

HAKOL

June • July 2025 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

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Become an AJCC member to enjoy the Allen Rosen Aquatic Center all summer long! Scan the QR to join today!
 Photo Credit: Jared Iroff-Bailey

HaKOL Monthly Publication

Tara Bain
 KJA Director of Community Engagement

Sabatani Jones
 Layout Designer

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 2025 Community Calendar

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Shavuot

8:30P *Candle Lighting*
 11:00A IPEG Shavuot Pool Party
 – PJ Library, KJDS, JCOR, & TBE
 Religious School
 8:00P Tikkun-Leyl Shavuot – TBE,
 JCOR, & HAS

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Shavuot

9:34P *Candle Lighting*
 9:30A Shavuot Service - HAS

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

9:30A Shavuot Service - HAS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

4:00P Pool Closes for Mock Swim
 Meet - AJCC

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

2:00P HAWL Mahjong – HAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

8:33P *Candle Lighting*
 1:00P Watercolor Class - HAS
 4:30P JFS Shabbat Service at
 Sherrill Hills – KJA

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

9:37P *Havdalah*

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

10:00A Annual Congregational
 Meeting – HAS
 3:00P The Liberation of Jerusalem
 - HAD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

7:00P Annual Meeting – TBE

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

2:00P HAWL Mahjong – HAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

8:36P *Candle Lighting*

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

9:40P *Havdalah*

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

7:30P Book Club on Zoom - HAD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

7:30P Book Club - JCOR

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

12:00P Juneteenth/MLK Parade –
 KJA & TBE
 2:00P HAWL Mahjong – HAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

8:38P *Candle Lighting*

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

9:42P *Havdalah*
 7:00P Adult-Only Pool Party - AJCC

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

2:00P HAWL Mahjong - HAS

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

8:39P *Candle Lighting*

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

9:43P *Havdalah*

July 2025 Community Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 1

5:00P BBYO-Connect Pool Party

FRIDAY, JULY 4

8:38P *Candle Lighting*
 12:00P 4th of July Pool Party - AJCC
 4:30P JFS Shabbat Service at Sherrill Hills – KJA

SATURDAY, JULY 5

9:42P *Havdalah*

FRIDAY, JULY 11

8:36P *Candle Lighting*
 5:00P Shinshinim Noa's Farewell Reception – KJA

SATURDAY, JULY 12

9:39P *Havdalah*

TUESDAY, JULY 15

7:30P Book Club on Zoom – HAD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

7:30P Book Club - JCOR

FRIDAY, JULY 18

8:33P *Candle Lighting*

SATURDAY, JULY 19

9:35P *Havdalah*
 7:00P Adult-Only Pool Party – AJCC

SUNDAY, JULY 20

12:00P Melton Park Picnic – HAD

TUESDAY, JULY 22

4:00P Pool Closes for Swim Meet - AJCC

FRIDAY, JULY 25

8:28P *Candle Lighting*

SATURDAY, JULY 26

9:29P *Havdalah*

Calendar Highlights

Heska Amuna Synagogue

www.HeskaAmuna.org

Community Shavuot Learning Program Sunday, June 1 • 8:00 pm (not all night, don't worry!) Heska Amuna Synagogue

Heska Amuna Synagogue is honored to host the Community Shavuot Learning Program (in person and Zoom). Enjoy dairy desserts and learn Torah perspectives from our 3 congregations' rabbis and teachers!

Contact Mary Ann Merrell • RRS@heskaamuna.org

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

www.jewishknoxville.org/pjlibrary

IPEG Pre-Shavuot Family Pool Party Sunday, June 1 • 11:00A-1:00P • Allen Rosen Aquatic Center

Our annual Pre-Shavuot Family Pool Party is a collaboration between PJ Library Knoxville, KJDS, TBE Religious School, Heska Amuna Synagogue, and JCOR. Join us to kick off summer with ice cream, swimming, music, crafts, games, and more poolside fun! Not a member – no problem! This event is FREE and open to all Jewish families. This program is made possible through an engagement grant from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Contact Anna Iroff-Bailey • airoffbailey@jewishknoxville.org

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

www.jcortn.org

JCOR Shabbat at VIVA Senior Living Friday, June 13th • 6:30 to 8:30 PM at VIVA Senior Living in Oak Ridge

JCOR Goes to VIVA Senior Living in Oak Ridge to lead a Friday night service. Join us there for a Traditional Shabbat service led by Jim Bogard. Share the joy of welcoming Shabbat along with desserts and the connection with our members and friends.

Contact Ronnie Bogard • events@jcor.info

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





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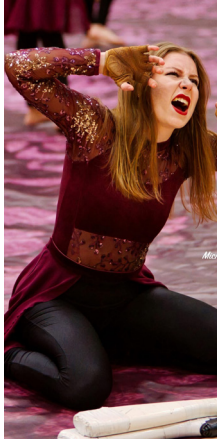


Mazel Tov, 2025 Graduates!

ZOEY APPLGATE

Oak Ridge High School

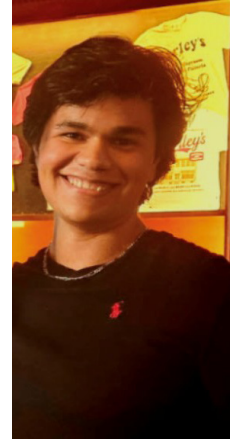
Zoey Applegate will be graduating from ORHS on May 16th with honors. Her sophomore year she was selected to participate in YLOR, she is Vice President of the Environmental Club and has been a Co-Captain of the Color Guard Team the past 2 years. Zoey will be attending UT Knoxville in the fall where she will be studying Environmental Sciences. Go Vols!



JONAH MESA

Pellissippi State

Jonah David Mesa graduated with his Associate of Science in Social Work from Pellissippi State Community College in May of 2025. Jonah was active in Student engagement and leadership, as well as a Library Ambassador. He received two awards: Certificate of Leadership as the Panther Hype Team Lead and the Certificate Courage Award. Next year, he will continue his formal education in Social Work at ETSU. He has volunteered with Camp Erin, a camp for children with family members in hospice. He participated in the Holocaust Remembrance Program at JCOR and is always around to lend his support with carrying a Torah or serving wine. His family couldn't be prouder of all he does and the amazing human he is!



ELIZABETH FLOYD

Pellissippi State Community College

Elizabeth is graduating with an Associate degree in Culinary Arts and already has obtained her Chef certification! She will work full time at Family Meal Knox, a catering company.

Elizabeth's proud family includes Frank & Laura Floyd and David Floyd. She attended Religious School and had her Bat Mitzvah at Heska Amuna in 2018.



TIFANNIE ROSEN

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tifannie will graduate with a BA degree in Journalism - Strategic Communication and certificates in Digital Media Analytics and Life Sciences Communication. She was proud to earn a place on the Dean's List for 4 semesters. Next year, she is excited to continue her education at NYU, where she will pursue a master's degree in integrated marketing at the School of Professional Studies.

Tifannie is the daughter of Kim and Stephen Rosen and granddaughter of Lea and Allen Orwitz and Alexandra Rosen.



