

HAKOL

February • March 2024 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE
SEE YOU AT THE J!

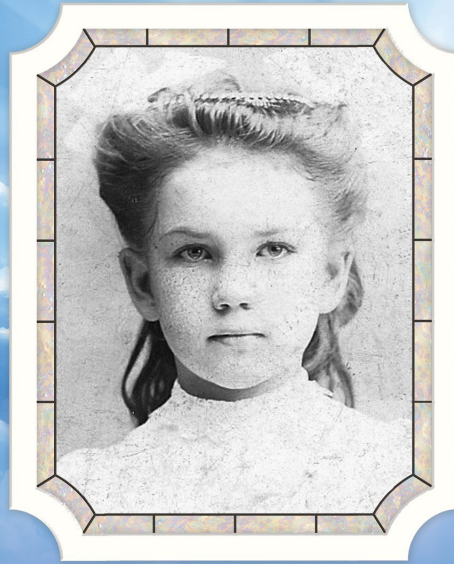


HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE
THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY

TEMPLE BETH EL
FREILECHEN PURIM (HAPPY PURIM)!

KNOXVILLE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
DIVING INTO EXPLORATORY LEARNING

TITANIC MUSEUMS HONOR THE 135 CHILDREN ON RMS *TITANIC*



Miss Catherine Johnston

3rd Class Passenger
Age: 7 Years
Destination: New London, Connecticut

Good day to you. My name is Catherine Johnston. I was born in Croydon in Surrey, England. My parents are Scottish, and I share their love and attention with an 8-year-old brother. Father was a plumber and wasn't affected by the many strikes happening throughout the country. Ironically, it's because of a coal strike that I'm on *Titanic* today.

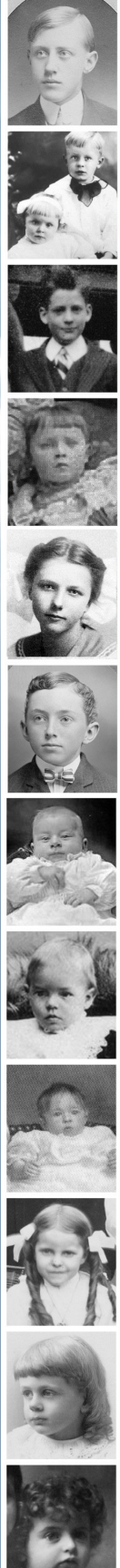
When my aunt's daughter in America, my cousin Frances, began boasting about the good life she was living there, she insisted that we come see for ourselves. Before I knew it, passage was booked on the RMS *Titanic*. I couldn't believe my luck. *Titanic* is set to make history, and so am I.

There are 10 of us in our group, Mom and Dad, my brother, an aunt, 4 cousins, a family friend, and myself. We're bound for New London, Connecticut, where one of my uncles already lives. Now, all we have to do for the next several days is relax and have fun, Third Class style.

On the fifth night an iceberg brought *Titanic's* epic voyage to an end. But was it all over for Catherine, too? The Memorial Room Wall tells all.



Reservations Required • www.TitanicBranson.com





As the weather warms, join us at the Iroff-Rayman Pavilion for a picnic or outdoor office time.

<p>HaKOL Monthly Publication</p>
<p>Tara Bain KJA Director of Community Engagement</p>
<p>Sabatani Jones Layout Designer</p>
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<p>For advertising opportunities: hakol@jewishknoxville.org 865-690-6343</p>

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February 2024 Community Calendar

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:45P *Candle Lighting*
4:30P KJA Shabbat with JFS at Sherrill Hills – KJA
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
7:00P KJA Shabbat Service & Oneg - TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

6:44P *Havdalah*
9:45A KJA Shabbat Service & Lunch - HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:30A Religious School – TBE
7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12:00P Executive Mifgash Manhigim -- TBE
3:00P Modern Hebrew – HA
4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:52P *Candle Lighting*
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:51P *Havdalah*
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR
10:00A Contemporary Shabbat Service – HA
6:30P Chinese Asian Twist Havdalah - Hadassah

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:30A Religious School – TBE
7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

3:00P Modern Hebrew – HA
4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA
6:30P Board Mifgash Manhigim – TBE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
5:00P Nissim Black Live
7:00P Board Meeting – HA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
12:30P Conversational Hebrew on Zoom – JCOR
6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

5:59P *Candle Lighting*
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
7:00P Shabbat Service - TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

6:57P *Havdalah*
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30A Religious School – TBE
1:00P Unlikely Jewish Composers – KJA
7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
6:00P Ways & Means Meeting – TBE
7:30P Book Club – Hadassah
8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

3:00P Modern Hebrew – HA
4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA
6:30P Ritual & Worship Meeting – TBE
7:00P Board Meeting – Hadassah
7:00P Book Club – JCOR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:06P *Candle Lighting*
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:04P *Havdalah*
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR
10:00A Contemporary Shabbat Service – HA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:30A Religious School – TBE
4:30P Joint Program at The Muse – PJ/ KJDS/TBE
7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

3:00P Modern Hebrew – HA
4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

For the most updated community calendar, visit www.jewishknoxville.org or scan the QR code.



March 2024 Community Calendar

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

6:13P *Candle Lighting*
 4:30P JFS Shabbat Service at Sherrill Hills
 6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
 7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

7:10P *Havdalah*
 10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

9:30A Religious School – TBE
 10:00A B'yachad Knoxville – AJCC
 7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
 8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
 8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

12:00P Executive Mifgash Manhigim – TBE
 3:00P Modern Hebrew Class – HA
 4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
 6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
 12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
 6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

6:19P *Candle Lighting*
 6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
 7:00P TBE Connect Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

7:16P *Havdalah*
 10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
 8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

MONDAY, MARCH 11

11:30A JFS Committee Meeting – KJA

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
 8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

3:00P Modern Hebrew Class – HA
 6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA
 6:30P Board Mifgash Manhigim – TBE

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
 12:30P Conversational Hebrew on Zoom – JCOR
 6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

7:25P *Candle Lighting*
 10:00A Tree Day Pickup – AJCC
 6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
 7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:22P *Havdalah*
 9:00A Tree Day Pickup – KJA
 10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
 8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
 6:00P Ways & Means Meeting – TBE
 7:30P Book Club – Hadassah
 8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

3:00P Modern Hebrew – HA
 4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
 6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA
 6:30P Ritual & Worship Meeting – TBE
 7:00P Board Meeting – Hadassah
 7:00P Book Club – JCOR

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
 12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
 6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

7:31P *Candle Lighting*
 10:00A Preschool Purim Party – KJA
 6:00P Purim Family Shabbat Service – TBE
 6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:29P *Havdalah*
 9:30A Hadassah Presents Shabbat Zachor – JCOR
 10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR
 6:00P Purim with Rabbi Bass – HA

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Purim
 9:30A Religious School Purim Festival – TBE
 10:00A Shacharit & Megillah with Rabbi Bass – HA
 7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
 8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

5:00P Hebrew Letters – HA
 8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

3:00P Modern Hebrew – HA
 4:30P Midweek Hebrew – TBE
 6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study – HA

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

10:00A Torah Study – TBE
 12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR
 6:00P Beginning Modern Hebrew – HA

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

7:37P *Candle Lighting*
 6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA
 7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

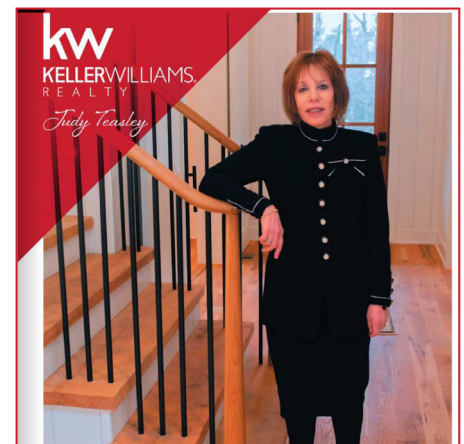
8:35P *Havdalah*
 10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

7:30P Prayer Book Hebrew Class – HA
 8:15P Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew – HA

Community Purim Celebrations

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 Temple Beth El - page 18
 Chabad of Knoxville - page 25



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Unite Through Light Fosters a Deep Sense of Unity

By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Unite Through Light brought Chanukah traditions to 400 Knoxvilleians. As a community we were able to eliminate barriers and foster a deep sense of unity across Knoxville's diverse community. The pre-concert festivities included inflatable fun for kids, a party bus to the concert + a VIP meet and greet with Nissim Black for teens, authentic kosher shawarma dinner prepared by Laurence Faber of Potchke Deli, and Trader Joe's latkes for all.

At the Menorah lighting we honored 8 different community members for their community advocacy and support of Israel. Bryan Goldberg lit the shamash and Congressman Tim Burchett addressed the crowd. We felt connected to our brothers and sisters in Israel as we prayed for the release of the hostages and peace for the region. The highlight of the night was the incredible Nissim Black concert. Nissim's unique

background, inspiring messages and his talent to connect with his audience brought about an energy and connection that transcended any differences.

At a time of division and tension in our country, this event brought unity and light to our beloved Knoxville community.

