

HAKOL

August • September 2026 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

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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 School.

For advertising opportunities:
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Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School

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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

August 2026 Community Calendar

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

9:23P *Havdalah*
10:00A Bar Mitzvah for Joel Barnett - TBE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

1:00P Intro to Mahjong - KJA
2:00P Smokies Baseball Game - HAS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

8:16P Candle Lighting
2:30P Open Watercolor Class - HAS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

9:15P *Havdalah*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

12:30P Coat of Many Colors - HAD
1:00P Intro to Mahjong - KJA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS
5:00P Rocky Top Move in Party at UTK - Chabad

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

8:08P *Candle Lighting*
2:30P Open Watercolor Class - HAS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

9:06P *Havdalah*
10:30A Tot Shabbat - Chabad

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

9:30A First Day of Ha'Or Academy - HAS & JCOR
2:00P Cteen Kick Off Event - Chabad

WEDNESDAY, AUG 19

9:00A - Hillel at UTK
Wednesday Wake Up - KJA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS
6:30P ChaBBQ at UTK - Chabad

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

8:00P *Candle Lighting*
5:00P Shabbat at the Pool - Community Event

SATURDAY, AUG 22

8:57P *Havdalah*

SATURDAY, AUG 22

11:00A Get to Know Us: Meet & Greet
Open House - HAS

WEDNESDAY, AUG 26

5:30P Hillel at UTK Night Out - KJA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

7:50P *Candle Lighting*
2:30P Open Watercolor Class - HAS
6:30P Hillel at UTK Welcome Shabbat - KJA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

8:47P *Havdalah*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

3:00P Membership Kick Off - HAD

September 2026 Community Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

7:41P Candle Lighting
2:30P Open Watercolor Class - HAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:36P *Havdalah*
9:30A Bat Mitzvah of Shain Raley - HAS
8:15P Joint S'lichot Service with TBE & JCOR - HAS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

11:00A Cemetery Service (New Jewish Cemetery) - HAS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 9

5:30P Hillel at UTK Night Out - KJA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Erev Rosh Hashanah
7:30P *Candle Lighting*
2:30P Open Watercolor Class - HAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Rosh Hashanah I
8:26P *Candle Lighting*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Rosh Hashanah II
8:24P *Havdalah*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 16

9:00A Hillel at UTK
Wednesday Wake Up - KJA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS
5:00P Challah Bake - Chabad

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:20P *Candle Lighting* 2:30P Open Watercolor Class - HAS
6:30P Hillel at UTK Shabbat - KJA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:15P *Havdalah*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Kol Nidre
7:17P *Candle Lighting*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Yom Kippur
8:12P *Havdalah*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 23

5:30P - Hillel at UTK Night Out - KJA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong - HAS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Sukkot
7:10P *Candle Lighting*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Sukkot
8:05P *Candle Lighting*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Sukkot
8:03P *Havdalah*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sukkot

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Sukkot

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Sukkot

Calendar Highlights

Temple Beth El

www.tbeknox.org

Joel Barnett Bar Mitzvah

August 1, 2026 | 10:00AM | Temple Beth El

Joel Barnett will be called to the Bimah as a Bar Mitzvah.

Andrea Padilla • secretary@tbeknox.org

Heska Amuna Synagogue

www.HeskaAmuna.org

Open House at Heska Amuna

Sunday, August 23 | 11:00 am to 2:00 pm | Heska Amuna Synagogue

Come and see all that Heska Amuna has to offer! Meet some of our friendly, dedicated members. Tour, meet Rabbi Rosenberg, and nosh on delicious food provided by Potchke. Childcare will be provided.

Mary Linda Schwarzbart • marylinda@comcast.net

Pre-Rosh Hashanah Fall Bash

www.jewishknoxville.org/pjlibrary

Fall Family Fun at the Farm with PJ Library & Friends

August 30, 2026 | TBD | Deep Well Farm

Kick off the High Holiday season at the 5th Annual Fall Bash! Family fun for all ages including farm animals, mega-slides, hay rides, holiday crafts and snacks. All Jewish families are invited, and you won't want to miss it!

Anna Iroff-Bailey • airoffbailey@jewishknoxville.org

Hadassah

www.hadassah.org/region/southern

The Games People Play

August 30, 2026 | 3:00pm-5:00pm | West Knoxville

Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge's Membership Kickoff. Play Hadassah Bingo, Test your knowledge with Hadassah Trivia, and Reconnect with old friends and meet new BFFs while noshing on yummy treats.

Anita Kay • Anitalkay64@gmail.com

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

www.jewishknoxville.org/calendar

Pooch Plunge

September 19, 2026 | 11:00am-2:00pm | Arnstein Jewish Community Center

Make a splash with your four-legged best friend at the 5th Annual Pooch Plunge! Before the pool closes for the season, dogs get their day to swim and play, and humans get to enjoy delicious food trucks, shop local vendors, and support the Smokin' Salmon Swim Team. Bring your pup, make some memories, and help us celebrate one of the most tail-wagging events of the year!

Shannon Martindale • smartindale@jewishknoxville.org

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

www.jcortn.org

Family BBQ in the Sukkah

September 27 | 6:00 PM | JCOR Back Yard

JCOR Members and Friends of ALL ages are invited to a BBQ Dinner and fun in our back yard at the Synagogue. We celebrate Sukkot with a Cookout, Good food in the Sukkah, and Good fun. All are welcome to join us.

Ronnie Bogard • events@jcor.info

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



Engineering Appalachian Music: Building Banjos at KJDS

By: Lev Gross-Comstock, Music and STEAM Teacher

At KJDS, we believe some of the most meaningful learning happens when students have the opportunity to build, create, and discover with their own hands. This spring, our fourth and fifth graders spent nearly two months doing exactly that as they designed and constructed their very own playable Appalachian-style banjos.

The project was part of our History of Modern American Music curriculum, where students trace the evolution of American music. After learning about Traditional and World Music through the 18th century in second and third grade, fourth and fifth grade begins with African spirituals born out of slavery. Students then follow the development of the Blues into Jazz, its influence on traditional music, and the emergence of Country and Rock in America, along with their continued evolution. Along the way, they learn not only how music evolved, but also how different cultures and traditions shaped the sounds we hear today.

As we studied Appalachian music, we paused to ask an important question: How were these instruments actually made? Rather than simply reading about the answer, students became instrument makers themselves.

Each student began by carefully sanding and finishing the wooden neck of their banjo before adding their own artistic designs with paint. Using Tinkercad, they then designed the banjo's resonator and rim completely from scratch. This proved to be one of the greatest engineering challenges of the project, as we had to develop a design capable of supporting the tension of real strings while still producing a clear sound. We also 3D printed custom tuning pegs, picks, and slides while incorporating oak reinforcements to strengthen the neck and headstock.

Throughout the process, students naturally connected concepts from multiple disciplines. They applied what they had learned about sound waves, vibration,

frequency, and sound energy while also developing skills in engineering design, woodworking, CAD modeling, mathematics, problem solving, and artistic expression. Every obstacle became an opportunity to redesign, improve, and learn.

By the end of the project, every student had built a fully playable instrument. More importantly, they had experienced the complete design process, from an initial concept to a finished product, learning firsthand that creating something worthwhile requires patience, perseverance, creativity, and a willingness to solve problems along the way.

Project-Based Learning experiences like this remind us that education is most powerful when students move beyond simply learning about something and instead learn through experience. By combining music, history, science, engineering, technology, and art, our students didn't just study Appalachian music, they gained a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship, ingenuity, and traditions behind the music itself.



Message from the New Head of School

By: Louise Lindsay, Head of School



Ms. Louise enjoyed reuniting with KJDS Alumni at Family Fun Day.

This season of Rosh Hashanah and the start of a new school year feels like the perfect time to introduce, or reintroduce, myself. I am Louise Lindsay, the new Head of School at the Knoxville Jewish Day School (KJDS). I began this role on July 1, working with our talented administrative team to build schedules, move furniture, and prepare for the arrival of students and faculty.

