HaKOL

December 2024 • January 2025 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

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DYNAMIC LEARNING - GO RAMS!

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Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School

Dynamic Learning **08**
Holiday Celebrations **10**
Madagascar: A Musical Adventure, Jr. **11**

Heska Amuna Synagogue

Rabbi's & President's Messages **12**
Synagogue Programs in Early 2025 **13**
Hanukkah at HAS **14**
Contributions **14**

Temple Beth El

Rabbi's & President's Messages **16**
Religious School News **17**
Contributions **19**

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

President's Message **20**
Programming at the J **23**
Children & Youth **24**
Annual Campaign & Contributions **25**

Community

Community Calendar **04**
Community Event Highlights **05**
Hadassah of Knoxville-Oak Ridge **26**
Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds **30**
Chabad of Knoxville **31**
Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge **32**
Yahrzeits **37**
Archives: The Way We Were **39**

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

December 2024 Community Calendar

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
5:04P Candle Lighting
4:30P JFS Shabbat at Sherrill Hills – KJA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
6:04P Havdalah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
9:30A TBERS Maccabiah – TBE
4:00P Chanukah Music Fest - KJCFF

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
5:05P Candle Lighting
7:00P Chanukah Dinner – TBE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
6:06P Havdalah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
4:00P Community Hanukkah Festival

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
7:30P Book Club – Hadassah

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
6:30P Annual Meeting – KJA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
5:07P Candle Lighting
6:15P Festive Hanukkah Community Dinner - HAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
6:09P Havdalah

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
Chanukah – 1st Candle
5:49P Candle Lighting
Sundown in the Sukkah - KJA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26
Chanukah – 2nd Candle
5:50P Candle Lighting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
Chanukah – 3rd Candle
5:11P Candle Lighting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28
Chanukah – 4th Candle
6:13P Havdalah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
Chanukah – 5th Candle
5:52P Candle Lighting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
Chanukah – 6th Candle
5:53P Candle Lighting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
Chanukah – 7th Candle
5:53P Candle Lighting
9:00P New Year's Eve Party - Hadassah

January 2025 Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
Chanukah - 8th Candle
5:54P Candle Lighting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3
5:17P Candle Lighting
4:30P JFS Shabbat at Sherrill Hills – KJA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
6:18P Havdalah

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
5:23P Candle Lighting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
6:24P Havdalah

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
1:00P Pickling 101 - KJA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17
5:30P Candle Lighting
6:15P Festive Hanukkah Community Dinner – HA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
6:30P Havdalah
TBD Summer Camp in January – HA
TBD Winter Prom – KJA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
1:00P Pickling 101 - KJA
4:00P Madagascar: A Musical Adventure Jr. - KJDS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
7:30P Book Club - Hadassah

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
5:37P Candle Lighting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
6:37P Havdalah

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
1:00P Pickling 101 - KJA

MONDAY, JANUARY 27
5:30P Holocaust Scholar Kerry Wallach - Judaic Studies

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
TBD Dr. Gary Zola, Scholar in Residence - TBE

Calendar Highlights

Jewish Community Partners www.jewishknoxville.org

Community Hanukkah Festival **December 15, 2024 at 5:00pm at Arnstein Jewish Community Center**

Join the Jewish Community for latkes, music and pre-Hanukkah fun for all ages!

Contact Anna Iroff-Bailey, airoffbailey@jewishknoxville.org

Knoxville Jewish Alliance www.jewishknoxville.org

KJA 2024 Annual Meeting **December 19, 2024 - 6:30pm at Arnstein Jewish Community Center**

The KJA annual meeting is open to all KJA annual campaign donors and AJCC Members. Join us for wine and cheese while hearing updates on this year's accomplishments, learn about exciting plans ahead, and participate in key decisions that shape our future.

Contact Andrea Martindale ; office@jewishknoxville.org 865-690-6343 x6

Jewish Community of Oak Ridge www.jcortn.org

Family Ed and Chanukah Party **December 29, 2024 - 4:00pm at Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge**

Family Ed starts at 4:00 p.m. with a craft adventure for kids and an educational component for adults. Then at 5:00 p.m. we have our annual family Chanukah celebration with songs, candle lighting, and family fun and dinner. Kids get to try to break the piñata full of candy at the end!

Contact Rabbi Ahuvah, jcor.rabbi@gmail.com

KJDS www.kjds.org

KJDS Presents Madagascar A Musical Adventure JR. **January 19, 2025- 4 PM**
at Clayton Performing Arts Center at Pellissippi State Community College 10915 Hardin Valley Rd, Knoxville, TN 37932

The Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School proudly presents our all-school musical of Madagascar Jr. Based on the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture, Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR. follows all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar.

Contact Anna McDonald, Director of Admissions ; amcdonald@kjds.org 865-560-9922

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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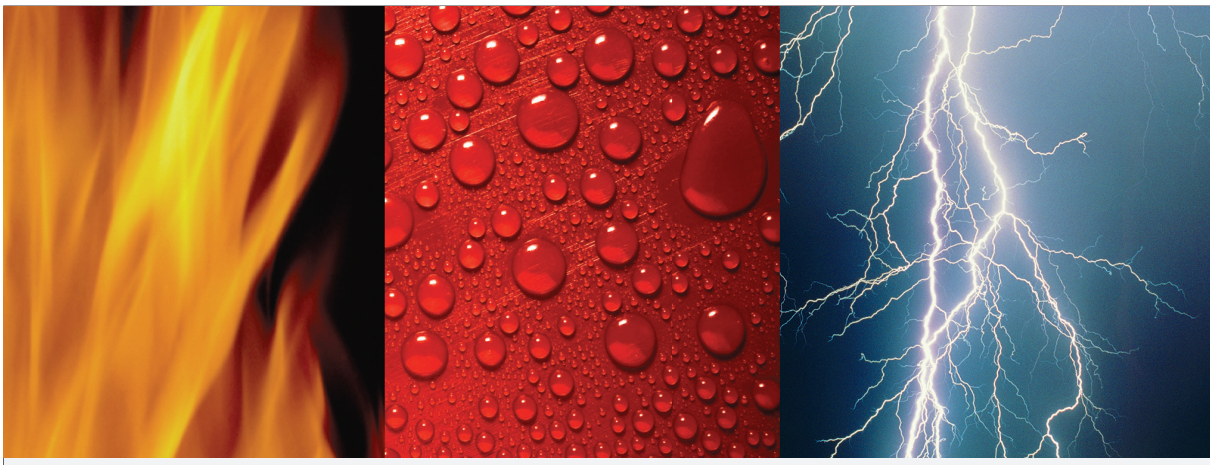

