

A close-up photograph of a Seder plate, a traditional Jewish ceremonial plate used during the Passover Seder. The plate is ornate and gold-colored, containing several pieces of matzah (unleavened bread), a hard-boiled egg, charoset (a mixture of fruits and nuts), and walnuts. The background is a white tablecloth.

HAKOL

April • May 2026 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE

WHAT PASSOVER TEACHES A NATION TURNING 250

TEMPLE BETH EL
WHY MEMORY MUST BE TASTED,
NOT ONLY TOLD

KNOXVILLE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
REMEMBERING ANNE BENDRIEM

KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE
FINDING MEANING IN QUESTIONS,
STORY, AND COMMUNITY

**Memorial Day
May 25, 2026**

Dr. Alan Schwartz will be placing flags on veteran's graves on Memorial Day in the Jewish Cemetery. If you would like to honor a veteran, please call Heska Amuna Synagogue or Temple Beth El and share his/her name. Your involvement helps us honor the sacrifices made by veterans in our community.

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Passover April 1-9, 2026

Heska Amuna Synagogue

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HaKOL Monthly Publication

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HaKol is produced through a partnership of Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Temple Beth El, and Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School.

For advertising opportunities:
hakol@jewishknoxville.org
865-690-6343

Community Directory

Chabad of Knoxville
www.chabadknoxville.org

Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge
www.hadassah.org/chapter/knoxville

Heska Amuna Synagogue (Conservative)
www.heskaamuna.org

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge
www.jcortn.org

Knoxville Jewish Alliance & Arnstein Jewish Community Center
www.jewishknoxville.org

Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School
www.kjds.org

Temple Beth El (Reform)
www.tbeknox.org

KEY: HA = Heska Amuna, JCOR = Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, KJA = Knoxville Jewish Alliance, KJDS = Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School, JFS = Jewish Family Services, TBE = Temple Beth El

April 2026 Community Calendar

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
First Night Passover Seder
7:39P Candle lighting</p> <p>THURSDAY, APRIL 2
Pesach I Second Night Passover Seder
8:37P Candle Lighting
6:00P Passover Seder – HAS
6:00P Second Night Seder – TBE</p> <p>FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Pesach II
6:30P Passover Yizkor Memorial Service – TBE
7:41P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 4
Pesach III
8:30P Havdalah
11:00A JFS Hosts Shari Rabin – KJA</p> | <p>SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Pesach IV</p> <p>MONDAY, APRIL 6
Pesach V</p> <p>TUESDAY, APRIL 7
Pesach VI
7:44P Candle lighting</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
Pesach VII
8:43P Candle Lighting</p> <p>THURSDAY, APRIL 9
Pesach VIII
8:44P Havdalah</p> <p>FRIDAY, APRIL 10
7:00P Yom HaShoah Shabbat Service - TBE
7:47P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 11
8:45P Havdalah
10:00A Juni Bell Jordan Bat Mitzvah – TBE</p> | <p>SUNDAY, APRIL 12
Good Deeds Day – KJA, Hillel at UTK, Hadassah</p> <p>TUESDAY, APRIL 14
Yom HaShoah</p> <p>THURSDAY, APRIL 16
6:00P Bowling Night for Preschool at AJCC</p> <p>FRIDAY, APRIL 17
7:53P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 18
8:52P Havdalah</p> <p>SUNDAY, APRIL 19
9:30A Book Sale - TBE
3:00P Yom HaShoah – JCOR
6:00P Yom HaShoah – KJA</p> | <p>MONDAY, APRIL 20
3:30P The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Calendar of Holocaust Memory – UTK Judaic Studies</p> <p>TUESDAY, APRIL 21
Yom HaZikaron
5:00P Yom HaZikaron with the Shinshinim – KJA</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
Yom HaAtzma'ut</p> <p>FRIDAY, APRIL 24
7:59P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 25
8:59P Havdalah</p> |
|--|--|---|---|

May 2026 Community Calendar

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>FRIDAY, MAY 1
8:05P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 2
9:05P Havdalah
10:00A Family Shabbat with Scholar Andrew Berns – HAS
12:30P Scholar Andrew Berns to Speak – HAS</p> <p>SUNDAY, MAY 3
11:00A Knoshville – Community Food Festival</p> <p>TUESDAY, MAY 5
Lag BaOmer</p> | <p>FRIDAY, MAY 8
8:11P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 9
9:12P Havdalah
9:30A Avishai Ferency Bar Mitzvah – HAS
10:00A Alyssa McGhee Bat Mitzvah - TBE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, MAY 13
7:00P Annual Meeting - TBE</p> <p>FRIDAY, MAY 15
12:00P JFS with Shalom Hospice - KJA
8:16P Candle Lighting</p> | <p>SATURDAY, MAY 16
9:19P Havdalah
10:00A Hannah James Bat Mitzvah – TBE</p> <p>SUNDAY, MAY 17
1:00P Family Ed: Shavuot - JCOR/PJ Library</p> <p>THURSDAY, MAY 21
Erev Shavuot
6:30P Shavuot Yizkor Memorial Service - TBE
8:21P Candle Lighting</p> | <p>FRIDAY, MAY 22
Shavuot I
7:00P Shavuot/ Confirmation Shabbat Service - TBE
8:22P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 23
Shavuot II
9:25P Havdalah
AJCC Pool Opens – KJA</p> <p>FRIDAY, MAY 29
8:27P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 30
9:31P Havdalah</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

Calendar Highlights

Heska Amuna Synagogue

www.HeskaAmuna.org

Come to Family Shabbat

April 11, 2026 & May 2, 2026 | 10:00A | Heska Amuna Synagogue

Heska Amuna invites everyone to our monthly Family Shabbat on April 11 and May 2. Family Shabbat will take a break over the summer but will return in the fall!

HAS Office • info@HeskaAmuna.org

Temple Beth El Library

Library Book Sale

Sunday, April 19th | 9:30A – 1:00P | Temple Beth El Library

We will be selling books for \$5 and under. This will be CASH ONLY and books range of genres/topics.

Christina Chiavetta • Library@tbeknox.org

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

www.jcortn.org

Yom HaShoah Program

April 19, 2026 | 3:00-4:00PM | JCOR

The Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR), the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church (ORUUC)/JCOR Choir, and students from Oak Ridge High School's Holocaust Class, will all be represented at the community Holocaust Remembrance Program. The Program will feature a candle lighting ceremony, songs, readings, prayers, and closing speaker Yvonne Dalschen. Afterwards there is an opportunity to view a Torah scroll rescued from the Holocaust.

Contact Ronnie Bogard • events@jcor.info

Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School

www.kjds.org

Family Fun Day

April 19, 2026 | 1:00-3:00P | Knoxville Jewish Day School

Join us as we kick off our 20th Anniversary celebration with a Family Fun Day at Knoxville Jewish Day School! This community-wide event will feature food and sweet treats, bounce houses, face painting, games, entertainment, and plenty of fun for all ages. Bring your family and friends—you won't want to miss it!

Anna McDonald • info@kjds.org

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

Yom HaShoah Remembrance featuring guest Judy Kolb

Sunday, April 19, 2026 • 6:00P | Arnstein Jewish Community Center

Judy Kolb's parents and grandparents were born in Germany. In June of 1939, the family was able to obtain passage to Shanghai, China.

Judy was born in 1940, in the poorest section of Shanghai. The family remained in Hongkou throughout the war years.

Three years after the war ended, they emigrated to San Francisco, California, and in 1955 settled in Chicago.

Shannon Martindale • program@jewishknoxville.org

For the most updated community calendar, including services, ongoing classes, and programs, please visit www.jewishknoxville.org/calendar or scan the QR code.



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Through the Open Doorway

Author: Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum



As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, it's worth remembering that this country has always served as a doorway — a doorway to freedom and opportunity, especially to people making their way from other countries. Perhaps no American symbol resonates more than the Statue of Liberty, which has welcomed millions of immigrants from places across the Atlantic.

But America did not invent the concept of a grand entryway. The practice of sanctifying a doorway is millennia old. The religions of the Ancient Near East built temples or other places of worship with enormous gateways. Anyone approaching these monumental structures would understand that passing through the gateways meant being transmitted into a new realm. They would leave the world of the mundane and enter the world of the holy.