Prior to this role, I served as the Chief Planning and Operations Specialist at the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, where I had the pleasure of working with many members of the Knoxville Jewish community. And in the years before that, I spent eight years as the Innovation Coach at KJDS. I am thrilled to return to KJDS as Head of School. I have a deep passion for high-quality, whole-child education, and I am excited to remain closely connected to Knoxville's Jewish community.

At KJDS, we are committed to learning rooted in excellence. We believe great work often requires many drafts before publication. We encourage exploration,

nurturing students as they discover patterns, understand how things work, and follow their curiosity. We are committed to fostering strong Jewish identities so our students are comfortable and confident in their Judaism. We also believe learning should be joyful, hands-on, collaborative, and full of opportunities to celebrate successes.

As we begin this new season at KJDS and welcome the new year, I invite you to come take a tour. You don't need to be a prospective family, all members of our community are welcome. We'd love the opportunity to show you what we're doing and how refreshing, inspiring, and joyful a day at KJDS can be. This year marks the 20th year of The Knoxville Jewish Day School; come and celebrate with us!

Shana Tova,
Louise

KJDS Family Highlight: The DiSalvo-Tinley Family

By: Louise Lindsay, Head of School



The DiSalvo-Tinley family at Addy's 5th grade graduation from KJDS in 2024.

The Knoxville Jewish Day School would like to recognize the many contributions of the DiSalvo-Tinley family to our school community. The family's partnership with KJDS began eight years ago when Addy started kindergarten. She brought curiosity, humor, and a gift for storytelling to the classroom. She asked questions that reflected a depth of thinking beyond her years. As she grew up at KJDS, she formed friendships, created beautiful artwork, and showed care for the humans, plants, and animals on campus. Her younger sister, Beezy, joined the school as a kindergartener during the pandemic, when we were all masked and working hard to stay safe. Beezy brought a joyful and excitable energy that lifted our community during such a serious time. And, she held on to that energy, using it to guide younger students and as a wonderful actor in the school musicals.

Not only did the girls enrich the school community, but their parents did as well. Jeff, dad, drove

students on field trips and often shared his handyman skills on campus. He attended school events and was always warm and welcoming to new parents. Gina, mom, has served as President of the KJDS Board of Directors for many years. She has guided the school with calm grace and helped bring the stage performance of *Violins of Hope* to life. She has also been a powerful advocate and connector for the school. Gina is stepping down as President of the KJDS Board, but we are grateful that she will continue to guide the school as Immediate Past President. We are thankful for the many hours and ideas she has contributed, and we are excited that she will remain on the board for the coming year.

While May of 2026 marked the graduation of Beezy and an end to this family being at KJDS every day, the KJDS community looks forward to a continued connection and lots of wonderful shared memories.



WISHING YOU A SWEET NEW YEAR

SHANA TOVA

Wishing our Knoxville community a new year filled with *sweetness, health, happiness* and *peace*.

May 5787 be a year of kindness, understanding and unity for us all.

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From our students,
faculty and families at
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Anna McDonald



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amcdonald@kjds.org



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This Tradition Is Our Mission

By: Jesse Feld, KJA CEO

One of the unexpected parts of parenting toddlers is realizing that you don't just watch Disney movies—you live with them. The films come and go, but the songs? Those are forever. They play in the car, in the kitchen, and of course in your head long after the credits roll.

In our house, the soundtrack of choice lately has been from the 2016 Disney movie called *Moana*. And while I'll spare you a full appreciation of Lin-Manuel Miranda who served as the primary songwriter, there's one song in particular that has stuck with me in a different way.

The song is called, "Where you are," and it's an upbeat, joyful song about a community that has everything it needs. At one point, the lyrics declare, "This tradition is our mission." The first time I heard that line, I'll admit my mind went straight to Tevye and the village of Anatevka from *Fiddler on the Roof*. But the more I thought about it, the more it began to resonate in a new way, especially in the context of our work at the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

In many ways, tradition is our mission.

We are the stewards of something enduring and deeply meaningful. Our traditions connect us across generations, *L'dor V'dor*. They ground us, give us identity, and remind us of who we are and where we come from. That work—preserving and strengthening Jewish life—is essential.

But the song doesn't stop there. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that while honoring tradition is vital, there is also a deep human need to explore, to grow, and to bring new ideas into the fold. Tradition is not meant to be static. It is meant to live.

And that's where our work becomes both exciting and challenging.

If we only preserve what has always been, we may maintain tradition—but we risk losing vibrancy. A thriving Jewish community requires not just continuity, but creativity. It requires new programs, new ideas, and new ways of engaging people at every stage of life.

That kind of innovation doesn't happen on its own. It is made possible through community members like you stepping up to volunteer and donate, giving both time and *tzedakah*. Generosity is not just a nice idea—it is the lifeblood of our community. It fuels the programs, experiences, and connections that bring Jewish life to life in meaningful ways

And when that happens, the impact is profound.

So, my call to action is twofold. First, consider volunteering with the KJA, or donating towards our Annual Campaign. Generosity and jumping into the movement usually fills you with as much joy as you are giving. And second, give the *Moana* soundtrack a listen – you never know what music will inspire you to act!

Our task is to honor the past while creating a future that is engaging, meaningful, and alive. It's about coming together—as a community—to invest in experiences that inspire, connect, and sustain us.

Because when we do that, we're not just maintaining tradition.

We're ensuring it thrives.

What the Knoxville Jewish Alliance Means to Me

By: Chip Rayman

In 2017, upon being invited to serve on the board of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance by Executive Director Deborah Oleshansky and Adam Brown, I replied that it would be an honor and a privilege. Shortly afterward, they asked me to serve as president. I said it would be the same honor and privilege. And it has been.

I do not know if I have ever gotten more out of an organization to which I have belonged. For one, after a 20-year absence, it reinvolved me in Jewish life which I have continued to this day. I still serve on the KJA Board as Chair of Facilities. I am approaching my tenth year on the KJA board. I continue to serve because at 81, it gives me purpose. I cannot do the physical labor as before, but I help compile and watch over the Facilities budget along with Administration and Pool. My wife, Brenda, and I planted daffodils as a part of the Worldwide Daffodil Project honoring and memorializing the 1.5 million Jewish children that were murdered during the Holocaust. I meet vendors and contractors on site at the Center, make facility related decisions, speak up at our board meetings, and am involved in two other beautification projects.

But, to my surprise, starting out, I was told and saw immediately that we were going to have to do without an Executive Director. We had been running a deficit, and my immediate goals were to eliminate those and start building revenue. As president, I called myself a “quasi executive director” as I had to deal with issues that crossed my desk.

During my tenure as president, we started out with little money. Then came Covid, and we had to lay off all of our staff except our three executive staff members. At one time, I was worried we were going to run out of cash. But I felt my years of managing small business helped bring us through. The government then came through with grants and loans of which we were able to take advantage, rehiring all of those laid off, and started expanding our preschool and camp trying to build revenues. When I left the presidency, we had built our cash reserves to high six figures. So, my work at the KJA gave me a great sense of pride and accomplishment. I felt I did a good job with the resources we had. I felt that I had found my place!

Most of all, I will cherish the wonderful people I got to meet and know that I would never have known otherwise. Heska Amuna Synagogue members are especially close to my heart, because they gave me great support and counsel.

Barbara Bernstein has more than once said the Knoxville Jewish Alliance is the most important Jewish institution in Knoxville. I have come to share her feelings. The KJA attempts to bring us all together, interact with each other and get to know others we may never have gotten to know otherwise. We need to do more, and I anticipate we will now that we have CEO Jesse Feld.

So, Honor, Privilege, Purpose, Reconnecting with Jewish Life, Pride, Fulfillment, Accomplishment, Friendship, a Sense of Place – these words describe what the Knoxville Jewish Alliance meant to me then and what it still means to me today.

