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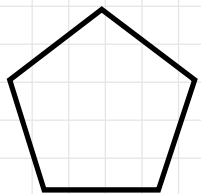
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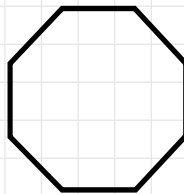
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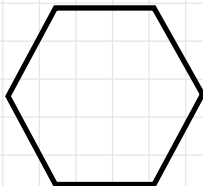
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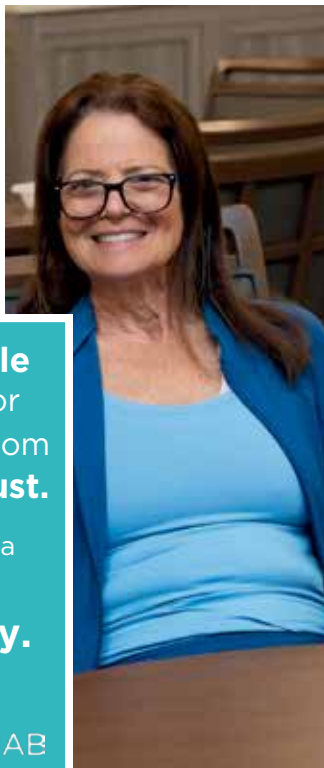
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If your teen is looking for some exciting activities, there are plenty of options in our Memphis community.

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Scott Ostrow and Stacy Vogel visit The Hebrew Watchman/Jewish Scene booth at the ASBEE BBQ Festival. They were both featured on recent covers of the publications.  
*By Alayna Heitner*



# Contributors








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Harry Samuels, author of “Beshert: True Stories of Connections” and “Crossroads: Chance or Destiny?” is a graduate of Washington University. He Has devoted many years to volunteerism in Memphis, Tenn. He and his wife, Flora, have been married for 62 years and are the parents of Martin, William and the late David Samuels.

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# Letter From the Editor

It's crazy how hard it is to stay on deadline when everyone is out of the office!

After two-plus months of collecting the data and sending proofs, and now that the whirlwind of Jewish holidays is behind us, this annual Guide to Jewish Memphis is finally in print.

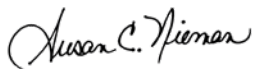
We hope this Guide serves as a resource to Memphians – old and new. There are a few new programs and activities for all ages in several categories at multiple organizations. I bet there's something listed that meets your specific interests.

From Jewish communal organizations, synagogues and programs for kids, teens, senior adults, and everyone in between, there are a multitude of listings for you to share with friends, newcomers, and out-of-towners who are interested in moving to Memphis.

Our next issue features Tikkun Olam and Tzedekah throughout our community. We'd love to share your personal bar/bat mitzvah projects or organizational programs designed to repair the world. Send us your info. We'd love to hear from you!

As always, please support and thank our advertisers. If you have not subscribed to "The Hebrew Watchman," you can look at page 26 and scan the QR code or fill out the form and mail, or visit us at [HebrewWatchman.com](http://HebrewWatchman.com).

Shalom,



Susan C. Nieman – Publisher/Editor



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**Volume 19 Number 1**

November 2024

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5785

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*Jewish Scene* is published by Jewish Living of the South, Inc. Subscription rates for the U.S.: single issues \$5, annual \$25. Canada and foreign: single issues \$10, annual \$50.

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# Memphian Jeffrey Hanover Invites Seniors to Visit The Avaline at River Oaks

By Shoshana Cenker



The Avaline at River Oaks is a brand-new assisted living and memory care facility on Massey Road in East Memphis near the Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC). Touted as “an idyllic lifestyle,” the family-owned, senior community offers boutique apartment homes and resort-inspired amenities with personalized care plans and a robust menu of services. From a bistro and bar, restaurant-style dining, activity spaces and programming, to outside courtyards, on-site physical and occupational therapy, concierge services, and transportation to medical appointments – residents enjoy a supportive and engaging life. The community provides different living options, including suites, studio, and one-bedroom floor plans, as well as a continuum of care with nursing staff available 24 hours a day. Assisted living studios start at \$4,100; one-bedrooms start at \$4,500; memory care rent is \$5,500. We spoke with the facility’s executive director, Jeff Hanover, to learn more about this unique senior community.

**Jewish Scene:** What brought you to The Avaline at River Oaks?

**Jeffrey Hanover:** Working in assisted living is an incredibly rewarding experience for me. After meeting the stakeholders at our parent company, Claiborne Senior Living, I knew that The Avaline at River Oaks was a “resident-first community.” My background is working in hospital operations and physician practice management, but 12 years ago, I took over my first community and never left the senior living world. I believe certain traits and qualities make an efficient and leadership-driven executive director, including compassion, empathy, patience, understanding, strong communication skills, and being a team player. Those like me who thrive in this environment often have a deep sense of caregiving, working with an aging population, and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of seniors. I bring to The Avaline at River Oaks a certain skill set that promotes wellness and engagement for our residents and peace of mind to family members. As part of the Claiborne Senior Living family, I have the opportunity to create a home-like environment with support services to care for those who cared for us so many years ago. I go to work every day knowing that I’m making life a little better for our residents. I’m grateful for this opportunity from Claiborne Senior Living.

**JS:** The Avaline at River Oaks opened on Oct. 1 in a former assisted living facility location. What updates and renovations took place?

**Hanover:** The community is virtually unrecognizable to those who had previous knowledge of it. Beyond the new furniture, paint, and décor, this community received an extensive interior and exterior renovation, including repurposing several common spaces. I often hear on tours that we look similar to a hotel. Additional renovations include kitchen and bathroom cabinets, countertops, flooring, appliances, HVAC, outside grounds, window blinds, emergency alert system, fall prevention program, and expanded community spaces inside and out.