It's actually not too different from the scene in *The Wizard of Oz* after Dorothy's house crashed into Munchkin Land. Once Dorothy awakens and exits her house, what we see abruptly changes from black-and-white to color. By walking through her doorway, she enters a new realm, a place of brightness and mystery — clearly not Kansas anymore.

The story of the Israelites' liberation from Egypt also uses the doorway as a key symbol. Just before the tenth plague, Moses instructs the Israelites to brush the blood from their Passover sacrifice on the doorways of their homes. That way, the angel of death would bypass the Israelite homes and instead only kill the firstborns of the Egyptian households. But it's reasonable to ask why this is necessary. Why can't God simply instruct the angel of death to avoid the Israelite homes? Why do the Israelites have to do anything extra?

In the Babylonian Talmud tractate Bava Kama, one of our earliest sages, Rav Yosef, posited a theory about this ritual:

"What do we learn from the verse that says, 'None of you shall go outside the door of the house until morning?' We learn that once permission is given to the destroyer [meaning the angel of death], he does not distinguish between the righteous and the wicked."

Had the angel of death not noticed the marks on the Israelite doorways, both Israelite and Egyptian homes would have fallen victim that fateful night. Instead, the angel sees the painted blood - he reads the writing on the doorway - and therefore understands what to do. For him, those entryways are all he needs to go into the correct direction.

The way our doorways look can greatly color our perspective and can greatly impact the direction we follow. Whether it's the ancient world, the Land of Oz, or right here in America, our doorways send a message to all who walk through.

As we celebrate Passover this year, may we consider how we color our doorways — and resolve to keep them open for all who wish for a better tomorrow.

Springtime, and The Living is Easy

By: Mark Siegel, Chairman of Heska Amuna

As Spring 2026 rolls in, things seem to be going smoothly at Heska Amuna Synagogue. We have just renewed Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum's contract for 4 years, to almost unanimous approval of how he has fit into our community. We are preparing to reopen our religious school, under the leadership of our Youth Education Chair Kara Collins. Our relationships with other congregations in the Knoxville Jewish community are closer than I ever remember.

Our Treasurer Marty Iroff has produced a run of balanced budgets while maintaining necessary reserves, in addition to our many endowed funds. We have reopened our sanctuary. Facilities Chair Doug Weinstein is now focused on our roof. (Doug also runs a world class Zoom operation). "Marty-In-Training" Jeremy Headrick is actively working in numerous areas, including building repairs, landscaping, and Cemetery Committee Chair. Marilyn Burnett, Pat Rosenberg, and Ernie Gross are our Building Beautification mavens.

Our Women's League under President Angela Brunelle is bringing people back into Synagogue activities. Programming Chair Marc Forman produces great, thoughtful programs, including our Passover Seder. Membership Chair Mary Linda Schwarzbart keeps attracting new members to our community.

President Laura Floyd and Rabbi and Religious Services Committee make the difficult job of running our religious activities look easy, including Rabbi Shush Carson's contemporary service stylings. We are lucky to have obtained the

services of Frank Floyd as our kiddushin czar. Jack Love provides Kabbalat Shabbat services and minyanim, and (with Raphe Panitz) Talmud class. Michael Burnett plays many roles in the Congregation, including minyan leader, Yahrzeit board organizer, cemetery mapper, and B'nai mitzvot tutor, among others, as does Mary Ann Merrell, in addition to her role as Fundraising Chair. Will Thompson holds a study class before Shabbat services.

Martha Iroff and Jerry Becker head up Chevrah Kadisha, and super volunteer Sandy Parker does a fantastic job with Bikur Cholim. Abraham Brietstein and Terri Love head our Justice Knox network.

Dahlia Smith and Jenny Pfeffer are bringing our library back. Peggy Littmann and Frank Lawhead teach Hebrew classes.

We could not do all this without our staff, Beverly Wilcox and Suzanne Brown.

When I became Chair of Heska Amuna, I stated I wanted us to celebrate Shabbat, our holidays, and our Synagogue, to share our joys together, and to comfort each other in hard times. I know everyone listed above could use more help, but we are accomplishing the goals I dreamed of. The best way to help our congregation is to step forward and participate.

Speaking of which, it is a great time for someone to become Chair Elect. It is a great time to jump in!

Avishai Ferency will become Bar Mitzvah

Dear Heska Amuna Family,

On May 9, 2026, our son Avishai Ferency will become Bar Mitzvah here at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Avishai will lead worship and chant in Hebrew from the Books of Leviticus and Jeremiah.

Avishai is a playful dreamer, someone who approaches the world with curiosity and humor. He asks big questions about God and about life without settling for easy answers. Avi has great taste in music and movies, and an eye for what feels right, interesting, or funny. Avishai is also a lacrosse defender, a loyal and thoughtful friend who brings joy to those around him with both his talent and his warmth.

This day does not settle Avishai's questions; it makes room for them. Becoming Bar Mitzvah marks a step into Jewish life that values wondering, conversation, and showing up honestly, even when certainty feels far away. We are grateful to mark this moment alongside him.

We look forward to gathering as a community for the service on May 9, 2026, and for the kiddush lunch that follows. Thank you for being part of Avishai's life and for celebrating this day with our family.

With great pride and love,
Alon and Karen, Eli, Adin, and Kaya



Justice Knox Committee at HAS

Heska Amuna Synagogue is proud to partner with Justice Knox, a faith-rooted community organizing coalition addressing systemic issues in Knoxville and Knox County. Since 2016, Justice Knox has followed a proven model that conducts deep research, builds community power, and follows up to ensure progress. This year, Abraham Brietstein and Terri Lee Love have represented the Synagogue on the housing committee, researching strategies to increase affordable housing.

Heska Amuna's involvement reflects our commitment to Tikkun Olam: helping create a more just, compassionate, and thriving community. The process culminates in the Nehemiah Action Assembly at 7 pm Monday April 13 at the Civic Auditorium, when more than 2,000 community members will gather as city and county leaders respond publicly to our requests.

Be part of lasting change! Contact the HAS office to discuss with a member of the committee how YOU can engage with Justice Knox.



Contributions by Caring People

Through Feb 16, 2026

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Andrea Cartwright & Alan
Solomon
In Memory of Rita Solomon
Andrea Cartwright & Alan
Solomon
In Honor of Sandy Parker & the
Bikkur Cholim Committee
Susan & Ken Brown

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In Memory of Romaine
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Michael Eisenstadt

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Bendriem
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In Memory of Trudy Dreyer
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In Honor of Trudy Dreyer
Gary Dreyer; Scott & Ellen
Clare Dreyer
In Memory of Trudy Dreyer
Ann & Scott Liberman
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Linda Thiele Williams
Pessa Brody
Gilya Schmidt
Constance Cole
In Memory of Anne Bendriem
Linda Gray-Slovits
Rosalie & Stephen Nagler
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Gilya Schmidt
Ellen & Bill Berez
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Carson
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In Memory of Elaine Dobbs;
Trudy Dreyer; Anne
Bendriem
Marilyn Burnett
Pat Rosenberg
Jenny & Mary Ann Merrell
In Memory of Judith Rattner

Jenny & Mary Ann Merrell
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
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Cindy & Ricky Caplan
In Memory of Selma Vogel; David
Abramson
Nancy & Jeff Becker
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Rosenbaum
Gilya Schmidt

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Peggy & Mark Littmann
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Burnett
In Memory of Rabbi David H. Panitz
Susette & Raphael Panitz
In Memory of Nancy Lawhead
Frank Lawhead
In Memory of Ethel (Sister) Brown;
Logan Brown
Robin Brown
In Memory of Anna Rosenbloom
Robert Shagan

The Taste of Memory

By: Raina Siroty, Rabbi Cantor

There are some memories we carry in our minds. And then there are the ones we carry on our tongues. Passover does not ask us only to remember the Exodus. It asks us to taste it.

At the Seder table, memory is not abstract. It is sharp with horseradish, gritty with matzah, sweet with haroset, salty with tears. Judaism understands something profound about human beings: we do not truly remember through ideas alone. We remember through the body.

When we eat maror, the bitterness catches in the back of the throat. It is uncomfortable. That discomfort is the point. Slavery was not neat or distant. It was harsh and humiliating. The taste lingers longer than we might like — just as trauma lingers across generations. We do not sanitize our story. We taste it.

