

# HAKOL

December 2023 • January 2024 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

WISHING THE WORLD LIGHT THIS CHANUKAH

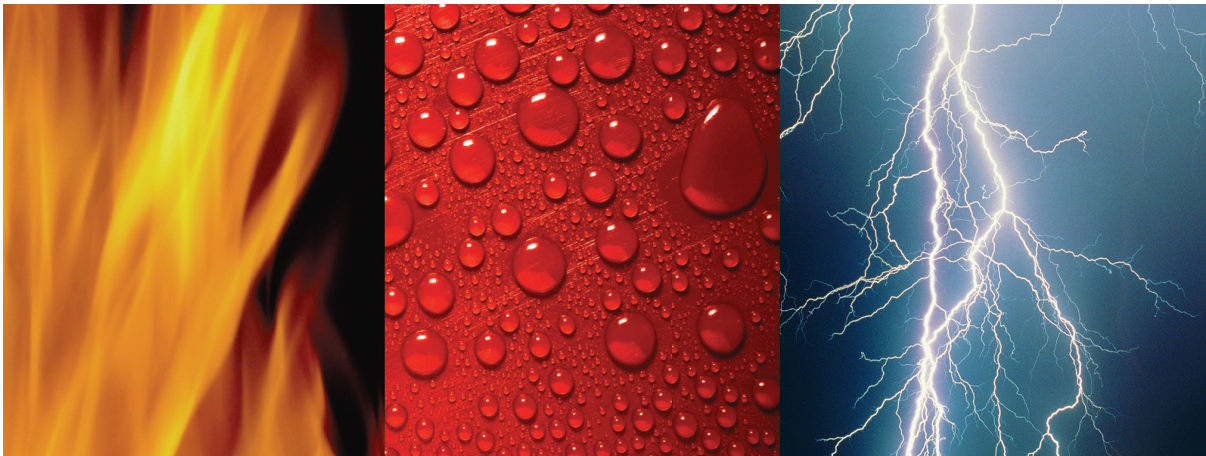


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<p><b>HaKOL Monthly Publication</b></p>
<p>Tara Bain KJA Director of Community Engagement</p> <p>Sabatani Jones Layout Designer</p> <p>HaKol is produced through a partnership of Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Temple Beth El, and Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School.</p>
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# December 2023 Community Calendar

KEY: HA = Heska Amuna, JCOR = Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, KJA = Knoxville Jewish Alliance, KJDS = Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School, JFS = Jewish Family Services, TBE = Temple Beth El

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

5:03P Candle Lighting  
4:30P JFS Shabbat at Sherrill Hills - KJA  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat - HA  
7:00P Shabbat Service - TBE

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:16P Candle Lighting  
9:15A Pirkei Avot - HA  
9:45A Traditional Shabbat Service - HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service - JCOR  
10:30A Jeanna Weckstein Bat Mitzvah - TBE

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30A Religious School - TBE  
10:00A B'yachad at KJDS  
7:30P Beginning Hebrew - HA

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

5:00P Advanced Hebrew - HA  
8:00P Minyan - HA

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

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

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Chanukah Candle 1  
10:00A Torah Study - TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew - JCOR

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Chanukah Candle 2  
5:03P Candle Lighting  
6:00P Hanukkah Shabbat & Latke Dinner - TBE  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat - HA

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Chanukah Candle 3  
6:03P Havdalah  
9:15A Pirkei Avot - HA  
10:00A Contemporary Shabbat Service - HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service - JCOR  
5:00P Abby Quartararo Bat Mitzvah - Chabad

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Chanukah Candle 4  
9:30A Religious School Maccabiah - TBE  
7:30P Beginning Hebrew - HA

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Chanukah Candle 5  
11:30A JFS Committee Meeting - KJA

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Chanukah Candle 6  
5:00P Advanced Hebrew - HA  
8:00P Minyan - HA

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Chanukah Candle 7  
3:00P Modern Hebrew - HA  
4:30P Midweek Hebrew - TBE  
6:30P Board Mifgash Manhigim - TBE  
6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study - HA

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Chanukah Candle 8  
10:00A Torah Study - TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew - JCOR  
5:00P Nissim Black Live  
7:00P Board Meeting - HA

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:04P Candle Lighting  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat - HA  
7:00P Shabbat Service - TBE

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:057P Havdalah  
9:15A Pirkei Avot - HA  
9:45A Traditional Shabbat Service - HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service - JCOR

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30A Religious School - TBE  
10:00A Annual Meeting - KJA  
7:30P Beginning Hebrew - HA

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00A Torah Study - TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew - JCOR  
7:00P R&RS Meeting - HA

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:07P Candle Lighting  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat - HA  
7:00P Shabbat Service - TBE

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:08P Candle Lighting  
9:15A Pirkei Avot - HA  
9:45A Traditional Shabbat Service - HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service - JCOR

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30P Beginning Hebrew - HA

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

5:00P Advanced Hebrew - HA  
8:00P Minyan - HA

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

3:00P Modern Hebrew - HA  
6:30P Minyan & Talmud Study - HA

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00A Torah Study - TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew - JCOR

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

5:12P Candle Lighting  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat - HA  
7:00P Shabbat Service - TBE

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

6:13P Candle Lighting  
9:15A Pirkei Avot - HA  
10:00A Shabbat in the Round Service - HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service - JCOR

For the most updated community calendar, visit [www.jewishknoxville.org](http://www.jewishknoxville.org) or scan the QR code.





# January 2023 Community Calendar

KEY: HA = Heska Amuna, JCOR = Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge, KJA = Knoxville Jewish Alliance, KJDS = Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School, JFS = Jewish Family Services, TBE = Temple Beth El

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

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

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

10:00A Torah Study – TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

5:17P Candle Lighting  
4:30P JFS Shabbat Service – KJA  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA  
7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

6:18P Havdalah  
9:15A Pirkei Avot – HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR  
10:00A Shabbat Service w/Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein – HA  
7:00P Havdalah Service & Concert w/Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein at AJCC – HA

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

9:30A Religious School – TBE

## MONDAY, JANUARY 8

11:30A JFS Committee Meeting – KJA

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

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

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

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

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

5:23P Candle Lighting  
7:00P Social Justice Shabbat Service – TBE

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

6:24P Havdalah  
9:15A Pirkei Avot – HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR  
10:00A Contemporary Shabbat Service – HA

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

9:30A MLK Day at Religious School – TBE  
4:00P Suessical JR at Pellissippi State – KJDS

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

5:00P Advanced Hebrew – HA  
6:00P Ways & Means Meeting – TBE

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

10:00A Torah Study – TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

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

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

6:31P Candle Lighting  
9:15A Pirkei Avot – HA  
9:45A Traditional Shabbat Service – HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

9:30A Religious School – TBE

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

5:00P Advanced Hebrew – HA

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

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

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

Tu B'Shevat  
10:00A Torah Study – TBE  
12:30P Conversational Hebrew – JCOR

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

5:37P Candle Lighting  
6:00P Rabbi Installation Shabbat Service – TBE  
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat – HA

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

6:37P Candle Lighting  
9:15A Pirkei Avot – HA  
10:00A Eli Ferency Bar Mitzvah – HA  
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

9:30A Religious School – TBE  
2:00P STEAM Studio at KJDS

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

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



B'yachad Knoxville  
Knoxville Together - ביחד נוקטווייל

**Sunday 10:00-11:30**

October 29 at Temple Beth El

December 3 at KJDS

March 3 at AJCC

Class for **children 4 & younger** with a caregiver, with music, stories, and activities on a Jewish theme. This month is a kickoff to **Jewish Book Month!**



This program is open to all Jewish families and made possible through an engagement grant from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

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## Hanukkah

**By: Rabbi Cantor Raina Siroty**

I have now lived in Tennessee for 5 months, and I have noticed, we do everything big here. Decorations for the UT football season went up days after the 4th of July, and Halloween decorations followed in late September. It doesn't hurt that the school colors for the University of Tennessee and Halloween are the same! I can assume, Christmas decorations in Knoxville will rival any major city in the South. Soon the schools will turn into winter wonderlands. Christmas sweaters will be brought out of the closets and peppermints and decorated cookies will line the supermarket shelves.

And although I have my own collection of Hanukkah attire and Hanukkah shirts for my 7-year-old son, it is hard to explain to him, "No, Hanukkah isn't the Jewish Christmas".

Yes, Hanukkah grew in importance in the American imagination as a response to Christmas. And yes, it has become commercialized — and if the state of my own house is any indication, far too materialistic. So, I ask you, what is the real reason for the Hanukkah season?

At its most basic level, Hanukkah is a holiday about bringing light into the darkness. It's winter. It's cold, and the night comes early. This is the time of year when we need light more than ever.

One function of light is that it reveals to us that which we could not previously see. Light increases visibility. On each night of Hanukkah, we light another candle to illuminate our surroundings.

