

HAKOL

October • November 2025 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

TEMPLE BETH EL

ONE LIGHT, MANY TRADITIONS, P8



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MEMORY SHAPES THE FUTURE, P12

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KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE

MORE THAN AFTERCARE – A WORLD OF DISCOVERY AT KJDS, P20



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TBE Religious School Students are excited to celebrate Chanukah!

Temple Beth El

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HaKOL Monthly Publication

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HaKol is produced through a partnership of Knoxville Jewish Alliance, Heska Amuna Synagogue, Temple Beth El, and Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School.

For advertising opportunities:
hakol@jewishknoxville.org
 865-690-6343

Community Directory

Chabad of Knoxville
www.chabadknoxville.org

Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge
www.hadassah.org/chapter/knoxville

Heska Amuna Synagogue (Conservative)
www.heskaamuna.org

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge
www.jcortn.org

Knoxville Jewish Alliance & Arnstein Jewish Community Center
www.jewishknoxville.org

Stanford Eisenberg Knoxville Jewish Day School
www.kjds.org

Temple Beth El (Reform)
www.tbeknox.org

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

December 2025 Community Calendar

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
2:00P HAWL Mahjong – HAS</p> <p>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
5:03P Candle Lighting
1:00P HAWL Watercolor Class – HAS
4:30P JFS Shabbat at Sherrill Hills - KJA</p> <p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
6:03P Havdalah</p> <p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
11:30A HAWL Chanukah Paint-a-Platter Luncheon - HAS</p> <p>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
7:00P Pre-Chanukah Ladies Night Out - Chabad</p> | <p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
5:04P Candle Lighting
1:00P HAWL Watercolor Class – HAS
6:00P Chanukah Dinner - TBE</p> <p>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
6:00P Chanukah Dinner - TBE</p> <p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13
6:05P Havdalah</p> <p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
Chanukah – First Candle
11:00A Maccabiah Games - TBE
4:00P Downtown Menorah Lighting - Chabad
5:30P Chanukah Party - JCOR
7:00P Vodka, Latkes & Tournaments – HAS</p> | <p>MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
Chanukah – 2nd Candle</p> <p>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
Chanukah – 3rd Candle
7:30P Book Club - Hadassah</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
Chanukah – 4th Candle
TBD Book Club – JCOR</p> <p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
Chanukah – 5th Candle
2:00P HAWL Mahjong – HAS</p> <p>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
Chanukah – 6th Candle
5:06P Candle Lighting
1:00P HAWL Watercolor Class – HAS</p> | <p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
Chanukah – 7th Candle
6:07P Havdalah
9:45A Addy DiSalvo-Tinley's Bat Mitzvah – HAS</p> <p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
Chanukah – 8th Candle
4:00P A Southern Fried Hanukkah – Community Celebration</p> <p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
2:00P HAWL Mahjong - HAS</p> <p>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
5:10P Candle Lighting
1:00P HAWL Watercolor Class - HAS</p> <p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
6:11P Havdalah</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

January 2025 Community Calendar

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
New Year's Day</p> <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 2
5:15P Candle Lighting
4:30P JFS Shabbat at Sherrill Hills - KJA</p> <p>SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
6:16P Havdalah</p> <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
2:00P Open Mahjong Games - HAS</p> | <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 9
5:21P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
6:22P Havdalah
10:00A Hazel Wolf Bat Mitzvah - TBE</p> <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
2:00P Open Mahjong Games - HAS
5:00P An Evening with Author Jacqueline Friedman - KJA</p> | <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
5:28P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, JANUARY 17
6:29P Havdalah
10:00A Dinah Park Bat Mitzvah - TBE</p> <p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
4:00P School Musical - KJDS</p> <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
2:00P Open Mahjong Games - HAS</p> <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 23</p> | <p>5:35P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
6:35P Havdalah</p> <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 29
2:00P Open Mahjong Games - HAS</p> <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 30
5:43P Candle Lighting</p> <p>SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
New Year's Eve
6:42P Havdalah</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

Calendar Highlights

Heska Amuna Synagogue

HeskaAmuna.org

Heska Amuna Family Shabbat

Saturday, December 13 & January 10 • 10:00am | Heska Amuna Synagogue

Join us for Family Shabbat on the 2nd week each month for Fun, Friends, Snacks, and Songs! Our website has more details and a zoom link.

Contact Laura Floyd • floydfam@knology.net

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

www.jcortn.org

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

December 14, 2025 | 5:30 PM | JCOR

Following our Fun Family Ed Program at 4 PM (with crafts and fun for all ages) is our annual Chanukah Celebration featuring dinner, candle lighting, games, song, and stories. Enjoy and laugh and celebrate together.

Contact Ronnie Bogard • events@jcor.info

Knoxville Jewish Alliance

www.jewishknoxville.org

Knoxville Jewish Alliance Annual Meeting

December 18, 2025 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm | Arnstein Jewish Community Center

Join us for the KJA's Annual Meeting. We will start the evening with a candle lighting to celebrate the 5th night of Chanukah and enjoy sufganiyot. Be part of the conversation shaping our future and join us for the Annual Meeting.

Contact office@jewishknoxville.org

KJDS

www.kjds.org

KJDS Presents- Found and Chosen: The Aristocats & The Jungle Book

January 18, 2026 • 4 PM | Clayton Performing Arts Center at Pellissippi State Community College

Join us for an unforgettable evening of musical theater presented by the talented students of the Knoxville Jewish Day School! This year's annual musical features a delightful double feature of Disney's The Aristocats and The Jungle Book. Mark your calendars—this is a show you won't want to miss!