A Full Circle Moment at Preschool at AJCC

By: Shawna Harp, Director of Curriculum, Preschool at AJCC



Hello! My name is Shawna Harp, and I am the new Director of Curriculum for the Preschool at AJCC.

My journey in early childhood education began right here at AJCC as a camp counselor at the Milton Collins Day Camp. After graduating from high school, my passion for working with young children continued to grow, and I was fortunate to become the preschool teacher for both the Bet and Gimel classrooms. Those two years of teaching at AJCC gave me the confidence to further my education by earning a degree in Early Childhood Development from the University of Tennessee.

After graduating from UT, I taught preschool at Thackston School for 17 wonderful years. I then joined

First Church Preschool, where I taught Pre-K for three years before becoming the Assistant Director, focusing on curriculum implementation and teacher professional development. After four years in that role, I became the Director of First Church Preschool.

Serving as director was an incredible opportunity, but I quickly realized that my true passion is being in classrooms, supporting teachers and helping young children thrive. That is what brings me the most joy, and I am so excited to be back in a role where I can do exactly that.

Outside of work, I have been married to my husband, Mickey, for 27 years, and together we have two sons, Tanner and Cameron. Tanner is a biologist and outdoor teacher at Ijams Nature Preschool. Cameron is a rising freshman at Maryville College, where he will be attending as a student-athlete this fall.

I am truly honored to be returning to AJCC and look forward to getting to know the children, families, and staff. I am excited to partner with our teachers as we continue creating meaningful learning experiences and a nurturing environment where every child can grow and thrive.

PJ Library's High Holiday Guide

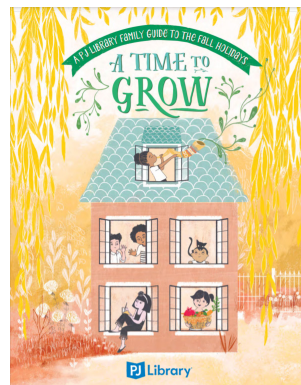
By: Anna Iroff-Bailey, KJA Director of Family Engagement

Have you seen the PJ Library Holiday guides? These beautiful resources include information, hands-on activities, conversation starters, and family rituals – everything you need to explore and celebrate the Jewish holidays at home. A Time to Grow, covers the beginning of the Jewish year with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. This guide is available from PJ Library, the PJ Library storefront on Amazon, or for free download at pjlibrary.org/fallholidays. You can download the complete guide in English, Spanish, Russian, or Portuguese!

One of the projects that jumped out at me this year is the "Letting Go" Collage to help children visualize the tashlich ritual on Rosh Hashanah. Rather than the traditional throwing breadcrumbs into the water, this activity has family members write or draw their mistakes on pieces of colorful paper. Then cut the paper into tiny pieces so you can't read the words anymore and use the pieces to create a colorful

collage. I love the idea of taking time as a family to acknowledge and let go of past mistakes while creating something new and beautiful to enter the new year.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah – wishing you all a happy, sweet new year!



Becoming a Story Bearer: Reflections from Israel

By: Tara Bain, Director of Community Engagement & Hillel at UTK

This summer, I had the privilege of joining 60 Hillel professionals from across North America on a week-long learning journey to Israel through Hillel International, made possible by the generous support of the Crown Family Philanthropies.

This was my first visit to Israel. Standing in Jerusalem's Old City, I was blessed to recite the *Shehecheyanu* with Rabbi Melissa Simon, Senior Director of Israel Education at Hillel International, and fellow Sipurim participants—a meaningful moment that marked the beginning of an unforgettable journey.

The purpose of the experience was not simply to visit Israel, but to become *story bearers*. We traveled to listen, learn, and engage with voices from across Israeli society to better understand how the country has changed since October 7 and what those changes mean for our work with Jewish students on campus. We arrived not seeking easy answers but hoping to leave with deeper understanding and greater empathy.

Throughout the week, we experienced moments of profound sorrow alongside inspiring resilience. At Mount Herzl, we visited the graves of those who have fallen since October 7. In Beit Shemesh, we met with a first responder who shared the aftermath of a missile striking a synagogue, and we had the honor of meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog at his residence. In East Jerusalem, we encountered the complexity of a city shaped by diverse histories and perspectives.

Some of the most difficult moments came while visiting Kibbutz Kfar Aza, the Nova Music Festival site, the Tatzpitaniot Memorial, and Sderot. Hearing firsthand accounts and standing in places forever changed by tragedy was heartbreaking and deeply humbling.

Yet Israel is also filled with remarkable life and hope. We experienced the energy of Tel Aviv's Shuk HaCarmel and Nahalat Binyamin and visited ANU – Museum of the Jewish People. I was also fortunate to reconnect with members of our Jewish Knoxville family, including former Hillel at UTK President Leah Faupel before she begins her year at Hebrew Union College and Knoxville's 2025–2026 Shinshinim, Noa and Tsur.

I returned home carrying stories of pain, resilience, courage, community, and hope. They are stories entrusted to us by the people we met, and they remind me that my work at Hillel is not simply about programming. It is about relationships. It is about helping students build connections to one another, to Israel, and to the broader Jewish people. For the opportunity to become a story bearer, I am deeply grateful. I look forward to sharing these stories and the lessons they carry with our community in the coming months.



Speaking To Text

By: *Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum*



In a New York Times essay entitled "The Flight From Conversation", Sherry Turkle recounts a new skill her students are trying to master. The task is to have a face-to-face conversation while looking that person in the eye the entire time, while simultaneously sending a text message to someone else. The disturbing part of this skill is not that it can be done, but that many people consider it to be essential.

Turkle does not advocate for the elimination of modern devices like our phones. Rather, she simply asks us to know their place. "Connecting in [small doses] may work for gathering discrete bits of information or for saying, 'I am thinking about you,'" she writes. "But connecting in [small doses] doesn't work as well when it comes to understanding and knowing one another. In conversation, we can attend to tone and nuance. In conversation, we are called upon to see things from another's point of view."

It's helpful to think of this when noting the behavior of Abraham as described in the initial Rosh Hashanah Torah reading. Specifically, he banishes his handmaiden Hagar and their son Ishmael with nary a word spoken between them. Of course, I'm not suggesting that Abraham was too busy sending a text message to talk to them. Rather, it's striking that he spends much more time talking to a foreign king while making a peace treaty, as we see later in the reading, than he does to members of his own family.

As Turkle notes, not every conversation needs to be drawn out, and there certainly is a place for a quick note here and there. But as the High Holidays draw near, it's worthwhile to consider our priorities when we communicate — are we speaking enough to the people we love, or are we putting more of our vocal energies to matters of less importance? May we strive to vocalize the words that matter most to us and the ones we love.

Membership News

By: *Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Membership Vice-Chair*

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Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum
Rabbi Shush Carson

Join us Sunday, August 23, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm

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and experience our
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Ha'Or Academy is Now Open!



Heska Amuna Synagogue and Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR) are thrilled to announce our new collaborative religious school. Ha'Or Academy will begin with grades Kindergarten through Fourth Grade in the 2026-2027 school year. Meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 12:30, Ha'Or will serve families from both synagogues as well as unaffiliated families in the Knoxville/Oak Ridge area.

Ha'Or is Hebrew for "the light" as well as standing for Heska Amuna/Oak Ridge. At Ha'Or we will shine a light on Jewish tradition, religion, culture, and history. We'll teach Hebrew language to prepare learners to read and understand Jewish prayer, helping them become full participants in synagogue life. We'll implement methods of integrated experiential learning to explore Jewish text, values, history, and mitzvot through the lens of the innovative Jewish Heroes curriculum. This curricular approach, developed originally in New England and expanded to other areas of the country, teaches a variety of subjects through the lens of people we call "Giborim" or "Heroes."

