cemetery #3 (corner of Pelopidas and Frenchman Streets).

A reception and minyan was held at Gates of Prayer at 5:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor may be sent to either Congregation Gates of Prayer or Northshore Jewish Congregation, 1403 N. Causeway Blvd., Mandeville, LA 70471.



Julius "Jules" Sobel

Julius "Jules" Sobel, retired federal and Tulane worker, dies at 98 December 13, 2014

JULIUS "JULES" SOBEL, a retired specialist for the General Services Administration and a retired secretary for the Tulane University School of Medicine, died peacefully at Touro Infirmary surrounded by family after a brief illness on December 13, 2014. He was 98.

Sobel, who was an accomplished pianist and artist, was a lover of the arts and a devotee of opera and classical music. He frequently invited close friends and family to his home on Saturday afternoon teas at which he would perform at the piano. He enjoyed rendering artwork that copied the styles of other masters and bestowing the final works upon family and friends. An avid reader and a lover of history, Sobel reveled in his work as a volunteer docent for the Friends of the Cabildo and the NO/AIDS Hotline.

Born in Manhattan, he was the youngest of six children and spoke only Yiddish until he was five years old, learning English when he was enrolled in primary

school. He graduated from New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn. The son of a tailor, he employed his considerable sewing skills as a young man and worked at a department store in New Orleans for three years. Returning back to New York, he enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and was in training at Fort Benning, GA when the nation declared war on Japan. Sobel fought in two theaters of war, beginning his career in the South Pacific in Hawaii. Later, his unit was transferred to fight with the Allies in Germany and France, where he offered his services as an interpreter and a stenographer. He received injuries from shrapnel in battle in France and was given a Purple Heart in recognition of his service. A rifle marksman, he rose to the rank of sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1945 following the end of the war.

Moving back to New Orleans, Sobel worked for a short time for United Theaters, a period when he made acquaintance with Etta Katz, to whom he was wed in 1948. Together they owned and operated Katz Furniture on Rampart Street for 15 years, while raising their family of five children.

Sobel later became a civil service employee for the federal government, first working at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans before transferring to the General Services Administration in Manhattan, where he worked for 19 years. After returning to New Orleans, he found employment at Tulane, where he remained until his retirement.

Sobel was a longtime member of Touro Synagogue, but enjoyed attending religious services at Temple Sinai and was a regular attendee at the Trinity Artist Series, where he enjoyed listening to choral music.

Sobel was predeceased by his wife and a daughter, Sally Sobel Smason. He is survived by his children Phyllis Feran, Annie Sobel Elsas (Byron); Steven Sobel (Vicki) and David Sobel (Pamela) of Sydney, Australia; his son-in-law Alan Smason; eight grandchildren and one step-granddaughter; three great-grandchildren; and his neighbor and longtime devoted friend, Phelan Hawn.

Services officiated by Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn and Cantor Joel Colman were held in the chapel at Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Avenue, on Tuesday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. Interment followed immediately at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Frenchmen Street at Pelopidas Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to the children's charity of your choice.

Student Ryan David Reaves, 23, is buried in New Orleans

December 24, 2014

RYAN DAVID REAVES, a student who had battled disease for most of his young life, died in his adopted home of Houston on December 24, 2014 at Houston Methodist Hospital. He was 23 and just two days shy of his 24th birthday.

Reaves was born in Columbia, MD. in 1990 and lived in New Orleans until 2009, when he moved to Houston. He was an 18-year survivor of Childhood T-Cell Leukemia and a nine-year survivor of a heart-lung transplant, which he received at Texas Children's Hospital in 2005.

Reaves was a sweet, loving, kind, warm, generous, caring and sensitive person, who touched the lives of all he met. He faced each health challenge with courage and determination to make himself stronger. Passionate about animals, particularly dogs, he enjoyed traveling, fine dining, aviation and flying simulators.

Nothing gave him more pleasure than exploring the world on cruises, eating at his favorite restaurants with family, and photographing favorite dishes. He also had a keen interest in real estate and finance, and he shared a love for voice acting in animated shorts with many longtime and new friends.

Ryan recently completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Philosophy at University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

He is survived by his parents, Susan and Joey Reaves; his grandparents Elaine and Bernie Van der Linden; his sister, Sara Reaves and several aunts, uncles and cousins. His family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to his organ donor and to all organ donors for giving Ryan and so many others a second chance at life.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to LifeGift in Houston or an organ donation charity of your choice.

Private funeral services were conducted in New Orleans on Sunday, December 28 by Rabbi Emeritus David Goldstein at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Frenchmen Street at Pelopidas Street. Arrangements were under direction of Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie.

Isaac Niederman, silversmith & Holocaust survivor, dead at 91

January 19, 2015

ISAAC NIEDERMAN, a retired silversmith with Coleman E. Adler and Sons Jewelers, died at his home in Metairie on January 19, 2015. He was 90.