In the Hanukkah story, we commemorate the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple after the Maccabees defeated the Syrian Greeks and we celebrate a miracle. As the letters on the four sides of the dreidel—Nun, gimmel, hey, and shin—announce: Nes gadol haya sham, "A

great miracle happened there." What was this miracle?

When the rabbis established the Hanukkah festival just one year after the rededication of the Temple in 165 B.C.E., they acknowledged that the weak overcoming the strong was a very important historical event (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 21b). But the Maccabees' victory in battle alone did not merit a religious holiday, because their success was entirely due to human action, without any aid from the Divine. Only if God's intervention had turned the tide of battle in favor of the outnumbered Jewish fighters would there have been a miracle worthy of a Jewish holiday.

But, what then, was the miracle that warranted the creation of a new Jewish festival? It was a miracle of the spirit—and its spiritual renewal.

Here in America, we need to see more hanukkiah lights shining in the windows of our homes, shedding light both on the faces of our family members and the street outside. More than a sweet family ritual, the illumination of the candles of Hanukkah is a fulfillment of the responsibility of "pirsum ha-nes," of publicizing the miracle. This year, I invite you to display your hanukkiah in a window visible to your neighbors. Now more than ever, it is important to show our unity as a Jewish people.

We light our Hanukkah candles at the darkest time of year as a ritual reminder: When we kindle trust and hope in our hearts, we dispel the shadows of apprehension and welcome in spiritual renewal. These winter days bring a need and a shared message: Light can shine through the darkness, and for you to bring the hope of a miracle where needed. Each and every one of us can kindle that light to shine from within.

Hanukkah sameach.

## Things are Happening at TBE

**By: Kathy Young, TBE President**

These past few months have been difficult, to say the least, with all the goings on in Israel. I hope and pray that by the time this HaKol comes out things will be settled in Israel and that all the hostages will be returned safely.

I'm looking forward to our annual Chanukah dinner on Dec. 8, 2023. Many thanks to Alex Jordan and her team for making this what I know will be one of our best, if not THE best ever. It's a time for music, songs, lighting candles and eating good food with your friends and family. Hope to see you there.

Please join me in officially welcoming Rabbi Cantor Raina Siroty to Temple Beth El when we hold her installation on Jan. 26. She has been a blessing to our Congregation in so many ways and I wish I had the time and space to expound on all that has happened since her arrival. If you have not been to a service, a luncheon, or any event, please make an appointment to sit down with her for a 1/1 chat. I know she wants to get to know all our members.

Also on January 12 is our annual Social Justice Shabbat. Grants will be given to deserving community organizations. Please join us for this exciting event.

Soon we will be looking at a nominating committee. If you are interested in being a part of the decision-making process, please let me know, as I anticipate a few openings and I'd love to hear from you.

## Welcome New Member

**By: Bill Padoll**

Bill Padoll was born, brought up and raised his family in southern New England. He moved to Florida for work as a computer system salesman. He moved to Knoxville in 2016 and loves it here. His children and grandchildren all live elsewhere. He is happy to be a member of TBE.



## Temple Beth El

**By: Jeanna Weckstein**

My name is Jeanna Weckstein, and I attend West Valley Middle School. I was born on December 1, 2010, in Sterling, Virginia. I am the daughter of Scott and Jesse, and big sister to Ray, Eden, Avi, Aisley, and Nylah. My favorite subjects in school are English Language Arts and Social Studies. I have a lot of hobbies that I enjoy such as dancing, singing, acting, spending time with friends and family, and reading. I am thankful for my friends and loving family. I am proud of the Jewish education and memories I have received at Temple Beth El and would like to thank my family, Rabbi Siroty, Mrs. Norma and all of my Sunday school teachers for helping me through my bat mitzvah and preparing me.





# Hands On, Hearts On, Minds On Learning

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

## December Update

Happy Chanukah! What Jewish child doesn't love hearing those words? At Religious School we want to provide lots of opportunities for our children to experience the joy of this holiday. We have our annual Maccabiah, Family Chanukah Shabbat, latke dinner. It is also important to learn the story behind the celebration, and Chanukah should be studied at many levels. For our younger children, our teachers use crafts, stories, and songs to learn about Chanukah. For our middle students, we add cooking or easy food prep to study the many holiday foods. We use books to aid age-appropriate discussions of how people can rally together to fight antisemitism, including Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins, The Ninth Night of Hanukkah, The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate. For our older students, we have deeper discussions standing up for our Judaism during difficult times, encouraging students to work against all kinds of hate and make our world a more loving place.

**Families will LOVE our Chanukah Shabbat and latke dinner Friday, December 8th. Note the special times: Chanukah service at 6:00 and latke dinner at 6:45.**

Last year had about 150 people for our service. Our children "stole the show" as they lit the candles and sang Chanukah songs. The latke dinner included activities for everyone. Make plans to bring the whole family!

**Maccabiah 2023 is December 10th during Religious School.** Tara Bain never fails to come up with exciting ideas to keep this event fresh and keep our students on their toes. Students will be grouped with siblings and into teams, Hay, Shin, Gimmel, and Nun. These teams will compete in both creative and crazy competitions. Our parents will serve a latke and donut luncheon. Everyone – yes, everyone – is invited to watch the competition at 11:00.

**Winter Break is Wednesday, December 20th through Wednesday, January 3rd. Religious School will resume Sunday, January 7th.**

## January Update

**Pancakes and PJ's anyone?** We will start 2024 Religious School off with a brand-new tradition! On January 7th, 2024, our parents will become chefs and prepare a wonderful pancake breakfast for our students and staff. And come comfy in your PJs! We will have our regular school day and include some special lessons inspired by Jewish ideas of "making new starts."

**MLK Sunday on January 14th.** Lessons will focus on g'milut chasadim (acts of loving kindness) and tikkun olam (repairing the world). Rabbi will lead T'filah, and Norma, Sarah, and Cody lead songs connected to civil rights. The Chai Experience students will also have unique engagement. It will be an important day of learning and giving.

**Tu B'Shvat early celebration at Religious School on Sunday, January 21st.** Students will learn about this important holiday through activities focused on taking care of the earth and celebrating the trees. The Chai Experience will assist in this active day of learning.

**STEAM Studio at KJDS on Sunday, January 28th.** Following this day of Religious School, students are invited to KJDS at 2:00 p.m. for a collaborative event with Temple Beth El, PJ Library, and KJDS as part of an IPEG grant partnership. Temple Beth El will host an event later in the year.

It's not too late! Do you have children ages 4 (going to K next fall) through rising 10th grade who would enjoy spending time with wonderful Jewish children and amazing teachers? Consider our Temple Beth El Religious School. Norma James would love to talk to you about our program. Contact her directly at [normajames@tbeknox.org](mailto:normajames@tbeknox.org) to set up a meeting, FaceTime, Zoom, or phone call.

# Contributions to the Funds of Temple Beth El

**Donations listed were received as of October 20, 2023**

## CARE COMMITTEE FUND

Marjorie and Lou Bornes and  
Linda and Ed Weintraub  
*In memory of Roberta Epstein Karp*

## CEMETERY FUND

Boris and Bella Budik  
*In memory of Dina Shklyarov*

## CLARENCE STRASBURGER SACRED MUSIC FUND

Linda Bolt  
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## DEL MORO FAMILY SPECIAL NEEDS CARING FUND

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Marjorie and Lou Bornes  
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Wilma Weinstein-Lomax and John Lomax

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Boris and Bella Budik  
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## GENERAL FUND

Adam and Julie Braude  
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*In honor of Social Justice*  
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Ronda Robinson  
*In memory of Jamie Brody*  
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Pamela Brody  
*In memory of Zelmor "Steve" Brody*

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Richard Licht and Shirley McGuire  
*In memory of Dorothy Levy Licht*

## LESTER POPKIN MEMORIAL CAMPSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Janice Feinman  
*In memory of my mother, Leona Popkin-Spritz*

## LIVESTREAM FUND

Deborah Roberts and Don Mossman  
*In memory of Carolyn Lois Bush*

## MARX FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

Michael Eisenstadt and Mary Beth Leibowitz  
*In memory of Rose Kreisler*

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*In memory of Henry Fribourg*  
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David and Vivian Butler  
*In memory of Jack Butler & Han Haller*  
Debra Caylor and Allan Tusberg, Sr.  
Israel donation for "Operation Swords of Iron"  
Susan Cohen  
*In memory of Marcus Mendelowitz*  
Ellen & Phillip Grissom  
Help for Israel  
Bonnie Wiczorek  
*In appreciation of the wonderful & inspiring HHD services*  
Bob and Wendy Goodfriend  
*In memory of Morris Goodfriend*  
Bennett and Reba Herzfeld  
*In memory of Max Herzfeld*  
Lou Gross and Marilyn Kallet  
*In memory of Kennard Gross*

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Martin Gerson & Family  
Aaron and Imelda Margulies  
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Wes and Norma James  
Richard Licht and Shirley McGuire  
Robert and Allisen Shagan  
Mitchell and Margy Goldman  
*In memory of Harriet Goldman*

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Rabbi Howard and Rona Simon  
*In memory of Ben Simon*  
Geoffrey and Pat Wolpert  
*In memory of Mable Anthony*

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Liz Gassel and Michael Pardee  
Wes and Norma James  
Thomas and Charolette Evans  
Richard Licht and Shirley McGuire  
Larry Markel  
Robert and Allisen Shagan  
Frank and Karen Cyzick  
*In memory of Rusty Cyzick & all those killed in Beirut bombing 10/23/1983*  
Bennett and Reba Herzfeld  
*In memory of Lillian Herzfeld*



### Judaica Class

**By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm, Head of School**

Ask any KJDS student which day of the week is Miriam Esther's favorite day, and they should be able to tell you – WEDNESDAY! On Wednesdays, I get to be back in the classroom with our eager learners and it is truly my very favorite day of the week! Throughout the High Holidays, we deepened our knowledge of Jewish customs' symbolism and meaning.

