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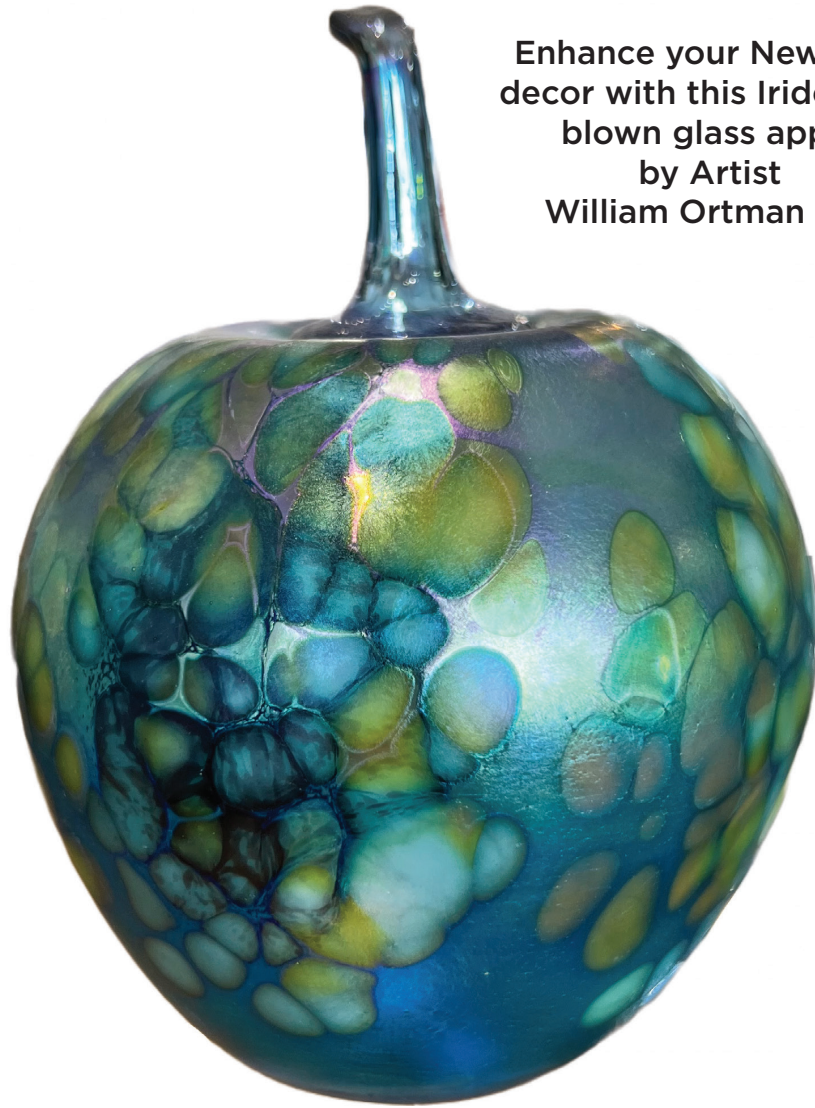
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✚ **On The Cover**
Happy New Year!



Contributors



Originally from Sydney, Australia, **Rebecca (Bec) Brown** currently resides in Memphis after having lived in New York, Baltimore and Chicago. By day she works as a Jewish communal professional but started her career in the fashion editorial world as the fashion editor for several celebrity weeklies. In her spare time, she writes fashion, beauty, gift guide and lifestyle editorials and is thrilled to now be contributing to Jewish Scene. Bec lives with her husband and three adorable children in East Memphis.



Shoshana Y. Cenker is a word & grammar nerd with 20+ years in creative services. She's the managing editor of a media publishing firm and runs her freelance communications business, as a content writer, editor, proofreader, copywriter, marketing consultant and wordsmith extraordinaire. She and her three kiddos – twin boys Aiden and Kivi, and daughter Lyla – happily live in her hometown of Memphis, with their pup, Memphis. ShoshanaAY@gmail.com



Gila Golder grew up in Baltimore and moved to Memphis in 2015, but her family's Jewish Memphis roots run deep. Her grandfather, Rabbi Alfred Fruchter, served as the rabbi of Beth El Emeth and was instrumental in the founding of Margolin Hebrew Academy in 1949. Her children, Tzemach and Tzofia, now attend MHA. And, yes, the apocryphal story is in fact true – a teenage Elvis Presley served as the Fruchters' shabbos goy! Gila works for the Leviton Law Firm and enjoys board games, puzzles and spending time with her children.



Debbie Rosenthal lives to travel and fortunately gets to travel for work. For 22+ years, she has visited unique destinations to explore the best of the best. Her expertise, personal touch, and specialized service ensure her clients' vacation experiences exceed their expectations.

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Letter From the Editor

As the New Year begins, I look back at the past 19 years and realize how lucky I have been to share, through Jewish Scene, stories about Jewish Memphis and the people and organizations that bring us all together. This past year has been especially busy with the 100th Anniversary of our Memphis weekly newspaper, The Hebrew Watchman.

In September, for only two short weeks, we shared the Legacy of The Hebrew Watchman and the Goldberger family through an exhibit at the MJCC Shainberg Art Gallery. Visitors took a Journey Through the Decades – 100 years of Jewish history in Memphis, Israel and around the world.

It was an amazing exhibit. More than I could have ever imagined. And if we'd known when we booked the gallery how incredibly detailed and inviting this exhibit would be, we would have had it up for as long as possible.

As each person walked past the panels, they could find some connection, like Bernard Danzig, who was the first and one-of-only three executive directors of Plough Towers. Read about Bernard's wonderful life

on page 16.

We have more inspiring stories this month. Read how Leigh Mansberg shares her love of teaching and quest for engagement on page 14.

Look back at a memorable 15-year milestone for the Jay Uiberall Foundation on page 18.

Cruise along with Debbie Rosenthal on page 12 as she takes you to the Dalmatian Coast aboard Amazara's Pursuit.