Thank you to our sponsors: Chabad of Knoxville, Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Shine a Light Foundation, Regal, Fletcher Marketing, Mary Beth West and Knox County for making this event possible. And a shout out to the organizations who donated services or goods including Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School, Hadassah of Knoxville and Oak Ridge, Juicebeats Photography, Junction 35, Potchke Deli, Trader Joe's Knoxville, and Lev Gross-Comstock Photography.



Kids enjoyed inflatables at the pre-concert festival. Photo credit: Juicebeats



Teens arrived on a Party Bus and got a special VIP meet up with Nissim. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



Nissim and a crowd of 400 singing the night away. Photo credit: Juicebeats



Kids had an intimate stage appearance with Nissim. Photo credit: Juicebeats



Avi and Eli got a selfie with Nissim! Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



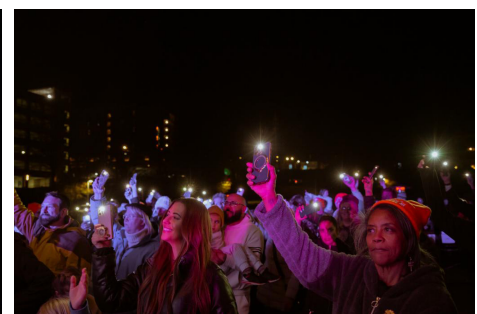
Community members honored with lighting the Menorah. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



The crowd was "on fire" all night. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



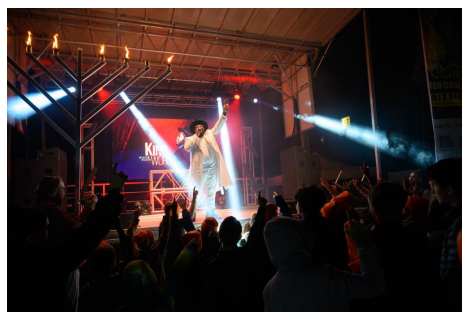
Congressman Burchett addresses the crowd. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



Crowd responds to the song with flashlights. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



Dancing our hearts away. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



Nissim took us all on a soul journey. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock



Posing with Nissim after an awesome concert. Photo credit: Lev Gross Comstock

President's Message

By: Judith Rosenberg, KJA President

It is an honor to be trusted as the President of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. I was born here. I grew up here with many of you. I have admired, maybe disagreed with, and have shared fun times but many of you I do not know. So, in my first HaKol article I wish to introduce myself and offer my perspective about our shared community.

My parents moved to Knoxville in 1966, and I was born a few years later. They joined Heska Amuna Synagogue, where I attended religious school and became bat mitzvah and was confirmed. Summers were spent at the AJCC pool (who remembers the high dive?), taking tennis lessons from Adam Brown, and at Milton Collins Day Camp. I also attended Camp Judaea in Hendersonville, North Carolina. I was active in BBYO, and Katheryn Rosen (Stephen Rosen's younger sister) was a wonderful mentor. I keep in touch with friends I made then and consider BBYO to be the most formative experience of my life. I went away to college and stayed away for a bit. I then came home, which I never thought would happen, and am so grateful I did.

I was raised to understand **if we want a strong community, we have to work hard for it.** My memories include a lot of Hebrew school carpools, my parents volunteering all the time while having full time jobs, community events and simchas, extended "family" gatherings, BBYO programs – simply enjoying a nice, safe Jewish life in Knoxville.

Jewish Knoxville - it does not matter where you are from, where you grew up, how old you are, or what your own history looks like - we all know **if we want a strong community, we have to work hard for it.** I have served on the KJA board and the KJDS board and as board chair, on other organization's boards, and in many volunteer roles. My professional career has taken me from marketing consulting, advertising agency, and to the nonprofit sector, including several years in the Jewish world managing programs, supervising staff, developing community relations, and fundraising. A few years ago, I launched a branding and marketing business with two friends, and we are now in our sixth year.

Life looks different than it did five years ago – it looks different since October 6. I sat down for coffee with Bryan Goldberg and Scott Hahn in November, and they asked me to consider this big volunteer job that would be hard work. I couldn't say no, and I hope you can't either. **So, I'm asking you to join me -**



Join me to help continue to build the community you want to see for yourself, your families, and for each other.

Join me to ensure we are welcoming, vibrant, thriving, and safe.

Join me to secure the funding we need to accomplish all we need and all we dream.

Join me to make certain we do what we state that we're here for: To provide assistance for those in need. To promote Jewish culture and identity. To develop effective Jewish leaders. To enhance community relations. To promote a better world. And, to serve Jewish people locally, in Israel, and wherever they are.

I am grateful to the community leaders, those with us or in our hearts and memories, who have worked so hard for weeks, months, years, and decades, to ensure the KJA is in the positive, stable, and forward-thinking position it is in today.

I want to thank Bryan Goldberg for his incredible leadership. Thank you to our wonderful staff, our KJA Board, and our volunteers who support our work with their time, talents, and resources.

Please reach out to me if I can be of service. I look forward to what's to come and continuing all that's already in motion. May we continue to go from strength to strength.

Shalom to Everyone in 2024

By: Renee' Hyatt, VP Campaign

Even as our 2024 Campaign is getting underway, please join me in celebrating what we accomplished in 2023 – we exceeded our Campaign of \$290,000 by almost \$19,000, and we donated more than \$70,000 to the Israel Crisis Fund. This shows what a generous community we are, which makes me optimistic about what we can achieve in 2024 with everyone's support.

Expect to receive a call from one of our awesome volunteer solicitors or one of our KJA Board members in the coming weeks asking you to make a pledge for 2024. If you have attended a Knoxville Jewish Alliance program, you have a tangible reason to respond "Yes, I will give!" If you are worried about security with the rise in antisemitism, you have a validated reason to say "Yes, I will give!" If you want to see Jewish life continue to thrive at the University of Tennessee Hillel, in East Tennessee, as well as Israel and around the world, you have a noble reason to reply "Yes, I will give!"

Make your pledge **TODAY** by:

- Scanning the **QR code**
- Clicking DONATE at www.jewishknoxville.org
- Calling the KJA office **865-690-6343**
- Mailing a check to KJA **6800 Deane Hill Dr Knoxville, TN 37919**



Remember: Every. Gift. Makes a difference. Say "Yes, I will give!" today.

Tennessee Tree Day

Tennessee Tree Day 2024 is the largest community tree-planting project of its kind in America, taking place on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Tree Day is a project of Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), a nonprofit organization. Tennessee residents will collectively pick up and plant more than 100,000 native tree seedlings in all 95 Tennessee counties during the weekend of March 16th. Reserve your native trees before March 4. The trees are yours to plant on your own property and will enhance our environment and communities for generations to come! Tree seedlings are available for a suggested donation ranging from \$0.99 to \$4.99. This year's seedlings include America Beautyberry, Black Cherry, Flowering Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, several varieties of Oak, River Birch, Tulip Poplar (the official state tree of Tennessee) and several others. Popular species will sell out, so reserve your trees today!

2024 will be our third year volunteering with Tree Day and hosting a pickup location at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center. For more information and to order your native trees, visit <https://www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html> and select the AJCC as your pickup site!

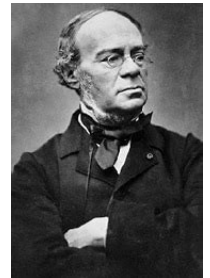
If you would like to help with distribution on March 15 and 16, please contact Marty Iroff at iroff.marty@gmail.com.



Every person will sit under their vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid. – Micah 4:4

Unlikely Jewish Composers with Brian Salesky

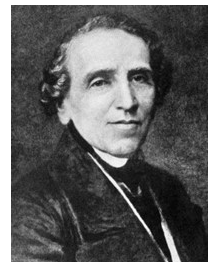
The profound contributions and influence of Jewish composers and performers in the 20th Century worlds of Broadway, Yiddish Theatre, operetta, and opera is well-known and documented. Arlen, Bernstein, Berlin, Bock, Copland, Gershwin, Kern, Loesser, Loewe, Menken, Rodgers, Romberg, Sondheim, Styne, and Weill are some of the famed composers who adorn these genres. Their massive creativity was an extension of the Jewish musicians of the 19th Century who populated the concert halls, opera houses, and conservatories throughout Europe in great numbers. These artists and teachers served a crucial role in the training, performing, and creation of fabled performers and musical/theatrical works that formed a significant portion of the foundation of opera during that "golden age." In particular, Paris, France was a magnet for many great Jewish composers who sought the opportunity to have their French Grand Operas performed at a multitude of their celebrated theatres. **Amadeus Chamber Ensemble, under the baton of Brian Salesky, will be featuring works by three of these Jewish composers on their upcoming "French Opera Jewels" free-admission concert on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Northshore Drive.**



Fromental Élie Halévy



Jakob Eberst (aka Jacques Offenbach)



Jakob Liebmann Mayer Beer (aka Giacomo Meyerbeer)