And then there is haroset — that unlikely mixture of apples, nuts, wine, and spice. Meant to resemble mortar, it reminds us of forced labor. And yet it is sweet. Perhaps this is the quiet genius of the Seder plate: even in the most oppressive chapters of our history, there were moments of love, family, resilience. The sweetness does not erase the suffering. It sits beside it.

Saltwater blurs another boundary. We dip, we taste, and suddenly tears are no longer metaphor. They are present. Our ancestors' tears. The tears of those who still wait for freedom. The tears we ourselves have shed in narrow places of our own lives.

Passover teaches that memory is not passive. It is participatory. "In every generation," the Haggadah tells us, we must see ourselves as if we personally went out from Egypt. Not as observers of history, but as inheritors of experience.

This is why we recline like free people. Why we spill drops of wine for the plagues, diminishing our joy because freedom that comes at another's suffering can never be complete. Why we linger over questions. Why we tell the story again — even though we know it by heart.

Because memory shapes responsibility.

If we have tasted bitterness, we are called to ease it for others.

If we have known narrowness, we are obligated to widen the path.

If we have eaten the bread of affliction, we are commanded to open our doors.

Passover is not nostalgia. It is moral formation. And perhaps that is why food is at the center of the ritual. Eating is intimate. It sustains us. What we consume becomes part of us. On Passover, we ingest our story so that it lives not only in our minds but in our reflexes — in how we respond to injustice, in how we welcome the stranger, in how we speak about freedom.

This year, as you sit at your Seder table, pay attention to the tastes. Notice what lingers. Notice what surprises you. Notice what conversations emerge when sweetness and bitterness share the same plate. May the taste of our memory deepen our compassion.

May it sharpen our gratitude.

And may it move us — once again — from slavery toward song.

Letter from the Library

By: Christina Chiavetta

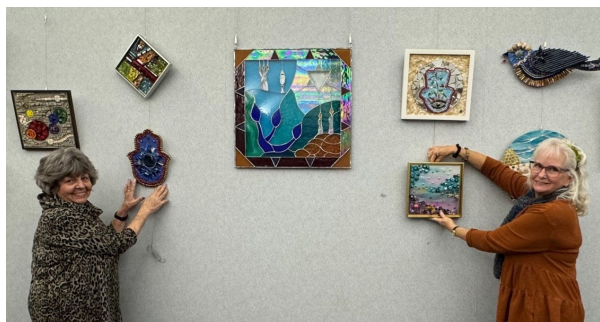
If you have visited Temple Beth El's library over the last year, you will have noticed some changes. In addition to some tidying up, the entire collection is being re-cataloged to make finding and using our books easier. Additionally, a "New Book" section has been added to showcase newly purchased books. Though there is still work to be done, Temple Beth El's library is a wonderful resource for Knoxville's Jewish community. If you would like to see some of the books we have in our collection, please feel free to come in and browse or visit TBE's website. A link to our digital

catalog can be found on the "Library" page under "Our Temple".

Our varied collection of Jewish books would not be possible without book donations. While some of our books are purchased, many of them are donated, or left to us, by TBE members, community members, and authors. While some who have recently donated books are listed below, there are many who have donated without leaving a name. We would like to thank all of our donors for their contribution towards keeping Jewish literature available for our community.

Dara Henry
Marilyn Kallet
Mira Kimmelman
Joe Levitt

Larry Markel
Chip and Brenda Rayman
Mary Tebo



We appreciate donations but the library has a limited amount of space. At this time, we are still accepting donations of new and used Jewish books in good condition. If you would like to make a book donation, please contact Christina Chiavetta by email at library@tbeknox.org

Passover

By: Dan McLaughlin, President

Passover tells the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt after many years of slavery. It is a story about fear, uncertainty, and the hope for freedom. Families retell this story every year to remember what it feels like to be strangers in a land where they did not have power. Because of this, many people see connections between Passover and issues happening in America today, including ICE deportations. ICE deportations affect many immigrant families. Some people are detained or sent back to countries they left years ago. Families can be separated, and children may feel scared or unsure about what will happen next. For many Jewish people, this can mirror the Passover story because it brings up themes of displacement and not feeling secure in the place you live.

Passover teaches the importance of remembering what it

means to be a stranger. In the Torah, Jews are reminded many times to treat the stranger kindly because they were once strangers in Egypt. This message encourages empathy. It asks people to think about how policies and actions affect real families.

At the same time, Passover is also about law, order, and building a strong society after gaining freedom. The story is complex, and so are modern immigration issues. Different people have different opinions about immigration laws and enforcement.

Overall, Passover can serve as a time for reflection. It encourages conversations about freedom, safety, compassion, and responsibility—values that are still very important in America today.

Juni Belle Jordan to Become Bat Mitzvah!

By: Alex and Rich Jordan

With joyful hearts, we announce the Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Juni Belle, on April 11, 2026.

Juni is an intelligent, genuine, and deeply kind young woman whose compassion shines in everything she does. She approaches the world with curiosity and thoughtfulness, and she brings warmth and sincerity wherever she goes. We are endlessly proud of the person she is and the remarkable woman she is becoming. Watching her grow into this moment has been one of our greatest blessings, and we look forward to celebrating this meaningful milestone surrounded by all of her family and friends.

With love,
Alex and Rich Jordan



Hannah Freedman James to Become Bat Mitzvah!

By: Julia Wood and Kevin James

Hannah Freedman James will be called to the Torah on May 16, 2026.

Hannah is a seventh-grade student at Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School in Maryville. She is the daughter of Kevin James and Julia Wood, the granddaughter of Norma and Wesley James and the sister of Karl. Hannah's passions include musical theater, spending time with her friends, and attending Camp Coleman in the summer. For her Mitzvah project, she is sewing blankets to donate to unhoused people in Knoxville. She and her brother are halfway to their goal of sewing fifty blankets. Hannah is a great student, has an amazing sense of humor and a strong sense of self. She is excited to celebrate this milestone with family and friends.



Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning

Author: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director



Juni Jordan will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 11th. (See insert)

Hannah James will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 16th. (See insert)

Thank you, Rabbi Leah Berkowitz! Our students had a fascinating day learning with Rabbi Leah. As a well-known author of children's books, she shared her books with our younger students and talked about being an author. It is a wonderful opportunity when students can meet the people who write the books they love. Rabbi Berkowitz led sessions on writing midrash for our 4th-6th graders and our 7th-9th graders. The topic was the story of Esther. The students and teachers loved it! Thank you to our TBE Endowed Funds for underwriting this weekend.

Passover Break: There will be no Religious School on Sunday, April 5th.

School Trip to Paperclips Museum Sunday, April 19th.

We are excited to announce that we will take our older grades to Whitwell to see the Paperclips Museum. This

museum began as a school history project when students in this rural community were studying the Holocaust. They asked what 6,000,000 really meant. They began collecting 6,000,000 paperclips. This project grew into a nationwide call for paperclip donations and connected the students with Holocaust survivors and artifacts. The museum is housed in an actual cattle car used to transport Jews to concentration camps. The museum was first located at the middle school but has been moved to a permanent location in Whitwell and is now surrounded by a butterfly garden.

Religious School ends May 3rd with a celebration of a great year! We will have a day of exciting activities and celebration for our students as we end our school year. Religious School will dismiss early so that everyone can attend Knoshville.

We will end May with Confirmation. We have two wonderful Confirmation students this year, Maya Sadovnik and Jeanna Weckstein. These girls have been called upon all year for service in our school. They have filled in for absent madrichim, helped with special projects, assisted in Hebrew, and stepped up anytime we needed an extra pair of hands. They are studying with Rabbi Siroty and preparing for the Confirmation service they will write. Jeanna and Maya have been outstanding leaders in our school beginning in middle school, and they will be outstanding Madrichim next year. I am so very proud of both.

Thank You to all the parents and staff who make our Religious School a great place to be. We appreciate the financial support of Temple Beth El and Heska Amuna. Rabbi Siroty, you continue to be a vital part of the energy and excellence of our staff, and we could not do this without you. Yaheli and Avigail, our fantastic Shinshinim, the students have had a blast with you this year at school and at BBYO events. We will miss you so much. May you be blessed with health, happiness, and safety as you enter the next phase of your life. You will always have a home at Temple Beth El.

Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

Donations listed were received as of February 13, 2026

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*In memory of Bailey Annette
Smith Barash and Harriet
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In memory of Gad Harel
Lu & Marjorie Bornes
In memory of Eva Bornes*

Rooted in Kindness: Remembering Anne Bendriem

Author: Miriam Esther Wilhelm, Head of School

For many years, Knoxville Jewish Day School was blessed by the quiet, steady presence of Anne Bendriem. Anne was a devoted friend, compassionate supporter, and extraordinary volunteer whose impact is beyond measure.

Anne had a special gift for showing up in exactly the way people needed. In her gentle, unassuming manner, she built deep and meaningful connections. She was warm and patient, and she looked forward to every opportunity to spend time with students. To those students, Anne was more than a volunteer; she was a source of encouragement, kindness, and love.

Anne also shared her creativity generously. During aftercare, she ran an art club where students tackled ambitious projects under her calm and reassuring guidance. Her legacy lives on in the beautiful mosaic coffee table in our lobby and the welcoming sign that greets all who enter. These are tangible reminders of her belief in children's abilities to create things that are meaningful and lasting.

In the art room, Anne was an invaluable partner to Mrs. Amy. She supported budding artists, helped prepare for art shows, and quietly handled countless behind-the-scenes tasks. If something needed to be hung, organized, or built, Anne would appear the next day, tools in hand, ready to help.

Students adored her, and her kindness extended beyond the art room. She occasionally joined Wednesday Judaics classes, where she guided students with the same gentle encouragement, actively listening and helping them explore their interests and follow their passions.

Anne also shared her artistic and building skills in crafting many props over the years for the school's annual musicals. She came to the rescue many times, when we could not figure out how to find or create a prop that would work. Anne eagerly asked questions, developed a plan, and produced something beautiful for the students to use on stage. Then she supported them from the audience with applause and a giant smile.

Anne's presence at KJDS was never loud, but it was deeply powerful. Through her generosity and heartfelt care for every child she encountered, she helped shape a community rooted in warmth and belonging.

We will miss her dearly, and we hope to carry forward the example she set. She taught us that small, consistent acts of love make an immeasurable difference.

May her memory be a blessing.



A New Chapter at Knoxville Jewish Day School

Author: Anna McDonald, Director of Operations and Admissions

The Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School enters its 20th year with an exciting leadership update for the 2026–2027 school year.

Louise Lindsay will step into the role of Head of School. Louise brings more than 25 years of experience in education and organizational leadership. Over her eight years at KJDS, she partnered closely with Miriam Esther Wilhelm to shape the school’s academic vision, support faculty growth, and strengthen strategic planning and enrollment. Her leadership has always been grounded in collaboration, innovation, and a deep commitment to whole child education.

After several years serving in leadership roles within the broader Jewish community, including guiding planning and operations at the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Louise made the decision to

return to KJDS. That choice reflects both her belief in the mission of the school and her love for this community.

Founding Head of School Miriam Esther Wilhelm will transition into a role that allows her to serve the broader Jewish community while remaining an active and dedicated member of KJDS as Director of Judaica and Hebrew. Miriam Esther and Louise have been working closely and thoughtfully on this transition, approaching it with shared excitement and deep trust. Miriam Esther has been clear that she would not hand over the leadership of KJDS to just anyone and feels confident in Louise’s vision and care for the school.

As we celebrate two decades of growth, this transition honors the strong foundation that has been built and positions KJDS for continued strength in the years ahead.



A Place Where Young Learners Thrive

Author: Nikki Sawyers, Kindergarten and 1st grade Teacher at KJDS

After many years of teaching, I have found something truly special at Knoxville Jewish Day School. In my Kindergarten and First Grade classroom, learning is intentional and engaging, grounded in the belief that young children are capable, thoughtful learners.

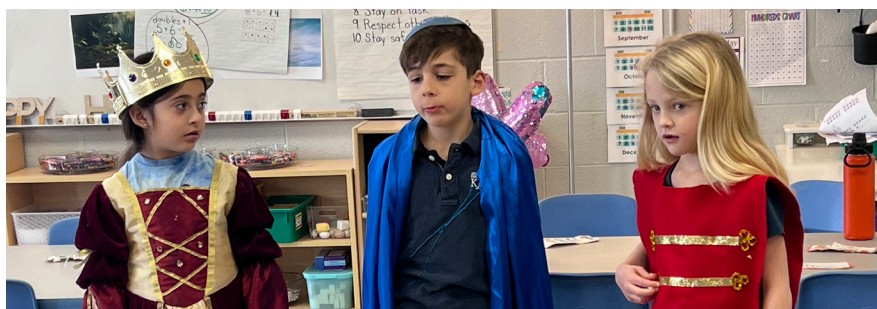
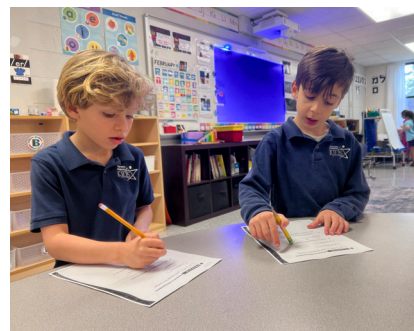
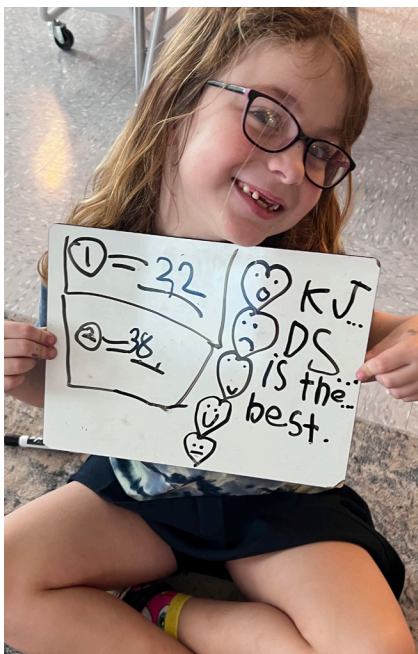
Our classroom is a place where curiosity is welcomed, and questions are encouraged. Students build strong academic foundations while also developing confidence and joy in learning.

In literacy, children dive into engaging books while building essential skills through a structured phonics approach. Small group instruction allows me to meet each child where they are and help them grow. In math, students learn through hands-on exploration, using manipulatives and solving meaningful problems that challenge them to explain their thinking and persevere.

Science and social studies invite students to observe, build, research, and ask big questions about the world around them. Rather than simply memorizing facts, they learn how to think, communicate, and make connections.

What makes KJDS stand out is its close-knit community. Small class sizes mean I truly know each child's strengths, interests, and needs. Families are partners in the learning process, and children feel supported not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well.

At KJDS, students are seen. They are valued. They are challenged. Most importantly, they are excited to come to school each day. It is a joyful place to teach and to learn, and a place where young learners thrive.



STANFORD EISENBERG KNOXVILLE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

**Stanford Eisenberg
Knoxville Jewish
Day School**
invites the Knoxville Jewish community to

**FAMILY
FUN DAY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19
1-3PM**

Kick off our 20th year anniversary celebration!

The Story We Need This Year

By: Judith Rosenberg, KJA President

“Why is this night different from all other nights?” is the key question of our Pesach (Passover) seder and feels especially meaningful to me this year. Pesach isn’t a passive holiday. It’s interactive, layered, and a little rebellious. We question everything. Our rituals are ancient, but our conversations are fresh every year and no two seders are ever the same. We tell the story in a way that invites debate, curiosity, and multiple perspectives. We encourage participants to share what the story means to them, too.

That built-in expectation of questioning feels incredibly relevant right now, when so many of us are reexamining our assumptions about freedom, responsibility, community, and identity. At its core, Passover is the story of a people refusing to accept “this is just how it is.” It’s about challenging power, walking into uncertainty, and believing that transformation is possible even when the path forward isn’t clear.

It’s also a holiday about resilience. The Israelites didn’t leave Egypt as a fully formed and organized people. They were broken, traumatized, mixed,

imperfect...and they were figuring it all out in real-time. The parallels to our global Jewish community and our own Jewish Knoxville are not lost on me here. Pesach reminds us that freedom isn’t instant or simple, it’s a process. Sometimes it starts with a small act of courage, a step into the unknown (*Google the story of Nachshon in the sea if you’re not familiar*), or the decision to imagine something better.

How will this year be different than all other years?
What do you imagine for our community?
What does our future together look like?

