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Letter From the Editor

Dear JSM Readers,

Milestone anniversary celebrations have been popping up already this year. Bornblum Jewish Community School's spectacular 36th Gala held in April at Shelby Farms FedEx Event Center honored past and present students, teachers, administrators, volunteers and donors. MHA/FYOS holds its 75th Gala in June, and there are more to come throughout the year celebrating our rich and diverse Jewish community.

Take a sneak peek on page 16 at what we've dug up from the archives of *The Hebrew Watchman*. And, get a glimpse of how it all began. We look forward to soon announcing plans for our fall 100th Anniversary.

Speaking of celebrations. Join us in congratulating Molly (Buring) and Sam Carduner (page 6) who promenaded through the French Quarter in a cheerful second line parade following nuptials at Broussard's in New Orleans in February.

In April, the community gathered to honor those who perished in the Holocaust, survivors, and Oct. 7's tragic victims and hostages. (page 10)

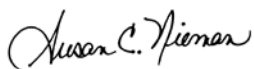
Tova Mirvis made a tour stop in her hometown of Memphis with the arrival of her newest book, "We Would Never." Shoshana Cenker shares the inside scoop on page 14.

Matt Timberlake touched base with Memphis-grown Southern Avenue Band (page 12) whose latest album, *Family*, is getting great reviews.

Hollywood Pet Stars of the month, Lily and Scarlett, will steal your heart. Just as they did mom, Rachel Belz, the moment they arrived at her door.

Join us in congratulating all the organizations celebrating 2025 anniversaries.

Shalom from the staff of *Jewish Scene Magazine* and *The Hebrew Watchman*.



Susan C. Nieman - Publisher/Editor

2025 Anniversary Celebrations

The Hebrew Watchman ~ 100 Years (1925)

B'nai B'rith Sam Schloss Lodge ~ 166 Years (1859)

Memphis Jewish Federation ~ 90 Years (1935)

Margolin Hebrew Academy/Finestone Yeshiva of the South ~ 75 Years (1950)

MJCC Camp ~ 75 Years (1950)

Beth Sholom ~ 70 Years (1955)

Plough Towers ~ 45 Years (1980)

Barbara K. Lipman ELC at Temple Israel ~ 36 Years (1989)

Bornblum Jewish Community School ~ 36 Years (1989)

Chabad of Tennessee ~ 30 Years (1995)

Jewish Foundation of Memphis ~ 30 Years (1995)

Institute of Southern Jewish Life ~ 25 Years (2000)

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Molly and Sam Carduner
Photo by Rachel Sienna
Photography



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Matt Timberlake enjoys writing about the people and places of Memphis, with particular interest in non-profit organizations. He's an amateur musician, gardener, chef, photographer and community activist. He lives in East Memphis with his wife and two daughters.



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Molly and Sam opted for an intimate wedding party with their parents and siblings.

NOLA Wedding Delights with Jammin' Second Line Parade & Loads of Love

By Shoshana Cenker :: Photos by Rachel Sienna Photography

Jazzy umbrellas in hand, beaming with joyful smiles, Molly (née Buring) and Sam Carduner promenaded through the French Quarter in a cheerful second line parade, celebrating their nuptials at Broussard's in New Orleans on Feb. 15, 2025.

Let's rewind to the happy couple meeting back in 2019, when the two happened to be at a real estate convention in Las Vegas.

"My dad is in real estate and has always gone to this convention in Vegas every year," explained Molly, who's originally from Memphis. "He joked that when I was old enough, he'd bring me and introduce me to the sons of his friends in the business. At the party, my dad recognized Sam, because he'd worked with his dad before and knew they were Jewish. He went up to Sam and made sure he wasn't 30 and married (!) – Sam said he was 23 and very single, so my dad introduced us."

Sam and Molly ended up hanging out until 6 a.m. the next day. They kept in touch afterward and eventually met up two more times before deciding to become an official couple while they were in NOLA in December of 2019. After dating long distance for a few years, they moved to Nashville together, when Molly was accepted into the Physician Assistant Studies program at South College.



Molly and her mother wore her grandmother's pearl necklaces.



Sam and Molly's second line parade in the French Quarter to their reception.



Rabbi Katie Bauman oversees the signing of the ketubah.



First look.



Sam accompanied by his parents, Dee and Rick Carduner.



Molly accompanied by her parents, Michele and Danny Buring.

In 2023, Molly and Sam happily got engaged. "Sam proposed after one of my exams," Molly shared. "He surprised me by having our friends and family all come in for a surprise engagement party." The two decided to get married where their love story became official: New Orleans.

Though Molly and Sam hired a wedding planner, they were still involved in choosing decor, music, designing invitations and the more personalized aspects of the wedding.