RYAN GIBBONS

Elon University

Ryan Gibbons is graduating summa cum laude from Elon University in May with a dual degree in environmental and ecological studies and cinema and tv arts communications. While at Elon, Ryan participated in a wide variety of leadership activities including marching band, percussion ensemble, Hillel, rock climbing club, and Elon's sketch comedy show "Elon Tonight". He also won a scholarship to complete a research thesis on carbon emissions in soil. Ryan hopes to pursue a career in environmental science or science communication.

Ryan is the son of Melinda and Tony Gibbons.



THATCHER SCHIEK

Farragut High School

Thatcher Schiek will celebrate graduation from Farragut High School on May 18th. While in high school he worked all 4 years, three of which were at Chick-Fil- A, where he became a shift lead and integral part of the team. He also created his own clothing company and manufactured and fulfilled orders while keeping up his grades - and as he continues to do so. Ready to take on a business degree in college, Thatcher plans to attend Pellissippi State to get his feet wet for a year and then transfer to a 4-year university.



From The Shinshinim

By: Noa Gilan and Tsur Kushnir

How can we summarize a year like this? Even a full book wouldn't be enough to capture all the stories and experiences. We arrived in August, knowing almost nothing about Knoxville, barely knowing what was expected from us or what we were about to encounter. Just a week later, we already felt the spirit of the community - from the "Welcome" sign at KJDS and the warm hugs from our host families to a beautiful Shabbat dinner at Hillel and a UTK football game. We dove right into the work, cooking classes with the preschool, our first BBYO Connect event, Hebrew lessons, and Israel activities at TBERS and KJDS aftercare. As time went on, more and more organizations welcomed us with open arms: Heska Amuna Synagogue, JFS's Sherril Hills, Learn & Live, holidays, camping, lunches, Shabbat dinners - and more. We got to know the community.

Thank you, Knoxville. Thank you for welcoming us, supporting us, and becoming our second home - our second family.

We would like to add a special thanks to Liat, Yoav, Yuval, Segev, and Gaya Koenig; Stephanie, Rob, Noah, Idan, and Abe Blitt; Jeff and Nancy Becker; Lauren, Jeff, Forrest, and Lila Kaplan. Also, thank you to our amazing supervisor, Tara Bain, who helped us through everything.

From here on, the email shinshinim@jewishknoxville.org will be in the hands of Yahli and Abigail, the 2025-2026 ShinShinim.

We're still available via our personal emails and on WhatsApp and would love to keep in touch!

Tsur Kushnir- +972 503005657,
tsur.kushnir@gmail.com

Noa Gilan- +972523535453, noagilan1@gmail.com

Shinshinim Join the Preschool at AJCC

By: Noa Gilan and Tsur Kushnir

Working with the preschool kids was amazing for us this year! We taught cooking for the older classes and made with them challah, chocolate balls, hamantaschen, rugalach, and more delicious treats! We loved seeing how they understood everything we tried to teach them, and they were so proud of the snacks that they created themselves.

We loved working with the whole school to laugh with them at Shabbat party and dance with them in music class with Mr. Bob. This year was great, full of happiness and fun! We will miss them so much.

Thank you, Alef, Bet, Gimel, Dalet, Hey, Vav, Zayin and Het classes and teachers for welcoming us into preschool this year.



Tsur teaching preschoolers how to roll the dough.



Noa and a student add sesame seeds to her challah.



We dressed as Moses and falafel for the Purim Carnival!

Todah Rabah, Noa & Tsur!

From Knoxville Jewish Alliance leadership

Noa and Tsur, we have been lucky to have you working with students at the Preschool at AJCC for weekly Shabbat party and cooking classes, plus helping with music class and special holiday celebrations. Our students love you, and we will all miss you so much! Todah Rabah! – **Preschool at AJCC**

Noa and Tsur, we are beyond grateful for the time you've spent with us here in Knoxville, TN — TN which now proudly stands for Tsur and Noa! Your presence has brought Israel to life in our community in such a unique and meaningful way. Through your dedication, warmth, and spirit, you've illuminated not only our Jewish community organizations but also the broader Knoxville community. Your impact will be felt long after your stay. We look forward to staying connected as time goes on, and please know: you will always have a home in Knoxville. Todah rabah from all of us! – **KJA Staff**

Being the first is never easy — but you embraced the challenge with grace, heart, and courage. As our community's very first ShinShinim, you took a leap of faith on Knoxville, and we are so deeply grateful that you did. Thank you for your sweet spirits, your constant willingness to help in any way, and for bringing Israel to life in our community every single day. You've left a lasting impression on our hearts and on Jewish Knoxville. We'll miss you dearly, but this is not goodbye — it's l'hitraot... until we meet again. You will always have a home here. Todah rabah al hakol — thank you for everything. We send you off with all our love as you begin your next chapter in service to Israel, to our Jewish homeland, and to our People. - **KJA Board of Directors**



President's Message

By: Judith Rosenberg

KJA is known very well for our Milton Collins Day Camp (MCDC) and creating “the most fun under the sun” at the AJCC. By the time you’re reading this, camp will be in full swing, and 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. Come enjoy it all!

One of the things you might not know is that KJA leads our community’s collective advocacy efforts, working quietly and consistently within our larger community and with our not-Jewish neighbors to ensure that we are protected and safe, and that Jewish perspectives are represented where and when they need to be. We have built and sustained incredibly strong relationships with our other Federation and JCC partners across Tennessee, and we are able to coordinate and act together incredibly efficiently and quickly, together, when we need to. This year, we coordinated to ensure that our state legislature acted in our best interest on matters

of mutual concern – including antisemitism, civil rights intimidation, discrimination in educational institutions, discrimination based on religious affiliation, and support for the State of Israel.

Summer at the AJCC, and advocacy work in our state legislature. What do these two things have in common? They certainly protect the future of our community, on very different levels. They also cost money to maintain.

Thank you to our generous donors and annual campaign supporters! **When you support the work of the KJA financially, know that you are helping ensure our community is FUN, thriving, and also safe.** And a special thank you to our summer staff who work so hard to make sure great summer memories are made on our campus.

Hope to see you soon!

KJA Welcomes New JFS Director

By: Nora Sweat, KJA Director of Jewish Family Services

Hello everyone! My name is Nora Sweat; however, my maiden name is Kaye. I am your Jewish Family Services director. I grew up in Knoxville and went to the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge. I spent my early years in the AJCC preschool program and then spent my summers at the AJCC for camp and swim team. I remember having the most amazing time being here.

I hold a bachelor’s degree in child development and family studies, as well as a Master’s in Family and Human Development, which I received from Arizona State University this past winter. I have worked with children, those in assisted living facilities, and non-profits.

I am excited about connecting more within the community and being able to serve you. I am working to grow our JFS program within our aging population through our current programs, and our new Learn and Live (L&L) program. It is also my hope to help families, individuals, and the community through new JFS programs. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I am available at AJCC on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and by my email: nsweat@jewishknoxville.org.



