

# KJA Community Events Calendar

**Knoxville Jewish Alliance**  
6800 Deane Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919

Non-Profit Org.  
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**Knoxville Jewish Alliance**  
Building Community  
Embracing Lives

6800 Deane Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
p 865.690.6343  
f 865.694.4861  
www.jewishknoxville.org



AL=Adult Lounge  
BR=Board Room  
HA=Heska Amuna  
TBE=Temple Beth El

For the most updated information, visit  
www.jewishknoxville.org.

**DECEMBER**

**1**  
Shabbat, Yitzhak Buxbaum  
9:30a-Services-HA  
Torah study following Kiddush-HA

**2**  
9a-Talmud study-HA  
9:45a-Minyan-HA  
Bagel Cafe- 10:00 a.m.-HA  
Gift Shop Chanukah Sale-HA  
10:15 a.m.-Education Committee Meeting- HA  
10:15 am-Sisterhood Board Meeting-HA  
11a-Jewish Book Month Yitzhak Buxbaum-AJCC  
2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. AJCC/BBYO room  
4:00 P.M.-CHANUKAH OPERA-TEMPLE BETH EL

**3**  
7:00 a.m. Minyan-Heska Amuna  
January/February HaShofar Deadline-Heska Amuna  
10-11:30 Archive Committee Meeting-AJCC Board R  
2:15-KINDERDANCE-AJCC-GYM  
7:30p-Israeli Dancing-Gym

**4**  
1:30p-Friendship Book Group-AL-KJA  
4:00-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
6p-Executive Committee-TBE  
7:30-Executive Committee-HA

**5**  
Chanukah  
Adult Education & Midweek Hebrew-Temple Beth El  
4:00 P.M.-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
6:30 p.m.-PRIVATE BASKETBALL-GYM-AJCC  
7:30 p.m.-Adult Education Series-Heska Amuna  
7:30 pm Pathways Class-HA

**6**  
Chanukah  
7:00 am-Minyan-Heska Amuna  
Decorating for Beau Dance  
4:00 P.M.-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
7p-Hadassah Board Meeting-offsite

**7**  
Chanukah  
6:30 p.m.- Chanukah Supper-Temple Beth El  
7:30 pm Chanukah Service-Temple Beth El  
Tot Shabbat-Heska Amuna  
6:30-Services-Junior Choir-HA  
Noon- 4:30 p.m. Decorating for Beau Dance  
6:00 pm-Tot Chanukah-Temple Beth El  
8p-Shabbat services-TBE

**8**  
Chanukah

Beau Dance-AJCC-Entire Bldg  
9:30a-Services-HA  
10a-Torah Study-TBE  
Torah study following Kiddush-HA  
Knoxville, Jewish day School-Sweet Tooth for Youth

**9**  
9a-Talmud study-HA  
Religious School 9:30-12:30 p.m.- Temple Beth El  
9:45a-Minyan-HA  
2 p.m. Beth Schaffer Concert-HA  
Maccabiad-Temple Beth El  
Sisterhood Bazaar-Temple Beth El  
1:30-BBYO BUSINESS MEETING-BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. AJCC/BBYO room  
2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Private use Adult Lounge

**10**  
Chanukah  
Rosh Chodesh Teveth  
7:00 a.m. Minyan-Heska Amuna  
Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Event-Evening-HA  
2:15-KINDERDANCE-AJCC-GYM  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting-Temple Beth El  
7:15 pm-KJA Executive Committee Mtg.

**11**  
Chanukah  
7:30 pm-Board of Trustees Meeting-Heska Amuna  
11:00 a.m.HAZAK-HA  
4:00-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
5:00-8:00pm Community Chanukah Party AJCC  
7p-Board of Directors Mtg-TBE

**12**  
Chanukah

Midweek Hebrew-Temple Beth El  
No Adult Ed this Week-Temple Beth El  
No HARS-Heska Amuna  
Staff-in-service-Heska Amuna  
URJ Biennial- San Diego  
4:00 P.M.-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
6:30 p.m.-PRIVATE BASKETBALL-GYM-AJCC  
7:00 pm. Pathways Adult Education Committee on 12/  
7:30 p.m.-Adult Education Classes  
7:30 p.m.-Pathways Class-HA

**13**  
7:00 am-Minyan-Heska Amuna  
7:00 pm-Adult Education Committee Meeting-Heska Am  
URJ Biennial- San Diego  
12 Noon- Annual Chanukah Sing-a-long  
4:00 P.M.-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
5:30-PARENT COMMITTEE MEETING-AJCC

**14**  
URJ Biennial-San Diego  
12:00 P.M.-HADASSAH HOEDOWN SET-UP-AJCC-GYM  
6:30 p.m.-Services-HA  
8p-Shabbat services-TBE

**15**  
Birthday & Anniversary Shabbat  
URJ Biennial- San Diego  
9:30a-Services-HA  
10:15 a.m. Junior Congregation-HA  
Torah study following Kiddush-HA  
7:00 P.M. Hadassah Hoedown-AJCC

**16**  
11:00-KJA Annual Meeting-GYM-AJCC  
Sisterhood Event-Heska Amuna  
URJ Biennial- San Diego

9a-Talmud study-HA  
9:30 a.m. Religious School-Temple Beth El  
9:45a-Minyan-HA  
1:00 p.m.-TEEN CONNECTION ICE SKATING-OFF SITE  
2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. AJCC/BBYO room

**17**  
7:00 a.m. Minyan-Heska Amuna  
2:15-KINDERDANCE-AJCC-GYM  
7:30p-Israeli Dancing-Gym

**18**  
10:30a-Friendshippers Steering Com-AL  
4:00-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
7p-Rit & Wor Committee-TBE  
7:30p-Rabbi & Rel Serv Committee-HA

**19**  
Asara B'Tevet - Fast of the 10th of Teveth  
Adult Education & Midweek Hebrew-Temple Beth El  
No Midweek Hebrew this Week-Temple Beth El  
4:00 P.M.-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC  
6:30 p.m.-PRIVATE BASKETBALL-GYM-AJCC  
7:30 p.m. Adult Education Series-Heska Amuna  
7:30 p.m.-Pathways Class-HA

**20**  
7:00 am-Minyan-Heska Amuna  
4:00 P.M.-PRIVATE USE BBYO ROOM-AJCC

**21**  
6:30 pm-Services-Tot Shabbat-HA  
8p-Shabbat services-TBE

**22**  
9:30a-Services-HA  
Torah study following Kiddush-HA

## Jewish Book Month Continues on Dec. 2

Sunday, December 2 at the AJCC at 11:00 a.m., the KJA Jewish Book Month presents Bagels and Birkat featuring Maggid Yitzhak Buxbaum, teacher, author, storyteller.



