

KJA, CRC Address Prejudice, Intolerance in Schools

By Leslie Snow

A few months ago at a KJA Community Relations Committee (CRC) meeting, I reported incidents of anti-Semitism that occurred in the Farragut schools. I was encouraged to write a letter to the Knox County school board, the Farragut principals, Knox County School Superintendent Dr. Charles Lindsey, and Knox County Executive Michael Ragsdale. After the letter was widely circulated, I was asked, along with Adrienne Dessel and Sharon Hannum from the Race Relations Center of East Tennessee, to address the school board at their April 17th workshop.

The presentation was well received and was a good first step. However, it's just one part of the effort to improve the culture in the school system, not just for Jews, but for all students. In response to the incident and other reports of prejudice, the KJA and CRC have taken the following steps to affect change in the schools and address the needs of parents and students:

A survey was mailed to the entire Jewish community asking members to describe their experiences with anti-Semitism in the schools.

A Sept. 17 panel discussion has been planned to deal with anti-Semitism and prejudice in the schools. The school board will be asked to attend and school administrators will be invited to be on the panel.

CRC is writing a follow-up letter to the school board asking the board to describe steps it will take to address intolerance.

As part of a community-wide effort to change the culture in Knoxville, CRC plans to ask other faiths to participate in the discussion of harassment.

Intolerance is an issue that affects us all. Even if you don't have children in the school system, please take a few minutes to contact the school board and ask them to address harassment and prejudice with preventative measures. Currently the Knox County policy focuses on punishing incidents of harassment as they occur. We believe schools should also work toward changing the culture that leads to prejudice. The e-mail addresses of the Knox County School Board can be found at

<http://www.kcs.k12tn.net/board/boardIndex.htm>.

The letter I wrote is reprinted below. CRC believes that it speaks to a chronic and widespread problem in the school system.

February, 28 2006

Dear Dr. Lindsey, Farragut Principals, and School Board Members:

This letter is long over-due. I should have written it last year when my son Ethan, a second grader at the time, decided to write about Chanukah for one of his required Christmas assignment and was told by a classmate that he "hated Jews." But I might have written to you even before that.

I could have written to you when my daughter, Jordan, was in eighth grade and a student, looking over at her studying with two Asian girls casually said, "Look, all the kids who are going to Hell are working together."

I didn't try to contact you last year when someone in the lunch room called her "a stupid Jew." And I'm ashamed to admit I didn't write to you even after a student whispered to Jordan under her breath, "Hitler died too soon."

I waited, telling myself that there are more good people in my children's lives than bad. I used the experiences to teach my children how to respond to ignorance and how to protect themselves from bullies.

But I should have written sooner. Instead I waited until a student repeatedly told my son that he hated Jews and made fun of him in front of other students. I waited until Ethan stepped off the bus crying.

And I waited too long for my daughter too.

Last week in her driver's education class she was humiliated by a barrage of Jewish jokes that ended in a student calling out in German, "Kill the Jews." She went to see her principal, Michael Reynolds. She took action and she inspired me to act as well.

Now, finally, I'm writing this long overdue letter and I'm asking you to take action. Not just for my children, but also for the Chinese boy on our bus route that everyone calls "The Chink." And for the Hispanic kids who are harassed with derogatory remarks and are openly teased.

Something needs to be done. There's something missing in an educational system where students so casually and comfortably express their disdain for others. "Character Counts" is clearly falling short when it comes to racism and prejudice.

I would like to hear from you. I want to know how you plan to address such a serious problem and, as a former high school teacher, I'd like to offer my help in planning education programs or providing you with any resources or contact information you may need. Every child deserves to feel safe and comfortable in school. Please work with me to make that a priority.

I'm eager to hear from you and ready to help. Sincerely,

Leslie Snow

cc: Knox County Mayor Ragsdale

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voice

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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.

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SHORRLINES: The Delights of June

By Eleanor Shorr, KJA Publications Chairperson

This beautiful month, with the sun shining and birds caroling, reminds us that it is the Druid custom to welcome spring by dancing around a maypole. Since we should always be open for innovative customs, let's do the Jewish thing for the rites of spring. We could dance the hora around the brand new tree that was just planted on the AJCC campus. We can string blue and white ribbons along the guy wires and put Harry Belafonte on the loud speakers singing Hava Nagila and have a real springtime fiesta. Hola!

And then there is always "gambling" on the green. Yes, that's right. We said "gambling" not "gamboling." "Gamboling" is fun but not very rewarding - but "gambling" - now that could lead to an interesting afternoon. Shooting craps under the trees, playing blackjack by the pool - we might be able to raise our entire Alliance budget in one fell swoop and we haven't had a good fell swoop in a long time. O.K., O.K. so it's not exactly kosher - but what fun it could be! We are supposed to find joy in living - so let's live a little.

June also brings graduation ceremonies. If you have ever sat on a folding chair on a college cam-

pus in the hot sun while name after name after name after name is called to receive a diploma, try to savor the moment that means the end of the endless checks to the bursar's office. One can fantasize wallowing in the delight of having a few extra bucks. But don't wallow too much. It's just a form of sunstroke. For some reason, the first job, the first apartment, the first wobbling step on the ladder of independence from parents, doesn't come too easy. Then, there is always the specter of graduate school which costs a heck of a lot more than any four-year college. We, who have run that gamut, warn you - don't make plans for luxuries for any time in the future. Disposable income is a promise only for your old age. We now know what the meaning of disposable income is - you dispose of it before you can enjoy it frivolously. You may be proud but you will also be broke!

So gather rosebuds while you may and enjoy the fragrance of newly mown grass but please remember to use the Kleenex when you are seized with that sneezing spell.

Put in Your 2 Cents Worth



The Voice welcomes your opinions, questions and suggestions for a new Letters to the Editor feature. Send e-mail or letters to Joyce York, Editor at
E-mail: Voice@jewishknoxville.org
Mail: 6800 Deane Hill Drive,
Knoxville, TN 37919
Fax: 694-4861

Keep your letters short and sweet at 250 words. Be sure to identify yourself and tell us how we can contact you. We will get the appropriate board or staff member to answer your questions and update you on your concerns.

Your KJA Dollars at Work

Of the Jewish elderly in the former Soviet Union, 232,000 are needy and require aid: about half are Holocaust survivors who receive \$260 a year in assistance. The others receive \$150 worth of services annually via UJC/federations. Through Operation Promise, which extends such services to the world's poorest Jews, \$36 provides one elderly Jew with free medicine for one year; \$50 provides winter relief packages including coats, boots, blankets and heating fuel; and \$625 provides the homebound with meals on wheels.

It's Summer Storytime for the Friendshippers

By Beth Heller, Senior Services Coordinator

Happy Summer! Stay Cool with the Friendshippers and join us for the following exciting Friendship Programs

LUNCHEON PROGRAMS

Monday, June 19: Professional, nationally known Storyteller Rona Leventhal. Traditional Jewish Folklore. She performed at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. Noon at the AJCC. \$7.50 per person for catered luncheon; no charge for program alone.

Thursday, July 27: Bill Landry: Stories of the Heartland Series. 11:30 in the private room of the Mandarin house Restaurant. \$7.50 per person. No charge for the program alone.

Wednesday, August 16: "My Father...Oy Vey," featuring Bunny Gerson. Noon at the AJCC. \$7.50 per person for catered luncheon; no charge for program alone.

Thursday, September 14: Special Guest Speaker: UT Basketball Coach Bruce Pearl! Noon at the AJCC. \$7.50 per person for catered luncheon; no charge for program alone.

October Date TBA: "Shakespeare and the Jews," featuring UT English Professor Heather Hirschfeld. Noon at the AJCC. \$7.50 per person for catered luncheon; no charge for program alone.

FRIENDSHIPPER BOOK GROUP

The Friendshipper book group is going strong. New members welcome. They continue to meet the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the AJCC. Interested? Contact Beth Heller at the AJCC, 690-6343.



Charlie Mann entertained Friendshippers at a recent gathering.

FRIENDSHIPPER DISCRETIONARY FUND

Looking for a way to honor a friend, send get well wishes, or just let someone know you care? A contribution to the Friendshipper Discretionary Fund is a great way to show you care. The Friendshipper

Discretionary Fund, made up of community members' donations is used to purchase equipment to be used by the Friendshippers

or to help cover the costs of special Friendshipper programs and speakers. The fund has been used to purchase a totally portable sound system, to help defray the cost of a larger portable sound system

and to help cover the costs for outside speakers (including Rona Leventhal coming in June). For more information, please contact Beth Heller or Ed Hunter at the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, 690-6343.



Miriam Esther Wilhelm shared stories with Friendshippers during a Spring meeting.

Suggestions? Ideas for programs? Know someone who would like to be added to the Friendshipper mailing list? Please contact Beth Heller at the AJCC, 690-6343.

The Friendshipper Program is a program of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance. Thanks for your support!

Local Darfur Rally Attracts Attention

On Sunday, April 30, as thousands convened on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to express their support for the people of Darfur, dozens of children and adults from Temple Beth El and Heska Amuna Synagogue's religious schools convened in a rally along Kingston Pike.

Since February 2003, the Sudanese government's genocidal campaign in Darfur has claimed over 400,000 lives, led to countless rapes, and driven 2 million people from their homes.

In Knoxville, the children studied this modern-day crisis along with the Holocaust as part of this year's Yom Hashoah's remembrance efforts at their religious schools. The rally became an extension of those studies, with parents, students, teachers, and other volunteers



Rachel Brown, Stephanie Pfeffer-Rodriguez, Jensine Baerman, Jennie Frost and Haley Lowentritt raise social awareness along Kingston Pike. They are Heska Amuna Religious School students.

marching from their respective institutions and joining together along Kingston Pike as they urged passing motorists to support efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur.

"As I stood with our children on the sidewalk on Kingston Pike, watching them wave their signs and wave their hands and chant, "Save Darfur!" I was so proud of our children and their teachers and parents. So many people

slowed down, honked their horns in support, and waved back. It really was applied Judaism, and a wonderful example to our whole community," said Rabbi Beth Schwartz of Temple Beth El.

For more information on the Sudanese situation, please visit



Harris Bailey, Olivia Talman, Anna Kern and Rabbi Louis Zivic spend a Sunday morning outside Heska Amuna Synagogue creating awareness about the Sudan genocide situation.

Save Darfur Coalition: www.savedarfur.org

Jewish Council for Public Affairs: www.jewish-publicaffairs.org/

United Jewish Communities: www.ujc.org/

"Let us remember: what hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander."

-- Elie Wiesel

March 16 - 27, 2006

Knoxville Jewish Alliance Mission Trip to Israel

By Annette Winston, trip participant

We departed on March 16, and arrived at Ben Gurion airport on the morning of the 17th. Our travel was relatively painless, in that we had only to get to Newark and then had a direct flight.