**JS:** What’s the difference between assisted living and memory care?

**Hanover:** Assisted living offers help with daily activities for older adults who need some support but are mostly independent. Memory care provides a secure, specialized environment for those with Alzheimer’s or dementia, focusing on safety and cognitive support with some assistance with daily activities.

**JS:** What amenities does The Avaline offer?

**Hanover:** The Avaline at River Oaks is proud of our social offerings: bistro/bar, courtyard patios, creative spots for art and reading, game room, quiet neighborhood, and unique media rooms with movie seating. We also offer support services such as housekeeping, laundry service, transportation, restaurant-style dining, on-site therapy services, a specialized dementia care program, and more.

**JS:** Are there Jewish residents?

**Hanover:** On my first day, I communicated to Claiborne Senior Living that I wanted to focus on providing senior housing

services to the Jewish community. It's long been a desire of mine to have a community where Jewish people could live "Jewishly" together and with other Jewish residents they've known for years. Claiborne was thrilled with the idea and gave me resources to introduce the Jewish community to The Avaline at River Oaks. We'll celebrate Jewish holidays, cooking, and speakers, and Jewish-based activities and services led by Memphis' Jewish leaders. We'll explore old Jewish Memphis on tours around town and help seniors reconnect to their past. We offer transportation to the MJCC, just down the street, for programs and lunches.

**JS:** What advice do you give families considering senior care options?

**Hanover:** Start by understanding the level of care your loved one needs. Consider their medical conditions, mobility, assistance requirements, and any specialized care needs. Evaluate how well each senior care option can meet those needs effectively, pros and cons, and your loved one's specific needs and preferences. If your loved one prefers to stay in their home, in-home care may be a suitable option, allowing them to maintain independence while

receiving the necessary support from professional caregivers. Assisted living communities offer a balance between independence and support in a safe and social environment with assistance. Consider each community's amenities, social activities, and personalized care services. Nursing homes are ideal for individuals with complex medical needs requiring 24/7 care. Evaluate medical care, availability of skilled nursing staff, and the facility's track record in handling similar medical conditions. Whenever possible, involve the senior in the decision-making process – their input and preferences can significantly influence their overall well-being and adjustment to the chosen care option.

Trust your instincts and seek additional advice from senior care professionals.

**JS:** Briefly share your company's approach to senior care and the philosophy and culture that guides your organization.

**Hanover:** Claiborne's approach to senior care is centered on personalized, compassionate care that honors residents' dignity and individuality. Guided by a philosophy that prioritizes respect, empathy, and excellence, The Avaline

at River Oaks has created a vibrant community where residents thrive physically, emotionally, and socially. We embrace innovation and continuous improvement, ensuring the highest-quality care and overall living experience. Our focus is on enriching residents' lives, fostering meaningful connections, and creating a supportive environment that truly feels like home.

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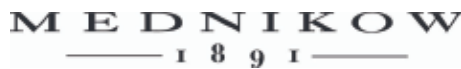
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The mission of Memphis Jewish Federation is to develop a vibrant and sustained Jewish community in Memphis, Israel, and throughout the world. Federation helps nourish Jewish life through community grants, programs for the Memphis Jewish community and by supporting Jews in Israel and throughout the world. To learn more, visit [jcpmemphis.org/federation](http://jcpmemphis.org/federation).



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## Chabad Lubavitch of Tennessee

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rabbicdj.wix.com/occs

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## Young Israel of Memphis (O)

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### Temple Israel Brotherhood

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## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

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901.683.3591  
Teen Talmud Torah (T3) ~ 8-12 grades  
Religious School ~ 1-7 grades  
Tot Shabbat ~ Children ages 6 and under  
bsholom.org  
rabbisarit@bsholom.org

### Bornblum Jewish Community School (K-8)

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

### Margolin Hebrew Academy/Feinstone

Yeshiva of the South (Pre-K-12)  
390 S. White Station Road, 38117  
901.682.2400  
Head of School Rabbi Yisroel Weiner  
info@mhafyos.org  
mhafyos.org

### Memphis Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center

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

### Temple Israel High School

Grades 9-12  
1376 East Massey Road, 38120  
901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/wafrs

### The Wendy & Avron Fogelman Religious School at Temple Israel

Grades K-8  
1376 East Massey Road, 38120  
901.937.2777  
Director of Youth Education & Family Engagement Sophie Weiss-Williams  
sophiew@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/wafrs



6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38138  
(901) 761-0810 | jccmemphis.org

President/CEO: Larry Skolnick



## Connecting, Engaging, and Strengthening Jewish Memphis

The Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) is an inclusive and compassionate community built on Jewish values, heritage, and culture, where people of all ages, lifestyles, ethnicities, and levels of observance come together to pursue personal fitness, team sports, the arts, youth programming, early childhood education, and more. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive, open and inviting place where everyone is welcome and anyone can be a member.



*Whoever you are, from wherever you come, there's a place in our warm Jewish home for you.*

Beth Sholom is a welcoming and inclusive egalitarian Conservative congregation that strengthens members' connections with each other and God.

With vibrant Shabbat services, rich educational and social opportunities for young and old, and exciting family programs, we come together as caring individuals and families to learn Torah, engage in prayer and ritual, and repair the world.

Rabbi Sarit Horwitz  
Keri Unowsky, President  
Ricky Kodner, Executive Director  
Erica Mosley, Office Manager

Come for Shabbat services, stay for kiddush lunch, and see why no one is a stranger at Beth Sholom.