"Our wedding day was filled with all of our favorite people," said Molly. "We were so lucky that almost everyone was able to come to NOLA and celebrate with us. My favorite part of the wedding was spending the whole reception on the dance floor and dancing with our favorite people!"

A special moment from their wedding was undoubtedly the second line parade. "A brass band picked us up from our ceremony and paraded us around the French Quarter before dropping us off at our reception," shared Sam, who's from San Antonio, Texas. "Everyone sang and danced down the streets with us. Strangers even came out of restaurants and bars to watch and film us because it was so much fun!"

Their jubilant NOLA destination wedding proved to be the ideal setting, with a traditional New Orleans cake pull and all the festive New Orleans vibes.

"Like Molly and Sam, the wedding was unique, creative and fun! They did a beautiful job of combining our Jewish traditions with the cultural traditions of New Orleans," said Sam's parents, Dee and Rick Carduner. "From the Hotel Fontenot to Broussard's Restaurant, Molly and Sam chose excellent venues with five-star service. We'll treasure the memories of Rabbi Katie Bauman's touching ceremony in the Herman-Grima House courtyard to the fun experience of dancing around the Quarter in the second line parade between the ceremony and the courtyard reception at Broussard's. Wow, we want to do it all again!"

"One of the biggest joys of a small destination wedding," added Molly's parents, Michele and Danny Buring, "is being able to share so much love with the most important people in your life."

Including the most important people in their lives, Molly and Sam decided to "keep the ceremony small and simple, with just our parents and brothers," said Molly of her brother, Alex, and Sam's brother, Max.

For the ceremony, Molly wore bright pink heels, with her grandmothers' pearl necklace. While her mom, Michele, was decked out in a brilliant long pink dress and pink shoes.

"My mom and I have always shared a love for the color pink, so I wasn't surprised when she picked a hot pink dress and shoes for the wedding," said Molly. "I wanted to incorporate the color as well and thought a pop of pink in my shoes would be a fun way to do it. I saw the shoes in an Instagram ad for Betsy Johnson and immediately knew they were my wedding shoes."

"I picked my pink dress because it was Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras," said Michele. "It was going to be a fun party wedding, black was not the vibe!"

The newlyweds have made a lovely home together in Nashville. Molly, who graduated from the University of South Carolina in Columbia in 2018, works at an urgent care facility and hopes to transition into plastic surgery one day. Sam worked in real estate with his father in San Antonio until 2021. After he and Molly moved to Nashville, Sam began studying interior design at Belmont University – he'll graduate in 2026. The newlyweds dote on their "beautiful angel baby" pup, Chalupa, who joined them a few months after moving to Nashville.

Mazel Tov to the happy couple and *laissez les bons temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!)



The ceremony took place in the courtyard of the Herman-Grima House.



Cute cups with a signature drink represented their new pup, Chalupa, who wasn't with them.



Molly's pink shoes added the pop of color she needed in the wedding.





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Yom HaShoah Commemoration ~ 80th Anniversary of Liberation

By Shoshana Cenker :: Photos by Gregory Campbell

More than 500 people gathered at Temple Israel on April 23 to honor those who perished in the Holocaust, survivors, and Oct. 7's tragic victims and hostages. This year's Memphis Jewish Federation event, "80th Anniversary of Liberation – Echoes of Liberation: Intergenerational Implications," featured an incredible keynote speaker, second-generation survivor Anna Salton Eisen.

Jewish Community Partners (JCP) President and CEO Laura Linder opened the moving program thanking JCP and Federation staff involved in the event, as well as the volunteer Holocaust committee, local politicians and clergy. She added that Federation facilitates sending Holocaust speakers to schools throughout Shelby County, reaching 2,300 students last year.

A choir of fourth-generation kids, organized by Jessica Baum Sukhodolsky, led the audience in "The Star-Spangled Banner," guided by Rabbi Cantor David Julian of Or Chadash Conservative Synagogue.

Harry Diamant and Michelle Diamant, the 2025 commemoration co-chairs and father-and-daughter team, shared moving and tragic details about their family's Holocaust experiences, even reading some of what Harry's mother had shared at the 1962 Memphis Yom HaShoah event.

They also recognized winners of the Holocaust Art and Essay Contest. **Essays:** first place Amit Zalman, second place Ben Freiden, both from Cooper Yeshiva High School for Boys
Art: first place Adriana Canady, second place Evelyn Sparks, both from University Middle School, third place Ari Kanowitz from Grahamwood Middle School.

Robin Webb, art teacher at University Middle School, and Kyle Tingley, teacher at White Station High School, received the Belz-Lipman Award from the TN Holocaust Commission.