Our tour began with a stop at Mt. Scopus to take in its beautiful view of Jerusalem. Here we said our first blessing, the Shehecheyanu, which thanks G-d for sustaining us to see this moment in our lives. It would be the first of many blessings on this trip.

There were so many places to visit, and only 10 days. Necessity may have resulted in short visits, but they were no less inspiring. After our first day in Jerusalem, we awoke on Saturday morning and began our visit on a somber note, in memory of those lost in the Holocaust. The new Yad Vashem, designed by Moshe Safdie needs to be studied, yet the time we spent was sufficient to invoke a strong emotional response. Its design culminates in the visitor looking out over the hills of Jerusalem, the hope for the future of the Jewish people.

Next on the agenda was a visit to the Museum of the Diaspora, where the guide assigned to our group gave an impressive review of the 2,500-year history of the Diaspora. The informative six-point thesis on why the Jews have survived these thousands of years was expertly presented: family, community, memory, faith, culture, dreams.

What would a trip with our Jewish friends be without a little intellectual stimulation? On Monday, March 20, we visited the Weizmann Institute of Science, where our own Jeff Becker did his post-graduate work, and where his mentor was Efraim



Annette Winston and Bill Berez admire whimsical art in a shop in Tsfat.

Katzir, the fourth president of Israel. Dr. Katzir met with us and provided a political and personal overview of Israel. His personal history in Israel dates to 1925 (he was 9 at the time) and includes the tragic loss of his brother, Aharon, in the Lod airport massacre in 1972. Interestingly, Katzir was the first Israeli named to the United States National Academy of Sciences. This was one of the highlights of our trip.

Also, what would a Jewish Alliance trip be without some social action, or tikkun olam? After lunch at Kibbutz Yad Mordechai, we were off to Be'er Sheva, where we visited the Ethiopian National Project school for resettled Ethiopian Jews. We visited with students in the classroom and had an overview of the issues that must be overcome for these families. We also visited their tiny community center and talked to their teens about the challenges in the community.

Feast in a Bedouin tent. Did I mention this trip was full of new experiences for those who had been here before? Sitting low, eating lots of courses, strong tea, coffee beans roasted, ground, brewed and served on the spot, and music provided by ood, coffee grinder and voices were all part of this experience. Our traditionally-dressed Bedouin host also happened to be a Ph.D. candidate at Hebrew University. Not everything is what it seems here!

Our fifth day included a visit to Masada and the Ein Gedi nature preserve, which put us at a Dead Sea hotel for a couple of nights. Schoolchildren visiting the Ein Gedi were drenching themselves in the waterfalls, and those of us who kept (mostly) dry were reveling in the wildlife including the ibex, the hyrax, and many different species of birds. The hike was mild and manageable for all but the injured on our trip.

Often one thinks of group touring as too much boarding and unboarding a bus, and this trip certainly had plenty of that. However, the rides in between were spectacular. Driving past date palm groves as we left the Dead Sea, and looking out over the Dead Sea and watching for big blocks of salt on the shores, or ibexes along the roadside made the boarding and unboarding disappear from memory by the end of our trip.

Our next stop was Be'it She'an in the Jordan Valley, and an important archaeological site, said to contain 15 separate occupational layers, meaning that 15 different populations called this place their home over the centuries. The large amphitheater yielded impressive acoustics from the stage and seat-



The KJA Mission Group gathers for a group photo on Mount Scopus.



Camp Tikkun Olam students created sculptures in both countries. Mission participants view the CTO sculpture in Hadera.

ed 7,000. The original city dated to 500 B.C.E.

We traveled along the border between Israel and Jordan as we moved up to Mt. Gilboa, home of the world's only black iris. Here is where King Saul and his sons died fighting the Philistines. Their bodies were taken and hung on the walls in Be'it She'an. Breathtaking views and picture-taking tourists were the order of the day here. Later, we looked out over the Sea of Galilee from the Mount of Beatitudes, and thought how this day would be remembered as one in which we enjoyed the beauty of the country. The last thing we did before dinner in Tiberias was visit the grave of Maimonides. From the bus, I was noting the number of different shorebirds, some of which I could actually identify. Tiberias is a beautiful city on the shores of Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee).

Early morning, Day Seven. Several of us crammed into the back of each jeep as we ascended the Golan Heights. I happened to be in the last jeep with a somewhat slaphappy driver, who kept stopping and picking wildflowers, including thistle, for us to eat. Much to our amazement, the stalk of the thistle tastes sweet, and would make an interesting

addition to any salad. He wanted us to note the warnings about the mines as well, so he stopped next to one so that we could get a picture of one. It was on this drive up to the Golan Heights that I got my porcupine quills, because he couldn't drive by those without stopping to pick them up and give one to each of us. They now brighten a dried-flower arrangement on my dining room table.

I also felt compelled to tell Israeli security about them before I boarded the plane! Standing on a Syrian bunker, a lifelong resident of the Golan gave us the history of his home. Stories of miracles abound in this land, and in this man's life alone, there were many.

My favorite place in all the land of Israel is Tsfat, the place from which it is said the Messiah will come on his way to Jerusalem. The artist community here includes sculptors, painters, weavings,

ceramists, jewelers, and every other kind of medium you can name. The views from the city include Hebron and Lebanon to the north, the Golan, Mt. Meron and the Amud Valley to the west, and Tiberias and the Kinneret to the east. This was our shop

'til you drop location, and many of your fellow Knoxillians now adorn their walls and tabletops with items bought in Tsfat. Dinner was at the home of Genine and Chef Ronen Bar El, with entertainment



Participants stand in line outside a falafel shop.

beneath you as you look out over the port of Haifa. Three submarines were in port, and the expansive Mediterranean coast stretched out below.

Our next stop was Givat Olga, our Knoxville Jewish community's sister region for Knoxship 2000. Bernie Rosenblatt has rock-star status here. Ted and Wendy Besmann posed next to daughter Anna's sculpture, built with the rest of the members of her class on their visit to the region. Seeing the students we support and visiting the graduates gave those who work in the program great nachas.

Shabbat in Jerusalem. Praying on Shabbat in Jerusalem. Attending services in Jerusalem on Shabbat. All of these experiences are so incredibly soulful that it seems trite to try and describe them.

Most of us spent our last two days in Jerusalem on a walking tour, followed by shopping on Ben Yehuda after sundown, again until we dropped.

On our last day, we had breakfast with Reuven Hazan, a political science professor at Hebrew University, who gave us an overview of Israeli government that had most of us talking like experts by the time he finished training us. We then visited the Lifeline for the Old, a handcrafts workshop for the elderly, where retired Israeli citizens have a job creating handcrafts that are sold to the public. While there, our group was arranged by a retired photojournalist who came out and started taking pictures. Lifeline is a project of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Such longing for home, yet longing to stay. It is difficult to leave Israel, no matter how much you may miss those you left at home. Every day a happy memory has popped into my mind's eye. I want to go back. I was apprehensive before I left and felt silly for it once there. Go. It really is NOT throwing caution to the wind. Your tour guides will make sure of that.



Bernie Rosenblatt visits students at the Maksam, an Ethiopian afterschool community center.



Reuven Hazan, a Hebrew University political science professor, teaches the group about the Israeli government.

by Simply Tsfat, an extremely lively Chasidic klezmer band. We ate and danced our way to total exhaustion before returning to our second night at the hotel at Kibbutz Lavi.

We end our trip in Jerusalem, but on our way there for our second Shabbat in that city, we stop in Haifa and visit the Baha'i Gardens. The view from Stella Maris spreads the gardens

Israeli Trip Rates Rave Reviews

Several of those who journeyed to Israel wrote quick responses via e-mail upon their return that showcase the enthusiasm and bonding that occurred during the 10-day excursion. Each gave permission to share these first thoughts with Voice readers.

"After seeing all of the physical sites of interest in Israel, many years ago, it was touching and heartwarming to see the real heart and soul of Israel. It made me so proud to be a Jew, and so glad to see where my money goes when I give to the Alliance. They are doing so many wonderful things to make people's lives better, that I think we should copy some of those programs here in the U.S. It's amazing how far Israelis seem to make the money go, when we have so much waste and graft here in our country's programs. I also loved being able to spend so much "alone" time with my oldest daughter, Lissa, who also loved the trip. I would recommend it to everyone."

— Lee Miller

"A special privilege get to travel with y'all! As I said - it was a great way to "go home again!"

— Rabbi Lynn C. Liberman (St. Louis, Missouri)

"What a fantastic first trip!! Although we are thrilled to be home with our kids, as we are falling asleep at the dinner table we are bemoaning the fact that we seem to always be starving now..."

— Amy Hull

"Judy and I spent two extra days in Tel Aviv. We found a great restaurant, Carmella, but otherwise found Tel Aviv to just be another city. Jerusalem and the rest of our trip were fantastic. I left on Wed with great difficulty. The ride to the airport felt as if I were going to the electric chair. I got teary and did not want to leave. It really did feel as if I was leaving home. I feel inspired in so many ways having gone on this trip with all of you. I look forward to us getting together to share our thoughts."

— Harvey Kaufman

"It was a truly beautiful trip and wonderful experience in traveling with old and new friends. These are memories I will treasure forever. I've dreamt about this trip every night this week."

— Annette Winston

Israeli Trip Rates Rave Reviews

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"I have enjoyed reading all your thoughts on our wonderful trip. As I had experienced before, sharing the experience of traveling through Israel and understanding the country with friends from your home enhances the experience many times. This trip was no exception. I want to thank you all for letting me again see Israel through fresh eyes, for getting to know some of you better, and for making our shepherding of the group easy. Though I came back several pounds heavier (well worth it), I have also come back several "pounds" enriched. Jeff and I love the matza holder and thank you all for your thoughtfulness. We truly loved doing this.

I look forward to seeing you all soon to reminisce."

— Nancy Becker

"The trip was, indeed, an awesome experience. From walking in the footprints of the prophets of three-four thousand years ago to standing on the ground that was won in battle less than 50 years ago. The tingle that runs up and down my spine reminds me that we're all part of a living history.

I am fortunate to have been a guest on such a magnificent journey. I'll treasure the memories forever."

— Les Eastep (Springfield, Illinois)

**The July
VOICE
deadline is
June 12**

Mission Members Get Firsthand Look at P2K "Programs"

By Bernie Rosenblatt

The Knoxville community mission visited our P2K Hadera-Eiron Region for an action-packed orientation about the region and the work we are doing together on March 24. Our 27-member delegation started the visit with a welcome by Shay Felber, Regional JAFI Director and Elisha Hosman, the new P2K Israeli Regional Chairman.

Our group learned about the range of projects the SouthEast Consortium was involved with but our concentration was on the two major projects in which Knoxville has mostly been involved: Camp Tikkun Olam (CTO) and the Maksam, the Hadera Ethiopian Jewish Community Center.