This year, we had an amazing Rosh Hashanah fair where students explored many types of animal horns to learn which could be used for a Shofar. They tasted apples dipped in a variety of local honey, enjoyed an apple-flavored mocktail, made Rosh Hashanah cookies, used a variety of math strategies to count the seeds in a pomegranate and committed to a mitzvah they would try to fulfill this new year.

For Sukkot, we built our very own KJDS sukkah and students prepared unique and beautiful decorations for it. Using a robot, disappearing putty, and a water experiment we learned about the miraculous clouds of glory and how they protected the Jews through their 40-year journey in the desert. The 4-5 class hosted a variety of events in the sukkah throughout the week of Sukkot. They ran relay races and the winning team enjoyed lunch in the sukkah. They prepared baked goods and hot cocoa and hosted breakfast in the sukkah. They helped the younger students make the brocha for eating in the sukkah and guided them in preparing edible sukkahs. The fifth graders are stepping into their leadership roles! Our entire school enjoyed the KJDS annual Sukkah Hop! Along with our regular stops at Temple Beth El, AJCC, and Chabad, we greatly enjoyed visiting the Ganzi-Sagiv Sukkah, a new stop this year!

Recently, we took some time to learn about Israel: its rich Jewish history and its landscape. Our 2-5 students created brownie maps of Israel and plotted significant landmarks on them in icing! We will continue to do mitzvot and pray for the safety of Israel.



Margot Weiss-Hilton enjoys exploring a wide variety of shofars during the Rosh Hashanah fair  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Max Diamondstone and Niv Barak enjoy apples and honey and a delicious apple mocktail together  
Credit: Anna McDonald



Noah Butcher shows off his Rosh Hashanah cookies that he made  
Credit: Anna McDonald



Kaya Ferency undertakes a STEAM/Rosh Hashanah design challenge during Judaica class  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm





2nd and 3rd grade students use a robot to explore how the Jews traveled across the desert  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Clara Kimmeth shows off the KJDS sukkah after helping with getting it built  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



2nd grader, Yeela Yalen, adds icing to mark important landmarks on her edible brownie map of Israel during Judaica class.  
Credit: Brooke Haskins



Kenlin Cooper eagerly participates in the group activity at the Ganzi-Sagiv sukkah during the Sukkah Hop  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



4th and 5th grade students enjoy a meal in the KJDS sukkah  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Saul Oknowsky enjoys ribbon dancing during the Sukkah Hop stop at the Preschool at the AJCC  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Rabbi Cantor Raina Siroty shows off the Temple Beth El Sukkah to the KJDS students  
Credit: Brooke Haskins



Claire Rosenbaum and Levi Wilhelm say the blessing with the lulav and etrog with Rabbi Mendel and Matias  
Credit: Rabbi Mendel



KJDS students pose with our Ram mascot at Chabad  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



Students have a blast playing games during the Sukkah Hop  
Credit: Miriam Esther Wilhelm



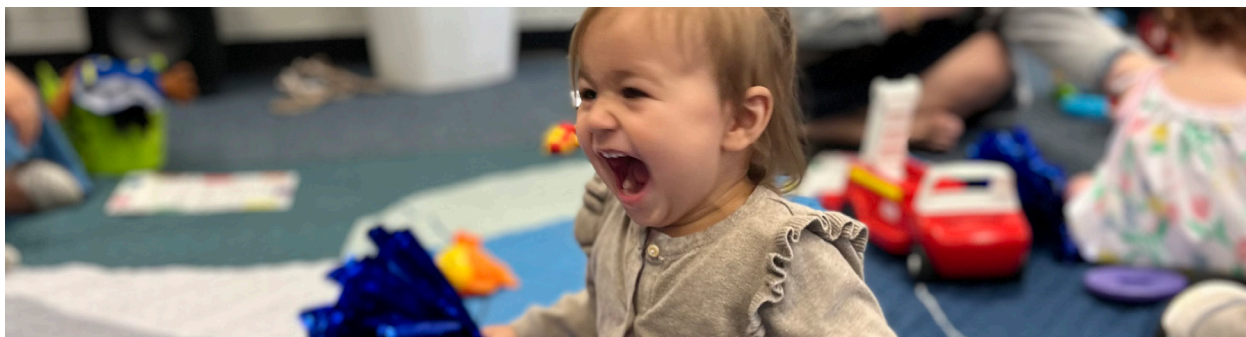
## Kinder & Kin Playgroup

**By: Anna McDonald, Director of Admissions**

Kinder & Kin playgroup at KJDS (formerly known as Mommy and Me) had its first session of this school year in September. Everyone was excited to see old friends and make new ones. The playgroup had a theme of Jewish holidays for our 4 week Fall Session. The kids had a blast playing together and exploring. The parents also had a great time connecting and building relationships with each other.

Kinder & Kin playgroup even joined the Preschool at AJCC for their Rosh Hashanah party! It was a wonderful opportunity for the kids to interact with other children and experience a larger celebration. We've been thrilled to partner with PJ Library Knoxville and the Preschool at AJCC to continue building community in such a positive and heartwarming way.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the upcoming winter and spring sessions of Kinder & Kin. Save the date for every Friday in February from 10-11:30 am for our Winter session! There are also B'yachad Knoxville events happening on various upcoming Sundays to accommodate working families. These playgroups have become an important part of the community, and everyone is looking forward to creating more memories and building stronger relationships in the future.



Mara McClain squeals for joy during singing time Credit: Anna McDonald



Elyssa and Sophia Sturm enjoy Kinder & Kin together  
Credit: Anna McDonald

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## The Wonders of Hands-On Learning: Exploring the Life Cycle of Animals through Hatching Chicks

**By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm, Head of School**

Mrs. Blanchard and Ms. Jessica's 2nd and 3rd-grade class recently conducted a fascinating study on the life cycle of animals. The students were tasked with exploring the essential questions of how the life cycles of different animals are the same and different, and what adaptations an animal needs to survive in its habitat. To aid in their exploration, the learners were given the unique opportunity to hatch chicks at school! Thanks to a UCOR mini grant that Ms. Jessica won, the students were able to watch the entire incubation and hatching process.

Throughout the study, the young scientists took a hands-on approach, observing, gathering information, predicting, and documenting their findings. The students were thrilled when two of the chickens hatched while they were at school! Watching the newborn chicks dry off and become fluffy was a highlight for many of the students, including scientist Esther. One of the students, Oliver, was so taken with the chickens that he and his family decided to adopt them as family pets!

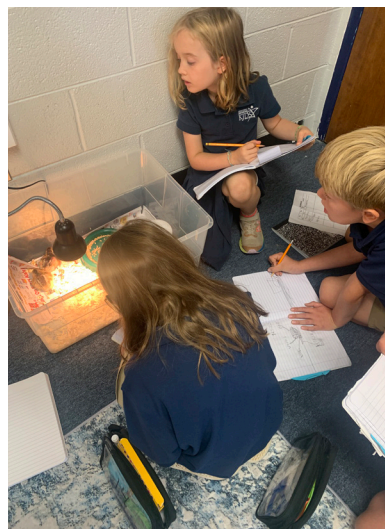
This real-life connection between the students' studies and their everyday lives brought joy and energy to their learning each day. This study is a perfect example of the importance of hands-on, experiential learning, and fostering a sense of curiosity and wonder about the natural world.



