



15 UNDER 40



HIRSCH NEUSTEIN



REAL ESTATE • BY SHANA GOLDBERG

Hirsch Neustein, 34, is a real estate attorney at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. He moved to Denver in 2016. He studied finance at George Washington University, holds a master's in real estate development from Johns Hopkins University and a JD from Cardozo School of Law.

He recently joined the JEWISHcolorado board. He attends DAT Minyan and Minyan Na'aleh.

How did you come to Colorado?

Although I loved living in New York City, I did not love life (or lack thereof . . .) as a lawyer there. I'm a die-hard skier and had visited cousins in Denver on a few occasions on the way to the mountains. Denver always seemed like a good option for me, so when the opportunity presented itself, I jumped on it.

Why federation?

When I first moved to town, I didn't really know anyone other than my cousins and a few of their friends, so I attended a lot of community events in order to meet people, including several events with JEWISHcolorado and YAD. Because I kept showing up, I was asked to join the National Young Leadership Cabinet for Jewish Federations of North America, which is a six-year program, and I am currently in my third year.

Through Cabinet, I've had the opportunity to travel domestically and around the world (including Spain and Morocco, and will hopefully be heading to Tallinn, Riga and Paris this spring!).

I believe in the work that federation does locally, in Israel and around the world. Federation is unique in providing programs and services for Jews (and often non-Jews) from all walks of life.

It is important for Jews to support Jewish causes — if we don't, no one else will. I recently joined the board of JEWISHcolorado, and I look forward to help the organization continue to grow.

Why is Jewish education important?

The best way to instill Jewish values, and to raise new generations of committed Jews, is through a combination of formal and informal Jewish education. I am very fortunate to have grown up in a family that prioritized Jewish education, and to

HIRSCH NEUSTEIN
Continued on Page 14

IAN SOLOW-NIEDERMAN

As regional director of Rocky Mountain BBYO, Ian Solow-Niederman, 27, was busy this past year with hosting the 2019 BBYO International Convention, which was held in Denver, from Feb. 14-18.

Where are you from?
I am a Denver native!

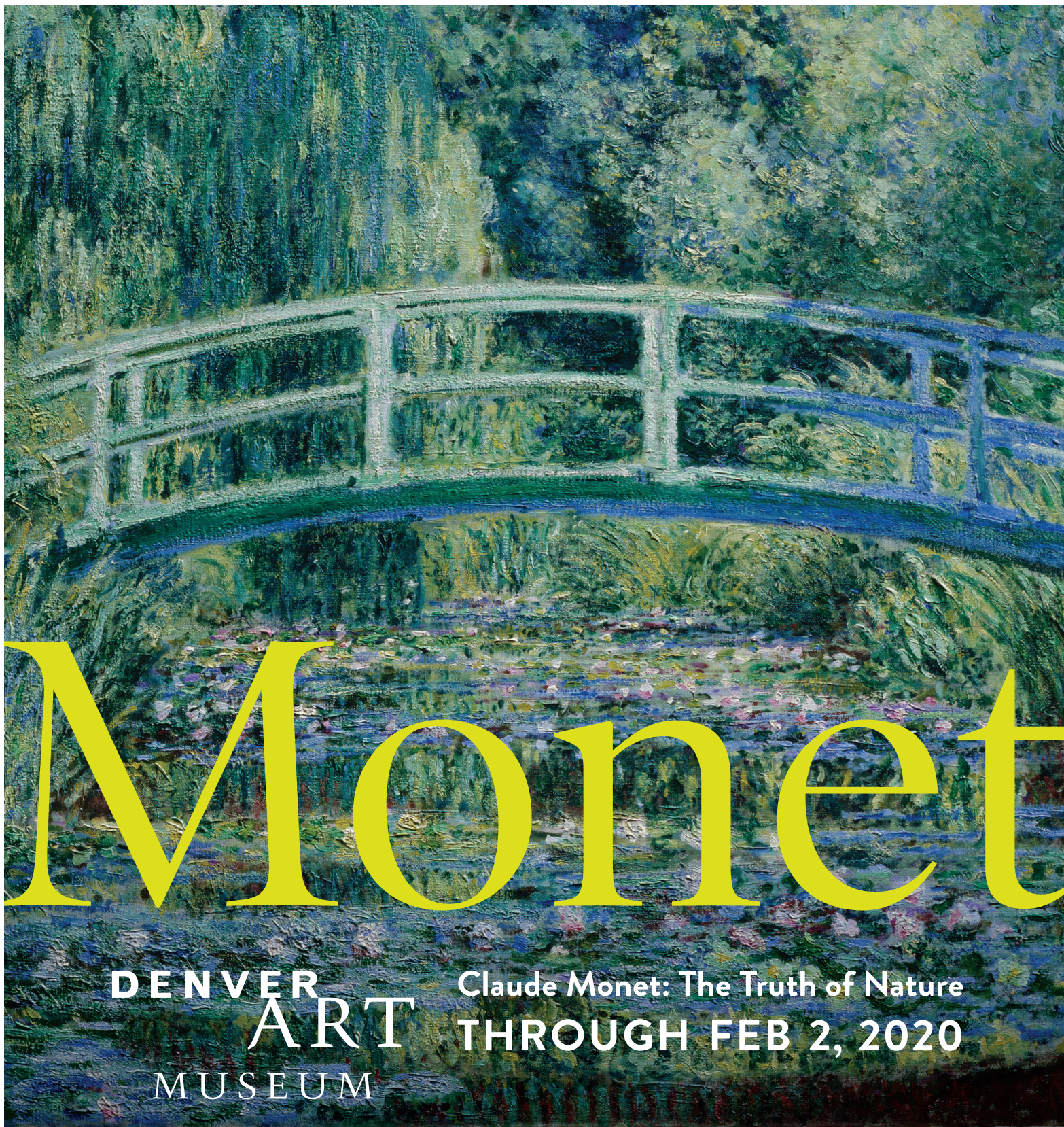
What did you study at university?
Communication and Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado. Sko Buffs!