Niederman had been a widower since the death of his wife, the late Dora B. Niederman. He has been a resident of New Orleans since 1949. He retired in 2007 after 57 years of service as a silversmith at the jewelry store. At the time of his retirement, Niederman was the store's oldest living employee.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in Chevra Thilim Memorial Park, 5000 Iberville Street. Rabbi Ethan Linden of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, 3737 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA 70002. Sharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

Shirley Shein Hiller, 92, is buried

January 27, 2015

SHIRLEY SHEIN HILLER, 92, a mother and longtime member of Touro Synagogue, died Tuesday, January 27.

Hiller, a homemaker and mother was born in Providence, RI and graduated from Brown University. Following her move to New Orleans in 1970, she joined Touro Synagogue. She was member of the synagogue's sisterhood for many years.

She was predeceased by her husband of 48 years, Jonas Hiller, and is survived by her daughters Patti Lengsfeld (Jack) and Joan Biderman (Joe); four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Private graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m. on January 29, at Hebrew Rest Cemetery #2, with Rabbi Alexis Berk officiating.



Irvin Smith, retired record store owner, promoter dies at 92

January 29, 2015

IRVIN SAMUEL SMITH, the retired proprietor of Smith's Record Center and a concert promoter with S&S Productions,

died after a long illness at his residence on Thursday, January 29. He was 92.

Although he was an attorney and maintained his status as a notary, Smith, a native New Orleanian, was known as an astute businessman with several ventures. He had previously worked as a manager of his father's Smith's Drug Store, located

originally in the 1100 block of St. Charles Avenue and eventually moved to the 2000 block of St. Charles Avenue. He helped transform what was first an adjacent card and gift store into a very popular record store during the 1950s and early 1960s, a time when the New Orleans market was a major breakout center for national hits.

Following his graduation from Alcee Fortier High School, he attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he was president of the Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity. He began his studies at the Tulane School of Law, but they were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. Smith served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the war, stationed in Washington, D.C., where he received a commission. After his service, he returned to Tulane University and graduated from the Tulane University School of Law and was made a member of the Louisiana Bar.

But law was never his passion. He worked for a time at Smith's Drug Store as a manager, but began to concentrate his energies on the record store. Eventually, he became president of Smith's Record Centers at both Lakeside Shopping Center in Metairie and the Plaza Shopping Center in New Orleans East. Both locations were closed by the early 1990s. Smith served as the president of the Lakeside Merchants Association.

He was involved for a time with the nascent music industry in New Orleans. Along with a partner, he was the owner of Instant Records. He was highly regarded by musicians and songwriters alike including Allen Toussaint and Mac Rebennack (aka "Dr. John") and achieved major success with hits by Chris Kenner ("I Like It Like That") and others. Smith was given credit by Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss of A&M Records as having been responsible for connecting Toussaint with Alpert, who recorded his song "Whipped Cream" and catapulted it into a major national hit with the Tijuana Brass.

Along with his sister, he helped promote some of the largest and best-loved concerts in New Orleans at venues like the Loyola Field House, the Municipal Auditorium and City Park Stadium. The list of concerts include Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, Simon and Garfunkel, Johnny Rivers, Dionne Warwick, Nancy Wilson, Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck Trio, Johnny Mathis, Glen Campbell, the Supremes, Donovan, Vanilla Fudge, Julius Wechter and the Baja Marimba Band, O.C. Smith, Sly and the Family Stone and Peter, Paul and Mary.

He was married for 57 years to the late Sara (née Baskind) Smith of Clarksdale, MS, whom he met at L.S.U. The two trav-

eled widely and enjoyed membership at Touro Synagogue. Smith also maintained membership at Congregation Beth Israel throughout his lifetime. He was a lover of fine dining and enjoyed celebrating with friends, especially at favorite haunts in Fat City and more recently at 1179 Restaurant.

Smith was an early supporter and season ticket holder of the New Orleans Saints football team from its inception. He was also an active supporter of college football stalwarts L.S.U. and the Tulane Green Wave.

Smith is survived by his daughter Lesley Smith of Highland Beach, FL., his sister Annette Smith Smason, two grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, February 1 at the Old Beth Israel Cemetery, 4221 Frenchmen Street at 11:00 a.m. Rabbis Gabriel Greenberg and David Posternock jointly conducted the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana or the charity of your choice.

Babette Stern Issacson rites, service on Sun. February 01, 2015

BABETTE (BABS) STERN ISSACSON, a wife, mother and community activist, died on Sunday, February 1. She was 86.

Issacson's commitment to community service was legendary and she gave tirelessly to many programs, but chief among them were the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) of which she served as a section president, and Touro Auxillary.

A native of Philadelphia, she moved to New Orleans in 1952 to marry her beloved husband, the late Dr. Julius E. Isaacson, Jr. Among the roles she cherished was her initiation of a consumer advocacy program at WDSU-TV, staffed by NCJW volunteers, which later relocated to WVUE-TV and became known as the FOX 8 Defenders. The purpose of the program is to assist those who have been underserved by a business or agency. The award-winning, 20-year-old program has enjoyed much success and impacted many lives, particularly after Hurricane Katrina.