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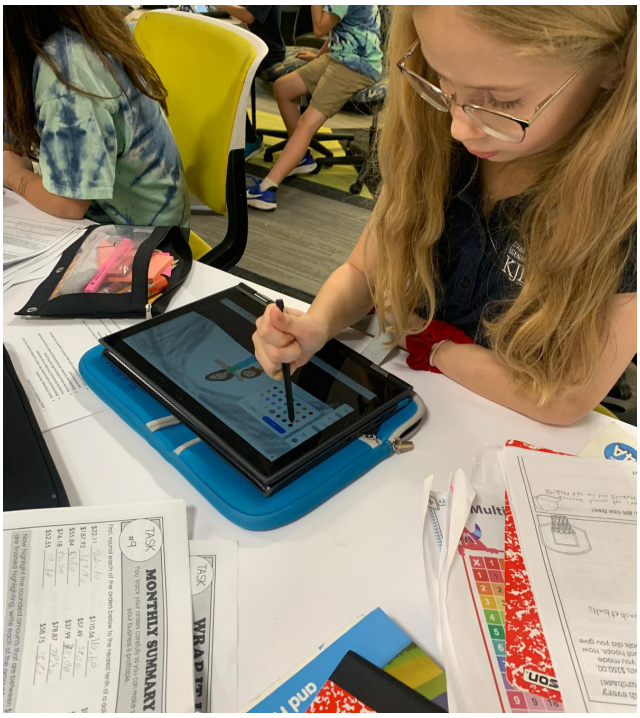
A Glimpse into Dynamic Learning at KJDS

By: Anna McDonald, Director of Admissions

At KJDS, we are dedicated to innovative education that brings learning to life in exciting new ways. Here are some recent snapshots showcasing our students engaging in dynamic, hands-on activities that promote creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. These images reflect the vibrant environment where our students thrive, featuring flexible learning spaces and technology integration. These experiences are shaping the educational journeys of young students, paving the way for their future success.



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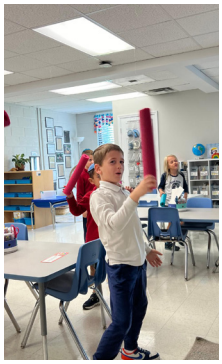

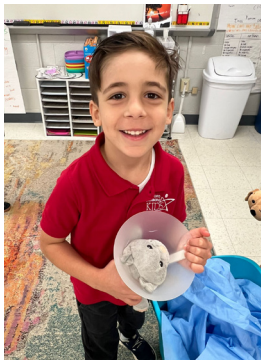

KIDS

Celebrating the Holidays Together

By: Anna McDonald, Director of Admissions

As the leaves turn and the seasons shift, our KJDS community has been bustling with joy and connection during our recent Jewish holiday celebrations. We embrace the spirit of the holidays in various ways with our students, sharing in our rich traditions, all while having fun!

Our Rosh Hashanah celebration was a highlight, featuring a wonderful program with our Special Friends. This gathering not only allowed us to honor the new year but also emphasized the importance of friendship and connection across generations in our community. The students and their Special Friends engaged in meaningful activities, sharing reflections and blessings that set a positive tone for the year ahead. The connections formed during this event truly exemplified the warmth and inclusivity of our KJDS community, as well as the wider Knoxville Jewish community. We're so grateful to our Special Friend volunteers for investing their time and love in our students.

Following Rosh Hashanah, we had a wonderful time at our annual Sukkah Hop! Students traveled from sukkah to sukkah within the community, experiencing the unique decorations, participating in fun activities, and the joy of togetherness. This cherished tradition allowed us to appreciate the diversity of our community's celebrations while fostering a sense of unity and friendship. Each stop on our hop brought unique experiences and an appreciation for the creativity within our community.

As we look ahead, we are excited about our upcoming Chanukah celebrations. Our students are already buzzing with anticipation for the festivities, including traditional games, delicious treats, and the lighting of the menorah. These celebrations are not just about the rituals; they embody the spirit of unity and joy that defines our school.

At Knoxville Jewish Day School, we are more than just a school; we are a close-knit community where every child can explore their identity and make lifelong friendships. Together, we celebrate our heritage, embracing the joy of being part of something larger than ourselves.

We can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds for our school community. Here's to more celebrations, more learning, and more joy as we journey together!

Wishing everyone a bright and joyous Chanukah season ahead!

Special friend, Emily Williams, poses with her buddies, Saul Oknowsky and Libby Allen Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Abraham Brietstein, Lukas Butcher, and Asher Harre enjoy decorating cupcakes together Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Susan Silber enjoys a spirited game during the Special Friends party Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Micah McClain and Alice Farkas play a fun Rosh Hashanah game together
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Liorah Callen and Clara Kimmet say the blessing with the lulav and etrog with Mendel Wilhelm

Ben Luftman, Debbie Rubinsky, and Aviva Lane delight in an interactive game together
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Ronel Bracy and Ella Ben Ishai partake in an activity together at their first sukkah stop
Credit: Nikki Sawyers

KJDS students enjoyed exploring the sukkah at Heska Amuna
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Aaliyah Messing, Mia Ben Moshe, and Lena Gilbert enjoy a treat together
Credit: Brooke Haskins

Sukkah Hop 2024 takes off! Credit: Brooke Haskins

Rabbi's Remarks

By: Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum

Bill Watterson's comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes" centered around the relationship between a six-year-old boy, Calvin, and his stuffed-animal tiger, Hobbes. While Watterson's humor is often childlike and playful, his words sometimes offered some profound ideas.

In one such cartoon, Calvin impatiently waits for his father to begin a family barbecue, but his father urges him to think of other things while he waits: "Here we are, it's a beautiful evening. It's nice to just sit here and look at the trees while we wait for the coals to get hot, don't you think? Dinner will be over soon, and afterward we'll be distracted with other things to do. But now we have a few minutes to ourselves to enjoy the evening … It's good that every now and then we have to wait for something."

Unfortunately, Calvin suggests instead that the family go to a fast-food restaurant. "Yeah, I know," his father replies. "You think you're going to be six all your life."

Even though the holiday of Hanukkah does not typically involve barbecues and sitting outside, it does provide a precious opportunity to soak in some enjoyable moments.

In the minor Talmudic tractate of Sofrim, the rabbis tell us that the Hanukkiah – the apparatus that holds our Hanukkah candles – is one of our most poignant symbols of beauty. They mention a verse from the Song of Songs, one of the Hebrew Bible's most beautiful poems, that says: "How fair you are, how beautiful!" (Song of Songs 7:7). According to these rabbis, the portion of the verse that says "How fair" should be attributed to the mezuzah, the scroll of parchment that we attach to our doorways. These mezuzot are usually stored in artistic and attractive cases.

Then, the rabbis tell us that the portion of the verse that says "how beautiful" refers to the Hanukkiah – not only because it is important for us to light the Hanukkah candles, but also to place our Hanukkiah next to a window, so that those inside and outside of our homes can witness its beauty.

Many of us enjoy Hanukkah for various reasons, but perhaps the moment when we light the candles is the very best. Most Hanukkah candles burn completely after only a short time – in many cases, after only thirty minutes. That time span can allow us the chance to take a deep breath, to watch the colors of the wax as the candles burn, to watch children play dreidel or other games. It is a half hour or so to watch and appreciate the beauty in our lives, the beauty that can take place by simply being together.

I hope that all of you will enjoy a Hanukkah in which beauty can enter your home.