Yitzhak Buxbaum is an inspired and inspiring teacher and storyteller, one of those reviving the honorable calling of the maggid (preacher), who in times past traveled from community to community to awaken Jews to the beauty of their tradition. Buxbaum teaches and tells stories with warmth and humor. He often sets the mood by leading singing of Hasidic niggunim. And he creates the exciting and enlivening atmosphere of a special event, to which everyone is invited.

For additional information, please contact Wilma Weinstein at the KJA, 690-6343 ext.16.

## AJCC Site of First Annual Menorah Madness

Join us for the First Annual Menorah Madness, Knoxville's biggest Chanukah celebration. What will K-Town's biggest menorah be made out of? Light the candles, spin a dreidel, grab a nosh and join a Chanukah sing along. Arts and crafts activities for the kids, last minute holiday items and sufganiot (donuts) for all!



**When:** December 11, 2007  
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
5:30 p.m. candle lighting led by Bruce Pearl and community sing along

**Where:** Arnstein Jewish Community Center  
6800 Deane Hill Drive

**Sponsored by:** The KJA and Chabad of Knoxville

The cost is \$5.00 per person. Price includes falafel dinner and event admission. Beer, wine, and donuts will be available for purchase. Children 2 and under admitted free. Please call (690-6343) or email the KJA (KJA@jewishknoxville.org) and tell us your plans.



Look inside for FA News . . . page 5

## KJA Campaign Statistics

**Total: \$416,940**  
**Donor families: 303**  
**Increased gifts from 2006: 147**  
**New gifts: 23**

*It's not too late to make a pledge. Contact Ed Hunter at 690-6343 or ehunter@jewishknoxville.org. You can donate securely at www.jewishknoxville.org at Donations/Funds.*

## What's Inside

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## SAVE THE DATE

"Celebrating Tzedekah"

KJA Campaign 2008 Pacesetters Dinner

Sunday, January 27

The Orangery

Guest Speaker: Michael Bar-Zohar

Author of more than 30 books, Bar-Zohar was a member of the Knesset, an advisor to General Moshe Dayan, and an Israeli envoy to the Council of Europe.

KNOXVILLE JEWISH COMMUNITY

voice

## Identification Statement

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Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Inc.  
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## Officers

Scott B. Hahn	President
Stephen Rosen	President Elect
Stephen Rosen	Vice President - Campaign
Mark Harris	Treasurer
Renee Hyatt	Secretary
Seth Schweitzer	Vice President - Children & Youth
Ellen Kern	Vice President
Marilyn Wohl	Human Resources & Development
Jane Cohen	Vice President - Jewish Community Services
Dr. Ellen Schnoll	Vice President - Public Relations
Jeff Gubitz	Immediate Past President
	Executive Director

## Board Members at Large

Justin Bell, Marilyn Liberman, Rosalie Nagler,  
Jill Weinstein, Barbara Bernstein, Dr. Caren Gallaheer,  
Dan Smith, Paul Steinfield,

## Automatic Board Members

Heska Amuna Congregation	Rabbi Louis Zivc
Temple Beth El Congregation	Rabbi Beth Schwartz
Heska Amuna Board Chairperson	Ted Besmann
Temple Beth El President	Stephen Eisen
Knox County Hadassah President	Bonnie Boring
BBO Advisory Board Chairperson	Karen Robinson
KJCFF, Inc. President	Pace Robinson

Chairperson, Men's Division Campaign; Chairperson, Women's Division, Campaign; Chairperson, Youth Division Campaign; and Executive Director, KJA, Inc. (ex officio), and chairpersons of these committees: Melissa Feinbaum, Allocations; Budget; Event Fundraising; Long-Range Planning; Pace Robinson, Facilities; Pace Robinson, Personnel; Camp; Children's Programs; Cultural Arts; Joani Leeds, Institute for Jewish Studies; Ellen Kern, Leadership; Jewish Knoxville; AJCC Membership; Susan Cohen, Adult Recreation and Wellness; Marilyn Burnett, Jewish Family Services; J.P. Dessel, Jewish Student Center; Bernie Shorr, Seniors/Friendshippers; Arnold Cohen, Community Relations Committee; Jane Cohen, Publications; Manny Herz, Cultural Arts; Jeff and Nancy Becker, Missions.

The KJA strives to serve Jewish life by providing the democratic forum, the organizational structure, the physical home, and financial means to support and promote the cultural, intellectual, and general welfare of the entire Jewish Community of Knoxville and the Jewish community across the world. The KJA is affiliated with the United Jewish Communities. The AJCC, a division of KJA, is a beneficiary of the United Way of Greater Knoxville. It is affiliated with the (JCCA) Jewish Community Center Association.

Knoxville Jewish Community Voice Staff  
Editor: Joyce York • Staff: Wilma Weinstein  
Publications Committee Chair: Eleanor Shorr



## KJA President's Report

By Scott B. Hahn

Like any large business, the KJA is made up of many component parts. Some of these groups are well known and others tend to work behind the scenes. One of the most significant committees of the KJA, that you might not know a lot about, is Jewish Family Services. This committee has a professional social worker, Nancy Britcher, whose office is located at the AJCC. It also has a very strong, dedicated committee currently chaired by Pat Rosenberg.

One of the reasons that you might not be as familiar with JFS, is that this committee does a lot of work behind the scenes. Also, much of its work deals with confidential issues that cannot be disclosed to the public. The Torah states on numerous occasions, "that you are to take care of the widow, the orphan, and stranger in your midst." JFS takes this mandate to heart by tending to the needs of the less fortunate in our community.

Whether you are aware of it or not, the social welfare needs of the Knoxville Jewish community continue to grow. As people live longer and more people move into our area, the senior population in Knoxville has greatly expanded. JFS provides regularly scheduled visitation to assisted living and nursing home facilities in the area. For some seniors, these are the only regular outside visits they receive. JFS also helps the children of seniors deal with issues and obtain services for their parents.