A bike enthusiast, she was regularly seen riding around Audubon Park, but most family and friends recall her ability in the kitchen to whip up gourmet meals, to afford laughter to all and make everyone feel welcome at the Issacson "hotel," as some came to call her home.

Issacson was also involved with Let's Tell a Story, the Mothers of Twins Club, Girls Scouts, and the New Orleans Acrobatics Team.

She is survived by her daughters, Rob-

bin (Jan) DeWeese, of Portland, OR.; Kim (Fred) Plotnick and Jill (Michael) Lashner of Philadelphia; Gail (Marc) Isaacson of Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Pamela (Ben) Micznik of Detroit; her sister Rosalie (Perky) Cohen of Philadelphia and by 10 grandchildren.

A memorial service took place at Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Avenue, on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2:00 p.m. following a private burial. Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated with assistance from Cantor Joel Colman.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the NCJW, 6221 S. Claiborne Ave. Suite 208, New Orleans, LA 70125; or WYES-TV, 916 Navarre Ave., New Orleans, LA 70124.

Tharp-Sontheimer Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Retired furniture rep Lester Scheinuk burial February 04, 2015

LESTER SCHEINUK, a retired furniture manufacturer's representative, passed away peacefully at his home on February 4, 2015 after a long illness. He was 86.

Scheinuk, a New Orleans native, attended Alcee Fortier High School and graduated from Tulane University. A member of Gates of Prayer for many years, Scheinuk had also been a regular attendant at Temple Sinai.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Edna "Patsy" Scheinuk, a daughter Devorah "Devie" Freedman (Dr. Aaron), a son David Scheinuk (Mary Lynn), five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Graveside services were conducted at the Garden of Memories, 4900 Airline Drive in Metairie on February 6 at 2:30 p.m. Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated.

Dr. Diane Hammer, M.D., a psychiatrist dead at 70

February 08, 2015

DR. DIANE BENNETT HAMMER, a psychiatrist, died suddenly at her home on Sunday, February 8. Dr. Hammer had suffered for many years from multiple sclerosis. At the time of her passing, she was 70, but less than a week before her 71st birthday.

Born in Chicago, she was a lover of the arts for her entire life and graduated from Duke University with a bachelor's degree in art history. She studied renaissance art in Italy and specialized in the study of Italian painter and architect Giotto while living in Florence. She received her master's degree in social work before obtaining her medical degree from Tufts University.

Dr. Hammer began work in New Orleans, the city of her family's roots, as the chief of Mental Hygiene at the Veterans

Administration Hospital in the 1980s. She also became a consultant to Tulane Student Health and had a private psychiatric practice in place for 26 years.

She was a member of the Committee on Psychoanalysis, the Arts of the American Psychoanalytic and was also an emerita at the New Orleans-Birmingham Psychoanalytic Center.

She was married for 42 years to Dr. Robert "Bob" Hammer, who survives her along with her two sons David (Jenni) and Daniel (Klara) and three grandchildren.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11 in the Forgotson Chapel at Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Avenue. Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated.

Interment followed immediately in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Pelopidas Street, corner Frenchmen. Arrangements were by Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home.

Martha Blackman, widow of rabbi, buried on Feb. 22

February 19, 2015

MARTHA MECKLENBURGER BLACKMAN, a resident of New Orleans for more than 45 years, passed away on February 19, 2015 following a brief illness. She was the wife of Temple Sinai Rabbi Murray Blackman of blessed memory to whom she was married for 54 years.

A native of Chicago, Blackman graduated from New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois and attended Western College for Women. After her marriage to her husband in 1947, the couple lived in Newark, N.J. and Binghamton, N.Y. They lived in Paterson, N.J. and Cincinnati before moving to New Orleans for the first time in 1970, when her husband received his appointment as senior rabbi, replacing Rabbi Julian Feibelman.

She stayed a resident of New Orleans even after Rabbi Blackman passed away in 2001. She relocated to Raleigh, N.C. to be near two of her children following Hurricane Katrina, but returned to the Crescent City in 2009, where she remained until the time of her passing.

Blackman is survived by three children, Michael and Barbara Blackman of Durham, N.C. and Margaret; a brother, Alvin Mecklenburger of Highland Park, IL., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services took place at Hebrew Rest Cemetery #3, 2119 Frenchman Street at Pelopidas Street on Sunday February 22, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn of Temple Sinai officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are sug-

gested to Second Harvesters Food Bank, Temple Sinai or the charity of your choice.

Tharp-Sontheimer Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Elma Bloch Rosenfeld, homemaker

February 27, 2015

ELMA BLOCH ROSENFELD, a mother and housewife, died on February 27.

She is survived by a daughter, Becky Rippes, who is a member of Congregation Gates of Prayer.

Graveside funeral services were held on Monday, March 2, at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2003 Pelopidas Street at Frenchmen Street. The services, which began at 11:00 a.m., were officiated by Rabbi Robert Loewy.