My very best wishes to you and your families for a *zissen Pesach* – a sweet Passover.
May your seder tables be full of big questions and interesting conversations.
Chag sameach!

Understanding Hospice Care: A Community Conversation with Shalom Hospice

By: Nora Sweat, Director of Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services is partnering with Shalom Hospice for a community informative talk about an overview on what hospice care is. This event will be the second of a four-part series with Shalom Hospice through December. They will visit from 12:00-1:00pm on May 15, September 18, and December 18. This event will be hosted at Arnstein Jewish Community Center in the Orwitz Room. Shalom Hospice will be providing beverages and small snacks for the gatherings.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nora Sweat at nsweat@jewishknoxville.org.

Building the Next Decades Together

By: Scott B. Hahn, KJA President Elect and Co-Chair Annual Campaign

For those of you who don't know me, I am Scott B. Hahn, incoming President of the KJA and co-chair for the 2026 Campaign, along with Bryan Goldberg. This year we decided it might be a good idea to have a theme for Campaign. KJA President, Judith Rosenberg suggested the following, **"Building the Next Decades Together"**. If you contemplate where our Jewish community is at the present time, this is a very apt theme.

The KJA is blessed with many wonderful attributes, a campus located in the heart of Bearden, excellent staff, programs and volunteers. But to keep the operations of KJA running at the level our constituents expect, it requires working capital, just like any other thriving business.

There are so many exciting projects and opportunities that the KJA could implement with proper funding. That is where the importance of Campaign comes in. Campaign is the easiest, most direct vehicle to contribute to the financial wellbeing of our organization.

As an ongoing project this year, the KJA is going to publish a series of testimonials from different members of our community of all ages to tell in their own words what KJA means to them. I hope once you read their words that you too will take some time and see what this organization means to you as well. When you are contacted by a volunteer about your pledge, I hope that you will take a moment and think about what your vision is for our organization and that you will give accordingly.



PJ Library's Get Together Grants are fun and easy!

Author: Anna Iroff-Bailey, KJA Director of Family Engagement

There are more ways to do Jewish than you can count, and PJ Library wants to help you do them!

PJ Library's Get Together microgrant program helps you host your friends for low-prep, Jewish-themed gatherings – and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation will cover \$100 in expenses! Here's how:

- Choose a Jewish holiday, tradition, or value as a theme for your gathering.
- Invite two or more families (up to ten) who are raising Jewish children to your place, or anywhere else, like the park or your kids' favorite ice cream shop.
- Have fun at your Get Together!
- Submit a simple, short Get Together report within one month after you've hosted to receive a reimbursement of \$100. No receipts needed!

Need ideas? Host a Shabbat dinner (could be anything from pizza to homemade matzah ball soup), a kid-friendly Passover seder, a backyard cookout for Israeli Independence Day, go out for ice cream for Shavuot, invite some mom friends to bake challah - however you do Jewish, you can count on PJ Library to help you enjoy Shabbat and holiday hangouts!

Whether you get fancy or just get delivery,
Life gets better when you and your friends

Get Together



PJ Library's Get Together program gives you expert tips and ideas for hosting Jewish-themed gatherings with your friends. We'll even reimburse up to \$100 in expenses!

Find more information at pjlibrary.org/gettogether

PJ Library

I can help! I'm happy to connect you with other families or help think of a Get Together idea. You can email me at pj@jewishknoxville.org or call me at 865-690-6343 ext 3. I can't wait to see how you choose to Get Together!

A Fun Way to Support our Jewish Community Preschool

Come roll with us for an evening of fun in support of Preschool at AJCC! This adults-only bowling fundraiser invites parents, friends, and community members to gather for a relaxed night of connection, friendly competition, and giving back. Every strike and spare helps strengthen our preschool programs and the children and families we serve.

Why support the preschool if you don't have a child in the program? Supporting the Preschool at AJCC isn't just about helping young children—it's about strengthening the future of Jewish life in Knoxville. Today's preschoolers are tomorrow's Jewish leaders, volunteers, synagogue members, and community builders. By investing in early childhood education, we nurture Jewish identity, values, and pride at the very start.

Our preschool also creates positive first experiences with Judaism for families who are not Jewish, building understanding and connection across our broader community. A thriving preschool maintains a safe, welcoming Jewish space for young families and ensures continuity for generations. If your children once learned and thrived here, this is your chance to pay it forward. A strong Jewish future in Knoxville begins with a strong Jewish preschool supported by the entire community.

SCAN the QR Code on Page 2 to register TODAY!

KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE

YOM HASHOAH - HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY



Please join us for an evening with Judy Kolb as she shares the story of her family's escape from Germany to Shanghai Ghetto and eventually, the United States.

Arnstein Jewish Community Center
Sunday, April 19th at 6pm

Reception to follow

Sponsored by:





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T JEWISH STUDIES

This lecture series was made possible with support from the Department of Religious Studies and College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tennessee.

EMERGING VOICES IN JEWISH STUDIES

SPRING 2026 LECTURE SERIES

All lectures take place on Zoom and are open to the general public. Registration is required.

Experience cutting-edge scholarship about Jews and Judaism. Highlighting the work of young scholars, this series covers topics in Jewish history ranging from biblical antiquity to contemporary America. With a particular focus on work featuring intersections between Jewish Studies and other humanities fields, the series aims to foster understanding of Jews and Judaism while contributing to the intellectual culture of the university.



**SCAN TO LEARN
MORE AND REGISTER!**



Jewish Joy, Imperial Power, and the Rabbis of Roman Palestine
TUESDAY, FEB. 24 • 6 PM

Reexamine rabbinic history under Roman rule, exploring the complex relationship between public joy and imperial power in Palestine, the Roman world, and other asymmetric political systems across time.

EREZ DEGOLAN | Fordham University
REGISTER: tiny.utk.edu/DeGolan



Plain Violence: Against Reparative Readings of the Hebrew Bible
TUESDAY, MAR. 24 • 6 PM

This lecture argues that plain sense interpretation of biblical violence better addresses its challenges while preserving the communal centrality of the Jewish Bible, unlike modern attempts to “repair” its narratives.

EMILY FILLER | Drew University
REGISTER: tiny.utk.edu/Filler26



**Indian Ocean Trade in the 11th and 12th Centuries:
A View from the Cairo Geniza** **THURSDAY, APR. 23 • 6 PM**

Examine the lives of Jewish merchants from Fustat (Old Cairo) engaged in Indian Ocean trade during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, revealing their perilous journeys, goods exchanged, and the records in the Cairo Geniza that illuminate their networks, laborers, and families.

PRATIMA GOPALAKRISHNAN | Princeton University
REGISTER: tiny.utk.edu/Gopalakrishnan26

judaic.utk.edu

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES JOB 25-269-01

President's Reflections on Earth Day

Julie E. Stein, Chapter President

Earth Day, April 22nd, started in 1970 as a way of celebrating the Earth. As time has progressed, Earth Day has come to represent an increase in awareness of the environment and our impact on it. This year, the theme is "Our Power, Our Planet."

While most people are aware that Hadassah fundraising goes toward our Hadassah Medical Organization, including our hospitals and rehabilitation center, fewer may be aware of our two Youth Aliyah Villages. Today, I want to take a minute to describe some of the amazing work that is going on at one of our Youth Aliyah Villages as it relates to the environment.

Hadassah supports two Youth Aliyah Villages, Meir Shfeyah and Hadassah Neurim. Both Youth Aliyah

Villages empower, educate, and teach the next generation to be caring and competent Israeli citizens. But today, I want to specifically discuss Meir Shfeyah, which was founded in 1923.

Meir Shfeyah serves approximately 680 students, ages 12–18. At Meir Shfeyah, the environment comes into play through their prize-winning Shfeyah Dairy, a chicken farm, an organic farm, and a computerized greenhouse. Also, 11th and 12th grade students can study vineyard management and wine making under the supervision of the village agricultural director and winemaker. It is beyond inspiring that these young people are learning about, participating in, and supporting the environment daily, and that Hadassah makes this possible!

Thinking About the Ten Commandments

Author: Dale Rosenberg, VP for Education

As you read this, we are looking toward Shavuot, the festival where we read the Ten Commandments. That's not why I'm thinking about the Decalogue today, though. Our state legislature is considering allowing this document to be posted in public schools. Since 1980, such postings have been considered a violation of the First Amendment, but the issue is once again before the courts.