Fourth- and third-gen survivors, my kids, Aiden, Kivi, and Lyla, and I were honored to read brief bios of six Holocaust survivors, as third-gen Adam Exelbierd helped the survivors or their second-gen family member light a lovely candelabra. Community shlichah, Tal Nezzy, lit another candle in remembrance of Oct. 7. A solemnly beautiful musical reflection of "Meyn Zis Kind" by violinist Diane Zelickman-Cohen and clarinetist Rena Feller further set the somber yet hopeful mood of the evening.

Keynote speaker and second-gen survivor, Anna Salton Eisen's presentation focused on intergenerational responsibility and resilience through her family's stories. The daughter of survivor parents, Ruth and George (OBM), who changed their names after the war to "bury the past," she never heard them even utter the word Holocaust growing up. The accidental discovery of two stunningly frightful paintings by her father, illustrating the horrors, led Anna on an astonishing journey of research, discovery and truth as an adult.

After 30 years of silence, Anna's dad opened up, began painting again, and agreed to go back to his home country of Poland together "to



Keynote speaker Anna Salton Eisen.



Father-daughter co-chairs of this year's event, Harry Diamant and Michelle Diamant.



HaTikvah led by local rabbis, cantors, heads of schools, former IDF soldiers and pianist Diana Stein Kabakoff.



Fourth-generation kids lead the audience in "The Star-Spangled Banner."



Nearly two dozen second-generation survivors leading Mourner's Kaddish.

finally see our history.” As they walked the streets of Tyczyn, his hometown, he shared details about his family, real name (Lucjan Salzman), birthdate, school, the eventual ghetto. A hard worker, Anna’s dad miraculously survived deathly boxcar train rides, shooting rampages by hiding in mud, and 10 camps, digging graves, working in mines and quarries. At one point, a note from his brother, who was hiding in the woods, even got into George’s hands.

Audible gasps erupted from the crowd when Anna shared the shocking story of her dad switching uniforms with his ID number with another prisoner, Joseph Singer, who was being deported to another camp, in an effort to protect him. Sadly, Joseph was murdered. Because he had on George’s uniform and number, Yad Vashem had a death record for George, until Anna shared the story with Yad Vashem, which then corrected the record.

On May 2, 1945, George was liberated by the 504th 82nd U.S. airborne division, which stumbled upon his camp by accident. After two years in a displaced persons camp, he took a ship to be with his uncle in New York, “speaking no English, without any other family, and only a fifth-grade education to start a new life.” He and Anna eventually wrote his memoir.

Anna also learned her mother’s real name, that she was sent to Siberia before returning to Poland, and that Ruth was heavily involved with the “bricha” movement to help find Jewish children who were hidden during the war. Researching and discovering photos of bricha children and sending them to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., is one of Anna’s “most meaningful things I’ve done in my whole life.”

Anna, who has two brothers, found and befriended soldiers from the 504th. Of the 465 prisoners who were with her dad moving from camp to camp, only 30 survived. Of those 30, she found and gathered together the seven surviving members, sharing the photos from that momentous day.

After reading a liberating soldier’s impactful message about the desperate need to honor those lost by continuing to talk about the atrocities, Anna closed by saying, “it’s important to care ... and we must do more than remember, we must learn” from the Holocaust.

The moving commemoration ended with Rabbi Micah Greenstein of Temple Israel leading a recitation of Tehillim/Psalms; nearly two dozen second-gen leading Mourner’s Kaddish; Cantor Ricky Kampf of Baron Hirsch Congregation reciting Kel Maleh Rachamim; Beth Sholom Synagogue’s Rabbi Sarit Horwitz offering a beautiful closing benediction; and HaTikvah by local rabbis, cantors,



More than 500 people filled Temple Israel to honor those who perished in the Holocaust, survivors, and Oct. 7’s tragic victims and hostages.



Third-gen Adam Exelbierd helps survivor Jack Cohen and his daughter, Sarah Beth Cohen-Wilcox, light a candelabra.



Community shlichah, Tal Nezry, lit a candle in remembrance of Oct. 7.

heads of schools, former IDF soldiers and pianist Diana Stein Kabakoff.

Together, we continue to honor the six million Jews and millions of others who were lost in the tragedy of the Holocaust. May their memories be a blessing.



Southern Avenue:

Long is the Road to Family

By Matt Timberlake :: Photos by Rory Doyle :: Album Design by Kevin Niemiec

“We never like to describe Memphis music, because words are never enough, and you never get to describe it as cool as it is,” said Ori Naftaly, hotshot lead guitarist of the Memphis-born but globe-trotting Southern Avenue. The Blues Music Award-winning, GRAMMY-nominated Memphis-based family band also features sisters Tierinii (lead vocals), Tikyra (who goes by T.K. and plays drums) and Ava (percussion and violin) Jackson. Together, they cook up a flavorful stew of Memphis blues, modern soul and gospel-infused roots music.