Celebrating Birthdays and Swim meets



Nora Sweat

Give with Heart: Supporting Tzedakah and Community in 2025

By: Eric Mayer, VP Campaign

As we move forward into a new year, the Knoxville Jewish community has a powerful opportunity to renew our commitment to Tzedakah—righteous giving. Rooted in our tradition, Tzedakah is not merely charity, but a moral obligation to help those in need and strengthen the fabric of our community.

The Knoxville Jewish Alliance invites you to participate in our 2025 fundraising initiatives, which directly support educational programs, youth engagement, senior services, cultural events, and social outreach. Your generosity makes a real impact—enabling us to build an inclusive, vibrant, and compassionate Jewish life for all.

New this year, we've launched NEON, our secure donor management system, to make online giving easier and more efficient. To pledge your donation online, you'll need to register for a NEON account if you haven't already. This quick step helps us keep in touch and ensures your gift is processed smoothly. Prefer to give the traditional way? Mail-in donations and other methods are still gladly accepted—just as in years past.

Philanthropy, whether large or small, is a way each of us can express gratitude and responsibility. Now more than ever, we must stand together and extend our hands to uplift others.

Join us in this sacred mission. Give from the heart, give with meaning, and be a part of something enduring. Your act of Tzedakah today shapes the Knoxville Jewish community of tomorrow.

To donate or get involved, visit www.jewishknoxville.org/kja-donate. Together, we can create lasting change.



KJA Contributions

as of April 25, 2025

2025 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Karen Robinson
Bernard Rosenblatt
Richard Licht and Shirley McGuire-Licht
Scott Hahn
Robert Blitt and Stephanie Kodish
William and Ellen Berez
Martin and Martha Iroff
Marc Forman

GENERAL

John and Courtney Brandon
Joe Garofalo
Rebecca Eshbaugh

School's Out -- Or Is It?

Author: Rabbi Adam J. Rosenbaum

Do you remember how you used to feel on the last day of school?

As much as we emphasize the importance of education, I have to admit that, for me, the annual countdown of the last moments of the school year would always be exhilarating. I don't think I was rejecting the idea of learning so much as I was excited at the idea of making each summer day my own, of playing outside and not worrying about homework or tests. The sun was out, the weather was warm, and the time was mine.

I remember how I felt after taking my last test at the Jewish Theological Seminary. I expected to feel a pronounced sigh of relief after completing six years of rabbinical school. But although it did bring a smile to my face, I wouldn't describe my feelings as euphoric. After many years of school, I began to realize I couldn't simply "switch my brain off" between June and September. Certainly, the summer can provide a unique opportunity to relax, but the longer I stayed away from my studies, the rustier I felt when I returned to the next school year. Once completing our formal schooling, the need to learn 12 months out of the year becomes even more important.

This idea is expressed in our tradition during the holiday of Shavuot. This holiday partially commemorates the anniversary of the Israelites receiving the Torah. According to the story, the Israelites received the Torah a mere seven weeks after crossing the Sea of Reeds and finalizing their liberation from Egypt. The exuberance the Israelites felt was replaced by a sense of gravity, a realization that older, oppressive responsibilities would need to be replaced by newer (albeit less harsh)

responsibilities.

The question is, why the rush? Why were the Israelites' new requirements foisted upon them so soon after a nation-altering event? Was it not enough that they had just left Egypt? Didn't they need more than seven weeks to come together as a free nation before receiving the Torah?

To me, the answer lies in the eternal nature of the Torah itself. Its laws and ideas are not simply rules to understand some of the time. While some of its rituals have changed, its lessons remain constant, alive and relevant in every generation. Its lessons are timeless, and as such, they do not cease due to the passing of the seasons.

All of us welcome the summer. Many of us will travel, go to camp, or simply get a much-needed change of pace. These changes are important and necessary in order to revamp our bodies and our spirits. But while we note that congregational programming is usually reduced between now and Labor Day, we are still very much here. And there are many ways to stay connected to our synagogue and our Jewish heritage in the meantime.

Some of us may have lacked the time to attend services in recent months. Maybe the summer can be an opportunity to do so.

Some of us may have lacked the opportunity to read an interesting Jewish book. Perhaps a lazy summer day – even while on vacation – will give you that chance.

In other words, the summer is a chance to refresh and recharge, but our community remains vibrant, and I urge everyone to be a part of it.

You Just Gotta Love a Religion That Gets It

By: Mary Ann Merrell, Heska Amuna Past President (almost)

If I asked a hundred people, I expect I would get a hundred different, yet equally awesome, answers about what it is about being Jewish that resonates the most for them. After decades of intermittent commitment to how I see religious practice, my vote goes to Birkot Hashachar, morning blessings.

It's not just the content of the prayers – noting thankfulness for waking up, being free, being a Jew, studying a bit of Torah – or the fact that you are supposed to stand while reciting them (otherwise, how long would you sit with that cup of coffee...) but it's the recognition that the first words that come out of our mouths in the morning should be gratitude – not just for being alive, but a whole list of easy-to-overlook-in-our-busy-whirlwinds-we-call-life gratitudes. And, to top it off, towards the prayer's ending, there is that invitation to fill in the blank after getting our gratitude wheels moving. Our sages were really sage.

As I end my time as President, how could I not be thankful every day for our Heska Amuna community we all create by our very presence and intentions?

To each of you who have helped us make a minyan so one of us could say Kaddish, thank you.

To each of you who said "Good Shabbes" or "Good Yontif" to someone at services you did not know, thank you.

To each of you who served tirelessly on our Chesed, Bikkur Cholim, Security: Chevra Kadisha, Rabbi and Religious Services, Beautification, Youth Education, Adult Education, Cemetery, Women's League, Men's Club, Programs, Board of Trustees, Facilities, Membership, Seder, Mishloach Manot, Fundraising and events committees, and the many committees across our Jewish community here, (especially the Archives), thank you.

To each of you who led minyan, Shabbat, holiday, and holy day services, thank you.

To each of you who lent your talents and energies to beautifying our building and outdoor spaces, thank you.

To each of you who cooked, served, washed dishes, and cleaned up after our gatherings, thank you.

To each of you who said "yes" when I asked and to each of you who said "no," too, thank you.

To each of you who performed acts of kindness to others that no one else saw, thank you.

And especially to Laura Floyd, who has been much more a co-President than a President-Elect these past two years, thank you.

With truly heartfelt and endless gratitude, I thank you all.

Todah rabbah.




HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE




*What do you do when it rains on your garden tour? The amazing and creative leaders of Heska Amuna Women's League (HAWL) turned a rained-out garden tour into a meaningful poetry reading on spring and growth, renamed "Like raindrops, small acts of love can fill the heart."
Photo by Nora Messing*

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT: A COMMUNITY SHAVUOT LEARNING PROGRAM

Enjoy Dairy Desserts and learn Torah perspectives from our congregations' rabbis and teachers!