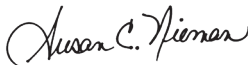
Celebrate Bennett Lubin's uplifting Israeli bar mitzvah celebration on page 6.

And don't forget to check out this month's Hollywood Pet Stars on page 9.

Since taking The Hebrew Watchman exhibit down on September 14, we have been searching for a new venue. If you have any ideas, please share. We will keep you posted.

L'Shana Tova to all!

Shalom,



Susan C. Nieman - Publisher/Editor



Susan and Larry celebrate with the family: brother Donnie Heitner, daughter Toni Nieman, and son David (Holly) Miller.



Susan with Herman and Bobbie Goldberger.



Journey Through the Decades: The Legacy of The Hebrew Watchman.

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Grandfather Nathan Lubin with Bennett and his father, Ryan Lubin, say prayers.

Honoring Memory, Embracing Celebration: Bennett Lubin's Uplifting Bar Mitzvah in Israel

By Shoshana Cenker

Planning a bar mitzvah in Israel these days comes with some uncertainty and potential complications. Yet none of that, nor difficulties in Memphis, hindered Bennet Lubin's simcha this past July in Jerusalem. Touring, visiting with friends and family, and the bar mitzvah service at the Kotel/Western Wall all made for an incredibly meaningful experience.

"Almost all our summer plans seemed to have changed around the beginning of June," explained Dr. Brooke Lubin, Bennett's mom. "Though we were expecting it to some extent, my husband Ryan's mom, Eva Marx, passed away, and the family came to town to observe shiva at our house in Memphis. The same day Ryan's mom died, our three kids, along with 17 others from Memphis, left for Beber Camp in Wisconsin. This is the third year that all three of our kids have gone to camp together. We were very thankful that the kids were in the company of many who love them, and they could focus on being there. The approaching bar mitzvah was lingering in our minds. We were thankful to find out that Ryan and his siblings' mourning observances would not derail the bar mitzvah plans for July in Jerusalem. We were encouraged to continue with the celebration. Bennett was able to put on tefillin for the first time at camp with Ryan on Facetime, as is tradition 30 days before a bar mitzvah."



The Lubin family celebrates at the Kotel.



Lubin family together in Israel.

But there were more challenges ahead. In mid-June, the intense fighting between Israel and Iran began, and the Lubin family again questioned their decision to have the bar mitzvah in Israel.

“Bennett said many times when making the original plans that he was determined to have a happy celebration in Israel after the murder of our niece, his cousin, Rose Lubin, on Nov. 7, 2023, just weeks before her 21st birthday,” added Ryan. “Our family in Israel was in great need of hugs and celebratory moments as well. We knew it was not a decision that we could take lightly ... either way, it was going to affect many people.”

So, proceed with the plans they did. The Lubins arrived in Israel on Monday, July 21, 2025. “It was as if we had returned home,” remembered Brooke. “I believe we all took a sigh of relief as we exited the airport in Tel Aviv. Each child – Celia, Bennett and Ari – had been to Israel around the age of 5 or 6 but not since then. We chose to visit Rose’s gravesite privately soon after arriving in Israel. She was with us in spirit and spoken of regularly.”

With good friend and tour guide Alan Harkavy, the family spent two days touring Masada and the Dead Sea, venturing on an Ein Bokek hike and visiting the Old City of Jerusalem.

“That Bornblum Jewish Community School education really paid off – the kids finished all of Alan’s biblical references and stories and even provided additional information. Alan was impressed!” Ryan said happily. “We were also able to go to the Temple Mount. Meals consisted of a lot of family, those who had traveled, as well as family



Bennett Lubin

Continued on page 8 →

in Israel. The food was magnificent!”

Thursday morning, July 24, friends and family gathered at the egalitarian section of the Kotel for Bennet’s bar mitzvah. Gabe, Ryan’s acquaintance from a mission trip to Israel with the Jewish organization Adamah, helped plan the bar mitzvah events, starting with the Thursday morning service.

“The bar mitzvah experience was magical. It was as if no one else existed, and Bennett had a spotlight shining on him,” said Brooke joyfully. “Ryan surprised Bennett with a two-man band with shofars and bongos. Bennett was shocked! Ryan’s Rabbi Uncle Eddie, married to Minda Lubin, officiated the bar mitzvah service, which made it so special. He has a great appreciation for Bennett.”

Some of the Lubin’s friends and teachers from Memphis happened to be in Israel and were able to attend. Morah Maya Sharabi from Bornblum has taught all three Lubin children, and she made it her mission to remain in Israel this past summer until Bennett’s bar mitzvah.

“The section of the Kotel that we were in allowed for everyone to feel a part of everything. It was beyond appropriate for all our family and friends to be together and surround Bennett with love and support,” shared Ryan of the 40 guests. “Everyone was encouraged to wear flowers to honor my mom Eva, who was an avid gardener, and, of course, Rose. After the ceremony at the Wall, we enjoyed a catered lunch. Bennett wrote an entire script as a d’var Torah. All our guests participated either as part of the play or as quiz contestants. Later that afternoon, we all loaded a bus to play paintball. The competition was intense! Almost everyone participated, which was a sight to see.”

Bennet especially loved the experience of being in Israel and the atmosphere in general, as well the guests who joined in his simcha. “Before I led davening and read the Torah, there was a group of people, who sang and danced all the way to the path that led us to where I would read,” noted Bennet of a super-special moment. “There was also Israeli Scouts from one of the years [in Memphis], and Rabbi Joel Finkelstein, who helped me study for my bar mitzvah, was at our lunch, which was super nice. Getting to see my cousins who live in Israel and celebrating with them was great.”

“The best part was seeing Bennett be his best self,” said Brooke proudly. “Attendees left with an increased appreciation of Bennett – who he is and what he represents. As a parent, seeing your child shine brings an immense amount of joy. After the day of Celia’s bat mitzvah, it was the best day of my life.”