[bethsholommemphis](https://www.bethsholommemphis.org)



6675 Humphreys Blvd  
Memphis, TN 38120  
901.683.3591  
[www.bsholom.org](http://www.bsholom.org)

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## YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

### Baron Hirsch Congregation

400 S. Yates Road, 38120  
901.683.7485  
Torah Tot's 3 years old  
Young Family Programs for grades 2 and under  
Youth Programs for grades 3-12  
baronhirsch.org

### BBYO

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.761.0810  
Director Zoe Goldberg  
zgoldberg@bbyo.org  
bbyo.org

### Beth Sholom

6675 Humphreys Blvd.  
901.683.3591  
Tot Shabbat with parents  
Young Family Programs for grades 2 and under  
Youth Programs for grades 3-12  
rabbisarit@bsholom.org  
bsholom.org

### B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy of Jewish Foundation of Memphis

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.7100  
cschrier@jcpmemphis.org  
jcpmemphis.org/teen-philanthropy

### JYG: Junior Youth Group at Temple Israel

1376 East Massey Road, 38120  
901.937.2747  
Sophie Chertow  
sophiech@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/youth-groups

### MeFTY Teen Programming at Temple Israel

1376 East Massey Road, 38120  
901.937.2747  
Sophie Chertow  
sophiech@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/youth-groups

### NCSY

Jr. NCSYers (6th-8th) and Sr. NCSYers (9th-12th)  
Regional Director Shosh Friedman  
facebook.com/profile.  
php?id=100005084745960&fref=ts  
friedmans@ncsy.org  
ncsy.org

### PJ Library

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.682.4328  
Sarah Besser  
sbesser@jcpmemphis.org  
jcpmemphis.org/pjlibrary

### Teen Israel Experience

Subsidized travel to Israel for High School Juniors and Seniors  
Memphis Jewish Federation  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.7100  
jcpmemphis.org/lemsky-endowment-fund

### Temple Israel Girl and Boy Scouts

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

### TIMPO: Temple Israel Music & Programming Outreach

TI Teen Band and multiple instrument instruction  
Music Director Emily Groff Heilborn  
emilyh@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/timpo

### Tot Shabbat and Family Shabbat at Temple Israel

1376 East Massey Road 38120  
901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/peer-groups

## YOUNG ADULTS

### ConnectTI

20s and 30s social & spiritual group at Temple Israel  
901.761.3130  
Rabbi Ross Z. Levy  
Rabbiross@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/connecti

### Hillels of Memphis

Serving University of Memphis and Rhodes College  
3581 Midland Avenue, 38111  
901.452.2453  
bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org  
hillelsofmemphis.org

### Jewish901 ~ Chabad Young Adults

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

### Young Adult Division Memphis Jewish Federation

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.8522  
Sarah Besser  
sbesser@jcpmemphis.org  
jcpmemphis.org/fedled

## NEWCOMERS

### 100 New Families

100newfamilies@gmail.com  
100newfamilies.com

### Newcomers Engagement and Annual Brunch Memphis Jewish Federation

Occurs each fall.  
lwolf@jcpmemphis.org  
901.767.7100

### Temple Israel Tribes

Build connections, explore your passions, and meet new people.  
Director of Congregational Engagement Faith Ruch  
faithr@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/tribes

## ADULT AND HIGHER EDUCATION

### **Baron Hirsch Congregation**

400 S. Yates Road, 38120  
901.683.7485  
baronhirsch.org

### **Beth Sholom Synagogue Lifelong Jewish**

Learning Center  
Lehrhaus at Beth Sholom  
6675 Humphreys Blvd., 38120  
901.683.3591  
erica@bsholom.org

### **Bornblum Judaic Studies University of Memphis**

301 Mitchell Hall, The University of Memphis, 38152  
901.678.2919  
Director Dr. Shaul Bar  
sbar@memphis.edu  
memphis.edu/jdst

### **The Jewish Learning Institute Chabad Center for Jewish Life**

2570 Kirby Parkway  
Memphis, 38119  
901.754.0404  
Rabbi Levi Klein  
JLI@JewishMemphis.com  
JewishMemphis.com/JLI

### **Jewish Historical Society of Memphis & the Mid-South**

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
President Greg Siskind  
mjhspsresident@gmail.com  
jhsmem.org

### **Professional Advisory Group of Jewish Foundation of Memphis**

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.7100  
sgadberry@jcpmemphis.org  
jcpmemphis.org/professional-advisory-group

### **Temple Israel Tribes**

Build connections, explore your passions, and meet new people.  
Director of Congregational Engagement  
Faith Ruch  
faithr@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/tribes

### **Temple Israel University TIU**

Lifelong learning at Temple Israel  
1376 East Massey Road, 38120  
901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/tiu

### **TIMPO: Temple Israel Music & Programming Outreach**

TI Band, TI Memphis Jewish Choir, TIMPO Jam, multiple instrument instruction  
Music Director Emily Groff Heilborn  
emilyh@timemphis.org  
timemphis.org/timpo

## SOCIAL SERVICES

### **Beth Sholom Synagogue**

901.683.3591  
Tikkun Olam Committee, MICAHA, Room in the Inn, Chesed Committee  
erica@bsholom.org  
bsholom.org

### **Sam Schloss Lodge #35 of B'nai B'rith**

8377 Willow Oak Road, Germantown, 38139  
901.754.9950  
Secretary/Treasurer Harold Steinberg  
hesch.steinberg@gmail.com  
bnaibrith.org

### **Temple Israel**

Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Temple Cares, Tikkun Olam Tribes, MICAHA, Room in the Inn, Team Read, Team Glean  
901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/community