Our heroes include biblical characters like Abraham and Moses and Deborah, but also major historical figures like the Rambam (Maimonides) and modern era Jews who had a major impact on our world, including Theodor Herzl, Hannah Senesh, and Jonas Salk. Jewish identity is strengthened as students learn

about Jewish scientists, philosophers, musicians, and others who made contributions that lit the way forward, making our world brighter.

Two experienced local educators have been hired as co-directors of Ha'Or: Dale Rosenberg and Anna Iroff-Bailey. Anna works for the Knoxville Jewish Alliance as the PJ Library Professional for our area and the Director of Family Engagement at the Preschool at AJCC. Dale is a freelance Jewish educator teaching at a variety of settings and is also the rebbetzin of JCOR.

Ha'Or will meet at Heska Amuna for the fall semester and JCOR for the spring semester. Generous donations are keeping tuition costs low: \$450 a year with discounts for Heska and JCOR members and for multiple children in a family attending the school.

Dale and Anna are excited to be planning this new endeavor and are eager to engage with prospective families to tell you more about their backgrounds, skills, and vision for the school. They are also happy to help you register your children. They are available by email at haoracademytn@gmail.com.

The first class of Ha'Or's first year is Sunday, August 16, 2026.



**Registration
Open Now!**

Heska Amuna Synagogue - 5787 High Holy Days and Fall Holidays

SEPT. 5 (SAT.) 8:15P Selichot Service with Temple Beth-El (at Heska Amuna) led by Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, Gilya Schmidt, Rabbi Cantor Raina Sirotky, and Rabbi Ahuvah Lowenthal

SEPT 7 (MON.) 11A Cemetery Service (at the New Jewish Cemetery)

SEPT 11 (FRI.) 6P Erev Rosh Hashanah

SEPT 12 (SAT.) 9:30A 1st Day of Rosh Hashanah with Youth & Family Services (beginning at 10:30 am); Childcare (all hours)

SEPT 13 (SUN.) 9:30A 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah; Childcare (all hours)

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Lunch following Services sponsored by Barbara Bernstein in memory of Bernie Bernstein and Muriel Marvet

2P Tashlich - Cherokee Boulevard (following lunch)

SEPT 20 (SUN.) 6P Kol Nidre w/ musical prelude by Michael Soloway; Childcare (all hours)

SEPT 21 (MON.) 9:30A Yom Kippur Morning Services with Youth & Family Services (beginning at 10:30 am) and Childcare (all hours) * *Note: The synagogue will remain open all day for personal prayer & rest*

Yom Kippur afternoon study session following morning services

Yom Kippur afternoon meditative walk following the study session

5P Yom Kippur Mincha; Childcare (all hours)

6P Neilah (estimated time)

7:45P Havdalah and Break-the-Fast (estimated time)

SEPT 26 (SAT.) 10:00A 1st Day of Sukkot, Family Friendly Contemporary Shabbat with kiddush lunch in the Sukkah

SEPT 27 (SUN.) 9:30A 2nd Day of Sukkot, Traditional Service

OCT. 3 (SAT.) 9:30A Shmini Atzeret and Yizkor and Geshem

OCT 4 (SUN.) 9:30A Simchat Torah Morning services followed by lunch honoring our Hatan Torah and Kallat Bereishit

Here comes 5787

By: Laura Floyd, President

As we look toward the High Holy Days, we might take time to reflect on the year 5786. We celebrate Rosh Hashanah, September 11-13, with the sweetness of apples and honey. The time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is for contemplation and introspection. Where did we miss the mark last year? We need to forgive ourselves and seek forgiveness from anyone we may have offended or wronged and then come together for a day of fasting and prayer on Yom Kippur to be inscribed in the Book of Life for another year.

Sukkot begins Saturday, September 26. Our Sukkah will be open September 28-October 1 to enjoy. Please call the office at 865-522-0701 to let them know you are coming. Shemini

Atzeret will take place Saturday, October 3, at 9:30 am and Simchat Torah on Sunday, October 4, at 9:30 am. This year we will celebrate two volunteers who give so much time and care to Heska Amuna. Join us to dance the seven Hakaftot and read the end and the beginning of the torah.

On behalf of the Rabbi and Religious Services Committee, we wish you *L'Shana Tovah tikatevu*. May you be inscribed for a good year.

Contributions by Caring People

Through June 30, 2026

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Paul Cawn; Samuel Grusin
Mary Ann Merrell
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Linda Kutsubos
In Memory of Lewis Littmann;
Thomas Owens
Peggy & Mark Littmann

Achim Anachnu—We Are One Family

By: Raina Siroty, Rabbi Cantor



There is a beautiful teaching in our tradition that when God blessed Abraham, his descendants were compared to both the stars of the heavens and the sand upon the seashore. At first glance, these images seem to stand in contrast to one another. Stars shine individually, each with its own unique light. Sand, however, derives its strength from countless grains gathered together, forming a shoreline that withstands even the strongest waves.

As we enter the High Holy Days, these two images remind us of who we are called to be. Each of us has the ability—and the responsibility—to bring light into the world through acts of kindness, compassion, and justice. Yet Judaism has never imagined that we fulfill this calling alone. We are sustained by community, by shared prayer, by showing up for one another, and by remembering that our destinies are forever intertwined.

The past year has brought uncertainty, grief, and challenge both close to home and throughout the Jewish world. We carry concerns for Israel, for rising antisemitism both at home and abroad, and for the

divisions that can sometimes threaten to separate us. The Days of Awe do not ask us to ignore these realities. Instead, they invite us to bring our whole selves into the sanctuary—our gratitude and our grief, our confidence and our doubts, our joys and our fears. Jewish tradition teaches that all of these emotions have a place before God. Together, we will gain the courage to begin again.

This season also reminds us that the strength of our people has never rested solely on grand moments in history. It has always been found in the quiet, everyday acts of faithfulness, many of those acts found in the daily recited prayer of Eilu D'varim: visiting someone who is ill, comforting those who mourn, welcoming a new face into our community, teaching our children, raising our voices in prayer, and extending generosity to those in need. These seemingly ordinary acts become sacred when they are woven together, creating a community that reflects God's presence in the world. Every one of us has a role to play in that holy work.

When the shofar's call this High Holy Days pierces the silence, it reminds us that renewal is possible. It awakens us to repair broken relationships, to open our hearts more fully, and to recommit ourselves to the sacred work of building a stronger, more compassionate community. May we enter this new year with humility, resilience, and hope, trusting that even in uncertain times, we can be a source of light for one another.

L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu—may we all be inscribed for a year of blessing, health, peace, and sweetness.

New Beginnings, Together

By: Tara Dunn, President



One of the things I love most about the High Holy Days is that they remind us that life is full of opportunities for new beginnings.

Of course, Rosh Hashanah marks the start of a new year, but Judaism has always understood that renewal isn't limited to a date on the calendar. Throughout our lives, we experience new beginnings in countless ways—a new job, a

new friendship, a growing family, a move to a new community, a personal challenge that helps us see the world differently, or simply a fresh perspective that opens a new chapter in our journey.

The High Holy Days encourage us to recognize those moments and embrace them with intention. They invite us to reflect on where we've been, appreciate how we've grown, and consider where we want to go next. They remind us that no matter our age or stage in life, we are always capable of learning, changing, and becoming something more.

I have witnessed new beginnings unfolding every day. I see new members finding a Jewish home. I see longtime friendships growing stronger. I see families celebrating milestones, children discovering Jewish traditions, and individuals finding meaningful ways to connect with their community. What makes these moments especially meaningful is that we don't experience them alone. We celebrate together, support one another through challenges, and share the joys and opportunities that each new chapter brings. In a world that can sometimes feel disconnected, our Jewish community provides a place of belonging, friendship, and shared purpose.

As we enter this New Year, I am filled with gratitude for the many people who make our congregation such a welcoming and caring community. I am also excited about the future we are building together. The year ahead will bring its own opportunities, challenges, and new beginnings, and I am confident that we will meet them with the same spirit of kindness, resilience, and commitment that has always defined our community.