Christians supporting this and similar bills say the Ten Commandments represent universal principles and an important "Judeo-Christian" document in American history, underpinning U.S. law. Is this push Jewish as well as Christian?

In Jewish tradition, the Decalogue is somewhat different from the Christian ten, and in fact, there are two different Christian versions of them as well: Catholic and Protestant. If this law stands, which version will be displayed?

Our Torah does not call the Decalogue "the Ten Commandments," but "Aseret D'varim" – the "ten words."

The Mishneh expands this to "Aseret HaDibrot" – the ten utterances. They are stated twice, in Exodus and in Deuteronomy. The versions are slightly different and are not numbered, so Jews and Christians divided the section into ten, but not in the same way. In ours, the first isn't a commandment at all. It says, "I am HaShem your G-d, who brought you out of the land of Egypt." Far from being universal, it states a particular relationship between G-d and the Jewish people.

The Decalogue is very important in Jewish tradition. We often decorate synagogues with renderings of the tablets. Marc Chagall's stained-glass windows of the Twelve Tribes at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, for example, include an image of the tablets in the window representing Levi. Jews generally agree that this is a religious document to us, not a historical one.

If what is displayed is, as seems most likely, the Protestant version, would that constitute the establishment of a state religion? The Supreme Court will decide, but we can all have our own opinions.

HADASSAH MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY & SHOPPING GUIDE



We would like to thank our generous advertisers and donors for supporting this project. We would also like to thank everyone who gave their time and expertise to put this directory together. The Membership Directory and Shopping Guide is not only an important fundraiser for Hadassah, but also a useful resource for its members. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Graphic Designer: Matt Whitacre

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If you find your contact information to be incomplete or inaccurate, please be sure to let us know as soon as possible, so we may correct that information in our database. Updated contact information can be sent to Leesa Kaplan at lesakaplan@gmail.com.



Friendly Reminder: All directory expenses such as graphic design, printing, and mailing have been paid. We are counting on our advertisers and supporters to submit any outstanding payments now. Thank you for your support!



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KNOSHVILLE 2026

Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter!

**Sunday, May 3rd, 2026, 11:00 am -2:00 pm
West Knoxville**



**Join us for a celebration to purchase delicious
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**\$36.00 large Bundt Cakes
\$28.00 Medium Bundt Cakes
and more**

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Breakthrough Epilepsy Surgery Available

Author: Barbara Mintz, using Hadassah articles

Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem has become the first hospital in Israel to perform a revolutionary epilepsy surgery. This pioneering procedure, using a responsive neurostimulation (RNS) device, offers new hope for patients battling severe, uncontrolled seizures. It works by continuously monitoring the brain's electrical activity, and when it detects abnormal or suspicious patterns, it sends small electrical pulses to stop a seizure before it can occur.

"The RNS device is completely personalized. It's tailored specifically to the patient's brain, making it a truly precise treatment," explained Dr. Dana Ekstein, head of the Neurology Department and Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. It is implanted in an identified location, and "it's as if the device learns the patient's unique seizure triggers and works to

prevent them." Ein Kerem is the only place in Israel equipped to program RNS devices. The center also collaborates with international specialists including the UCLA Seizure Disorders Center, whose patients have experienced up to an 82% reduction in seizures and fewer instances of sudden death caused by epilepsy.

This treatment for epilepsy was only available in the United States and Canada until now. But thanks to the advanced clinical expertise at Hadassah Ein Kerem, acute epilepsy sufferers in Israel now have new hope for the future.

Hadassah's Medical Organization continues to work to help heal those in Israel and around the world!

Book Club News

Author: Rhonda Sternfels

The books and discussions we have are always very informative, inspirational and exciting. We welcome you to participate in our Hadassah Book Club meetings, at 7:30p.m, the third Tuesday of every month, Zoom only format, even if you don't read the book.

We always select our books. Email book suggestions for next year to Harriet Cooper spock52@prodqiy.net

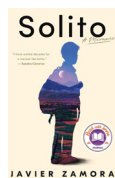


JAMES BY KPERCIVAL EVERETT, HOST: JILL W. APRIL 21, 2026

A brilliant reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

The story of Jim's and Huck's Mississippi River journey.

"Genius"—The Atlantic. "A masterpiece that will help redefine one of the classics of American literature, while also being a major achievement on its own."



SOLITO BY JAVIER ZAMORA, HOST: LEESA K. MAY 19, 2026

A young poet tells the story of his migration from El Salvador to the U.S. at the age of 9 to reunite with his parents. This is a memoir of bravery, hope, and finding family.

If you have any questions, feedback, or want your name and email added to our list of Hadassah book club members, please contact Rhonda Sternfels resternfels@comcast.net or call: 865-607-8863



KJCFF hits new highs in 2025

By Stephen Rosen

The Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds had a huge 2025! KJCFF made grants totaling \$459,758.08. The vast majority of these grants helped the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Knoxville Jewish Day School and Heska Amuna Synagogue. This is an outstanding level of support that helps these organizations meet their goals for providing successful programs while maintaining their highly valued facilities. Further grants were made to Jewish and general philanthropic pursuits in Knoxville, Tennessee, the US, Israel and all over the world. That's the great news...now here's the good news: KJCFF ended 2025 with assets of \$6,520,159.05, the highest level in our 26-year history. How could we have it all? The excellent stewards of our funds, the East Tennessee Foundation, provided an 18.1% return on investment. As my grandfather used to say, that's "full chai." What a great way to start our second quarter century!

KJCFF's past performance is no indication of future performance and our investments can lose money. If you want to take a chance with us, contact Stephen at Stephen.rosen@raymondjames.com.

The Knoxville Jewish Community Needs a Fund for Parties

Note: after the awesome KJA 80s Glam party, we thought we would re-run this article from last year. As the famous Jewish philosophers of the 80s said, "you gotta fight for your right to party."

Yes, you read that correctly. Our community needs an endowment for purely social, fun events. Not community action, social justice, educational endeavors, religious observance, etc... we have a bunch of those kind of funds. I'm talking about good ole' hell raisin' and partyin'. What if we had a fund that would be a stand-by underwriter of social events so the risk wasn't on the sponsoring agency? Some ideas sound great and flop. Some ideas sound goofy and are ragers. Some ideas work for 20 years then the organization loses its budget in the 21st edition. If we had a fund ready to subsidize the budgetary loss, maybe we could try more aggressive events? I have no problem making a case that parties are philanthropy-worthy to our community. How many times have you seen two leaders in a corner discussing something important? How many new people have you met? How many ideas have some out of bottle of wine shared by Knoxville Jewish community members? The payback on this investment could be big and without a hangover.

If you have interest in stepping up to help us get down, contact Stephen at 599-1853.

BREAKING NEWS.... KJCFF accepts online donations for all of our funds!

If you would like to donate go to www.jewishknoxville.org/kjcff. It is found on the KJA website under the fifth header from the left, "Jewish Knoxville." Click on the third drop down item, "Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds." Read our eloquent Mission Statement then scroll down and click on "online donation." You can type a word in Search Funds or scroll to the fund(s) of choice. Or, just call Stephen at 865-599-1853 and he'll walk you through it.

Rabbi's Corner: Counting the Omer

By: Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal

What is an "Omer"? When is the "Omer period"? How can an ancient Biblical prescription bring meaning and spiritual strength to contemporary Jews?

Many Jewish observances that originated in Biblical times evolved over the eras. The ritual practice during the Omer period is a good example.

The Omer period begins on the second night of Passover and continues to Shavuot, over the course of seven weeks. An Omer is a dry measure of volume, about half a gallon.

Leviticus 23:15-16 and Deuteronomy 16:9-10 describe the obligation to bring an Omer of grain to the Temple during the seven-week period. In the Land of Israel, the earlier grain was barley, considered as a lowly animal feed. After 49 days, the choice crop of wheat would be ready, and this "new grain" would then be brought.

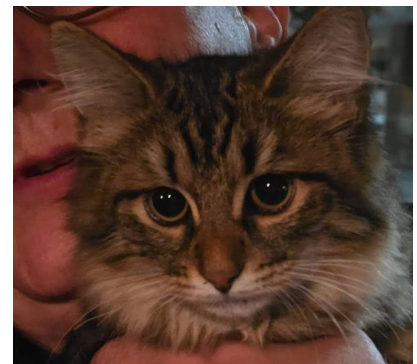
While the Temple stood, the days of bringing grain would be counted. After the destruction of the Temple, the rabbis decreed that even though no grain would be brought, the days should still be counted, as a way of recalling the ancient practice. We persist in this practice, reciting a blessing each evening and then formulaically reciting the day of the Omer first as a number of days and then as a number of weeks and days. For example, the evening of May 1 will be 30 days of the Omer, which is four weeks and two days. Some add the recitation of Psalm 67 and the Ana Ba Koakh prayer.