Be The Light

By: Mary Ann Merrell, Heska Amuna President

In a planning session for our upcoming Hanukkah programs (don't miss them – they will for sure be grand fun), we spent some enjoyable time brainstorming many different lessons we could focus on that Hanukkah affords us – miracles of course, but also mighty Maccabean heroes in cool combat garb, real latkes, dreidels with maybe not real gelt, gathering family menorahs. (My favorite, Hershel of Ostropol, didn't make the short list). But Rivka Soloway reminded us of one of the easiest lessons to overlook at Hanukkah and one that, in my home growing up, was never the leading storyline. This most important lesson? What lighting a candle can mean to how we see our way in this world - not simply lighting a candle to represent the days of the holiday or to recall just how long the miracle lasted. But the idea of Hanukkah being a collect call to our heads, hearts, and souls to think more deeply about committing to finding a way for us to increase the light we nurture within ourselves and bringing that light to those in the world around us.

Even the structure of the way we light the candles

offers us endless ways to rethink how we can take a personal journey this Hanukkah. The beauty of the shamas, the candle we light first and in turn, light all other candles, gives us a starting point easy to overlook. The light of the shamas – essential every night - is never diminished as it takes on its task to light other candles. Rather the light of the shamas is magnified by its holy assignment; by the light of each candle lit, the shamas grows in the surrounding abundance of light it has sparked. Every day, we too have this power – to be a light not only to ourselves but to everyone, whether we know them by name or just by sight, or whether we cannot even see them or name them at all.

As Rivka reminded us in our meeting, according to Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, each of us has a special something, a unique light. It is our responsibility to find this not only for our own benefit but also for the benefit of all of Heska Amuna, all of our Knoxville community, all of this whole wide ole' world. What better way to rethink, reset, reengage, and rejoice in Hanukkah this year; instead of fighting the darkness, let us find ways to increase the light.
As Rivka also reminded us: Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.

Synagogue Programs in Early 2025

By: Marc Forman

Get ready for an exciting 5785 (2025)! The programming committee is planning to host many exciting and different events this year. Along with our traditional events we look forward to having Summer Camp in January. This camp fun and Havdalah service is planned for Saturday, January 18. Come enjoy camp food, games, and activities. Ending with a camp style Havdalah service.

We are also planning a New Member Luncheon for February, a family craft day and craft show for March, and the return of the Heska Amuna Family Picnic. If you would like to be part of the planning for any of these events, please contact the office.

Contributions by Caring People

Fall, 2024

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In Memory of Harold Diftler
Joyce Diftler

The Miracle of Hanukkah: A Time for Family, Hope, and the Spirit of the Maccabees

By: Rabbi Cantor Raina Siroty

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, is our cherished holiday that celebrates resilience, faith, and miracles. Each year, families we gather to light the menorah, spin dreidels, and share stories that connect one generation to the next. At the heart of Hanukkah lies the inspiring tale of the Maccabees, that small band of warriors who triumphed against overwhelming odds, reminding us of the power of hope and perseverance.

The historical roots of Hanukkah trace back to the second century BCE when the Maccabees rose up against the oppressive rule of the Seleucid Empire. Faced with the threat of cultural erasure, these brave fighters exemplified the strength of the human spirit. Their victory over a formidable army and the subsequent rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem symbolizes not just military success, but a profound commitment to their Jewish faith and identity.

As we gather to celebrate, the lighting of the menorah serves as a poignant reminder of the miracle that occurred during this time...that small amount of oil—enough to last just one day. Yet, miraculously, that oil burned for eight days, allowing the Temple to be revitalized. This event encapsulates the essence of Hanukkah: even in the darkest times, light can emerge, illuminating our path forward.

Did you know that spinning the dreidel isn't just a game? When the Seleucid authorities outlawed studying the Torah, Jews continued their practice of Bible discussion. They brought along a dreidel, so that if a Greek saw a group of Jews around a table, it would look like an innocent gambling game rather than illegal Bible study. This, we were told, was the origin of the connection between dreidels and Hanukkah. The dreidel, with its four sides and Hebrew letters, becomes a symbol of joy and unity, and sometimes a fierce competition between friends and family!

Hanukkah also serves as a time for reflection. It encourages us to contemplate our own challenges and the miracles that surround us daily. The spirit of the Maccabees inspires us to confront adversity with courage and determination. Each flicker of the menorah reminds us that hope is never lost, even in the face of uncertainty.

As we gather around the table this year, sharing latkes and sufganiyot, we honor our heritage and the enduring message of Hanukkah. This festival of lights encourages us to keep faith alive, to embrace the light within us, and to share that light with others. In doing so, we embody the true spirit of Hanukkah—celebrating the miracles in our lives and the love of family and friends.

Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning
December-January Update

By: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director

Chanukah is late this year, but the Chanukah fun will happen throughout December. Of course, our Religious School will provide exciting events for our students. We also encourage families to check out the many community events listed in HaKol. There is a special joy in sharing holidays as a community. Since our students will be on winter break for all of Chanukah, you will have opportunities to celebrate with out-of-town friends and family. The very best part of this holiday is the family home celebration. Consider creating a new tradition in your home or expand on old ones. Capture the fun on camera and send us some photos.

Maccabiah 2024 is December 8th during Religious School. Did you know that our Chanukah Maccabiah is over 20 years old? Assistant Director Tara Bain will once again create exciting and often hilarious games. Students will be grouped into "families" that include Pre-K through 9th graders. Teams Hay, Shin, Gimmel, and Nun will compete for the coveted Dreidel. Our parents will serve a latke luncheon with donuts, of course. Everyone, everyone, everyone is invited to come watch the competition at 11:00.

Chanukah Shabbat and latke dinner Friday, December 13th. Note the special times: Chanukah service at 6:00 and latke dinner at 6:45.
This Family service and dinner is a favorite for all. Our children will sing Chanukah songs and light the Chanukah menorah. The latke dinner will follow and includes special activities for the children. December gets busy, so put this on your calendar right away!

Winter Break is Wednesday, December 18th through Sunday, January 5th. Religious School will resume Wednesday, January 8th.

MLK Sunday on January 19th is a special day at Religious School. We DO have Religious School on MLK weekend. We focus on Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). This will be a day of hope and caring through lessons, activities, music, and prayer.

Pre-K through first grade celebrate Simchat Torah with the Shinshinim.

It's not too late! Do you have children ages 4(going to K next fall) through rising 10th grade who would enjoy spending time with wonderful Jewish children and amazing teachers? Consider our Temple Beth El Religious School. Norma James would love to talk to you about our program. Contact her directly at normajames@tbeknox.org to set up a meeting, FaceTime, Zoom, or phone call

My First Chanukah

By: Dan McLaughlin, President

As a "Jew by choice ", Chanukah will always hold a special place in my heart. It was the first holiday my multi-faith household celebrated together.

My wife spent months researching the traditions and what meals to make. She made sure the holiday decorations were divided evenly between the two holidays. My kids made sure they were around every night. Even my mother made sure she sent eight gifts to me a month early. Each one marked with number so I would know when to open them.

Was it stressful and far from perfect? Of course. But that is what made the time that much more special. My family loved and supported me enough to do all they could to make my first Chanukah one to remember.

I hope the holidays, however you celebrate, bring you joy and love.

Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

Donations listed were received as of October 25, 2024

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David and Vivian Butler
In memory of Sylvia Butler

President's Message

By: Judith Rosenberg, KJA President

Dear Community Members,

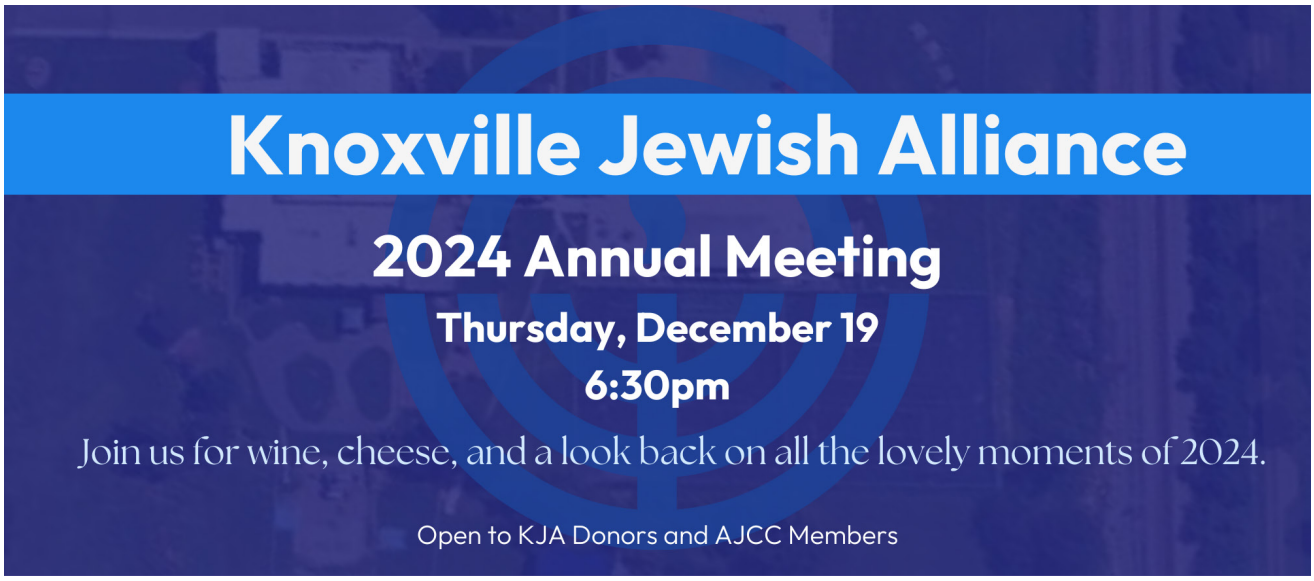
We set out clocks back last night (or, they did it themselves!). As I type this, the sun is streaming into my office. I love it, and it's also obnoxious. It's so bright and beautiful, and feels like it's taunting me as we enter into the next few months of less light, less warmth, more hours in the dark.

But Chanukah helps me out.

I have come to love Chanukah in a different way as an adult. I love the story of the Maccabees and their triumph, the messages this observance brings us about justice and freedom, of good winning over evil, of renewal...and yes, of miracles.

As we light the menorah every night, we add more light to the world during the days of the year that are literally the shortest and with the least amount of daylight. And when we follow the custom of putting one in our windows for the world to see, we honor generations of Jews who have done this same thing for so many years. We remember those who are no longer able to kindle the flames and watch them burn. We hold space for those who are too scared or unsure to celebrate openly. For me personally, I am reminded of my own place within our Jewish community, and hopefully this year I'll recommit to trying to make it a little bit brighter – every day.

Chag Sameach! Happy Chanukah!
Shine your light brightly! Our community needs you!



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AJCC Members save $10 per class!

One Community, One Commemoration, One Year.

By: Anna Iroff-Bailey, KJA Director of Jewish Life

Our community came together to mark the one year anniversary of Hamas's violent attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, which killed over 1,200 innocent people, took over 250 people hostage, and shattering the global Jewish community's sense of safety. Together, we mourned the lives lost, prayed for the safe return of the hostages, honored the heroes who defend Israel, and reaffirmed our community's strength and commitment to Israel and its people. Adults viewed the devastating documentary #Nova, while teens honored heroes and learned about the hostages, and younger children learned about life in Israel and what it means to be brave. Special thanks to our Shinshinim (Israeli youth ambassadors) Noa and Tsur for their work with our teens and for creating meaningful exhibits in the Schwarzbart Gallery. This program was supported by a grant from Jewish Federations of North America and their generous donors.

Credit for Photos: Jared Iroff-Bailey

Preschool at AJCC: Jewish Values & Culture

By: Louise Lindsay, Director of Preschool at AJCC, and Anna Iroff-Bailey, KJA Director of Jewish Life

The mission of the Preschool at AJCC states that our learning center is "guided by Jewish values and culture" as we also "embrace all faiths". How does this look in real life?

We recognize that many of our students and most of our staff are not Jewish, AND they are choosing to learn and work at a Jewish-based preschool. Appreciation for our emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and welcoming attitude is one of the most important things we hear from families who choose our program. We teach ABOUT Judaism especially Jewish values, holidays, and culture. We are not a religious school, so we don't teach theology, ritual practice, or prayer.

We teach and model values like tikkun olam (making the world a better place) through projects like creating bird feeders, collecting items for PAWS and Hurricane Helene relief, making thank you cards for firefighters, and more. We celebrate the joy of the Jewish holidays with school-wide family parties such as our Sukkah decorating party, Hanukkah Hop, and Purim Carnival. Every Friday starts with Shabbat Party with singing, puppets, books, and special guests.

The fun spreads through the entire school, from the youngest infants watching the big kids dance, to the preschoolers calling out for their favorite Shabbat songs and puppet friends, and even the teachers choosing Shabbat helpers who have met an individual goal or celebrated a birthday that week. Noa and Tsur, our community Shinshinim, are bringing a special deliciousness to Shabbat this year by leading Shabbat cooking classes for our 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds. As the Judaica specialist, Ms. Anna goes into all of our classrooms for weekly Judaica classes. These lessons focus on holidays, values and Hebrew vocabulary related to the curriculum, Israel, and mitzvot. As a play-based school, our lessons are fun and hands-on, incorporating books, songs, dancing, games, and art projects. For example, during the "All About Me" unit, our Judaica lessons focused on learning body part names in Hebrew; during the "Fall" unit, our teachers had construction materials for the children to build "sukkot" in the classroom; and right before Thanksgiving, we learn and practice the Jewish value of hachnasat orchim, welcoming guests. The Preschool at AJCC is truly a warm, joyful community, where curious learners are empowered to play, learn, explore, and grow!

Our Israeli Shinshinim regularly bake challah and other treats with our older classes.

Ms. Anna leads a weekly Shabbat party with her dinosaur friend!

The Het class drive for Knox PAWS (Placing Animals with Seniors) was a successful mitzvah project, donating over $500 worth of pet food and supplies!

Parents and grandparents joined to decorate and celebrate our community sukkah!