Formed in Memphis in 2015, they’ve built a worldwide name for themselves with their powerful

Southern sibling vocal harmonies, soul-shaking grooves and a guitar sound that bristles with energy. The band’s new album, “Family,” confirms Southern Avenue’s status among the top international purveyors of the Memphis sound, that mythologized the essence of our city’s long and varied musical history, and something the Jackson sisters once took for granted.

From a close family in Memphis, Tierinii, T.K. and Ava played and sang the only music they listened to – Southern gospel. In the church and anywhere they performed, they learned by instinct and immersion to lock into each other’s performance in a way only siblings can.

“We grew up pretty sheltered and weren’t really aware of the rich musical legacy that the city has. When we broke out into secular music and on our own personal journeys, traveling around the world and seeing how we’re embraced, we came to appreciate it,” said Tierinii. “In Memphis, good music is just normal to us. We didn’t realize that every city doesn’t have its own musical legacy. We’re proud to be a representation of something so rich in the legacy of American roots music.”

Meanwhile, Ori came of age on the other side of the world, gobbling a steady diet of American soul, roots and blues, exotic and exciting music imports to his Israeli ears. Fascinated, he devoted himself to electric guitar mastery and created his own version of the music he loved. When he brought it back to Memphis with Israeli flavor representing his country in the 2013 International Blues Challenge, he decided to build on his music career in Memphis and stuck around.

The Jacksons’ and Naftaly’s separate journeys intersected when friends pointed him to Tierinii, who was making a name for herself as a stand-out singer in a city full of them. They formed Southern Avenue with T.K. behind the kit and began searching for their sound. The parts were there – the Jackson’s breathtaking vocal interplay, T.K.’s explosive drumming, Ori’s flamethrower guitar – they just needed to cut their teeth as an act.

“Within eight months, we had signed a record deal,” said Ori. “We hadn’t even known each other a year when we began our first record, but we had already developed a lot as a group.”

On “Family,” Southern Avenue’s recent fourth album, and their first on Alligator Records, Naftali and the Jackson sisters go all in with a crop of tunes featuring powerful vocal performances, dynamic in-the-pocket rhythms, richly textured guitar lines and instrumentation.

This time Ava joined as a full-time member rather than a studio

guest, lending her violin, percussion and vocals to the mix. A unique collaborative songwriting process gave the project a different character than the band's earlier work.

"The album is one big song where we tell the story of becoming a band. We're literally telling the story with the least amount of adjectives, making you think about it simply, mostly chronologically," said Ori. "In each writing session, we asked the question 'Where are we in the story?' Some songs are more personal, some songs are broader, but together they tell the whole story."

"There was also a need for representation of us, church girls, who do the gospel harmonies, but also are masters of soul music and blues," said Tierinii. "We needed representation out there of our Memphis music that is still alive and well and breathing."

Southern Avenue cut the record in Memphis at the legendary Royal Studio, which has birthed a vast and diverse library of massive hits and important cult classics, from Al Green's "Let's Stay Together" to De La Soul's "Art Official Intelligence" and the My Morning Jacket album "It Still Moves."

"A lot of the music that I love comes from a certain era and a lot of it came out of Royal," said T.K. "This is the first project we've recorded at Royal, but a funny thing about it is, is that it feels the most like home of all the places that we've recorded. Home is where the heart is, and it's beautiful for us to be able to discover it still in this journey."

"Family" was produced by GRAMMY winner John Burk and recorded and mixed by local legend and son of Royal founder Willie Mitchell, Boo Mitchell, himself a multi-GRAMMY winner with a rich story and deep resume most Memphis music fans know well, including the massive hit single from Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars "Uptown Funk."

"I think this record is sort of the realization of what they could become and what I first saw in them," said Burk, whose partnership with the

band began before they'd cut their first record, after seeing them perform at local live music hotspot DKDC, in Cooper Young. Burk is a co-founder of Concord Records, the company that owns the Stax catalog and rebirthed it in the 2000s with acts like Southern Avenue. In Memphis to work with Melissa Etheridge on an unrelated project, Burk found his nights free and had asked Mitchell to show him what the Memphis scene was all about, hoping to add to the Stax roster of new talent by shopping local. At the bar that night, he found one.

"By the end of their set, they were killing it, and everybody was on their feet. At one point, Ori was soloing, and the drummer was just kicking it with him. A really good drummer can do that with the guitar solo and kind of lift it up," said Burk.

