

# HAKOL

June • July 2026 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

## HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE

CELEBRATING OUR 2026 GRADUATES



# Class OF 2026

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

A TIME TO CELEBRATE, REST, AND RENEW

**KNOXVILLE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL**

THE CLASS THAT GREW WITH US

**KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE**

MEET OUR NEW CEO:

A HOMECOMING & NEW BEGINNING

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY  
THROUGH THE JEWISH KNOXVILLE  
BIMONTHLY MAGAZINE.

Tara Bain, KJA Director of Community Engagement  
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*Mazel tov to all graduates, from preschool through grad school! We celebrate you!*

**HaKOL Monthly Publication**

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KJA Director of Community Engagement

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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:  
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865-690-6343

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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

### June 2026 Community Calendar

<p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 5</b> 8:31P Candle Lighting</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, JUNE 11</b> 2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong – HAS</p>	<p><b>MONDAY, JUNE 15</b> 9:30A Halen &amp; Ansel Presser B’nai Mitzvot - HAS</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 19</b> 8:37P Candle Lighting</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 6</b> 9:35P Havdalah</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 12</b> 7:00P Pride Shabbat Service - TBE</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY, JUNE 16</b> 6:00P Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - TBE</p>	<p>7:00P Board Installation - TBE</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY, JUNE 7</b> 11:00A Annual Congregational Meeting – HAS</p>	<p>8:35P Candle Lighting</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, JUNE 18</b> 2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong – HAS</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 20</b> 9:41P Havdalah</p>
<p>3:00P Jesse Feld Public Welcome Reception - KJA</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 13</b> 9:39P Havdalah</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, JUNE 26</b> 8:38P Candle Lighting</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JUNE 27</b> 9:42P Havdalah</p>
	<p><b>SUNDAY, JUNE 14</b> 12:30P Silent Auction &amp; Game Day – HAD</p>		

### July 2026 Community Calendar

<p><b>THURSDAY, JULY 2</b> 2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong – HAS</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 11</b> 9:39P Havdalah</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 17</b> 8:33P Candle Lighting</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 25</b> 9:29P Havdalah</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 3</b> 8:38P Candle Lighting</p>	<p>10:00A Morning Shabbat Service Mitzvah - TBE</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 18</b> 9:35P Havdalah</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 31</b> 8:23P Candle Lighting</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY, JULY 4</b> 9:41P Havdalah</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, JULY 12</b> 1:00P Intro to Mahjong – KJA</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, JULY 19</b> 1:00P Intro to Mahjong – KJA</p>	
<p><b>THURSDAY, JULY 9</b> 2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong – HAS</p>	<p>1:00P The Life &amp; Legacy of Henrietta Szold - HAD</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, JULY 23</b> 2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong – HAS</p>	
<p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 10</b> 8:36P Candle Lighting</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, JULY 16</b> 2:00P HAWL Open Mahjong – HAS</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, JULY 24</b> 8:29P Candle Lighting</p>	

# Calendar Highlights

## Knoxville Jewish Alliance

[www.jewishknoxville.org](http://www.jewishknoxville.org)

Welcome Reception for New CEO, Jesse Feld  
June 7, 2026 | 3:00-5:00PM | Arnstein Jewish Community Center

*Please join us as the KJA welcomes our new CEO Jesse Feld into his new role and back to Knoxville! Everyone is welcome.*

Shannon Martindale, Director of Programming • [program@jewishknoxville.org](mailto:program@jewishknoxville.org)

## Chabad of Knoxville

[www.chabadknoxville.org](http://www.chabadknoxville.org)

Tot Shabbat  
June 13 & July 18, 2026 | 10:30AM – 12:00PM | Chabad of Knoxville

*Tot Shabbat is a joyful Shabbat experience for preschool and younger children (older siblings welcome!). Families will enjoy circle time davening, parachute fun, a Kiddush lunch, and a special visit to the shul to kiss the Torah. Join us for a warm, interactive morning of Shabbat song, movement, and community.*

Miriam Esther Wilhelm • 865-588-8584

## Temple Beth El

[www.tbeknox.org](http://www.tbeknox.org)

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz  
June 19, 2026 | 6:00PM | Temple Beth El

*As America marks its 250th birthday, we gather to remember the Jewish women whose courage, creativity, and conviction helped build this country and whose stories illuminate what it means to belong to two traditions at once.*

Andrea Padilla • 865-524-3521

## Heska Amuna Synagogue

[www.HeskaAmuna.org](http://www.HeskaAmuna.org)

Tisha B'Av Observance  
July 22, 2026 | 9:00PM | Heska Amuna Synagogue

*The 9th of Av is the saddest day of the Jewish year. Join us to mark not only our past tragedies but also our survival.*

Laura Floyd • [RRS@heskaamuna.org](mailto:RRS@heskaamuna.org)

## Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

[www.jcortn.org](http://www.jcortn.org)

JCOR Goes to VIVA  
August 7, 2026 | 6:30PM | VIVA Senior Living

*Throwback Shabbat at VIVA Senior Living led by Jim Bogard. JCOR members share a Friday night service where we bring back old tunes from our past and then enjoy a traditional Oneg together afterwards. Good friends, food, and fellowship. All are welcome to join us.*

Ronnie Bogard • [events@jcor.info](mailto:events@jcor.info)

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



## It's Only Natural

**Author: Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum**



As we welcome the summer and the weather reaches its hottest, many of us have a lot to look forward to. Some of our kids will participate in summer camps, and many of us will head on family vacations, often to a place that will allow us to enjoy all that the outdoors has to offer. These vacations are usually highly-anticipated, and deservedly so; rarely do we get a chance to appreciate nature as much as we might like.

Many of the Psalms that we read during Friday night services rely on personifications of nature, of nature that comes to life and acts just as a person would act. In one such psalm, we read: "Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice. Let the sea thunder along with all that fills it."

You might be tempted to ask why the Psalmist depicts natural phenomena to act just as people do. Professor Marc Brettler of Brandeis University claims that this verse carries a double meaning; the reference to "earth" could mean the planet itself, or it can mean the inhabitants of earth, people like you or me. This theory indicates that the world of nature is merely a symbol for humanity.

So we have a sense that nature and humanity can be thought of in a similar light, that each can be a means through which God can be understood and glorified. On a more practical level, we have the sense that we are linked to one another through nature, and that the way we treat and appreciate nature can reflect how we treat and appreciate ourselves and one another.

So whenever we get a chance to experience nature, be it this summer while on vacation or some other time in the future, we might be able to embrace the Psalmist notion of utilizing our natural surroundings to better understand ourselves and our world. All it takes are a few moments to open our eyes and behold what is around us.

## Rabbi Rosenbaum Gives Benediction at Nehemiah Action Assembly

**Author: Rabbi Rosenbaum & Nehemiah Action 202**



**Heska Amuna was honored to have our Rabbi chosen to deliver the closing benediction at the Nehemiah Action Assembly on April 13th at the Civic Auditorium.** The Nehemiah Action Assembly is the culmination of a years-long effort by Justice Knox, a grass roots organization advocating on behalf of those who are less fortunate. This year over 1600 supporters filled the Civic Auditorium on behalf of Justice Knox to confront local leaders on issues of homelessness caused by a lack of affordable housing and gaps in our public transportation system.

Rabbi Rosenbaum contrasted the cruelty associated with Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was being observed around the same time, with issues of social justice, which we were celebrating. At the Assembly, which was also attended by 3 of the Mayoral candidates and other local leaders, commitments were gained to support programs promoting solutions to homelessness.

Heska Amuna was well represented at the Assembly by 40 of our members and friends, showing our commitment to supporting social justice in our community. **Many thanks to all those who attended and to our co-leaders, Terri Lee Love and Abraham Brietstein.**

## How Heska Amuna Came Together Instead of Falling Apart

### **Mark Siegel, Chair of Heska Amuna**

Recently, for reasons that escape me, several people have talked to me about how far Heska Amuna has come since I became Chair of the Congregation. It was not a happy time. We could not decide if we wanted to sell our building or fix a failed wall in our sanctuary. We seemed irreconcilably divided, and closer to falling apart than coming together. We did not have a Rabbinic Assembly rabbi. We did not have a religious school. We were losing more members than we were gaining.