On **Sunday, February 18, at 1:00 pm at the AJCC**, the entire community is invited to hear Brian Salesky speak about the captivating history of these unlikely Jewish composers. For example, **Jacques (Jakob) Offenbach** (1819 - 1880) was the son of a synagogue hazzan, Isaac Juda Eberst who officially adopted his native town, Offenbach am Main, as a surname. The young Jakob changed his name to Jacques while finding success as a cellist in Paris orchestras, and eventually blossomed as the composer and impresario of nearly 100 operettas. Parisian-born **Jacques-François-Fromental-Élie Halévy** (1799 - 1862) was the son of cantor Élie Halfon Halévy, who was the secretary of the Jewish community of Paris and a writer and teacher of Hebrew. **Jakob Liebmann Meyer Beer** (1791 - 1864) was born in Tasdorf, Germany to Judah Herz Beer, a leader of the Berlin Jewish community who maintained a private synagogue in his house. He italianized his first name to Giacomo during his period of study in Italy. Meyerbeer's personal attachment to Judaism was profound as evidenced in a letter to his mother: "Please accept from me a promise that I will always live in the religion in which my grandfather died." He regularly suffered from (and/or imagined) anti-Jewish slights throughout his life, warning his brothers frequently in his letters against richness (Yiddish for 'Jew-hatred'). **From February 1st through March 3rd, Salesky will mount a lavish exhibition about these composers in the display cases of the Arnold Schwarzbart gallery at the AJCC.**

Contributions

Donations listed were received as of December 31,2023

DR. BERNARD S ROSENBLATT FUND CONTRIBUTION
A J Rosenblatt and Family

CEMETERY FUND
Shomair Yisrael Messianic Jewish Congregation
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with artist Amy Broady, CZT

Learn a relaxing, meditative way to create beautiful pen and ink drawings with local artist Amy Broady, a Certified Zentangle Teacher. Sign up for one or both classes - additional techniques will be taught at the second class for continuing students. All materials provided.

[Register Here](#)



www.jewishknoxville.org

February 25 or March 3
1pm - 3pm
Arnstein Jewish Community Center

\$35 KJA Members
\$45 Non Members

12 years old - adult
Beginner to Intermediate

<p>CONTACT KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE</p>
<p>PRESIDENT, JUDITH ROSENBERG president@jewishknoxville.org</p> <p>HAKOL EDITOR hakol@jewishknoxville.org</p> <p>MAIN OFFICE office@jewishknoxville.org</p> <p>OFFICE 865-690-6343</p>
<p>WEBSITE www.jewishknoxville.org</p>

Decisions Create the Dawning of A New Day

By: Mark Siegel, Heska Amuna Synagogue Chair

After years of indecision and division, Heska Amuna made a decision on December 10, 2023. It has been called the Heska Amuna Hanukkah Miracle.

It was not just one decision, however. Dozens of individual decisions started as a trickle, like snow melting on Mount LeConte, and they ended in one big decision, like the cascading roar of Rainbow Falls.

There was a 25-point swing from the Congregational meeting on June 10, 2023, to the Congregational meeting on December 10, 2023. I have talked to congregants who changed their decisions from 100% sell to voting to stay at 3811 Kingston Pike. In general, they told me they listened to the discussion, and made what they considered to be the best choice for the future of their synagogue. They paid attention to the facts, and they made rational business decisions.

Among the facts that affected members' decisions were the decisions made by other members to support a future for Heska Amuna at 3811 Kingston Pike financially. As I write this on New Years Day, 16 families have decided to pledge \$429,000 to help renovate our building. That number climbed from \$340,000 on November 30, to \$404,000 on December 10. It will be larger still as you are reading this. I call these members Synagogue Savers, because they were willing to make the decision to put their money where their mouths were when the way forward looked uncertain.

The decision ushered Heska Amuna into the dawning of a new day. For the first time in a long time, the decisions opened the door for the Congregation to move forward together. They will make us more attractive to ourselves, and to others.

Decisions are like that. They motivate. They provide direction. They marshal resources.

It is a new day for Heska Amuna, but that doesn't mean that it will be easy. In fact, it will not be. The new day will take a lot of work. It will involve being smart about money. I believe, however, the decisions we have all made together give us the brightest future going forward.

We intend to use every resource at our disposal, from federal energy-saving grants to support from the Heska Amuna diaspora. We are bringing in rental income from the building, and we will bring in more. And we are just getting started.

We intend to rebuild our membership and rebuild our Congregation. If Heska Amuna used to be your religious home, come on back home. If you have never been a part of Heska Amuna, come give us a try. If you are willing to join us on this journey, we are working hard for our Congregation, and we are just getting started.

Mark Your Calendars: February 16 and 17

A Shabbat Weekend to Meet (or Meet Again) Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum

By: Abraham Brietstein, Adult Education Chair

February 17 is not just a Shabbat morning to contemplate how to build the Mishkan (tabernacle), the focus of our parsha for this week. We also will have the opportunity to meet with Rabbi Rosenbaum and hear his ideas on how we build our holy community right here at Heska Amuna.

Does he perhaps look familiar? Yes, he very well might. Rabbi Rosenbaum led our Fall holiday services last year for Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. More recently, he led a three-part Heska Amuna Adult Education class via zoom that explored a range of Biblical, Talmud, Midrash, and more modern ideas on the Afterlife.



We are bringing Rabbi back to Knoxville with a different kippah on this time. Rabbi will be returning to Knoxville by invitation of our Rabbi Search Committee on February 16 and 17 as a candidate to serve as our part-time rabbi.

Rabbi Rosenbaum has 12 years' experience as a pulpit rabbi in the northeast. Now that he has moved south, he is committed to residing in Charleston, SC, where his three children aged 6, 9, and 11 live. As there is no full-time pulpit available there, we are exploring together how he can serve Heska Amuna in a part-time role.

We will have a special dinner following Kabbalat Shabbat and kiddush following services on Saturday – with plenty of time afterwards for Q&A, a little shmoozing, and a little nosh. Join us for Shabbat and help Heska Amuna chart our future!

Adult Education at Heska Amuna

[Contact the Office](#) (or 865-522-0701)

for more information about Hebrew Classes

7 pm Wednesdays **Daf Yomi Talmud Chat** (online only) **led by Jack Love and Raphe Panitz**

Join Us - We Have a "Whole Lotta" Hebrew Going On!

Sundays

7:30 pm **Prayer Book Hebrew**

8:15 pm **Advanced Prayer Book Hebrew**

Tuesdays

5 pm **Hebrew letters**

Thursdays

3 pm **Modern Hebrew**

6 pm **Beginning Modern Hebrew**



HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE

Purim: The Art of One-Step Giving and Receiving

By: Mary Ann Merrell, President Heska Amuna Synagogue

I've always loved creating boxes of Mishloach Manot (Purim treats) for our Heska Amuna family. It was not a tradition that I grew up with and to this day, I'm not exactly sure how you really spell it. In my youth, Purim was just about making as much noise as possible 54 times in the hour in which the Megillah was read so that we were sure never to hear the name of he whose name should not be heard (Haman - not Harry Potter's archrival Voldemort).



Handily, Mishloach Manot also meet one of the four mitzvot of Purim – sending gifts (the other mitzvot being hearing the megillah, enjoying a festive meal, and giving to the poor). Last year, the Youth Education Committee came up with Mishloach Manot filled with edible graggers that you could shake during the reading and enjoy eating afterwards. What fun! At press time this year, it is still a bit too early to say exactly what will be in our Mishloach Manot. But one thing is certain – there will be plenty of hamantaschen and a grogger or two for sure.

And more importantly, we will all have the chance to easily share our Purim wishes by giving each other Mishloach Manot through the Youth Education Committee's annual fundraiser. Keeping costs the same as the past few years, you can send your Purim greetings to every household in our congregation for only \$90 or you can select individual member households for \$18 each. For our members in Knox County or close by, our stalwart Board and fellow congregants will deliver Mishloach Manot to your doorstep on the eve of Purim. For those members further afield, we will send Purim greetings. And if you would like to mail Mishloach Manot to family or friends outside of Heska Amuna, we can do that, too! (Or if you are not a member of Heska Amuna, we can take care of Mishloach Manot for you, too).

We will once again be using the Happy Purim website to organize orders. Each Heska Amuna household will get an email with your link to order your Mishloach Manot. If you do not receive your link by mid-February or if you are not a member and would like to place an order, just let the Youth Education Committee know by sending an email to Purim@HeskaAmuna.org or by calling the synagogue office 865-522-0701. Chag Purim Sameach!

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Kosher For Passover
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Can help support your organization by shopping 24 hours a day at our website: www.misschocolate.com. See back for more information.

Passover

Delicious Passover chocolates available to order, beginning in February, to benefit Heska Amuna Family Education.

Contact Peggy Littmann 865-776-1013

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**PURIM, HAVDALAH
& MEGILAH READING
WITH RABBI AVIVA BASS**

SATURDAY MARCH 23RD 6PM

Delicious Dinner (Seudah) followed by awesome activities for kids of all ages (including a costume parade, PJ Library, Graggers Up Megillah reading in English, and more). After Havdalah @8 pm, the fun continues with a Broadway show tunes Purim shpiel!

SUNDAY MARCH 24TH 10 AM

Shacharit & Traditional Megillah reading with lunch to follow

Thank you to the Natalie and Mitchell Robinson Community Enrichment Fund for sponsoring this event, and to Rabbi Bass for joining us for Purim this year.