"The bar was packed, and I had to lean to see who was playing the kit, and I was like 'Whoa, that's interesting. A young Black girl on drums, and she's killing it.' When I found out they were sisters and all singing that wonderful sibling harmony, I thought 'This is about as Memphis as you can get.'"

Now, four albums later, Burk is thrilled with their growth as individual artists and recording artists. "They've come into their own with this album," he said. "Their songwriting is the best they've done, full of great songs. Now that Ava is a permanent member of the band, it really takes them to another level vocally," said Burk. "It gives them the full three-part vocal arsenal, and all the things you can do with that, and they can write for that sound."

Album opener "Long is the Road" serves as a sort of prologue to the "Family" story. Beginning with the lush blend of Tierinii's, T.K.'s and Ava's voices, accompanied by slinky licks from Ori's snakebite guitar. The song builds as the beaten-but-not-broken protagonist carries his burden to its rowdy climax, greeted by guitar



Southern Avenue band members with producer John Burke.

fireworks.

Title track "Family" is brief but anchors the album at its center, offering 40 seconds of myth and melody, eight simple lines of lyrics ending with "Our journeys/Had one destiny/Our band became a/Family." Without taking a breath, the band kicks into the next cut, "Late Night Get Down," which drips with sweaty desire as it describes, filthy with innuendo, the hard work, deep in the night, a band must put in to grab what's theirs.

Other songs – "Rum Boogie," "Sisters" – all serve their story, taking listeners on a journey past neon beer signs, across crowded dance floors, and through the raw emotions of finding your people, sharing your dreams and forming your "Family." It's a thriving set of tunes, each with a beating heart pumping the same ancestral blood.

"When I think about this journey, I go back to the GRAMMYS," said T.K. "It felt like homecoming for artists, and it made everybody feel down to earth, like all of the people in that theater just make music because we love it. It's a soul contract. When we're in the writing room, we really don't think about anything but what the song needs and what we're feeling, and what we're sharing in the moment, together."

Q&A: Powerful Mystery Novel Based on a True Crime Tale of Family, Loyalty and Murder

By Shoshana Center

Native Memphian Tova Mirvis' latest novel, "We Would Never," is a gripping page-turner that explores the extremes to which a family will go to protect their own. Published in February, it's based on a real-life murder during a bitter divorce. The intimate family portrayal, which has earned high praise from the literary community, is somewhat of a cautionary tale about overinvolved parents, love, loyalty, betrayal and the blurred line between protecting and forsaking the ones we love.*

Tova is also the author of "The Book of Separation," "Visible City," "The Outside World," and "The Ladies Auxiliary," which was a national bestseller. Her essays have appeared in numerous publications including The New York Times, The Boston Globe and Real Simple, and NPR has broadcast her fiction. She and her family live in Newton, Massachusetts. Connect with her on TovaMirvis.com. "We Would Never" is available on Amazon, Simon & Schuster, Barnes & Noble, and BAM Books A Million.

* Q&A edited for brevity.

Jewish Scene: What sparked your idea for "We Would Never"?

Tova Mirvis: About 10 years ago, I had a very tangential connection to someone who was murdered. When I heard about it, I was horrified of course and also very curious to know what happened. The initial news coverage speculated that a law professor at Florida State might have been murdered by a student who was upset about a bad grade or maybe a colleague who disagreed with his theories on constitutional law. And then, the last line of a news article mentioned that he had been through a very contentious divorce. As soon as I read that, I felt pretty sure that this was the real center of what had happened.

Tell us more about the true story that inspired this mystery novel.



I continued to follow the true story over the years, as members of the ex-wife's family were arrested and convicted. I read everything I could about the case, but nothing gave me what I wanted to know. How does a family do such a thing? How do you go from being a seemingly normal family to doing something so unimaginable? I felt like I could read the news all day, but nothing was going to answer these questions. It wasn't the facts of a crime I wanted – it was their

inner lives. I decided that the only way to understand this story was to turn it into fiction and write a novel.

Families can be complicated and the best part of someone's life. Why did you focus on a family drama?

The details of the murder were interesting but not nearly as interesting as the story of the family at the center. I wanted to explore a family who said they would "do anything" for each other and how far they were willing to go for the people they love. For all that, the book is a mystery about a murder, it's really a mystery about family love and loyalty and the hard-to-solve questions of anger and escalation and forgiveness.

What do you hope readers will take away from your book?

I hope readers will have some of the same urge to understand the deeper side of these stories we read about in the news and think about the human stories behind them. I hope readers will enjoy being immersed in a fictional world – and there's a plot twist, so I hope readers will be surprised, too!