Annual Campaign

By: Renee' Hyatt, KJA Vice President of Campaign

I want to start by expressing my thanks and gratitude to our awesome volunteer solicitors: Barbara Bernstein, Judy Brietstein, Adam Brown, Cody Hanford, Marilyn Liberman, Susan Millis, Rosalie Nagler, Valerie Rosenbaum, Hilary Schreiter, and Larry Silverstein. Each of these individuals have shown their dedication to Campaign for many years, which has benefited us all. Please tell them "Thank you!" when you see them.

Thanks also goes to the members of our KJA Board of Directors who solicited pledges this year. I will remind you these people have also volunteered their time: to plan and direct the operations of the Preschool at the AJCC, Milton Collins Day Camp, Hillel at UTK as well as KJA's social and cultural programs.

I want to give a special shout-out to Andrea Martindale, Office Administrator, who has responded enthusiastically to every request I have made. I also want to thank Ed Hunter, Tara Bain, and Anna Iroff-Bailey for their valuable roles in helping our Campaign and their devoted day-to-day work for our Alliance.

My greatest thanks go to those of you who have already made your pledge for 2024. Your generosity is appreciated, your support is valued, and you are leading us into a secure future.

I know many of you have intended to make your pledge, and you can do so NOW by

- Scanning the QR code
- Clicking DONATE at www.jewishknoxville.org
- Calling the KJA office 865-690-6343
- Write a check and mail to: KJA, 6800 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.

With your help, we will reach our 2024 goal of $290,000, and you will insure a vibrant future for Jewish life in East Tennessee.

Contributions

Donations listed were received as of November 1, 2024

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President's Thoughts

By: Barbara Mintz, President

Let's reflect on Hadassah's medical accomplishments in 5784. In October 2024 Hadassah listed some of its major accomplishments. Here is a snapshot of them:

Leading the Way in Medical Care, Treatments, and Research

- successfully reconstructed a soldier's shattered knee using a 3D printer
- identified significant beneficial effects of repeated stem cell injections
- engaged in clinical trials using stem cells to suppress the progression of multiple sclerosis,
- major breakthrough in personalized cancer care utilizing artificial intelligence
- found a direct link between lack of sleep and suicidal thoughts in youth
- reported how gender bias in Israeli and American ERs impacts treatment.
- treated complicated injuries of hundreds of war-wounded patients.
- Moved the first patients into its reimagined Round Building
- Added more safe underground floors to protect patients and staff
- discovered genetic mutations common in Arab women
- The Gandel Rehabilitation Center opened and has already worked with hundreds in the War-Wounded Department with state-of-the-art equipment and comprehensive mental health services.

Accolades for Hadassah this Year:

- Hadassah's hospitals were named AGAIN by Newsweek as global leaders in cardiology and oncology in its list of the World's Best Specialized Hospitals.
- The Hadassah Medical Organization's Cardio-Oncology Center was declared Israel's first Center of Excellence by the International Cardio-Oncology Society, a notable accomplishment as the field of cardio-oncology is still developing in Israel.
- Hadassah received a four-star rating on Charity Navigator. According to its website, "If this organization aligns with your passions and values, you can give with confidence."

Gandel Rehabilitation Center: An Update

By: Barbara Mintz, Chapter President

Below are excerpts from a speech by Dr. Ruth Elimelech, the head of psychological services at Hadassah Medical Center's Gandel Rehabilitation Center in Israel, reported by hadassah.org.

Since Oct. 7, the Center sees different patients with gunshots, shrapnel, amputations, and burns. It's a younger population of soldiers and civilians. The goal of rehab is to give patients a return to meaningful lives where they can function across everyday activities. Psychology plays an important step in making that return. The psychological aspect of treatment has become even more important in preventing lasting damage.

She added, "We aim to prevent chronic psychological illness like post-traumatic stress disorders, anxiety disorders or depression... Having the intervention close in time to the traumatic incidents is a great opportunity to work on it effectively".

Therapy there addresses all the dimensions of time so they process the past events, in a trauma-focused method, and whatever they went through since they were injured which has been really challenging. As traumatic memories begin to resurface they deal with feelings of survivor's guilt, damaged self-image, losses of lives, and more. They also help them to plan their futures.

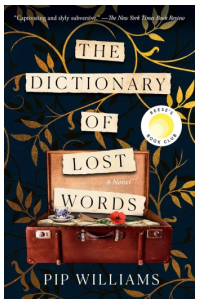
Elimelech is the mother of a soldier who has spent over six months fighting in Gaza; that aspect of her life has crossed over into her professional work and helped build a real partnership with patients and personal. She treats each patient as if they were her son. Hadassah has given staff weekly meetings with a trauma professional to provide them with support as well.

She wants the American Jewish community to know what Hadassah hospitals are handling and what challenges staff and Israelis are going through. She also wants us to know that at Hadassah "we're doing the best therapy in all the domains that can give our heroes - our soldiers - the best".

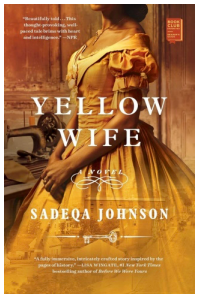
Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Book Club News

By: Rhonda Sternfels

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



Dec.17 - The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams
Inspired by actual events, this book delves into the archives of the Oxford English Dictionary to celebrate words and the power of language. The daughter of a lexicographer devotes her life to an alternate dictionary, focusing on women and their contributions.



Jan. 16 - Yellow Wife by Sadequa Johnson
This story follows the life of an enslaved woman forced to barter love and freedom while living in the most infamous slave jail in Virginia. This is a realistic tale of survival and making the most of the life you have.

2025 Book Selections: To Be Decided

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

Sushi in the Sukkah; More than a Tasty Treat

By: Shuli Mesa

One of the dishes linked to Sukkot is stuffed foods, particularly vegetables, which represent the abundance of the harvest, like what the cornucopia does during Thanksgiving. Traditionally grape leaves and stuffed cabbage are on the menu, but sushi fits the bill while adding a fun modern twist.
A special thank you to Brooke and Rick Jacobs for opening their home and their Sukkah to us. The fire pit roared, and the lulav and etrog shook. Thank you to everyone who helped with the set-up and breakdown. Surprisingly, sushi has many small parts, from chopsticks to soy sauce dishes. Thank you to everyone who joined us and partook in our sushi experiment.

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Knoxville – Oak Ridge

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rachelsafer94@gmail.com

location will be given after ,
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KJCFF's 25th Anniversary Chanukkah Music Fest December 8 at AJCC 4pm

By Stephen Rosen

It seems like just yesterday Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Jeff Becker, and Bernie Rosenblatt were putting together a vision for the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds. This team knew that philanthropy was the best partnership of the past, present, and future in securing a vibrant Jewish community. Brilliantly, they chose a structure that was a joint effort of the Knoxville Jewish Federation (now KJA) and the East Tennessee Foundation. They gathered a board of people committed to the long-term goals of our community. Some have stayed through the life of KJCFF… Jacki Imbrey, Dick Jacobstein, Scott Hahn, and Arnold Cohen. We also remember Bernie Bernstein and Pace Robinson who both started day 1 and worked for the rest of their lives. KJCFF opened its doors in 1999 with 3 funds given by Sam and Esther Rosen. Today, KJCFF proudly holds 85 funds and over $5 million in assets. We didn't do this on our own. The partnerships with Heska Amuna, Knoxville Jewish Day School and Knoxville Jewish Alliance have only grown larger in size and stronger in our optimism for the future. Please join us Sunday, December 8 at the AJCC's Caller Auditorium at 4 pm. We will enjoy a wonderful Chanukah Music Fest produced by Brian Salesky with a cast of professional opera soloists. You won't want to miss this chance to kick off the next 25 years!