Dr. Michael Hirsch, internist, dead at 83

February 27, 2015

DR. MICHAEL JACOB HIRSCH, M.D., an internist who provided medical services to underserved segments of society and maintained a private practice in the city, died on Friday, February 27, 2015. He was 83.

Dr. Hirsch was a native and life-long resident of the city, having graduated from Alcee Fortier High School at the age of 14 in 1946. He earned a degree in biology after graduating from Tulane University and by 22 completed his M.D. following his studies at L.S.U. School of Medicine.

Following his residency, Hirsch became a pulmonology fellow at National Jewish Health in Denver, CO. He later served as a 1st Lt. in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and was the First Assistant Surgeon on the Navajo Reservation in Flagstaff, AZ.

Dr. Hirsch also served as a member of the physician team at Angola State Penitentiary, providing medical care to the inmates there. He was an emergency room physician at Flint-Goodridge Hospital and at several other area hospitals for many years. He also maintained a private practice in the city.

Hirsch enjoyed learning all of his life. He kept himself in good condition, working out often. He was a devotee of chess and enjoyed listening to music. He was also an avid reader and loved watching classic films.

Dr. Hirsch is survived by his five children Bernard Hirsch (Michal), Leonard Hirsch (Mayumi), Marc Hirsch (Faye), Lisa Hirsch Henriquez (Emile) and Catherine Cospelich and by six grandchildren.

Graveside services and burial were held at 2:30 p.m. on Sun., March 1 at Jewish Burial Rites, 4321 Frenchman Street.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the New Orleans Public Library

Foundation, 938 Lafayette St., Room # 102 New Orleans, LA 70113.

Arrangements were by Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie.

Businessman, realtor, autcioneer

Harry Finklestein dead at 86.

February 27, 2015

HARRY FINKELSTEIN, a businessman and realtor, died Fri., Feb.27 after a lengthy illness. He was 86.

A lifelong resident of New Orleans, Finkelstein was popular at Alcee Fortier High School, where he lettered in cheerleading and graduated in 1945. He attended Tulane University and also lettered in cheerleading there before enlisting in the U.S. Navy the following year. Finkelstein sailed to occupied Japan and served at other places in the South Pacific

Following his return to the city, Finkelstein married his wife of 66 years, Leona (née Lassen) Finkelstein, and began to raise his family. He was a realtor and a businessman, but his passion was auctioneering. He maintained his auctioneering career until he retired in 2009 at the age of 80.

Finkelstein is survived by his wife, his son, Bobby Finkelstein; his brother, Alan Finkelstein; and two grandsons.

Graveside services were conducted at the Old Beth Israel Cemetery, 4321 Frenchman Street, on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. Rabbi Gabriel Greenberg officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to Congregation Beth Israel, 4004 W. Esplanade Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002.

Arrangements were by Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie.

Ellen Gandle, Psychiatrist, dead at 54.

March 01, 2015

DR. ELLEN GANDLE, M.D., a New Orleans native and psychiatrist, whose specialties included forensic and child and adolescent psychiatry, died at her home on Friday, Feb. 27, after a lengthy illness. She was 54.

Gandle, who was a New Orleans native and a lifelong resident of the city, maintained a private practice in psychiatry until the onset of her illness. She was a board certified member of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in general psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry and forensic psychiatry and was on the staffs of West Jefferson Hospital and Milestones Mental Health in New Orleans.

Gandle graduated from Isidore Newman School and received a bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta.

She was accepted and graduated from the Tulane University School of Medicine, spending her residency in general psychiatry at Ochsner Hospital. Dr. Gandle followed with two fellowships in her sub-specialties. The first was in child and adolescent psychiatry at Tulane University, and she later became a fellow in forensic psychiatry at LSU.

A member of Touro Synagogue, Dr. Gandle was involved in the local community, serving on the boards of both Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Community Center.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Bruce Gandle, her daughter Alexandra Gandle, and her son Peter Gandle, as well as her parents Sharon O. and Milton J. Loeb.

Funeral services were held at Touro Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Avenue on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Interment followed immediately in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2003 Pelopidas Street at Frenchmen Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the charity of your choice. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Libbye Katz Gordon dies at 98

March 05, 2015

LIBBYE KATZ GORDON, a native of New Orleans, who was a Metairie resident, died Thursday, March 5. She was 98.

Gordon was a lifetime member of Hadassah and received many awards through the years for her service to the local community and to Hadassah.

She is survived by her daughter Bryna Singerman, also of Metairie.

Graveside services were held on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 2:00 PM in Ahavas Sholem Cemetery, 4400 Elysian Fields Ave. Rabbi Ethan Linden of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation officiated.

OBITUARIES POLICY

Obituaries are published at the discretion of the CCJN and are free of charge. Obituaries are a product of the editorial department and are a story of a person's life. Editorial policy may determine the length and content of an obituary. Death notices are submitted by family members and may, for example, fully list all survivors. Death notices are never edited, but are assessed a processing fee according to length. Photos for obituaries and death notices may also carry a processing fee of \$18.00, which can be waived at the discretion of the CCJN.