Where do you pull creativity from to craft your works?

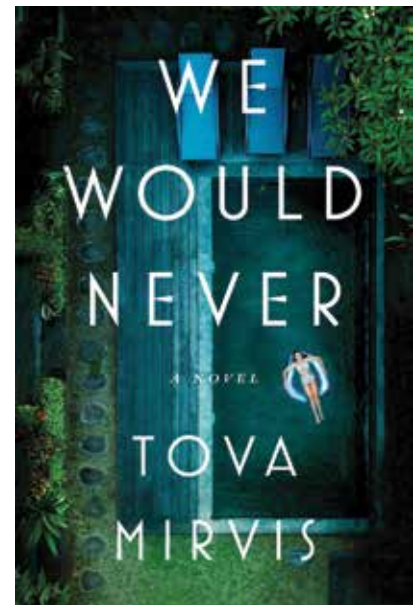
Anywhere! As it was for this book, sometimes it can just be from reading the news. Sometimes it's hearing a story that makes me wonder what's really going on – what are the parts being left unsaid. Once I have an idea, my mind starts to wander, and I let my imagination take over.

What's your writing process?

It starts off very loose – at the beginning of a book, I gather ideas, read, make notes and let myself write very freely, even if I'm not really sure where I'm going. I've learned, over the course of the five books I've written, to let a project exist in an uncertain and messy state. But there always comes a moment when the idea begins to come into focus and that's when I put in long hours, drafting scenes, making outlines, and playing with structure. Once I have a draft, I spend a very long time – years, really – revising every aspect of it.

Any plans percolating for your next novel?

I'm working on a new novel that's set in Memphis. For many years, I've wanted to write a novel about several generations in a Southern Jewish family and use some of my own family history to do that. After every book I've written, I've always planned to write this novel, then get distracted by another idea. But this time, I'm going to write it. For the past year, while waiting for "We Would Never" to come out, I've been working on it and feel very immersed already. And I'm enjoying writing about Memphis again – it feels like a kind of coming home.



Lily and Scarlett Belz: The duo who stole Rachel's heart

By Susan C. Nieman

Rachel Belz had a dog, Dylan, for 16 years. "He was amazing," she said. "There was no dog on this planet that could even be as great as he was, so I decided to get two cats, so they would also have each other as companions too.

She found a breeder in Louisiana, and the two Seal Point Ragdolls arrived at her house in May 2020. "It was love at first sight!" she said. "They both share the same daddy, Saint, but have different moms."

When picking names, Rachel chose the name of her favorite flower, a Lily, and thought the name Scarlett was adorable. And so, it was settled.

The kittens have not been left alone for long periods. "I am a proud stay-at-home Jewish cat mommy," says Rachel. But when she goes out of town, they stay with their adopted grandmother who spoils them rotten.

When it comes to fun and treats, the two love boxes. "Their Aunt Rebecca enjoys making different cat-themed houses and giving it to them," says Rachel. "So, we have a lot of cat houses around. They love doing construction and renovations on the houses, which keeps them busy. Their favorite box is a Macy's box. They also go crazy for Delectables Squeeze Up treats, when the drawer opens, a symphony of singing cats occurs, they get so excited. They also go crazy for the water in canned tuna!

Special activities:

Lily and Scarlett are avid bird watchers and love to sit on the porch and see the different birds at the feeders. They love their Litter Robot 4, which makes cat life easier for their mommy.

Love most about your pet:

I love their independence and playfulness. They both have two totally different personalities. They have the perfect life: they get to sleep all day and eat when they want.