Mrs. Jessica and Kenlin Cooper keep an eye on the incubator as the eggs begin to shake and crack  
Credit: Bekka Blanchard



Noah Butcher enjoys checking in on the chicks in their upgraded enclosure, which was generously donated by Agri Feed Pet Supply.  
Credit: Bekka Blanchard



Young scientists carefully observe and record their findings of the young chicks during their first hours of life  
Credit: Jessica Vose

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בינה



## Don't Give Until It Hurts, Give Until It Feels Good

**By: Bryan Goldberg, KJA President**

Hard to imagine it was December 2017 when I, a young AJCC preschool parent, joined our KJA board. As I have shared with many of you over these past years, I became involved from a generational call of service from within my family. I have learned many lessons over these past six years, I have seen our community at strife with itself and together in times of need. I have met many of you, formed new friendships, welcomed new preschool parents, attended bar and bat mitzvahs and even a few funerals. I have attempted to immerse myself within our community in an effort to better serve it. My wife, Adrienne, has been a blessing to our community, as she has allowed my time to be shared with all of you and taken away from her and our children. I will forever owe her a debt that I knowingly cannot repay. As a couple, we made a pledge to support this community not only with my time, but with our limited (it costs a fortune raising children) but meaningful financial capacity. Which is more impactful, time or capital? I have often times mused that question but only came upon an answer that feels right at the end of my tenure. If you have time, give it and if you have capital, share it for the betterment of community. How much you give is a personal choice, but if you ask me...I say to you, **don't give until it hurts, give until it feels good.**

My tenure started over a zoom meeting, new to many of you, and as I pass the torch of leadership onto the next President, I feel that together, we've been able to steer our community onto a path of success. I do not find joy in self-aggrandizement, so I will leave the long list of accomplishments we've shared to others. While some did their best to cajole me to stay on, this Lay Leadership role is meant to be shared and passed on. I look forward to continuing to serve our community through my positions on the JFNA Network Advisory Committee, National Young Leadership Cabinet, Advocacy Corps, and JFNA Board of Trustees. I will strive to represent the Knoxville Jewish community with passion and respect in those roles and continue to bring lessons learned back home.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. As I move on to my next challenge, I take the lessons learned in this position with me. They have made me a better leader and a more compassionate one. I gave until it felt good, and what I got in return was much more of a reward than the sacrifice it cost.

# Thank You

**For Your 6 Years of Dedication & Achievements with the KJA and Our Jewish Community**



**2021-2023  
KJA President**  
**2018-2020  
KJA VP of Jewish Community Services**

# Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Businesses of Downtown Knoxville

**By: Rosalie Nagler, KJA Vice President of Jewish Community Services**

Sunday, October 22nd, was a beautiful morning for the Archives Committee's Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Businesses in Downtown Knoxville. Forty participants walked from Market Square along Union Street to Gay Street and North culminating at Potchke with a delicious brunch.

The landscape of downtown Knoxville was once adorned with thriving Jewish businesses and buildings with Jewish names. I am grateful to Nicki Russler, KJA Archivist, for researching businesses from the 1890's through the mid-20th century and developing the scripts for our volunteer docents. My sincerest gratitude goes to the following people for volunteering for the event as committee members, docents, and guides: Michael Burnett, Mary Ann Merrell, Barbara Bernstein, Robin Brown, Bob & Elaine Freeman, Scott Hahn, Mary

Beth Leibowitz, Richard Licht, Deborah Roberts, Larry Silverstein, Alan Schwartz, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Melissa Feinbaum, Marty Iroff, Kim Isenberg, Stephen Nagler, Pace Robinson, Doug Weinstein, Laura Sadler, and Mary Ann Merrell. A special thanks to Jared Iroff-Bailey and East Tennessee PBS for filming the tour, which we look forward to sharing in early 2024; Jack Neely of East Tennessee History Center and McClung Collection; Scott Johnson of Blue Lion Tactical Solutions; Laurence Faber and crew at Potchke Deli; and my brother, Les Sabler for graphic support. An extra thanks to Anna Iroff-Bailey for bringing this program to life!

All of this was generously supported by the Alice, George and Kenneth Palmer Fund of the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds.



*Tour Group on Gay Street, near the locations of Lieber Bros (1898-1904), Rainbow Apparel (1929), and MB Arnstein & Co (1905), all Jewish-owned businesses. Photo credit: Nora Messing*



*Melissa Feinbaum gave the history of businesses on Union Avenue and the 400 block of Gay Street, near her family's store Schriver's. Photo credit: Nora Messing*

## Memories of Yom Kippur 1973

**By: Rosalie Nagler, KJA Vice President of Jewish Community Services**

On October 19, the Israel Committee, chaired by Marc Forman, held a program to commemorate the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Marc shared the timeline and context for the war as well as news headlines from around the world. We were honored to have Seth Mintz and Jacob Barhen share their first-hand experiences of their service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in the Six-Day War and Yom Kippur War respectively. Their thoughts and memories of the time are so important in bringing our history to life. Although this program was planned long before the horrific October 7 Hamas invasion into Israel and the resulting war, the echoes were painfully apparent. We felt it was important to continue the program and honor the memories of 50 years ago, even while we are devastated and horrified by current events as well. Thank you to Jacob, Seth, and Marc for offering this program, Anna Iroff-Bailey for her programming support, and to all those who joined us to remember Yom Kippur 1973. Am Yisrael Chai – the People of Israel live.

## Celebrating Jewish Book Month


**By: Anna Iroff-Bailey, PJ Library Program Professional, and Tara Bain, Assistant Director of Temple Beth El Religious School**

In partnership, Temple Beth El, PJ Library Knoxville, and Knoxville Jewish Day School kicked off Jewish Book Month (November) at TBE's Religious School. This day of learning and reading books offered by PJ Library and PJ Our Way gathered the PreK through 3rd grade as they explored the value of hachnasat orchim, welcoming guests, by reading Bone Button Borscht and creating welcome mobiles for their homes. The older students in grades 4th through 6th grade enjoyed PJ Our Way graphic novels and authored their own Jewish comic. BIG THANKS to the Chai Experience students who read stories, served as librarians, and prepared a special library for future PJ Library visits at TBE.

Our youngest learners gathered for our first B'yachad Knoxville – Knoxville Together – with Norma James. During this special class for preschoolers and their parents we read stories, took a tour of the Torah with Rabbi Siroty, and created our own books. The Knoxville Together series is made possible through an engagement grant from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.


For more information about receiving free Jewish books from PJ Library (ages 0-8) and PJ Our Way (ages 9-12) visit [pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org) and [pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org).





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Questions? Contact Anna Iroff-Bailey, [pj@jewishknoxville.org](mailto:pj@jewishknoxville.org)

## Contributions

**Donations listed were received as of October 30, 2023**

### ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Robert and Sarah Milford  
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This year we've created countless moments that have impacted us here and around the world. Thank you to all who have made an impact during our 2023 Annual Campaign. To those who have not, please consider sharing your light with a gift to KJA.





# Am Yisrael Chai, The People of Israel Live



*Michael Hensley, Director of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn's office*



*U.S. Representative Tim Burchett*



*Mayor Indya Kincannon*



*KJA President Bryan Goldberg*



*Rabbi Cantor Raina Sirotky, Temple Beth El Knoxville*

The Knoxville Jewish Alliance welcomed the community and honored guests to gather for a vigil at AJCC for reflection, support, and hope after the horrific events of October 7.



*Noa Barak, KJA Vice President of Community Engagement, sharing heartbreaking personal stories of family and friends in Israel.*



*Gittai Barak sharing his heart for his Israeli homeland and pleading for the release of hostages and safety of the Israeli people.*

*Rabbi Shush Carson*



*Marilyn Kallet, Knoxville Poet Laureate (June 2018-June 2020) & UTK Professor Emerita in the Department of English*



*Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm, Chabad of Knoxville*



*Hillel at UTK & AEPI hosted a Vigil for Israel at The Rock with more than 150 students, administrators, faculty, and staff.*

## An Inspiring Way to Begin a New Year

**By: Mary Ann Merrell, Heska Amuna President**

I often wonder how many congregations can boast a list this long of the many people that contributed their time and talents to high holy day services. Please take the time to (1) read this entire list; (2) thank those you see for all their energy to our community; and (3) think of ways you can engage with us as we mark Shabbat each week and our holidays as we navigate 5784.

Special recognitions and endless gratitude are due to many (not in any particular order):

- **Rabbi Rayzel Raphael** did not disappoint in bringing something new to our High Holy Day worship this year. Perhaps not as apparent, behind the scenes and for many months before the holy days started, she was working with our entire Rabbi and Religious Services committee and our team of service leaders in planning and organizing the flow of our services.

- **Laura Floyd** and **Markus Eisenbach** for a superb job ensuring all of the High Holy Day and Fall holiday services went smoothly, to the tireless efforts of Board Chair **Mark Siegel** for holding down the many corners of the fort and **board members:** Linda Anderson, Jerry Becker, Bill Berez, Abraham Brietstein, Ken Brown, Robin Brown, Frank Floyd, Josh Hedrick, Marty Iroff, Larry Leibowitz, Jose Marti Piedrahita-Angulo, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Melissa Sturm, William Thompson, Doug Weinstein, Miriam Weinstein, and Jenny Wood.