For more information or to RSVP please email plittmann@comcast.net
Reservations for dinner are appreciated but not required
No charge for dinner or activities

Contributions by Caring People

Contributions by Caring People through December 18, 2023

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Marilyn Burnett
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Thankful to this wonderfully caring group for such an important service
Liz Gassel

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Joyce Diftler
Margy & Mitchell Goldman

Cindy & Ricky Caplan
In Memory of Alan Merlin
Lee Miller Blotner
Joyce Diftler
In Honor of Markus Eisenbach
Peggy & Mark Littmann
In gratitude for the warm welcome when I visited last summer
Lee Kaltman
In Memory of Esther Webster
Elizabeth Swanner & Bob Lucas
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The Chernoff Family (Renate Chernoff, David Chernoff & Julie Galambush, Susan & Bruce Huvad and Judy Chernoff & Jeff Bernstein)

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Joyce Diftler
In Memory of Idell Harris, Adrian Harris & Carol Harris
Mark Harris

Purim

By: Raina Siroty, Rabbi Cantor

Purim is coming. I think of it as our Jewish Mardi Gras, our chance to wear costumes and behave in a very fun way as we tell the story of Esther and how her bravery saved an entire nation!

Of course, that "story" can be told many ways. For example, it can be read or chanted word for word (All 167 verses in Hebrew.) When I was in New York, I heard the Megillah read in over 30 languages! It can also be told in a parody, through the Purimshpiel, a comic dramatization of the Book of Esther. I have been part of many Purimshpiels as a Rabbi and Cantor, where the story was told through the music and story of Grease, Motown, Star Wars, and even Harry Potter! Esther was portrayed as Sandy, Diana Ross, Princess Leah, and Hermoine.

Once a year, on Purim, Jews have a license to deviate from the rules and norms, easing the pressures of living as a minority determined to keep alive our religious traditions. I delight in our courage and honesty that allows us to say, Judaism has always been able to change. In our time, that means adapting our Megillah Reading. We take the best of tradition while balancing it with humor and creativity that allows our Purim to be as relevant in 2024 as it was in 1024.

I love Jewish history. I love learning how our ancestors lived Judaism in their day and age from Persia to France, Russia, and Turkey. But I also love being Jewish today. I love making Jewish history today. And I do so in the hope that other Jews will join me as we build Jewish lives for a vibrant future.

I am looking forward to my first Purim at Temple Beth El. From the carnival, to the megillah reading, to the freshly baked hamantaschen, I am sure it is going to be a holiday to remember.

On Purim, we can greet one another with "*Chag Purim sameach!*" which means "Happy Purim!.", or in Yiddish, a "*freilechen Purim*".

Whichever way you choose to say it, I hope it is fun!

Things are Happening at TBE

By: Kathy Young, President

Wow -- has the world changed since Oct. 7 this year! What used to be a relatively quiet and peaceful world has erupted into hate and chaos. Antisemitism has become rampant, and at home and abroad people are taking sides on a host of issues. Does it have to be like that?

Recently, Rabbi Siroty, Dan McLaughlin, and I returned from the URJ 150th Anniversary Celebration in Washington DC. There was one very strong theme that resonated in all the many sessions we attended. Simply put: Make LOVE, not War; and Use LOVE instead of HATE. These simple concepts struck a nerve with all of those in attendance (almost 1,000 people).

We sang our hearts out, we drew emotions as part of an exercise, we met in small groups to discuss numerous subjects. But it always came back to that one theme that most congregations were struggling with -- no matter where they lived or the size of their congregation -- how to live without divisiveness within their community.

Why can't people just respect others' opinions and find something in common rather than stir up storms? What can we do together as a group that can involve everyone? Unfortunately, I don't have the answers yet, but I will be working on finding them very shortly.

You can help. Find a common denominator and make it happen. Come together as one unified group, and hopefully those who are struggling with division can find peace.

Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning

By: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director

Looking Back on 2023:

Our first semester of Religious School was a great one. We welcomed our New Rabbi, Rabbi Raina Siroty, to our school. Rabbi Siroty has been an integral part of our school in every way. She loves to share her musical skills with our students as well as new music. Our younger classes loved "The Potato Song at Chanukah." T'fillah is a time for learning, prayer, discussion, and music. The children and staff love Rabbi's wonderful stories. She is a total joy to have as a partner in our school!

We enjoyed Family Shabbats and dinners. Maccabiah was spectacular. Thank you, Tara Bain! We celebrated our partnership at TBE with KJA & KJDS as part of the Knoxville Together series made possible by an engagement grant from PJ Library with a kickoff to Jewish Book Month. Thank you, Anna Iroff-Bailey and Anna McDonald! In conjunction with this event, TBERS created a PJ Library/PJ Our Way check-out library, which is currently available through the end of the school year.

Family Shabbat February 23rd

Come in from the cold to worship as a family with our congregational family service and Shabbat dinner. Of course, our children will participate with new songs to share with everyone. So, save the date on your calendar!

Schedule for Family Shabbat: (Note earlier times)

6:00 p.m. Shabbat service with student participation

6:45 p.m. Shabbat dinner with activities for children

Calling all Parents! March 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. come make hamantaschen with TBE Connect.

No experience is necessary, and we love having veteran bakers. The hamantaschen you bake will be sold to the congregation and at our TBERS Purim Festival. This is a great opportunity to make new connections and learn a Jewish tradition. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Spring Break is Sunday, March 10, Wednesday, March 13, and Sunday, March 17. Have a wonderful and safe spring break. We return with Midweek on Wednesday, March 20th.

Join us for a Tropical Purim Festival March 24th!

Join us on the TBE campus for the 2024 Purim Festival

– tropical style! The festivities will begin with a special Megillah experience, as our students perform the story live – have your graggers ready! We will head outside to our tropical paradise for games, a bounce house, and music. We are excited once again to invite our community organizations to host booths. TBERS Parents will host the Shushan Diner including a kosher hotdog lunch plate, and TBE Connect will once again sell their deliciously sweet hamantaschen. So, invite your friends and join us as we celebrate Purim! Do you wish to help make this event special? Do you have talents to share? Would your organization like to host a booth? Contact Tara Bain at tarakearbain@gmail.com to volunteer.

There will be NO Religious School Sunday, March 31st.

Religious School Family Seder on Sunday, April 21st.

Our annual TBERS seder will be a family event! Parents, you are invited to join us for this special gathering. Watch for our volunteer sign up to include bringing seder foods and assistance during the event.

Save the Date as Jack Shagan is called as Bar Mitzvah on June 15th.



A Memorable Visit

By: Tara Bain, TBERS Assistant Director

As a religious school teacher, many of us wonder about the impact Judaism has on our students. For these four former students, their friendship began at Temple Beth El Religious School. Keara Bain, Ryan Gibbons, Reuben Margulies, and Lauren Shagan met for lunch when they were all in Knoxville. They asked me if after lunch they could visit TBE to see their contributions in the time capsule that we dug up on May 7, 2023. After reminiscing over their 6th/7th grade time capsule book, they wandered through the halls and classrooms remembering fondly of the lessons, experiences, and joy they shared. To see and hear their connection to Judaism and Temple Beth El, I know they are taking tidbits with them and are grateful for being here. Thank you, teachers, for all you do!



Keara, Lauren, Reuben, and Ryan looking over their 6th grade time capsule memories.



They may have outgrown the chairs but not the friendships.

Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

Donations listed were received as of December 31, 2023

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In memory of Harriet Gassel
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In memory of David Hiller & Dr. Fredrick B. Millis

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In loving memory of my father, Sol Richer

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In memory of Murray Weinstein
 Bonnie Wiczorek
In memory of Harriet Gassel

A Glimpse into the Exploratory Learning at KJDS

Kindergarteners and 1st graders learn about communities

By: Darcy Devrnja, Innovation Coach

The K/1 classrooms greatly enjoyed a thematic Social Studies unit exploring communities. Watching the students eagerly learn about different places, buildings, transportation, and people within their communities was so wonderful. To kick off their studies, students went on a service-learning field trip to Beardsley Community Farm. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to dive deeper into their local community and gain hands-on experience. The students had the chance to participate in an interactive tour, where they could touch, smell, and taste fruit right off an Asian pear tree. The students helped harvest the pears for the local food pantry. Feeding chickens and investigating compost to learn more about the process was also a great way to get students interested in sustainability and agriculture.

In the culmination of their studies on communities, K/1 students had lots of fun creating their own KJDS Safety City at school! Students had different activities to choose from, such as being a vet at an animal hospital, building at a construction site, and farming an apple orchard. Seeing such an engaging approach to learning about communities was exciting!



*Clara Kimmet shows off a pear that she helped harvest during the fieldtrip to Beardsley Farm
Credit: Brooke Haskins*



*Ori Ben Ishai, Lukas Butcher, and Jacob Callen examine and help animals at the "Vet Hospital"
Credit: Nikki Sawyers*



*Lucas Haskins, Isaiah Naparstek, and Aaliyah Messing take a break from their construction work during their Safety City Day
Credit: Darcy Devrnja*

The 2nd and 3rd grade class delves deep into Africa Studies

By: Jessica Vose, 2/3 Teacher

The 2/3 class recently wrapped up their study of Africa in Social Studies. The students researched the cultures of South Africa and Tanzania, as well as African animals and their adaptations. We took a field trip to the Knoxville Zoo and observed African animals. We participated in a class at the zoo where we learned about inherited traits versus learned traits. As we moved through the zoo we observed and discussed different traits for each animal and analyzed if those are inherited or learned traits. We even concluded that some of them are both.