The Knoxville Jewish Community Needs a Fund for Safety and Security

By: Stephen Rosen

You may be aware that our facility-based organizations have been successful in receiving federal grants for security-related physical improvements through the Department of Homeland Security. KJCFF will direct you to each of the organizations if you are interested in the dollar amounts and how the funds were spent. However, I will share that the grants are not sufficient to meet our community's security requirements, most specifically, the funds required for security personnel. Our agencies' budget stretches get harder as the national incidents of antisemitism grow. How will we secure our future security? Who pays for the police officers in the parking lot during High Holy Days, or to ensure our Preschool at AJCC families feel safe sending their kids to our facility? What about private security you don't even know is there for something like Knoshville? How about consulting services to educate the boards on how to respond to antisemitism? Under Judith Rosenberg's leadership, KJA has taken the lead on preparatory action. Who is ready to take the lead on permanent funding?

If you have interest in making sure we learn, pray, and play safely, please contact Stephen.

KJCFF now accepts online donations for all of our funds!

If you would like to donate to KJCFF, visit www.jewishknoxville.org/kjcff.

PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY
Knoxville Jewish Community
FAMILY OF FUNDS
EST. 1999

Chabad of Knoxville

By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

We just finished a whirlwind of a month of Jewish Holidays and what a joy filled, community bonding time it was. Leading up to Rosh Hashana was our fabulous Challah Bake where over 100 women got together to bake Challah, sing, dance and usher in a new year. This year's Challah bake was enhanced by our amazing emcee Jennifer Miller, National Home Shopping Host with JTV.

Getting ready for Rosh Hashana our Cteen held a pre-Rosh Hashana honey cake baking event. Competitions, games and fun led into honey cake baking where teens raised over $500 to sponsor a food truck for Israeli Soldiers.

And then came the whirlwind of the high holidays. A few highlights included our Rosh Hashana carnival as part of the kids' service on Rosh Hashana day, a delicious break the fast after Yom Kippur, Deli Day in the Sukkah, an epic Cteen Jeep Sukkah invasion, and a most memorable Simchat Torah.

As Simchat Torah marked a year since the horrific massacre Rabbi Yossi inspired us all to dance with those we lost "on our shoulders". It is hard to describe the energy and the unity that was felt on Simchat Torah. We celebrated, we honored, we rejoiced, and we danced with the Torah, because Am Yisrael Chai!
As the Simchat Torah prayer reads:

" Abraham rejoiced in the joy of Torah; Isaac rejoiced in the joy of Torah; Jacob rejoiced in the joy of Torah; ... Solomon rejoiced in the joy of Torah. Fortunate are you, Israel that G-d has chosen you, and given you the Torah as a heritage, a gift in the desert."
These words had special meaning this year. Abraham, the first Jew- rejoiced with the messages of the Torah (even before the actual Torah was given) as did every generation of Jews that followed in our illustrious history. There were times of joy and times of darkness, through the pain, through the sorrow and through the grief, we always rejoiced with that same Torah.

Singing, holding hands and dancing together in Knoxville, TN we also rejoiced with that very same Torah close to 4000 years after Abraham. After one of the hardest years the Jewish people have experienced since the holocaust we came together and danced. We chose to be the feet and dance with those who had lost their lives "on our shoulders".

With tears in our eyes, we danced with tremendous Joy. We recognized that it's the Torah that keeps our miraculous nation in existence, and we celebrated that in the most unifying and joyous way.

Rabbi's Corner

By: Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal

The once-in-many-years overlap this December of Hanukkah and Christmas has inspired some giggles. On the other hand, though it happens every year, we don't particularly pay attention to the overlap of Hannukah and reading of "the Joseph Cycle."

The main elements of the story of Joseph span three Torah portions: Vayeshev, Miketz, and Vayigash. It's a feature of the intersection of the Torah reading cycle and the holiday calendar that one of these parshayot always coincides with Hanukkah.

Joseph is an interesting figure. There are many lenses through which to consider him as a character. One way to view Joseph is through the lens of assimilation, and one way to view Hanukkah is through that same lens.

When we think about Hanukkah, we typically think about the cruse of oil that somehow lasted for eight nights, or the fight of the brave Maccabees. But beyond the miracle of the oil, beyond the fight for religious freedom, there is another story entirely. Based on the Books of Maccabees and Josephus' historical writings another picture emerges – one of internal strife in the early Jewish community.

Each Jew had to figure out how to relate to the dominant civilization of the time, the Greek culture, which was supported by the Seleucid rulers of the time. Different Israelites making different choices became a source of internecine conflict and even bloodshed.

Most Israelites were Hellenized to some degree. Some maintained their Jewish religious ways while still valuing and participating in the high Greek culture and its art, science, philosophy, literature, drama. They spoke Greek and took Greek names. Other Israelites completely assimilated into Greek culture, entirely parting ways with Jewish religious practice - even to the point of having surgery to undo their circumcisions.

And still other Israelites completely resisted Hellenization. One of these, the priest Mattathias whose family led the insurrection, began the Maccabee War by killing a fellow Jew. In 167 BCE, when told by a Seleucid Greek government representative under King Antiochus IV to offer a sacrifice to a Greek god, Mattathias refused to do so and responded violently. Before killing that Seleucid officer, Mattathias slew a fellow Jew who had stepped forward to comply.

A simplified spin on the Hanukkah story presents it as the struggle of the brave Maccabees to defend Jewish religious freedom. To be fair, the rule of Antiochus IV Epiphanes truly repressed Jewish ritual practice, banning such quintessentially Jewish practices as observing Shabbat and circumcising sons. Previous to the reign of that particular Seleucid, however, the situation was more complex.

For most of the Hellenistic period, Israel functioned as a culturally Greek state with freedom to practice its own religion. This freedom of religion was granted by Alexander the Great and his successors throughout the countries Alexander had conquered. However, there was a Jewish faction that saw any adoption of Greek education and culture as anti-Jewish, seeing our strength as residing in our distinctiveness. Anti-Hellenistic Jews often limited their co-religionists' choices, dictating strict cultural and ritual standards and punishing any intransigence.

Studying the Seleucid Era reveals the range of Jewish approaches to reckoning with the dominant culture. The parashayot of the Joseph Cycle, reflecting life about 2,000 years earlier, depicts Joseph as a clear example of assimilation. Joseph is much more Egyptian than Israelite. He speaks the

Egyptian language, takes an Egyptian name, marries an Egyptian woman, wears Egyptian clothes, and follows the Egyptian burial practice of embalming.

The question "to what degree do we assimilate into majority culture, and to what degree do we maintain our distinctiveness" is a timeless one. In the mid-twentieth century, as Jews became widely accepted into North American society, this acceptance worked hand in hand with the impulse to blend in. Many non-Orthodox Jews were ready to drop customs and ways that had set them apart from the dominant culture.