The Torah describes Shavuot as the Festival of Weeks, the Festival of the Harvest, and the Festival of the First Fruits. Although we read of the dramatic giving of the Torah in Exodus 19-20 and Deuteronomy 5, the Torah does not explicitly assign Shavuot as the occasion when this happened. Later rabbinic sources connect Shavuot with Matan Torah, the Giving of the Torah.

The medieval Kabbalists saw the 49 days of the Omer, the interval between the Exodus from Egypt (Passover) and the Revelation of the Torah (Shavuot) as a great spiritual journey. They mused that the People Israel physically left slavery but needed to heal psychologically before they could solidly accept the Torah and live up to its demands.

The Kabbalists arranged the 49 days of the Omer as a matrix of seven attributes of the Divine paired with those same seven attributes. Each day represents an opportunity to grow in specific character traits.

I greatly enjoy counting the Omer. I've made various Omer counting devices, including one created from seven weekly medication minders. I like to sit quietly in the evening and chant the longer version of the Omer recitation. Our previous cat loved to come sit with me each night and listen. I hope our new kittens will do the same. Stay tuned!



JCOR-CA Visits Nature and the Arts

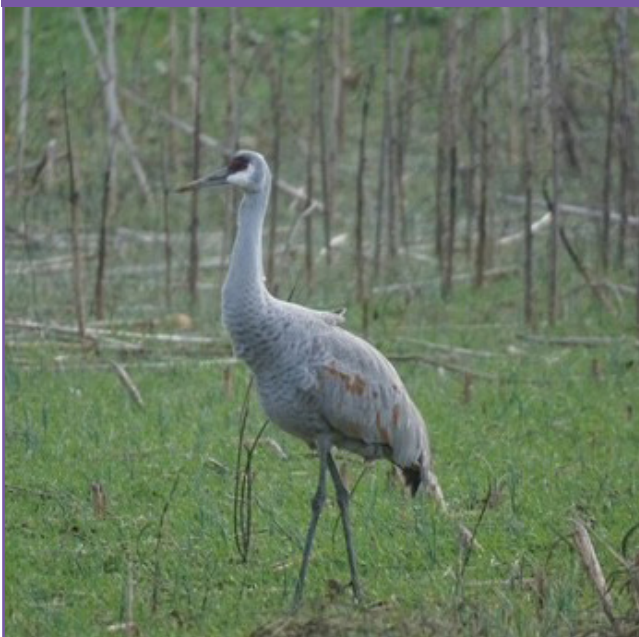
Joel and Charlie Were Our Photographers



Freezing Four at Hiwassee Overlook



A Single Crane out of Thousands



Dinner and a Play at the Oak Ridge Playhouse





JCOR Invites the Community

Holocaust Remembrance Program - Yom HaShoah

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR)

101 Madison Lane, Oak Ridge

Sunday, April 19th, 2025

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

In the JCOR Sanctuary and On Zoom

Candle lighting ceremony

City Proclamation

Readings, Songs, and Prayers

ORUUC/JCOR Chorus

Closing Speaker, Yvonne Dalschen



Holocaust Memorial Candles will be available to attendees for pick-up at the Service

Standing Proud, Celebrating Loud

Author: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

This past weekend, our teens joined thousands from around the world for the annual CTeen Shabbaton — an experience filled with inspiration, connection, and powerful Jewish pride.

From the moment they arrived in New York City, the energy was electric as they explored iconic sights alongside Jewish teens from dozens of countries.

Shabbat was truly transformative. Massive, spirited meals united thousands in song and celebration, while former hostages shared powerful stories of faith and perseverance, describing how they held onto their Jewish identity even in the darkest tunnels of Gaza.

Shabbat day brought a warm, personal touch as teens were welcomed into homes in Crown Heights for meals, experiencing the heart of a vibrant community.

Saturday night reached unforgettable heights in Times Square, where 4,500 teens gathered for a concert featuring Nissim Black and Noam Buskila. In a deeply moving moment, former hostage Segev Kalfon led thousands in Shema Yisrael, transforming Times Square into a powerful display of Jewish unity.

Even the subway rides became celebrations, filled with singing, dancing, and togetherness.

Our teens returned uplifted, empowered, and deeply proud — reminded that wherever we live, we are part of one global Jewish family.

Standing Proud, Celebrating Loud Purim Season

Our community celebrated Purim with a vibrant series of events highlighting courage, identity, and unity.

The festivities began with a Bat Mitzvah Club Hamantaschen Bake Purim Edition. Inspired by Queen Esther's bravery, the girls explored what holds us back from being our true selves and how to find the courage to shine as they approach Bat Mitzvah. Behind every mask, they learned, is a powerful soul waiting to be revealed.

College students celebrated at a festive Purim party at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, hosted with Alpha Epsilon Pi and Hillel International. A delicious falafel dinner, creative costumes, lively music, and nonstop fun brought students together for an unforgettable night.

The celebrations culminated in a community wide Tour de Purim party with more than 150 attendees. Guests enjoyed a thrilling BMX bike show, a delicious French-inspired menu, and an atmosphere bursting with joy.

Purim's timeless message felt especially powerful this year: even in uncertain times, joy, courage, and Jewish pride shine through.



Knoxville Teens on the chartered subways on the way to Times Square



A riveting bike show was a highlight of the evening



Fun for young and old at the Tour de Purim



Proudly displaying their freshly baked hamantaschen



Preparing the dough for Bat Mitzvah Club Hamantaschen Bake

The Knosh Spot

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services



Blueberry Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 6 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick of butter, softened
- 2 ¼ cup of all purpose flour
- ¾ tsp of salt
- 4 tbsp of orange juice
- 4 cups of fresh blueberries; rinsed & drained
- 1 ½ cup of sugar
- 1 cup of thinly sliced, pared apples
- 1 tbsp of fresh lemon juice
- 2 ½ tsp of grated lemon rind
- 1 tsp of vanilla
- 1 tbsp of butter

Directions:

- Combine cream cheese and butter in food processor; process until smooth. (an electric mixer works fine, too) Combine flour and salt; add to cream cheese mixture. Process (or mix) until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle orange juice over the surface of mixture and stir with a fork until moistened.
- Shape dough into a ball, cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least an hour
- When dough is well-chilled and firm enough to work with, divide ball in half and press ½ onto the bottom and sides of a buttered, 1 ½ quart casserole, flattening dough with fingertips and pressing up the sides to within an inch or so of the top. (return the remaining half of the dough to the refrigerator.)
- In a large, heavy saucepan, combine blueberries, sugar, apple slices, lemon juice, lemon rind and vanilla. Bring to boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally and boil for 10 minutes. Pour mixture into prepared crust. (It will be soupy.)
- With floured hands, roll out or flatten remaining dough to about ¼ inch thickness. Shape into irregular-size pieces and lay, in a patchwork pattern, over the filling. Or, cut dough into long strips and arrange, crisscross fashion, over the filling. Dot the dough with remaining butter and bake at 425 degrees for 40 minutes. Serve warm, topped with vanilla ice cream or freshly whipped cream.