CTO is a teen program whereby a group of regional 15-year-olds are hosted by teens and their families in Knoxville for two weeks of community service projects, learning about each other; exploring Jewish identity and experiencing Jewish life in America. This is followed by two weeks in our P2K Region hosted by the Israeli teens and their families. We viewed the sculptures created by the

Israeli/Knoxville teens at Givat Olga Matnas as part of their community service program. We also went to the outstanding Ethiopian afterschool Maksam community center and met with several youth who Knoxville has helped sponsor as well as several teens from past CTO programs who did a community service project at the Maksam.

Finally, we visited the remarkable Greenhouse program at Kibbutz Ein Shemer and heard about how the Israeli/Knoxville/Israeli Arab teens worked together on a summer project.

No visit would be complete without a falafel lunch at Felafel Barzilai – Hadera!

All in all, our Mission members came away with a better understanding of the meaning and emotions of the People to People work of P2K and were able to see the direct benefits of such important programs. Knoxville is proud to have been involved with the Hadera-Eiron Region since our decision making visit in 2000.

Caplan to Celebrate Bat Mitzvah



Abby Lynn Caplan, daughter of Ricky and Cindy Caplan, will become a bat mitzvah on June 24 at Heska Amuna Synagogue.

Caplan began her religious studies at age 5. Her interests include piano, string

bass, scuba diving, and basketball. She is a seventh grade student at Farragut Middle School and has one sister, Haley.

Shenkman's Celebrate B'nai Mitzvah

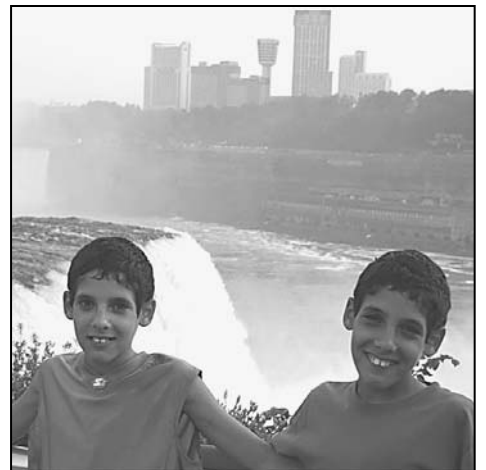
Daniel and Melody Shenkman were called to the Torah on May 19 at Temple Beth El. Daniel and Melody are 13-year-old twins and attend Sevierville Middle School.

Daniel belongs to the Black Belt Club of TTJC in Pigeon Forge. He enjoys swimming and basketball. Melody loves to sing in the school chorus. She is a competitive dancer and loves both basketball and soccer.

Bendriem Brothers Celebrate Simcha

Nathan and Samuel Bendriem led services May 26 and 27 as part of b'nai mitzvah services at Heska Amuna Synagogue.

Sharing has really been a permanent reality for Nathan and Samuel. Since conception, they have always experienced sharing in a unique way. Nathan and Samuel were born in Paris, France, four minutes apart. They are bilingual and like to confuse their parents by switching languages during a conversation. They enjoy movies and books with quite distinctive tastes. The boys attend Bearden Middle School where they are in the band. Nathan plays soccer and Samuel plays basketball. They have enjoyed studying with Nancy Becker, their tutor.



Seniors Celebrate Passover at Echo Ridge

By Nancy Britcher, MSW, LCSW, Jewish Family Services Director

A Passover program was given by Jewish Family Services for older adult residents of assisted living and retirement homes on Tuesday, April 18. Held at Echo Ridge, residents there were joined by friends who came from Atria Weston Place, Outlook Pointe, NHC Cavett Hill and Continuum Courtyards. Special guest speakers were Rabbi Louis Zivic, Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Wendy

Besmann. The theme was holiday memories and with the presentations there was also a lot of sharing by attendees. Passover foods, including eggs and charoses, as well as desserts and drinks, were provided by our many volunteers. The staff at Echo Ridge was very gracious and with about 30 people attending, including residents, volunteers, family members and friends, a lovely holiday program appeared to be greatly enjoyed by all.



Wendy Besmann and Rabbi Beth Schwartz share thoughts with participants at Echo Ridge.



Rabbi Louis Zivic speaks at the JFS Passover Luncheon Program at Echo Ridge as Zilla Weininger and Dorothy Pearlman listen.

JFS coordinates "Chai" Bags for Special Visits

Jewish Family Services Volunteers treat residents in community Assisted Living and Nursing Homes with our famous "Chai" bags. These bags enable volunteers to bring a little gift with them when they visit those confined to nursing homes or other long-term care

facilities. The bags contain assorted toiletries and personal care items with separate bags designed for men and women. If you would like to know more about our "Chai" bag program or volunteer some time to visit our older adults in assisted living and nursing homes, please call Nancy Britcher, JFS, at 693-5837 or contact our Volunteer Coordinator Evan Sturm.

B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program Hosts First Meeting for Families

By Deborah Oleshansky, B'nai Tzedek Director

Friends, sports, chocolate, feeding the hungry and housing the homeless were central themes in the opening B'nai Tzedek meeting held at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center. A group of more than a dozen teens, representing nine different schools, attended the meeting along with their parents to learn more about the B'nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program and how they could become part of this exciting new community venture.

Mary Linda Schwartzbart, Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds president, facilitated the parent meeting. The B'nai Tzedek Fund has been created through the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds. Through this fund, parents and their B'nai Mitzvah teens will have the opportunity to create a sub fund in each teen's name. The teen's donation will be matched by KJCF to increase the starting endowment. The matching will work as follows for families who are members in good standing of either Temple Beth El or Heska Amuna and KJA. If the teen contributes \$125, it will be matched by his/her congregation. That \$250 will be matched by KJCF bringing the starting balance of the teen's fund to \$500.

Teens want and deserve a forum to voice their concerns about the world around them and have surprising energy, enthusiasm and passion to make a difference in the world. B'nai Tzedek will pro-

vide the forum, opportunity, direction, support and guidance they need to most effectively utilize their talents and have the greatest impact and bring change in the desired direction. In addition, Jewish tradition places great value on the importance of the work of tikkun olam. When you know more, you can do more. Not only will your teen become more conscious and aware of the world around them, but they will also gain a community of friends who share their passion and commitment.

Each year these teens will have the opportunity to grant money from the fund to a recognized, Jewish non-profit organization that matches the teens interest, passion, and vision for tzedakkah and tikkun olam. These teens will also have the opportunity to serve on the B'nai Tzedek Teen Board, and a representative of the teen board will be selected to serve on the B'nai Tzedek Advisory Committee of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance.

The B'nai Tzedek Teen Board will work with the director to plan, organize and implement social action, education, and community service programs that relate to the teens' interests and passions. Through fundraisers, this group will have the opportunity to collect tzedakkah that can be allocated to any recognized non-profit organization addressing issues of concern, either Jewish or general. In

this way there will be a balance between Jewish giving and general community giving.

The goal is for the teens involved in this program to meet monthly for social action programs that will be combined with Jewish text education related to the theme. Communities with B'nai Tzedek programs consistently find that if the program is limited to creating a fund with no other involvement, the importance of the lesson is lost. Only in communities with this joint approach is the concept living up to its full potential.

The program is open to any interested teen and family in our area regardless of congregational or KJA affiliation. For additional information, or to start a fund, please consult Deborah Oleshansky, B'nai Tzedek director, (865) 690-6343 or doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org.



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14 Graduate from Leadership: Jewish Knoxville

By Ellen Kern, Chair, Leadership Class

On the evening of April 6, 14 members of the Leadership: Jewish Knoxville Class of 2006, along with some of their spouses and some members of the KJA Executive Committee, celebrated their graduation at the home of Arnold and Mary Linda Schwarzbart.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Deborah Grayson Riegel, president of Elevated Training, Inc., a consulting company helping clients identify and implement behavior changes that lead to individual, interpersonal and organizational success. Riegel served as the director of education and training for United Jewish Communities (UJC), where she spearheaded the development of a range of innovative and engaging training solutions for professionals and volunteer Federation leadership. Riegel's experience in the Jewish community runs deep. Prior to her work at UJC, Riegel was the project director for the Institute for Senior Action, a part of the Jewish Association of Services for the Aged (JASA). The Institute is the nation's only program that trains senior citizens to be lobbyists.

Riegel spoke to the class about how it takes GUTS to be a dedicated community leader: spelled G for Goodwill, U = Understanding, T= Teamwork and S= Showing others how. This combination of intention and action results in effective leadership. Class evaluations of the program, including recommendations on how it might be improved, will be reviewed and summarized in the next VOICE issue.

An Overview of Leadership: Jewish Knoxville

Last summer, participants began the planning process for the next Leadership: Jewish Knoxville



Deborah Grayson Riegel makes a point during her presentation to the Leadership: Jewish Knoxville class.



Ellen Kern, Leadership: Jewish Knoxville chairperson, begins the evening's activities.

requesting nominees for the class. Forty people were invited to participate and about half responded with interest. Eighteen were selected. Two changed their minds and two asked to be part of the next class. These 14 graduates completed the six-month Leadership program. For first time, we had Oak Ridge participants, more Temple than Synagogue members, and still more women than men. In response to more personal interaction, teams were formed to work on team projects relevant to community needs. This concept had somewhat mixed results.

After agreeing to participate, attend programs over the next six months and remain in community leadership positions for the next two years, the KJA agreed to implement the programs as well as cover registration fees (up to \$500) for each graduate to attend a regional or national Jewish leadership conference. Several people are ready to sign up for the November 2007 General Assembly in Nashville.

The Year in Review: "From the Nation to Knoxville"

Meetings took place at the AJCC, Temple Beth El, Heska Amuna Synagogue and the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge. The class heard Howie Feinberg speak about hurricane relief work in Florida and New Orleans; Gilya Schmidt talk on Jewish leadership values; J.P. Dessel discuss Israel today; Wendy Besmann discuss local Jewish history and Arnold Cohen talk about Community Relations

Committee work. As for the team project, all four teams presented their findings to date. Each team explored different aspects of reaching the disengaged or currently unaffiliated Jewish population in the area. Team 1 proposed informal discussion groups among the University faculty, the preschool parents and others, to discuss how

Jews identify with Judaism whether or not they are affiliated. This may be an excellent research grant study opportunity. Team 2 looked at how the three Jewish denominations view intermarried couples. Team 3 considered how to attract more men into Jewish leadership roles.

Team 4 wants to incorporate demographic data in the KJA database to target specific user groups for programs.

The graduates will incorporate leadership in their next roles.

- 1. Debi Caylor** – Treasurer TBE Board and interested in interfaith marriage project.
- 2. Jim Ebel** - Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR) Board member. Insure Oak Ridge stays connected to Knoxville and market KJA to interfaith couples.
- 3. Stephen Eisen** -Member KJA Allocations Committee and will fill vacancy on TBE board. Next: Jewish Knoxville Planning Committee: 2008.
- 4. Mary Evars Goan** – President, Hadassah 2006-2007. Next year 2007-2008 as advisor to the president. Hadassah Southern Region Board & KJA Board.
- 5. Melissa Miller Feinbaum** - KJA Board Allocations Chair. Currently on Executive Director Search Committee and assisting with staff administrative management.
- 6. Amy Fulton Stout** – President, JCOR Sisterhood through 2007. Interested in Women's Network and teen/youth area.
- 7. Norma James** - Religious School Director at Temple Beth El. Currently on the following committees: Mini CAJE (KJA), B'nei Tzedek (KJA), TBE School & Youth
- 8. Barb Levin** – HA Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair and next HA Sisterhood President.
- 9. Michael Messing** – HA Board member and Vice Chairman of Education for Heska Amuna through 2008.