Deborah Rice succumbs to cancer at 67 March 07, 2015

DEBORAH PACTOR GENTCHER RICE, a housewife and mother, died at her Slidell home on Saturday, March 7, 2015, following a 10-year battle with cancer. She was 67 years old.

She is survived by her husband, William H. Rice, Sr.; her children Tammy Lynn Shields-Rice (Mona), Lisa Sands, William H. "B.J." Rice, Jr. (Kasey), and Craig R. Rice (Christina); siblings Johanna Rau, Marlene Lew (Morris), Leeba Freedman (Arthur) and Sander Pactor (Carol) and two grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 in the Jewish Burial Rites Cemetery, 4321 Frenchman Street, at 1:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are preferred to the Ochsner Cancer Fund. Lake Lawn Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Aline Rothschild dies at 94; memorial held March 10, 2015

ALINE LOEWENBERG ROTHSCHILD, a native and lifelong resident of New Orleans, died early Tuesday morning, March 10. She was 94.

Rothschild, who graduated from Newcomb College and the Tulane School of Social Work, was a devoted wife and mother. A renowned baker, she was also a passionate gardener, who was married for 56 years to the late Arthur M. Rothschild.

She is survived by her daughter, Lynne R. Stern, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and half-siblings Sarah Louis Scruggs and Alvin Loewenberg, Jr.

A memorial service was held in the Feibelman Chapel of Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Avenue on Thursday, March 12 at 1:00 pm. Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated.

A private burial followed immediately at Dispersed of Judah Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Temple Sinai, Longue View House and Gardens or the charity of your choice.

Arrangements were by Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home, 1600 N. Causeway.



Kehaty

Realtor Nadiv Kehaty, 30, dies suddenly in Brooklyn March 08, 2015

The local Chabad Lubavitch community is still reeling from the untimely passing of Nadiv Kehaty, 30, a Brooklyn realtor, husband and father of four, who died from internal injuries sustained in a fall.

A native of New Orleans, Kehaty was living in Brooklyn, but always kept the Crescent City foremost in his thoughts. He regularly visited the city, even after he moved to New York following his wedding a decade ago.

Kehaty was noted for his exceptional spirit and humor. Because of a pre-existing condition, he was unable to qualify for life insurance and so at the time of his death, fund-raising campaigns from Gofundme.com and Charidy.com were launched.

To date, over \$234,000 from more than 3,000 donors has been raised on the Gofundme.com site, while more than \$900,000 was raised on the Charidy.com site with the assistance of generous donors, who matched contributions at two and four times the amount pledged.

Kehaty is survived by his wife Toby, his parents Uzzi and Rivka Kehaty; his children, Moshe, Yuda, Shoshana and Yacov Kehaty; and his siblings, Talor, Tzivyah, Mendel and Levi Kehaty.

Burial took place in Brooklyn on Monday, March 8.

Businessman Albert J. Daube dies at 94 March 14, 2015

ALBERT J. DAUBE, a retired local businessman, died peacefully in his sleep at his residence on Saturday, March 14, 2015. He was 94.

A German-born, Jewish refugee from the Nazi era, Daube became a naturalized American citizen and served in the U.S. Army as a World War II G.I fighting the Nazis from whom he had fled as a staff sergeant assigned to an engineers unit.

While stationed in England, he met and soon married his wife, Pearl Jacobs Daube. She joined him in New Orleans after boarding a special "warbrides" transit ship.

Upon his return to New Orleans, he founded Sun Finance Company, which he ran until his retirement.

Daube was pre-deceased by his wife after 68 years of marriage, and lost a daughter, Faye Miller, this past November.

He is survived by his son David Daube (Susan), his son-in-law Herbert Miller, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. III, 2100 Pelopidas at Frenchmen Street. Rabbi Ed Paul Cohn officiated.

Memorials are suggested to Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118 or Hadassah, c/o Chen Berkovich, 4840 Hwy. 22, Apt 6-28, Mandeville, LA 70471.

Arrangements by Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie.

Investment broker Roswell Weil is dead at 99 March 15, 2015

ROSWELL JOSEPH WEIL, an investment broker, who founded the Weil Investment Company here and later was an officer in Dorsey and Company Investments died yesterday evening, Sunday, March 15 at West Jefferson Hospital He was 99.

An active community leader, Weil served on numerous boards throughout his career, but was especially fond of Goodwill Industries, the non-profit firm that helps the disabled. Weil was a founding member of Goodwill and was a former president of its board on which he served for many years. He also served as a board member of Hospice New Orleans.

Weil was a tireless worker for many Jewish community organizations, several of which he served in a capacity as an officer. He divided his time among the Jewish Federation of New Orleans, The Jewish Endowment Foundation, Jewish Family Service, Touro Synagogue and the Jewish Community Center. Among the numerous prestigious awards he received were the Tzedakah Award in 1994 from the Jewish Endowment Foundation and a 1993 Weiss Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community and Justice).