- **Service leaders for the High Holy Days and Fall Chagim:** Nancy Becker, Gilya Schmidt, Michael Burnett, Rivka Soloway, Patrick Messing, Markus Eisenbach, Wendy Besmann, Masha Kushnerova, Annette Winston, Rabbi Simcha Raphael, Scott Hahn, Laura Floyd, Pace Robinson, Bill Berez, Ellie Wood, Ken Brown, Rabbi Shush Carson, Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, with an extra shout out to Josh Gettinger for filling in many gaps wherever they popped up.

- **RRS and our service planners:** Markus and Laura, Gilya Schmidt, Michael Burnett, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Miriam Weinstein, Pat Rosenberg, Nancy Becker, Frank Lawhead, Catherine Greer, Raphe Panitz, Jack Love, Peggy Littmann, and William Thompson

- **Children's Services and Women's League:** Peggy Littmann, Jenny Wood, Anna Iroff-Bailey, Rabbi Shush Carson, Lisa Jacobson, Betty Golub, Barb Levin, Laura Floyd, and Dahlia Smith

- **Kol Nidre Music:** Michael Soloway, playing an original arrangement on digital accordion setting a deeply evocative tone for us on Kol Nidre

- **Technology team:** Doug Weinstein, Mark Siegel, and Marty Iroff who did a super job overseeing our online services (which, by the way, had the greatest number of participants ever and an entertaining and lively chat to boot)

- **Facilities team:** Marilyn Burnett, Pat Rosenberg, Ernie Gross, Frank Floyd, Marty and Martha Iroff, Beverly Wilcox, Marianne Stephansen

- **Ushers:** Josh Hedrick for organizing (and ushering) along with Frank Floyd, Robin Brown, Mary Linda Schwarzbart, Abraham Brietstein, and Mark Siegel

- **Flowers on the bimah:** Donated by the Zelda Siegel Fund and Scott Hahn

- **Rosh Hashanah Gift Bags:** Marilyn Burnett (with the help of Pat Rosenberg) and sponsored in memory of Sidney, Adrian, and Yetta Burnett

- **Nametags:** Created by Marilyn Burnett with support from Barbara Bernstein

- **Yom Kippur Study Session:** William Thompson

- **Yom Kippur Walk:** Peggy Littmann

- **Break-the-Fast:** Frank and Elizabeth Floyd, and many other helping hands

- **Sukkah Building:** Mike Glasman and crew

- **Sukkah Decorating:** Peggy Littmann and crew

- **Family Friendly Shabbat for Sukkot:** Rabbi Shush, Peggy Littmann, Laura Floyd, Jenny Wood, Betty Golub, Anna Iroff-Bailey, William Thompson

- **Women's League:** For sponsoring childcare and also providing the lunch on the second day of Rosh Hashanah and our Shabbat lunch in the Sukkah.

- **Shabbaton with Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum for Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah:** Abraham Brietstein for organizing; Frank Floyd and crew for Friday night dinner and Shmini Atzeret kiddush; Miriam Weinstein and crew for Simchat Torah kiddush.

- **Simchat Torah Honorees:** Markus Eisenbach and Peggy Littmann

I have heard from many how refreshing and invigorating services were for you this year and I encourage all of you to share your thoughts with us. (P.S. Let us know your thinking anytime - not just once year - RRS@HeskaAmuna.org).



## The Miracle of Hanukkah: Look for the Light in Dark Days

**By: Mark Siegel, Chair of Heska Amuna**

When the Maccabees defeated the Greeks, the first thing they did was to restore the Temple. As we all know, they only had one cruse of oil – only enough to keep the Temple Menorah lit for one day. Supply chain issues being what they were, it would take eight days to get more oil. Yet, somehow, one day's supply of oil lasted for eight days.

**That** is the miracle of Hanukkah. Notice that the rabbis did not make the miracle the fact that the Jews overcame overwhelming odds to defeat the Greeks in battle. It was the ability to keep the lights on that was found to be miraculous.

On October 7, Israel and world Jewry suffered the greatest loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust in Hamas' evil terrorist attacks on Israel. The events brought up images in our minds that we share from Jewish and Israeli history, images which filled us with sadness and dread to our cores. The hurt cut so deep that many Jewish people I know seemed reluctant to talk about their feelings. It seemed easier to talk about the security issues raised by the war than to talk about deep archetypical fears.

As I write this in late October, it doesn't seem likely that the darkest days of war will have passed by the time you are reading this in



December. Even if the war is somehow happily over as you are reading this, the emotional dark days are almost certain to remain, both in Israel and in ourselves.

This year, as we light the Hanukkah candles, let us look to find the light in the dark days. Let us remember that the lights are the miracle of Hanukkah – not the victorious war effort.

Let us draw our families closer together. Let us as Heska Amuna draw closer together. Let us as a Jewish community draw closer together. Let us accept the support offered to us by others and let us offer what support we can to those who need it.

Let the miracle of Hanukkah be reflected in our eyes, and let it fill us with gratitude for our many blessings.

## January 5-7 Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein to Offer Shabbaton Weekend

**By: Abraham Brietstein, Adult Education Chair**

Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein, a Reconstructionist Rabbi who has offered musical programs to Heska Amuna and the Jewish Community in the past, will be returning for a Shabbaton weekend January 5 to the 7. This will be a joint program with Heska Amuna and the Knoxville Jewish Alliance that will include a family friendly Shabbat service at Heska Amuna and a musical program at KJA. The program is being supported by the Natalie and Mitchell Robinson Community Enrichment Fund and the Zelda and Max Morrison Cultural Enrichment Fund of the Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds and Heska Amuna Synagogue.



*Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein*



## Peggy Littmann Honored

**By: Laura Floyd**

**On Simchat Torah, we were pleased to honor Peggy Littmann as our Kallat HaTorah, in addition to honoring Markus Eisenbach.** Peggy has been a consummate volunteer through the years, working with Women's League and teaching many Hebrew classes. During the isolation of Covid, she started Movie, Trekking, and Outside Art Clubs to help congregants safely stay in community. Most recently she took on the Vice-Chair of Youth Education. If you have been to any of our recent Family Friendly Shabbat services, Peggy coordinated all the moving parts. She helped facilitate our High Holiday children's services as well. **We thank Peggy for her dedication to our families and to us all.**



credit: Beverly Wilcox

## Genevieve Kramer Celebrates 100

**By: Becky Kramer Shimony**

Genevieve Shaw Kramer was born in Knoxville on November 25, 1923. Her parents, William and Celia Shaw, were both teenage immigrants from Ukraine and Poland respectively, and eventually met in Minneapolis. Their 3 children, Milton, Ruth, and Genevieve were very close, and Genevieve was a "spirited" girl. Her parents took in tenants and Genevieve and Milton frequently played pranks on the unsuspecting boarders.

Genevieve met Homer Kramer when he visited the shul in Knoxville. Her mother had always said that "all good things come to Knoxville." Genevieve earned her bachelor's from UT--and following her father's rule that she could not marry until she completed college--she graduated in the morning and married that very afternoon! Homer saw a business opportunity in the new city of Oak Ridge and Kramer Sturm Shoe store was born when he went into business with his close friend Mel Sturm.

She was ahead of her time. She always worked full-time, which was unusual, for TVA and then for the Department of Energy, while raising 4 children. In her

60's she sued the Federal Government for age and sex discrimination. After quite a few years and incredible perseverance, she won the lawsuit!

Additionally, she was very involved in the Jewish Communities of Oak Ridge and Knoxville. Invested in helping Jews in the Old Soviet Union, she frequently convinced some ORNL scientists traveling to the USSR to take religious items and medication to her contacts there.

Genevieve and Homer raised Elizabeth, who lives with her family in Oxford England; Freddy who lives with a multitude of children and grandchildren in Beitar, Israel; Jeff (z"l) who lived in Rochester, NY, and his 3 adult sons; and Becky Shimony and her family in St. Louis.

Homer passed away in 1998 in Israel, while visiting their son Freddy. Two years later, Genevieve moved to St. Louis to be near Becky, her youngest child. She will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 25, with her family and the community that she created since her move to St. Louis.