Deborah Roberts, Norma James, and Wes James at the graduation reception.

- 10. Rosalie Nagler** – HA Sisterhood President. Next Chair, KJA Women's Network.
- 11. Howard Pollock** – TBE Membership and Long Range Planning Committees. Served on KJA Allocations Committee. Next, campaign or some other fundraising activities.
- 12. Deborah Roberts** - Board at Temple Beth El & BBYO Advisory Board. Interested in issues regarding public schools and minority students.
- 13. Susan Silver** – Two years ago, began KJA Dinner Group and continues to coordinate it. KJA Board as Chair of newly-formed Adult Wellness/Special Events
- 14. Wilma Weinstein** – TBE President and KJA Board



Class participants Mary Evars-Goan and Wilma Weinstein chat prior to the evening's graduation activities.



Melissa and Seth Schweitzer talk with KJA board member Marilyn Liberman.

CFA Produces Its Own Broadway Hit

Fourteen weeks of rehearsals and 11 enthusiastic students produced the two-act musical comedy, "On Broadway" as the final production of the Spring KJA Center for the Arts Children's Musical Theatre Workshop on Sunday, April 23. The musical showcased the behind-the-scenes activity of a Broadway production, complete with scheming stage managers, egotistical actors, and humorous stagehands.

Students Rachel Sharp, Talia Dessel, Erez Dessel, Aleah Reno-Demick, Andrew Messing, Cassidy White, Jennye Merrell, Amanda Pelot, Rachel Brown, Jessica Crisp and Austin Tumblin graced the stage as family and friends watched and laughed during the two-act production. The musical was directed by Debbie Richman, choreographed by Kathleen Moore, and accompanied by Lucas Richman. Terry Silver-Alford was the rehearsal pianist.



Carol Clean (aka Jennye Merrell), a hardworking stagehand, elicits chuckles from the audience as she explains her duties.



Talia Dessel plays the role of megastar Maryethyl Starbright, and sings the solo, "Call Me Friday."



Rachel Brown, Talia Dessel, Cassidy White, Jessica Crisp, Erez Dessel, Austin Tumblin, Andrew Messing and Jennye Merrell sing "Broadway Hit."

Music Creates Moving Mood for Yom Ha Shoah

By Sandra Parsons, Adult and Cultural Arts Director

On April 24, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance observed Yom HaShoah 5766, Holocaust Memorial Day 2006. "If I Am Not for Myself: Never Forget... If I Am Only For Myself: Never Again", emphasized why we remember and that we oppose genocide anywhere in the world and specifically in Darfur.

Postcards were provided to send to representatives in Congress and to President George Bush, urging action to stop the genocide in Sudan.

This year's observance was informative, beautiful and powerful and featured soprano Ada Fine performing Lucas Richman's song cycle "The Last Butterfly" accompanied by Richman on the piano. The music was rich and moving.

The remarks of our rabbis were powerful and touching. Concern for Darfur was carried into the religious schools the next Sunday. They

made posters, filled out postcards and held a joint rally. KJA collected \$324 in donations to send to Darfur relief efforts.

The Yom HaShoah service was coordinated by the Knoxville Jewish Alliance in cooperation with The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, the University of Tennessee, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Knoxville, Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, Temple Beth El, Knoxville, and the Tennessee Commission on Holocaust Education.



As part of the Yom HaShoah service, Andrew Messing, Lilly Silver-Alford, and Rae Oleshansky light candles. Ada Fine sings excerpts from Lucas Richman's "The Last Butterfly." Debbie Richman sings *Sim Shalom*, *A Song for Peace* as Lucas Richman accompanies her.



Yom Ha Shoah

By Louis Zivic, April 2006. All rights reserved.

I am Shalom. You know me. I am the boy in the picture from the Warsaw Ghetto. I hold my arms aloft in a gesture of despair or perhaps of triumph. I really do not know, but I am silent. My words come to you from my eyes. I implore you for help.

I've spoken to you at other times as well. You've seen my plea in the eyes and tears of all the world's refugees. I've called to you from Auschwitz and from the DP camps of Europe. You've seen them in the alleys of Jerusalem and of Nablus. In Korea and in Vietnam. I called to you from Algeria and from Cyprus. From Ethiopia and Rwanda. I've called to you in silence and in screams of pain. I've tried to reach you in my tears of rage and my fists raised in anger. I've called to you now from Darfur and still your answer is what it was in the beginning—silence. Silence; while I and others suffer. Silence when your words could end this. Silence when your shout could bring peace and an end to suffering. *Me-meakim karati yah*, "from out of the depths, I call to you. Please do not be silent, again. You were silent while the evil of the Nazis destroyed our bodies, but we Jews, who you call "martyrs" and others call "sheep" fought the destruction of our spirit with every weapon our souls could command.

Did you know that when the Nazis were killing our bodies they also attempted to destroy our spirit? No?! Why else the nakedness, which we abhorred as a culture. The tattooing, another violation of our commandments, the taking of

the proud stripes of our tallitot and making them the stripes of our imprisonment? Or our head coverings into the ludicrous caps issued to us in the camps? Why else were we forbidden to pray? To have schools? Why else did we fight to preserve our spiritual dignity?

When the Nazis fed us good food on Yom Kippur, we refused to eat. When they banned our schools, we moved them underground. When they forbade us to pray, we gathered at holiday times. Our lives were full of the sacrifices that it took to find a few grains of wheat to bake matzot for Pesach. We wrote to our rabbis asking them for help with the difficult religious questions of our day. We sought to preserve our faith, our spirit, our soul. Our parents, brothers, sisters and children went to their deaths singing *ani maamin*, proclaiming our faith in the coming of a better day. A day in which justice will rule. When oppression will be over. When never again will people do others what was done to us. What are you doing now?

Where is the courage to fight for social justice that led parents and grandparents in the 1950s and 60s into the struggle for civil rights and opposition to the Viet Nam war? Where is our passion? Have we sold out for a membership in the country club and a nice car? Where is the passion and the vision that will encourage our children to fight for what is good and just and true?

Silence is the ally of the persecutor. The inaction of the "good people" is why evil tri-

umphs. It used to be that we could say that we did not know. Now worldwide we have communication through the internet and other means gives the lie to this claim. We, the good people, do know of the horrors being perpetrated in Darfur and still we are silent. Is the lesson of the Holocaust for we Jews and others what Elie Wiesel is reputed to have said: i.e. what we have learned from the Holocaust is that "you can get away with it?"

I hope not, but we are silent. Has our memory of our relatives, those martyred by the Nazis, been born away on the smoke of their cremated bodies? Does *ZACHOR*, remember, mean that we will remember that our brethren were murdered in silence so that we will let others be murdered in silence or does *ZACHOR* mean that we will never be silent in the face of genocide. How should I remember my grandparents, my uncles, my cousins and their families and the families that would have come from their families by building monuments to their memory or by helping others to live?

To the word *ZACHOR*, we need to add the phrase that was part of the struggle for Soviet Jewry in the 1970s. *Al tidom*. Do not be silent. The lessons of the Holocaust should work to help us help others no matter where they are, what their religion is, or what the color of their skin is.

Do not be silent and remember that even if we are not able to complete the work, we are not free to desist from it.

Suzy Snoops

Got good news? Celebrating a special lifecycle event? Send your news or photos – digital photos are welcome – to the voice@jewishknoxville.org, via fax at 694-4861, or to the VOICE, 6800 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37919.

In the News

- **Andy Kramer**, head of the UT Department of Anthropology, took the lead in the evolution versus intelligent design debate in a March 16 *Metro Pulse* cover story entitled “In Scope’s Shadow.”
- **Ellen Iroff**, daughter of **Marty and Martha Iroff**, is a recipient of the 2006 Girl Scout Gold Award. A senior at Bearden High School, she redesigned the school’s costume closet in a project entitled “While School Was Out: Costume Closet Edition.” The gold award is the highest award in Girl Scouts, symbolizing outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. Iroff was featured in the April 2 *News-Sentinel*.
- **Joe Gettinger**, son of **Josh Gettinger** and **Barb Levin**, was featured in the April 18 *News-Sentinel* as one of the Academic Achievers representing Sequoyah High School. He is the valedictorian, a National Merit finalist, academic team captain, yearbook editor, and soccer captain.
- The *News-Sentinel* featured hamentashen bakers **Liz Gassel**, **Renee Hyatt**, **Katie Habgood**, **Susan Derrington**, **Melissa Treece**, and **Beverly Schultz** as they began baking the first of Temple Beth El’s 45 dozen cookies for a fund raiser during Purim.
- **Susan Frankenberg** showed how to prepare a couple of delicious vegetarian dishes as part of a Passover feature in the April 12 *News-Sentinel* Food section.
- The April 30 Sunday *News-Sentinel* featured a full-page photo feature on the March of the Living by photographer **Joe Howell**. **Natalie**

Robinson’s nephew, **Joel Gluck**, a former Knoxville who is now a Nashville orthodontist and father of four, and 16-year-old daughter **Hannah** were featured in the article.

- Gluck** discussed the range of emotions – “extreme sadness, the tragedy that befell people...The emotion of gratefulness – the appreciation of being Jewish and living in a country like America and participating in a march like this.” Daughter **Hannah** tried to imagine what it must have been like for someone to be starving and without shoes or clothes to make the 2-mile walk between Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps, a walk that to a healthy American teen, was easy.
- **Todd A. Diacon**, Ph.D., head of the UT history department, has been honored for writing the best book on Brazilian history published in 2003-04. **Diacon’s** book, *Stringing Together a Nation: Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon and the Construction of a Modern Brazil, 1906-1939*, received the Warren Dean Prize from the Conference on Latin American History, an affiliate of the American Historical Association. **Diacon’s** award was featured in the Spring 2006 Torchbearer, a UT alumni publication.

Mazal Tov

- Congratulations to **Linda** and **Neil Feld** and **Bess** and **Jack Feld** and daughter **Meryl’s** marriage to **Steven Drucker**.
- Congratulations to **Neil Cohen** and **Rody Thompson** on the birth of granddaughter, **Ella Florence Cohen**. She was born to proud parents **Jonathan** and **Kristin Cohen** of Arlington, Virginia. Both are lawyers who practice in the Washington, D.C. area.
- Congratulations to **Serkie Billig** on the birth of her great granddaughter and great grandson (twins), **Hope Anne** and **Jason Marc Rosen**.
- Best wishes to **Carole** and **Bob Martin** on the marriage of their daughter, **Katie**, to **Erik Velez**.