May these High Holy Days inspire each of us to embrace the possibilities before us, strengthen the connections that matter most, and approach the coming year with hope and optimism.

Tina's Farewell Dinner

We would like to announce the retirement of our beloved Tina Fleeman. Tina has been part of TBE for the past 14 years. We are saddened for her departure but excited about her new beginnings. Her husband, grandchildren, family, and garden await her. Thank you, Tina, for all you have done for us. You will truly be missed.



Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning

By: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director



Religious School begins Sunday, August 23rd 9:30-12:00.

Dr. Emily Aronoff is returning to Temple Beth El to help us kick off a great year! (RS #1)

Dr. Emily will spend the first day of school with us, and I cannot think of a better way to start off our school year! Dr. Emily Aronoff is an award-winning Jewish Educator and singer-songwriter. Her specialty is children's education. Emily will lead sessions for our "littles, our middles, and our bigs." During her last visit, she led an amazing parent session, with parents asking for more. Our teachers will be fortunate to have some in-service time with Dr. Emily after Religious School.

In June I attended the ISJL Conference in Charlotte, NC was on a panel discussing ways to collaborate with area colleges and universities. I shared the many ways we partner with the University of Tennessee through Hillel at UTK and the department of Jewish studies. We are happy to welcome two new Shinshinim this year. We cannot wait to meet them in August.

Rosh Hashanah Events for our students:

- TBERS will participate in the celebration at Deep Well Farm again this year. Date TBD
- September 21: RS will do a pre-Rosh Hashanah Tashlich service during school and eat Apples and Honey provided by Sisterhood. Our students love starting off the New Year with sweetness on their tongues. Thank you, Sisterhood, for all you do for us.
- September 23: There will be two separate Rosh Hashanah services for young people: Service for preschool-1st grade and service for 2nd-7th grade, both are at 9:00am
- RS students will sing, chant prayers, and bless and read Torah in the Rosh Hashanah morning service at 10:30am.
- September 28: The Confirmation Class will attend the Cemetery services at the Old and New Cemeteries.

Heads up for early October:

- October 1: No Midweek (Erev Yom Kippur)
- October 2: There will be two separate Rosh Hashanah services for young people: Service for preschool-1st grade and service for 2nd-7th grade, both are at 9:00am
- **Fall Break is October 5th-12th**
- **Sunday, October 5: Everyone is invited to help decorate the Sukkah 11:00-1:00. There is no RS that day.**

Joel Abraham Barnett to Become Bar Mitzvah

By: Joel's Family



We are so very pleased to announce Joel's Bar Mitzvah on Aug 1, 2026. Joel is heading into seventh grade at Seymour Junior High School this coming year, and likes to spend his free time golfing, hiking, and playing video games. Joel is kind, brilliant, hilarious, and impresses us daily with the grown-up he is becoming.

Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

Donations listed were received as of July 1, 2026

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Temple Beth El High Holy Day Schedule – 5787/2026

COMMUNITY SELICHOT SERVICE AT HESKA AMUNA

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5TH @ 8:15PM

ROSH HASHANAH (IN PERSON/WEBSITE/FACEBOOK)

SEPT 11 (FRI.) 7PM Erev Rosh Hashanah

SEPT 12 (SAT.) 9:00AM Children's Service

SEPT 12 (SAT.) 10:30AM Morning Service

SEPT 12 (SAT.) 12:45 PM Reception & Tashlich

YOM KIPPUR (IN PERSON/WEBSITE/FACEBOOK)

SEPT 13 (SUN.) 10AM/11AM Cemetery Service (Old/New)

SEPT 20 (SUN.) 7PM Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

SEPT 21 (MON.) 9AM Children & Youth Services

SEPT 21 (MON.) 10:30AM Morning Service

SEPT 21 (MON.) 12:45PM Congregant Hour-
Immediately following the service

SEPT 21 (MON.) 2PM Discussion/Study

SEPT 21 (MON.) 3PM Afternoon Service

Healing Service- *Immediately following the afternoon service*

SEPT 21 (MON.) 5PM Yizkor/Memorial Service &

Ne'ilah/Closing Service

BREAK-THE-FAST RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE FINAL SHOFAR BLAST

SUKKOT AND SIMCHAT TORAH (IN PERSON/WEBSITE/FACEBOOK)

SEPT 25 (FRI.) 6PM Decorate Sukkah (all are welcome)

SEPT 25 (FRI.) 7PM Sukkot Shabbat Service

OCT 2 (FRI.) 6:30PM Sukkot Yizkor

OCT 2 (FRI.) 7PM Simchat Torah Service

(HELP UNROLL THE ENTIRE TORAH AS WE JOYOUSLY CELEBRATE SIMCHAT TORAH)

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In Elul, Love Thyself

By: Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal, Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge



The month of Elul, which comes in mid-August this year, ushers in a time for self-reflection. We are accustomed to thinking about how we treated our loved ones and our community members this past year. We do well to also think about how we've treated ourselves. There's an important relationship between these two avenues of regard.

Mussar, the field of Jewish Ethics, teaches us to recognize that we have two inborn impulses. One is self-preservation, the impulse to serve one's own needs. The second is altruism, the impulse to serve others. A committed Mussar practice can help an individual optimally balance these equally important impulses. Much of the classic Mussar literature implies a readership of overly entitled people who need to wake up and begin paying attention to others. Contemporary Mussar literature recognizes a more varied readership. Of course, there still are readers who need to reduce their self-serving impulse and increase their other-serving impulse. But there are many dear souls who should more seriously address and satisfy their own needs, especially in comparison to the amount of caring thought and labor they are providing to others.

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is a famous exhortation in Parashat Kedoshim (Leviticus 19:18). Bereshit Rabba 24(8) records a discussion between Rabbi Akiva and Shimon ben Azzai. Akiva asserts that the greatest principle in Torah is "Love your neighbor as yourself." Ben Azzai disagrees, fearing that a person accustomed to being maltreated might well extend that maltreatment

to others: "Since I have been disparaged, let someone else be disparaged along with me; since I was cursed, let someone else be cursed along with me."

Instead, ben Azzai offers the verse Genesis 5:1 which concludes with the well-known concept of B'tzelem Elokim "...in the day that G-d created the human, G-d made the human in the likeness of G-d." On an analytical level, ben Azzai's verse does seem more comprehensive. And this verse also resounds on a more subtle, emotional level: that because each of us is made in the image of G-d, each of us is infinitely precious.

Rabbi Tanhuma continues: "If you do act like that [subjecting others to the maltreatment you may have received], know Who it is that you are disgracing: 'in the likeness of G-d, G-d made the human.'" To restate in the positive, if others have debased you, they have disgraced G-d, because you are precious. You have the chance to care for yourself, to heal yourself, to recognize yourself as the holy vessel you truly are. And then from that place of wholeness, you can break the cycle of debasement and treat others with lovingkindness.

There seems to be a dialectic of lovingkindness – in that love, when received can inspire the giving of love, and freely giving of love may in turn cause it to come back to you. In Pirkei Avot 4:1 ben Zoma similarly considers respect: "...who is honored? The one who is honored is the one who honors others."

These are all worthy ideas to reflect on in the month of Elul. The Hebrew letters that spell the word "Elul": aleph, lamed, vav, lamed are an acronym for "Ani l'dodi v'dodi li," a verse from Song of Songs that means "I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine." The Song of Songs is variously interpreted as a collection of love lyrics recited by two human lovers to each other, or as allegorical poetry expressing the love between G-d and the Jewish People. This Elul, I invite you to meditate on your own preciousness and belovedness to G-d and to others. And from that place of beauty, you can explore how to return that love.