The people who have brought up those days seemed to feel like the Congregation is in a better place now. We have made a decision, fixed our wall, opened our sanctuary, hired a rabbi, and are re-opening our religious school.

I am going to assume that, by the time you read this, Heska Amuna has had our June 7 Annual Meeting, and Frank Floyd is now Chair Elect, to become Chair of the Congregation in June 2027.

I bring this up because the turning point for the Congregation came on December 10, 2023, when we held a Congregational Meeting to decide if we would fix the building or sell the building. Everyone assumed we would decide to sell the building. We had come within a few percentage points of the 75% needed to sell the building previously, and I had committed to supporting whatever position received a simple majority vote. Although I was a strong advocate for fixing the building, I had repeatedly

publicly stated if 50% plus one voted to sell, I would call for a revote and urge that we unanimously support that decision. I would not remain as Chair, but I would remain a member of the Congregation. Although I know not everyone believed that I would do this, I was prepared to and expected that was what would happen.

The turning point was not the vote that was taken, or even the decision that was made. The turning point was that the three people running that meeting together decided we were determined the Congregation would survive, and that the Congregational meeting would be civil, and bring us together.

Those three people were Bill Berez as moderator; Frank Floyd as chair of the committee that wanted to sell the building; and me as chair of the committee that wanted to fix the building.

We stood together in front of the Congregation. We treated each other with respect. We treated the Congregation with respect. We answered the questions that members put to us or tried our best to. By our presence and demeanor, we tried to project a serious leadership that put the survival of the Congregation first. I think that, more than the decision that was made, carried the day. That held us together.

Now that Frank has agreed to become the next Chair of Heska Amuna, I know we will be in good hands.

## Ansel and Halen Presser B'nai Mitzvah



Ansel and Halen Presser will celebrate their B'nai mitzvah the morning of Monday, June 15, 2026 ~ 30 Sivan 5786!

Ansel and Halen are rising eighth graders at Holston Middle School. Born in Knoxville, they also feel rooted in New York City. They enjoy a quiet life with their mother Lo (Lois)

Presser and cat Bennie but have also traveled extensively. Ansel's passions include playing guitar, strength training, video games, and time with friends. Halen loves reading novels, watching television dramas and musical theatre, and playing trombone.

They are generous members of the Knoxville community. This year, Ansel helped neighbors install a bat house while Halen raised money for diabetes research in memory of their grandmother Helen Presser. We are grateful for support from our family and friends, here and elsewhere, and from Michael Burnett, committed tutor.

The Presser family invites the congregation to join us for the Rosh Chodesh service at Heska Amuna Synagogue at 9:30 am, Monday, June 15 followed by a kiddush lunch to celebrate these sweet and smart young people.

## Mazel Tov, Graduates!

### High School



**Noah Simcha Brunelle**, son of **Angela Brunelle**, graduated from South Doyle High School.



**Beny Leibowitz** will graduate from The Weber School in Atlanta. He will attend Northeastern University in Boston in the Fall. He plays guitar and keyboard in his band Broken Glass. His grandparents are **Kay and Larry Leibowitz** and his parents are Adam and Vanessa Leibowitz in Atlanta.



**Harry Willis-Becker** is graduating from West High School. He is the son of Amy and Benjamin Willis-Becker, and grandson of **Jeff and Nancy Becker**. He is planning to make ALIYAH to Israel in August and enter the Lone Soldier Program.



**Ellie Wood**, graduated from Clayton Bradley Academy and plans to attend Elon University this fall, pursuing a degree in psychology and early childhood development, with the intention of practicing pediatric occupational therapy. She is the daughter of **Jenny and David Wood** and the granddaughter of **Sandy Parker and Steven Beber**.

### College



**Kim Skoda**, granddaughter of **Alice Farkas**, graduated with master's degree from Hunter College and is currently teaching in a private school in NYC



**Miriam Wolk** will graduate from Wake Forest University and then will be working at a law firm in NYC. She is the granddaughter of **Alice Farkas**.

## Contributions by Caring People

**Through April 30, 2026**

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In Memory of Trudy Dreyer  
Gary Dreyer  
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In Honor of Addy Di Salvo-Tinley's  
Bat Mitzvah  
Gina Di Salvo & Jeff Tinley

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RE-OPENING

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Betty & Mark Siegel  
Mary Linda Schwarzbart

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Howard Golden  
In Memory of Leon Leibowitz  
Mary Beth Leibowitz &  
Michael Eisenstadt

### Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of Toby Schwartz  
Alan Schwartz

## Summer, Graduation & Mazal Tov

**By: Raina Siroty, Rabbi Cantor**



As the school year ends and the rhythm of summer begins, we find ourselves in a season filled with transitions and celebrations. The end of the academic year always carries a unique energy — a mixture of pride, relief, nostalgia, excitement, and anticipation for what lies ahead.

For students, parents, teachers, and families alike, this time of year represents accomplishments made. We celebrate graduations, promotions, awards, performances, and all of the quieter victories that may never appear on a certificate but matter just as deeply: friendships formed, challenges overcome, confidence gained, and resilience discovered along the way.

In Jewish life, we understand the importance of marking transitions. Judaism teaches us to pause and acknowledge moments of change because they shape who we are becoming. We do not rush from one chapter to the next without taking time to reflect. Whether it is moving from preschool to elementary school, middle school to high school, high school to college, or into entirely new stages of adulthood, each milestone deserves recognition and gratitude.

To all of our graduates — from the youngest learners to those completing advanced degrees — mazal tov. Your dedication, perseverance, and hard work have brought you to this moment, and our entire community celebrates alongside you. We are proud not only of your achievements, but of the kindness, character, and determination you have developed along the way. As you step into new opportunities and unknown paths, may you continue to grow in wisdom, compassion, and courage.

Jewish tradition reminds us that learning does not end with a diploma or graduation ceremony. In Pirkei Avot we read, “Who is wise? One who learns from every person.” Wisdom is not confined to classrooms or textbooks; it is found in conversations, experiences, relationships, travel, acts of kindness, and moments of reflection. Summer offers its own kind of learning — the kind that happens around campfires, on road trips, at family tables, in new experiences, and in the gift of unstructured time.

And then comes summer: a season that offers us the precious opportunity to slow down. During the busy months of the school year, our schedules often become so full that we move from one obligation to the next without much space to simply be present. Summer invites us to reconnect — with family, with friends, with nature, with joy, and sometimes even with ourselves.

May this summer bring each one of us abundant blessings. May our graduates move forward with confidence and purpose. May those traveling do so safely. May those seeking rest find renewal. And may each of us find moments of joy, connection, gratitude, and peace in the months ahead.

## Graduation

**By: Dan McLaughlin, President**

Graduation is a moment of pride, reflection, and new beginnings—so to all graduates, mazal tov! Your hard work, late nights, and perseverance have brought you to this important milestone, and it deserves to be celebrated.

This achievement is about more than diplomas and ceremonies. It represents growth, resilience, and the ability to overcome challenges along the way. Whether your journey was smooth or filled with obstacles, you have reached this moment through determination and effort.

As you step into the next chapter, remember that learning does not end here. Life will continue to teach you in unexpected ways. Stay curious, remain

open to new experiences, and don't be afraid to take risks. Success is not always a straight path, but each step forward matters.

Take time to thank those who supported you—family, friends, and teachers who believed in you and helped guide your journey. Their encouragement has been part of your success.

Most importantly, take pride in how far you've come. Today is not just an ending, but a beginning filled with opportunity and possibility.

Mazal tov to the graduates—may your future be bright, meaningful, and full of purpose.

## Letter from the Library

**By: Christina Chiavetta**

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our book sale on April 19th. Whether it was to buy something, browse, or say hello, it was a great turnout! The library raised over \$200, which is going right back into our collection! I am so happy to see people's Jewish book collection grow. Come back soon to check out some additions to our New Book section! Happy reading.



## Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning

**Author: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director**

**Norma is available for summer Hebrew!** Would you like for your child to have some individual Hebrew this summer. I have found this can make a huge difference for a child's Hebrew confidence. I offer this at no cost to parents. I like to keep it flexible to work around both your and my summer activities. We can do FaceTime or Zoom which means you don't have to drive your child to me. Email or text me if you are interested.