Another area JFS deals with is Jewish poverty. Even in our relatively small Jewish community, there are pockets of Jewish poor in Knoxville. JFS helps to provide much needed services and information to help these people out. Counseling services are also available through JFS with Nancy Britcher, who has a Masters in Social Work. Many people feel comfortable speaking only to a Jewish professional about their problems. We are fortunate in Knoxville to have someone who can meet that need.

As KJA president, I have had the privilege to attend several JFS programs. If you have never attended one, I strongly urge you to go. There is no finer example of witnessing the KJA fulfill the Torah's mandate than through the work of JFS. A community is often judged on how well it takes care of its less fortunate citizens. We in Knoxville should feel proud that with limited resources, staff, and volunteers we cast a wide net to those in need in our community. This is holy work and should be treated as such. If you are interested in helping out with JFS, contact Nancy Britcher, Pat Rosenberg, or volunteer coordinator, Evan Sturm. They will welcome any assistance you can give them.



9th Graders and Parents:

## CAMP TIKKUN OLAM

Meeting and Presentation by Former Tikkun Olam Campers

Sunday, December 2

9:45-10:30

Elmcroft Assisted Living Facility • Gleason Drive

This location is to accommodate our 9th Grade HeartAction Volunteers.

We will be in the first floor meeting room.

Camp Tikkun Olam is a community service exchange program with students from the Hadera region of Israel. The camp runs for four weeks in July (two weeks here, then two weeks in Israel) and is a wonderful opportunity to share your home, travel to Israel, make life-long friends, and give back to the community.

Please join us to learn more about this wonderful program. You won't want to miss it!  
For additional information please contact:  
Deborah Oleshansky: 690-6343, doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org  
Leslie Snow: Lessnow@aol.com



## Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds

A Supporting Foundation of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and the East Tennessee Foundation to preserve and strengthen the Jewish Community of Knoxville

## New grants:

Archives of the Jewish Community of East Tennessee to preserve the history of the Jewish community residing in East Tennessee for use by future generations received a grant from the Bernard E. and Barbara W. Bernstein Charitable Fund.

The KJA Heart Action program with Temple Beth El and Hesa Amuna Religious School 9th graders received a grant to visit the seniors at Elmcroft Assisted Living Community from the Sylvia Greenberg Family Fund.

## Donations:

B'nai Tzedek General Fund  
Steve and Joan Cohn in honor of Herb Jacob's birthday

Edward and Marilyn Carlin in honor of Herb Jacob's birthday

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Logan Brown  
Arnold and Mary Linda Schwarzbart in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

Scott Hahn in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

Adam and Jill Brown  
Pace, Karen, Asher and Eli Robinson in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

Dr. Alan and Mrs. Valerie Rosenbaum in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Talia Dessel  
Talia Dessel

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Andrew Messing  
Anonymous

Scott Hahn in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

Sybil Joffe in honor of his Bar Mitzvah

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Zack Messing  
Daniel and Karen Messing

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Stephanie Pfeffer-Rodriguez  
Jennie Pfeffer

Scott Hahn in honor of her Bat Mitzvah

Sybil Joffe in honor of her Bat Mitzvah

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Asher Robinson  
Asher Robinson  
Pace and Karen Robinson

B'nai Tzedek Fund of Britt Sturm  
Britt Sturm

## It's That Time of Year

1. Talk to your advisor. Your tax advisor can help you understand the impact on your estate of giving a gift.
2. Calculate your income. If you've had a good earnings year, you will likely owe more taxes and making a charitable gift may help lower your taxes.
3. Review your stocks. Look at the stocks you've owned for over a year. If you would like to make a gift of stock to the KJCFF, offset your capital gains with a gift of appreciated stock. But, if your stock has gone down and has not changed much from its original cost, it is probably best to sell the stock and donate the cash proceeds.
4. Finish your charitable contributions by December 31. Making a year-end charitable gift as a holiday present for family and friends is an extraordinary and heartwarming experience.

Please give Pace Robinson a call if you'd like to make a gift to the KJCFF.

## KNOXVILLE JEWISH COMMUNITY FAMILY OF FUNDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pace Robinson, President • Richard Jacobstein, Vice President • Bernie Rosenblatt, Secretary/Treasurer • Jeff Becker, Bernard Bernstein, Arnold Cohen, Bobby Goodfriend, Scott Hahn, Herb Jacobs • Harold Markman, Alexandra Rosen, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Mel Sturm • Jeff Gubitz, Ex-Officio

## The Board of Directors of the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds

thanks the Knoxville Jewish Community, the staff of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and the East Tennessee Foundation for their support and encouragement. The KJCFF encourages you to help insure the healthy future of our Knoxville Jewish community by including a commitment to the KJCFF in your financial and estate planning.

To learn more about KJCFF philanthropic opportunities, call 690-6343 or visit our website at www.jewishknoxville.org

## Matan Chaim – The Gift of Life

In November 2005 and May 2006, my father was the recipient of two corneas from two separate organ donors in order to replace his own which had deteriorated as a result of a condition called Keratoconus. A cornea transplant does not seem nearly as dramatic or significant as transplanting other major organs such as the heart, lungs, or kidneys.

As a result, I did not immediately consider the fact that my father's vision was rejuvenated by the cessation of another person's life. As in any other transplant, my parents were given information about the people from whom each cornea came. We found out that each individual had led a life shortened by a traumatic disease or event that ravaged the rest of his body – but left the corneas unharmed and usable for transplant. We were excited for my father's improved vision and health – but upon learning of the donors' histories, took pause at the thought of another family's loss.

According to the official United States government web site for organ and tissue donation and transplantation, [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov), "Over 92,000 people are waiting for the gift of life. Each day, about 74 people receive organ transplants.

However, 18 people die each day waiting for transplants that can't take place because of the shortage of donated organs."

We learn in Jewish tradition of the value of "p'kuach nefesh," the saving of a life. There are many lifesaving opportunities we may have in our lifetime – organ donation is one such example. All four branches of Judaism support and encourage organ donation. Particularly, the Union for Reform Judaism has been a long time advocate. President and CEO of the New York Organ Donor Network, Elaine Berg, noted in a June 9, 2006 Forward article, "There seems to be no hesitation on the part of the Jewish community to partake in the miracle of transplantation when an organ is needed to live. Tragically, however, there seems to be a lack of understanding that the benefit of receiving an organ cannot exist without a commitment to organ donation. From an ethical perspective, the miracle of organ donation embodies the highest level of mitzvah – what Maimonides characterized as giving anonymously...if it is possible to donate an organ to save a life, it is obligatory to do so – even when it comes to cornea transplantation, as restoring sight is considered to be lifesaving."