### **Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at the MJCC**

901.767.8511  
Director Rashki Osina  
jccmemphis.org/FogelmanJFS

### **Classes and Support Groups**

Counseling  
Education and Outreach  
Emergency Assistance  
Finestone Family Home Delivered Meals  
Inclusion and Diverse Abilities Programming  
Judy and Larry Moss Senior Services - Compassionate Case Management and Care for Seniors  
Kay & Allen Iskiwicz Shalom Shuttle  
Peggy E. & L.R. Jalenak, Jr. Food and Baby Pantry  
Resource Center  
Volunteer Services

# SENIOR SERVICES

## SENIOR GROUPS

### Baron Hirsch So-Shuls

400 S. Yates Road, 38120  
901.683.7485  
baronhirsch.org

### MJCC Ben and Larisa Baer Senior Adult Center

Memphis Jewish Community Center  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
Adult Service Coordinator Steve Kaplan  
901.259.9220  
stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Center offers a wide variety of educational, physical, social and cultural activities to meet the diverse needs and interests of our senior adult population. From fitness to adult education, from theater to Israeli programs.

Big Monthly Senior Lunches

Daily Senior Lunches

Monday and Wednesday Programs and Activities

### Temple Israel Prime Timers (65+)

1376 East Massey Road, 38120  
901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/peer-groups

## SENIOR LIVING FACILITIES

### Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab

36 Bazeberry Road, Cordova, 38018-7756  
901.758.0036  
Executive Director Bobby G. Meadows  
Rabbi Abraham Kelman  
bmeadows@memphisjewishhome.org  
memphisjewishhome.org  
Events: Annual Golf Tournament in September  
Annual Meeting in April

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. We provide quality care for seniors seeking rehabilitation services and long-term care. With more than 91 years of experience serving seniors in the Memphis community, MJHR's professionally trained staff provides patient-centered care to people of all faiths.

### Plough Towers Senior Housing

6580 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.1910  
Executive Director Leigh Hendry  
lhendry@ploughtowers.org  
ploughtowers.org  
Facebook: search PloughTowersMemphis

Plough Towers is a 150-unit apartment community located in the heart of East Memphis, which provides safe, HUD subsidized, independent living housing and services for seniors.

## SENIOR SERVICES

### Alzheimer's Day Services of Memphis

Yad l'Yad Caregiver Support Group  
Meets once a month at Memphis JCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.372.4585  
info@adsmemphis.org

### Finestone Family Home Delivered Meals

For seniors in need  
Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at MJCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.8511  
jccmemphis.org/FogelmanJFS

### Friendly Visitors

Volunteers visit homebound seniors for companionship and socialization.  
Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at MJCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.8511  
jccmemphis.org/FogelmanJFS

### Handy Helpers

Volunteers assist homebound seniors with errands and light house chores.  
Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at MJCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.8511  
jccmemphis.org/FogelmanJFS

### Kay & Allen Iskiwitz Shalom Shuttle

Rides and door-to-door assistance for doctors' appointments, grocery shopping, and more. Reservations required.  
Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at MJCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.8511  
jccmemphis.org/FogelmanJFS

### Memphis Jewish Seniors Online Community of Memphis Jewish Federation

Monthly Senior Email Newsletter  
Facebook: search Memphis Jewish Seniors  
901.767.7100  
cstaub@jcpmemphis.org to enroll  
memphisjewishseniors.org

### MIFA Scheidt-Hohenberg Hot Meals Program of Memphis Jewish Federation

Daily lunches at the MJCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.767.8511  
jccmemphis.org/adults/scheidt-hohenberg-kosher-hot-meals-program

### Ronna K. Newburger Adult Day Center

36 Bazeberry Road, Cordova, 38018-7756  
901.758.0036  
Executive Director Bobby G. Meadows  
Rabbi Abraham Kelman  
ptaylor@memphisjewishhome.org  
memphisjewishhome.org/services/adult-day

### Sam Schloss Lodge #35 of B'nai B'rith

8377 Willow Oak Rd, Germantown, 38139  
901.754.9950  
Secretary/Treasurer Harold Steinberg  
hesch.steinberg@gmail.com  
bnaibrith.org

### Senior Services Collaborative

Memphis Jewish Federation  
Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein  
901.767.7100  
jcpmemphis.org  
bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org

### Temple Cares at Temple Israel

1376 East Massey Road  
901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/caring-communities



Serving University of Memphis and Rhodes College  
bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org

As a pluralistic Jewish student organization operated by Memphis Jewish Federation, Hillels of Memphis strives to shape a world where every student is inspired to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning, and Israel a reality at University of Memphis, Rhodes College, and campuses around the Mid-South. A student's involvement with Hillel is one of the strongest predictors of future Jewish leadership and as the leading authority on Jewish campus life, Hillels of Memphis reaches, engages, and equips tomorrow's leaders today.