**We would love to have your children in Religious School! What does the 2026 -2027 school year offer your child?**

**An amazing staff!** Our teachers are top notch and have been with us for many years. Several of our staff members are teachers or have professional experience working with children. We have Hillel students from UT who add that spark to our staff that college students always bring. We are very proud of our Madrichim program of 10th-12th graders from TBE. Norma James, Director and Hebrew teacher, and Tara Bain, Assistant Director, love watching our students and staff work together to build our future Jewish community.

**Hebrew** is a very important part of our program and begins in PreK. Students in all classes except 8th & 9th Chai Class have a Hebrew class every Sunday. In addition to a group class, we have madrichim, who are very strong in Hebrew, work individually with students who are new to Hebrew or need more individualized instruction. We have been delighted with how quickly our new students pick up Hebrew and are able to join the group classes.

**Early Sunday Hebrew replaces Midweek Hebrew!** Yes, we have moved our 4th-7th grade midweek Hebrew to 8:30-9:30 on Sundays and individual online lessons for 7th graders. We have increasing numbers of students with Wednesday commitments, traffic has gotten terrible around Hebrew time, and several students live a long distance from Temple. We piloted Early Hebrew this year. The 4th-6th students come in at 8:30 ready to learn and have a good solid chunk of time to concentrate on learning. We have multiple smaller classes allowing more individualization and a better-quality program.

**Judaic Studies** is led by Rabbi Cantor Raina Siroty. Rabbi Siroty is an integral part of our religious school and is involved classroom learning, our music program, and of course, all holiday celebrations.

**Holiday celebrations galore!** We love to celebrate in whole-school programming for the holidays. We have Chanukah Maccabiah, Purim Festival, Passover Mock Seder, Sukkot decoration and learning stations, High Holy Days services for young children and service for youth, and so much more!

**Our Israeli Shinshinim provide wonderful programming every Sunday.** This past year Yaheli and Avigail taught our students how to cook several Israeli dishes, helped plan an Israeli Simchat Torah parade, the Chanukah Maccabiah, and the Purim Festival. Each class got to experience special birthday party for Israel's 178th birthday. These are just a few of the programs our Shinshinim led. We have new Shinshinim arriving in August and cannot wait to start planning with them.

**If you know a family who might be interested in joining our school, please reach out to them.** We are happy to follow up. Our parents and students are our best ambassadors. I have been told by many parents that their children look forward to coming on Sundays. For those who are not thrilled with popping out of bed on a Sunday morning, we can honestly say they are happy once they get to school with their friends and underway with their learning experiences. This is your child's opportunity to make Jewish friends that can last a lifetime!

**Religious School for 2026-2027 begins August 23rd.** We have classes for children beginning at age four and going through 9th grade. Confirmation is open to 9th-12th graders.

**Registration will begin on July 15th** and is completely online on our Temple Website. Go to [TBEKNOX.org](http://TBEKNOX.org) and select the Religious School registration link.



## Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

*Donations listed were received as of May 1, 2026*

### BEILER FLORAL FUND

Hicks Family  
*In honor of Caroline Hicks Bat Mitzvah*  
David & Connie Adelman  
*In honor of Norma James*

### CARE COMMITTEE FUND

David & Connie Adelman  
*In memory of Lemuel Spruill Sr.*  
Pat Rosenberg  
*In memory of Celestine and Eli Yatsko & Ethel and Jack Rosenberg*  
Susan Millis  
*In memory of Jean Hiller Millis*  
Reba Herzfeld  
*In memory of Bennett Herzfeld*

### CLARENCE STRASBURGER MUSIC FUND

Larry & Rise Tucker  
*In memory of Manuel Leimsidor*  
Dr. Gilya Schmidt  
*In memory of Charlotte Kayser*  
Nancy Jane Richer  
*In memory of my mother, Lillian Silverman Richer*

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Bella Safro  
*In speedy recovery of Dorina Bleicher*

### ERMA GERSON COMMUNITY FUND

Larry & Rise Tucker  
*In memory of Bruce Leimsidor*

### GENERAL FUND

Harold Goldberg  
*In memory of Joseph Goldman*  
Gary & Linda Johnson  
*In memory of Morris Goodfriend and Shirlie Goodfriend*  
Gary & Tamara Sturm  
*In memory of Richard Johnson*  
Larry & Rise Tucker  
*In memory of Edmond Tucker*  
Larry & Rise Tucker  
*In memory of N. George Tucker*  
David & Connie Adelman  
*In memory of Eugenia Spruill*  
Jeffrey & Susan Arbutal  
*In memory of Sam Arbutal*  
Robert & Wendy Goodfriend  
*In memory of Morris Goodfriend*  
Joe Oleinik

*In memory of Zeilk Olenik*  
Will Wright

*In memory of William P. Wright*  
Marcie Gross  
*In memory of Darlye Gross*

### GOLDBERGER MEMORIAL SANCTUARY FUND

Bella Safro  
*In memory of Naum Safro & Ilya Safro*

### LESTER POPKIN CAMP SCHOLAR FUND

Janice Feinman  
*In memory of my father, Lester Popkin*

### LICHT YOUTH FUND

Richard Licht & Shirley McGuire  
*In honor of Richard Licht 80th Birthday*

### LIVESTREAM ® FUND

Susan Millis  
*In memory of Jessica Hiller Rosenthal*

### MARX FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

Michael Eisenstadt & Mary Beth Leibowitz  
*In memory of Mark Eisenstadt*

### PATIO AND GROUNDS FUND

Paul Erwin & Renne' Hyatt  
*In memory of Nanette Hyatt*

### PRESERVATION FUND

Bella Safro  
*In memory of Yulia Loselev & Ginda Katz*  
Deborah Roberts & Don Mossman  
*In memory of Harriet Carol Smuckler*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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*In memory of Shirlie Goodfriend*  
Louis Gross & Marilyn Kallet  
*In memory of Cecelia Zimmerman*  
Susan Cohen  
*In memory of Rebecca Mendelowitz*  
Robert & Allisen Shagan  
*In memory of A. Dave*

Jan Bishop

*In memory of Marilyn Gottlieb*  
Michael & Laura Shenkman  
*In memory of Vittorio Argentini*  
Larry & Rise Tucker  
*In honor of Rabbi Siroty*  
Jeffrey & Susan Arbutal  
*In memory of Sam Arbutal & Thomas Watson*  
Dustin McGhee  
*In honor of Rabbi Siroty*  
Yelena Sapozhnikova  
*In memory of my father, Gersh Sherman*  
Caitlin Lowe  
*Naming Ceremony – Henry Issac Lowe*

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Chuck & Missy Noon  
*In memory of Evelyn B. Weiss*

### RONA SIMON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rabbi Howard Simon  
*In memory of Mark Simon*  
Rabbi Howard Simon  
*In memory of Verne Canner*

### SECURITY FUND

David & Vivian Butler  
*In memory of Mary Haller*  
Kathy Young  
*In memory of Allen Kravitz*  
Dave & Connie Adelman  
*In honor of Rabbi Siroty*  
Barry & Marilyn Wohl  
*In memory of Mildred Wohl*  
Dave & Connie Adelman  
*In honor of Norma James*  
Deborah Roberts & Don Mossman  
*In memory of Anna Kolodkin Bush*  
Edward & Linda Weintraub  
*In memory of Dora Kohen*

### SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND

Larry & Rise Tucker  
*In memory of Dolores Reichman*  
Aron & Hayley Goldfeld  
*In memory of Jeffrey A. McDonalds & In honor of Juni Belle Jordan*  
Robert & Wendy Goodfriend  
*In honor of Sisterhood*  
Joe Oleinik

## Celebrating the KJDS Class of 2026

As our fifth graders prepare to leave KJDS, we pause to reflect on the years that brought them here. This class began kindergarten during the COVID year, in our original space in the shopping center. Midway through that year, they moved with us into our current building, growing alongside the school through a time of change and transition.

Since then, they have filled our classrooms with creativity, curiosity, humor, and heart. They have grown into leaders and role models, especially for younger students, and each one has left a lasting imprint on our community.

We are proud to celebrate them.