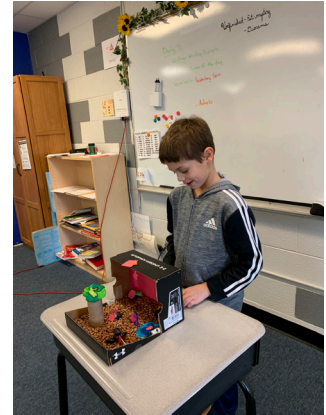
Students labeled a map of Africa with the varying climates, identified two countries, and labeled significant land and water forms of Africa. As a culminating project, the students created dioramas of either Tanzania or South Africa. They represented the animals, three to five aspects of culture, the climate, and a plant from that area of Africa in their dioramas. They also wrote captions for each required feature. It was amazing to see their dedication and creativity!



Noa Olinzock and Laine Leavy get a hands-on feel for real African animal hides during their zoo field trip
Credit: Bekka Blanchard



Micah McClain shows off his adorable African animal that he crafted for his diorama
Credit: Jessica Vose



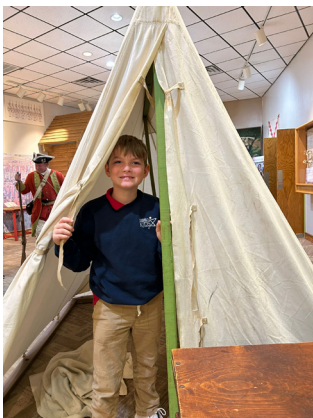
Noah Butcher expertly presents his diorama to his class
Credit: Bekka Blanchard

The 4/5 Class gets transported to the Colonial Era

By: Virginia Kessler, 4/5 Teacher

For the last two months, our 4/5 class has been learning about what life was like during America's Colonial Era. Students read and researched about the history of each of the original 13 colonies. We've explored the reasons that brought peoples from Europe and Africa to the Americas, as well as how colonials interacted with the various Native American groups existing in North America at the time. History came alive as we visited our own Fort Loudoun Historical Park, where students got hands-on experience about life on the frontier during the French and Indian War.

Finally, we ended our studies with a virtual trip to colonial Williamsburg where students learned about day-to-day life in a thriving colonial town. Students got to experience writing with pen and quills, doing embroidery, playing colonial games, making laws, and we even made some butter!



Noah Johnson explores at teepee at Fort Loudoun Historical Park
Credit: Laura Saddlemire



Abe Blitt and Neri Barak try out writing with a pen and quill
Credit: Virginia Kessler



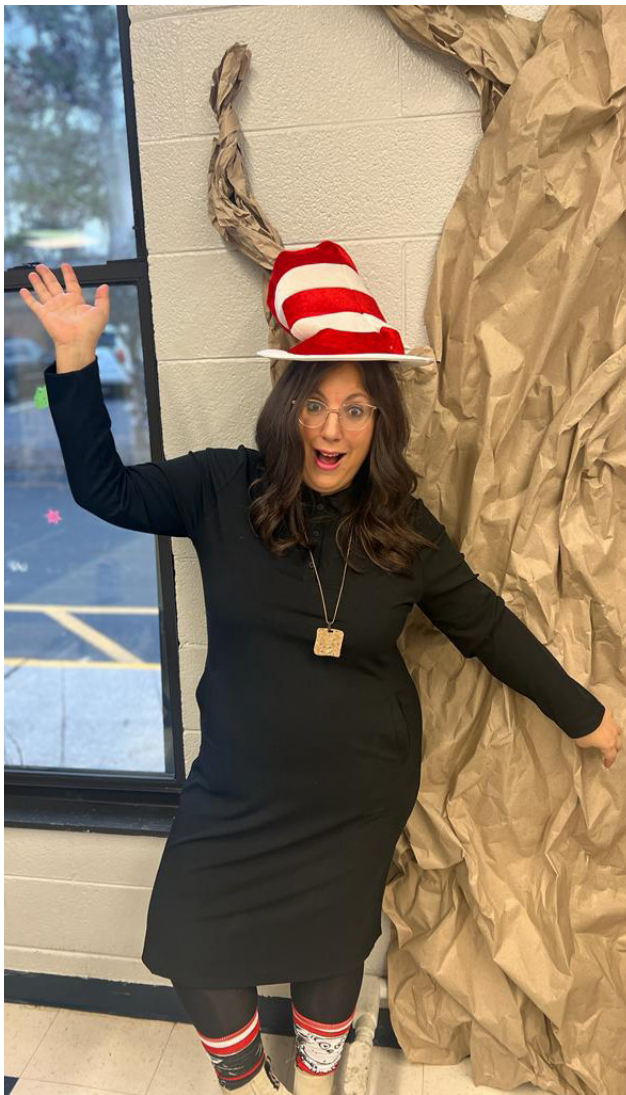
Charlotte Vose shows off the homemade butter she and her classmates made
Credit: Laura Saddlemire

Magic happens when cultivating relationships is a top priority

By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm, Head of School

KJDS teachers are selfless, compassionate, and dedicated to our mission of creating a vibrant community filled with joy, rooted in core Jewish values, and devoted to academic excellence. They approach their jobs with determination and see teaching as a call to serve a higher purpose.

Developing relationships and cultivating a sense of belonging, significance, and fun in each of their students empowers learners to maximize their potential and push themselves to take on challenges! Whether it's morning meetings, dress-up days, lunch dates, or "Dr. Seuss Who Wore It Best Sock Day," cultivating relationships is a top priority for our KJDS teachers.



Miriam Esther Wilhelm shows off her Dr. Seuss socks and hat
Credit: Chanie Wilhelm



4/5 Teachers, Virginia Kessler and Laura Saddlemire, show off their Dr. Seuss socks, with the help of Halen Presser and Charlotte Vose
Credit: Darcy Devrnja



The 4/5 class enjoys a lively and fun morning playing the human knot game
Credit: Laura Saddlemire

ב"ה

SAVE THE DATE



A NIGHT OF LUCK AND LEGACY HONORING JEFF & NANCY BECKER

Let's Go All-In for a Fun-Filled
Casino Night

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
Birdgewater Place Doors Open At 6 pm

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ב"ה

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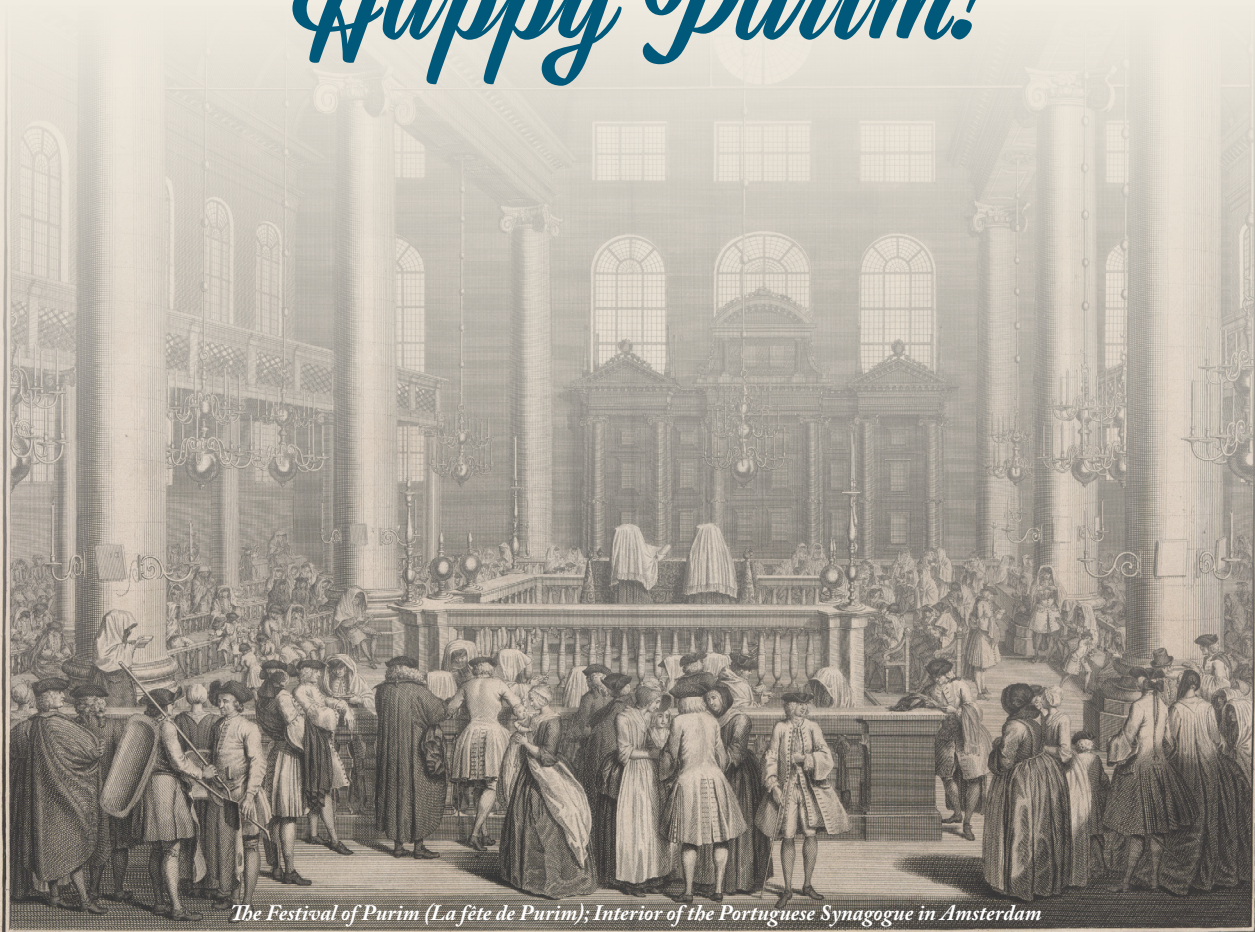




THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

JUDAIC STUDIES

*Wishing the
Jewish community of Knoxville a
Happy Purim!*



The Festival of Purim (La fête de Purim); Interior of the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam

La fête de PURIM.