Sunday, June 1, 8:00pm
Heska Amuna Synagogue
3811 Kingston Pike, Knoxville



Annual Meeting of Heska Amuna Congregation



10:00 am Sunday, June 8

Contributions by Caring People

Through April 28, 2025

ANNUAL APPEALS

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Mark & Betty Siegel
Stephen & Rosalie Nagler
Dustin McGhee

PRAYER BOOK NAMEPLATES

In Memory of our parents Sarita &
Donn and Joseph & Jessie
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In Memory of Jason David Cayne
Suzan & Jordan Cayne

Summer

Author: Raina Siroty, Rabbi Cantor

The first day of summer in 2025 falls on Friday, June 20th. Astronomical summer will officially begin at 10:42 p.m. Eastern Time, marking the 2025 summer solstice. At this exact moment, the North Pole tilts closest to the sun, causing the sun to reach its highest point in the sky for the year. To celebrate the arrival of warmer, longer, and sunnier days, here's a collection of Jewish blessings and readings to help you embrace the carefree spirit of summer.

The Blessing of Firsts

The Shehecheyanu is recited the first time you do something each Jewish calendar year and to mark joyous occasions.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעְנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Blessing over Bodies of Water

Some of us may be going to the lake, the pool, the Gulf or the sea this summer. You can recite this blessing upon your first viewing (or dip) in the water.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה אֶת הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל

Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam she'asa et hayam hagadol.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, ruler of the cosmos, who has made the great sea.

Blessing When One Sees Beauty Around Them

Beauty reveals itself in countless forms, whether in the grace of trees, the wild spirit of animals, or the light within people. You may recite this blessing when presented with something of beauty.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ הוֹה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁכָּחָה לּוֹ בְּעוֹלָמוֹ

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam, shekacha lo beolamo.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, that such as these are in Your world.

The Blessing of Spending Time Outdoors

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, a mystic of the late 18th century, believed that a relationship with nature was essential to one's own spiritual devotion. He offered this prayer when he was so moved by the natural beauty that surrounded him.

Master of the universe, grant me the ability to be alone; that it may be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and the grass, among all growing things and there may I be alone to enter into prayer, to talk with the One I belong to.

May I express everything in my heart and may all the foliage of the field – all grasses, trees and plants – may they all awake at my coming, to send the power of their life into the words of my prayer, so that my prayer and speech are made whole through the life and spirit of growing things, which are made as one by their transcendent Source.

May they all be gathered into my prayer and thus may I be worthy to open my heart fully in prayer, supplication and holy speech."

A Blessing for Summer

Although there isn't an official blessing for the start of summer, may this blessing, written by Beth Kander-Dauphin, bring a smile to your face.

For the lengthening of days, stretching sunshine far past its winter bedtime,

For the bright blues and vibrant green and pops of color filling the warm world,

For the unrelenting humidity that reminds us to savor the sweetness of cooler breezes,

For all the sounds of summer – the jingling of ice cream trucks, joyful shouts of children splashing, lingering laughter over meals shared on patios, the shuddering clap of thunderstorms demonstrating something more powerful than us,

For summer camps and vacations and time spent outside, For good AC when we're stuck indoors,

For sun, For shade,

For all these things and more, we thank You.

And may God bless and keep the mosquitoes... far away from us.

Wishing everyone a beautiful **זִיָּה** (Summer)

Graduation

By: Dan McLaughlin, President

As we prepare for graduation season, I want you all to think back to yours. Do you remember when you came to the realization that it was done? The excitement of knowing you have accomplished something. Looking at your loved ones as they see you in your cap and gown?

Graduation marks the end of the academic journey. However, it is not the only end we are celebrating. Our Confirmation class will be celebrating graduation as well. These young adults, as well as their parents, made a commitment to their faith and have reached an important milestone in their lives. This year's Confirmation class includes:

Karl James
Zach Rosenbaum
Jason Pasternak
Joshua Burnell
Michael Fox

We celebrate them all and are so proud of them.

From Pierogi to Pastrami – Rob Heller Art Exhibit

By: Shelley Mangold, Library Art Gallery Chair

Following the Shabbat service on March 28th, our congregation had the pleasure of attending a compelling and inspiring artist talk by Rob Heller, a professor of Photojournalism at the University of Tennessee.

A heartfelt thank you to David and Vivian Butler and Dustin McGhee for their generous help in hanging Rob Heller's powerful photo exhibition in our Library Gallery. The exhibit features striking images from his travels to Poland and New York City. We encourage everyone to find time to visit and experience this moving display in the TBE library.

Interested in helping with future exhibits? We'd love to hear from you! Let us know if you'd like to get involved.



*From left to right:
 Norma James, Rob
 Heller, Dan Smith,
 Grace Lewis*



Photos of Rob Heller's From Pierogi to Pastrami exhibit

Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning

By: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director

Look for TBERS summer activities for our students! Our students have made such good friends this year that our parents are interested in arranging some fun meetups for our children. Look for news of an ice cream party, a movie night, and more!

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 do we offer?

- **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 and HA. 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** at all levels beginning in PreK. Midweek Hebrew for 4th-6th. Opportunities for additional help in Hebrew to meet individual needs at no extra cost to parents.
- **Judaic Studies** using the curriculum from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL), which is used in both Reform and Conservative schools. It offers rich, well-planned lessons that always include a variety of modalities. As ISJL Partners, we have access to educational specialists to offer advice and provide additional programming ideas.
- **Weekly T'filah** with Rabbi Cantor Raina Siroty. Rabbi Siroty is an integral part of our program and is involved in our music program and of course all holiday celebrations.
- **Holiday celebrations galore!** 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!
- **Off campus learning and social experiences** that encourage the development of community for our students. Last year our 6th-9th graders had a personal tour of the Violins of Hope Exhibit led by Miriam Esther Wilhelm. Our PreK-3rd graders spent a Sunday at the AJCC with Noa and Tsur, the Shinshinim, leading Jewish games and other activities. Our 4th-7th graders had a great afternoon at Main Event as a reward for a year of excellent work. Our Chai class (8th-9th) will travel to Birmingham, Alabama, in June to visit important Jewish sites and Civil Rights exhibits, as well as having some great leisure time activities. The trip's curriculum was designed by our educational partner the ISJL.

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 Sunday and Wednesday sessions. For those children who still struggle to get out of bed on Sunday mornings, they, too, leave happy at the end of the day. This is your child's opportunity to make Jewish friends that can last a lifetime!



2025 Temple Beth El Religious School

Religious School for 2025-2026 begins August 24th.

We have classes for children beginning at age four and going through 9th grade. Confirmation is open to 9th-12th graders.

Registration will begin July 15th and will be completely online on our Temple Website. Go to TBEKNOX.org and select the Religious School registration link.

Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

Donations listed were received as of April 25, 2025

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Mazel Tov to the KJDS 5th Grade Class of 2025!

By: Anna McDonald, Director of Admissions

Celebrating Our Graduates and Their Journey at KJDS

As the school year comes to a close, we are filled with pride and joy as we celebrate the remarkable 5th grade Class of 2025 at Knoxville Jewish Day School. These 11 bright students have brought laughter, curiosity, and leadership to our classrooms—and they're now ready to embark on exciting new adventures.