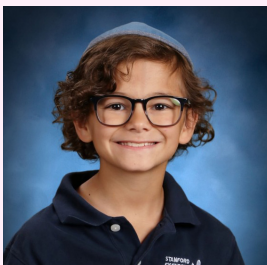
**Bernadette "Beezy" DiSalvo-Tinley** is imaginative, funny, and full of heart. She has been a caring presence for younger students and brings warmth into every space she's part of. Whether sharing a story or making someone laugh, she has a way of connecting with others. A favorite memory includes dance parties with Mrs. Lusk and a special outing with Mrs. Louise. Beezy will attend Bearden Middle School.



**Adin Ferency** is a strong thinker with a love of music. He approaches learning with curiosity and focus and brings a friendly, easy presence to those around him. He moves comfortably between numbers, ideas, and a genuine appreciation for the world around him. One favorite memory is learning to blow bubble gum during math in 1st grade. Adin will attend Bearden Middle School.



**Oliver Kilgore** brings energy, creativity, and a love of learning into everything he does. He enjoys history, thrives on stage, and is always willing to help others understand something new. He has a natural ability to problem-solve and a sense of humor that keeps things lively. Building hurricane houses in 2nd grade remains a favorite memory. Oliver will attend the Episcopal School of Knoxville.



**Micah McClain** is a builder at heart. He has an impressive ability to understand how things work and bring ideas to life with precision and creativity. Whether working on engineering projects or writing, he brings focus and imagination together. He is also a steady and loyal friend. Launching model rockets in 4th grade is a standout memory. Micah will attend Farragut Middle School.

## Celebrating the KJDS Class of 2026 cont.



**Hazel McDonald** is thoughtful, kind, and exceptionally capable. She approaches both people and projects with care and has a strong talent for engineering and hands-on problem solving. She is steady, observant, and always willing to help. Helping build the gaga pit is one of her favorite KJDS memories. Hazel will attend the Episcopal School of Knoxville.



**Claire Rosenbaum** brings both empathy and expression to her work. She is a strong performer with talents in singing, piano, and acting, and she approaches each with dedication and heart. She is also deeply thoughtful in how she relates to others. From early school celebrations to performances on stage, Claire has embraced many moments at KJDS. She will attend Bearden Middle School.



**Avishai Sanders-Goldman** is both a performer and a thinker. He has strong musical and acting abilities, along with a natural curiosity that shows up in his questions and ideas. He engages deeply and brings both focus and humor to his learning. His Cinnamon Toast Crunch Purim costume is a memory that stands out. Avishai will attend West Valley Middle School.



**Levi Wilhelm** Levi is curious, kind, and hands-on in his learning. He enjoys engineering, math, and design work, and takes pride in bringing ideas to life. He is also consistently helpful and thoughtful toward others. Building hurricane houses is a favorite memory from his time at KJDS. Levi will attend Nigri Jewish Online School.

As we celebrate this class, we are grateful for the energy, growth, and spirit they have brought to KJDS. They leave behind a strong legacy and a community that will continue to cheer them on.

## Mazel tov, Class of 2026!

## Celebrating 20 Years of Community: A Joyful Family Fun Day at KJDS

The Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School recently kicked off its 20th anniversary celebration with a joyful Family Fun Day that brought together students, families, alumni, and friends from across the Knoxville Jewish community. The event celebrated not only the school's growth over the past two decades, but also the strong sense of connection and community that continues to define KJDS today.

What began in 2006 in a small shopping center space with just six students has grown into a thriving school on a beautiful five-acre campus serving children and families throughout the community. Family Fun Day offered an opportunity to reflect on how far the school has come while celebrating the people and relationships that have shaped it along the way.

The campus was filled with energy as families enjoyed an afternoon of activities for all ages. Children and adults alike rode the trackless train, bounced in the bounce house, explored hands-on art experiences with the Knoxville Museum of Art, and visited stations for face painting, hair tinseling, and custom balloon creations. PJ Library Knoxville joined the celebration with bracelet-making, stories, and books for families to enjoy, while The Bunny Hive offered a sensory play station for younger children. Guests explored a touch-a-truck area featuring a fire truck and construction equipment, created seed sculpture bombs with New Roots, built at the LEGO station, and joined in a lively drum circle. A professional

soccer player impressed children with skill demonstrations before inviting everyone to join a game together. KJDS teachers also brought learning to life through hands-on STEAM activities, including lemon volcanoes and DIY rockets that sparked curiosity and excitement throughout the afternoon. Even a friendly hairless cat made an appearance and became an unexpected favorite among many guests.

Beyond the activities themselves, the day served as a meaningful reminder of what makes KJDS special. Alumni returned to walk the halls that helped shape their early years, parents reconnected with friends, and current students proudly shared their school with grandparents, neighbors, and members of the broader community. It was a celebration not only of the school's history, but also of the relationships, shared values, and sense of belonging that continue to strengthen the KJDS community year after year.

As KJDS marks its 20th anniversary, Family Fun Day celebrated both the school's past and its future. The event served as the kickoff to a year of anniversary celebrations, with additional community events and opportunities to celebrate planned throughout the upcoming school year. From its humble beginnings to the vibrant community it is today, the school remains deeply committed to nurturing each child through learning, connection, and Jewish values for generations to come.

## Celebrating 20 Years of Community: A Joyful Family Fun Day at KJDS cont.



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KNOXVILLE JEWISH  
DAY SCHOOL

*Now Enrolling*

**FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!**

# PARENTS

# Day Out

PLAY. LEARN. GROW. TOGETHER.

**NEW FOR NEXT YEAR!**

**NEW! 2-YEAR-OLD CLASS**

A nurturing start for our youngest learners!

**AND 3-5 YEAR-OLD CLASS**

Engaging, play-based learning for growing minds!

**TUESDAY-THURSDAY MORNINGS**

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**AGES 2-5**

A nurturing, play-based program for children to learn, grow, and build confidence.

**JEWISH VALUES**

Jewish traditions and values are woven into our warm, welcoming environment every day.

**INTERESTED?**  
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Anna McDonald

865-560-9922

amcdonald@kjds.org

*A joyful start.  
A strong foundation.  
A place to grow!*

## Coming Back to Knoxville, Building for the Future

**By: Jesse Feld, Knoxville Jewish Alliance CEO**

As many of you reading this may have heard, my name is Jesse Feld, and starting June 1, 2026, I will begin my tenure as CEO of the KJA. This is my second time at the KJA, as it was the first Jewish organization I worked for after graduating from the University of Tennessee.

Returning to Knoxville is both meaningful and exciting. I spent some very formative years here that, in many ways, felt like a second bar mitzvah. While my actual bar mitzvah marked a formal milestone, and becoming an “adult,” at 13, my time in Knoxville was when I began to take real ownership over my choices and truly had to pave my own path as an adult. It’s where I decided to get involved with the community, and begin a career dedicated to building Jewish community. It also happens to be where I met my wife, Anna, when we were doing work at WUTK 90.3 The Rock, which has kept Knoxville close to us ever since.

Since then, I’ve built my career across a variety of Jewish communal organizations and developed a broad perspective on what strong communities require to thrive. I’ve seen the impact of hard work, thoughtful leadership, clear priorities, and meeting people where they are.

As I get started, my focus will be on listening and understanding where the community is today. Working in partnership with lay leaders and staff to set a clear, strategic direction for the future. Through this work I hope to meet as many community members as possible to ensure our community is built on a true representation of its members.

I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and look forward to getting to know the community and getting to work. I’ve included some photos of great memories from my first go round in Knoxville – I look forward to creating new and lasting memories with you all!



*Anna and Jesse at KJA annual meeting December 2014*



*Hillel at UTK Passover seder in 2011 at the International House (Jesse Feld, Tony Smith, Josh Ellis)*



*Rae Oleshansky and Jesse at Commemorative Civil Rights march July 2, 2014*



*Bowling fundraising event in April 2015 (Jesse Feld, Patrick Messing, Manny Herz, Meir Niad)*

## President's Message

**By: Judith Rosenberg, KJA President**

I'm writing this in May. By the time you read it, so much activity will be underway at KJA. It's an exciting time, and I hope you'll be part of it.

I am incredibly excited that Jesse Feld will have started his tenure as our new CEO, beginning June 1. Jesse is a talented professional whose career in Jewish community work actually began with KJA after college at our Milton Collins Day Camp (MCDC). His hiring is the result of significant work by our Board of Directors, staff, and our amazing search committee that was co-led by Jeff Becker and Bernie Rosenblatt. Thank you, to each and all of you!