Why Jewish youth?
BBYO offers a unique way for me to mentor teens as they build leadership skills, Jewish identity and lifelong friendships. I love knowing that I've made a positive impact on their lives.

IAN SOLOW-NIEDERMAN
Continued on Page 14



YOUTH • BY SHANA GOLDBERG



Monet

**DENVER
ART
MUSEUM**

**Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature
THROUGH FEB 2, 2020**

IMAGE: Claude Monet, *Waterlilies and Japanese Bridge* (detail), 1899. Oil on canvas; 35 7/8 x 35 7/8 in. Princeton University Art Museum: From the Collection of William Church Osborn, Class of 1883, trustee of Princeton University (1914-1951), president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1941-1947); given by his family, 1972-15. Photo Credit: Princeton University Art Museum/Art Resource, NY
 Claude Monet: *The Truth of Nature* is co-organized by the Denver Art Museum and the Museum Barberini, Potsdam. It is presented with generous support from PNC Bank. Additional funding is provided by Barbara Bridges, Keith and Kathie Finger, Lauren and Geoff Smart, Fine Arts Foundation, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, and the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. Promotional support is provided by 5280 Magazine, CBS4, Comcast Spotlight, and *The Denver Post*.

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15 UNDER 40



SARAH RAPHAELY

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From Page 2

What TV series are you in the middle of watching, or just finished?

When I can find the time, I love “Suits.” I am eagerly waiting for the next season of “Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.”

What do you do in your free time?

I have four young kids! I don’t have any free time.

What’s your guilty pleasure?

Sitting on the couch with a cup of tea and cookies watching one of the shows I never have time to watch. ■

HIRSCH NEUSTEIN

HIRSCH NEUSTEIN

From Page 5

have attended Jewish day school, K-12. Every Jewish child should have this opportunity, which is why I am on the board of DAT, which provides a great secular and Jewish education, and instills Jewish values and a love of Judaism and Israel in each student.

Who is an inspiring figure in your life?

Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz founded a Chabad in Temecula, Calif., outside San Diego, where I grew up. Rabbi Hurwitz taught at the Jewish day school I attended. When I was in high school, I along with several of my friends used to learn Talmud with him.

Rabbi Hurwitz is one of the warmest, friendliest and most energetic and positive people I have ever met. He is the quintessential Chabad rabbi, who always greets everyone with a smile, and has an amazing zest for life.

Six years ago, he was diagnosed with ALS. He is unable to speak and is largely immobile. Despite these overwhelming limitations, Rabbi Hurwitz’s spirit remains unfazed. He continues to be a devoted husband and father to his seven children and retains his positive outlook on life. He remains committed to his mission as a Chabad rabbi, and publishes articles on at least a weekly basis, on a variety of topics, from the weekly Torah portion to marriage advice — all typed via optical scanner.