PROFESSIONAL  
ADVISORY  
GROUP

sgadberry@jcpmemphis.org



The Foundation's Professional Advisory Group (PAG) is made up of professionals in various legal and financial fields who support the mission of the Foundation. It is often the advisor who links a client's estate planning objectives to a charitable gift. These financial advisors, estate planning attorneys, CPAs and insurance agents help clients make informed decisions about charitable giving and advise them of the benefits associated with estate, tax and financial planning. The Jewish Foundation hosts many programs throughout the year for this group, including networking events and continuing education. If you are an advisor in the mid-South and would like to get involved, contact Sheri Gadberry, sgadberry@jcpmemphis.org

## KOSHER IN MEMPHIS

### Dinstuhl's Fine Candy Company

436 Grove Park, 38117  
901.682.3373  
7730 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
901.752.1110  
5280 Pleasant View Road, 38134  
901.377.2639  
147 S. Main Street, 38103  
901.552.4505  
231 New Byhalia Road, 38017  
901.853.4100

### Nosh-A-Rye Deli

36 Bazeberry Road, Cordova,  
38018  
901.756.3229  
Executive Director Bobbie  
Yarbrough  
byarbrough@  
memphisjewishhome.org  
thenoshmemphis.com

### Nothing Bundt Cakes

681 S White Station Road,  
Suite 101, 38117  
901.208.8984

### Ricki's Cookie Corner

5068 Park Avenue, 38117  
901.866.CHIP(2447)  
rickiscookies.com

### Sam's Corner

Dairy kosher restaurant at the  
MJCC  
6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
818.376.9813  
samscorneratj@gmail.com

## CEMETERIES

### Anshei Sphard Cemetery

901.682.1611

### Baron Hirsch Cemetery

901.683.7485

### Beth Sholom Memorial Gardens

901.683.3591

### Jewish Cemetery at Elmwood

901.435.6353

### Temple Israel Cemetery

901.761.3130  
timemphis.org/cemetery

### Zalowitz Beth El Emeth Cemetery

901.682.1611

## JUDAIC MUSEUMS

### Temple Israel Museum

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



Baron Hirsch Congregation  
 400 S. Yates Rd. Memphis, TN 38117  
 901.683.7485  
 Senior Rabbi Ian Lichter  
 Rabbinic Scholar Rabbi Joel Finkelstein  
 Executive Director Robert Schneider  
 Youth Director Eitan Selter  
 President Penina Wender  
 exec@baronhirsch.org  
 baronhirsch.org



Baron Hirsch is a vibrant, modern Orthodox Zionist congregation that seeks to engage its membership in experiencing all aspects of Jewish life with a strong commitment to the Jewish people, the State of Israel and our Torah. Our educational institute offers learning opportunities for all backgrounds in a comfortable setting. Our youth department offers programs from toddlers to collegiate ages to experience a deeper, richer Jewish life. Baron Hirsch seeks to build community on every level. Our Building Relationships initiative, to create stronger bonds, focuses on both major events for everyone as well as small clubs for people with similar interests. Religious services form the core of synagogue life. Our services are warm and spirited, and everyone is made to feel welcome. Many events during the year bring many members together such as: a holiday kumsitz, multiple scholar-in-residences, 100 man minyan, Purim Seudah, and engaging youth programs. NCSY holds monthly events and Shabbatonim for Teens. So-Shuls holds monthly luncheons with entertainment for seniors, which is generously sponsored this year by Elaine Miner. There is something for everyone here at Baron Hirsch.



**B'NAI  
TZEDEK**

cschrier@jcpmemphis.org



#### B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program

B'nai Tzedek, translated from Hebrew as "children of justice," is an award-winning teen philanthropy program launched in 2002 that teaches teens to become responsible, educated philanthropists. At the time of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, teens establish their fund by donating \$250 of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah money to the Foundation. Their gift is matched by an endowment fund bringing the balance to \$500. Teens can donate money from their fund to any registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit yearly. Many of the teens donate to non-profits that they volunteer with. The newly added volunteering component to the B'nai Tzedek program has been a huge success.

Another component to the B'nai Tzedek program is the Co-Op Fund. Endowed by a generous donor, this fund provides \$10,000 each year for the teens to distribute to local Jewish organizations. The teens work together to create the grant application, review the proposals, and then rank the programs to decide how much money to distribute to each organization.



**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MEMPHIS AND THE MID-SOUTH**

Jewish Historical Society of  
 Memphis and the Mid-South  
 Board President Greg Siskind

6560 Poplar Avenue, 38138  
 mjhsresident@gmail.com  
 www.jhsmem.org



*David Ross, Mimi Clemons, Lorraine Wolf, Edén Siskind, Greg Siskind.  
 President and past presidents of JHS with speaker Edén Siskind of HIAS.*

Collects, preserves, presents and interprets the history of Jews in Memphis and the Mid-South. Promotes and encourages education, research and the study of Jews in Memphis and the Mid-South.

Please check our web site for our program schedule. We have live programs and Zoom programs throughout the year and recent topics have looked at the history of Jewish communities in our regions, contemporary topics viewed from a historical context and in-depth programs on Jewish genealogy.



[sbresser@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:sbresser@jcpmemphis.org)

Funded in part by Annual Community Campaign gifts to Memphis Jewish Federation, PJ Library is a national program that sends Jewish children a free, age-appropriate, Jewish-themed book or music each month to children up to 8 years old. Memphis is part of more than 250 participating communities. Thanks to this program, younger children gain the opportunity to turn learning about their religion into something that is both interesting and exciting. PJ Library also has programs throughout the year for young Jewish families.



[bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org)

### Senior Services Collaborative

An initiative of Memphis Jewish Federation, the Senior Services Collaborative proudly supports our community partners providing services to our seniors including vital needs, companionship, transportation, activities, and wellness. To serve seniors and their caregivers, Federation produces a monthly Memphis Jewish Seniors email newsletter, updates a Senior Services brochure at regular intervals, and runs the Memphis Jewish Seniors Facebook group, which anyone is invited to join. These efforts ensure that every Memphis Jewish senior is getting the care and support that they deserve. Learn more at [memphisjewishseniors.org](http://memphisjewishseniors.org).