Graduation News

If a family member is graduating from high school or college, please send this good news to the VOICE. We’d like to share the person’s name, any academic accolades, school, and future plans if known, with the community. Send your news or photos to the voice@jewish-knoxville.org, fax 694-4861, or to VOICE, 6800 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37919.

- **Jenny Rose Erwin**, daughter of **Drs. Paul Erwin** and **Renee Hyatt**, is the Valedictorian for the Maryville High School class of 2006.
- **Michael Brock** just graduated from his initial training class in the Air Force. Wife **Liz** and children **Lilia** and **Dennis** flew out to see him for his graduation.
- **Joel Heller**, son of **Beth** and **Rob Heller**, will graduate from Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, with a minor in Politics in May. **Joel** will be graduating with honors and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.
- **Joshua Hedrick** received his law degree from the University of Memphis. **Josh** has been the President of the Student Chapter of the American Trial Lawyers Association and Chief Justice of the Moot Court and Mock Trial Board. **Jesse Hedrick** received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with honors from the University of Tennessee. They are the sons of **Gale** and **Peggy Hedrick** and the grandsons of the late **Harold** and **Sylvia Leibowitz**.
- Congratulations to **Bernie** and **Eleanor Shorr**. **Bernie’s** son, **Bill** (aka **William M. Guillermo**) **Shorr**, son of **Bernie** and the late **Marilyn Shorr**, will be graduating from Harvard University in June 2006 with a Doctorate in Education from the School of Education, with an emphasis on Hispanic Culture, History and Language. He will be teaching at Harvard for a year until his wife, **Tanya**, gets her doctorate in June 2007 from Brandeis University.

KJA Sympathy

The KJA board and staff send condolences to the families of

- Nancy Richer on the passing of her mother, Lillian Richer.
- Janet and Bert Gurwitsch on the death of Janet’s aunt, Esther Lee Kimerling.
- Zeke Frumin, Joani Leeds, and Toby Schwartz on the passing of wife, mother, and sister, respectively, Rosa Lee (Rosie) Frumin.
- Jill Chasan and family on the death of Jill’s mother, Claire Evans.
- Hinda Dunhan and family on the passing of husband, Stan.

May their memories be for a blessing.

KJA Salutes Its Volunteers

- Thank you to the following people for their help with the April Friendship luncheon program: Nancy Becker, Lee Miller, Marilyn Liberman, Bernie Rosenblatt, Annette Winston, and Ethel Wittenberg for their fascinating and moving presentation about their trip to Israel; Jerry Solomon for his expertise with the projector and for creating the DVD; Mimi and Art Pais, Eleanor Shorr and Laura Supman for their wonderful decorations; Ruth Sherrill for collecting money at the door; Marilyn and Jos Presser, Eleanor and Bernie Shorr, Zilla Weininger, and Harold Winston for providing transportation; Faye Raymon for her help with the food set-up; Bernie and Lesley Rosenblatt and Becky Goemaat for their help with the clean-up; and Harold Winston for taking photos.
- Thank you to Michael Messing for taking photographs at the KJA Center for the Arts Musical Theatre performance and at the Leadership: Jewish Knoxville graduation event.
- Thank you to Jane Cohen, Eleanor Shorr, Ellen Schnoll, Stephen Rosen, and all who helped in the preparation of this issue of the VOICE.
- Thank you to Gene Rosenberg for overseeing the office during a KJA staff meeting.

KJA Campaign a Choice or an Obligation?

By Rabbi Beth Schwartz



Rabbi Beth Schwartz

It used to be, back in the old countries, that Jewish communities were self-supporting, and everyone contributed because membership was not voluntary. There was no other source for community services. In some communities, it was called a tax; other words were used in other places, but contributions were a mitzvah, an obligation, not tzedakah. Tzedakah was what came out of the community pot for those who were in need. This wasn't charity; it was a religious and social obligation for the entire community; it was justice.

Nowadays in America, we pay taxes to the government and the government provides certain benefits and services, and religious life is voluntary. We think of our participation in our own community as a choice, rather than an obligation. There are so many other choices we can make, and we do. We like to think about our contributions to the community as donations – as gifts that we choose to give, in amounts of our own choosing. We like having choices, including the choice not to participate and not to support the KJA. We don't like to think about the

consequences of choosing against Jewish community, but that is what we are doing when we don't contribute.

My friend and colleague, Rabbi Zivic, noted in this space that our support of the KJA is rather more like a tax, because it provides the necessary community funds for our own needs and enables us to fulfill our obligations to support Jews elsewhere. But there's that nasty word, obligation. It's a mitzvah – a good deed that you have to do. Rabbi Zivic encourages us to want to support the KJA through taxing ourselves, and to value the services it provides to us.

Rabbi Zivic is right. When you need something, you want the community to be there for you. For that to happen, however, each of us must contribute so that the services are there when we need and want them. We cannot take the existence of the KJA, or, indeed, any of our Jewish institutions, for granted.

Ask yourself if you can afford to do without a thriving Jewish community in Knoxville. Ask yourself if you want to deprive your neighbors of the support of the Jewish community in Knoxville. Ask yourself what it would be like not to have any Jewish support. I don't think any of us wants to do without Jewish community services, and therefore we must take on the mitzvah of giving our fair share.

KJA Campaign Update

123 donors
83 increased their gifts by 10%
8 new gifts
\$214,538 raised so far

Preliminary donor listings
will be published in a coming
issue of the Voice.

To include yourself in this group:

Call 690-6343
E-mail ehunter@jewishknoxville.org
Call Stephen Rosen 540-5313 or
E-mail
stephen.rosen@morgankeegan.com

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Gilya Gathers Jewish UT Faculty

Gilya Schmidt, Ph.D., head of the Department of Religious Studies and Chair of the University of Tennessee's Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies, hosted a luncheon on April 6 for Jewish members of the UT faculty. The group included educators from several departments as well as the administration.

Schmidt's theme was giving back and taking

part in the greater Jewish community. Deborah Oleshansky, KJA's director of the Hillel/Jewish Student Center on campus, gave an update of KJA's program and commitment to Jewish life at the university. Stephen Rosen, KJA campaign chair, gave an update on KJA and the need for everyone to participate in the annual campaign. Jeff Becker, just returned from chairing KJA's mission to Israel, gave

an update on the trip and was able to make direct Israel connections for several of the individual attendees. The result was an excellent fundraiser as we had several increases and a new donor's first gift. More importantly, several faculty members had the opportunity to meet each other for the first time. All agreed that future events would be worthwhile and well attended.

“KJA Women’s Network: Investing in our Jewish Community Pays Dividends”

By Ellen Kern, Chair KJA Women's Network

On Monday May 1st, a small group of Jewish women, some new to Knoxville, and some lifetime residents, aged 18 to 78, some with children growing up together through AJCC Preschool or summer camp, discussed the theme: “Investing in our Knoxville Jewish Community delivers dividends for each of us, as well as the community as a whole.”

We began chatting on the couches in the Adult Lounge. As more women gathered, we were so comfortable in our conversation pit, we remained there and added chairs to the circle. The informal seating and casual conversation carried over to our panel discussion. Jenny Erwin began by sharing how BBG taught her life changing leadership skills and creativity in devising programs for both chapter and regional events. Many of us have watched Jenny grow in

talent and confidence within the community. Deborah Oleshansky told us about the new B'nai Tzedek program to teach our 6-10th graders hands-on philanthropy, through creating and managing their own charitable funds. Then Mary Linda Schwarzbart, President of the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds, brought the discussion full circle back to how much the community supports and benefits from our youth programs, as well as the many other groups and events the KJCFF supports.

Nancy Young's thoughtful facilitation added to creating a personal and deeply caring evening. She moved among each of our panelists seamlessly and encouraged others to add their own personal experiences, creating a family network. We spoke about

how we're connected to the Jewish community and what if the Center facility were not here. If there were no preschool or pool or camp as a center point of meeting others, we'd miss out on so much. Alesha Rotterman and Mari Kohnstamm commented on how friendly and approachable both the building and the people are compared to other, larger Jewish communities.

There were only about 18 of us that evening. However our small group may have encouraged more open conversation. Many of us left with a renewed feeling of the value we gain by investing in this community.

UT Students Celebrate Pesach Together

By Deborah Oleshansky, Jewish Student Center/Hillel Director

A lively group of UT JSC/Hillel students had the pleasure of celebrating the Pesach Seder together with other members of the community. Many thanks to Anne and Bernard Bendriem for hosting the students at their home along with family and friends. The students felt very at home and truly enjoyed the family atmosphere. Rabbi Louis Zivic was in attendance as well and provided meaningful teachings along the way. Everyone participated, sang, rejoiced and left fully satisfied.

During the regularly scheduled Coffee Club meetings at Starbucks on campus, student Paul



Paul Rosenberg encourages UT students to participate in the Darfur Awareness Campaign by sending postcards to Washington.

Rosenberg and others have begun raising awareness on campus regarding the genocide in Darfur and collected postcards to send to Washington. The Darfur Awareness Campaign will continue as long as necessary throughout the coming year.

A group of students who will be in town over the summer will be working together to plan and organize for next year. Issues will include planning a meeting with the administration to protest the scheduling of Homecoming on Rosh Hashana. This has been made particularly difficult because one of our JSC/Hillel students has been elected as Homecoming representative for her sorority at the Homecoming game and she and her parents are struggling with the conflict on a very personal basis. If anyone in the community would like additional information about this and other campus issues, please contact the JSC/Hillel Director.



Attending the Pesach seder at the Bendriems were first row: Jessica Bogach, Mary Haub, Rae Oleshansky, Deborah Oleshansky. Back row: Levi Linwood, Amy Riss, Jessica Weinbren, Stacey, Bryan Goldberg, Scout, Lindsey Weiss, Matt Hitton.



Amy Riss, Jessica Bogach, Stacey, and Bryan Goldberg enjoy spending Passover together.

B'nai Tzedek Joins BBYO to Celebrate Jewish Earth Day

A group of local teens participated in a Jewish Earth Day project at IJAMS Nature Center on Sunday, April 23. The project was of tremendous service to the IJAMS staff and saved them about two full days of work. The students enjoyed being

together and making a difference in the community. Jennie Erwin won the special prize for the day, an IJAMS backpack, and everyone left tired but happy. It was truly a beautiful day filled with sunshine and smiles.



Earth Day participants include Pam Seus (IJAMS staff), Anna Kern, Daniel Roberts, Avi Hahn, Alex Galvin, Rebecca Schwartz, Jacob Pais, Beth Littmann. Back row: Evan Noon, Harris Bailey, Ellen Iroff, Anna Besmann, Jennie Irwin, Britney Spiegelman.



Anna Kern "digs in" to beautify IJAMS Nature Center.