Enching by Balthasar Bernaerts (1737) from the collection of the The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Chabad Community Rallies to Send Love and Warmth to Israel

By: Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm, Chabad of Knoxville

Eilat is a tourist town of 50,000 Residents. Following the October 7th attacks about 70,000 refugees, victims of terror and destruction are now crammed into every hotel in Eilat. The Eilat community has rallied to welcome the survivors and Chabad of Eilat has mobilized to bring humanity, warmth, and light back into their lives.

As Israel begins to resettle the survivors and send them to more permanent homes the preschools have asked Jewish communities in the US if they'd send bears that they can give to the students as a farewell gift for their time Eilat. Chabad of Knoxville joined communities around the US and hosted a bear decorating party and sent 36 bears to Eilat.

Each bear was lovingly decorated and named. A "birth certificate" with a personal message accompanied each bear gift. Preschoolers in Eilat were delighted to receive the bears and their parents were moved by the gesture of care from abroad.



Chabad of Knoxville Presents:

Purim in the 60's

- Groovy 60's Buffet
- Cotton Candy
- Children's Activities
- L'chaim for 21+

March, 24 2024
3:00 pm

Dress up in your grooviest costume

Save the Date

KJCFF Mourns the Loss of our friend Pace Robinson***By Stephen Rosen***

It is with profound sadness that I write an article titled “KJCFF mourns the loss of our friend Pace Robinson.” This space was supposed to be filled with his typical enthusiastic message about how great our Jewish community is and how much better it can be. It was supposed to be an opportunity to re-introduce himself as the incoming president of KJCFF for 2024, his second tour of duty in this office. Instead, it’s my time to remember him, thank him and recognize the loss we all feel. Pace was the epitome of KJCFF. We like to use the acronym TIME as we solicit your time, intellect, money, and energy. He was 4 for 4! As a president, board member, committee member, cheerleader, and donor, he set a standard for our community funds that everyone can emulate. He didn’t do this on his own, as Karen has always been his partner in volunteerism and philanthropy. Pace came by this naturally as there are KJCFF funds named for his grandmother, Sylvia, and his parents, Natalie and Mitchell. Pace and Karen took us to the next level by working with their sons, Eli and Asher, to create the donor advised EAR Fund from their B’nai Tzedek funds. In all, there are 5 KJCFF funds tied to the Robinson family over 4 generations. Scott Hahn gave a moving tribute to Pace at the KJA annual meeting where he called him a mentor. I never felt like a “mentee,” just a friend, but I know that was an important part of our relationship. I guess that means Pace was pretty good at being both.

The Knoxville Jewish Community Needs a Fund for Hillel at UT Knoxville***By Karen Ferency***

Recently I took on the role of KJA’s VP of Jewish Community Services which includes Hillel at the University of Tennessee. The very first thing I did in the position was meet with Tara Bain, the compassionate and dedicated Hillel Director, to learn more. Throughout our conversation I kept circling back to one question: Why does Hillel at UTK not have a fund through Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds? Solely operated by the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Hillel at UTK is majority funded through KJA’s annual campaign with programming support from the Jewish Foundation of Nashville and grants and fundraising efforts through Hillel International. And while Tara’s and KJA’s relationships with UTK are strong, the University does not provide financial support to Hillel at UTK. With the expansion and reputation growth of the University of Tennessee and the present necessity of supporting our local Jewish institutions, now is the time to plan for the future. We need an endowment to ensure a vibrant Jewish presence at Rocky Top. Hillel at UTK provides support, organization, engagement, and community to all Jewish Vols. At Hillel, students explore and embrace Jewish life, develop identities that encompass Jewish learning and values, and gain valuable leadership experiences. Let’s secure this greatness for the forthcoming generations of Jewish Vols.

If you have question about how KJA serves our local Jewish university students, please contact Karen at jcsvp@jewishknoxville.org. If you would like to be a Vol for Life and start a fund in Big Orange Country, contact Stephen.

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

You can find our link at www.jewishknoxville.org/kjcff, or at the KJA website under the header “Jewish Knoxville.” For further inquiries, email kjcff@jewishknoxville.org.

Happiness at JCOR in 2024 is Sharing It with Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal



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Send email to office@jcor.info OR to Rabbi Ahuvah at jcor.rabbi@gmail.com or visit www.jcortn.org

Rabbi's office hours are by appointment Tue-Fri, call 865-483-3581

Drop-in Tuesday at JCOR 4-6 PM and Wednesday at Calamity's Coffee 10AM-Noon

Women IDF Soldiers are WOMEN WHO DO

By: Barbara Mintz, Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge President

"Women have not really fought in the IDF since 1948. This is the first time this has happened after 75 years in massive fighting" said Defense Minister Yoan Gallant. During Israel's war, many women have shown immense courage and bravery. On October 7, Israeli women served their country with heroism and commitment. Many women are serving Israel now on the battlefield and in the air. At the time of this writing no known number of female fatalities has been reported. Below is some information on a few of them who saved many lives on October 7.



A Hamas naval fleet arrived at an Israeli beach. Four boats were shot down and four landed. Most of the soldiers on the base were new recruits. The few officers there were mostly women and they saved over ninety recruits and maintained control of the facility. Three of those women heroes, given the most credit, died defending the base.

The 22-year-old commander of the all-female "Sky Riders" drone unit was stationed in an IDF outpost near Kibbutz Nahal Oz, (my husband's kibbutz). When a squad of Hamas terrorists appeared, Lt. Eden Nimri and her team, in their pajamas, rushed to the nearby bomb shelter that had two entrances with no doors. She was armed and protected one entrance while the other four-armed soldiers protected the second entrance with unarmed female soldiers between them. Terrorists began throwing grenades at Nimri's entrance. She drew all the attention to herself which allowed the others to escape and survive.

The commander of a mixed-gender combat unit and her battalion received a message about terrorist infiltration in Sufa and its nearby military base. Her battalion and then others regained control after 14 hours of fighting eliminated over one hundred terrorists . Another example is a 25-year-old security coordinator at Kibbutz Nir Am, who killed five Hamas terrorists while leading her team which prevented any casualties there . The accomplishments of women in the IDF were well summarized by Lt. Col. Or Ben Yehuda who praised her troops' bravery for saving lives through medical care, direct fighting, and even daring helicopter landings under fire.

Women are fighting under extreme pressure and are demonstrating time and again that they are WOMEN WHO DO. These women, along with many others are shaping Israel's history and culture. Hadassah salutes them!

Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Book Club News

By: Rhonda Sternfels, Book Club Co-Chair

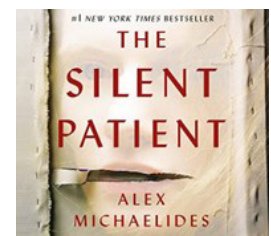
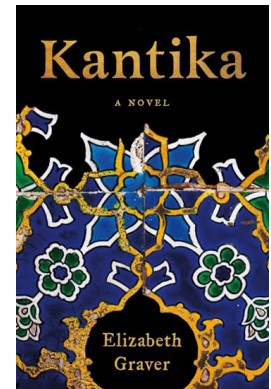
The books and discussions we have are always informative, fun, and exciting. We welcome you to participate in our Hadassah Book Club meetings, at 7:30p.m, the third Tuesday of every month even if you do not read the book. Zoom only format.

FEBRUARY 20 2024 **Kantika** by Elizabeth Graver
A Sephardic multigenerational saga that moves from Istanbul to Barcelona, Havana, and New York, exploring displacement, endurance, and family. An inspiring meditation on the tenacity of women.

MARCH 19, 2024 **The Silent Patient** by Alex Michaelides
A psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband, and of the therapist obsessed with discovering her motive.

2024 book selections:

- April - West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge
- May. - Trouble the Water by Rebecca Bruff
- June- Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
- July - The Paris Daughter by Kristen Harmel
- August- Trust by Hernan Diaz



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

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Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Membership Questions?
Contact Anita Kay at anitakay@knology.net.