Margolin Hebrew Academy — Feinstone Yeshiva of the South is a warm, community-centered, Orthodox day school serving students from Pre-K 3 through Twelfth Grade. Its mission is to instill within its students a love of Judaism and the State of Israel in an academically rigorous educational environment. This year, MHA-FYOS is celebrating 75 years of educating Jewish students in Memphis! We invite you to come visit and see for yourself what makes our school so special. To schedule a tour, email [jessica.baum@mhafyos.org](mailto:jessica.baum@mhafyos.org).



[WWW.MHAFYOS.ORG](http://WWW.MHAFYOS.ORG)



@MHAFYOS



/MHAMEMPHIS

## Yoshi's Snoopy Complex

By Shoshana Cenker

The puppy stars aligned for the Yosef family. Yirmeyahu and Theresy's kiddos had been "begging for a dog" to join their lovely family. And it just so happened that the Memphis Animal Shelter was running a \$25 special to adopt any pet. Just like that, a Red Coonhound-Labrador mix came home.

"I think he picked us," said Yirmeyahu.

"Our then-4-year-old daughter chose his name: Yoshi."

While Yirmeyahu doesn't have any pet peeves with Yoshi, his "wife has plenty," he said with a laugh. But his mother is Yoshi's favorite. "She feeds him food from the table!"

Dogs certainly keep their humans entertained. When Yoshi was about 2, the Yosefs got him a nice doghouse outside, even though he spends 80% of his time inside their house. They bought a nice, soft bed to go in it, too.

"Weeks had gone by, and we noticed that he had not been sleeping in the doghouse – he sheds a lot, but there was no hair on the bed," explained Yirmeyah. "Come to find out, he has a Snoopy complex. He only sleeps on top of the doghouse! And when he isn't sleeping on top of his doghouse, he finds his favorite spot in the backyard and lays in the sun. He loves to sunbathe!"

### What do you love most about your pet?

He is loyal and protective.

### Do you board your pet?

Yes, at Cloverleaf Animal Clinic. They have vets, groomers, and boarding there – it's a one-stop shop.

### Do you make or purchase special gifts/treats for your pet?

A cupcake or bone for his birthday.



# Harry Samuels: Storyteller Turns Tragedy into Tremendous Chesed

By Shoshana Cenker

For 93 years, Harry Samuels has enjoyed a beautiful family and flourishing business, then laid pen to paper in three inspiring books – all while persevering through unimaginable heartache.

Born to Morris and Fannie Samuels in 1931 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, his dad sending me to St. Louis on a train by himself to say Kaddish – there was no minyan in Cape Girardeau then,” Harry recalled. “One of my sisters met me there.”

He was, by the way, generations apart from his sisters: Dorothy was 20 years older than Harry; Rose was 18 years older. Their mom, who eventually remarried, owned a women’s shop.

Harry graduated from St. Louis’ Washington University with philosophy and political science degrees and was drafted into the U.S. Army. After his service during the Korean War, he moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, where he and cousin Vic Shainberg owned a department and children’s store.

Long story short, Harry ended up moving to Memphis to work with Vic in four newly built membership marts his cousin, Howard Waller, built. After seven years, the cousins realized there was no future with them, so Harry opened a commercial real estate firm, Samuels & Shainberg Realtors, which he and Vic operated for 50 years.

As for family, Harry was invited to be the date of Flora Shine’s sister for a party; Vic was going too. But when Flora answered the door, Harry thought, “I’ve got a date with the wrong girl” – though, Flora was younger, and the timing just wasn’t right. Five years later at a B’nai B’rith potluck supper game night, Harry asked if Flora was around. She was, so Harry immediately called her. The two went on a date, and three months later they were married at Baron Hirsch Congregation on Vollintine Ave. in 1961.

“My life changed when I met Harry,”

said Flora lovingly, “he’s quite a guy.”

Initially, having a child was unsuccessful. So, they adopted son Martin. “Three months after the adoption, I started having morning sickness,” said Harry (nope, not Flora!). “Doctors didn’t know why, so I suggested that Flora go see her OB/GYN.”

She was, indeed, pregnant. Just a few months later, Willam “Zev” was born. Two years later, more “sympathetic” morning sickness, followed by the arrival of third son, David. Martin is married to Robin; they live in Seattle. Zev is married to Sherri; they live in Memphis – their three children live in Israel.

Tragically, David (OBM) died when he was just 19. “It was the most devastating. He’d just started at the University of Texas. Having trouble breathing, the college health center found an obstruction,” explained Harry. “He came home for a biopsy. Cancer. My first question was: Who’s seen the greatest number of these cases?”

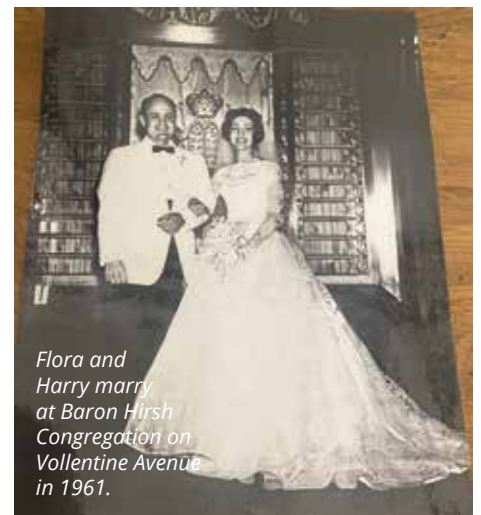
The answer led them to New York’s Sloan Kettering. “It was a rough time for our family. During the trauma of our son being sick, we lost Vic, had three boys in college, and were flying back and forth to New York for eight months,” Harry continued.

When David passed away, Harry and Flora decided the only response to death that made any sense to them was to enhance life. And that’s what they did.