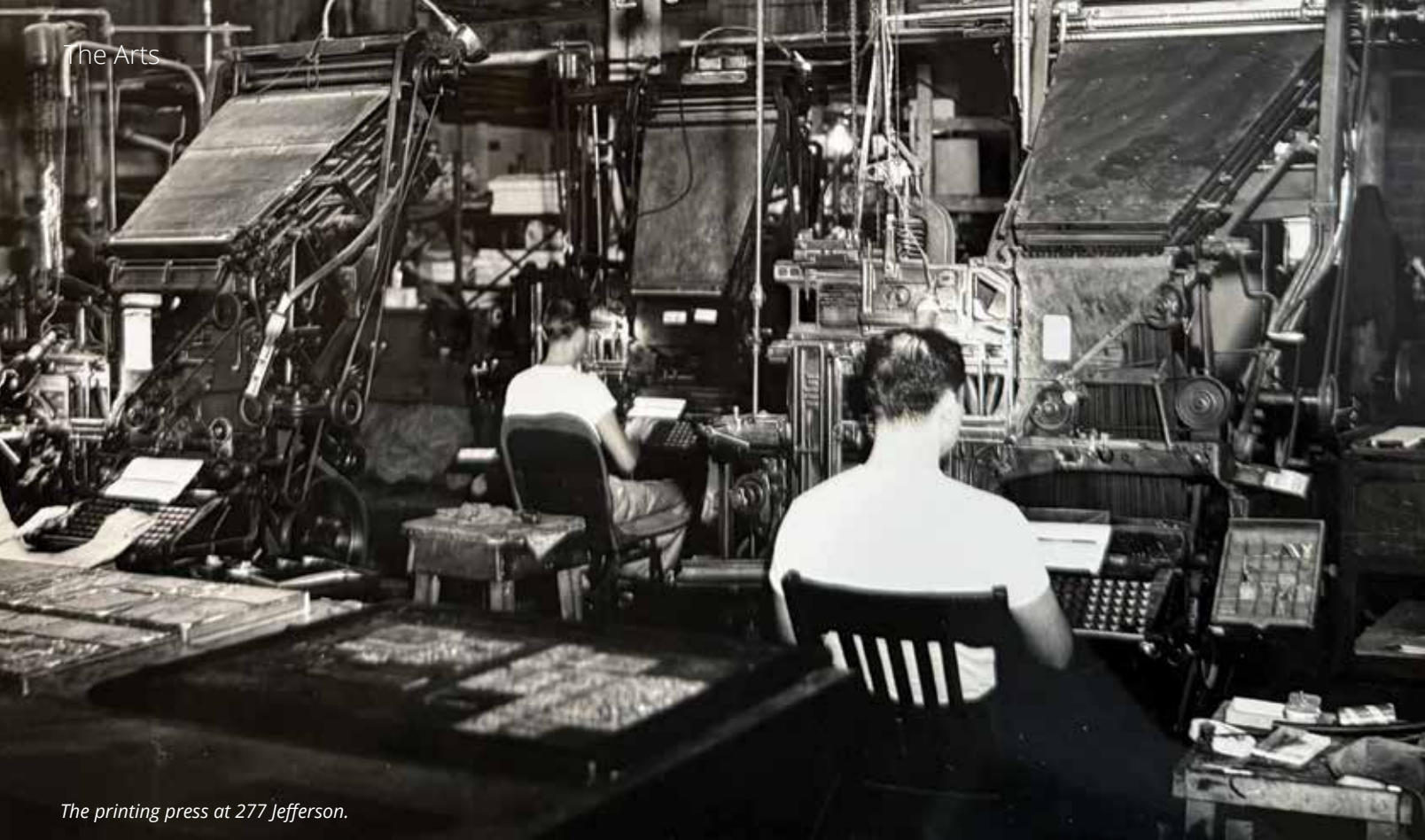
Pet Peeve:

No, they're purrfect!



Rachel Belz with Lily and Scarlett.





The printing press at 277 Jefferson.

100 YEARS, 5,200 EDITIONS: The Hebrew Watchman Celebrates its Centennial

By Matt Timberlake

Jewish newspapers once seemed as abundant as synagogues, with daily, weekly and monthly publications of all shapes and sizes rolling out of print shops from Southern California to New England, and all significant pockets of Jewish culture in between.

During the wild independent heyday of the mid-century, the depth of coverage of the North American diaspora was dizzying. The Iowa Jewish News, for example, was a Shabbat tradition, rolling off the press in Des Moines every Friday for a modest 20 years, from 1932 to 1952. At its peak, it reached hardly more than 1,800 households with the latest news for Jews. An important period of the culture, but a blink of the eye in the grand scheme of things. 1,100 miles to the east, New York City's Jewish Bakers' Voice was published weekly by the Local 338 of the International Bagel Bakers Union, distributing just short of 1,500 copies as recently as 1952.

Talk about niche publications.

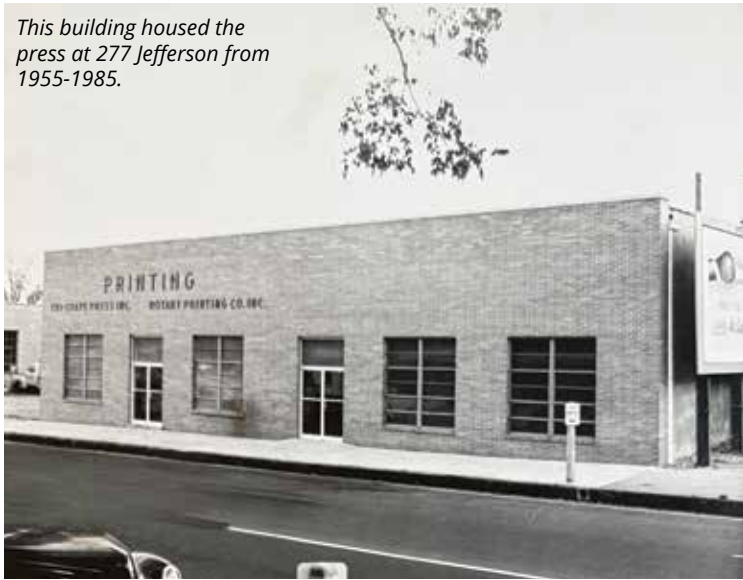
Today a handful of storied publications remain, in cities like Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Atlanta, Denver. Many, like the St. Louis Jewish Light, are run as nonprofits, often by the community's Jewish Federation or with close association to a shul or school. Unsurprisingly, the greater New York City metro area still boasts dozens of periodicals, all serving distinct portions of the region's huge Jewish population.