My dad will be able to continue to pursue his goals and visions in life because of the selfless act of organ donation. I encourage you to consider signing up to become an organ donor. Please visit [www.organdonor.org](http://www.organdonor.org).

- Declare your wish on your driver's license.
- Join the donor registry if your state has one.
- Include donation in your advance directives, will, and living will.
- Tell your family. They can be your advocate should you become a donor candidate.
- Tell your physician, faith leader, and friends.
- Complete a donor card and carry it in your wallet.

*Reprinted with the permission of Jennifer Gubitz. Since July 1, 2007 Jennifer Gubitz has been a Rabbinical Student at the HUC-JIR program in Jerusalem. She is a graduate of Indiana University and held fellowships in Washington, DC at the Reform Action Center (2005-06) and Hillel (2006-07).*

## Shorrlines: The Red Letter Days on Our Fall Calendars

*By Eleanor Shorr, KJA Publications Chairperson*

Gosh - the really meaningful holidays have come and gone and now in the interest of secular harmony Halloween, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving remain on our calendar. The observance of Halloween is not very pertinent to us except as parents whose little ones revel in costumes and FREE CANDY. *Nebboch* – our poor deprived kids don't get enough candy - and being Jewish also permits them to dress in costumes on Purim as well as Halloween. Life is pretty good if you are a little kid! And speaking of little kids – how many of us use the excuse of Halloween to stash away bags of Snicker Bars. The three or four kids that ring our bell couldn't possibly eat what is squirreled away under the sorry excuse, "It's for Halloween!"

No one will ever forget our veterans on their day. Those of the Greatest Generation have given us a legacy for which the people of the U.S. shall always be grateful. We who are fortunate enough to have members of the Greatest Generation still with us view them with love and heartfelt admiration.

We pray with the rest of the country for an end to the killing in Iraq and the swift return of our heroes there.

Thanksgiving is a bit redundant after the sukkah and Sukkot but it is a wonderful time for families to renew those ties with members who live distantly. It is a great American holiday and living in the U.S. is so blessed that we greet this opportunity to observe it with open arms. (and turkey and cranberry sauce and pumpkin and squash casseroles and apple pies and lots and lots of cooking and dishes.) The holiday is not typical any more of the division of work in the family. The women of the home are not the sole chefs and maids of all work so we are thankful for the new modern man. They really pull their weight (if you can get their weight up and away from the traditional Thanksgiving football game.)

And speaking of holidays, it was a real joy to be part of the 50th Anniversary of Temple Beth El. It truly was so wonderful to see so many members of our congregations gathered together in love and harmony. We managed to have a *freilicha* time on Simchat Torah with the exciting klezmer music of "Dor l'Dor".

Boy did we dance! – Even those of us who could not manage to carry the real Torahs around the floor, made do with

shuffling the feet a bit and hugging closely those little stuffed felt ones that are reserved for the very young – Well, we decided that if God had given us enough strength to get out on the floor and join in the festivities, even having to hold a teeny tiny Torah in our arms could not interfere with joyous singing and "dancing."

Now before we get maudlin, let's have a change of pace: Several men are sitting around the conference table when a cell phone rings. "It's me. Are you still at the meeting? I must tell you that I saw a beautiful leather coat for only \$1,200." The man put the call on speaker and says, "If you really like it, go ahead and buy it." "Oh, but then I also tried on a great pair of diamond earrings for only \$5,000." "So," he says, "if they are that nice, buy them." His business partners look at him in stupefied awe. Then he calls out, "Does anyone know to whom this cell phone belongs?"

Happy Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and to the owner of the cell phone, the ability to pay for these indulgences.

## Heska Amuna Offers Adult Ed Class

Heska Amuna Synagogue's adult education series, Pathways to Jewish Learning, offers a class for its winter term, which will begin on November 28 and will continue on December 5, 12, and 19. The course will be Devine Designs: Discovering and Rediscovering Meaningful Channels of Communication with God. This series will feature many guests who will lead the class in discussions in the vast variety of ways in which people express their yiddishkite and their relationship with God.

The class meets at 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue and is free for attendees. For more information or to register, call 522-0701.



*Harry Breitstein and KJA President Scott Hahn spend Shabbat evening at Elmcroft Assisted Living with UT students.*



*Adam Schwartz leads the Motzi for the participants.*



*Betty Gubitz enjoys a Shabbat meal with UT Hillel students on November 3 at Elmcroft Assisted Living.*

A mah jong group is interested in adding a new member. Please call Zilla Weininger for information at 966-4225.