Although he was born in Alexandria, LA., Weil was a resident of New Orleans for the past 98 years. He was a graduate of Fortier High School and Tulane University. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European Theater and was honorably discharged as a major.

Weil was predeceased by his wife of many years, Dr. Cicely Lyons of blessed memory. He is survived by his companion, Carol Wise; his children Dr. Maureen Stein (Ted Nass) and John Weil (Judy Slack), Richard Weil of Lakeland, CO., four grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service conducted by Cantor David Mintz took place at Touro

Synagogue, 4238 St. Charles Avenue on March 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Jewish Endowment Foundation in the name of Roswell J. Weil are preferred.

Tharp-Sontheimer Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Antiques and jewelry dealer Meyer 'Mike' Sutton dies; burial today

March 16, 2015

MEYER "MIKE" SUTTON, 94, died yesterday, March 16, 2015 at his home in New Orleans.

Sutton owned and operated antiques and jewelry stores in the French Quarter among them Sutton's Fairyland, which he closed in 1974, and Cynthia et Cie until his retirement in 1999.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Sutton moved to New Orleans while a young boy and graduated from Fortier High School. He later attended New York University and joined the U.S. Army during World War II, where he served as a Chinese translator from 1943-45.

Sutton enjoyed traveling and had a keen eye for objects d'art.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Sutton, with whom he celebrated a 70th wedding anniversary on February 22; three children Joseph Sutton (Lois), Suzanne Ratner of San Antonio and Candice Rosenblum (Wally) of Mandeville, LA.; siblings Norma Gindi and Alfred Sutton, both of Brooklyn; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3 on Frenchman and Pelopidas Streets on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 pm, with Cantor David Mintz officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Jewish Family Service of New Orleans, Touro Synagogue or a charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements by Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp, 1600 N. Causeway Blvd. For more information call 504-835-2341.

Ann Brum dies, is buried in Brooklyn March 26, 2015

ANN BRUM, a housewife, mother and loving grandmother, formerly of New Orleans and lately of Brooklyn, passed away on Monday, March 23, 2015. She was 89. A service and burial was conducted there.

Brum, a Holocaust survivor from Breslau, Germany, lived in New Orleans until after Hurricane Katrina, after which she lived in Brooklyn with her family in Marine Park.

She was married in 1946 and was with her husband Henry Brum until his untimely passing in 1975. During those years, she served as the secretary to his painting-contractor business.

Brum enjoyed cooking and playing with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in more recent times. She enjoyed crocheting as a pastime.

She is survived by her two sons Dr. Charles Brum (Sandra) and Morris Brum

(Marilyn), three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Teacher Jeffrey Marks, 61, buried in Chicago April 14, 2015

JEFFREY STEVEN MARKS, a top ranked teacher at South Plaquemines High School, died at Ochsner Foundation Hospital on Monday, April 13. He was 61.

A native of Chicagoland, Marks was a member of Congregation Gates of Prayer.

Locally, he is survived by his wife, Laurence Le Garrec, daughters Margot and Hannah Marks and son Eli Marks. In the Chicagoland area, he is survived by siblings Edward Marks (Deborah), Robin Sherwood (Christopher), Vivian Marks and a sister-in-law Barbara Marks.

Funeral services were conducted by Rabbi Robert Loewy at Congregation Gates of Prayer synagogue, 4400 West Es-

planade Ave. in Metairie on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Following the services, the body was transported for interment in Arlington Heights, IL. Those services were conducted on Friday, April 17 at Shalom Memorial Park.

Tharp-Spontheimer-Tharp was in charge of arrangements. For more information, call 504-835-2341.

Retired doctor Morton Brown succumbs April 16, 2015

MORTON BROWN, M.D., a retired internist who specialized in the treatment of pulmonary disease, died April 15, 2015, at Ochsner Westbank Medical Center. He was 84.

Dr. Brown was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and was a 1953 graduate of Louisiana State University Medical School.

Survivors include his wife, Louise Stubbs Brown, a son Alexander Brown (Margery), a daughter Leslie S. Brown,

his brother, Dr. Victor Brown (Janet) and eight grandchildren. Dr. Brown was predeceased by a son, David J. Brown (Katherine).

Graveside services were held at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 3, 2100 Pelopidas Street at Frenchmen Street on Friday, April 17, at 10:00 a.m. Touro Synagogue Rabbi Alexis Berk officiated.



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Dr. Wilbur Lazarus, retired dentist, dead at 100

April 24, 2015

DR. WILBUR ARMAND LAZARUS, D.D.S., a retired dentist who recently celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends on April 2, died at Lambeth House on Friday, April 24.

A native of New Orleans, he graduated from Isidore Newman School and matriculated to Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Following his undergraduate studies, he enrolled and graduated from Northwestern's Dental School in 1938.