A Wonderful Year Reflected at the Annual Meeting



JCOR High Holy Days & Holiday Schedule 2026/5787

EREV ROSH HASHANA

7:00P

Friday, September 11, 2026

ROSH HASHANA DAY 1

9:00A

Saturday, September 12, 2026

ROSH HASHANA CHILDREN'S SERVICE

10:00 -10:45A

Saturday, September 12, 2026

TASHLICH AT MELTON LAKE PARK (MARINA)

4:00P

Saturday, September 12, 2026

TASHLICH PICNIC AT MELTON LAKE PARK (MARINA)

5:00P

Saturday, September 12, 2026

ROSH HASHANA DAY 2

9:00A

Sunday, September 13, 2026

SHABBAT SHUVAH

10A

Saturday, September 19, 2026

KOL NIDRE

7:00P

Sunday, September 20, 2026

YOM KIPPUR SERVICE

9:00A

Monday, September 21, 2026

YOM KIPPUR CHILDREN'S SERVICE

10:00-10:45A

Monday, September 21, 2026

YOM KIPPUR REMEMBRANCE/YIZKOR

1:00 - 1:30P

Monday, September 21, 2026

YOM KIPPUR MINCHA

5:15P

Monday, September 21, 2026

YOM KIPPUR NEILAH

6:45P

Monday, September 21, 2026

YOM KIPPUR BREAK-FAST

8:14P

Monday, September 21, 2026

SHABBAT SUKKOT WITH KIDDUSH LUNCH IN THE SUKKAH

10:00A

Saturday, September 26, 2026

"SCI FI" IN THE SUKKAH

2:00P

Saturday, September 26, 2026

FAMILY BBQ IN THE SUKKAH

6:00P

Sunday, September 27, 2026

SHABBAT SHEMINI ATZERET WITH YIZKOR

10:00A

Saturday, October 3, 2026

SHABBAT SUKKOT WITH KIDDUSH LUNCH IN THE SUKKAH

1:00P

Saturday, October 3, 2026

INTERGENERATIONAL SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

4:00P

Sunday, October 4, 2026



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A Recap

By: Julie E. Stein, Chapter President



As this is the end of summer and beginning of school for many and of course the beginning of the Jewish New Year, it felt like the right time to take a moment to reflect on the last number of months as it relates to Hadassah.

In January, our local Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge chapter inducted a new board, of which I became the new President. Since, we have participated in several community events. For example, Hadassah hosted a wine, cheese, hot chocolate, and dessert event in

February and our annual Shabbat Zachor Service (this year co-hosted with the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge) in March. Chapter members also participated in Good Deeds Day in April and provided and sold bundt cakes at Knoxville in May. You lost out on some delicious items if you missed it!

In August, Hadassah is looking forward to its annual Membership Kickoff (please see the flyer in the following pages for more details), and while we do not have any events scheduled during September due to the High Holidays, we are looking forward to our annual Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) Fundraiser that will be November 8th this year from 12pm-3pm in West Knoxville (also look for the Save The Date announcement in the following pages). And finally, from all of us at the Hadassah Knoxville Oak-Ridge Chapter, we wish you and yours Shanah Tovah u'Metuka!!

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When Education Goes Beyond Books: Hadassah Is Here to Fight Antisemitism

By: Shuli Mesa

Antisemitism is not only rising; it is becoming harder to ignore. It now cuts across politics, appears in popular culture, and has made its way into classrooms and school communities. College campuses have received much of the national attention, and rightly so, but antisemitism in K-12 schools is too often overlooked. It exists there, too, and in some places, it is allowed to grow unchecked.

Across the country, dangerous anti-Israel rhetoric and, in some cases, threatening or violent protests have disrupted college campuses. Many Jewish students, faculty, and staff no longer feel fully safe in the places where they should be able to learn, teach, and belong. That is why, in addition to the American Antisemitism Act, Hadassah continues to advocate for legislation that directly addresses antisemitism in education.

The Countering Antisemitism Act would build on America's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism by establishing a National Coordinator to Counter Antisemitism within the White House, among other measures.

The Showing Up for Students Act would increase funding for the Office for Civil Rights through 2025, helping ensure that the Department of Education can more effectively protect the civil rights of Jewish students.

The Restoring Civility on Campus Act would require the Department of Education to investigate complaints of antisemitic discrimination at universities.

If you or someone you know experiences antisemitism, please report it to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights through its online reporting resource: <https://ocracas.ed.gov/>. Speaking up matters. Every report helps document antisemitism, hold institutions accountable, and ensure incidents are addressed. We must also check in regularly with students, make sure they are not being targeted or exposed to antisemitism, and remind them that they have recourse when incidents occur. Empowering our children begins with making sure they know they are supported. Most importantly, remember that you are not alone. Our Knoxville Jewish community may be small, but it is mighty, and your Hadassah family is always here to listen, support you, and share a cup of coffee when you need one.

Membership Kick Off - The Games People Play

**Sunday
August 30
3:00pm - 5:00pm**



JOIN US

- Play Hadassah Bingo
- Test your knowledge with Hadassah Trivia
- Reconnect with old friends and meet new BFFs while noshing on yummy treats



REGISTRATION

No cost to attend. Donations are greatly appreciated.

To receive the event location, you must RSVP online by 8/26

Please register with the QR code above or use this link: <https://bit.ly/Knoxvilleoakridgemembershipkickoff>

QUESTIONS?

Contact Anita Kay at anitakay64@gmail.com

According to Hadassah policy, advanced registration and a signed participant release are required for all events.

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Book Club News

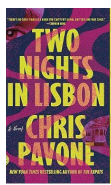
By: Rhonda Sternfels

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 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month, in a Zoom-only format, even if you don't read the book. We always welcome book suggestions. Email book suggestions for next year to Harriet Cooper: spock52@prodqiy.net



AUGUST 18: WHO KILLED THE RABBI'S WIFE BY SOL GOLUBOW FRANK WOLF

A Holocaust survivor turned private detective, teams up with his grandson Joel and Joel's wife, Aliya. When the wife of a prominent Brooklyn rabbi is brutally murdered, Frank uncovers a web of secrets, deceit, and betrayal within the tight-knit Jewish community. As they navigate family dynamics and unravel long-buried truths, the trio must determine who is truly complicit in the crime ... and why.



SEPTEMBER 15: TWO NIGHTS IN LISBON BY CHRIS PAVONE TAUTLY

Two Nights in Lisbon is a riveting thriller about a woman under pressure, and how far she will go when everything is on the line. Ariel Pryce wakes up in Lisbon, alone. Her husband is gone. Why does Ariel know so little about her new—much younger—husband? The clock is ticking. Ariel is increasingly frustrated and desperate, running out of time, and the one person in the world who can help is the one person she least wants to ask.

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

Jewish National Fund-USA

By: Peggy Littman

Hadassah has been supporting KKL-JNF, Jewish National Fund Israel, for a century and, more recently, JNF-USA, working together on environmental issues in Israel. I am excited to report what I learned after attending a meeting with two representatives from Jewish National Fund-USA. To quote Dov Gordon, Director of Small Communities, and Dr. Alan Fisher, Vice President, National Small Communities Committee:

Jewish National Fund-USA is the Zionist movement of this and the coming generations. Our vision is to build the most livable towns and cities in Israel's North and South to lower the cost of living and provide a high quality of life in regions that remain underdeveloped. We achieve that vision through our Circles of Impact; each project or program we support has a reverberating effect on multiple sectors within a community and region."

WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE INITIATIVES?

- The building of over 3,000 homes in the Galilee and Negev—with thousands more planned.
- The funding of agricultural and water research, the funding and building of reservoirs, drilling for water, and desalination.
- Funding programs and facilities that support people with disabilities.
- Partnering with local communities and local governments in the North and South to provide funding for planting 260 million trees, building schools, medical centers, parks, fortified playgrounds, bomb shelters, and more.
- Providing the largest programs for Zionist education in America. JNF-USA owns the Alexander Muss High School in Israel and supports the Union for Reform Judaism Heller High School program, also in Israel. These programs allow teens to live, study, and travel in Israel while earning high school and college credit.
- Offering trips to Israel for both Jewish and non-Jewish college students, faculty, Jewish professionals, congregations, folks with special interests, and those who want to see the many ways that their JNF-USA dollars are at work."