Throughout their time at KJDS, each graduate has contributed something special to our community, and we're thrilled to share their reflections on their journeys. Here's a glimpse into their KJDS experience, in their own words:

MOLLY ALLEN

Brave, Kind, and Joyfully Inclusive

Molly joined us from Israel and quickly became a friend to everyone. She's proud of her improved English skills and is headed to West Valley Middle School, where she will continue her journey with kindness and confidence.



NERI BARAK

Performer with a Big Heart

Neri's starring role in Newsies sparked a passion for the stage, but it's her compassionate nature that truly shines. She has a gift for helping younger students feel seen and heard. Next, she will bring her talents and warmth to West Valley Middle.



ELLA BEN ISHAI

Energetic, Athletic, and Adventurous

Ella brought a spark to everything—from sports on the field to STEAM challenges in the classroom. She'll always remember the Q and U wedding in kindergarten and the overnight adventure at GRP. As she heads to West Valley Middle, she's ready for even more action, learning, and laughter.



ASHER HARRE

Steady, Focused, and Full of Heart

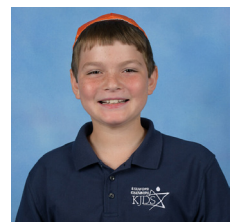
Asher grew into a focused learner and supportive friend over his years at KJDS. His love for sports has always been evident, whether playing on the field or cheering on his teammates. As he heads to Hardin Valley Middle, he's eager to continue growing as both a leader and a friend, while still supporting his 4th-grade friends along the way.



NOAH JOHNSON

Creative, Confident, and Always in Motion

Noah brought energy and creativity to every aspect of life at KJDS, from tackling complex math problems to leading with a strong voice in advisory. His confidence and ability to inspire those around him made him a natural leader. As he prepares to join his new friends at Webb, Noah leaves behind a legacy of advocacy, including a cleaner boys' bathroom that reflects his commitment to making things better for everyone.



AVIVA LANE***Full of Joy from Day One***

Aviva's first day in kindergarten was filled with joy, and that same joy has marked her entire KJDS journey. She will attend Carpenters Middle School, where she's ready to build new friendships with the same enthusiasm she's brought to KJDS.

**JADEN MESSING*****Uniquely Himself, Full of Humor and Heart***

Jaden's unique personality always brought something special to KJDS. One of his favorite memories is baking Tennessee-shaped brownies in 3rd grade. Whether perfecting his football skills, helping out his friends, or showing kindness to the K/1ers, Jaden always gave his best. He's off to Karns Middle School, ready for new adventures and plenty more laughs.

**ELLA OLINZOCK*****Creative, Curious, and Compassionate***

Ella's time at KJDS was marked by a love of learning—especially in engineering—and a warm, caring presence that younger students looked up to. Always ready to lend a hand or share a smile, she made our community brighter. She's off to ESK, excited for "a fun change" and new chances to learn and connect.

**YAEL PALDOR*****Empathetic, Insightful, and Reflective***

Yael's proudest moment came just before the curtain rose on her first school play. Whether solving complex problems or quietly supporting her peers, Yael's insightful approach stands out, yet she remains modest in her accomplishments. As she prepares for her next chapter at West Valley and a trip to Israel, Yael is excited to continue her journey of discovery and growth.

**ARIEL ROZOV*****Helpful, Outgoing, and Always Ready to Lend a Hand***

Whether leading during tefilah or handling a uniform mix-up with grace, Ariel has shown quiet leadership, warmth, and a willingness to help others throughout his time at KJDS. His friendly, outgoing nature makes him a cherished friend to all, always ready to lend a hand when needed. Though his next school is undecided, Ariel is excited to continue his journey with kindness and humility.

**CHARLOTTE VOSE*****Kind, Calm, and a Friend to All***

Charlotte's creativity and dedication were evident in her roles in school musicals, where she also served as a role model for younger students. With a sweet and calm demeanor, Charlotte easily got along with everyone and was always kind to all. As she moves on to Bearden Middle School, we're confident that her warmth and positive attitude will continue to inspire those around her.

**MAZEL TOV, CLASS OF 2025!**

Thank you for the joy, leadership, and curiosity you brought to KJDS. You've taken the first steps on your journey, and we are certain your light will continue to shine brightly, wherever your path leads. We can't wait to see all the incredible things you'll accomplish!

From Classroom to Garden: Science in Bloom at KJDS

Author: Anna McDonald, Director of Admissions

At Knoxville Jewish Day School, learning comes alive when students are engaged, curious, and hands-on. This spring, our Kindergarten and 1st-grade students have been doing just that—bringing science and engineering to life by exploring simple machines and building brand-new Butterfly Gardens on our campus.

As part of their science unit, students studied six basic types of simple machines—levers, pulleys, inclined planes, wheels and axles, screws, and wedges—through engaging, hands-on lessons and classroom experiments. But the real magic happened when they stepped outside to apply what they had learned.

After celebrating Purim, our young scientists and engineers rolled up their sleeves and got to work. They schlepped soil in wagons (wheels and axles), used ramps to move materials (inclined planes), and screwed together garden beds—all while planting milkweed, beans, lettuce, and mint. Every moment in the garden became an opportunity to practice teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

They also took a “machine walk” around campus to spot examples of simple machines in action—slides on the playground (inclined planes), balance scales in the classroom (levers), and doorstops in the hallway (wedges). These real-world connections sparked excitement, thoughtful questions, and deeper understanding.

This unit is part of our broader approach at KJDS to blend academic excellence with joyful, inquiry-based learning. It supports early science skills while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration—all through the power of play. Our hands-on science curriculum is grounded in STEAM—science, technology, engineering, art, and math—integrating multiple disciplines to help children think creatively and solve problems in meaningful ways.

This garden project is more than just an outdoor activity—it’s a powerful example of integrated learning in action. It reflects our commitment to nurturing the whole child through a dynamic blend of STEAM education, Jewish values, and a warm, inclusive community.

We are so proud of our little engineers and can’t wait to watch their gardens—and their confidence—continue to grow.

Interested in a school where your child can thrive inside and outside the classroom? Schedule a tour or visit www.kjds.org to learn how KJDS inspires joyful, engaged learning rooted in community, curiosity, and connection.




Violins of Hope Resonates Across Knoxville, Reaching Over 10,000 People

Violins of Hope: Strings of the Holocaust brought an unforgettable experience to the Knoxville community, weaving together history, music, and memory through a deeply moving series of events. Over the course of the project, more than 10,000 people were impacted—including 4,500 students across 25 schools, an estimated 3,000 gallery visitors, and hundreds who attended a powerful theatrical concert at the Tennessee Theatre. The exhibit and performances featured restored violins that once belonged to Jewish musicians during the Holocaust, each instrument carrying the weight of memory, resilience, and a powerful call to remember. One highlight of the concert was the presence of Avshi Weinstein, co-founder of Violins of Hope, who stood to honor the legacy of his family's work and the stories embedded in each violin.


More than just a cultural event, *Violins of Hope* became a community-wide conversation about justice, empathy, and the importance of Holocaust education. The project sparked emotional responses from audience members, inspired student presentations, and reaffirmed a shared commitment to ensure “Never Again” is not simply a slogan, but a lived responsibility. With the support of dedicated volunteers, generous sponsors, and the leadership of the Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School, the program created an enduring legacy—one in which the violins continue to sing, not only for the past, but for a future shaped by compassion and courage.