By the time you read this, MCDC will be underway for another year of creating memories and "the most fun under the sun" at the AJCC, under the highly experienced, highly enthusiastic leadership of Brian Debolt and Sarah Price. We'll also be welcoming people

from all over town to the Allen Rosen Aquatic Center. Our Smokin' Salmon swim team will be practicing, winning races, and having fun, thanks to the skills and leadership of Marshall Goldman. These staff members are with us seasonally and play a critical part in the programming and services we offer that solidify our reputation as a great organization.

And, by the time you read this, I hope you've received a letter, phone call, or both about our 2026 annual campaign. Thank you, if you've already made a gift. If you haven't, I hope you'll consider doing so today. **When you support the work of the KJA financially, you are helping ensure our community is safe, thriving, and FUN!** (...especially this time of year!)

Have a wonderful summer. Hope to see you at the pool!

## Jewish Family Services

**By: Nora Sweat, Director of Jewish Family Services**

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

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nora Sweat at [nsweat@jewishknoxville.org](mailto:nsweat@jewishknoxville.org).



### ASSISTIVE DEVICES LOAN CLOSET

JFS loans assistive devices out to members of our community - **at no charge.**

Contact Nora Sweat at [nsweat@jewishknoxvill.org](mailto:nsweat@jewishknoxvill.org) or 865-690-6343 x8.

- Quad Canes
- Canes
- Walkers
- Self Moving Wheelchair
- Travel Wheelchair
- Rolling Walkers
- Shower Chairs and Stools
- Bedside Rail

## Robby Hecht Performing at The Open Chord



Wednesday, June 24

Doors Open: 6:00pm

Show Starts: 8:00pm

Tickets: \$20 Advance | \$25 Day of Show

Location: The Open Chord, 8426 Kingston Pike

[www.openchordmusic.com](http://www.openchordmusic.com)

***“Delicate and spellbinding.”***  
***-The Tennessean***

Robby Hecht, son of Knoxvilleans Jeffrey and Shelley Hecht, is returning to Knoxville to a one-night only performance at The Open Chord. The Hecht family moved to Knoxville when Robby was in 2nd grade, and they all became active members of the Jewish community, including religious school, BBYO, and the AJCC. They say his on-stage career began with his Bar Mitzvah at Heska Amuna Synagogue, studying with tutor Nancy Becker. From Junior Choir at Heska Amuna, Robby transitioned to school choirs and to songwriting in college at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Robby has been captivating audiences as a touring singer-songwriter for over two decades, combining quietly impactful songwriting reminiscent of Tom Waits or Jim Croce with the graceful vocal resonance of James Taylor. With a remarkable blend of insightful lyricism, memorable melodies, and a voice that carries both strength and tenderness, his music resonates with audiences from all walks of life.

Some of Robby's songs are also influenced by his Judaism. Songs like “A Reckoning of Us” include

themes of forgiveness and peace, while “They Are You” reflects Jewish ethical teachings about recognizing the humanity of the stranger. His song “The Ones I Love” is also influenced by the Mourner's Kaddish, a central prayer of Jewish mourning and remembrance.

Robby's dedication to the craft and collaborative spirit have solidified his reputation as a versatile and respected artist within the industry. He garnered recognition as a songwriter's songwriter early in his career, winning a number of revered performing songwriter contests and touring across the US and Europe. His music has been the soundtrack for countless journeys, amassing over 30 million streams to date. And with more than 70 songs recorded by other artists, as well as numerous contributions as a featured vocalist, Robby has added his distinct touch to the work of fellow musicians, reaching music lovers through the voices of others. The Hecht family invites the entire community to enjoy Robby's music at The Open Chord on June 24 at 8:00pm. General admission and reserved seating tickets are available online.

## Building the Next Decades Together

By: Scott B. Hahn

### Voices of Our Community

For the first of our testimonials of what KJA means to them, I asked Bernie Rosenblatt to give us his perspective. For those of you who don't know Bernie, he was a former director of the KJA. After he retired from that job, he briefly lived in California before returning back to the bright lights of Knoxville. Not only is Bernie a dear friend, but he also continues to be volunteer leader in our community, serving on the board of the KJCFF and recently co-chairing the KJA Director search with Jeff Becker. Bernie's dedication to our community and energy are legendary. I am sure you will find his words just as inspiring...

#### **Bernie Rosenblatt:**

*My perspective is a bit different as I served as Executive Director from 1997-2005 and have lived here ever since. KJA and its predecessors, AJCC/Jewish Federation, to me is primarily a vehicle for tikkun olam. One program, one volunteer, one member at a time is engaged in making Jewish Knoxville a better place. Our efforts are opportunities to help each preschooler, each camper, each member to have moments that enrich their lives. I witnessed this as I saw the spark in the eyes of each child as I visited each classroom or Milton Collins day camper or each adult at poolside or UT Hillel student at Shabbat Dinner or volunteers participating on missions to Israel or teens/ teachers/healthcare professionals and firefighters in exchange projects with our partnership programs in Israel or at a Jewish UT faculty lecture at the AJCC or the help provided individuals through our Jewish Family Services . I could go on and on. I know none of these individual and collective "repairs" could not happen without the dollars raised through campaign. So to me, KJA through each staff person and each board member does holy work each and every day.*

Visit [Jewishknoxville.org](https://www.jewishknoxville.org) to donate or scan the QR.





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**Knoxville**  
Jewish Alliance



## KJCFF mourns the loss of Karen Robinson

**By Stephen Rosen**

It seems like yesterday that I wrote the same line in memory of Pace. Karen has been a donor and supporter of KJCFF along with her late husband since its founding in 1999. With Pace's passing, she was elected to our board of directors. She jumped in with both feet and a vision for the future. Karen was a family-first Jewish community leader, but community and family were basically the same thing. She gave her time, intellect, money and energy. You can't ask much more of a volunteer and friend. To say we will miss her presence doesn't touch it. However, she lives on in perpetuity through the Pace and Karen Robinson Philanthropic Fund which will be advised by her sons, Asher and Eli. In total, KJCFF holds seven Robinson funds with names spanning four generations. Theirs is a legacy to be admired, appreciated and emulated.

## KJA needs a fund for the AJCC "Tennis Courts"

*Note: below is an updated article we ran in August 2022. Four years later, the black top that could be tennis courts is in worse shape but in higher use. A political candidate would run on the phrase "fix the damn courts."*

Have you ever noticed when you get a new couch, it makes the coffee table look old and shaky? The crystal blue waters and elegant stonework of the Allen Rosen Aquatic Center look amazing. The deck furniture and sun shades make you think you are somewhere other than Deane Hill Drive. But when you walk around back of the beautiful community room (snack bar for you long-time members), you see a neglected black top. It is sort of set of tennis courts that need help. If you want a great view of the opportunity to help, walk out the back of the Orwitz Room to our amazing patio. From there you can see the mountains in the background and the play surface problem in the foreground. If you are worried your investment won't get used, visit during a session of Milton Collins Day Camp where the campers enjoy every square foot of it.

If you have interest in fixing the damn courts, contact Stephen at 599-1853.

## Donations to KJCFF come in all sizes...consider supporting our future

KJCFF gifts come in all sizes and every dollar counts toward building our future. Richard Licht and Shirley McGuire are constant donors to our Jewish Food Fund, and we all tasted the benefit at Knoshville. Dr. Renee Hyatt led the effort to start the Dewey Reich Chesed Shel Emmet Fund and continues to support it. We have scores of funds that benefit a multitude of programs, facilities and professional services so feel free to pick one and join in the fun.

If you would like to donate, go to [www.jewishknoxville.org/kjcff](http://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 Rhythm of Chabad

**By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm**

**A rhythm has been building at Chabad, familiar faces, new ones, and people connecting in ways that feel true to them.**

At the heart of that rhythm was our teens’ programming through CTeen, from a spirited Matzah Ball competition and white-water rafting adventure to Senior Shabbat and a vibrant Mimouna celebration. Each experience brought something different, but the same outcome: teens connecting, laughing, and building real friendships along the way.

Our women’s gatherings continue to create a steady pause in the middle of busy weeks. From Torah and Tea conversations to pre-holiday gatherings and weekly challah baking, these events create space for friendship, meaning, laughter, and connection.