Leo Goldberger with his son, Herman Goldberger, in the late 1970s.

Here in Memphis, we have *The Hebrew Watchman*. Since its first issue, this community has unfailingly been blessed with a fresh edition weekly, without a single pause or interruption, for almost 10 entire decades. In September 2025, we'll celebrate the centennial anniversary when the 5,200th edition is published and delivered to mailboxes across our city.

This building housed the press at 277 Jefferson from 1955-1985.

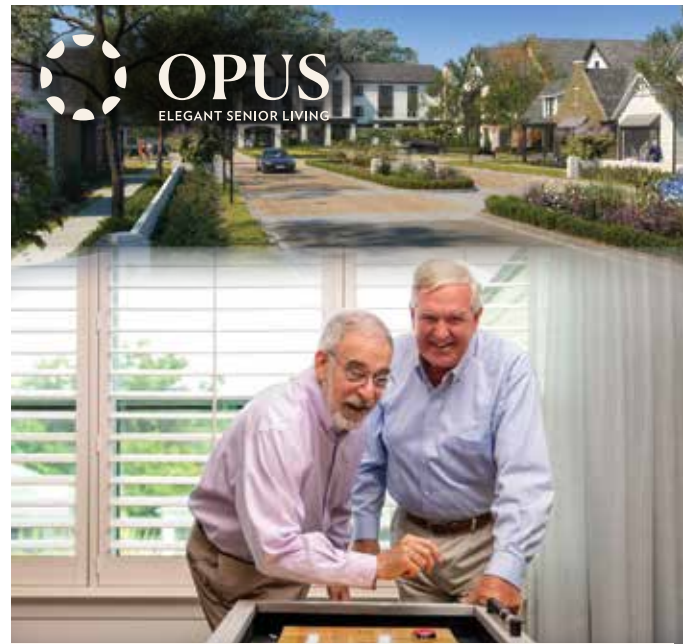


In the back of a tailor shop in downtown Memphis, mid 1900s, the seeds of a Memphis Jewish institution were planted when Emanuel Goldberger, a Central High School 11th grader, went into business with a foot-powered printing press. Cranking out a slew of publications from the get go, the shop produced printed material for area religious organizations, unions, schools, grocers, colleges and corporations. Like any Memphis company worth its salt, it has enjoyed Federal Express as a client, and sat adjacent to the city's mighty cotton industry, publishing the Cotton Trade Journal, a publication devoted to cotton production, processing and trade, the industry that shaped downtown Memphis in its early days.

But for Jewish Memphians the publication that stands out is our beloved *The Hebrew Watchman*, which in September turns 100 years old. And this calls for celebration. The pages of *The Hebrew Watchman* have highlighted our families and community, reporting on moments as intimate and personal as a marriage or bar mitzvah, and as universally profound as the founding of the State of Israel, and all interesting Jewish stuff in between.

In a soon-to-be-announced exhibit at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, the Memphis Jewish community will toast *The Hebrew Watchman*. We will honor the lifetime commitment of the Goldberger family and the current owner/publishers Susan and Larry Nieman with a host of stories, interviews, photography, archival material, and more as we collectively celebrate this historic milestone.

"It's an honor to be the torchbearer of this beloved weekly newspaper, continuing a trusted tradition founded by Leo Goldberger so long ago, then carried on by his son and daughter-in-law," said Susan. "Herman and Bobbie entrusted me to carry on their family legacy. And it is incredibly meaningful to me, to the family and the community to celebrate 100 years. I can't wait to share what we've been working on as we gear up for this anniversary."



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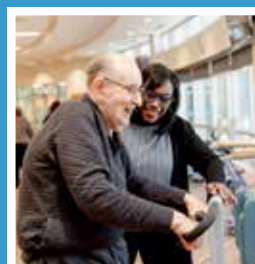
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