They felt no need to maintain distinctiveness in dress, food ways, names, choice of neighborhood they lived in, or where they sent their children to school. At the same time, Jews looked to maintain distinct religious institutions and practices. They aimed to be different enough to maintain their unique culture and sense of self, while similar enough to blend in and be accepted by the majority Christian society. The elevation of Hanukkah due to its temporal proximity to Christmas and the concomitant de-emphasis of major Jewish holidays like Sukkot and Shavuot are examples of American Jews trying for a balance of those competing impulses. Sharp increases in antisemitism in America over the past 20 years – and especially since October 7, 2023 – have left some American Jews wondering if we have gotten the balance right. Others wonder whether assimilation – to any degree – can protect us. It certainly did not help the mostly very assimilated Jewish community in 1930s Germany.

So here are some questions to consider at this time, as we approach celebrating Hanukkah at the same time our neighbors are celebrating Christmas:

How much distinctiveness should Jews maintain in a society and culture like ours that offers unprecedented opportunity and freedom?

How much distinctiveness can we maintain without putting our acceptance in jeopardy?

How much distinctiveness can we give up without losing our sense of self and of our heritage?

How can we instill in our children a pride in our heritage and our distinctiveness both as Americans and as Jews?

Some predict we will disappear if we blend too much and drop our distinctiveness, yet it is interesting to note that Joseph's ability to assimilate is ultimately what enabled the Israelites to survive the famine. Without his assimilation they would have starved. Through Jewish history, it seems to me that the ability to adapt to different circumstances ensured survival. The dispersion of the Jewish people into a worldwide Diaspora is largely what allowed us to continue as a People, and in many times and places to grow a thriving community. The different cultures we were exposed to and inwardly acculturated helped us to develop an abundance of Jewish contributions to literature, art, government, and so much more. And in times of oppression and attempted genocide, Diaspora ensured that some Jewish communities survived. After the Holocaust, for example, suddenly the American Jewish community was the largest in the world.

It's true that we blend and adapt, but I am also aware of a great resurgence in valuing Jewish distinctiveness in American culture. Practices that were considered too "Old World" a couple of generations ago have come back, often with a modern twist. The Tu BiSh'vat seder – originally an invention of 16th century Lurianic Kabbalah – is now practiced in Jewish settings all over the U.S., often with an ecological conservation message in addition to the mystical one the Kabbalists infused it with. Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – study on Erev Shavuot -- is practiced in many progressive Jewish congregations, with a broadening both of the study topics and the range of participants, as compared to generations ago. Young Jews of all genders are forming or participating in independent minyanim, chavurot, and synagogues – including many who grew up without Jewish practice or education. Yiddish, prayer wear, the wearing of Jewish symbols, the reclaiming of Jewish names – these are all making a comeback in certain circles.

That said, the striking increase in antisemitism in the U.S. has left many American Jews frightened. Practices of a more cautious era, like covering up a kippah with a baseball cap or putting a Magen David necklace under one's shirt in public are coming back, too. Many of us feel we need to balance our pride in our identity and our distinctiveness with guardedness about who knows that we are Jewish.

So where does this situate us this Hanukkah? Are we celebrating religious freedom, distinctive identity, or the ability to be included in larger society while still being ourselves? Why not celebrate all three? Let's strive to maintain and develop our Jewishness and our pride in our history and tradition while continuing to forge a safe place for Jews in our pluralistic democracy.

Family Ed in the Sukkah

Sukkot is a time for coming together and a time of joy. We enjoyed Kiddush Lunches, Wine Tasting, and Family Education with crafts. We saw the beginning of the changing of the seasons and offered hospitality to our friends and family in 2024, against a backdrop of pain. It is called resilience.

Rosh Hodesh

Sisterhood's Rosh Hodesh was all about Rainbows- from a scientific approach and the Torah. Wouldn't expect less from the Sisterhood of Oak Ridge!

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Exciting times at JCOR with the creation of a Cultural Alliance known as J.C.O.R.|C.A !! Our goal is to CONNECT!! We will be having fun with shared interests and building our community's positive energy. Follow our schedule in the JCOR Newsletter.

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December 6

Ben Altshuler • Shiela Belensen • Gladys Caller • Loretta Cohn • Jacob Corkland • Bessie Gelber • Thelma Ham • Ella Heart • Rose Holz • Arlene Karklin • Iris Kenton • Joseph Krinsky • Elise Levy • Werner Mangold • David Rayman • Eva Sturm

December 13

Nachum Barkan • Sondra Bressler • Ruth Brown • Phillip Engel • Mary Epstein • Anna Gassel • Matilda Goodfriend • Lillian Herrmann • Belar Koptiva • Emmett Ledbetter • Jennie Levitt • Edwin Miller • Jacob Pais • Joseph Rabin • Zakhar Sapozhnikov • Jacob Victor • Meyer Weintraub

December 20

Linda Barber • Frances Brody • Greer Brody • Gersh Dolgonos • Esther Feldman • James Friedman • Abraham Garber • Minnie Goldberger • Elise R. Guthman • Lillie Haas • Edith Hecht • Emily Keisler • Charles Manis • Jack Misner • Frances Pfeffer • Louis Pollock • Richard Raskin • Dorothy Reiter • William Rockmaker • Camille Sene • Benjamin Slate • Harold Winston • Naftule Zauber

December 27

Terry Bain • Lena Loveman Bloom • Eugene Cohn • Barbara Dillon • Mandel Epstein • Leah Freeman • Florence Straus Gerson • Sigmund Green • Robert Keisler • Risel Kronick • Ann Lieberman • Abraham Markman • Jacob Nechamkin • Ted Pais • Eileen Pucci • Charles Robinson • Samuel H. Robinson • Gertrude Tucker • Lena Walowitz • Lucy Williams

January 3

Rosa Bart • Mildred Bletz • Robert Bletz • Tammie Brodie • Harry Bronstein • William Egan • Alexander Feldblum • Irene Fox • Jean Fribourg • Luba Golburt • Ricka Goodfriend • Elizabeth Gunn • William Haas • Ida Kaminsky • Samuel Levy • Fannie Lindy • Sam Morrison • Lena Silverman Moskowitz • Pauline Orovan • Robert Oury • Sandy Parsons • John Pline • Esther Reich • Sanford (Sandy) Sachs • Abe Schwartz • Lillian S. Weiss • Ben Winick • Lois Wolpert • Raphael Wolpert

January 10

Ralph Barnett • Isadore Beiler • Marcus Bressler • Mandel Epstein • Mildred Erwin • William Hicks • Millie James • Lena B. Konigsberg • Robert (Bob) Parsons • Roger Simon • Arthur Slome • Harry Sturm • Helen Tumpson • Bella Zavels

January 17

Fannie Liebman Beiler • Walter Blaufeld • Minette Clark • Henrietta Feldblum • Henry Handler • Harold Stanley Harris • Milton Heller • Minnie Hochenberg • Elise Hyatt • Mary Kichler Licht • Marie Noon • Ceil Rosenberg • Helen Sandberg • Jacob Spiro • Samuel Webber • Stanley Webster • Robert Zivi • Max Zuckerman • Muriel Zuckerman