Bravo for Passover Musical

By Joyce Traugot, KJA Office Administrator

Bravo! Wonderful! Fantastic! That's the best way to describe the program presented on Sunday, April 9, at Temple Beth El. The Passover Musical Fest featuring the very talented Vahan Khanzadian and Karen Nickell, proved to be a most enjoyable and enriching experience for all who had the privilege of attending. Our guest artists proved to be warm and extremely talented musicians. Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Rabbi Louis Zivic set the spiritual tone for the afternoon. Our guest speakers who included Mayor

Bill Haslam, Rev. Harold Middlebrook of the Canaan Baptist Church, Knox County Executive Mike Ragsdale and Knoxville Symphony Conductor Lucas Richman each added special personal views and insight into the Passover holiday. A special bravo to Noah Erwin and Isaac Shefner for the wonderful rendition of the four questions. Great job, boys! As one of the people fortunate enough to be in the audience, I must let you know that the program was a completely encompassing, joyful experience.

The Temple Beth El members outdid themselves. What a lovely, elaborate display of goodies. Not only did they look great, they tasted great as well. Thanks to all who worked so hard on making the Passover Musical Fest such an enjoyable and memorable event. Let's do it again next year! And if you didn't get to enjoy this year's concert, plan to attend the next one (whenever that is).

Reggio Emilia Approach Introduced at AJCC Preschool

By Rebekah Goemaat, AJCC Preschool Director

This month AJCC board members, parents and teachers attended a special presentation by Mary Jane Moran, Ph.D, Child and Family Studies professor at the University of Tennessee. Moran presented the educational philosophy of the Reggio Emilia approach and explained how this approach can revolutionize our children's education.

In Reggio Emilia schools, children learn through artistic expression, experimentation with the natural world and interaction together in project-based, child-directed curriculum. Teachers document children's expressions visually and in written form and use this documentation to determine the next steps in their curriculums. Parents and community are a large part of Reggio Emilia schools, with parents taking part in projects and in planning the future of their school. Excitement is spreading here at AJCC Preschool as we make plans to implement this approach gradually over the next three to five years

Extraordinary People Make an Extraordinary Preschool

As the preschool year ends, we are celebrating the steps our children have made this year, and we preparing for an exciting season of Camp K'ton ton. The end of the year is a fitting time to take a

look at the people who have made this year a success.

We have a wonderful staff here at AJCC. Their dedication to our children and their education is what makes our preschool program such a success. They work extra hours preparing the best curriculum for our children, and they treat our children as if they were their own. Thank you to all of you! Thanks to some of our staff's spouses who have gone out of their way to volunteer time at AJCC Preschool – Manuel Romero, Jason Lay, Gordon Atkisson and Jeff Turner. We greatly appreciate your time installing computers, putting up shelves and hanging mirrors!

We have a wonderful group of parent volunteers who work together, often behind the scenes, to ensure that AJCC Preschool runs smoothly. Our Parent Committee, led by Seth Schweitzer, has done a phenomenal job this year planning special events, raising funds and working together on long-range planning goals for our school. Special thanks to Vicki Winston, Tamara Sturm, Valerie Rosenbaum, Janice Pollock, Heather Sandberg, Jed Diamond, Maria Gillen, Leanne and Darlyne Aenstett, Lori Hirsh, Eve Sawyers, Melissa Schweitzer, Kimberly Grande, Gerri Tumblyn, Ann Beaver, Caryn Gallaher and all the other parents who have taken part in the Parent Committee

this year.

Thanks to all of the parents who have volunteered in their children's classrooms, staffed special events like the Purim Carnival, sold Sally Foster gifts, stapled Preschool brochures, renovated the playground, worked on Preschool computers, donated toys and classroom supplies and played musical instruments in classrooms.

The AJCC Preschool has friends who have added so much to our program this year with their gifts. Thanks to Melissa Schweitzer for leading Children's Literature for the Very Young. Thanks to Miriam Esther Wilhelm of Chabad House for wonderful holiday programs and staff training. Thanks to the Friendshippers for passing on their legacy to the Dalet children this year – thank you Bernie Shorr, Marilyn Presser and Stella Iroff. Your time spent with our children lets them know their worth. Thanks to Ebbie Sandberg for being the class grandparent to the Gimel class (Ebbie also makes the best hamentashen in Knoxville!)

Without all of these special people, AJCC Preschool would be just another ordinary preschool program. Instead, it is extraordinary! Todah Rabbah! We look forward to another year of excellent volunteer involvement in 2006-2007!

Milton Collins Day Camp Kicks Off With a Bang

Campers and staff are fired up and ready for another thrilling year at Milton Collins Day Camp! Co-directors Sarah Price and Brian DeBolt are enthusiastic about this summer and thrilled about the number of returning counselors we will have working with the campers. MCDC grows every year, and this year looks to be the best yet!

This summer, campers will be treated to exciting field trips to the Tennessee Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Townsend for a "tubing" adventure, a Smokies Baseball game, and a caving excursion in Cumberland Gap just to name a few. Specialist activities on campus include art with our fantastic art specialist Lauren Kussro, tennis instruction and games led by the Cedar Bluff Racquet Club, soccer instruction led by Paula Fantini, camp games with

Josh Koller, nature exploration with resident botanist Ginny Small, dance and music with specialist Paula Melton, drama led by Rachel Milford, and swim instruction with our talented aquatic staff.

The popular overnight and late night program will be held each session. Older campers will once again have the opportunity to camp out at Fall Creek Falls, as well as take our annual whitewater rafting trip.

In addition, each themed week will include our afternoon elective program and our Monday guest specialist programs. From the first song of Flag Raising in May until the last hug in August, Milton Collins Day Camp will once again be the "Most Fun Under the Sun."

For registration information, call 690-6343 or visit www.jewishknoxville.org.

**July VOICE
deadline
June 12**

Knoxville Teens Participate in BBYO International Convention

Never in BBYO's 80-year history has its annual International Convention (IC) gathered together so many teens committed to making a difference in the Jewish community. On February 16, nearly 600 members of the world's leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, including four Knoxville teens, traveled to Atlanta from virtually every corner of North America, as well as Israel and Europe, to chart a course for strengthening the Jewish future.

Avi Hahn, David Hecht, Daniel Roberts, and Anna Kern traveled to Atlanta

"As I look out into your faces, I know that I am looking at future business leaders, rabbis and members of Congress," said Lynn Schusterman, chair of BBYO's board of directors, during IC's Opening Ceremonies held at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. "I cannot help but feel inspired and energized about the work we are currently doing to revitalize BBYO and about the great promise of our shared Jewish future as you step up as its leaders."

The IC agenda reflects teen leaders who "mean business." Following are a few of the key projects that were initiated by 75 regional presidents during "Execs," two days of meetings prior to IC, and were subsequently acted upon by the convention body:

The teens launched a new system-wide social action campaign entitled "iCan Be Heard" – a mass petition urging the U.S. Government and the United Nations to prevent nuclear proliferation in Iran;

Designated a charitable organization around which a widespread fundraising and educational campaign will be created;

Developed new approaches to involve significantly more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences.

BBYO's executive director, Matthew Grossman, addressed the teen presidents with a message focused on opening a new era in the history of Jewish teen involvement that takes advantage of technology and creates opportunities for young people to take ownership of the Jewish future. He concluded his presentation by distributing copies of the book, *I Am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl* – a compilation of essays in which prominent leaders talk about the meaning of Judaism in their lives.

Additional IC highlights included:

Fifteen different educational sessions facilitated by BBYO professionals and partner agency representatives, such as AIPAC, spark, TravelJewish.com and Panim: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, with topics ranging from discussing Jewish ethics to strengthening the U.S./Israel relationship.

Presentation of the second annual David Bittker Unsung Hero Award to Jordon Yoss, a dedicated BBYO advisor in Atlanta.

Special memorial ceremony paying tribute to the legacies of Simon Wiesenthal, Rosa Parks and Pope John Paul II.

IC also provided a platform for BBYO's teen presidents, Brandon Rattiner and Shauna Ruda, both of Denver, CO, to deliver powerful keynote addresses, as well as to oversee the democratic elections of ten International Board representatives, whose terms will begin in June. Jeremy Gelman of Denver, CO and Dina Finer of Tulsa, OK were elected to serve at the helm of BBYO through the 2006-07 programming year. Special congratulations go to Jeff Dreifus, a member of Cotton States BBYO from Memphis, who was elected as 2006-2007 Grand Aleph Moreh (Membership Vice President).

IC's jam-packed business agenda was complemented by activities that enabled the hundreds of participants from 38 different regions to establish new friendships, while connecting to their Judaism on a level that they found meaningful. IC kicked off with a special Opening Ceremonies concert featuring the Jewish rock band, The LeeVees, and closed with Jewish teen music craze, Rick Recht. In between, teens enjoyed an innovative musical Shabbat service in an outside amphitheater under the stars and a creative Jewish hip-hop performance.

This year's IC reflects an organization that is in the midst of tremendous and exciting change. BBYO's recent independence from B'nai B'rith, coupled with new leadership on its board of directors and a charge from founding philanthropist Lynn Schusterman to "be creative and have big dreams," has motivated the organization to develop innovative strategies to reach exponentially more teens by appealing to their core needs. As a result, BBYO is expanding upon its renowned leadership opportunities to offer teens unprecedented social networking capabilities through a new online community – b-linked.org; resources to help them navigate the college admissions process; and unique community service and travel opportunities. BBYO's new initiatives are being directed to the widest diversity of Jewish teens who have the potential to connect to meaningful Jewish experiences if they find an appealing point-of-entry, but are at risk of turning away from the Jewish community if they do not.

"[BBYO] cannot be the end of our experience as Jewish individuals," said Ruda. "It must be a path to the building of our Jewish identities. We must leave with an attachment and commitment to our Jewish community."

Chabad to Open Jewish Day School This Fall

By Ronda Robinson

For the first time in history, the Knoxville community will have a Jewish day school.

The Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School will open Aug. 7 with grades K-1 at 1308 Wallace Road off Northshore Drive just west of Morrell Road.

For decades, Knoxvillians have tried to start such a school. After months, the hard work of dedicated parents and committed board members, spearheaded by Rabbi Yossi and Miriam Esther Wilhelm, has paid off and the dream is now coming true.

The KJDS will hold an open house on Sunday, June 18, at 5:00 p.m. for the community to learn

more about the school. Everyone, from parents of young children to empty-nesters, is invited.

"We will offer a comprehensive Jewish education, in addition to top-of-the-line secular education," says Miriam Esther.

"Factors unique to the KJDS are its multi-aged classes, individualized instruction and flexible ability grouping. Some of the advantages of a multi-aged classroom are that each child progresses at his/her own rate, self-esteem is fostered because each child succeeds, and cooperative learning in a multi-age classroom builds a sense of community."

Wendy Meller, a former first grade and kinder-

garten teacher who is working on her doctorate in literacy education at the University of Tennessee, will serve as curriculum coordinator. A licensed reading specialist, she has taught in Japan, New York and Philadelphia.