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Yahrzeits



Temple Beth El

April 3

Pearl Ades • Gordon Brown • Sam Chandler • Karina Dunn • Stuart Elston • Irwin Freedman • Peter Holz • Edith Ivins • Lesley Krakauer • Sarah Licht • Marley Silverstein Rogers • Jack Rosenberg • Stanley Vogelfang • David Williams

April 10

Marion Andrews • Barry Austern • Harry Blatt • Irene Blatt • Sesto Del Moro • Dinah Feldman • David Fleischman • Freida Freedman • Sarah Goldfarb • Morris Goodfriend • Walter James • Charlotte Kayser • Julian Lewis • Rebecca Mendelowitz • Jean Hiller Millis • Arthur Pais • Donald Pardee • Mitchell Plachter • Allen Scheff • Morris Siegel • Daniel Siroty • Gladys Steinberg • Simon Sunshine • Sydney Tessler

April 17

Infant Altshuler • Samuel Arbital • Rosa Deitch • Marjorie Evans • Blanche Farmer • Michael Fox • Bruce Leimsidor • Golda Margolies • Evelyn Nash • Lucien Oury • Hartley Polasky • Dorothy Salus • Mildred Wohl

April 24

Blanche Abramson • Ruth Block • William Derrington • Sylvain Fribourg • Seymour Gassel • Trena Goldberg • Harvey Golden • Mayme Goodfriend • Bessie Green • Richard Johnson • Sidney Katz • Rita Kelleher • Martin Klein • Allen Kravitz • Arthur Marchand • Gertie Parelli • Joan Porter • Bertram Raskin • Louis Sackron • Louis Sturm • Shirley Wolfenhaut

May 1

Joseph Ades • Rae Allen • David Baker • Robert Brody • Jeff Cox • John Elston • Dorothy Goldberger • Joseph Goldman • Mary Hepworth • Alvin Kirsner • Dorothy Kirsner • Mathilde Levi • Joseph Levitt • Sr. • Naum Safo • William Schwartz • Mark Simon • Eugenia Spruill

May 8

Flora Brody • David Bush • Mary Dees • Abraham Factor • Arthur Factor • Shirly Goodfriend • Mary Haller • Fannie Kreisberg • Robert Lewis • Hannah Licht • Eva Monina • Rivkah Ovits • Dorothy Sachs • Ilya Safo • Carl Silver • Beverly Simon • Lemuel Spruill, Sr. • Edmond Tucker • N. George Tucker • Nick Wadsworth • Harry Walowitz • Sanford Weinstein • Rose West • Bess Zipser

May 15

Gerald Adelman • Joice Brown • Sidney Burnett • Verne Canner • Saralee Cohn • Margaret Crohn • Lucie Fribourg • Morris Goldfarb • Joseph Harris • Hymen Kern • David Koffman • Manuel Leimsidor • Marjorie Pardee • Gilbert Parish • Dolores Reichman • Ethel Rosenberg • Sheldon Rosenberg • Ruth Sherrill • Cecelia Zimmerman

May 22

Lawrence Allen • Dan Altshuler • Althea Brakebill • Louis Brenner • Andrew Caylor • Harold Herbst • Sam Kadison • Frances Patton • David Prial • Minnie Victor

May 29

Uriel Alayev • Katherine Caller • Cecile Feinberg • Harry Goldberger • Alexander Gompertz • Carolyn Greif • Rose Gudis • Yefim Gutman • Jeanette Hyatt • E. Max Kesselman • Maurice Konigsberg • Stephen Lieberman • Anny Marx • Jakob Marx • Harold Pomerantz • Joseph Sandberg • Nathan Smith • Harvey Smuckler • Katherine Soss • Charles Strasburger • Annie Taylor • Esther Yadgaroff

Yahrzeits



Heska Amuna Synagogue Yahrzeits

April 4

Rose Belaief · Sylvia Blumenthal · Harry Brietstein · Samuel Brody · Harry Cohen · Abe Emelfarb · Infant Euster · Israel Farkas · Isadore Ginsburg · Martin Ginsburg · Charles Goldstein · Isaac Greenwald Arthur Hahn · David Hecht · Minnie Isaacs · Arthur Jay · Gustav Levi · Yetta Licht · Hinda Schwartz · Pesach Slabosky · Norbert Slovis · Phillip Slusher · Don Wittenberg

April 11

Lawrence Abrams · Michael Belaief · Bennie Deitch · Ilene Edelman · Louis Ettin · Isadore Finkelstein · Max Kronrad · Bernard Landis · Golda Margolies · Nathan Millen · Isadore Millen · Esther Panitz · Jacob Sandweiss · Bessie Silverman · Joseph Strauss · Louis Sturm

April 18

Sarita Adler · Gary Anderson · Anne Ehrenshaft · Molly Fayonsky · Claire Gettinger · Mindy Goldberg · Pyna Greenbaum · Marilyn Greenfield · Gussie Joffe · Charlotte Kayser · Nicholas Kutsubos · Sarah Lipshin · Celia Lipson · Ada Manas · Margaret Miner · Alegra Pasis · Esther M. Rosen · Allen Rosen · Mildred Rosenblatt · Rose Rosenthal · Morris Ross · Rose Shagan · Rose Sherman · Tillie Slovis

April 25

Gerd Abeles · Bernard Belaief · Joseph Bernard · Samuel Billig · Charlotte Cooper · Marilyn Cornez · Gordon Dischler · Rosa Frumin · Anna Gitman · Israel Gruenberg · Fannie Leibowitz · Rabbi Isaac Levin · Ella Levison · Bessie Millen · Ruth Oleshansky · Celia Rosenblatt · Abraham Schorr · Frieda Schwarzbart · Selma Smullian · Mariam Stein

May 2

Marilyn Abrams · Paul Cawn · Rose Dischler · Stanley Duhan · Ruby Euster · Max Friedman · Freda Friedman · Harriet Herbin · Bertha Hoor · Esther Millen · Tybee Millner · Abraham Radloski · Joseph Sherman · Charles Siegel · Pauline Viener

May 9

Pearl Austin · Carolyn Bertram · Hymie Billig · Sharon Brietstein · Isaac Cooper · Lillian Drutz · Gail Golden · Howard Greenbaum · Flora Hasden · Sidney Licht · Barbara Mair-Hopkins · Bryan Merrell · Gary Miller · Sarah Miller · Hannah Moskowitz · Nat Nisenson · Hyman Raskin · William Russler · Sylvia Saroff · Benjamin Weinstein · Sanford Weinstein

May 16

Norman Abrams · Isadore Abrams · Bernard Bernstein · Philip Buchdrucker · Sidney Burnett · Philip Chazen · Linda Cohen · Rachel Davis · Julia Eichwald · Jacob Ellin · Anne Fuson · David Garber · Brayne Geller · Samuel Grusin · Samuel Lavine · Isaac Resnick · Frank Robinson · Bernard Schanowitz · Yachel Wender · Silvia Wishner · Reva Zussman

May 23

Sylvia Bellin · Lester Berry · Erwin Bloom · Sylvia Golub · Bernard Iroff · Abraham Jacobs · William Jaffe · Leon Leibowitz · Lucy Lobertini · Sam Nius · Ethel Rosenberg · Sarah Sachs · Hyman Strauss · Benjamin Tegal · Sara Weinstein · Melba Werfel · Harriet Zalkin

May 30

Edward Balloff · Murray Beber · David Bendriem · Ida Brown · Sarah Euster · Rebecca Forstein · Saul Garber · George Gourse · Hyman Kisilinsky · Alice Landis · Sol Leeds · Lillian Millner · Rachel Resnick · Shmuel Robinson · Nathan Robinson · Morris Rosenblatt · Samuel Schwartz · Nettie Secaul · Claire Shulman · Amelia Strauss · Louis Tobe · Morris Werner · Parril Zeff

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Bernard and Barbara Winick Bernstein Archives of the Jewish Community of Knoxville and East Tennessee

The Way We Were in 2000 Temple Beth El 2000 Confirmation Class



The confirmation graduation class of 2000 was the first such class for Rabbi Beth **Schwartz**, who began serving at Temple Beth El in July of 1999.

Left to right: Jonathan **Schultz**, Daniel **Wohl**, Abram **Hanford**, Lindsey **Desher**, Rabbi Beth **Schwartz**, Megan **Roberts** (now **Koller**), Logan **Finkelstein**, Joel **Heller**.

Daniel and Abram still live in Knoxville as do Joel's parents Beth and Rob **Heller**. Megan's mother Deborah **Roberts** splits her time between Nashville and Knoxville.

Thanks to Shelley **Mangold** for donating the photo and partial identification, as well as Marilyn and Daniel **Wohl** and Deborah **Roberts** for additional identification.

Come to the Archives and explore our history. In addition to photographs, we have a collection of *The Center Menorah* newsletters dating back to the 1940's, interviews of many community members we began collecting in the 1980's, document collections of over 700 families in our community, Hadassah directories beginning in the 1950's, and much more. Explore our collection at jewishknoxville.org/archives or to contact the archivist at archives@jewishknoxville.org to set up a visit or to donate your history to our Archives.



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a Jewish food festival

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Sunday, May 3 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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More details coming soon