On campus, Chabad on Campus UT reached a meaningful milestone, becoming an officially recognized student organization. That growth was felt right away at Shabbat 50, which turned into a record breaking 64 students and

faculty, and again at Study Break, a late night breakfast collaboration with Hillel that brought students together in the middle of exam season.

Our community Pesach Seder brought over 100 people together under a tented outdoor space filled with singing, insight, and tradition. With thoughtful teaching and meaningful storytelling by Mendel and Rabbi Yossi, it was a Seder that felt both delicious and memorable.

Younger children find their own space at Tot Shabbat, with singing, dancing, parachute play, Torah moments, and Shabbat stories, while parents connect alongside them.

At Bat Mitzvah Club, the girls created alcohol ink Seder plates, bringing creativity and meaning together in a way that made the Pesach story feel personal and alive.

Some people connect through learning, others through friendship, celebration, music, food, or simply showing up. That’s the rhythm of community, and there’s room for everyone to find their own beat.



Cteeners had a fabulous time white water rafting at the end of year trip  
Photo Credit: Cherokee White Water Rafting



Women enjoyed a fabulous Pre-Passover event with artist, Ilana Lilienthal  
Photo Credit: Elyssa Sturm



Group photo before Senior Shabbat celebrating our Cteen Seniors on their graduation.  
Photo Credit: Miriam Esther



All smiles learning, exploring and creating alcohol ink seder plates at Bat Mitzvah Club  
Photo Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Matzah Ball Battle had contestants incorporate a secrete ingredient as they battled to make the tastiest matzah ball  
Photo Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Some AEPI students pose for a picture before Shabbat begins at Chabad on Campus Shabbat 50.

## Hadassah: From Henrietta Szold to Today

**Author: Julie E. Stein, Chapter President**



This July we are excited to be presenting the documentary “Labors of Love: The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Szold,” directed by Abby Ginzberg. Henrietta Szold “founded Hadassah in 1912, a Jewish women’s service organization that inspired hundreds

of thousands of Jewish women to invest their energies in a cause that transcended their own personal lives. She became a major force in the early twentieth century in Palestine: she established its health care system treating Jews and Arabs equally, shaped its education system, and initiated social services that prevail today. In a crowning achievement, Szold helped organize Youth Aliyah, which successfully

rescued thousands of Jewish children from Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe during the 1930s and transported them to Palestine.” From the synopsis portion of <https://www.henriettaszoldfilm.com/synopsis>.

The work that Henrietta Szold started is being continued today. Hadassah is the largest Jewish women’s organization in the United States, with nearly 300,000 members, donors, and supporters. Hadassah has been a life-changing force for more than a century, bringing healing where it’s needed most: in the U.S., in Israel, and around the world. We advance healthcare, drive breakthrough medical research, empower women, protect women’s rights and health in the U.S., combat antisemitism, and stand with the people of Israel.

As we look to the future, Hadassah strives to be life-changing by being led by women, rooted in Jewish values and with a commitment to Israel and all its people, impacting lives through advancing health, healing, and human connections.

“ Dare to dream...  
and when you dream,  
dream big.”

Henrietta Szold founder of  
Hadassah

- **Showing “Labors of Love: The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Szold”**
- July 12, 2026 at 1pm West Knoxville
- Tickets \$15 includes 1 popcorn or 1 candy
- Watch Hadassah e-newsletter for registration information

## Knoshville Success

*Author: Andrea Cone*



As the first-time organizer of this special Annual Bundt Cake Sale, I am incredibly proud of the overwhelming support we received from all of our wonderful bakers. Many of you stepped up for our Hadassah Annual Bundt Cake Sale, and we are truly grateful for your time and effort in creating the finest Bundt cakes in Knoxville. It seems that this year presented its challenges with Bundt cakes. Many of you shared your experiences, myself included. Despite these hurdles, you persevered, and we cannot thank you enough. Not a single cake was left behind!

The annual fundraiser was a great success because of each and every one of you. Our volunteers were undoubtedly the true champions of this event. They worked their magic as our shining stars, coming early, setting up tents and tables, tearing them down, and cleaning up. We thank you all for volunteering, which had a huge impact on our success. We also sincerely appreciate those who made donations. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the entire Hadassah Community for contributing to our Bundt Cake Fundraiser. We are overwhelmed by the generosity shown by all. Special thanks to Barbara Mintz and Nora Messing for keeping the best records for me to follow to make the Hadassah Bundt Cake Sale successful. Also, thank you to Shannon Martindale and her team, who made Knoshville a great event. Shannon ordered perfect weather for a beautiful day!

All proceeds and donations from our Bundt Cake Fundraiser will directly support Hadassah's entire mission, including the Hadassah Medical Organization and Hadassah Youth Villages.

HADASSAH KNOXVILLE-OAK RIDGE

### Silent Auction & Game Day

Sunday  
June 14  
1:30pm



**JOIN US FOR A COMBINED FUNDRAISER & FUN TIME TOGETHER**

- ★ DONATE new items valued at \$10.00 plus.
- ★ Get rid of things taking up space!
- ★ BID for items you'd like for yourself or for great gifts.
- ★ HAVE FUN while playing games like Poker, Mah Jongg, Rummikub, and many more.



**REGISTRATION**

Everyone must RSVP online by 6/10  
In West Knoxville

Register online with the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/Knoxvilleoakridgesilentauktion>

**QUESTIONS?**

Barbara Mintz at [barbarahadassah51@gmail.com](mailto:barbarahadassah51@gmail.com)  
Linda Anderson at [lindaad37@gmail.com](mailto:lindaad37@gmail.com)

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

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## Plant Swap and Garden Celebration Collaboration

**Authors: Peggy Littman (JNF Chair) and Barbara Mintz: Co-Chairs**

On April 12, we met at the Jewish Community Center for our Plant Swap. At the same time, volunteers were creating a new, beautiful Garden of Celebration at the entrance. We were encouraged to sample delicious treats prepared with plants that will be harvested later. The roasted carrots with za'atar were a favorite, although the sesame bagels were also excellent.

If you are wondering what a plant swap is, be sure to check out the next one that Hadassah sponsors. They are tremendous fun. Bring cuttings, seedlings, seeds, saplings, bulbs, or flowers from your yard, and then choose from the many offerings others have brought to take home your own new treasures. This year's selection included white irises, tiger lily bulbs, tomatoes, basil, ground covers, daffodils, and much more. There was even a box full of interesting seeds, where Peggy was delighted to discover cotton seeds.



Hadassah gifted Hillel students, Shinshinim Israeli Ambassadors, and some of the other garden volunteers with small, but very nice succulent dish gardens. It was a completely enjoyable day.

Many thanks to everyone who made the plant swap a success.

# Book Club News

**Author: Rhonda Sternfels**

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

We always select our books. Email book suggestions for next year to Harriet Cooper [spock52@prodqiy.net](mailto:spock52@prodqiy.net)



**HOST: RHONDA S. BY ANY OTHER NAME BY JODI PICOULT JUNE 16, 2026**

Young playwright Melina Green has just written a new work inspired by the life of her Elizabethan ancestor Emilia Bassano. But seeing it performed is unlikely, in a theater world where the playing field isn't level for women. As Melina wonders if she dares risk failure again, her best friend takes the decision out of her hands and submits the play to a festival under a male pseudonym. Should a writer do whatever it takes to see her story live on. . . no matter the cost? This remarkable novel, rooted in primary historical sources, ensures the name Emilia Bassano will no longer be forgotten.



**HOST: EILEEN N. THE BOOK CLUB FOR TROUBLESOME WOMEN BY MARIE BOSTWICK JUNE 21, 2026**

Set in the 1960s. Margaret never meant to start a book club—or a feminist revolution, for that matter. A story of female friendship, self-discovery, and persistence.

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](mailto:resternfels@comcast.net) or call: 865-607-8863

## 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 [anitalkay64@gmail.com](mailto:anitalkay64@gmail.com)

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## From *Sinat Hinam* – Unprovoked Hatred – to *Ahavat Hinam* – Unprovoked Love



**By: Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal**

There certainly is a lot to dislike about social media. We've seen people, empowered by the ability to post anonymously, take the opportunity to abandon civility and respect. We've learned how the algorithm feeds on outrage, and we've seen people bait and troll each other.