Other staff members include Rabbi Yossis sister, Rishi Wilhelm, Judaic studies teacher, and Jessica Vose, secular studies teacher.

Watch for more details about this exciting addition to the Jewish community in future issues of the Voice. Meanwhile, for more information about the new Knoxville Jewish Day School, please call the Wilhelms at 588-8584 or e-mail KJDS@ChabadKnoxville.org.

Bush Proclaimed May Jewish American Heritage Month

President Bush proclaimed May 2006 as Jewish American Heritage Month. The proclamation was the result of months of work by U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida. Now it's up to school districts, museums and community groups to make the symbolic designation meaningful. The representative wants these institutions to raise awareness about Jewish contri-

butions to American life, as they have done with Black History Month and Women's History Month.

"We've all observed a precipitous rise in bigotry and anti-Semitism across the country and globally," said Wasserman Schultz, the first Jewish congress-

woman from Florida. "If through educational and cultural programming we can foster understanding and tolerance, that would be a significant accomplishment."

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, 2006 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty. During Jewish American Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich history of the Jewish people in America and honor the great contributions they have made to our country.

As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens. Since arriving in 1654, Jewish Americans have achieved great success, strengthened our country, and helped shape our way of life. Through their deep commitment to faith, family, and community, Jewish Americans remind us of a basic belief that guided the founding of this Nation: that there is an Almighty who watches over the affairs of men and values every life. The Jewish people have enriched our culture and contributed to a more compassionate and hopeful America.

Jewish American Heritage Month is also an opportunity to remember and thank the many Jewish Americans who defend our ideals as members of the United States Armed Forces. These courageous men and women risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens and to advance the cause of freedom. By helping to bring the promise of liberty to millions around the world, they lay the foundation of peace for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2006 as Jewish American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the significant contributions Jewish Americans have made to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

Shabbat in the Smokies Provides Majestic Moments

By Melissa Treece

Chabad of Knoxville has hosted Shabbat in the Smokies one weekend in the spring for the past three years. Jews from the greater Knoxville area and beyond gather to learn, nosh, rest and soak up the beautiful surroundings. The splendor of the Great Smoky Mountains provides a fitting backdrop to the majesty of Shabbat.

This April, the event moved to a lovely hotel closer to home. As guests assembled for Kabbalat Shabbat, many greeted old friends while others shyly mingled with relative strangers. The mood of the group transformed at some point during the service from a random convergence of people to a warm family gathering. After candle lighting, mature couples, young families, and those of us who came alone settled before a beautifully prepared table and enjoyed a feast. Between courses we sang rousing zemirot in English to the melody of familiar tunes.

Following dessert, Rabbi Aaron Dovid Gancz offered a taste of the lively storytelling and discussions in store for the remainder of the weekend. Rabbi Gancz appeared at first somber and quite rabbinic in his high, fur shtrielmel and long beard. He opened his lecture by relating the story of a young rabbi invited to share his wisdom on a busy street in New York:

“You’re a rabbi, aren’t you?” asked the woman.

“Yes, I am,” he replied standing a little straighter.

“Then I have a question for you,” she began.

The young man thought to himself, “I’m a rabbi, so I must know the answer!”

“If Chassidic women wear sheitels, do the men wear toupees?” she inquired.

He searched his mind for this unfamiliar phrase, “To pays? To pace?” Finally, the solution came to him. Stroking the sidelocks in front of his ears he replied with a shrug, “Me? I wear two peyos.”

With this bit of linguistic mischief, Rabbi Gancz’s eyes lit from within and gathered us into a world where oneg Shabbat isn’t just about prayer or learning but an atmosphere in which delight touches even the mundane world of passersby, physical distinctions and silly jokes. He continued to captivate us with masterful storytelling as we explored the focus of this Shabbaton, “Soul Power.”

The next morning, the group reconvened over pastries and coffee for a text study. Everyone participated in reading and discussing an allegorical interpretation of Song of Songs 8:7, “Many waters cannot extinguish the love, and rivers cannot wash it away.” We examined related literature and discussed questions of the soul. Can internal disharmony or external pressures drown the spark of neshama? How is the soul elevated? From the novice to the learned, all participants contributed to and benefited from the discourse.

The laughter, prayer and companionship of Shabbat continued throughout the day culminating in havdallah in a courtyard under the stars. Melave Malkeh could hardly be called an ending to this stimulating event.

As darkness settled and the new week began, we

enjoyed a dairy buffet and listened to an engaging life story. Tonica Marlow, daughter of an evangelical minister father and Egyptian Jewish mother, precociously entered a noted Christian seminary at the age of 16. Four years later, she was not only an ordained minister but was also anointed a prophetess by her church organization. A successful minister and a designer of religious instructional materials for children, she could neither fathom nor quench her visceral longing for Judaism. The quest led her to secretly visit a synagogue on several occasions and to contact a rabbi despite the danger these steps posed to her standing within the church. Finally, she leaped from the security of the seminary to the relative unknown of Jewish observance where she found the home, freedom, and spirituality she had craved.

Tonica Marlow is now Tova Mordechai. She lives in Tzfat, Israel with her husband, two young daughters and three sons. In her autobiography, *To Play with Fire* (2002, Urim Publications), she chronicles her fascinating journey.

As the evening drew to a close and friends reluctantly prepared to part, I looked out the window across the newly rain-washed parking lot. There wasn’t a mountain peak in sight. No pine trees or gushing streams. Nevertheless, Shabbat in the Smokies had moved to Knoxville with no appreciable diminution of ambiance. I remembered a line from *The Sabbath* by Abraham Joshua Heschel: “The seventh day is like a palace in time with a kingdom for all. It is not a date but an atmosphere.”

baseball flier

Temple Sisterhood Attends District Convention

By Karen Smith

On April 28-30, Karen Smith and Beverly Schultz attended the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) District 10 Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Karen is the outgoing District 10 President and Beverly is the bulletin editor. During the convention, Karen was installed as immediate past president and an area director and Beverly was installed as first vice president.

This convention gave local Sisterhood leaders the opportunity to connect with other Sisterhood women and to begin looking at new ways to form "Brit Kodesh" (Sacred Partnerships) within their congregations and communities. The theme of the weekend was "Renovating Our District--An Unconventional Convention."

The title of the meeting was chosen because of the many changes occurring within the District, the first being the District's name. One of 12 Districts, District 10 includes Sisterhoods from seven states, many of which were represented at this recent con-

vention. The District adopted its new name, WRJ Central District, during a ceremony at the convention. The delegates discussed and passed revisions to the District Bylaws in an effort to align themselves with the calendars of the other Districts and WRJ. Another major change added 8 Area Directors to the Executive Committee. The Area Directors will serve as liaisons to their area Sisterhoods in an effort to create a stronger connection between WRJ and the individual temple auxiliaries. There were many lighter moments as well when delegates participated in a pajama party, a penny auction, discussions of Torah and the celebration of Shabbat with song and prayer.

Women of Reform Judaism, The Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, represents 75,000 women in 500 local Sisterhoods throughout the United States, Canada, and 13 other countries and is an affiliate of The Union of Reform Judaism (URJ.) WRJ supports youth activities for high school and college age stu-

dents; rabbinical education, including scholarships for students from the former Soviet Union; nursery schools in Israel; daycare centers on the three Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute for Religion campuses; services to local Sisterhoods; as well as other special projects.

Representing the international organization was Lynn Magid Lazar, First Vice President of WRJ. Lazar brought delegates up to date on the many renovations occurring throughout WRJ. She also spoke about the Women's Torah Commentary that will be released at the 2007 WRJ Assembly in San Diego.

A highlight of the weekend for Karen and Beverly occurred Friday night when former Knoxville resident Sylvia Silver and her son Matthew met the Sisterhood delegates at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation for Shabbat services and dinner.

HA Sisterhood Doin's

By Rosalie Nagler, HA Sisterhood President

It is with mixed emotions that I pause to write my final column as the President of Heska Amuna Sisterhood. I feel privileged to have had the support of so many people during this time. I have learned a great deal about the workings of the synagogue through attendance at Executive Committee and Board Meetings. I have been fortunate to have a great group of people on the Sisterhood Board to work with – thank you to everyone who has served. We are all so busy with our daily lives – work, family and friends – that it is encouraging to see women who still look for ways to give to the community. Everyone's time is a gift – no matter how great or small – that can be meaningful.

Thank you also for the honor of Light of Torah. I

asked for nominees and this was the last thing that I expected. I felt that what I have done over the past two years as your President was just what needed to be done. I never thought of being nominated for this honor. Thanks to all of you.

This column would not be complete without a mention of the sadness that touched all of us recently with the loss of our former Sisterhood president, Marcia Katz. I felt uplifted by the lovely memorial service held for her on Sunday, April 2. It was full of fond memories for the multifaceted person Marcia was. May her memory be for a blessing.

As a part of the lifecycle, we look forward to catering the luncheons for the upcoming b'nai mitzvot of Nathan and Samuel Bendriem, Ethan

Roseman and Haley Caplan. Mazel Tov to all of them and their families! Thanks to you, this program continues its success and is able to contribute to the Religious School. Thanks in advance to all who have volunteered to help – if you haven't tried it, come in the kitchen for a couple of hours on the Friday before a bar or bbat mitzvah and join in the fun!

In closing, I would like to make a special mention of thanks to the following people for their help and guidance over the past two years: Judi Abrams, Peggy Littmann, Marian Jay, Pat Rosenberg, Marilyn Burnett, Marilyn Liberman, Marilyn Presser, Gene Rosenberg and Rabbi Ziviv. Last, I would like to thank my husband, Stephen, for his love, support and encouragement during my presidency.

New Yiddish Terms Tickle the Funny Bone

Pundits beware. These clever adaptations are making the rounds over the Internet. Read and enjoy.

1. **JEWBILATION** (n.) Pride in finding out that one's favorite celebrity is Jewish.
2. **TORAHFIED** (n.) Inability to remember one's lines when called to read from the Torah at one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
3. **SANTA-SHMANTA** (n.) The explanation Jewish children get for why they celebrate Hanukkah while the rest of the neighbors celebrate Christmas.
4. **MATZILATION** (v.) Smashing a piece of matzo to bits while trying to butter it.
5. **BUBBEGUM** (n.) Candy one's mother gives to her grandchildren that she never gave to her own children.
6. **CHUTZPAPA** (n.) A father who wakes his wife at 4:00 a.m. so she can change the baby's diaper.
7. **DÉJÀ NU** (n.) Having the feeling you've seen the

same exasperated look on your mother's face, but not knowing exactly when.