### SPECIAL NOTICE:

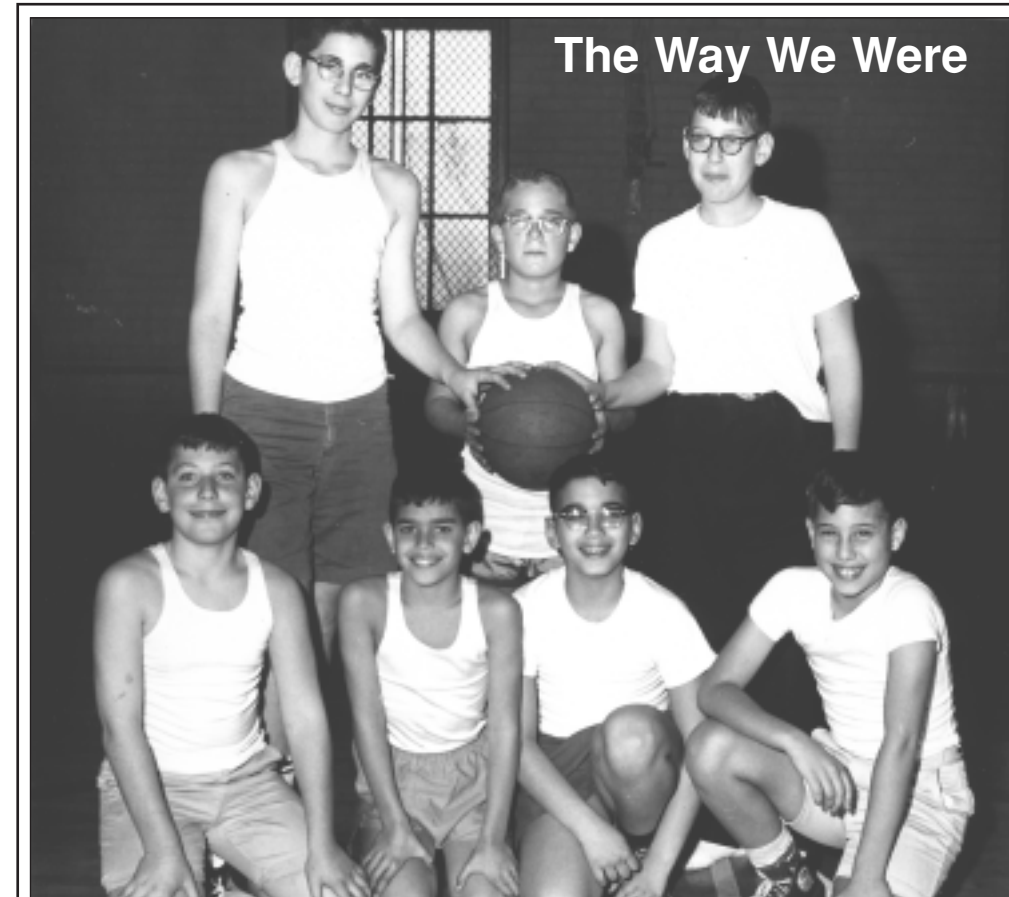
Due to IRS regulations, please make certain your payments and gifts reach our office no later than December 31, 2007; a postmark by December 31, 2007 is not sufficient for tax credit.

## New Staff Members Join Preschool

*By Brooke Seeliger, AJCC Preschool Director*

I am proud to announce two new employees at the AJCC Preschool. Maria Landry is our new Extended Care Worker with the desire to become a camp counselor as well as a possible teacher here at the AJCC. She has a bachelor of science degree in Child Development and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education. She has been teaching for two years and was awarded Teacher of the Year during her second year, while working at Central Riverside Elementary School in Jacksonville, Florida. We are very excited to have her on our staff and feel that she will be a great addition.

To strengthen the Judaic curriculum within the program, Charlene Gubitz has been hired as our Judaic teacher. She will be coming two days a week for approximately one hour to work with the children doing songs and various activities. Charlene has an extensive background in education and was also the Director of Education for Congregation Achduth Vesholom in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She has worked as a teacher, b'nei mitzvah tutor, music teacher, dinner coordinator, and much more. She is going to be great at this job!



**1961 White Team Midgets**

Back row; l to r: Marc Himmelstein, Steven Bebergal, Alan Ceen  
Front row: Martin Nash, Danny Miller, Mark Joffe, Kenny Baum. Steven Bebergal was captain.

## Friendshippers - where life begins at 55!

Chair: Bernie Shorr Program Director: Wilma Weinstein

The Friendshippers are active adults age 55 and over who meet regularly at the AJCC for an array of luncheon speaker programs.

Monthly speakers include members of the Jewish community, local celebrities and programs given by visiting guest speakers.

Topics include book reviews, travelogues, humorous or musical programs, Jewish holiday celebrations, discussions of current events, our "Growing Up Jewish Around the World" series and more.

Friendship Book Group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. New members welcome.

\*\* Spend time with old and new friends! \*\*Enjoy great meals from area restaurants & caterers! \*\*Enjoy a free meal in the month of your birthday! \*\*Learn something new while enjoying entertaining programs! New participants always welcome. Rides available to all programs.

For more information, contact Wilma Weinstein at the AJCC, 690-6343 x 16.

**December 13: Susan Shorr-Brown returns for her annual Chanukah music and sing-a-long.** \$8.00 per person for catered luncheon, including latkes, no charge for the program. Luncheon co-host is Elmcroft.



Speaker Rob Heller greets Friendshippers at the October meeting.

**Friday, January 11, 2008: Maestro Brian Salesky** will present a program about the Knoxville Opera with selected talent. Catered lunch at \$8.00 per person; no charge for program alone.

**Wednesday, February 20: Wendel Werner and the UT singers.** Catered lunch at \$8.00 per person, no charge for program alone.

**Wednesday, March 12: Growing Up Jewish Around the World,** featuring Dr. Gilya Schmidt. Catered lunch at \$8.00 per person; no charge for program alone.

**Wednesday, April 16: Bob Faulkner with the Knox County Sheriffs Office** will present Identify theft, fraud and scams. More than 10 million Americans have their identities stolen every year. Identity theft and fraud is the prime focus of organized crime and you could be the next victim. Catered lunch at \$8.00 per person; no charge for program alone.

## What Are Jews Reading about Judaism?

The Amazon.com Top 18 Jewish-themed books include the following:

**Foreskin's Lament: A Memoir** by Shalom Auslander

**The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary** by Robert Alter

**How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now** by James L. Kugel

**The Blessing of a Skinned Knee: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Self-Reliant Children** by Wendy Mogel

**When Bad Things Happen to Good People** by Harold S. Kushner

**Kosher Billionaire's Secret Recipe** by Stacy Cohen

**Aromas of Aleppo: The Legendary Cuisine of Syrian Jews** by Poopa Dweck, Michael J. Cohen, and Quentin Bacon

**Jews and Power (Jewish Encounters)** by Ruth R. Wisse

**A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (Armstrong, Karen)** by Karen Armstrong

**Sacred (Patrick Kenzie/Angela Gennaro Novels)** by Dennis Lehane

**Overcoming Life's Disappointments** by Harold S. Kushner

**The Jewish Study Bible: featuring The Jewish Publication Society TANAKH Translation** by Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler, and Michael Fishbane

**Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear** by Max Lucado

**Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History** by Joseph Telushkin

**A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23** by W. Phillip Keller

**My Grandfathers Blessings : Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging** by Rachel Naomi Remen

**Who Wrote the Bible?** by Richard E. Friedman

**Survival In Auschwitz** by Primo Levi



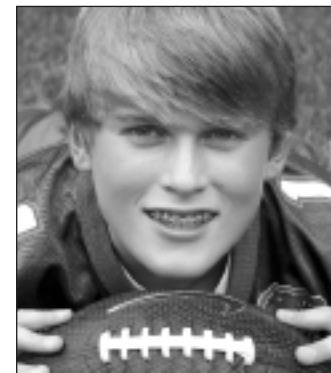
Hillel college students enjoy sukkot. Starting at 12 o'clock and going clockwise: Leo Khmelniker, Andrew Klein, Eric Eisen, Austin Sabel, Igor Fayermark, Beth Newman, Nelson Lambert, Jonathan Coplon. See article on page 9.