Dov and members of his national committee, who are all volunteers, travel the United States to communities with Jewish populations under 5,000, with a goal of educating community members about Jewish National Fund-USA's vision to help people invest in the future of our beloved homeland. Dov will be coming to Knoxville several times over the next year to gauge interest in Jewish National Fund-USA. Please reach out to Dov to set up a time to meet him next time he is in Knoxville at dgordon@jnf.org and help begin a relationship between this special organization and our community.

Check out the wonderful smorgasbord of JNF-USA-sponsored educational and volunteer trips to Israel: <https://www.jnf.org/travel>. To donate a tree for Israel through Hadassah and JNF-USA, contact Peggy Littmann, plittmann@comcast.net. You can help the Israeli desert bloom.

* Around 2017, JNF-USA became a separate charity from KKL-JNF (Israel) but continues to work with KKL-JNF on some joint projects.

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HIGH HOLIDAYS 2026

at Chabad of Knoxville

CELEBRATE. CONNECT. BE INSPIRED.



**Women's
High Holiday
Challah Bake**

Thursday,
September 17th

6:30pm

For more information or to
reserve your spot
www.chabadknoxville.org/challah-bake



**Shofar
in the Park**

Outdoor Shofar Blowing Service

 Sunday, Sep 13, 2026

 4pm

 @ KJDS Playground

 Shofar Blowing

 Special Rosh Hashana
activity for children

 Prayer and Songs

A project of Chabad of Knoxville

RSVP | www.chabadknoxville.org/park



CHABAD OF KNOXVILLE'S

**ROSH
HASHANA
Dinner**

 FRIDAY NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

 6:15 PM

 STANFORD EISENBERG
KNOXVILLE JEWISH
DAY SCHOOL MALL

CHABADKNOXVILLE.ORG/HH2026

CHABAD OF KNOXVILLE

SHABBAT

UNDER THE STARS
COMMUNITY DINNER

Celebrate Sukkot with Community over
delicious food, joy and a warm atmosphere!

 **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

 **6:30 PM**

 at Chabad's Huge Sukkah

 Bring a sweater & a smile  RSVP AT WWW.CHABADKNOXVILLE.ORG/STARS  \$25 PER PERSON



**ROSH
HASHANA**

SEPTEMBER 12 & 13

*First day falls on Shabbat,
shofar is only blown on Sunday.* 

&

YOM KIPPUR

BEGINS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
at night

ENDS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



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SERVICES LED BY RABBI YOSI



KIDS PROGRAM
LED BY ME



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sweet, meaningful new year.* 



 FOR SERVICE TIMES & TO RSVP: www.chabadknoxville.org/HH2026



To Fight Anti-Semitism Effectively, we need to Endow KJA's CRC

By: Stephen Rosen

The KJA Community Relations Committee is our best spokes-vehicle in the general community. The committee was led for years by Arnold Cohen and he recently passed the baton to Karen Robinson. Unfortunately, Mrs. Robinson recently passed away and KJA leadership is in the process of reforming the committee. In the past, we had lots of allies and the pleasure of being reactive when ugliness and ignorance popped up like weed. Now, antisemitism is spreading more like a fungus among us. A recent AP-Norc Poll showed support for Israel dropping far and fast. Overall, it seems to be more correlated with age than just political point of view. Furthermore, the distinction between anti-Israel bias and antisemitism is blurring. Going forward, we will need to be proactive and aggressive. Having the right people with the right skills in place is the job of KJA leadership. Providing the financial resources that are readily available in a changing world is the job of forward-thinking philanthropists. It would be a huge advantage for CRC if they had an endowment fund that provided financial muscle to go with their sharp minds and eloquent mouths. It is difficult to create a budget for the completely unknown so if money is part of the answer, they have to go looking. When you are fighting anti-Semitism, you really don't want to spend time fundraising first. What if the Community Relations Committee knew it had available resources when money can make a difference? I have always hated the phrase "the time is now and the need is great," but you may see that if we re-run this article next year.

How to Request a KJCFF Grant

KJCFF is only as good as the grants we make. If the money just accumulates in our family of funds, what does it matter? If our grant dollars build Jewish life in Knoxville, in Israel or around the world, then we are accomplishing something. If you have an idea for a program that would benefit an organization or the community at large, your efforts may be eligible for a grant from one of our KJCFF funds. We have a formal and professional process for making grants, but the starting point can be more casual. You can call or email Stephen with a quick description of your idea. We can respond fairly quickly and let you know if a grant is possible and appropriate. If we get past step one, we can provide a grant request form so that you can give it a shot. No promises and not all requests get funded. However, nothing bad ever comes from starting a conversation about moving our community forward.

You can shop KJCFF by emailing Stephen.rosen@raymondjames.com or calling 865-599-1853

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.

The Knosh Spot

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services

Apple & Date Challah Bread Pudding

Ingredients:

- Two 1-pound loaves of challah, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 20 cups)
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon apple liqueur, such as calvados
- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 medium apple, cut into ¼-inch pieces
- ½ cup pitted dates, cut into ¼-inch pieces
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, plus more for greasing

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper and spread the challah cubes evenly on the sheet. Bake until lightly toasted and golden, 15 to 20 minutes. Set aside to cool.
2. Whisk the sugar, eggs, and liqueur in a large bowl. Whisk in the milk and cream to combine. Add the toasted challah and gently toss the mixture to evenly coat the cubes. Fold in the apple and dates and allow to soak for 15 minutes.
3. Lightly grease a 9-inch by 13-inch baking dish with butter and spread the bread mixture evenly in the dish. Drizzle with the melted butter and cover the surface of the bread pudding with foil (grease the foil lightly to keep the underside from sticking to the pudding). Bake for 40 minutes until bubbling and cooked through.
4. Increase the oven to 425°F. Remove the foil and continue to bake until the top of the pudding is a deep golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool slightly and serve warm.

Sourced by Jewish Food Society

Written & Shared by Einat Admony

Emerging Voices in Jewish Studies, 2026-2027

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville warmly invites you to attend our Emerging Voices in Jewish Studies Zoom lecture series. With a particular focus on work featuring intersections between Jewish Studies and other fields of humanities scholarship, the Emerging Voices series aims to foster understanding of Jews and Judaism while contributing to the intellectual culture of the university. All events in this series take place on Zoom and are open to the general public. For full details, and to register for the talks, visit <http://tiny.utk.edu/emergingvoices>

Contact: Evan Goldstein, Associate Chair of the Program in Judaic Studies, egoldst9@utk.edu

SARAH ZAGER (St. Olaf College), "But I'm really a good person!": Jewish Thought, Moral Responsibility, and Contemporary Moral Discourse," **SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6 PM EST**

DOV HONICK (École pratique des hautes études), "How Christians Invented the Talmud: Jewish Stories and the Making of Medieval Anti-Judaism," **OCTOBER 22 AT 6 PM EST**

SARAH SCHWARTZMAN RAMSEY (University of Colorado), "Sacred Storytelling as Lived Religion in Contemporary Jewish American Women's Fiction," **NOVEMBER 10 AT 6 PM EST**

JULIA OLSON (University of Cincinnati), "Undoing Masculinity: The 'Woman as Humiliator' in the Book of Judges," **FEBRUARY 16 AT 6 PM EST**

RACHEL SLUTSKY (Seton Hall University), "Discerning the Deity's Will in Second Temple Literature," **MARCH 4 AT 6 PM EST**

OREN YIRMIYA (University of Toronto), "An Intertextual Alterity: North African Piyyut and Modern Mizrahi Hebrew Poetry," **APRIL 6 AT 6 PM EST**



JUDAIC STUDIES

Yahrzeits



Temple Beth El

August 7

Garrett Bickman • Jackie Bickman • Marie Elston • Samuel Gelber • Efim Golburt • Harold Karklin • Jacob Kimmet • Edward Lippner • Herbert Nash • Nancy Sauers • Pastor Serrato • Emilie Strasburger • Revera Wayburn