Dr. Lazarus's practice of dentistry stretched over half a century from 1938 until his retirement in 1988. His practice was located in the Maison Blanche Building on Canal Street.

A veteran of World War II, Dr. Lazarus served as a dentist in the US Army Air Corps on Saipan and eventually attained the rank of major. While on leave from the Army in New Orleans in the spring of 1945, he met his future wife Carolyn, also a graduate of Northwestern University. The couple was soon engaged and they were married in November of that year, enjoying 67 years of marriage until the time of her passing in December of 2013.

The Lazaruses maintained an Uptown residence on Fountainebleau Drive for decades, eventually moving to Lambeth House when their health began to fail.

They were long established members of Temple Sinai and

also became affiliated with Congregation Gates of Prayer in recent years.

Dr. Lazarus was a longtime member of the New Orleans Dental Association and a former member of the Audubon Golf Club. He was also a skilled woodcrafter and manufactured furniture and other items from time to time. His passion for fishing with his sons led him to purchase a boat for that express purpose.

He is survived by sons Dr. Edward Lazarus (Vicki) of Memphis, TN. and Harry Lazarus (Betty), six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service took place at Hebrew Rest Cemetery No. 13, Pelopidas at Frenchmen Streets on Sunday April 26, at 10:00 a.m. Rabbi Robert Loewy of Congregation Gates of Prayer officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Congregation Gates of Prayer or Temple Sinai or the charity of your choice preferred.

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

Dr. Sam Threefoot, Jr. funeral set

DR. SAM ABRAHAM THREEFOOT, JR., M.D., a professor emeritus of medicine at Tulane School of Medicine, died April 25, 2015. He was 94 years old.

A medical educator and researcher, Dr. Threefoot was involved in medical research for over four decades, publishing over 150 papers, book chapters,

abstracts and presentations of isotopic tracers of body fluids and electrolytes and on the anatomy and physiology of the lymphatic system. He also published three non-scientific books. He participated in the development of medical school curricula and in the development and planning of six buildings for research facilities and hospitals. He was a founding member of the International Society of Lymphology.

Dr. Threefoot was a member of the American College of Physicians, the American Federation of Clinical Research, the Central Society for Clinical Research, the Society of Nuclear Medicine, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Microcirculatory Society, the New York Academy of Sciences, and Sigma Xi, the non-profit scientific research society.

He served on committees, boards and as an officer of many professional organizations including serving on the Board of Governors as governor for Louisiana of the American College of Cardiology, president of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, vice president of the American Heart Association and chairman of the Council on Circulation. He was also the president of the Louisiana Heart Association, the president of the National Association of Veterans Administration Chiefs of Staff and a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Heart Association. Additionally, Dr. Threefoot was on the Editorial Board of Lymphology at Tulane

School of Medicine.

He received the Honors Achievement Award from the Angiology Research Foundation, the Award of Merit from the American Heart Association and special recognition from the Louisiana Regional Medical Program. Dr. Threefoot was a devoted supporter of Tulane athletics.

Threefoot was born in Meridian, MS., but lived most of his life in New Orleans. Upon graduating from High School in Selma, AL., where he was president of the 1938 senior class, he entered Tulane University on an honors scholarship to the College of Arts and Sciences. He was a member of Zeta Beta Tau, Beta Mu and Phi Beta Kappa. While attending Tulane Medical School during WWII, he was on active duty in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). Upon receiving his M.D., Dr. Threefoot served his internship in 1945-47 at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. He returned to a fellowship in the Department of Medicine at Tulane where he remained as a teacher involved in research, from 1947-1970 advancing to a full professorship. From 1953-1970 he was also director of Research and Medical Education at Touro Infirmary. From 1970-1976 he was Chief of Staff at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Augusta, GA. and professor of Medicine and assistant dean at the Medical College of Georgia.

He returned to New Orleans in 1976 as associate chief of

research at the V.A. Medical Center and professor of Medicine at Tulane. In 1979 he became chief of staff at the V.A. Medical Center and assistant dean at Tulane and professor of Medicine at the Louisiana State University School of Medicine until his retirement in 1991. He was also on the staffs of Charity Hospital and Tulane Medical Center Hospital.

After his retirement, he participated as a volunteer adjunct professor emeritus of Applied Health Science in the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Threefoot was predeceased by his wife of many years, Virginia Rush Threefoot. He is survived by his four daughters Barbara Stockton Mattingly (Fred) of Covington, Ginny Threefoot (Jim Lindberg) of Denver, CO., Tracy Threefoot Estenstad (Alan) of Rockville, MD., and Shelley Threefoot Cowan of Atlanta; his brother, Dr. Henry K. Threefoot of River Ridge; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at Temple Sinai, 6227 St. Charles Avenue. Rabbi Edward Paul Cohn officiated. Private family burial followed in Hebrew Rest Cemetery III.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to Temple Sinai, Temple Mishkan Israel Foundation in Selma, AL., Tulane University or Touro Infirmary Foundation. Tharp-Sontheimer-Tharp Funeral Home of Metairie was in charge of arrangements.