Highly curated and air-brushed posts by our acquaintances show seemingly perfect families, relationships, and achievements. Perhaps, seeing them, we feel despair about the rough edges of our lives and our own comparative ordinariness.

But sometimes social media is just the opposite. Sometimes it's a conduit to dissolve anonymity and to remind us that most of us genuinely love to help others. Sometimes rather than using it to compete for attention, we use it to look out for others' well-being and cheer them on.

There are a number of local Facebook pages for residents of Oak Ridge. I happened to see in one such group a photo of a water fountain, and leaning against it was a very elegant ergonomic cane. With both a wry sense of humor and the spirit of generosity, someone posted this photo with the following caption. "A miracle may have occurred today at Bissell Park. If not, rest assured, your cane is still at the water fountain."

This post received 507 reactions.

I think the 328 "laugh" emojis were because it's pretty funny to think about a person who relied on the cane drinking the good water of Oak Ridge, being spontaneously healed, and then no longer needing their cane.

I guess that the 171 "like" and "love" emojis, were from people who saw the humor but also worried that laughing might be a tad disrespectful, given that the person had lost something important to them. And the seven "care" emojis seemed to show that concern.

Twenty-one people shared the post, helping to spread the information around. Thirty-three people commented, mostly following on the humor of the original post:

"The Fountain of Youth has been discovered!"

"I need some of that water!"

"I drank out of that fountain last week, and now I don't even need my reading glasses!"

A local waggish rabbi wrote "The Lourdes of East Tennessee!"

Other posts expressed hope that the owner of the cane would eventually find it.

A few days later I happen to be walking with my cousin in the very pleasant Bissell Park. As we headed back to the car, I saw a woman walking with a familiar looking cane. I stopped and asked if that was the famous cane of Bissell Park.

We introduced ourselves and had a wonderful chat. She told me of all the people whose cooperation reunited her with her cane. Ultimately, she was informed that it would be waiting at the front desk of the library for her to pick up. When I met J.B. she was in a great mood. Not only was she happy to get her cane back, but she was also marveling about how nice everybody was to help her out.

J.B. allowed me to take a picture of her and asked that I post it along with an update on the Facebook page. She asked me to thank everyone who had helped her, and also to quote her as saying "with my cane I am able!"

On the tragic holy day of Tisha B'Av which falls in late July this year, we commemorate numerous disasters which befell the Jewish People. One tragedy was the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem by the Roman Empire in the year 70 CE.

In the Babylonian Talmud (Yoma 9b), rabbis suggest that the Second Temple was destroyed due to unprovoked, senseless hatred within the Jewish community. Along these lines, another passage (Gittin 56a) tells a story of a host who humiliates an unintended guest in front of group of notable sages. The guest tries to rectify the situation, but the host humiliates him further. The furious guest then causes the Romans to suspect the host is fomenting a rebellion. In this way, the guest indirectly brings on the destruction of the whole Jewish community when the Romans respond.

It is said that the guest was motivated by a senseless hatred – *Sinat Hinam* – hate that is unearned. But it does seem clear that the guest was provoked to anger, so perhaps this story is not the best illustration of *Sinat Hinam*. Perhaps the behavior of the host is more akin to *Sinat Hinam*. The host did not need to humiliate his guest, just as social media trolls don't need to insult and bait innocent people. It doesn't surprise us to see that people have the capacity to be nasty to one another.

But it can be a beautiful surprise when we see people looking out for one another. Many people went out of their way to restore a lost cane to its owner. They didn't know who they would be helping, but nonetheless, they deeply wanted to help. This strikes me as *Ahavat Hinam* – unprovoked love.

I hope you will remember this small and hopeful story when you feel discouraged. I hope you can stay open to the possibility that human nature may be basically good. Because I think "The Miracle of Bissell Park" is neither a miracle, nor is it confined to Bissell Park!

## BUILDING COMMUNITY AT THE JCOR SEDER

### Friends from Past and Present



### New Friends Sustain Us



### Friends Forever



### Growing Families with Friends



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**Righteous  
Among Nations**



**Saving Holocaust  
Torah**



**Readers for  
Holocaust**



**Candlelighters  
for Holocaust**



## Mazel Tov, Graduates

### Evyn Rose Mesa



Evyn Rose Mesa graduated from Karns High School (KHS) in the Top Decile and earned the AP Capstone Diploma with her dissertation entitled, "Autism Representation in American Movies from the 1980's and Onward". She received the AP Scholar Award with Honors. Evyn was active in the National Art Honors Society and National Honors Society participating in the Dogwood Arts Chalk Walk,

face-painting, and other school organized events. Her focus is in 2D Art and Design where she has won several accolades including; 3rd place in the TN Valley Fair in 2023, 1st place in Night of the Arts 2023 for "Pierrot Puppy Eyes" and 2025 "Snake Eyes". Additionally, she won the Underclassman Outstanding Achievement Award in Spanish II, Mythology, Visual Arts I, and Emerging Keystone in 2024 and 2025.

As a member of Honors Encore Choir, she performed at Biltmore, was featured at Knoxville Sinfonietta Choir & Orchestra Concert Series, and received the 1st place trophy for Mixed Choir AA and 1st place

### Lewis Niad

During his high school career at Oak Ridge High School, Lewis has distinguished himself both academically and in extracurricular activities. He served as captain of the varsity boys bowling team, earning MVP honors and qualifying for the state tournament. On the varsity golf team, he achieved district champion and runner-up titles.

A dedicated musician, Lewis served as section leader in the marching Wild Band, holds first chair in the ORHS concert band, was a member of the All-East Honor Band. He has balanced these accomplishments while maintaining an impressive 4.3 GPA and active membership in the National Honor Society.

For fun, Lewis is an avid disc golfer and is on track to be promoted to the pro division.

in High School Choir Overall at **Music in the Parks** at Dollywood. Making her musical theatrical debut as a Crapshooter in **Guys & Dolls**, she later wowed audiences as Mae Peterson, the antagonistic Jewish mother, in **Bye, Bye, Birdie**. This role earned her the title **Most Likely to Appear on Broadway** and KHS ALL-STAR Cast Member for the Marquee Awards, where she performed on-stage at the Tennessee Theatre.

She attended the American Legion Auxiliary's **Volunteer Girls State** in Lipscomb University in Nashville representing KHS in 2025.

In her spare time, she dances with the JCOR Israeli Dancers, has participated in the Oak Ridge Holocaust Remembrance Program, and volunteers religiously and you could find her on the Karns Network.

Evyn will attend Maryville College in pursuit of a Studio Arts degree with a concentration on Drawing. She has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship, the Tartan Scholarship, the Division of Arts Scholarship, and the Theatre Scholarship.

Evyn's parents; Shuli and Gabriel, and brothers; Noah, Jonah, and Elijah are BEYOND PROUD of all her achievements and can't wait to see what!

This fall, Lewis will attend Maryville College as a freshman. He has been awarded the McGill Fellowship and a music scholarship for French horn, and plans to pursue a degree in business through their Honors Program.

Lewis lives in Oak Ridge with Lilah Niad, Katie Niad- Thames and Charlie Thames who are all incredibly proud of him and his accomplishments!



# The Knosh Spot

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services

## Watermelon and Bulgarian Cheese Salad with Mint

### Ingredients:

- 1 small watermelon, around 8 cups, cut into cubes
- 1 cup Bulgarian Cheese (or feta), crumbled
- 1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper, optional
- 1 cup fresh mint leaves, torn if large

### Directions:

- place watermelon cubes in large bowl. Sprinkle with the Bulgarian cheese, Aleppo Pepper (if using), and Fresh Mint. Toss to combine.