HADASSAH IS HERE

Scan - Join



United in Hope Wrap Up

By: Shuli Mesa

On Sunday, December 3rd, Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge came together for a moment of hope and healing. After we had a nosh from the vast display of deliciousness, we sat down to watch a video from Park Avenue Synagogue’s guest speaker, Michal Cotler-Wunsh, Israel’s Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism. Michal spoke about what it was like to wake up on October 7th, the morning of Simchat Torah, highlighting both the loss and hope that Israel is experiencing.

We then connected with Penny Elbaz, my mother, and Knoxville-Oak Ridge Chapter member, in Netanya, Israel via Zoom. She spoke about what it is like to be living in Israel right now and how she has connected with those that evacuated from the towns around Gaza. We had an opportunity to ask her questions and really gain an understanding of what it is like living in Israel. Penny explained that there have been over eleven thousand rockets that have been fired into Israel and that she has 90 seconds to get to her safe room. In comparison, those in Sderot, where she had visited the Mayor, Alon Davidi, there last week, only have FIFTEEN seconds to find safety.

Penny Lukin, while not present due to illness, really aided in drafting personal questions to get the conversation going. Creating a forum for connection and open dialogue seemed to resonate with our group. We touched on antisemitism and the challenges we are currently facing in Knoxville and Oak Ridge and of how we need to be the boots on the ground.

We rounded the afternoon with words of wisdom from Mimi Pinson, our new Rebbetzin of Chabad. After a last-minute cancellation, Mimi was gracious enough to step in. She spoke about the steps of mourning and how we persevere. It was spiritually uplifting.

The program was truly a group effort and I REALLY appreciate everyone who helped with the setup and breakdown. A special thank you to those who brought in tasty goodies; Mary Evars-Goan, Laura Floyd, Revital Ganzi, Anita Kay, and Barbara Mintz. And a huge thank you to our speakers; Penny Elbaz, Mimi Pinson, and Penny Lukin (in absentia).

While we had a few hiccups, my goals for this to be a healing and educational space were achieved...just in a roundabout way. Perhaps another program like this will be needed in the future. With the conflict and the world’s reactions or lack thereof continuing, we will see what the future has in store.


HADASSAH
Knoxville - Oak Ridge

CHINESE -ASIAN TWIST
Gathering
SATURDAY, February 10th 2024
6:30 PM

Celebrating the Hadassah Way


Questions: hadassahknoxvilleac@gmail.com


Hadassah Shabbat




23 Shabbat Zachor


Saturday, March 23rd at Jewish
Congregation of Oak Ridge



 HADASSAH
Knoxville - Oak Ridge

 HADASSAH
Knoxville - Oak Ridge

LOOK WHATS AHEAD:




SUNDAY, [APRIL 14TH, 2024](#)

BUNDT CAKES are coming back.

[11:00 AM -2:00 PM](#)

at AJCC

Chair: Robin Brown



THURSDAY, [APRIL 4TH, 2024](#)

PRE PASSOVER-COOKING

[6:00-8:00 pm](#)

at the home of Barbara Mintz

Co-Chair: Barbara Mintz and Carole Ickowitz



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February 9

David Bessel • Mathis Bush • Clarence Cole • Helen Dolgonos • Julius Glassman • George Gudis • Helen Hyman • Rose Imbrey • James Lees • Lela Lippner • Harold Markman • Bobby Mintz • Bettie Reich • Phillip Herbert Robinson • Morris Shagan • Frances Sturm

February 16

Evelyn Adelman • CW4 Fred H. Caylor • Isaac Cohen • Rose Friedman • Ira Jacobs • Yetti Liebman • Mariya Luchanskaya • Ellen Markel • Dorothy Moiger • Roy Mostov • Kenneth Palmer • Celia Polasky • Sam Pollack • Inez Rayman • Peggy Sachs • Randall Schwartz • Anne Simon • Joan Tumpson-Rivlin • Samuel A. Wender

February 23

Abram Badalov • Jack Balaban • Daniel Davis • Herbert Davis • Matthew Derby • Gussie Dresner • Benjamin Epstein • Jeffrey Epstein • Deborah Rabin Freeman • Yvonne Fribourg • Jacob Joseph Gelber • Erma Gerson • Jerome S. Gerson • Riva Golden • Rose Greenberg • Diana Harris • Lucas Helm • Blanche K. Jacobs • Bertram H. Joseph Jr. • Hyman Kligman • Yetta M. Konigsberg • Blume Malkeh • Sylvia Miller • Isadore Misner • Harry Moskowitz • Sarah Nechamkin • Louise Nichols • Arthur Pardee • Eleanor Radoff • Henrietta H. Samuel • Annie Striner • Robert Keisler • Risel Kronick • Samuel Levy • Ann Lieberman • Jacob Nechamkin • Ted Pais • Sandy Parsons • Eileen Pucci • Esther Reich • Samuel H. Robinson • Abe Schwartz • Hyman Henry Smith • Lucy Williams • Ben Winick • Lois Wolpert

March 1

Lalla Block Arnstein • Edwin Deitch • Johanne Gillman • Daryle Gross • Harry C. Gross • Isaac Gutman • Fannie Fisher Harris • Samuel Herrmann • Edward H. Jacobs • Gussie Kligman • Dora Kohen • Genevieve Reich • Faisel Schuck • Gersh Sherman • Arthur Shor • Toby Slabosky • Melvin Sturm

March 8

John Baker • Morris Bart • William Brody • Martin Cohen • Stewart Crosier • Sally Feldman • Marjorie Freedman • Louis Gassel • Yulia Ioselev • Ginda Katz • Rosa Kern • Martin Koplan • Harold Leibowitz • Elaine Lewis • Leonard D Licht • Robert Loebel • Julia Markman • George Marshall • Ann Mostov • Sylvia Kessler Robinson • Goldie Rosenbaum • Anna Wallace Rosenbloom • Alan Stark • Murray Steinfeld • David Striner

March 15

Anna Kolodkin Bush • Richard Davis • Mark Eisenstadt • Morris Friedman • Jacob Katz • Germain Kern • Leopold Levi • J.R. Miller • Bertha Oleinik • Arthur Pasternak • Jessica Hiller Rosenthal • Fe Serrato • Faye Wansker

March 22

Vittorio Argentini • Augustine Bressler • Isaac Bressler • A. Dave • Bertha Diamond • Robert Feinberg • Thomas Feinberg • Bertha Goldberger • Carl Kaplan • Hyman Markowitz • Zelik Oleinik • Lester Popkin • Helen Stamey • Sarah Steinberg • Eli Yatsko

March 29

Gordon Brown • Shmulik Dragif • Bryan Feldblum • Irwin Freedman • Paul Friedman • Roza Galinskaya • Edith Ivins • Sarah Licht • Lillian Silverman Richer • Yetta F. Manis Speert • Drysdale Wheaton • Rebecca Wheaton

Heska Amuna Synagogue

Yahrzeits



February 3

Oda Anderson · Louis Balloff · Joseph Billig · William Brotman · Ethel Brown · Harold Brown · Logan Brown · Yetta Burnett · Isaac Cohen · Mark Dischler · Abraham Fay · Max Finkelstein · Louis Joffe · Isadore Kleg · Frances Klein · Katie Manachoff · Anita Merlin · Myer Sachs · Mollie Saroff · Leibe Roodine

February 10

Monte Abrams · Isaac Corkland · Gertrude Danziger · Herbert Davis · Rose Delinsky · Albert Fadem · Elizabeth Farkas · Samuel Green · Evelyn Hagler · Leonard Handler · Carole Kramer · Rose Leeds · Alfred Levin · Florence Lieberman · Barnett Mackta · Esther Mann · Harry Moskowitz · Nathan Oleshansky · Kenny Palmer · Miriam Ring · Max Robinson · Yenta Roodine · Doris Rothbart · Randy Schwartz · Marilyn Shorr · Morris Shagan · Roslyn Shamitz · Abe Slovis · Roberta Smith · Ethel Wittenberg

February 17

Maida Bendes · Molly Botnick · Gerson Corkland · Lillian Ellin · Charles Euster · Sophia Geller · Helen Gries · Joseph Gluck · Elliott Jaffrey · Ronald Lawhead · Zelda Levin · David Levine · Herman Linke · Helene Messing · Paula Rader · Judith Rattner · Ruben Robinson · Nathan Samet · Dave Scott · Toby Slabosky · Rita Solomon · Anna Snyder · Norman Wolf

February 24

John Abrams · Pauline Botnick · Edith Brotman · Max Burnett · Rudolph Deitch · Geraldine Diftler · Samuel Fayonsky · Debby Freeman · Mary Ginsburg · Pearl Goodstein · Benjamin Homer · Ruth Kaplan · Esther Kisilinsky · Louis Klinkowstein · Bessie Liberman · Hercolino Lourenco · Edwin Markoff · Ida Nius · Elsie Rattner · Morris Rattner · Sam Rosenblatt · Barney Schiff · Elsie Shorr · Esther Strauss · Rae Weisberg · Herman Werner · Aaron Wise · Mayer Zucker