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Rabbi's Corner

Author: Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal

This year, the beginning of June ushers in Shavuot. After counting seven weeks from the second night of Pesach, we arrive at this time of fullness – in the Rabbinic tradition, the time of receiving the Torah and in the Biblical tradition, the time of the wheat harvest in Eretz Yisrael.

I will never forget a Shavuot in Israel. On Erev Shavuot in Jerusalem, the streets bustled from sundown till the wee hours of the next morning. Swarms of people went from one place of learning to another, greeting friends and asking where the best lectures were that night. People stopped at free coffee stands to fuel their all-night study. The tradition of all-night study comes from the Zohar, where Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and “the early pious ones” stay up learning Torah on Shavuot night. They had an esoteric mystical purpose: to adorn the Shechinah with jewels through their learning. This all-night study, Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, has become a beloved tradition among kabbalists and non-kabbalists alike.

Despite having wandered from lecture to lecture till very late, we arose very early to travel to Kibbutz Ein Shemer near Hadera for their wheat harvest festival. We rode shuttles out to the wheat fields, where we learned how to cut the stalks with a sickle. We were shuttled to an industrial building for a demonstration of wheat grinding tools from ancient mortar and pestle to mill-stones to a diesel-powered mill. The children were amazed when flour emerged from the spout, grabbed it from the floor and tasted it. Later, they made challah with the flour. Torah (Deuteronomy 26) introduces the farmers’ ritual pilgrimage to Jerusalem, bringing the first fruits of the harvest. Mishnah Bikkurim adds charming and vivid detail:

Those who lived near [Jerusalem] would bring fresh figs and grapes, while those who lived far away would bring dried figs and raisins. An ox would go in front of them, his horns bedecked with gold and with an olive-crown on its head. The flute would play before them until they drew close to Jerusalem.

The rich would bring their bikkurim in baskets overlaid with silver or gold, while the poor used wicker-baskets of peeled willow-branches, and the baskets and the bikkurim were given to the priest.

On the kibbutz, the children made paper crowns decorated with wheat and woven paper baskets to carry their challah. They were also given vegetables to carry. They enacted the procession to the ancient Temple by making their way to enormous, galvanized tubs, into which they emptied potatoes, cucumbers, carrots, eggplant, fennel bulbs, bell peppers, and apples from their baskets.

In a second procession, grandchildren of the kibbutz founders rode in little cars pulled by a tractor. Each car was decorated to show the various kibbutz enterprises, including dairy, eggs, rubber production, and fruit and vegetable crops. The kibbutz festival culminated as barefoot, costumed young men and women holding sickles and wheat twirled in a magical folk dance, the dance of the wheat harvest.

These treasured memories illuminate for me the richness of Jewish civilization and how our long history of innovation has kept Jewish tradition alive. Wishing you a harvest of Torah and all good things!



Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

Email: office@jcor.info

Website: www.jcortn.org

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/JewishOakRidge)

JewishOakRidge

Family Ed Model Seder



JCOR's Passover Seder



Readers for JCOR's Yom HaShoah Program



Cultural Alliance Foodies Having Fun



JCOR Out in the Community

JCOR Singers Participate in American Roots – An Oak Ridge Community Event



Benno Kimmelman Speaks on the Holocaust at McMinnville Rotary





East Tennessee Foundation Honors KJCFF as its first Community Champion

By: Stephen Rosen

At their annual meeting in April, the East Tennessee Foundation honored the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds by naming us as the winner of their highest award, "Community Champion." The ETF Community Champion is a "partner who has demonstrated consistent passion and contributed investments for the community over time." ETF president Keith Barber recognized our 25th anniversary and praised KJCFF for supporting our community and Knoxville at-large. Jeff Becker gave an inspiring invocation for the morning's events. Stephen Rosen accepted the award and spoke about the great relationship between the two organizations. Mary Linda Schwarzbart and Jacki Imbrey helped share the honor. KJCFF is a supporting organization of ETF and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. ETF provides our administration, tax filings, accounting, investment management and so much more

If you would like to skip Stephen to talk about a KJCFF fund with an ETF development professional, you can contact Angelia Nystrom directly at anystrom@etf.org or 865-524-1223 ext 121

Robinson Family endows the PACE Fund

The Robinson Family recently opened the PACE Fund in honor of husband, father and brother Pace Robinson who passed away in November 2023. Mr. Robinson was the first president of our Alliance in 2001. The acronym reminds us of his key role in Perpetuating Alliant Community Events. The initiative came from brother AJ and sister Rabbi Rayzel Raphael. The advisory committee will be Pace's wife, Karen Robinson, and their sons, Eli and Asher. The purpose will be to support programming that builds our Jewish community by bringing people together socially, culturally, religiously, in pursuit of social justice, athletically or just to have a good time. In reflection, Eli Robinson shared that "Dad loved the KJA and the KJCFF and joyously served as the leader of each of them respectively. He loved nothing more than seeing Jewish Knoxville united together. We hope that the PACE Fund provides opportunities for alliant events to occur for years to come."

If you would like to contribute to the PACE Fund, contact Stephen at 599-1853 stephen.rosen@raymondjames.com or go online with the instructions below.

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

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

President's Thoughts

By: Barbara Mintz, President

I came across an ancient Indian proverb the other day that struck me as rather meaningful and applicable to Hadassah. "Certain things catch your eye but pursue only those that capture the heart."

In today's world of so much visual and audio input on our smart phones, television screens, and now adding the world of AI, so much 'catches our eye' including groups wanting our participation and involvement.

I am frequently asked why it is so important to me to be involved in Hadassah when there are so many organizations to choose from and so many that need leadership roles filled. The simple answer is that Hadassah "captures my heart" even more than my head. There is plenty of data about what Hadassah has done for Israel and the world to happily fill my head.

As a Speech/Language Pathologist I was committed to saving the communication health of my clients. Now as a Hadassah leader, I help save lives as well as directly enhancing the quality of life of so many. My efforts make the lives of some women and girls better. I am warmed that this medical organization also relishes our environment. Maybe most important to my heart is that Hadassah treats all people of all faiths, and all ethnicities, and all social diversity equal and with dignity and respect. Hadassah certainly 'captures my heart' and it fills it with some hope.



"Brain on a Chip" Research for Autism Treatment

By: Barbara Mintz, Chapter President

Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem has been selected in February 2025 by an Israeli start-up named Itay and Beyond as a testing site for their new and innovative 3D technology to help develop treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder, reported The Jerusalem Post.

Their work at Hadassah will include the creation of a 3D "brain on a chip" to test and repurpose existing drugs to determine if they would be effective or to help develop needed new ones!

"Organoids are known, but not a brain chip; we are the first to do it," Prof. Tenenbaum, Chief of Pediatrics at Hadassah, stated. "We were chosen to work on a brain chip because Hadassah works with companies that have innovative ideas. This innovative platform combines patient-derived brain organoids, advanced AI technology, and unparalleled functional readouts to break the deadlock in drug discovery. "Getting a grasp of brain functions is grueling, especially when it involves autism, epilepsy, schizophrenia, and other neurodegenerative and developmental diseases."