## Pollack to Celebrate Bar Mitzvah

Ethan Pollack, son of Dr. Robert and Cheri Pollack, will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El on Friday, November 30, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. The community is invited to share this joyous milestone with Ethan and his family.

Ethan is a seventh grade honor student at West Valley Middle School. He is an avid athlete and enthusiastically participates in soccer, tennis, cross country, baseball, swimming and football. He also enjoys biking and camping with his family. He has chosen to collect new and gently used footballs for his Mitzvah Project. He will be donating the footballs to the Boys and Girls Club. There will be a collection bin in the Temple lobby.

Ethan will have friends and family traveling from Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Ohio, and California to help him celebrate his bar mitzvah. Ethan and his family want to thank Dan Smith who worked with Ethan all summer to help prepare him to chant from the Torah and lead the service. A special thank you to Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Norma James for sharing their wisdom and the beautiful music that will complete Ethan's bar mitzvah service.



## AEPi Brothers and Hillel Join to Celebrate Sukkot and the UJC GA in Nashville

By Deborah Oleshansky, JSC/Hillel Director

AEPi brothers Eric Lehman and Jonathan Coplon planned and organized, "Hookah in the Sukkah" a celebration during the week of Sukkot. The event was hosted by David and Deborah Oleshansky and an entertaining group of AEPi brothers and UT Hillel members attended the dinner program. Jonathan participated in a birthright Israel trip last year and used the event to encourage other students to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity. This winter, four Hillel students will be participating in birthright Israel trips, and several more hope to go next summer.

Jonathan was also among the UT students who traveled to Nashville for the UJC General Assembly meeting there. He was joined by Justin Davis, Adam Schwartz, Rebecca Thaler, and Shelley Yair. The students were among the 250 Hillel students from across the country that attended the GA and created the spirited procession for the opening plenary. Our students led the cheers for Bruce Pearl, UT Men's Basketball Coach, who was among the opening speakers for the GA. In honor of Coach Pearl, the UT Hillel students wore their "Pearl's Chosen People" t-shirts which became VERY popular during the remainder of the GA and we continue to get orders for the shirts!

Last week, Shabbat dinner for the UT students was hosted by Herb and Elise Jacobs. It was a lovely evening and everyone truly enjoyed the Jacob's hospitality. Thank you again to the other

## Messing Celebrates Bar Mitzvah

Zachary Messing, son of Daniel and Karen Messing and the brother of Brandon, celebrated his bar mitzvah Saturday, November 3 at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Rabbi Louis Zivic officiated. Zachary also led Friday night services November 2.

Zachary is a seventh grader honor student at West Valley Middle School. He enjoys playing baseball, football and basketball. He is a member of the West Valley varsity baseball team.

Zack has attended Heska Amuna Religious since the beginning of his preschool. He looks forward to joining the Prozdor program.

For his tzedakah project, Zack worked with STAR, Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding. STAR's mission statement is: To foster personal growth and achievement by providing educational, recreational and physically challenging therapeutic experiences using horse related activities for persons with disabilities. Zack spends two hours a week assisting in lessons. He has the opportunity to encourage and promote positive self-esteem during the lessons through grooming and handling of the horses with the STAR riders. He also ensures safety by guiding the horses during the riding lesson. Zack is also collecting supplies that are on the STAR WISH LIST such as gift cards, office supplies, landscaping tools and horse/barn supplies. A box will be placed at the synagogue to collect items with a complete list of items needed. Zack is successfully building trusting relationships between himself and the riders through respect, dedication and sensitivity. In addition, Zack has established a B'nai Tzedek Fund through the KJCFF. Zack is excited to announce that he will participate in the B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program sponsored by the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. Zack has made a contribution to begin the fund which will be matched by Heska Amuna Synagogue and the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds. The Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds, a supporting foundation of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and East Tennessee Foundation, will invest his monies and Zack will decide each year which Jewish non-profit organization will receive a grant from his fund.

Zack was honored to have his grandpa and grandma, George and Helene Messing, his nana, Susie Welch, and his great grandparents, Bob and Shirley Roach join him. Local family and friends were on hand to help the Messing family celebrate this joyous simcha along with friends and relatives from New Jersey and Florida.



Shabbat dinner hosts this semester: Adrienne and J.P. Dessel, Dina and Andy Kramer, Gilya Schmidt, Marilyn Burnett at Elmcroft Assisted Living Community, Nancy and Jeff Becker and Mary Linda and Arnold Schwarzbart. We are currently planning Shabbat hosts for spring semester. If you are interested in hosting the UT students, please contact Deborah Oleshansky at doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org or 690-6343 and we will get you on the schedule for next semester.

The closing Hillel program for the semester will be a Chanukah party on campus the first night of Chanukah, December 4. If you are interested in helping or participating in this event, please contact Deborah. We need LOTS of latkes!

## HADASSAH HOEDOWN FAMILY FUN NIGHT IS COMING TO TOWN



**December 15, 2007  
7:30 - 10:30 p.m.**

**Arnstein Jewish Community Center**

Howdy! We're havin' a party and you're invited to come stomp your feet and reel to the beat of Square Dancin' music. Join Steve Kopman, a nationally renowned square dance caller, who also just happens to be a nice Jewish feller from New York who relocated to Knoxville to be in the center of the world of square dancing.



- **Don't have a dancin' partner?** Don't worry, we'll provide.
- **Don't even know how to dance?** We'll teach.
- **Already a pro?** We'll have some time just for you.
- **Does you hate dancin'?** Lots of other stuff going on.

So, Ladies and Gents and Children galore, dust off your 10-gallon-hat, fluff up your ruffled skirts, get out your leather chaps, find your Bolero, and polish your cowboy boots and come on down to partake of some Munchies, Desserts, and Drinks (soft drinks and beer and wine available). Join in the Cake Walk, and Children's Activities, Costume Contest (one adult and one child winner), and to commemorate the event get a collectable Old Timey Studio Photo made.