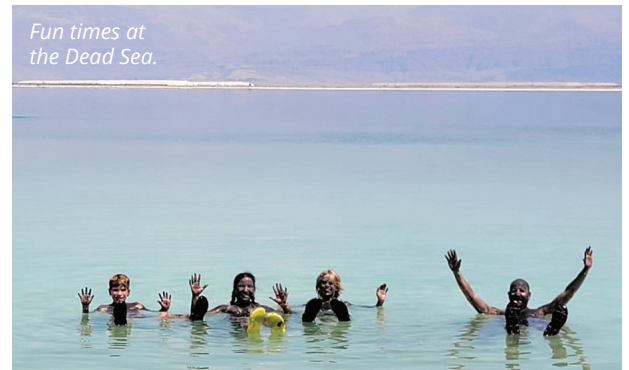
A few weeks later at home in Memphis, the Lubins celebrated with local friends and family at a skating party with a blue and gold VIP theme.

“Personally, it felt so relieving in the moment,” said Bennet of reaching this important milestone. “But after a while, it was kind of sad because I wanted to do it all over again!”

Mazel Tov to Bennett and the Lubin family; and may Eva and Rose’s memories always be blessings.



Bennett rides a camel.



Fun times at the Dead Sea.



The Lubins privately visited Rose Lubin's, (OBM) grave shortly after arriving in Israel.

Rescue Pets Keep Nelsons Laughing

By Susan C. Nieman

Troy and Logan Nelson have a full house with two adults and three pets – two dogs and a cat.

Floyd is a black lab poodle mix whose name was originally Lloyd at the shelter. “I didn’t like that name, so I tweaked it a bit,” said Troy. She chose the pup from the Young Williams Shelter website where she used to volunteer in Knoxville.. “When I was in college at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, Floyd would come with me in the car whenever I went home for a weekend.”

Noodle is a white poodle mix whose hair reminds Troy of Ramen Noodles. “Noodle was found dumped in Overton Park, very skinny and sick, so we took him in,” she said.

Troy and Logan found Cheddar at Memphis Animal Services (MAS). “I’d been there in the past when my mom adopted her dog,” she explained. When it came to getting a cat, she said, “We got Cheddar mostly because my husband wanted a cat, and I said make it an orange one!” The name was perfect, so it stuck.

The couple is lucky to have a family friend home pet sitter when they travel and another friend who used to be a pet groomer.

Floyd was trained in Knoxville at B&B K-9. “Once I moved back to Memphis, we started using Desiree Gombos with Highway to Heel,” said Troy. The trio enjoy their trips to the vet at Walnut Grove Animal Clinic. “We love Dr. Haynes and Dr. Slattery,” said the Nelsons.

Do any of your pets look like either of you? A question we always ask our pet parents. “I think Floyd and I look a bit alike!” exclaimed Troy.

Love Most

They all have different quirks, and they make me laugh every single day!

Pet Peeves

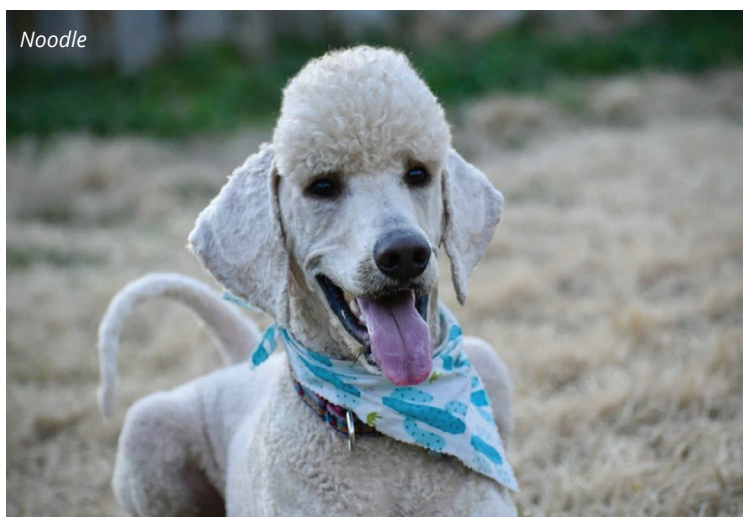
Noodle is VERY mouthy and vocal.

Floyd is perfect and can do no wrong.

Cheddar is very sly and will take your food from right off your plate!

Special Treats

I think I spend more money on them than I do myself!





Preston Davis Trotz pours honey as he learns about the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

STUDENTS PREP FOR ROSH HASHANAH WITH CRAFTS, WORKSHOPS, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES By Gila Golder

In the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah, students in Memphis Jewish schools were well prepared! From toddlers to teens, each child enjoyed a variety of educational programs designed to engage and inspire.

The Memphis Jewish Community Center (MJCC) Early Childhood Center hosted community rabbis, cantors and educators to blow the shofar for the preschoolers and teach them about the holiday. To kick off the month of Elul, Rabbi Cantor David Julian of Or Chadash Synagogue showed the children different types of shofars and demonstrated the *Tekiah*, *Shevarim* and *Teruah* blasts. Special visitors have also included Rabbi Noach Karp of Memphis Jewish Experience, who taught the difference between a noisemaker and an authentic shofar; Rabbi Leah Sternberg of Temple Israel, who told a story about how G-d chose the sound of the shofar to awaken the Jewish people to the New Year; and more. As Rabbi Karp prepared to blow the extra-long *Tekiah Gedolah* blast, he joked, “My face is going to turn into a tomato!”

At Bornblum Jewish Community School, the arrival of Rosh Hashanah is marked by a tradition that has carried on for more than three decades. Each year, students take part in a Rosh Hashanah card contest, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the holiday. The winning design is shared with the community – displayed in the school’s hallways and offered as an e-card – and the student artist is rewarded with a shofar. It’s a celebration of both artistry and heritage, connecting generations of Bornblum students to the spirit of the New Year.