Rabbi Hurwitz has been widely written about, including recently in the *Wall Street Journal*. Look him up online.

There’s a lot of push and pull about development in Denver right now. What’s your take as a real estate attorney?

Housing affordability in Denver is a serious problem. The solution

is to build more housing, and to increase density where appropriate. I believe that the problem has been exacerbated by Colorado’s onerous construction defect laws, which have significantly reduced the number of new condominium projects relative to other cities with similar growth rates, creating fewer reasonably priced housing options, particularly for first-time buyers.

Recent legislation was passed in an attempt to make the construction defect laws less onerous for developers. This legislation should help to increase the number of new condominium projects and the supply of reasonably priced housing, although it will take a while before a sufficient number of new units hit the market to create a noticeable reduction in pricing.

Restricting the potential for new development, especially while the population continues to grow, will only worsen the problem. If and when similar bills are proposed in the future, we need to be very vocal in educating the public about the negative consequences these NIM-BY policies will have.

What book are you reading?

Structures: Or Why Things Don’t Fall Down, by J. E. Gordon. The book is an explanation of engineering principles in simple terms that anyone can understand, which sounds very boring, but the writing is actually very engaging and quite funny.

What do you do in your free time?

Ski, travel and host BBQs and Shabbat dinners.

What’s your guilty pleasure?

Almond M&Ms and HGTV.

If you weren’t doing this job, what would you do?

Redeveloping historic buildings, or running a popsicle stand at the beach. ■

IAN SOLOW-NIEDERMAN

IAN SOLOW-NIEDERMAN

From Page 5

What was the most invigorating thing about hosting the 2019 BBYO International Convention?

Watching Havdalah as 3,000 teens welcomed in a new week. For a few minutes their day-to-day stress melted away in the light of the Havdalah candles.

The most challenging?

Making sure our 300 Global Delegates had the right housing in the week leading up to International Convention! It was so amazing to see the local Jewish community come together to host everyone and provide teens with brothers and sisters around the world.

How does BBYO impact Jewish teens in their lives as future Jewish adults?

BBYO is where Jewish teens choose to be Jewish. They aren’t participating because someone told them they have to, they are participating because they want to.

As they develop leadership skills, friendships, and Jewish identity in BBYO, they are prepared to make the same choices as adults.

Who has been an inspiring figure in your life?

My Regional Directors from BBYO. Their patience with me has inspired me and continues to motivate me, Thank you Rachel Heilbrunner, Marc Geller, David Adelstein and Rabbi Emily Hyatt!

What TV series are you in the middle of watching, or just finished?

“The Good Place.” It is a fascinating way to think about the world and our day to day actions.

What is most meaningful to you about being Jewish?

BRETT KOPF

From Page 3

The Education of an Idealist, by Samantha Power. I’m also reading “The Story of Us,” a series by Tim Urban on the website Wait But Why.

What TV series are you in the middle of watching, or just finished?

I don’t watch much TV unless it’s football or basketball. **Any specific teams?**

LISA BERDIE

From Page 3

cial stretch for my family.

That opportunity is not available to most students and families. It’s so unfair that circumstances — neighborhood, family income, race, ethnicity and native language — determine the extent of educational opportunities for our youth. So many schools don’t “work” for so many students, including those I worked with in a transitional bilingual class in Rhode Island. This disconnect drives the work I do.

I study why and how school systems are or are not working for students, and how schools can close the opportunity gap for students of color and those from low-income backgrounds. Providing excellent and equitable learning experiences that nurture the brilliance of every student is *the* challenge for our educational system as a whole.

You belong to RCF’s Roots and Branches program.

It has been a wonderful process to come together with 17 strangers with the intention of supporting non-profit organizations that are doing work to strengthen our community. We decided to focus our funds on criminal justice and helping people who have been incarcerated, which reflects the Jewish values of *tzedakah* and *teshuvah*.

Our concentration on criminal justice has been both a new field for me and deeply connected to what I do every day... The school-to-prison pipeline has real impacts on schools, the criminal justice system and most importantly youth and families.

Describe the value of Judaism in your life.

I was raised in a mixed-faith household where we celebrated

Knowing that we can all come together for Shabbat dinner, bringing our own traditions to the table and tell stories.

In your personal life, are you active with a particular Jewish group or synagogue?

I’ve been involved with Judaism Your Way since they were founded in 2004 and serve as the chapter advisor for Alpha Epsilon Pi, the Jewish fraternity, at the University of Colorado.