Mazel Tov!

Jewish Community Day School 5th Grade Graduation

May 28, 2015

Speaker: Barri Bonston, Local author/
writer
(Parent of JCDS graduate)



(JCDS 2015 graduates from left to right
Jonas Benjo, Alexandra Stone, Shimmy Lang, Seth Berk)

TEMPLE SINAI CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2015/5775

May 23, 2015

Zachary James Lowentritt
Mathilda Jane Mayer
Margaux Goldberg Schexnider

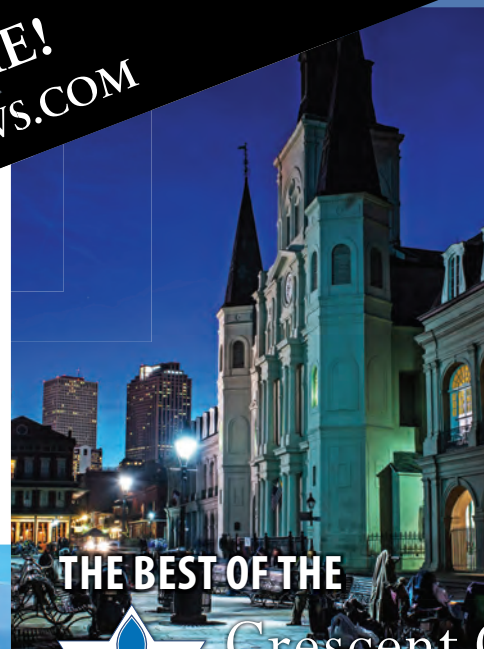
TOURO SYNAGOGUE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2015/5775

May 29, 2015.

Joshua Harris Balkin
Sophia Rose Brown
Philip Joshua Hamilton
Jacob Wolf Kohlman
Daniel Kenneth Lovett
Eric Peter Margolin

Andree Keil Moss
Camille Marguerite Moss
Carolyn Dupre Moss
Devin Gabriel Neal
Frances Eleanore Sperling
Shafir Davim Wittenberg

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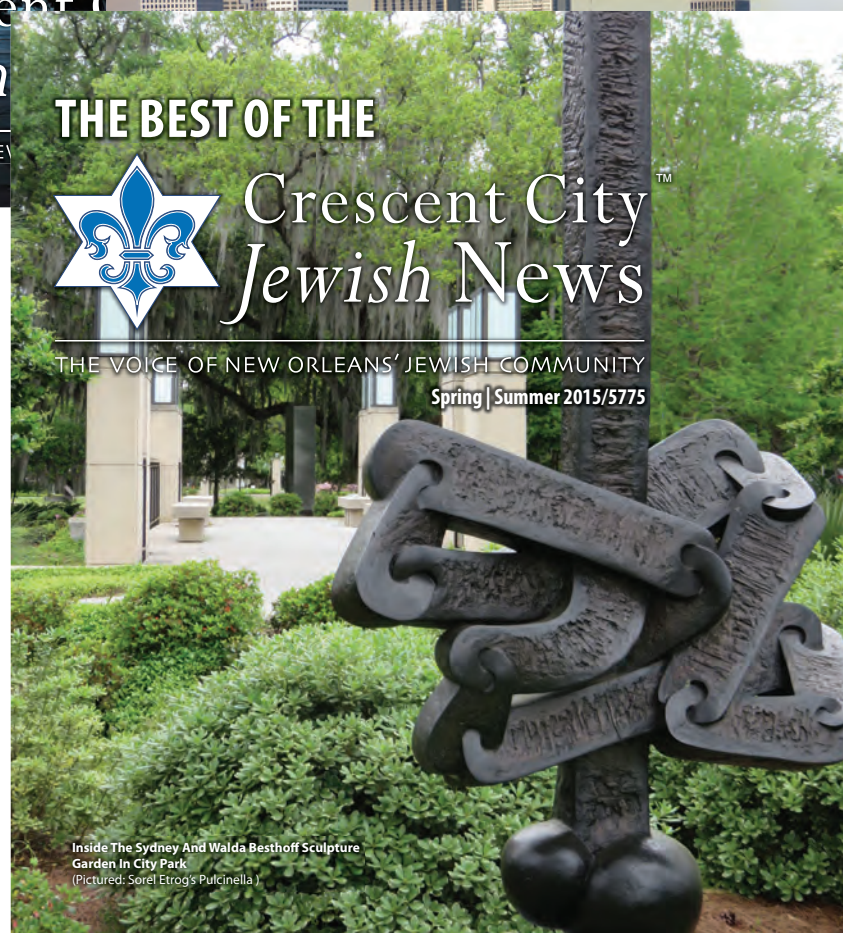


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New Orleans Holocaust Memorial by Yaacov Agam
Photo by Hunter Thomas Photography



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Spring | Summer 2015/5775

Inside The Sydney And Walda Besthoff Sculpture
Garden In City Park
(Pictured: Sorel Etrog's Pulcinella)



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