“We were very active in the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis and the Make a Wish Foundation; we were hospice volunteers and even taught volunteers; I was chairman for the Shelby County and City of Memphis Community Relations Commission. We were involved in many things. In 2013, Volunteer Memphis honored us with an award for being the No. 1 volunteer couple in the



Harry as a young boy.



Flora and Harry marry at Baron Hirsch Congregation on Vollintine Avenue in 1961.



Flora and Harry with their newest addition.



Martin and Robin Samuels



Zev and Sherri's family.

Mid-South,” said Harry in his calming, gentle tone. “David was compassionate, so we did things we knew he’d have liked. In that sense, it provided a little relief. We honor his *yahrzeit* every day. After *shloshim* (30-day mourning period), I called 20 friends together – rabbis, social workers, psychologists – to establish a multifaceted social support system designed to help families who had catastrophically stricken children. Baron Hirsch’s Rabbi Grossman was in that group and had even flown to New York when David was sick.”

Later on, Harry wrote three beautiful books. It started when he and Aryeh Kasher, an Israeli history professor and writer who was in Memphis to lecture, swapped astonishing psycho synchronic stories: a remarkable encounter in Turkey and another about two long-lost sisters with matching locket necklaces who found each other in an unbelievable way after the Holocaust.

“I realized I had a good story and a great story. Everyone has experiences, so I elicited more stories, and I had my own,” explains Harry, a naturally gifted storyteller. “For my first book, I ended up with 77 stories. Writing came easy; I wrote as if I were telling a story.”

“Beshert: True Stories of Connections,” came first, followed by “Crossroads: Chance or Destiny?” and “Connections: True Stories of Remarkable Synchronicities,” with new stories for a fourth.

“People have been generous with their praise,” said Harry humbly. “I get calls from all over the world. My books induce people to consider what they thought was coincidence as synchronicities.”

Throughout their lives, Harry and Flora have been active in the Jewish community, including just about every shul in Memphis. Harry was president of the Memphis Jewish Community Center and Memphis Jewish Federation. He’s most proud of their active 62-year involvement with Hillel; he’s still a board member.

“I brought Hillel to Memphis. Started with just four or five students, I rented apartments, paying for some, near where the University of Memphis Hillel is now,” explained Harry, whose memory is quite sharp. “After repeatedly trying to get funding from local organizations, eventually, I got my friend Morris Fogelman involved, and through his connections, we were able to buy land and build a facility, with help from Philip Belz. Later, I was responsible for Rhodes College joining Hillel, too.”

Incredible Zionists, the Samuels have amazing Israel connections, like this one: Their grandson Dovid had the first ever bar mitzvah and religious service at Hebrew University’s Mount Scopus Hecht Synagogue in Jerusalem. The Samuels’ sons led the service, using *sfarim* from Anshei Sphard – Beth El Emeth. It gets better: Dovid’s parsha was the same as his late Uncle David’s.

“Alan Hecht spent a year abroad studying at Hebrew U. and had no place to daven. When he told his dad – my dear friend Marty from Cape Girardeau – the Hecht family decided to build one. My family and Vic’s contributed funds too, as did descendants of the founders of Cape Girardeau’s synagogue,” explained Harry. “Israel’s Chief Rabbi gave us special permission to have the bar mitzvah before the shul was even completed! A plaque in the Hecht Synagogue reads: ‘In honor of the founders of B’nai Israel Synagogue in Cape Girardeau, MO, whose vision reached to Mount Scopus.’”

Speaking of B’nai Israel, many years before, Marty asked a head rabbi in Carbondale, Illinois, to lead Rosh Hashana services in Cape Girardeau – making a minyan was difficult and the synagogue wasn’t “kosher,” so to speak. So, the rabbi contacted Rav Menachem Schneerson asking if she should go. Rav Schneerson said – “Go, and light a candle, because you never know who’s path you may light up.”

“Just to think of all the many things that have followed as a result,” added Harry.

The Samuels have crossed paths with some remarkable people: Elie Wiesel, Former North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms (a huge Israel supporter), Rabbi Ephraim Greenblatt (zt”l), Yigal Yadin, Dame Cicely Saunders, and many more.

After 63 years of wedded bliss, Flora and Harry are as loving to each other as ever and dote on their sweet 11-year-old pup, Tiffany. “We’re still in the honeymoon of our marriage,” said Flora, a native Memphian, who’s incredibly kind and sweet.

Harry’s pastimes include tennis, fishing and bridge. His legacy can be summed up in four words, which he noticed while visiting a Jewish cemetery at a Caribbean cruise port: “Lived respected, died regretted” – “that’s what I hope my legacy is.”

# CROSSROADS: Chance or Destiny?

By Harry Samuels

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

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

## THE ROLL

As told to Harry Samuels by Murray Habbaz

The Arab woman living in Syria was distraught. Her drunkard husband would sit in the bathhouse until late each day before going home. One day he came home eating a roll.

"If you do not make me a cup of coffee before I finish eating this roll, I am going to divorce you," the man told his poor wife.

Terrified, she hurried to prepare the coffee, but her husband finished the roll before the coffee could be made. Enraged, the drunken husband shouted at her, "You are divorced from me," repeating it three times. This is the ancient formula for divorce prescribed by Islamic law. It forbids subsequent remarriage.

After the man became sober, he remembered what had happened and regretted his action. He went to the sheikh to ask if the divorce was valid and was told that it was.

"What can I do," he pleaded, "Returning home he was so distraught, he took a different route than the one he usually traveled. On the way he met Rabbi Ezra Hamway, a very wise Jewish sage.