Their mission is to bring personalized medicine to children through the development of drugs to transform today's children into tomorrow's healthy adults. Pharma companies have already contacted them because they have a really big interest in brain chip technology. Soon, a child with Autism may not need to try one drug after another to determine what works and what dosage is appropriate. It will be a win for these children and their families!

Hadassah's Shabbat Zachor Celebration

By: Barbara Mintz, Event Co-Chair

On March 8, at the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge joined with chapters worldwide to celebrate Hadassah's 113th anniversary. The entire ceremony was led by our members. We sincerely thank Rabbi Loewenthal and Rabbi Siroty, our two local female Rabbis and life members, for their contributions to this service. Rabbi Siroty led several services, Arin Clifford led Torah service and Dale Rosenberg led Musaf. We appreciate Dale Rosenberg and Anita Kay who organized this annual Hadassah Shabbat service which flowed beautifully. Thanks to everyone who had a role and participated!

Barbara Mintz and Janet Iverson co-chaired the Oneg portion. They cooked a kugel buffet. Becky Charles again played a critical role in

making this food event a success. She helped set-up the lobby area and singlehandedly, made all of the centerpieces and the wall decoration. She had all of the buffet dishes and warm kugels ready to go. Carol Ickowitz came early and stayed late to help. So many members brought a wide variety of dishes, desserts, and drinks and we thank every one of them. We sincerely thank Best Bagels & Deli in Knoxville who donated four dozen bagels and several containers of cream cheese. Also, several members contributed money to help us cover the costs of serving items and food.

In summary, there are far too many names to list here. We again thank all those who took part in the service, all those who supported the Oneg, and everyone who came to be part of this special service and honor Hadassah.

THE LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM, 1967

Sunday, June 8, Bearden Area, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Advanced registration required.

Program: Rav Seren (Major) Seth Mintz was there and will talk about his experience. Video from Simon Wiesenthal Center on Six-Day War fighting and victory. Our speaker is in it!



THIRD ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, July 20, in Oak Ridge,
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Advanced registration required.

DAIRY /PARVE Potluck: snacks,
salads, main dishes, dessert,
and drinks



THIS YEAR'S CHOCOLATE SEDER

Participants loved the event, praising the food, the chocolate selection, and the creative Seder. Attendees, including younger ladies, enjoyed the experience. Shuli and Andrea were commended for their fantastic job, particularly with the imaginative food and the Chocolate Seder handout. The event was deemed fun and memorable, with one attendee noting it was the most delicious Seder plate they had ever had. Overall, the creativity and enjoyment led to a new interest in membership. Don't miss next year's Women's Seder!

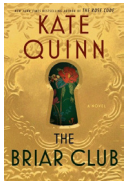


Book Club

By: Rhonda Sternfels

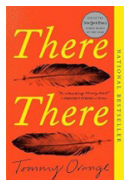
The books and discussions we have are always very informative, inspirational and exciting. We welcome you to participate in our Hadassah Book Club meetings, even if you don't read the book. Meetings are at 7:30p.m, the third Tuesday of every month, via Zoom.

Please email book suggestions for next year to Harriet Cooper, spock52@prodqiy.net.



THE BRIAR CLUB BY KATE QUINN (JUNE 17)

Set in 1950's Washington DC. Five women who live in an all-female boarding house become unlikely friends. When a violent act tears the house apart, the women must decide who is the true enemy in their midst.



THERE THERE BY TOMMY ORANGE (JULY 15)

This Pulitzer Prize finalist follows 12 characters from Native communities, all traveling to the big oak land powwow. One is newly sober and trying to make it back to her family. Another is working at the powwow to honor his late uncle's memory. Yet another is coming to perform traditional dance for the first time. They converge at the powwow and grapple with a painful and complex history.

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



HADASSAH
Knoxville - Oak Ridge

Membership Kick-Off!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025
3:00-5:00PM
Address provided upon registration

Scan the QR Code - or -
use the Link below to Register!



<https://bit.ly/knoxvilleoakridgemembershipkickoff>

JEWISH GEOGRAPHY
4 Degrees of Separation

- Play the "Friend of a Friend" Trivia Game
- Discover overlapping social circles & mutual acquaintances
- Establish instant connection in 6 steps!

Warmth and Joy at Chabad Every Day!

By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Chabad of Knoxville is excited to welcome Rabbi Itai and Mushky Baumgarten to Knoxville. Rabbi Itai and Mushky were instrumental in delivering the over 100 boxes of Shmura Matzah delivered to our community over Pesach. They are also excited to offer programming for Hebrew speaking members of our community and will bring their joy and energetic passion for Judaism to our community.

We've celebrated Purim and Pesach since the last HaKol and what a joyous time! At Purim in the Shuk 200 community members enjoyed Harel Tayri's music, a Kopita spread of falafel and Israeli salads and a beautiful shuk set up with smoothie, challah, candy and other booths.

In preparation for Pesach Chabad hosted Torah classes, C-Teen events and Chef Bruce Bogartz got busy prepping for the community seder. A beautiful Seder with close to 100 participants led by Rabbi Yossi and Mendel Wilhelm was enjoyed by all.

Participating in Knoxville and a cteen Mimouna was a great way to close this holiday season. Save the date for Shavuot at Chabad, Monday, June 2nd in that late afternoon. Whatever your stage, your age, your level of Jewish practice Chabad has something for you!



Matzah Delivery



C-Teen Mimouna



Women's Class



Harel Tayri, Purim shuk singer



Preparing Pesach Seder



Challah bake

The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies is the center for the study of Jews and Judaism at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

It offers a variety of public and academic programs that enhance student learning, promote Jewish Studies scholarship, and contribute to the intellectual life of the Knoxville community and beyond.

UT offers an interdisciplinary Judaic Studies as well as several scholarships to support student learning. Courses in Judaic Studies range from the Hebrew Bible to the Holocaust and include both modern and Biblical Hebrew.