Margolin Hebrew Academy/Cooper Yeshiva of the South (MHA/CYOS) had fun Rosh Hashanah workshops and activities for its preschool, elementary, middle and high school students. The preschool classes came together for a challah bake with Morah Katie Lichter, who explained the meaning of each ingredient in the challah dough and how it connects to the Torah and to Rosh Hashanah. They said the blessing for separating challah and each child shaped their own round challah



Rabbi Joel Finkelstein visits the MJCC Early Childhood Center to teach about the shofar.

to take home. Beekeeper Rick Stone, of Warren Road Honey Farm, visited the preschool with a sampling of different honeycombs and beeswax for the children to see and even touch. They each received a bottle of honey from Mr. Rick’s farm to enjoy at home with their challah! In the MHA middle school, the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah are a time to learn and reflect. The students wrote letters to themselves describing their goals for the year. The envelopes are sealed and collected – and returned to the students on the last day of school to see how much they were able to accomplish. The Big Sister/Little Sister program matches 7th and 8th grade girls with 5th and 6th grade girls and is designed to promote unity among the student body before Rosh Hashanah and create a positive environment. Middle school students wrote Rosh Hashanah cards in Hebrew under the direction of Morah Tami Hershkovitz and Bat Ami girls Bat Tzion,



Bornblum Jewish Community School students take part in a Rosh Hashanah card contest, showcasing their creativity and understanding of the holiday.



Elliot Evans makes an apple cake with Judy Bearman.

Tair, Tehila and Shelat. Mrs. Anat Kampf, principal of the MHA junior high, said, "The Bat Ami girls and the Kollel Torah Mitzion boys add a tremendous amount of excitement and love for Israel throughout the school, and their presence here is invaluable."

The children at Temple Israel's Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center joyfully prepared for the High Holy Days with hands-on experiences and holiday traditions. They baked challah and made apple cakes with Judy Bearman, enjoyed a special visit from a local beekeeper to learn how honey is made, and gathered with clergy to explore the traditions and meaning of the holidays. They went hands-on with creative crafts, including making shofars, crafting Rosh Hashanah cards and creating apple decorations. These activities are designed to help the youngest learners at Temple Israel connect with the beauty and sweetness of the season while creating cherished memories.



MHA/CYOS boys make their own shofars.



MHA/CYOS middle school girls gather for a New Year photo.



A beekeeper teaches MHA preschoolers about honeycombs, beeswax and honey.



Debbie and David at White Night.



A+ Pool Service



Cruising the Dalmatian Coast with Azamara: An "Azamazing" Experience

By Debbie Rosenthal

I have just returned from one of the most unforgettable journeys – a 10-night Croatia Intensive voyage aboard the Azamara Pursuit. From the moment I stepped onboard, I knew this wasn't just another cruise. Azamara has quickly become one of my favorite cruise lines, and here's why.

Country-Intensive Cruises: More Time, More Discovery

Azamara's unique Country-Intensive Voyages are designed to let travelers dive deeper into a single destination including the most iconic destinations as well as hidden gems. Unlike larger cruise lines that offer brief stopovers, Azamara focuses on longer stays, overnight visits and immersive excursions, ensuring that every guest has time to truly experience the culture, history and spirit of each port. Sailing with only 700 guests, Azamara's boutique ships can dock in smaller, less-traveled harbors, giving you access to hidden gems that the bigger ships simply can't reach. Whether it's a local cooking class, sampling regional wines, listening to traditional music or photographing medieval villages, Azamara's Ashore immersive land and enrichment programs are designed to let guests become part of the fabric of life in each destination, instead of merely being an observer.

Discovering the Dalmatian Coast

Croatia's Dalmatian Coast is nothing short of magical. My itinerary took me across the sparkling sapphire Adriatic with its mountainous coastline, calling at both world-famous destinations and charming, lesser-known ports. From Dubrovnik's medieval walls to Split's Roman heritage, and from the storybook streets of picturesque Korčula to the time-forgotten beauty of Zadar and Rovinj, every stop felt like stepping into history.

This was my third visit to Croatia, and I can honestly say it never loses its charm. The rugged mountains, sun-drenched islands, warm hospitality and vibrant folk culture make it irresistible. And for food and wine lovers? Croatia is a paradise. With over 300 wine regions, local cheeses, olive oils and freshly caught seafood, every meal is an experience in itself.

Life Onboard: Intimate Luxury at Sea

Azamara offers a true boutique hotel at sea, through their commitment to delivering exceptional service and hospitality. Their Always Azamara promise means many extras are included: fine wines and spirits, gratuities, nightly entertainment, dining at multiple restaurants (with certain room categories), and a warm and personal level of service – the staff seemed to genuinely enjoy taking care of us, and it showed in every little detail."

Dining was a highlight of my journey – from exquisite specialty restaurants to a bountiful brunch buffet, to unforgettable meals under the stars during White Night, Azamara's signature deck party, when the ship transformed into one big celebration under the Adriatic sky. It was, without a doubt, the most fun I've ever had on a cruise ship. And then there are the AzAmazing Evenings, exclusive, private events that connect guests to the heart of the destination. In Split, I attended a breathtaking performance at the National Theatre – choreographed, written and performed just for us. It was one of the most special travel experiences I've ever had.

Why Croatia with Azamara is a Must

My Adriatic voyage along Croatia's coast with Azamara combined living history, spectacular scenery, rich flavors and intimate luxury in a way that few other

Debbie Rosenthal is your luxury travel advisor with 22+ years' experience. My expertise includes luxury and small ship cruises, river cruises, private custom land tours, all-inclusive vacations, luxury villa rentals, active and wellness vacations, adventure and expedition travel, luxury hotels, spas and resorts, honeymoons, multigenerational and special interest group travel and escorted tours.