Genevieve Kramer Credit: Becky Shimony



The Kramer Family in 1968

## Contributions

### *Contributions by Caring People through Oct. 23, 2023*

**Bikkur Cholim:** In Memory of Joseph Solomon-Alan Solomon

**Building Fund:** Art Sale Proceeds-Marie & Charles Perelman; In Honor of Gilya Schmidt and the entire Heska Amuna Community-Judith Marquand & Jack Benhayon; In Memory of Bernie Bernstein and Bernard Pearl-Andi & Allen Schwartz

**Cemetery Fund in Memory of:** Anna Leibowitz-Peggy & Gale Hedrick; Bella Leeds-Joani & Gary Leeds

**Chesed:** In Memory of Esther Webster-Pat Rosenberg; In Appreciation for Chesed Committee & Rabbi Shush Carson-Linda Gray-Slovits; In Gratitude to Chesed Committee-David Balloff

**Defenders of the Faith:** In Honor of Beverly Wilcox-Shelley & Jeff Hecht; In Memory of Phyllis Levine-Kenneth Levine & family

**Gertrude Glazer & I.B. Cohen Fund:** In Honor of those who spoke to healing during the High Holidays and In Memory of Gertrude Cohen, Morris Bresoff, Oscar Glazer, Gerson Cohen and Jennie Glazer-Arnold Cohen

**General Fund in Memory of:** Bernard Bernstein-Joyce Diftler; Esther Webster-Lee Miller Blotner, Joyce Diftler; Sam Balloff-Kim & Stephen Rosen, Celeste & Jarrett Sharp, Joyce Diftler, Mary Beth Leibowitz & Michael Eisenstadt, Peggy & Gale Hedrick; **In Honor of:** Peggy Littmann-Jean Begue; We enjoyed Rosh Hashanah Services-Tammy & Keith Goldstein; Shana Tova-Anastasia Ison

**Kiddush:** Donation & preparation of 6 weeks of kiddushim-Marion & Larry Bayer

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** Dr. Ira Lapides & Family; Priscilla & Victor Skalet

### **Sponsors of Shabbaton with Rabbi Adam**

**Rosenbaum:** The Sam & Esther Rosen Community Fund and the Natalie & Mitchell Robinson Community Enrichment Fund

**Simchat Torah:** In Honor of Markus Eisenbach & Peggy Littmann-Shelley & Jeff Hecht, Marilyn & Harvey Liberman, Gilya Schmidt, Mary Ann & Jennye Merrell

**Yahrzeit Fund in Memory of:** Adrian Burnett-Michael Burnett & Evelyn Silvey; Louise Anderson- Linda Anderson; Don Kremer-Mary Ann & Matthew Kremer; Walter Farkas-Alice Farkas; Anna Leibowitz-Mary Beth Leibowitz & Michael Eisenstadt; C.B. Brown-Robin Zalkin Brown; Phillip Krosin and Carol Krosin-Marc Forman; Mordecai Heiser-Gilya Schmidt; Rebecca Mazur, Gertrude Weinstein, Bruce Kingsley, Myra Weinstein, Jacob Corkland and Mattie Corkland-Jill & Doug Weinstein; Arden Rogers and Vaughn Cooper-Joyce & David Beerman; Rachel Perelman-Marie & Charles Perelman; Earl Trapp, Sr., Debbie Johnson, Esmeralda Benhayon and Sasson Benhayon-Judith Marquand & Jack Benhayon; Leo Vogel-Nancy & Jeff Becker; Peter Dreyer and Natan Naumann-Trudy Dreyer; Janet Krauss, Bertha Krauss and Toba Davis-Brenda Mosko; Regina Levi-Judy & Mike Levy; David Eisenberg-Catherine Eisenberg

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This event is an initiative of the Heska Amuna Youth Education Committee

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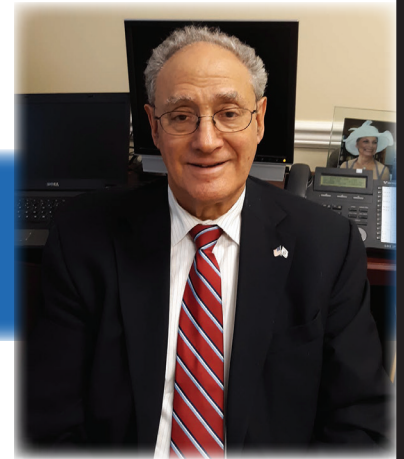
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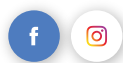
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## JCOR Welcomes Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal

JEWISH CONGREGATION OF OAK RIDGE

**By: Anita Kay, Membership Vice President**

We are proud to announce that Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal will be joining the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge officially on January 1, 2024!

Rabbi Ahuvah was ordained through the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2012. She has served as a congregational rabbi, chaplain, Hillel advisor, and adjunct professor. Rabbi Ahuvah studied in Israel in institutions including Hebrew University and several yeshivot and spent a sabbatical in Tel Aviv. She has extensive training in music and traditional Hazzanut (Jewish liturgical music). Rabbi Ahuvah currently serves as Rabbi and Campus Chaplain for a large senior residence complex which offers assisted living, nursing care, and hospice services. She also serves as a Hillel Advisor and Chaplain for Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Rabbi Ahuvah and her wife, Dale Rosenberg, a long-time Jewish educator, are looking forward to being a part of the JCOR family, becoming active in the larger Jewish community and being involved in the local Oak Ridge community.

Sisterhood will sponsor a special reception/ Kiddush Luncheon on Saturday, January 6, 2024, following services in honor of Rabbi Ahuvah. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Rabbi Ahuva



Warm memories of lunch in the Sukkah together to keep us warm through the winter.

## Chanukah Festivities with Dinner & Candle Lighting

Join us on Sunday December 10 at 5:30 p.m. Bring Your Menorah!



Send email to [office@jcor.info](mailto:office@jcor.info)/ OR visit website [www.jcortn.org](http://www.jcortn.org)



## What I Have Learned

**By: Barbara Mintz, Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge President**

I am nearing the end of my first year as Chapter President. So, what have I learned in that little speck of time? I have learned so much about KJA that I did not know. I have found out how supportive KJA is of all the Jewish organizations in this community including the smaller-in-size ones as Hadassah is.

I have also learned that there are so many dedicated Jewish women who live in and outside of Knoxville who support our Jewish community and our Chapter. This year we have added members from locations including Tellico Village, Kodak, Louisville, and Crossville. They are coming to our events!

I have also learned that Hadassah has a wealth of information that is at my fingertips. I can learn about illnesses, research, and treatments, learn about Zionism and Israel, learn about our environment, also about books by Jewish women, and much more all at one site.

Finally, I have learned that our Jewish community has an incredibly wonderful network of leaders and committed individuals. We have quite a wonderful Jewish community around us.



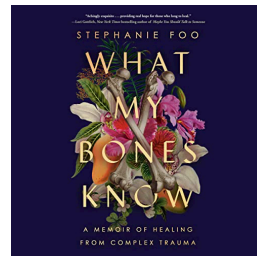
## Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Book Club News

**By: Rhonda Sternfels, Book Club Co-Chair**

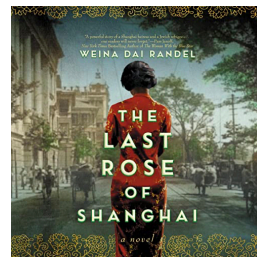
The books and discussions we have are always very informative, fun, and exciting.

We welcome you to participate in our Hadassah Book Club meetings, at 7:30p.m, the third Tuesday of every month, Zoom only format, even if you don't read the book.

**DECEMBER 19, 2023    What My Bones Know** by Stephanie Foo    Host Becky  
Stephanie Foo investigates the effects of immigrant trauma on the community, and she uncovers family secrets. Ultimately, she discovers that you don't move on from trauma—but you can learn to move with it. A searing memoir of reckoning and healing by acclaimed journalist Stephanie Foo, investigating the little-understood science behind complex PTSD and how it has shaped her life.



**JANUARY 16, 2024    The Last Rose of Shanghai** by Weina Dai Randal    Host Eileen  
1940, Aiyi Shao is a young heiress and the owner of a formerly popular and glamorous Shanghai nightclub. Ernest Reismann is a penniless Jewish refugee driven out of Germany, an outsider searching for shelter in a city wary of strangers. He loses nearly all hope until he crosses paths with Aiyi. When she hires Ernest to play piano at her club, her defiance of custom causes a sensation. As the war escalates, Aiyi and Ernest find themselves torn apart, and their choices between love and survival grow more desperate. From the electrifying jazz clubs to the impoverished streets of a city under siege, The Last Rose of Shanghai is a timeless, sweeping story of love and redemption.



**2024 book selections:** Announcement Coming Soon!

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

## Oy Vey! I Forgot Again!

**By: Andrea Cone and Kim Preston**

A group of Hadassah members gathered Sunday, September 10 at the AJCC, as we learned more ways to remember, so not to forget.

Barbara Mintz, MS: Speech/Language Pathologist and President of Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge, walked us through what we do daily, such as walk, eat fruit, drink water, etc., to strengthen our bodies. She explained how we neglect exercising our brains. Technology does not generate brain power. With her Speech Pathology, Early Childhood Education, and Psychology education and hands-on experiences, she is highly qualified to educate all of us.

Through the handout we all received, we learned what style of learning that we are from Learning styles—auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. Some were amazed with the results.