JUDAIC STUDIES

Temple Beth El Yahrzeits



June 6

Marie Brunschwig • Nancy Fagan • Grace Goldberger • Jeanette Hyatt • Nathan Marks • Friedel Nash • Harold Raymon • Dewey Reich • John Speed • Anna Wender • Mose Zavels • Stanley Zinn

June 13

George Gluck • Virginia Gluck • Dorothee Heller • Ethel Kaplan • Ian Kinney • Ann Klein • Rose Klugman • Joseph Konigsberg • Estelle Kreisberg • Esther Margolina • Julius Orovan • Moshe Ribak • Ruth Rockower • Edith Smith • Richard Wayburn • Ron Young

June 20

Max Arnstein • Morris Bart • Henry Bloom • Sylvia Brenner • Elayne Butler • Albert Eisenstadt • William Freedman • Allan Gerson • William Goldberger • Sam Good • Judy Padoll • Orland Porter, Jr • Max Rosenstein • Samuel Spiro • Paula Zatlin • Jennie Zuckerman

June 27

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

July 4

Robert Bander • Morton Banov • Miriam Blumberg • Sara Brody • Harry Cooper • Rose Gassel • Richard Hecht • Richard Marchand • David Sauers • Dora Schramm • Eileen Siroty • Jerome Smith • Gertrude Spero • Linda Zaretski • Harold Zimmerman • Patricia Zivi

July 11

Rosita Borenstein • Susan Caller • Morris Deitch • Samuel Feinberg • Harry Gluck • Irving Kovitch • Ralph Kramer • Rose Mark • Sam Mislow • Sol Moiger • Mimi Pais • David Salus • Phillip Taylor

July 18

Jessie Black • Raymond Brody • David Brown • Joel Caller • Matilda Corkland • Pearl Davis • KC Derrington • Mayme Dortch • Jeffrey Dzimitrowicz • Harriet Glassman • Joseph Greenberg • Minnie Katz • John Kelleher • Ethel Danneman Krinsky • Margaret Locklar • Sylvia Miller • Elizabeth Pardee • Judy Rattner • Sam Rosenbloom • Leo Silver • Max Sonn • Evan Sturm • Mark Young

July 25

Jeffrey Allen • Malcolm Bloom • Goldie Garber • Sofia Gutman • David Hyman • Lillian Kern • David Licht • Nathan Lieberman • Shlema Livshits • Julius Rosenstein • Anita Taradash • Dorothy Tessler

Heska Amuna Synagogue

Yahrzeits



June 7

Edward Balloff · Murray Beber · Erwin Bloom ·
 Ida Brown · Abraham Jacobs · Sol Leeds ·
 Leon Leibowitz · Lillian Millner · Rachel Resnick ·
 Nathan Robinson · Samuel Schwartz · Nettie Secaul ·
 Claire Shulman · Hyman Strauss · Amelia Strauss ·
 Louis Tobe · Morris Wenner · Harriett Zalkin · Parril Zeff

June 14

George Adlin · Sarah Euster · Sylvia Forman ·
 Rebecca Forstein · Saul Garber · Sarah Gershek ·
 George Gourse · Hyman Kisilinsky · Alice Landis ·
 George Messing · Thekla Naumann · Shmuel Robinson ·
 Morris Rosenblatt · Herbert Smullian

June 21

Barbara Balloff Heilman · Michael Belaief ·
 Irene Baskin · Adele Bernard · Shirley Cohen ·
 Selma Corkland · Louis Edelman · Albert Eisenstadt ·
 Isaac Green · Victor Hanan · Lynn Hecht ·
 Mary Kutsubos · Harry Lipshin · Samuel Love ·
 Ben Mazur · Pablo Piedrahita-Aduen ·
 Jennie Rosenblatt · Frances Sabler ·
 Esther Spiegelman · Doris Weinstein

June 28

Beatrice Beber · Sol Berry · Abraham Collins ·
 Harold Diftler · George Fayerman · Santa Floyd ·
 Sol Greenfield · Paul Iverson · Jacob Klein ·
 Genevieve Kramer · Bernard Marvet ·
 Thomas Ownes · Fannie Russler · Robert Sabler ·
 Marian Schwartz · Zelda Siegel

July 5

Israel Dyller · Carol Glasman · Rose Robinson ·
 Joseph Weinbren · Dorothy Blue · Emma Burnett ·
 Samuel Denham · Rebecca Fayonsky · Jennie Friedman ·
 Moses Greenberg · Erma Levin · Gerald Millen · Joan Sitver ·
 Ann Stover Bell · Bradley Sturm

July 12

Simmy Barrocas · Greta Besmann · Lillian Brody ·
 Karl Finestone · Clara Goodstein · Ben Goodstein ·
 Stella Iroff · Harry Kaplan · Minnie Katz · Shirley Leeds ·
 Belle Linke · Lewis Littman · Celia Mackta · Robert Milford ·
 Rebecca S. Millen · Harry Miller · Aleja Piedrahita-Angulo ·
 Gussie Potter · Anna Richer · Joseph Russler ·
 Anna Sanders · Harold Shersky · Edward Shoenig ·
 Marshall Stern · Martin Stollin · Anne Tomlinson ·
 Hirsh Zussman

July 19

Sylvia Balloff · Siegfried Besmann · Harry Cooper ·
 Sarahh Coplan · Irving Danziger · Robert Euster ·
 Josef Gleichor · Josephine Gluck · Yetta Hornstein ·
 Alvin Kingsley · Clay Martin · Douglas Morrison ·
 Bessie Perelman · Nathan Quadow · Mildred Shamitz ·
 Rabbi Isaac Winick

July 26

Malvina Alexander · Janet Balloff · Matilda Corkland ·
 Barbara Fay · Madge Glidewell · Fanni Goldstein ·
 Maria Gruenberg · Selena Jacobson · Lisa Kahn ·
 Myrna Kingsley · Frances Levin · Edward Lippner ·
 Evelyn Lowe · Norman Millen · Leonard Miller ·
 Edward Mottzman · Mel Nagler · Eva Slovis ·
 Tanis Smith · Avrom Wein

KNOSHVILLE
a Jewish food festival

Dear Knoxville Volunteers,
Thank you!

You created a warm and vibrant event.
We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and generosity you shared.
Your contributions brought our community together in a special way.

With sincere appreciation,



MAKING THE MOST OF NOW

Brightening Life's Journey



Why Choose Shalom Hospice ?

- The Shalom Hospice team is committed and staffed to respond immediately to any patient need.
- Truly customized care plans to meet our patient and family needs.
- Established relationships with primary care physicians to ensure the highest level of care.
- Experienced hospice team of professionals to ensure our patients safety.

Shalom Hospice Jewish Program offers spiritual and cultural support for patients with a Jewish tradition:

- Hebrew language support
- Jewish literature & resources
- NIJH Certified (National Institute of Jewish Hospices)
- Cultural sensitivity for traditions, customs, and ritual law
- Access to spiritual guidance with Jewish chaplains, rabbis, and cantors



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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 1998: Tennessee Schmaltz Klezmer Band



Founded in 1995, this photo of the Tennessee Schmaltz appeared in Knoxville's Jewish newsletter, *The Center Menorah*, in its January, 1998, issue. This issue and many others can be found online today at www.jewishknoxville.org/archive-kja-community-newsletters. *The Center Menorah's* first issue was in December, 1943.

Back row, left to right: Rob **Heller**, Ken **Brown**, Dan **Shapira**, Manny **Herz**. Front row Judy **Megibow**, Judy **Brietstein**, Aaron **Feldman**. All but Manny **Herz**, Judy **Megibow**, and Aaron **Feldman** continue to reside in the Knoxville area. Though Tennessee Schmaltz no longer performs as an ensemble, some of its members continue to perform.

The Archives needs your photographs! Send your photos (with identifications of who, what, when, where) of "The Way We Were" to archives@jewishknoxville.org.



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SAVE THE DATES



**June 21 &
July 19**

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Mark your calendars for these
Adult-Only events!



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member benefits !