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Synagogue in Split



Debbie and entertainer during "Destination Showcase Night."



Debbie and David with the captain and cruise director during "An Azamazing Evening."

experiences can. With extended time in port, world-class hospitality and unforgettable cultural encounters, I left not just with memories, but with a genuine connection to this beautiful country as well as a craving for more of Croatia's cobblestoned streets, quaint shops and local delicacies and regional wines.

Croatia has gone from a hidden gem of coastal delights to one of the hottest travel destinations in Europe. If Croatia is on your travel wish list (and it should be!), there is no better way to explore it than with Azamara. Trust me – once you experience an "Azamazing" journey, you'll never want to travel the world other way.

I am thrilled to share exciting news – I am proud to announce the launch of my newly rebranded travel agency: Oriana Travel Co., a Virtuoso® affiliate.

This transition from Dream Vacations to Oriana Travel Co. allows me to elevate the experiences I offer without changing the personalized service you've always trusted. In fact, my affiliation with Virtuoso opens the door to exclusive partnerships, added amenities, insider access and tailored journeys designed to make your travels more enriching than ever. My expertise includes luxury and small ship cruises, river cruises, private custom land tours, all-inclusive vacations, luxury villa rentals, active and wellness vacations, adventure and expedition travel, luxury hotels, spas and resorts, honeymoons, multigenerational and special interest group travel and escorted tours.

I am deeply grateful for your continued trust and support as I embark on this exciting new chapter. I look forward to making your next journey beyond extraordinary, whether by land or by sea. Please contact me at 901.682.5600 or debbie@orianatravel.com.



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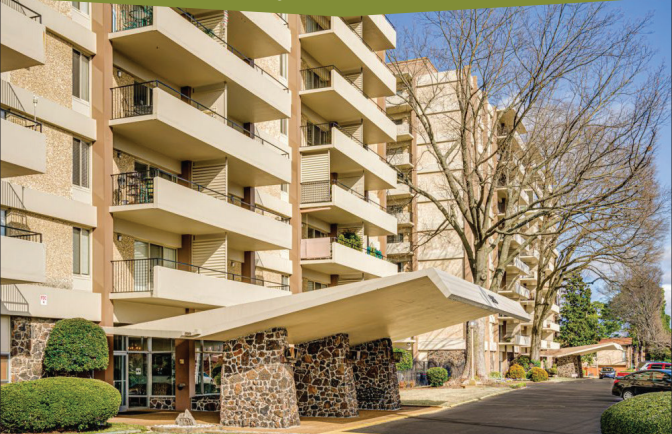








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Leigh (front center) with Junior Achievement Team.

From the Classroom to the Boardroom: Leigh Mansberg's Masterclass Teaches Memphis to Shine

By Shoshana Cenker

We all know people who give back to their communities, who are champions of *chesed* and *tikkun olam*, and proud cheerleaders of their cities. Leigh Mansberg represents all that and more as an inspiring world-class educator and Jewish community activist with a huge heart and love for the Bluff City.

Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Leigh, who has two sisters, moved to her mom's hometown of Memphis for college, surrounded by many relatives and connected to the Jewish community. "I had the joy of experiencing AEPi dances," Leigh said over our delightful Zoom call with her beaming smile, "and CJBs: cute Jewish boys."

At then-Memphis State, she earned her Liberal Arts undergrad degrees in history and English and her Master of Arts in Teaching in curriculum and instruction. "All I wanted to do was be a teacher," she shared.

And teach she has. While still in college she took college classes in the mornings and taught at Temple Israel's preschool in the afternoons. She also student taught for a year at Overton High

School, then taught at White Station High School for five years, followed by St. Mary's for 20 years.

"I loved all my teaching gigs," Leigh said. "I'm a big fan of public and private and finding the right school for the right kid. People need to stay on their own mats about where a child goes to school. There are a lot of wonderful schools in our community – parents and families need to figure out which school works best for their unique child."

As she explored what was next in her career after St. Mary's, Leigh had the "wonderful opportunity" to work for and learn from Bridge Capital. "They were such amazing instructors who really taught me about financial leadership," she explained. "They knew I wanted to go back to nonprofit work, but I knew that I wanted to run a nonprofit really, really well."

"Loving the experience" of working at Bridge Capital for a few years, she then moved on to Epicenter, building businesses for women and minorities. But she missed working with children. One day, a thought that combined the two fields sparked:

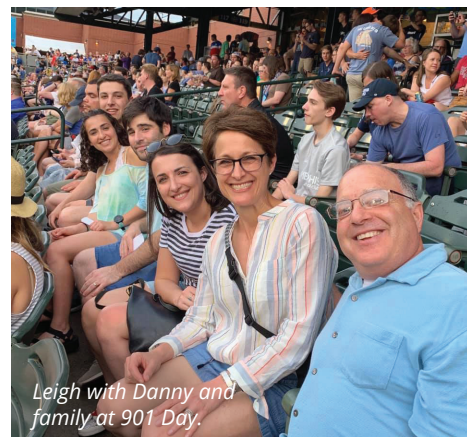
"Where's the Epicenter for kids?"

"When the job opened at Junior Achievement (JA), I knew my education and business backgrounds were coming together. This might be the perfect fit," Leigh shared of her president/CEO role. "It's been amazing, and it's been amazingly hard to navigate it through what has been a crazy six years, but I love it so very much. The people I work with are amazing. We have an incredible team. About 80% of us are professional educators, and they're so driven and so mission-driven, which is my love language – fighting for what you believe in, making good things happen, and building bridges and connections. It's really been the best of the best at JA."