January 24

Maxine Arbital • Frank Bernard • Mary Bernard • Ethel Brown • Joseph Herman Bush • Bill Dillon • Robert Goldstein • Muriel Greenbert • Theodore Hecht • John Kelleher • Ella Marx • Cecil Nichols • Sarah Vendig Samuel • Irvin Shenkman • Alla Sherman • Joseph Soss • William Steinberg

January 31

Albert Bessel • Francis Buescher • Leo Diamond • Gustave Dreyfuss • Mike Evans • BettyAnn Feldblum • Frank Heart • Annie Joffe • Jay David Lee • Paul Lee • Lillian Leimsidor • Abraham Lewis • Selda Lewis • Regina W. Lippner • Charlotte Loebl • Boris Shusterman • Helen M. Siegel • Bernard Silverstein • Oscar Sisman • Fannie Spiro • Jeanne Vogelfang • Tom Watson • Evalyn B. Weiss • Carolyn Ziegler

Heska Amuna Synagogue YAHRZEITS

December 7, 2024

Lois Boiarsky · Jacob Corkland · John Gergely · Mike Gettinger · Sadie Ginsberg · Sadye Jacobs · Janette Kanfer · Nancy Lawhead · Lillian Liberman · Charles Margolies · Alan Merlin · Marilyn Presser · Dora Shersky Robert Shersky · Nathan Slovis · Eva Sturm

December 14, 2024

Sigmund Bank · Harry Becker · Eleanor Belaief · Rafael Benhayon · Rose R. Busch · Rachel Chazen · Isaac Chazen · Mattie Corkland · Charles Davis · Fanny Diamond · Rose Diftler · Maz Gabler · William Hershey · David Liberman · Meyer Linke · Norman Nadler · Morris Panitz · Helen Presser · Sol Richer · Alexander Sanders · Toby Schwartz · Murray Schwartz · Ida Siegal

December 21, 2024

Betty Abrams · Arthur Brown · Gustave Deitch · David Eisenberg · Benjamin Geller · Mordechai Golinkin · Sarah Green · Carol Harris · Irene Hershey · Bessie Hite · George Kramer · Bella Leeds · Isidor Lippner · Meyer Miller · Pace Robinson · Cindy Shepler · Thelma Weisberg · Fannie Werner

December 28, 2024

Ethel Deitch · Bernard Diamond · Eli Goldstein · Matilda Goodfriend · Sigmund Green · Eugene Gross · Mark Hahn · Louis Levin · Mitchell Robinson · Lesley Rosenblatt · Gertrude Weiner · Harold Winston · Max Wolf

January 4, 2025

Frances August · Hellen Billig · Simon Deitch · Ben Diftler · Alvin Ellin · Louis Glazer · Ida Glazer · Idell Harris · David Mandell · Samuel Rosen · Morris Schneider · Bernard Simon · Minnie Slovis · Henry Sturm · Florence Woolf · Benjamin Zwick

January 11, 2025

Lazarus Abrams · Bertha Bernstein · George Busch · Gerson M. Corkland · Samuel Forman · Dora Friedlob · Hyman Gabler · Robert Geller · Marion Goodstein · Max Isaacs · Benjamin Joffe · Minnie Kramer · Barbara Leeds · Louis Levin · Harry Lieberman · Arthur Meyer · Lottie Mottsman · Isadore Rosenblatt · Jacqueline Russler · Sam Saroff · William Shaw · Julius Siegel · Selma Vogel · Norma Wolf

January 18, 2025

Alice Abrams · Samuel Berbergal · Nathan Busch · Edna Cohen · Nathan Deitch · Taube Diftler · Max Euster · Leib Gabler · Aaron Glazer · Louis Gluck · Channah Goldstein · Terry Hahn · Adrian Harris · Louie Herbin · Rose Levy · Maurice Lieberman · Manuel Marvet · Sam Milmot · Jeannette Nichols · Herbert Ogle · Leon Saroff · Abraham Schwartz · Helen Shersky · Melvin Shorr · Laurence Soloway

January 25, 2025

David Abramson · Rafael Anidjaar · Mark Balloff · Rose Bart · Joseph Bernstein · Bella Bresoff · Bernard Cohn · Nathan Diftler · Israel Kauffman · Fannie Moskowitz · Leonard Rader · Stephen Sugarman · Stanley Webster · Ben Winick · Jill Witten

January 31, 2025

Beverly Abrams · Stanley Berry · Elaine Brown · David Cohen · Isaac Ducken · Jan Fay · Zelig Frumin · Eva Isaacs · Sybil Joffe · James Kutsubos, Jr. · Sam Morrison · Charles O'Brien · Mildred Schwartz · Milton Shamitz · Delia Skalet · Mae Stern

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

The Way We Were in 1965 or 1966

Heska Amuna Community Seder

Heska Amuna Synagogue dedicated its new building on Kingston Pike in December, 1960, but had no sanctuary until the Spring of 1969. This scene from a community Seder, most likely in 1965 or 1966, shows many of the participants, with the Ark off to the side and a memorial plaque behind the head table.

Today's community members have identified several people at the Seder. In front are Julius **Gruenberg**, Isadore **Schwarzbart**, and Mary Linda **Schwarzbart**. At the table behind them are Steven **Shersky**, possibly Anne **Wolf** with Max **Wolf** facing her, the next couple less certain though some think that's either Harold **Shersky** or his father Robert with Harold's wife Addie possibly facing him. At the table across from Steven **Shersky's** table are Harvey and Marilyn **Liberman**. Across from Harvey is David **Liberman**; next to him most likely is his wife Lillian. Behind the **Shersky** table is Barbara **Corkland** (profile visible). The table across from hers includes Isadore **Rosenblatt** and Mary **Corkland**. Across from Isadore, partly obscured by Harvey's head, may be Jake **Corkland**. Standing behind Isadore is Max **Weinstein**. Behind Mary **Corkland** is Sanford **Weinstein**. The man with glasses and dark hair whose profile is partially seen between Sanford and the server might be David **Weinstein** or Barry **Wolf**. Behind the server on the far right in a dark suit might be Brenda **Krauss**. To the right of the server's elbow is either Gert **Cohen** or Sarah **Robinson**. The head table has Rabbi Max **Zucker**, the cantor to his left, and Michael **Burnett** to his right.

The Archives thanks the many people who've contributed to identifying the event, its likely years, and some of the participants, particularly Mary Linda **Schwarzbart**, Michael **Burnett**, Deborah **Roberts**, Barbara **Bernstein**, Arnold **Cohen**, and Doug **Weinstein**.

To learn more about this Seder, the people noted in this photograph and their relationship to current Knoxvillians, please view https://www.jewishknoxville.org/archives. If you can help identify any other people in the photograph, or offer an opinion on those noted here, please email the Archives at archives@jewishknoxville.org.

The Archives needs your photographs! Send your photos of "The Way We Were" (identifying who, what, when, where) to archives@jewishknoxville.org, or contact the archivist at (865) 690-6343.

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