"You look distressed," the rabbi said. "Perhaps I can be of help."

After the man explained his problem, Rabbi Ezra agreed to offer his opinion – but only in the presence of the sheikh and the Moslem religious judge. When everyone was assembled, he asked the man, "Was the roll you were eating fresh or dry?"

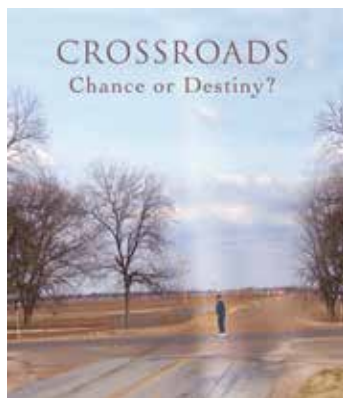
"It was dry."

"Then your wife is still married to you."

Everyone was amazed and wanted to know how Rabbi Ezra had come to such a conclusion.

The rabbi explained. "The man threatened to divorce his wife if she would not have the coffee ready by the time he finished eating the roll. But a dry roll makes crumbs. Since he did not eat the crumbs that fell on the floor, he never finished eating the roll. Therefore, the condition for his threat never came about, and the threat – that is, the divorce – does not apply."

*My friend Murray Habbaz, the great-grandson of Rabbi Ezra, told me this story of an Arab benefiting from Talmudic thinking.*



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BBYO celebrates 100 years.

# Memphis Jewish Teen Connections

By Shoshana Cenker and Susan Nieman

Looking for some fun, creative and rewarding Jewish teen connections for all? Well Memphis has some exciting new and tired-and-true experiences at several organizations for you! Read on. I'm sure that there's more than one of these programs that interests you.

## BBYO/Delta Region

BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. BBYO reaches nearly 70,000 teens annually and serves as the Jewish community's largest and most valuable platform for delivering fun, meaningful, and affordable experiences that inspire a lasting connection to the Jewish people.

Zoë Goldberg, [zgoldberg@bbyo.org](mailto:zgoldberg@bbyo.org)

## B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Jewish Foundation of Memphis

B'nai Tzedek allows Jewish teens in Memphis who are of post bar/bat mitzvah age to make meaningful philanthropic decisions and donations through both their own accounts and a teen-led Grant Board. Meeting throughout the year, teens learn the ins and outs of both personal and communal philanthropy by working together to benefit the Memphis Jewish community and beyond.

Carolyn Schrier, 901.767.7100, [cschrier@jcpmemphis.org](mailto:cschrier@jcpmemphis.org)

## CTeen of Memphis - Chabad

CTeen is an exclusive club for high school students who don't attend a Jewish high school. CTeen's Jewish teen network has over 800 chapters around the world. CTeen offers dynamic and exciting classes, trips, Shabbatons, community service opportunities and more. Students learn about their Jewish heritage, gain leadership skills, and give back to the community, all within a warm Jewish atmosphere.

Rabbi Levi and Rivky Klein, 901.754.0404, [Cteen@JewishMemphis.com](mailto:Cteen@JewishMemphis.com)



B'nai Tzedek teens gather to make annual grant distributions.



Cteens planning at BBQ dinner.



Teens at laser tag event.



Baron Hirsch teens visit and provide a meal for soldiers in Israel.



### Jewish Student Union (JSU)

JSU clubs are Jewish culture clubs designed to meet teens where they are – in their public or private schools. The clubs provide informal Jewish education, positive Jewish experiences, a forum to ask questions about Judaism, and a chance to meet other Jewish teens. Throughout the year there are meetups and Shabbatonim outside of the school setting.

Rabbi Noach Karp, 401.429.8244, [JSU.org](mailto:JSU.org), [KarpN@ncsy.org](mailto:KarpN@ncsy.org) or [rabbinoach@memphisjx.org](mailto:rabbinoach@memphisjx.org)

### Mah Ani 2.0 - Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Service at the Memphis Jewish Community Center

Mah Ani 2.0 is a monthly program for teens ages 11-17. In this program, 6th-12th grade teens will have the opportunity to complete a community service project and learn about individual well-being, social justice, and connection through charitable work. Mah Ani 2.0 provides a platform for improving our community and caring for the most vulnerable members of our society. Limited spots available. Each participant receives a certificate with community service hours.

Rashki Osina, 901.767.8511, [rosina@jccmemphis.org](mailto:rosina@jccmemphis.org)

### MJX: Memphis Jewish Experience - Chill Zone

A Chill'n Jewish Program for teens during the winter months. Chill with old friends and meet new ones. Everyone's welcome! ChillZone is the answer for parents who want their children to learn more about their Jewish heritage in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. With our exciting hands-on programming, Judaism comes alive, enriching the lives of hundreds of youth nationwide. Our qualified and relatable leaders strive to create a warm and safe atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. Teens will become part of a vibrant and diverse community of Jewish boys and girls from across North America and have a great time each week. Did we mention pizza and sushi?!

Rabbi Noach and Mrs. Miriam Karp, 401.429.8244, [info@memphisjx.org](mailto:info@memphisjx.org), register: [chillzone.org](http://chillzone.org)

### Teen Israel Experience - Baron Hirsch Congregation

In its second year, with help from the Lemsky Endowment Fund, this initiative educates high school students on topics like Israel's history, the impact of October 7, and antisemitism. The program includes lectures and interactive experiences, culminating in a subsidized mission to Israel or Washington, D.C. Students engage with leaders, learn to become advocates for Israel, and strengthen their connection to the Jewish homeland.

Robert Schneider, 901.683.7485, [robert@baronhirsch.org](mailto:robert@baronhirsch.org)

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