\$18.00 per person, \$30.00 per couple, \$5.00 per child (under 13).

Your entry fee per person includes 1 drink, bottomless munchies, desserts, and a whole doggone evening of festivities and fun.

•• Bring a pie, cobbler or cake. Get your Old Timey Photo half off ••

Questions? Call Peggy Littmann (865)588-6661 or [plittmann@comcast.net](mailto:plittmann@comcast.net)



## Klezmer Band to Appear at Laurel Theater

Tennessee Schmaltz will again be performing at the Laurel Theater on Saturday, December 1 at 8:00 p.m.

Founded in 1995 by Judy Megibow, Tennessee Schmaltz currently features Carolyn Silver-Alford on vocals, Manny Herz on keyboard, Dan Shapira on accordion, Larry Hoffman on clarinet and Rob Heller on clarinet and washtub bass. The Schmaltz has performed both locally and regionally and has produced two CDs—"Old Country Klezmer" and "Pachelbel's Canon and Other Jewish Hits."

Tickets for the Laurel concert are \$11 in advance and \$12 the day of the show and are available online at [www.knoxtix.com](http://www.knoxtix.com) or by telephone at 865 523-7521. More information about Tennessee Schmaltz is available at [tennesseeschmaltz.com](http://tennesseeschmaltz.com).

## KJA Sympathy

The KJA board and staff extend condolences to Stella and Bernie Iroff on the passing of sister-in-law, Gloria Citrin

May her memory be for a blessing.

**For KJA  
News  
&  
Happenings  
Visit  
[www.jewishknoxville.org](http://www.jewishknoxville.org)**

## GA Features Southern Hospitality

The UJC General Assembly – the largest annual gathering of Jewish leadership in the world – was a truly memorable event with a distinctive Southern flair. The GA took place Nov. 11-13 at Nashville's magnificent Gaylord Opryland Hotel Resort and Convention Center, with multiple host communities Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville.

The GA always offers a wide spectrum of events and speakers that appeals to a broad range of participants, and this year offered an incredible array. As always, the GA provided federation professionals of all levels with practical work tools they can apply at home; lend Jewish communal professionals and volunteers an opportunity to network with a diverse range of peers; and offer inspiring speakers and events.

U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice was among the headliners, appearing at the closing plenary to discuss the upcoming Middle East peace conference. Other important political figures speaking at the GA included Isaac 'Buzi' Herzog, Israel's minister of the Diaspora, Society and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism, and minister of Welfare and Social Services; Democratic National Committee Chair and former presidential candidate Howard Dean, whose 2004 campaign pioneered the use of online social networking; and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen.



Marilyn Wohl and Ellen Kern schmooze at the Opryland Hotel.



Marilyn Wohl and Bernie Rosenblatt chat at the General Assembly.



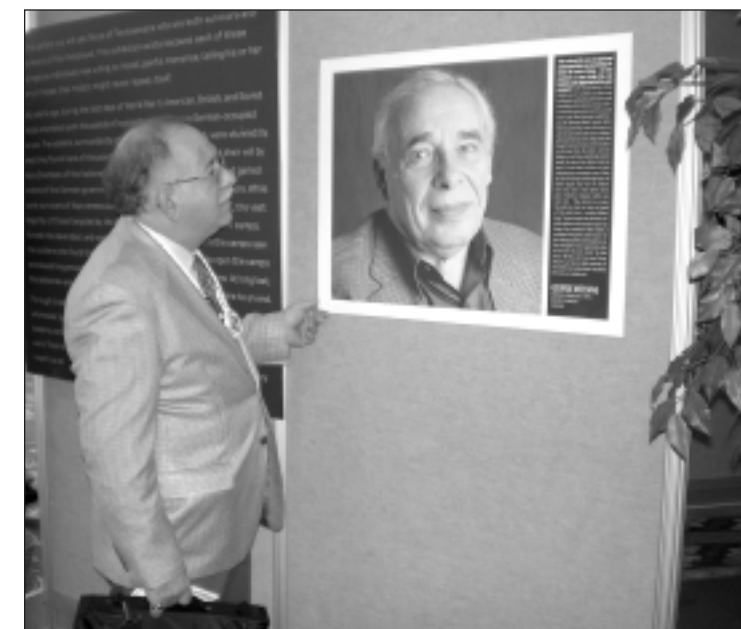
Herb and Elise Jacobs.



Kay and Larry Leibowitz and Bernie and Barbara Bernstein.



KJA President Scott Hahn and Campaign Chairperson Stephen Rosen meet at the GA.



KJA Executive Director Jeff Gubituz studies the story of Knoxville George Messing at the "Living On" display featuring Holocaust survivors.

## A Fresh Look at American Jewry

By Rabbi Louis Zivic, Heska Amuna Synagogue

The New American Judaism, by Rabbi Arthur Blecher (Palgrave Macmillan 24.95) is the most stimulating and challenging book of Jewish interest that I have read in quite awhile. Blecher challenges all of the "myths" of the American Jewish way of life. Among the assumptions challenged is the well worn idea that Judaism in America is dying out because of assimilation and intermarriage, that the denominations of Judaism are our historical governing bodies and they and only they represent normative Judaism in America and that Jewish population will be sustained if Jews marry other Jews exclusively, and intermarriage is a threatening the survival of Judaism.

Blecher also challenges other historical myths that we as American Jews have been taught, but I am focusing on the ones above because those are the ones that we hear trumpeted from pulpits, read about in magazines and most often worry about. Blecher disassembles these myths one at a time using logic, reason, and proof from a variety of sources. His footnoting and bibliography are extensive. He points out the even the authors of the 2000 National Jewish Population Study, which panicked everyone by reporting a decrease in Jewish population, know that it is a flawed work. NJPS put

Jewish population at 5.2 million. Other studies list the population as 6.7 million, or a million and a half more Jews than reported in NJPS. Rabbi Blecher points out that the NJPS did not count the Jews who were members of havurot or the vast number of Jews who interact with Judaism and learn about it through the Internet.

Blecher concludes that Jewish population has not declined, but has grown. Jewish life in America is a fuller, richer life than Jews may have ever known. He points to the number of Jewish music groups, the preponderance of Jewish literature and Jewish studies that we have come to take for granted even as we bemoan our future.