*Sourced by Jewish Food Society*

*Written & Shared by Eden Grinshpan*





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## YAHRZEITS



### Temple Beth El

#### June 5

Florence Gluck • Estelle Kreisberg •  
Frederick Otte • Friedel Nash • Grace Goldberger •  
Marie Brunschwig • Nancy Fagan • Dewey Reich •  
Stanley Zinn • Harold Raymon • John Speed •  
Anna Wender • Mose Zavels • Elayne Butler •  
Nathan Marks

#### June 12

Arthur Bates • George Gluck • Virginia Gluck •  
Dorothee Heller • Ian Kinney • Ann Klein •  
Esther Margolina • Julius Orovan • Moshe Ribak •  
Ruth Rockower • Edith Smith • Shirley Sturm •  
Richard Wayburn • Clay Wright • Ron Young

#### June 19

Ethel Kaplan • Joseph Konigsberg •  
Albert Eisenstadt • William Freedman •  
Max Rosenstein • Sam Good •  
Allan Gerson • William Goldberger •  
Harriet Lipman • Henry Bloom •  
Jennie Zuckerman • Sylvia Brenner •  
Judy Padoll • Max Arnstein • Morris Bart •  
Orland Porter Jr

#### June 26

Samuel Spiro • Margrit Baerman • Morris Gluck •  
Stephen Kelleher • Max Licht • Edward Reich •  
Shirley Cohen • F. Joseph Miller •  
Lillian Pomerantz • Ben Brown •  
Elizabeth Handler • Harry Marx •  
Abraham Plachter • Charlotte Bain •  
Sally Deitch • Lowell Nisely • Faye Rule •  
Sylvia Silver • Brian Tusberg

#### July 3

Margot Brown • Margaret Moss • Dora Silverstein •  
Robert Bander • Miriam Blumberg • Richard Hecht •  
Jerome Smith • Patricia Zivi • Harry Cooper •  
Richard Marchand • Gertrude Spero • Sara Brody •  
David Sauers • Marianna Merkulova • Eileen Sirotky •  
Morton Banov • Dora Schramm

#### July 10

Rose Gassel • Linda Zaretzki • Harold Zimmerman •  
Rosita Borenstein • Susan Caller • Ralph Kramer •  
David Salus • Rose Mark • Sol Moiger • Harry Gluck •  
Sam Mislow • Rick Moore • Phillip Taylor •  
Morris Deitch

#### July 17

Irving Kovitch • Mimi Pais • Joel Caller •  
Matilda Corkland • KC Derrington •  
Harriet Glassman • Ethel Danneman Krinsky •  
Max Sonn • Evan Sturm • Judy Rattner • Leo Silver •  
Pearl Davis • Sylvia Miller • Elizabeth Pardee •  
Robbie Sheehy • David Brown • Mayme Dortch •  
Minnie Katz • Raymond Brody • Sam Rosenbloom •  
Jessie Black • Jeffrey Dzimitrowicz • John Kelleher

#### July 24

Margaret Locklar • Mark Young • Malcolm Bloom •  
Goldie Garber • David Licht • Jeffrey Allen •  
Julius Rosenstein • Dorothy Tessler • Sofia Gutman •  
Harvey Kronick • Nathan Lieberman •  
Anita Taradash • David Hyman • Shlema Livshits

#### July 31

Lillian Kern • Edmond Lester • Yankel Iancovsky •  
Donald Gerson • Regina Sunshine •  
Anne Cohen • Hilda Freedman • Louis H. Gassel •  
Sheldon Sachs • Joseph Silverstein • Sylvia Cooper •  
Robert Fleischman • Sylvia Cooper Goldstein •  
Gilda Lesser • Ralph Adelman • Jennie Levy

# Yahrzeits



## Heska Amuna Synagogue Yahrzeits

### June 6

George Adlin · Irene Baskin · Adele Bernard ·  
Sylvia Forman · Sarah Gershek · Estelle Kreisberg ·  
George Messing · Thekla Naumann ·  
Pablo Piedrahita-Aduen · Frances Sabler ·  
Claude Schulhof · Herbert Smullian

### June 13

Sol Berry · Shirley Cohen · Selma Corkland ·  
Harold Diftler · Louis Edelman · Albert Eisenstadt ·  
Santa Floyd · Isaac Green · Victor Hanan ·  
Lynn Hecht · Jacob Klein · Genevieve Kramer ·  
Mary Kutsubos · Harry Lipshin · Samuel Love ·  
Ben Mazur · Thomas Owens · Jennie Rosenblatt ·  
Robert Sabler · Zelda Siegel · Esther Spiegelman ·  
Doris Weinsstein

### June 20

Beatrice Beber · Dorothy Blue · Abraham Collins ·  
Israel Dyller · George Fayerman ·  
Jennie Friedman · Carol Glasman ·  
Sol Greenfield · Paul Iversen · Bernard Marvet ·  
Rose Robinson · Fannie Russler ·  
Marian Schwartz · Paul Steinberg ·  
Joseph Weinbren

### June 27

Greta Besmann · Emma Burnett ·  
Rebecca Fayonsky · Moses Greenberg ·  
Erma Levin · Belle Linke · Lewis Littmann ·  
Celia Mackta · Gerald Millen · Gussie Potter ·  
Anna Richer · Anna Sanders · Edward Shoenig ·  
Marshall Stern · Martin Stollin · Bradley Sturm ·  
Anne Tomlinson

### July 4

Sylvia Balloff · Simmy Barrocas · Isaac Benhayon ·  
Siegfried Besmann · Lillian Brody ·  
Gerri Brown-Wheeler · Harry Cooper ·  
Sarah Coplan · Karl Finestone · Ben Goodstein ·  
Clara Goodstein · Stella Iroff · Harry Kaplan ·  
Minnie Katz · Shirley Leeds · Rebecca S. Millen ·  
Harry Miller · Aleja Piedrahita-Angulo ·  
Nathan Quadow · Joseph Russler ·  
Mildred Shamitz · Harold Shersky ·  
Rabbi Isaac Winick · Hirsh Zussman

### July 11

Janet Baloff · Irving Danziger · Robert Euster ·  
Josef Gleichor · Josephine Gluck ·  
Maria Gruenberg · Yetta Hornstein · Lisa Kahn ·  
Alvin Kingsley · Myrna Kingsley · Clay Martin ·  
Norman Millen · Leonard Miller · Douglas  
Morrison · Bessie Perelman · Eva Slovis ·  
Tanis Smith

### July 18

Malvina Alexander · Mary Corkland ·  
Matilda Corkland · Barbara Fay · Cleo Ginsburg ·  
Madge Glidewell · Fanni Goldstein ·  
Ethan Goodfriend · Selena Jacobson ·  
Frances Levin · Harold Licht · Edward Lippner ·  
Stella Love · Evelyn Lowe · Edward Mottzman ·  
Mel Nagler · Avrom Wein

### July 25

Dorina Barnett · Esther Berbergal · Esther  
Bernstein · Mildred Dreyer · Morris Goldman ·  
Sylvia Goldstein · Adela Gross · Leon Hasden ·  
Benjamin Jaffe · Hyman Levison · Karl Liberman ·  
Yetta Lipshin · Rose Martin · Samuel Merlin ·  
Samuel Millen · Max Millner · Sam Rosenbloom



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

### The Way We Were in 1988 Gert Weinstein BBG Beau Dance



Top row, left to right: Rachel **Becker** (now **Becker-Klein**), Alexia (Shuli) **Levison** (now **Poe**), Allison **Schwartz** (now **Rasco**), Rachel Leeds (now **Harris**), Allison **Fleischman** (now **Fleischman Bengé**), Kerri **Schwartz** (now **Rentenbach**).

Middle row: Kevin **Harris**, Beau, Tony **Ivins**, Little Brother.

Bottom row: Debbie **Cohen** (now **Abrams-Cohen**), Judith **Rosenberg**, Robin **Nurick** (now **Brown**), advisor, Julie **Morrison**.

Rachel **Becker-Klein**, Kerri **Rentenbach**, Rachel **Harris**, Debbie **Abrams-Cohen**, Judith **Rosenberg**, and Robin **Brown** continue to live in Knoxville. Allison **Rasco's** parents Allen and Andi **Schwartz** live in Knoxville as well as Alexia **Poe's** closest cousin Monte **Millen**, Julie Morrison's cousin Mary Linda **Schwarzbart**, and Kevin **Harris's** father Mark.

Thanks to Marla **Brody**, Robin **Brown**, Kerri **Rentenbach**, and especially Judith **Rosenberg** for identification as well as who lives where (and *The Center Menorah* for confirmation of the year and venue).

The Archives brings you a photograph from our community's past, endeavoring to identify each person with the name used at the time the photo was taken, and when appropriate, the name used later in life. Send your photos (with identifications of who, what, when, where) of "The Way We Were" to [archives@jewishknoxville.org](mailto:archives@jewishknoxville.org).



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