August 14

Abram Golburt • Albert Greenberg • Monroe Hecht • Benjamin Herrmann • Marcus Herrmann • Matvei Ioselev • Sara Pais • Alice Palmer • Anne Prial • John Ravin • Marvin Selk • Emanuel Taylor • Anne Weinstein

August 21

Fred Abel • Ida Altshuler • Zan Bailey • Jerome Bernstein • Anna Blatt • Angela Buie • Charles Evans • Daniel Goodman • Gilbert Klein • Toby Oknowsky • Philip Reiter • William Rosenbaum • Albert Sasson • Rose Shenkman • Rona Simon • Max Slome • Sidney Spero • Rebecca Winston

August 28

Armand Abel • Jacob Blaufeld • Natalie Feldman • Harold Garber • Morris Hochenberg • Meyer Kreisberg • Milton Levy • Frances Milligan • Nancy Nisely • George Palmer • David Sachs • Liliya Saftro • Lillian Sloane • Dora Stein • Trygg Trant

September 4

Hermine Beiler • Ida Bing • Zelmora Brody • Beatrice Bush • Ida Chandler • Mellitta Colland • Rudy Crohn • Frances Guthman • Jeanne Rockmaker • Ettica Rosenbaum • Isaac Rosenbaum • Ronald Rosenberg • Shirley Rosenberg • Emanuel Samuel • Khasya Shaposnikova • Ernest Wohl

September 11

Jane Allen • Bertha Bollag • Sylvia Butler • Arthur Copcutt • Harry Davis • Arthur Feinbaum • Ada Garber • Seymour Gerson • Julius Goodfriend • Helen Koffman • Helen Kurtz • Elaine Lewis • Renee Oury • Howard Rabin • Marilyn Rabin • Max Reich • Frida Ribak • Emanuel Schenkel • Celia Stein • Israel Weiss • Maurice Zauber

September 18

Ida Banov • William Coe • Max Derby • Florence Goetz • Harriet Goldman • Morris Goodfriend • Lillian Herzfeld • Max Herzfeld • Rose Kreisler • Stanley E. Levy • Sara Pasternak • Steve Reader • Linda Scheiner • Edwin Stein • Igor Tabakman

September 25

Robert Austin • Leon Bornes • Evan Brody • Jamie Brody • Lauren Fine • Henry Fribourg • Samuel Gassel • Adolph Gelber • K. Kennard Gross • Hans Haller • Julia Herrmann • Lenore Levine • Elbert Lipman • Shirley Schaffer • Sidney Tumpson

Yahrzeits



Heska Amuna Synagogue Yahrzeits

August 1

Abraham Bart · Shoshana Becker · Mollie Brietstein ·
Abraham Chaskin · Harry Fayonsky · Jacob Green ·
Joseph Herson · Diane Kempler · Hugo Klein · Janet
Krauss ·
Jim Nash · Lester Robinson · Abraham Rosenblatt ·
Katie Ross · Marian Schneider · David Wender ·
Abe Zwick

August 8

Caryl Arsenault · Esther Balloff · Dorothy Becker ·
Zeleg Berez · Etta Ducken · Jacob Geller · Sylvia Homer ·
Mervin Horn · Joseph Leeds · Thomas Miner ·
Sally Moskowitz · Barbara Oleshansky · Gussie Richer ·
Jane Rosenblatt · Steven Shersky · Anne Weinstein

August 15

Betty Billig · Estelle Binder · Ida Chandler · Paul Cooper ·
Julius Gruenberg · Oscar Isaacs · Marian Jay ·
Seymour Landis · Hyman Liberman · Muriel Marvet ·
Robert Messing · Albert Ring · Rabbi A.J. Robinson ·
Alfred Robinson · Morris Shorr · Molly Thorp ·
Rebecca Winston

August 22

Gerson Cooper · Rosa Deitch · Ethel Foster ·
Andy Frank · Ada Garber · Irving Goelman ·
Sylvia Greenfield · Lawrence Hahn · Max Hasden ·
Rebecca Krauss · Sylvia Leibowitz · Muriel Littmann ·
Rebecca F. Millen · Samuel Poster · Louis Roth ·
Edwin Schnoll · Shlomo Shloush · Tessie Siegel ·
Helen Tobe

August 29

Wolfe Brody · Adrian Burnett · Lillian Friedman ·
Daniel Goodman · Meyer Kreisberg · Carole Mandel ·
Hannah Nius · Anna Belle O'Brien · Louis Perelman ·
Freda Samet · A.C. Scott · Abraham Silber · Louis Slovis ·
Esther Webster · Robert Zalkin

Heska Amuna Synagogue Yahrzeits

September 5

Louise Anderson · Decia Bendriem · Sarah Billig ·
Mark Blumenthal · Jason Cayne · Molly Cohen ·
Harry Davis · Abraham Drutz · Sally Dyller ·
Walter Farkas · Erwin Herz · Sophie Merlin ·
Barbara Moody · Esther Perlberg ·
A. Stanley Robinson · Leah Schiff · William Zeff

September 12

Harold Bellin · Louis Billig · Suzanne Dryer ·
Hinda Farbowitz · Oscar Glazer · Esther Goldman ·
Jennye Grusin · Janet Gurwitch · Joseph Martin ·
Fred Millen · Albert Pasaris · Howard Pollio · Sylvia
Robinson · Martha Schwartz · Isadore Schwarzbart ·
Mazal Shloush · Yale Tauber · B.J. Thorpe ·
Jeffery Tinley, Sr. · Gertrude Weinstein

September 19

Esther Abrams · Ida Bart · Max Diamond · Ida Dwork ·
Emily Eads · Harry Glasman · Sylvia Greenberg ·
Morton Jacobson · Esther Jaffe · Marie Klinkowstein ·
Don Kremer · Rebecca Mazur · Sarah Millen ·
Adeline Shersky · Louis Slabosky · Louis Winick

September 26

Sam Balloff · Louis Bender · Lena Busch ·
Toba Davis · Alex Eichwald · Shmuel Farbowitz ·
Etka Farbowitz · Sadie Gabler · Joseph Green ·
Anna Gruenberg · Isaac Joffe · Bertha Krauss ·
Sydney Manas · Sarah Millner · Blima Schwarzbart ·
Samuel Schwarzbart · Bernard Shorr · Sylvia Slovis ·
Beatrice Sturm · Samuel Wise



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

The Way We Were in 1992 At the General Assembly (GA) of the CJF (Council of Jewish Federations) in New York City



Attending this event was Conrad **Koller**, executive director of the AJCC and the Knoxville Jewish Federation from 1987 to 1995, and Mike **Pousman**, the AJCC director from 1977 to 1981. Community members who attended include, from left to right, standing: the late Mike **Pousman**, Jeff **Becker**, Barbara **Bernstein**, Nancy **Becker**, mystery woman (probably not a community member, but please let us know if you can identify her). Seated: Ellen **Kern**, Conrad **Koller**.

Jeff, Barbara, Nancy, and Ellen continue to live in Knoxville.

From the 1980's into the 2000's, Knoxville sent member delegations to the CJF (later known as JFNA – Jewish Federations of North America) and, along with Memphis, Nashville, and Chattanooga, hosted the GA in Nashville in 2007. Your Archives collection includes many items from these conference events.

Thanks to Barbara **Bernstein** and Jeff **Becker** for help identifying details of this photograph.

The Archives shares photographs in “The Way We Were” only with your help. Send your photos of The Way We Were (including who, what, where, when) to archives@jewishknoxville.org.



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HaKOL is a joint community project.

Friday, August 21st

Shabbat at the Pool

featuring
Dr. Emily Aronoff

Join us for dinner, Kabbalat Shabbat,
and then enjoy the pool at the
Allen Rosen Aquatic Center.



Jewish
Congregation
of Oak Ridge



TEMPLE BETH EL
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