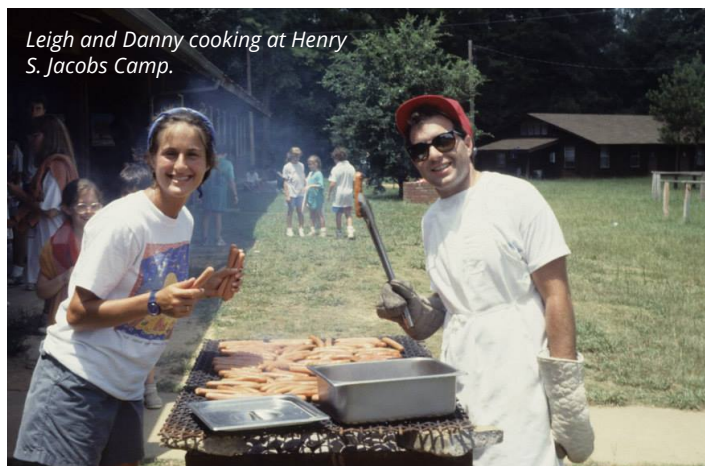
While her professional career soared from the beginning, so did her personal life. Leigh met her husband, Danny, a native Memphian, at Henry S. Jacobs Camp, where she was a certified fitness instructor teaching aerobics. Danny's mom, Barbara Mansberg, had been a longtime educator at Temple Israel and founded the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center program, where Leigh's



Leigh (front, 3rd from right) and the senior staff at St. Mary's Episcopal School.



Leigh with Danny and family at 901 Day.



Leigh and Danny cooking at Henry S. Jacobs Camp.



Leigh and daughter Emma at St. Jude Race.

grandson, Abraham, now attends school.

Danny and Leigh have two daughters; both of their families live less than two miles from the Mansbergs in Memphis. "We brought two more Jewish people to Memphis because our girls, Ramie Glick and Emma Weintraub, are each married," she said. "My favorite little human is Abraham; he's almost 3. He's just delicious."

Leigh and Danny have both been incredibly active in Jewish orgs, from Plough Towers and the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab to Temple Israel and many more. "We've been deeply committed to Henry S. Jacob's Camp and her future and Temple Israel's future," she said. "I will complete my tenure of board service at Temple Israel in April after having served on the board for 14 years and have served on the executive committee since 2014 and served as Temple's president. I'm proud of the work that I've done there."

As is tradition, a gift is given in honor of a presidency at Temple Israel. "My husband, daughters and their family, my father, Kenneth Baim, and mother-in-law sponsored the creation of the Mishnafari Book series," says Leigh of the books written by educator Tami Herschkovitz. "It was especially meaningful to me to support the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center as my mother-in-law was the founding director

of the school, and my first job at age 19 was as an assistant teacher in the preschool. I am also so proud that my grandson, Abey, gets to learn from the series as he engages and builds his own Jewish life."

Leigh is especially excited about partnering with Temple's executive director Mark Gulner, Blair Trotz in the Early Learning Center, and current president Wendy Rotter as they "build a beautiful new preschool that embraces the importance of Jewish education starting as early as possible for our children."

She's also involved with Reach Memphis, leaning into her strong background in college preparation, which she loves, and First 8 Memphis, because she's a big advocate for universal access to pre-k. "I believe that all children should have preschools as soon as possible," she added. "Every parent wants the best for their child. It's my honor to be in the community to try to deliver those things."

Though Leigh's role at JA is nonstop, she still finds time for fun, of course. "Being with my family is my biggest place of joy. All my heart is my family.

They give me such happiness. I'm excited about the High Holy Days because we have so many family events together," she said glowing with pride. "I also love moving my body with lots of different exercises. You'll see me doing Pilates or yoga or strength training at the Memphis Jewish Community Center, which is one of my favorite things to do, working with trainer Kate Richards. I love getting stronger as I age."

Passionate about all things 901, the city is certainly stronger and smarter thanks to Leigh's dedication. "I choose Memphis. My family chooses Memphis. I love being Jewish in Memphis," she said with sincerity. "It's such a wonderful embrace of a community that takes care of one another and an honor to be a part of it."



Bernard Danzig (back, center)
with the Danzig family.

Bernard Danzig: Where Purpose Meets Heart – Career of Compassionate Care & Devotion to Family

By Shoshana Cenker

Who would have thought that a kid from Greenville and Rolling Fork, Mississippi, would later go on to have a massive positive impact across Jewish Memphis? An only child, Bernard was born in 1937 and grew up with loving parents, Edwin “Ed” and Sylvia Danzig.

During his undergrad days at Ole Miss, a Jewish fraternity at then-Memphis State often invited Ole Miss’ Phi Epsilon Delta?! We were just meant to be. My mother-in-law was an angel on Earth, just precious.”

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While the two were dating, Bernard served in the Airforce at Laflin Airforce Base. “He wrote me a letter every day,” Miriam reminisced with a smile. “I found my bashert. If you don’t believe in that,

just talk to me – how else would I have found a nice Jewish boy in the Mississippi Delta?! We were just meant to be. My mother-in-law was an angel on Earth, just precious.”

The two were married in 1960 at Baron Hirsch Congregation on Vollentine in Memphis. They have three grown children – Rick; Shari (married to David) Gubin; Jody (married to Craig) Altman – and are Poppy and Gege to their six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

After graduating from Ole Miss in 1959, Bernard ended up in Memphis, working at Lowenstein’s department store. Through Miriam’s connections with Jack Lieberman and Alan Levine, a vocational counselor at Jewish Federation and Jewish

Bernard as a
young boy.



Family Service (JFS), Bernard ended up taking career placement tests, which showed he'd do well as a social worker. So, after graduating Ole Miss with a business administration degree, Jack helped Bernard get into the University of Tennessee at Nashville, where he earned his master's in social work. Thanks to the generosity of a Jewish family who'd set up a foundation, Bernard's second year of school there was paid for, as long as he worked in the social work field. "Besides marrying Miriam," he said, "social work was the best move I made. It was absolutely my calling."