Barbara gave us examples of three critical strategies to work on for remembering:

1. Repeating four times with variations
2. Chunking/clustering
3. Making associations that are relevant to you

She highly recommended that we memorize our license plates and two emergency phone numbers by using these critical strategies.

Barbara also gave us five areas of memory to focus on, Semantic, Procedural, Episodic, Prospective and Emotional and suggested we practice doing it fairly soon before we forget. To summarize, Repeat to remember, chunk, make associations. Exercise your brain. Oy Vey, so much to remember!!



*Clockwise: Barbara Mintz speaking to the audience; Andrea Cone, Event Chair, and Kim Preston, Event Co-Chair; attendees.  
Photo credit: Anita Kay and Andrea Cone*





**HADASSAH**

Knoxville – Oak Ridge

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## *Gut-Brain Connection*

### Grand Hostess Hostess

Nancy Becker  
Barbara Bernstein\*  
Rhonda Bogard\*\*\*  
Bonnie Boring \*\*\*  
Robin Brown\*  
Mary Evars-Goan  
Kathy Franzel  
Kathy Goldstein\*\*  
Reba Herzfeld \*\*  
Brooke Jacobs  
Mary Beth Leib  
Barb Levin  
Kim Rosen  
Hilary Shreter

Linda Anderson  
Jean Begue\*  
Nancy Britcher  
Marla Brody  
Pessa Brody  
Rebecca Charles  
Jill Chasan  
Andrea Cone  
Harriet Cooper  
Laura Floyd\*  
Harriet Glasman  
Shelley Hecht  
Janet Iverson  
Anita Kay\*  
Dina Kramer

### Hostess's cont'd

Mary Beth Leibowitz  
Marilyn Liberman  
Peggy Littmann\*  
Carole Martin  
MaryAnn Merrell\*  
Shuli Mesa\*  
Nora Messing  
Barbara Mintz\*\*  
Rosalie Nagler  
Jenny Pfeffer\*  
Mary Linda Schwarzbart  
Marilyn Soloman  
Melissa Sturm  
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## Youth Aliyah Villages of Critical Importance Today

**By: Barbara Mintz, Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge President**

Many people presume that Hadassah's three Youth Aliyah Villages are small enclaves for some needy youth. Well, that is far from an accurate description. They began as a safe place for Holocaust victims and they have dramatically evolved. More than 50 Ukrainian teens found refuge at Hadassah's youth villages. They started taking in teens and entire families, just days after our latest war began. These villages are celebrating significant anniversaries this year, so I want to update you on what each site now offers as it is likely much more than you think. They are helping teens to have productive lives and be valuable citizens.

### **Meir Shfeyah---open for 100 years**

Meri Shfeyah serves about 300 students in grades 7 to 12 who have been victims of violence. Jews, Druze, and Muslims live and study together. The village also includes a synagogue, dairy, chicken farm, computerized greenhouse, experimental farms and orchards, a dog rehabilitation program, sports stadiums, and performing arts centers. The Shfeyah Winery, began in 2005, now produces 5,000 bottles of premium wine annually and it is run by 11th and 12th grade students who participate in every step.

### **Hadassah Neurim---open for 75 years**

This Village was founded as a refuge for children fleeing the gunfire of the War of Independence. Their programs include sound and audio workshops, animal therapy, pre-army preparation, and carpentry. They also offer programs for special needs students and for athletically gifted youth where they learn teamwork and discipline.

### **Ramat Hadassah Szold---open for 74 years**

This Village was founded as a center to receive refugee children from Yemen and young Holocaust survivors. Today it serves both Israeli-born and immigrant youth who require intensive remedial education programs. Many residents come from Ethiopia and countries of the Former Soviet Union. Special programs there include high-tech precision tool making, animal therapy, horsemanship, and Jewish study.

We need Youth Aliyah Villages now as much as ever before. Please consider supporting them using this site:  
[hadassah.org/donate/simple?area=youth-alayah](https://hadassah.org/donate/simple?area=youth-alayah)

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### Strength in Community

The outpouring of love, care, unity and togetherness that has been felt amongst Jews worldwide brought to the forefront something that is routed in each and every one of us. At the core, the Jewish people are one. The believer, the non-believer, the learned, the ignorant, the synagogue goer the JFK (just for Kiddush) jew we are all part of one whole! We are all connected at our essence and when one hurts we all feel the pain. During these dark and most difficult times our community has come together – enabling us to find support in the presence of each other and to strengthen and affirm our collective hopes.

The Torah teaches us that during a crisis and time of need we can add in mitzvot and prayer to bring more light and positivity to the world! At Chabad we have partnered with various facets of our community to do just that.



Local moms with kids in college baked babkas and prepared Jewish pride packages for their college students. Thank you to Dana Mana from A Little Something for making customized Chai key chains for the packages.



Cteeners putting arms for Israel.



The Momentum moms baked and sold Challah raising over \$2500 for organizations in Israel supporting survivors and soldiers.



Cteeners enjoyed a strong dose of connection and Jewish pride at the regional Cteen Shabbaton in Atlanta



Being Jewish on campus in not easy right now. Some babka and love goes a long way!



Rabbi Mendel and Mimi Pinson hosted a Cteen Lounge to support our teens during these difficult times.

## Stephen Rosen thanks KJCFF for the Opportunity to Serve

At the end of December, I will complete a four-year term as president of KJCFF. It has been fun, educational, and productive. I owe the “fun” part to the people listed below who have brought our family of funds from zero to around \$5mm in just 24 years. For me, it has been like being born on third base and thinking I hit a triple. The “educational” part is courtesy of the donors and organizations KJCFF serves. Listening to people’s ideas about their individual and family passions has been inspiring. Hearing about organizations’ plans for their futures is thought-provoking and motivational. The “productivity” has been due to the partnership we have built in our KJCFF family. The board, Laura, and East Tennessee Foundation are constantly looking for ways we can improve. Our administrative service timeline has fallen from a length that led to complaints to one that garners compliments. We have valued our volunteers’ time by using technology to improve our meetings and systems. We have used HaKol to advertise ideas that have sparked donors to create new funds in ALL of our constituent agencies. Finally, we have launched a mass email system that we are using for only the most important communications, and it is already working well. Thank you very much for the opportunity to lead this effort and I look forward to serving on the board for as long as you will have me.

## The Knoxville Jewish Community Needs a Fund for Safety and Security

You may be aware that our facility-based organizations have been successful in receiving federal grants for security-related physical improvements through the Department of Homeland Security. You may also be aware that KJA and its partners at other Tennessee Jewish Federations have worked with Governor Lee to create grants for security services. KJCFF will direct you to each of the organizations if you are interested in the dollar amounts and how the funds were spent. However, I will share that the grants are not sufficient to meet our community’s security requirements. The budget stretches get harder as the national incidents of antisemitism grow. How will we secure our future security? Who pays for the police officers in the parking lot during High Holy Days? What about private security you don’t even know is there for something like Knoshville? How about consulting services to educate the boards on how to respond to antisemitism? Under Bryan Goldberg’s leadership, KJA has taken the lead on preparatory action. Who is ready to take the lead on permanent funding?

If you have interest in making sure we learn, pray, and play safely, please contact Laura or Stephen

## Past Presidents of KJCFF

Stephen Rosen 2020-2023  
 Abraham Brietstein 2018-2019  
 Carole Martin 2016-2017  
 Scott Hahn 2013-2015  
 Bernie Rosenblatt 2011-2013  
 Dick Jacobstein 2009-2011  
 Pace Robinson 2007-2009  
 Mary Linda Schwarzbart 2005-2007  
 Jeff Becker 1999-2005



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# Temple Beth El

## Yahrzeits



### December 1

Ben Altshuler • Shiela Belensen • I. Robert Brodie •  
Isadore Brody • Albert Fribourg • Bessie Gelber •  
Jack Goldstein • Rose Holz • Arlene Karklin • Irwin Kipnes •  
Charles Konigsberg • Shirley Kravitz • Sadie Rich Miller •  
Harry Mintz • David Rayman • Faye Raymon

### December 8

Sondra Bressler • Gladys Caller • Matilda Goodfriend •  
Ella Heart • Lillian Herrmann • Iris Kenton •  
Joseph Krinsky • Emmett Ledbetter • Elise Levy •  
Werner Mangold • Zakhar Sapozhnikov

### December 15

Nachum Barkan • Ruth Brown • Eugene Cohn •  
Mary Epstein • Anna Gassel • Jennie Levitt • Charles Manis •  
Edwin Miller • Jacob Pais • Frances Pfeffer •  
Joseph Rabin • Isadore Shey • Benjamin Slate • Jacob Victor

### December 22

Frances Brody • Greer Brody • Barbara Dillon •  
Gersh Dolgonos • Mandel Epstein • Esther Feldman •  
James Friedman • Abraham Garber • Minnie Goldberger •  
Sigmund Green • Elise R. Guthman • Lillie Haas • Edith Hecht •  
Emily Keisler • Abraham Markman • Jack Misner •  
Louis Pollock • Richard Raskin • Dorothy Reiter •  
Charles Robinson • William Rockmaker • Camille Sene •  
Harry Sturm • Gertrude Tucker • Lena Walowitz •  
Harold Winston • Naftule Zauber