8. **DISORIYENTA** (n.) When Aunt Linda gets lost in a department store and strikes up a conversation with everyone she passes.
9. **GOYFER** (n.) A Gentile messenger.
10. **HEBORT** (v.) To forget all the Hebrew one ever learned immediately after one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
11. **JEWDO** (n.) A traditional form of self-defense based on talking one's way out of a tight spot.
12. **MAMATZAH BALLS** (n.) Matzo balls that are as good as your mother used to make.
13. **MEINSTEIN** - slang. "My son, the genius!"
14. **MISHPOCHADOTS** (n.) The assorted lipstick and make-up stains found on one's face and collar after kissing all one's aunts and cousins at a reception.
15. **RE-SHTETLEMENT** (n.) Moving from Brooklyn to Miami and finding all your old neigh-

bors live in the same condo building as you.

16. **ROSH HASHANA-NA-NA** (n.) A rock 'n' roll band from Jewish Brooklyn.
17. **YIDENTIFY** (v.) To be able to determine Jewish origins of celebrities, even though their names might be St. John, Curtis, Davis or Taylor.
18. **MINYASTICS** (n.) Going to incredible lengths and troubles to find a tenth person to complete a minyan.
19. **FEELAWFUL** (n.) Indigestion from eating Israeli street food, especially falafel.
20. **DIS-KVELLIFIED** (v.) To drop out of law school, medical school or business school as seen through the eyes of parents, grandparents and Uncle Sid. In extreme cases, simply choosing to major in art history when Irv's son David is majoring in biology is sufficient grounds for diskvellification.
21. **IMPASTA** (n.) A Jew who starts eating leavened foods before the end of Passover.



K J C F F

Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds to preserve and strengthen the Jewish Community of Knoxville

To learn more about the opportunities available to create your philanthropic legacy to our community, contact:
KJA/KJCFF Executive Director at 865-690-6343
KJCFF President Mary Linda Schwarzbart at marylinda@comcast.net or 865-588-6111
KJCFF Board of Directors
Or visit our web site at <http://www.jewishknoxville.org>

KNOXVILLE JEWISH COMMUNITY FAMILY OF FUNDS

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- Jewish Family Service Fund
- Allen Rosen Education Fund
- Sam & Esther Rosen Community Enrichment AJCC Fund
- Sam & Esther Rosen Community Enrichment Federation Fund
- Sam & Esther Rosen Friend-Shippers Club Fund
- Sam & Millie Gelber Fund for Jewish Immigrants
- Zelda & Max Morrison Cultural Enrichment Fund
- Miles & Zelda Siegel Fund for Knoxville's Jewish Elderly
- Zionist Organization Fund
- Ben & Pearl Zwick Fund

HESKA AMUNA SYNAGOGUE FUNDS

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- Jeff & Nancy Becker Community Enrichment Fund
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- Ted & Dolly Reback Knoxville Youth Fund
- Natalie & Mitchell Robinson Community Enrichment Fund

New funds will be announced next month!

DO YOU KNOW?

Why the KJCFF was established?

KJCFF was established in 1999. It strives to preserve and strengthen the Jewish Community of Knoxville, helping to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

What the KJCFF is?

The KJCFF is a supporting foundation of the Knoxville Jewish Alliance and the East Tennessee Foundation.

What it means to be a supporting foundation?

The KJCFF is an independent, nonprofit corporation with its own identity and corporate structure and is affiliated with the KJA & ETF. The board of the KJCFF reviews and approves grants recommended by our fund committees. The ETF manages our investments and verifies that all legal and reporting requirements are met.

Who sits on the KJCFF board?

The board is comprised of 13 members of our own Jewish community.

How many funds comprise the KJCFF?

25 and growing – more funds to be announced in the next issue of the Voice.

The amount of KJCFF assets?

On 3/31/06, our assets were more than \$1.6 million.

The rate of return received on our investments?

12.24% in the last 12 months.
17.25% in the last 3 years.

What that rate of return means?

It allows the KJCFF funds to provide grants of 5% of the value of our assets and still grow our asset base.

The total of grants made in 2005?

The KJCFF funds made grants of \$70,000 in 2005.

How you can establish a Donor Advised Fund?

You can establish a Donor Advised Fund with a minimum of \$5,000.

Contact any member of the KJCFF Board, call the KJA office or e-mail marylinda@comcast.net.

A story from the Talmud

There once was a man named Honi. He was walking along one day and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man, "How long will it take for that tree to grow?" The man replied, "Seventy years." Honi looked shocked as he asked, "How do you know that you will live another seventy years?" "I don't, but just as my grandparents and parents planted for me, I am planting this tree for the generations to come," replied the man.

In every generation there are special people who recognize their debt to the past, their obligation to the future and their power to make a difference.

Know that those who came before us created, built and grew this Jewish community, with the programs, services and resources that we now enjoy.

Will you ensure that those who live here in the future are able to enjoy the rich and vibrant Jewish community that you enjoy?

Will you continue to build on the foundation that others established?

The Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds provides each of us the opportunity to "pay it forward."

When asked why he decided to establish a Donor Advised Fund, a new KJCFF fund-holder responded: **"because I do see the obligations incumbent on each of us who are able."**

The KJCFF offers permanence and the opportunity to teach younger family members how to give. Donors' wishes can continue far into the future and donors can involve children and grandchildren to help carry on the charitable work. You can create a legacy for future generations.

Be a part of our Jewish community's future!

KNOXVILLE JEWISH COMMUNITY FAMILY OF FUNDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Linda Schwarzbart, President ~ Pace Robinson, Vice President ~ Richard Jacobstein, Secretary/Treasurer
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**The Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds is a supporting foundation of
The Knoxville Jewish Alliance and The East Tennessee Foundation.**

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.

KJA Community Events Calendar

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

For the latest updates to community events, please visit www.jewishknoxville.org.

For the most up-to-date listings, visit the online calendar at www.jewishknoxville.org

JUNE

- 1 • MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton (CKTT)
 - 10a-Mom+Me Group-Chabad
 - 7:15p-JLI-AL
- 2 Shavuot
 - Candle lighting: 8:29 PM
 - MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton
 - 9:30a-Services-HA
 - 5:30p-Shavout-Chabad
 - 7:30p-Services-TBE
- 3 Shavuot
 - 9:30a-Yizkor Services-HA
 - 2p-Torah Study-HA
- 5 • MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton
 - 7:30p-Israeli Dancing-Gym
- 6 • MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton
 - 1:30p-Frndshppr Book Group-AL
 - 7p-Exec. Comm Mtg-TBE
 - 7:30p-Exec. Comm Mtg-HA
- 7 • MCDC Field Trip
 - MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton
 - 6:15p-Adult Educ-TBE
- 8 • MCDC Overnight
 - MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton
 - 7:15p-JLI-AL
- 9 Candle lighting: 8:33 PM
 - MCDC and Camp K'Ton Ton
 - 8p-Services/Bat Mitzvah-TBE
- 10 • 9:30a-Services-HA
 - 10:30a-Torah Study-TBE
 - 2p-Torah Study-HA
- 11 • 9a-Talmud Study-HA
- 12 • MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 7:15p-KJA Exec Comm Mtg-BR
- 13 • MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 11a-Hazak-HA
 - 7p-Board of Dir Mtg-TBE
 - 7:30p-Board of Trustee Mtg-HA
- 14 Flag Day
 - MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - MCDC Field Trip
 - 6:15p-Adult Educ-TBE
- 15 • MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
- 16 Candle lighting: 8:36 PM
 - MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 6p-Services/Roseman Bar Mitzvah-HA
 - 8p-Services-TBE
- 17 • 9:30a-Services/Roseman Bar Mitzvah-HA
 - 10a-Tot Shabbat- TBE
 - 2p-Torah Study-HA
- 18 Father's Day
 - 9a-Talmud Study-HA

- 10a-Tefillin Club-Chabad
- 19 • MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 12p-Friendship Luncheon-Gym
 - 7:30p-Israeli Dancing-Gym
- 20 • MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 7:30p-R+R Services Comm Mtg-HA
- 21 • MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 6:15p-Adult Educ-TBE
- 22 • MCDC Overnight
 - MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
- 23 Candle lighting: 8:37 PM
 - MCDC + Camp K'Ton 'Ton
 - 8p-Services-TBE
- 24 • 9:30a-Services/Caplan Bat Mitzvah-HA
 - 2p-Torah Study-HA
- 25 New Moon
 - 9a-Talmud Study-HA
- 26 • Rosh Chodesh program-HA
 - MCDC and CKTT
- 27 • MCDC and CKTT
 - 11a-Hazak-HA
 - 11:30-Friendship-Mandarin House
- 28 • MCDC Field Trip
 - MCDC and CKTT
- 29 • MCDC and CKTT
- 30 Candle lighting: 8:38 PM
 - MCDC and CKTT
 - 6p-Services-TBE

JULY

- 1 • 9:30a-Services-HA
- 3 • MCDC and CKTT
- 4 Independence Day
 - AJCC Closed
 - Pool Open
- 5 • MCDC and CKTT
- 6 • MCDC Overnight
 - MCDC and CKTT
- 7 Candle lighting: 8:37 PM
 - MCDC and CKTT
 - 8pm-Services-TBE
- 8 • 9:30a-Services-HA
- 10 • MCDC + CKTT
 - 11:30a-JFS Comm Mtg-BR
 - 7:15p-KJA Exec Comm Mtg-BR
- 11 • MCDC + CKTT
- 12 • MCDC Field Trip
 - MCDC + CKTT
- 13 • MCDC + CKTT
- 14 Candle lighting: 8:34 PM
 - MCDC + CKTT
 - 11:45a-KJA Women Biz Net-Offs
 - 8pm-Services-TBE
- 15 • 9:30a-Services-HA
- 16 • AJCC Golf Tournament-Avalon
- 17 • MCDC + CKTT
 - 7:30p-KJA Board Mtg-AL
- 18 • MCDC + CKTT
- 19 • MCDC + CKTT
- 20 • MCDC Overnight
 - MCDC + CKTT
- 21 Candle lighting: 8:30 PM
 - MCDC + CKTT
 - 8pm-Services-TBE

- 22 • 9:30a-Services-HA
- 24 • MCDC + CKTT
- 25 New Moon
 - MCDC + CKTT
- 26 • MCDC Field Trip
 - MCDC + CKTT
- 27 • MCDC + CKTT
- 28 Candle lighting: 8:25 PM
 - MCDC + CKTT
 - 8pm-Services-TBE
- 29 • 9:30a-Services-HA
- 30 • Preschl Playground Clean-Up
- 31 • MCDC + CKTT

AUGUST

- 1 • MCDC + CKTT
- 2 • MCDC + CKTT
 - 12p-KJCFF Board Meeting-Offs
- 3 • MCDC + CKTT
 - MCDC FINALE
- 4 Candle lighting: 8:19 PM
 - MCDC + CKTT
 - 8pm-Services-TBE
- 5 11 Av 5766
 - 9:30a-Services-HA

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YH captions:

As part of the Yom HaShoah service, Andrew Messing, Lilly Silver-Alford, and Rae Oleshansky light candles. Ada Fine sings excerpts from Lucas Richman's "The Last Butterfly."

Debbie Richman sings Sim Shalom, A Song for Peace.as Lucas Richman accompanies her.