What do you do in your free time?

I go to baseball games and explore the Denver food scene.

What’s your guilty pleasure?

Coming up with punny captions for Instagram (@ians_n).

An example?

“I’m a social vegan, I don’t like meet.” ■

BRETT KOPF

‘Guilty pleasure? Chocolate!’

This will sound flaky, but I have no loyalties, I just like good sports. For example, the Spurs five years ago were fun to watch.

What do you do in your free

LISA BERDIE

holidays like “Peaster” (an Easter egg hunt followed by a seder). Because of these family traditions, I have always associated Judaism with a community that sets a large table — everyone, regardless of religious affiliation, was welcome at holiday meals.

I have attended High Holiday services at Judaism Your Way for the past five years, and I’m so appreciative for the inclusive space it creates.

I also started a new tradition of hosting an open house on Rosh Hashanah to recognize the people in my life who are important to me as we embark on a New Year together.

Where do you stand on school security and guns?

It is so important for students to feel safe at school. Any act of mass violence, particularly in schools, is incredibly disturbing. The research is pretty clear that there’s a direct relationship between gun ownership and gun violence. Personally I am an advocate for much stronger gun regulation, and of dramatically reducing the number of guns in the country.

I do worry if the response to mass gun violence, particularly in schools, is increasing the number of School Resource Officers (SROs),

KOLBY MORRIS-DAHARY

KOLBY MORRIS-DAHARY

From Page 4

it allows me to work full time as a student rabbi while taking online classes and traveling to occasional learning conferences around the country. The teachers are incredible and the Renewal movement is a perfect fit for my dedication to egalitarianism, environmental justice and spiritual engagement.

Your work at Judaism Your Way?

I recently joined the rabbinic team at Judaism Your Way after four years of being on the leadership team for the JYW High Holy Days at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

As student rabbi, I officiate life-cycle events (including interfaith weddings — a huge passion of mine based on my family history. I teach the year 2 Open Tent Be Mitzvah class in Boulder, and I will also be starting a monthly Friday night musical service for the JYW community.

Allowing opportunity for maximal inclusion into Jewish life at Judaism Your Way brings deep meaning to my work as a future rabbi in a totally new way. I believe that the work that we are doing at Judaism Your Way ensures a future for Jewish life in Colorado.

I am thrilled to be working with inspirational and strong women leaders such as our executive director Wendy Aronson, Dr. Caryn Avi, and Rabbi Amanda Schwartz.

time?

Hiking or hanging out with my wife, Cortney, and 100 lb. Swiss Mountain Dog, Na na.

What’s your guilty pleasure? Chocolate.

If you weren’t doing this job, what would you do?

This is a hard question for me to answer. I would probably be trying to start another company. ■

sworn law enforcement officers working within schools.

I believe that there is so much work that schools and communities can do to improve student safety, [but it will take] a more holistic approach for adults to keep students safe at school.

What’s your favorite film?

“The Princess Bride.” This was a favorite of mine and my siblings growing up. We passed down the “two wuv” of this movie to the next generation.

Your favorite book?

I can’t choose! Recent favorites include *Sing Unburied Sing* by Jesmyn Ward; *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond; and *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Do you ever binge series on TV?

Definitely. I’m a sucker for political dramas and witty sitcoms.

If you could change one thing in this world, what would it be?

Everyone is always on the move! I wish we would take a note from French café culture and slow down each day for a cup of coffee, take in the world and connect with family, friends or strangers. ■

What’s after your rabbinic internship?

Right now, I am very happy where I am. What will I do after receiving ordination? Probably much of the same! The only difference will be what everyone calls me but I hope to continue connecting with people through Jewish spirituality and music.

I do have an entrepreneur spirit, so I look forward to exploring what new ideas come out of my brain in the coming years.

Noam and I hope to build a life for our children both in Colorado and in Israel, so it’s likely that our creative ventures will allow us to spend time in both places.

What do you do in your spare time?

Take advantage of the beautiful outdoors that we have in Colorado — hiking, walking, and running. I do yoga and I enjoy going to concerts. We like to watch Israeli series on TV. I also enjoy writing music and playing music with my local music soul-siblings like Hal Aqua and others.

Anything else?

My name in Hebrew means “The voice in me” (*kol bi*) and this has been a guiding message for me throughout my life. I hope to use my voice to inspire the voice in others; creating harmony, balance and courage in the world. ■