March 2

Albert Goodstein · Leah Herz · David Leibowitz · Yetta Nadler · Anis Goelman · Dora Green · Melvin Sturm · Goldie Craycroft · Norma Herz · Dorothy Schnoll · Joyce Simon · Irving Bayer · Samuel Jacobs · Milton Ross · Paul Kanfer · Elizabeth Limporis · Joslyn Presser · Sarah Robinson · Jacob Winick · Monte Kaplan · Caroline Schwartz

March 9

Pearl Meyers · Marion Abrams · Theodore Nius · Arnold Schwarzbart · Kevin Tinley · Morris Bart · Anna Rosenbloom · Mary Brown · Ida Finestone · Harold Leibowitz · Margaruite Mandell · Beatrice Owens · Lillian Richer · Mazeltov Benhayon · Casper Perelman · Melvin Robinson · Max Weinstein

March 16

Jacob Katz · Ethel Rywell · Fannie Pearce

March 23

Edith Ross · Sol Foster · Shirlee Eisenberg · Annie Green · Lucille Bruskin · Marvin Hecht

March 30

Leah Wise · Oscar Pfeffer · Herman Hoor · Max Rubenstein · Lazar Schwartz · Isaac Slovis · Eli Yatsko · Sarah Zwick-Daum · Bernard Kronenberg

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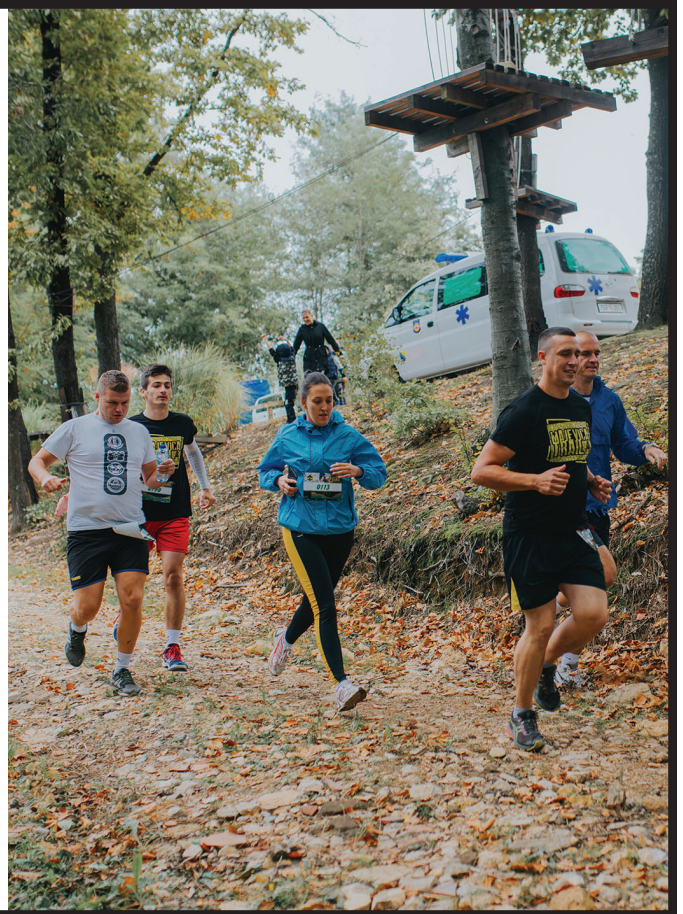


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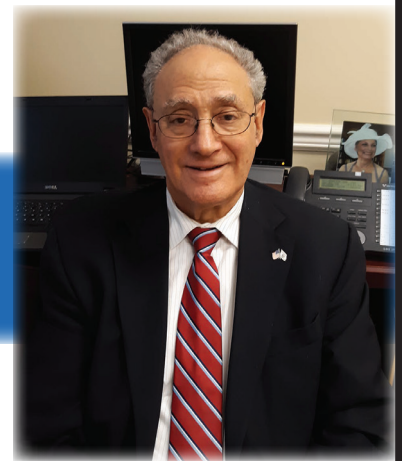
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The Barbara Winick Bernstein Archives of the Jewish Community of Knoxville and East Tennessee

The Way We Were in 2003 Heska Amuna Synagogue Purim Ball



Heska Amuna's 2003 Purim Ball included the debut of Queen Esther and the Princesses. The Princesses included

Back row, left to right: Annette **Winston**, Pam **Gross**, Carole **Martin**, Robin **Brown**, Judi **Abrams**, Marian **Jay**, Nora **Messing**.

Front row: Rabbi Joe **Mendelson**, Amy **Hull**, Jenifer **Ohriner**, Judy **Megibow**.

All but Jenifer **Ohriner**, Judy **Megibow**, and Rabbi Joe continue to live in Knoxville.

The Archives thanks the unknown donor for this photograph. If you are that donor, or you know more about this event, please let the archivist know.

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

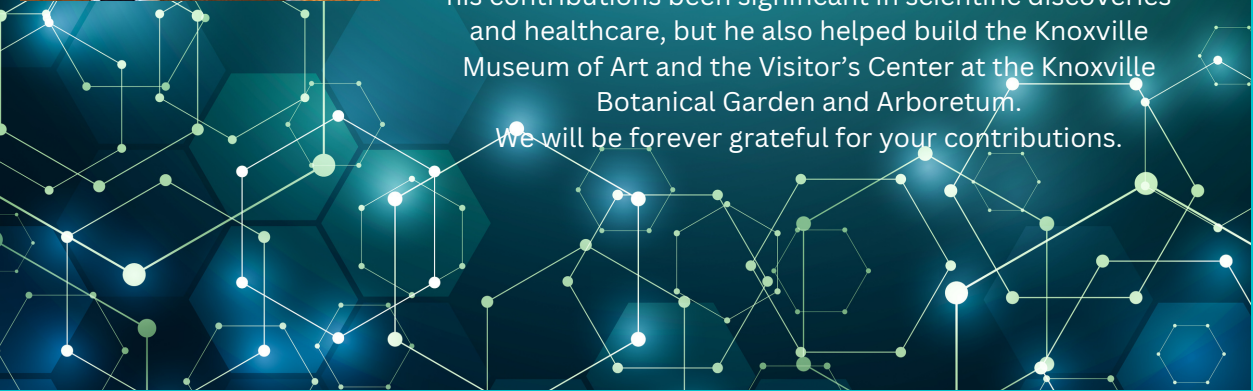
COMMUNITY NEWS



Mazel Tov, Dr. Alan Solomon!

In December 2023, Alan Solomon, M.D., was honored for the impact he has made in multiple myeloma and amyloidosis. The University of Tennessee Research Foundation inducted him into the UTRF Hall of Fame. He is the third person to receive this honor. Not only has his contributions been significant in scientific discoveries and healthcare, but he also helped build the Knoxville Museum of Art and the Visitor's Center at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum.

We will be forever grateful for your contributions.





HAKOL PASSOVER

Greetings

It is time once again to share your Passover greetings with our community in the pages of the 2024 April/May HaKol.

PERSONAL PASSOVER GREETING CATEGORIES AND RATES:

Category	Suggested Word Count	Cost
Small: 1/8 Page	15-20	\$30
Medium: 1/4 Page	25-30	\$60
Large: 1/2 Page	35-40	\$90
Jumbo: Full Page	40-45	\$120

Please visit www.jewishknoxville.org/hakol or scan the QR

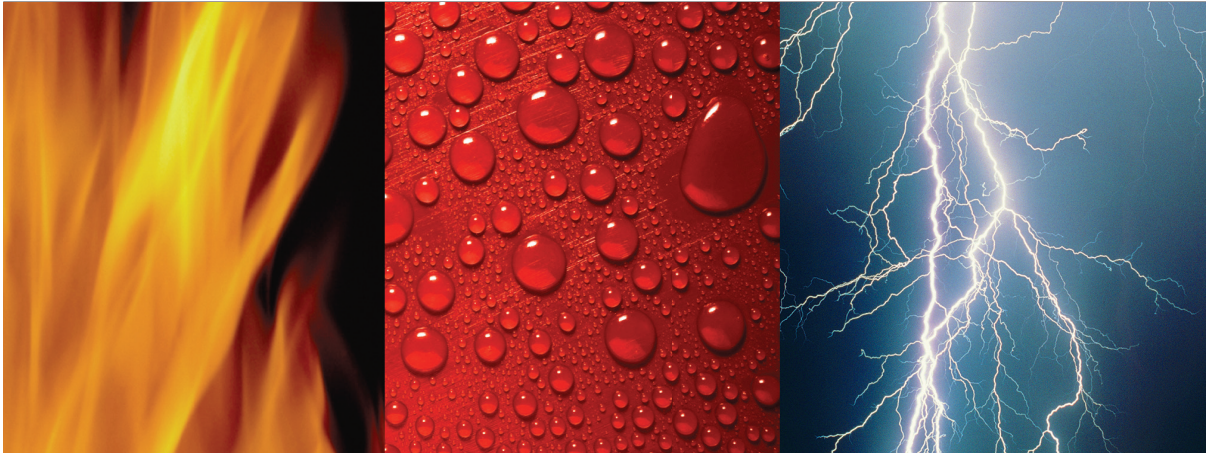
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