### December 29

Terry Bain • Lena Loveman Bloom • Athena Cadence •  
Mandel Epstein • Irene Fox • Leah Freeman •  
Florence Straus Gerson • Luba Golburt • Elise Hyatt •  
Robert Keisler • Risel Kronick • Samuel Levy •  
Ann Lieberman • Jacob Nechamkin • Ted Pais •  
Sandy Parsons • Eileen Pucci • Esther Reich •  
Samuel H. Robinson • Abe Schwartz • Hyman Henry Smith •  
Lucy Williams • Ben Winick • Lois Wolpert

### January 5

Rosa Bart • Mildred Bletz • Robert Bletz • Tammie Brodie •  
Harry Bronstein • William Egan • Alexander Feldblum •  
Jean Fribourg • Ricka Goodfriend • Elizabeth Gunn • William  
Haas • Ida Kaminsky • Fannie Lindy • Sam Morrison •  
Lena Silverman Moskowitz • Pauline Orovan • Robert Oury •  
John Pline • Sanford (Sandy) Sachs • Lillie Shey • Arthur Slome •  
Lillian S. Weiss • Raphael Wolpert

### January 12

Isadore Beiler • Marcus Bressler • Minette Clark •  
Mildred Erwin • Henrietta Feldblum • Harold Stanley Harris •  
Millie James • Lena B. Konigsberg • Marie Noon •  
Robert (Bob) Parsons • Milton Shamitz • Roslyn Shamitz •  
Roger Simon • Molly B. Smith • Helen Tumpson •  
Samuel Webber • Bella Zavels

### January 19

Fannie Liebman Beiler • Walter Blaufeld • Eva Bornes •  
Robert Goldstein • Henry Handler • Milton Heller •  
Minnie Hochenberg • Mary Kichler Licht • Ella Marx •  
Ceil Rosenberg • Helen Sandberg • Jacob Spiro •  
Howard Stamey • Beatrice S. Steinfeld • Stanley Webster •  
Robert Zivi • Max Zuckerman • Muriel Zuckerman

### January 26

Maxine Arbital • Frank Bernard • Mary Bernard •  
Ethel Brown • Francis Buescher • Joseph Herman Bush •  
Bill Dillon • Muriel Greenbert • Theodore Hecht •  
Annie Joffe • John Kelleher • Cecil Nichols •  
Sarah Vendig Samuel • Irvin Shenkman • Alla Sherman •  
Basia Shusterman • Boris Shusterman • Joseph Soss •  
William Steinberg • Evalyn B. Weiss

# Heska Amuna Synagogue

## Yahrzeits



### December 2

Betty Abrams · Arthur Brown · Isaac Chazen ·  
Rachel Chazen · Gustave Deitch · David Eisenberg ·  
Benjamin Geller · Mordechai Golinkin · Irene Hershey ·  
William Hershey Carol Harris · Bessie Hite · George Kramer ·  
Bella Leeds · Isidor Lippner · Meyer Miller Morris Panitz ·  
Raye Panitz · Cindy Shepler · Thelma Weisberg · Fannie Werner

### December 9

Ethel Deitch · Bernard Diamond · Sarah Green ·  
Sigmund Green · Eli Goldstein · Matilda Goodfriend ·  
Belle Gotlieb · Eugene Gross · Mark Hahn · Louis Levin ·  
Mitchell Robinson Lesley Rosenblatt · Gertrude Weiner ·  
Harold Winston · Max Wolf

### December 16

Frances August · Bonny Barsky · Helen Billig · Irene Binkley ·  
Simon Deitch · Ben Diftler Alvin Ellin · Ida Glazer ·  
Louis Glazer · Liebel Goldstein · James Greenfield ·  
Calvin Hahn Idell Harris · Helaine Jacobs ·  
James Kutsbos Sr. · David Mandell ·  
Madelyn Millen Samuel Rosen · Morris Schneider ·  
Joseph Shamitz · Minnie Slovis · Moe Slovis ·  
Bernard Simon · Henry Sturm · Florence Woolf ·  
Benjamin Zwick

### December 23

Lazarus Abrams · Bertha Bernstein · George Busch ·  
Gerson Corkland · Samuel Forman Dora Friedlob ·  
Hyman Gabler · Abraham Garber · Robert Geller ·  
Marion Goodstein · Max Isaacs · Benjamin Joffe ·  
Minnie Kramer · Louis Levin · Harry Lieberman ·  
Arthur Meyer · Lottie Mottzman · Isadore Rosenblatt ·  
Jacqueline Russler · Sam Saroff · William Shaw ·  
Julius Siegel · Selma Vogel · Norma Wolf

### December 30

Alice Abrams · Samuel Bebergal · Nathan Busch ·  
Edna Cohen · Nathan Deitch · Taube Diftler · Max Euster ·  
Leib Gabler · Aaron Glazer · Channah Goldstein · Louis Gluck ·  
Terry Hahn · Adrian Harris · Louie Herbin ·  
Maurice Lieberman · Rose Levy · Manuel Marvet ·  
Sam Milmot · Jeannette Nichols · Herbert Ogle ·  
Natalie Robinson · Leon Saroff Abraham Schwartz ·  
Helen Shersky · Melvin Shorr · Mary Wolf

### January 6

David Abramson · Rafael Anidjar · Mark Balloff ·  
Rose Bart · Joseph Bernstein · Bella Bresoff ·  
Bernard Cohn · Nathan Diftler · Israel Kauffman ·  
Fannie Moskowitz · Leonard Rader · Stephen Sugarman ·  
Stanley Webster · Ben Winick · Jill Witten

### January 13

Beverly Abrams · Stanley Berry · Elaine Brown ·  
Samuel Brown · David Cohen · Isaac Ducken ·  
Romaine Eisenstadt · Jan Fay · Zelig Frumin ·  
Eva Isaacs · Annie Joffe · Sybil Joffe · James Kutsbos, Jr. ·  
Earl Mazur · Sam Morrison · Charles O'Brien ·  
Mildred Schwartz · Milton Shamitz · Delia Skalet · Mae Stern

### January 20

Celia Bery · Jacob Goodstein · Gladys Johnson ·  
Robert Moody · Lillian Morrison · Rabbi David Panitz ·  
Marjory Rogers · Hinda Scott · Rose Shapiro · Harry Tobe ·  
Elias Ullman · Kim Webber · Frank Winick

### January 27

Eugene Comez · Milton Finklestein · John Gilman ·  
Helen Hahn · Lela Lippner · Hilda Presser · Joseph Richer ·  
Esther S. Rosen · Sarah Rubenstein · Charles Silverman ·  
Harry Strauss · Frances Sturm · Clarice Weinstein





The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies is the center for the study of Jews and Judaism at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. It offers a variety of public and academic programs that enhance student learning, promote Jewish Studies scholarship, and contribute to the intellectual life of the Knoxville community and beyond. UT offers an interdisciplinary Judaic Studies as well as several scholarships to support student learning. Courses in Judaic Studies range from the Hebrew Bible to the Holocaust and include both modern and Biblical Hebrew.





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

### The Way We Were in 1948 Waiting for Max Friedman Jeweler to Open



This photograph of the iconic sign at the front of Max Friedman's jewelry store at 304 S Gay Street shows a crowd waiting for the reopening of the store on December 1, 1948, after a fire gutted the store the prior August. During the remodeling, the business operated at 310 W Clinch Avenue. Max opened the store, which carried jewelry and watches, in 1939. It remained open until 1982, managed by Max's nephew Hymie **Billig** after Max's 1966 death. The sign remained until the building was remodeled yet again in the mid-1990's. The building looks very different today, but it still stands near the corner of Gay and Summit Hill Drive (in Max's Day the nearby cross street was Commerce Avenue). On Sunday, October 22, 2023, a few dozen

Knoxvillians, who participated in the Archives' first walking of historical Jewish businesses, viewed the building as they walked north on Gay Street and listened to docents describe many of the establishments that once lined the street.

Max **Friedman** (1888-1966) came to the U.S. in 1907 from his native Tarnopol (then in the Austrian Empire, today Ternopil, Ukraine), settling first in New York City, next Columbia, South Carolina, and finally Knoxville around 1920. In addition to his business, Max was president of both the Jewish Community Center and Heska Amuna Synagogue, a Knoxville city councilman, and a member of the state Democratic committee through which he met FDR and was credited with coining the phrase "The New Deal" for the 1932 presidential election campaign.

Scott **Hahn** and Margot **Dunn** are Max's great-grandchildren who live in Knoxville. Thanks to Scott for donating the photo and providing many of the details.

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



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