The Danzigs moved to Little Rock for a year when Bernard got a job at the University of Arkansas Medical Center as a social worker. While in Memphis for a wedding, Bernard happened to sit next to Aaron Brenner. "I didn't realize it, but he was interviewing me for a social worker job," he said. "I ended getting that job, at the B'nai B'rith Home, so we moved back to Memphis, in Midtown."

Finding success at B'nai B'rith, Kirk Lewis and Morris Kriger eventually approached Bernard, offering him dual directorships of JFS and Plough Towers. Bernard accepted. "Plough had not officially opened yet; no one had moved in. When it opened in 1980, it required a lot more time, and I felt like I wasn't doing good at either agency," Bernard shared. "After two years, I decided not to do both agencies and chose Plough Towers." When Bernard retired in 2005, 400 people gathered for his retirement party. "Retirement felt strange, but nice."

Over the years, he's been active in many other Jewish and social work orgs. Members of Baron Hirsch, Bernard served on the exec board of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, as well as the TN Commission on Aging & Disability as the VP of the state board. He was involved in the National Association of Social Work and other Jewish associations for the elderly. Even after retiring, he briefly served as interim director for Plough and JFS.

Miriam and Bernard enjoy traveling together, especially on cruises. He performed on the cornet in Rolling Fork High School's band. Playing mixed volleyball at the Memphis Jewish Community Center "was a lot of fun." And he especially appreciates his weekly Torah learning. Bernard lovingly boasts about the wedding cakes Miriam baked and decorated in their kitchen.

"Everyone says he's easy – a kind, gentle soul," Miriam said adoringly. "The only time he ever raised his voice was when he was at B'nai B'rith Home and a staffer had treated a resident badly. He wasn't gonna have it."

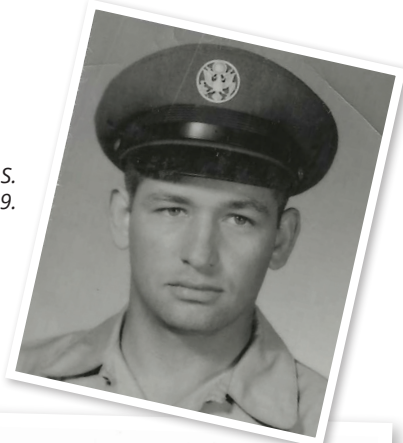
Looking back, the Danzigs experienced many remarkable blessings. A couple highlights include Bernard's dad and his brother being unable to board a ship to America from Russia because the brother had an eye infection. Bernard's grandmother decided they'd all stay together and find another way. Turns out that eye infection saved their lives – the boat they couldn't board was the Titanic. Another high point was being in Israel for a granddaughter's bat mitzvah – Bernard carrying the Torah near the Western Wall/Kotel "was so moving."

The couple also fostered 15 babies over 10 years from JFS. "Miriam gets the credit," Bernard said of his wife's caregiving. "We kept them for six to eight weeks until adoptions came through," she added, "it was wonderful, I loved every minute of it."

With his beaming smile and both with incredibly positive attitudes, Bernard and Miriam continue their blissful lives together, celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary in August 2025. Seeing how sweet they are to each other is truly inspiring.

"Knowing that I played a part in getting Plough Towers started on the right foot, and it continuing to do well today is remarkable," said Bernard of his legacy. "And I hope our family would say that we were good parents, and they enjoyed living with us."

Bernard in U.S. Air Force 1959.



Bernard and Miriam with their kids Rick, Shari and Jody, 1984.



Danzig family 1975.



Bernard (bottom right) at Baron Hirsch on Vallantine Ave.



Founding board members of the Jay Uiberall Foundation: Michael Uiberall, Scott Shanker, Jack Shanker, Kevin Brewer, John Pugliese, Jill Shanker, Cindy Brewer, Andie Uiberall.



From Tee-Off to Touching Lives: 15 Years of Golf, Giving, & Growing Futures

By Shoshana Cenker

The “Play for Jay” Golf Classic had its final tee off Sept. 5, 2025. It was the 15th year for the annual event, which is in honor of Jay Uiberall (OBM), who unexpectedly passed away in August 2010 at the age of 37.

A powerhouse entrepreneur in Memphis’ restaurant industry, he co-owned several Memphis establishments, including Alfred’s on Beale, Automatic Slim’s, Dyer’s, Ubee’s and Catering for U. His close friends Jay and Cindy Brewer approached his family, wanting to do something to memorialize Jay. So, the Jay Uiberall Foundation (JUF) was formed. The original goal was modest: to fund a single scholarship at the University of Memphis Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality.

Through unwavering generosity and support, JUF has far exceeded that vision and provided funding and grants to enrich the lives of young people through four signature youth programs – Jay Uiberall Hospitality School Scholarship, Jay Uiberall Enrichment Program 4.0, Jay Uiberall Scholars Program (at REACH Memphis), Jay Uiberall Senior Pathways Workshop Series (at Memphis Inner City Rugby) – and to local nonprofit partners including Memphis Athletic Ministries, Harwood Center, PURE Youth Foundation, Junior Achievement, Knowledge Quest and others.

“JUF looked for holes in society where a program could help kids and young people improve their lives and pave a path for a brighter future,” said Jay’s parents, Andie and Michael Uiberall. “We look for programs that don’t have access to funds but would have a true impact in the Memphis community if they did.”

The first fundraising event in 2011 was a casino night at Alfred’s on Beale Street. The Brewers of Leo Events, an event management company, rose to the occasion, providing their expert services in kind. The following year, the event became a golf tournament, which proved to be a better method for fundraising.

“The Foundation’s funding comes from the golf tournament, our donors, and our Sustainability Club of members who give at a higher level,” explained Jill Shanker, Jay’s sister.

“The tournament is always a great day, all our family comes in town,” she added. “We start early in the morning with breakfast. Everyone’s very happy to



Carol Zalowitz and Andie Uiberall hold a sign for the Putting Contest in memory of Mimi Grossman.