As for intermarriage, Blecher sees it as a coming together of the particular American social forces over the last 50 or 60 years; women entering the work place, the greater acceptance of ethnic differences and changing attitudes about the importance of romantic love- produced the high rate of intermarriage; not people "betraying" their heritage. As a rabbi and psychotherapist, Blecher postulates that "because of the high value placed upon romantic love, even deeply committed Jews maintained their relationships whether their partners were Jewish or not."

If that is the case, the Jewish population will have in part large numbers of Jewish-Christians who will be seeking to learn of

their Jewish heritage. He points out that the current policies of synagogues across the board do not encourage these people, but turn them away, depriving the Jewish community of valuable resources. He challenges synagogues and other Jewish groups to look at their policies regarding membership.

Blecher notes that when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in the year 70, the rabbis responded to the crisis with the radical innovation of Rabbinic Judaism; no more animal sacrifices, Judaism would become the religion of home and hearth that was brought to the United States. However, since the appearance of one million Jews on the shores of America circa 1900 the Jewish community has been rocked by the Holocaust and exulted by the emergence of a powerful State of Israel. Do not these times also demand a radical response, Blecher asks.

Rabbi Blecher offers no particular solutions, but he forces us to question the direction in which we are traveling. In his epilogue he writes; 'In the end, there is only one myth that contains no truth' the myth that there are no myths."

It's a great read and a terrific Hanukkah gift for anyone concerned with Jewish future.

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## Heska Amuna Hosts December 9 Concert

The Sylvia Robinson Arts and Cultural Fund presents a special Knoxville appearance by **Beth Schafer** and the Beth Schafer Trio, Sunday, December 9, at 2:00 p.m. at Heska Amuna Synagogue. Admission is free to the event. For more information, call 522-0701.

## TBE to Host Chanukah Music Fest

Temple Beth El's Gelber Cultural Fund & Levy Fund continues TBE's 50th anniversary celebration with

Knoxville Opera's

### CHANUKAH MUSIC FEST

featuring Brian Salesky, music director and pianist and starring Metropolitan Opera tenor Vahan Khanzadian, with members of the Knoxville Opera Studio.

The event will take place Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 3037 Kingston Pike.

A "Taste of Chanukah" reception

will follow in the Arnstein Community Hall.

Advance tickets are: adults, \$20.00, all students/children \$10.00.

For reservations, write check to Temple Beth El and mail to

Temple Beth El, 3037 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

Call your credit card information to: 524-3521.

For more detailed information, please call Meredith Jaffe at 408-1420.

## BBG: Weinstein Working Hard

By: Bryna Oleshansky

Weinstein has been running non stop since the new term started. Recently we have had many great programs including an adventurous culture night, brunching with our Bubbies, and a fun time watching Sex and the City.

During culture night all of the Weinstein BBG girls traveled around the world. First we played rugby in Australia. Then we went to Japan to make some awesome origami. After that we traveled to Paris, the fashion capital of the world, to make fabulous newspaper outfits. After we were beautifully clothed we took a trip to Ethiopia to enjoy traditional Ethiopian bread. Our last stop was Israel where we discussed the situation in Israel and talked to people who visited Israel this summer. This was a great program to learn about different cultures and discover how other people live their lives.

Our next program, Brunch with Bubbie was a HUGE success. Many girls and their Bubbies attended this wonderful brunch held at Green Hills Grill. There everyone talked and ate and had a great time

getting to know each other. We also started an upcoming fundraiser at this brunch by collecting recipes from all of the women. Weinstein will be putting the cookbooks together and selling them as a fundraiser. This can be a great holiday gift for friends and family.

At our last program we incorporated many different activities into one eventful night. We started out by helping at a battered women's shelter where we cleaned and talked to the women there. Then we continued the night at Mara Hahn's house with learning about the Jewish views on premarital sex. After that we made virgin strawberry daiquiris and watched the show Sex and the City. Then we were reeducated about different aspects of BBYO and participated in a scavenger hunt. This bonded many of the members and taught everyone something they didn't know.

Weinstein is going to keep running too. On October 28, we organized our annual letter-a-thon and sent out letters to many people in the community. The funds collected will help accommodate our annual Beau dance where we will be honoring our lovely beau Ryan Markman. Be looking out for our letters!

## Israel Beckons

### The National First Timers Mission to Israel March 17-26, 2008

KJA Mission Chairs Nancy and Jeff Becker invite you to join hundreds of people just like you from all over North America fortunate enough to discover an Israel that is at once spontaneous and seductive.

### A Sense of Purpose

UJC Missions are travel experiences unlike any other. Yes, we deliver exciting adventures, scintillating experiences, and cultural discoveries. Sure, we are able to offer you exclusive, insider access to residents, community leaders, area experts, and political personalities. Yet a UJC Mission is something much deeper. What makes each mission truly unique is its 'sense of purpose,' guaranteeing travelers a heightened appreciation and connection to their Jewish identity. Our goal is to create travel experiences imbued with meaning, giving our participants the chance to visit with members of their extended Jewish family and to come face to face with the shared heritage, traditions, and values that unite us all. Mission participants are sure to come away with a newfound understanding of where we've been as well as a vision of where we're headed.

### Spiritual, Historical, Personal

Our missions aren't passive experiences. They're active adventures, engaging the mind, heart, soul, and body. We'll explore local communities and

their histories while traveling by jeep, boat, plane, and foot to make up-close and personal contact with the many marvels of Jewish existence. You'll witness firsthand the extraordinary efforts of organizations like the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel while discovering and responding to the challenges facing Jewish communities today.

### Join Us

This is your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the impact the Jewish people have had on world culture, to see how Jewish communities interact today, and to personally witness and be inspired by the role every Jew can play in supporting the continuation of the Jewish people wherever they may live.

Whether young, young at heart or somewhere in between, you'll find something especially meaningful and memorable. So, just pack your bags and your ruach (spirit) and come see Israel with UJC Missions.

You'll be oceans away, but you'll never feel closer to home.

Please contact the KJA office via email [kja@jewishknoxville.org](mailto:kja@jewishknoxville.org). Put Mission in the subject line) or call (865)

690-6343 if you are interested in receiving more information as it becomes available.

Complete mission information and itinerary is now available at [www.jewishknoxville.org](http://www.jewishknoxville.org).