Owners and employees of Alfred's, from when Jay supervised them, who dress up every year, were winners of Best Dressed.

see each other. We have a lot of return folks and sell out every year. We have different fun events on the course too. It was always meant to be fun – Jay was very much a play hard, work hard guy.”

From the beginning, there’s been a team that’s made up of restaurant guys who worked under Jay. One year they had matching outfits that had Jay’s face on them. One player even has shoes that read “Play for Jay.”

At the end of the tournament, there’s a patio picnic, prizes are given to the winning teams, including a best dressed award, and there’s a presentation to the scholarship awardees.

“We also reflect on all the good work the Foundation has been able to support over the past year,” Jill noted. “To date, the Jay Uiberall Foundation, which will conclude at the end of 2025, has provided 10 organizations over \$1 million in grants. Fifteen years is a long time to run a family foundation, and we felt like this was the time to wind down. It’s bittersweet, but we feel that we can still continue to promote these organizations to our donors.”

Through their devastating loss, the family took solace in carrying on the tournament and JUF.

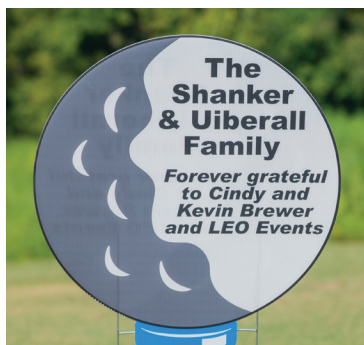
“It’s empowering to be able to do something good with grief. That’s been a personal benefit to all of us,” shared Jill. “We originally thought this would be a one, two, maybe three-year thing, and then people move on. But the work that we were doing in Jay’s honor was so valued that our donors wanted to keep giving to these amazing programs in Memphis. We did our best to find organizations that were serving an underserved population and didn’t have tremendous means. To watch those organizations over the past 15 years do such amazing work and make such an impact on individuals, which is what Jay did, is incredible.”

The final “Play for Jay” Golf Classic “went great.” The Jay Uiberall Foundation – jayuiberallfoundation.org – is still accepting donations and will make a final grant distribution toward the end of the year. The family will continue to honor Jay’s memory, especially through his 15-year-old daughter, Harper, and the memories and connections made over the past 15 years with the tournament, JUF, and supporters.

“While the Foundation may be sunsetting, its ripple effects will be felt for generations. The lives touched, the doors opened, and the belief in what Memphis youth can achieve. The impact of Cindy and Kevin Brewer and Leo Events cannot be overstated. They did everything and enabled this to become what it is,” Jill said of their tremendous support. “Our repeat donors, sponsors and partner agencies have been incredible. Their commitment has helped us foster opportunities, education and empowerment for the next generation. Together, we created something truly special, and we are proud of what we’ve accomplished.”

“Our Foundation has worked for three times longer than most legacy foundations, and that longevity is a testament to Jay’s spirit and the passion of those who loved him,” added Michael. “What began as a group of friends coming together for a common cause has grown into a family. In Jay’s memory, we’ve built something lasting, and we’re proud of the difference it has made in Memphis.”

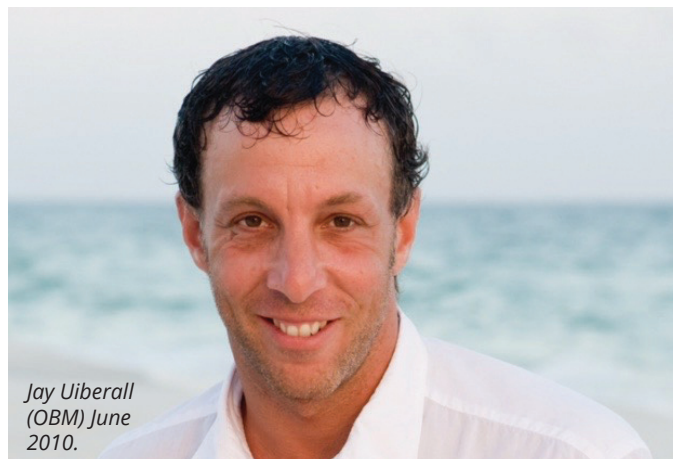
May Jay’s memory always be a blessing.



“Couldn’t have done any of it without the Brewers,” says Jill Shanker.



Michael and Andie Uiberall with daughter Jill Shanker, husband Scott and their two children, Sydney and Jack, and Jay with his daughter Harper Uiberall.



Jay Uiberall (OBM) June 2010.



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Fall Fashion

By Rebecca Brown

With summer now in the rearview mirror, it's time to refresh our fall wardrobes. This season, earthy brown tones are the new neutrals – perfect for crisper, cooler days. Unexpected fabric pairings – like delicate lace alongside chunky knits, or sleek silks against wool and corduroy – create interesting layered and textured looks. Leopard print is popular once again this season offering a playful touch to both elevated and dressed-down ensembles. Faux fur-trimmed accessories are bold and fun while cape silhouettes in sweeping shapes make this season's outerwear all about the drama. Finish your fall look with a berry-tinted lip and felt hat and you're all set for incoming sweater weather. Below, some of our favorite picks for fall.



J. Crew
Ballet Flats \$198



Rails
Amberly Dress in Black Lace \$278

J. Crew
Skirt \$128



Haven Well Within
Cashmere Wrap \$248



Rails
Melo Cardigan in
Heather Pink \$268



Talbots
Wool Felt Fedora
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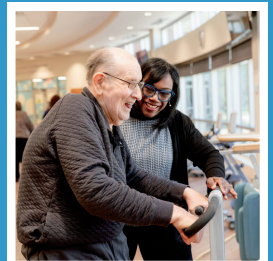
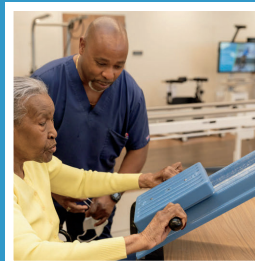
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