Contact info@kjds.org or 865-560-9922

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





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Lighting the World: Unique Hanukkah Traditions Around the Globe

Author: Raina Sirotz, Rabbi Cantor

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days. Though lighting the menorah and enjoying foods fried in oil are universal customs, Jewish communities across the world celebrate Hanukkah in ways that beautifully reflect their diverse histories and local cultures.

In Israel, Hanukkah—known as *Chag HaUrim*, the Festival of Lights—is celebrated with exuberance. Families gather each evening to light the *hanukkiyah*, and cities glow with menorahs displayed in windows and public squares. Children play with *sevivonim* (dreidels) with the letters נ ג נ ה פ ״ a great miracle happened here” and enjoy *sufganiyot*, filled doughnuts with any filling you can imagine!

In North Africa and Yemen, Hanukkah is marked by traditions deeply rooted in local heritage. Families light one *hanukkiah*, and use wicks floating in olive oil instead of candles. North African and Moroccan Jews prepare *sfenj*, airy doughnuts dusted with sugar and gather to sing ancient Hanukkah melodies. In Yemenite Jewish communities, special blessings and poetic chants are recited in celebration of the miracle.

Italian Jews, especially those in Rome and Venice, celebrate with distinctive foods and menorahs. They fry small honey-coated pastries called *precipizi* and use beautifully crafted spiral menorahs, symbolizing the spread of divine light throughout the world. Italian Hanukkah gatherings often combine solemn remembrance with joyous feasting, a blend characteristic of the ancient Jewish presence in Italy.

Among Ethiopian Jews (Beta Israel), Hanukkah resonates with themes of faith and renewal. Long before joining the broader Jewish world, Beta Israel



communities held celebrations centered on light and dedication that paralleled Hanukkah. Today, in Israel, many Ethiopian Jews blend traditional Hanukkah customs with the *Sigd* festival, which occurs 50 days after the High Holy Days, emphasizing unity, reflection, and gratitude.

In India, the Jewish community of Mumbai celebrates Hanukkah by lighting small oil lamps called *diyas*, echoing local Hindu traditions of light. Homes and synagogues shimmer with lamps and songs, and neighbors of all faiths often join in, reflecting India's spirit of coexistence and warmth.

From Jerusalem to Rome, Sana'a to Mumbai, Hanukkah shines as a global celebration of hope, resilience, and faith.

Chag Urim Sameach! May your home be filled with light!

Hands on, Hearts on, Minds on Learning

Author: Norma James, Temple Beth El Religious School Director

Recap since my last report...

There is never a dull moment at our Religious School this year. In October we observed Yom Kippur, decorated our Sukkah, and celebrated Simchat Torah with a HUGE gathering of RS families joined by many, many other congregants. The Shinshinim started off the festivities with a parade through the streets of Jerusalem (aka the hallways of RS) playing rhythm instruments and cheering just like they do in Israel. In the Sanctuary we danced seven Hakafot while singing various Hebrew songs. The topper was unrolling an entire Torah around the Sanctuary with everyone helping to hold it up. The younger children sat in the center surrounded by Torah, and Rabbi gave them a tour. It was beautiful to see our students celebrate with our adult community.

In November, TBE hosted Evan Bernstein VP of Community Relations for the JFNA. His topic was "Antisemitism Then and Now." Our older class and our madrichim joined the adult for the presentation. It was great hosting the Jewish community in our building.

It's Chanukah time again!

Chanukah Family Shabbat and latke dinner Friday, December 12. Chanukah service at 6:00 and latke dinner at 6:45.

This Family service and dinner is a favorite for all. Our children will sing Chanukah songs and light the Chanukah menorah. The latke dinner will follow and includes special activities for the children. December gets busy, so put this on your calendar right away!

Maccabiah 2025 is December 14 during Religious School. Our Maccabiah is a RS tradition older than some of our staff! Tara Bain, Assistant Director, and

our Shinshinim, Yaheli and Avigail, will create exciting and hilarious games for a fun-filled competitive morning. Students will be grouped into "families" that include PK through 9th graders. Teams Hay, Shin, Gimmel, and Nun will compete for the coveted Dreidel. Our parents will serve a latke luncheon - with donuts, of course! Everyone, everyone, everyone is invited to come watch the competition at 11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Winter Break is Sunday, December 21 through Sunday, January 4. Religious School will resume Sunday, January 11.

MLK Sunday on January 18 is a special day at Religious School. We DO have Religious School on MLK weekend. We focus on Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). This will be a day of hope and caring through lessons, activities, music, and prayer.



Students enjoyed a dance party with Israeli music thanks to the Shinshinim!



Even Justen Bain, 5th/6th grade teacher, joined in!

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 to set up a meeting, FaceTime, Zoom, or phone call.

Hazel Wolf Bat Mitzvah



Hazel Wolf is a 7th grader at Bearden Middle School, where she excels both in the classroom and on the court. She proudly plays on the volleyball and basketball teams and loves spending time with her friends, family, and her puppy, Frankie. Hazel is also a wonderful big sister to Maggie. She will be called to the Torah on January 10th and is working hard as she prepares for her Bat Mitzvah.

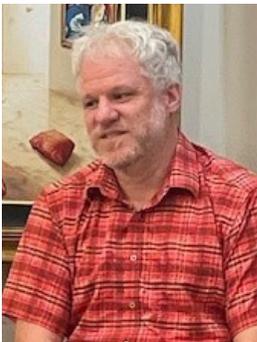
Dinah Park Bat Mitzvah



Dustin Park and Sarah Miller are proud to announce the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Dinah Park. Dinah will become a bat mitzvah on Saturday, January 17th with Rabbi Raina Siroty officiating. Dinah was born in Chicago, IL, the third child of interfaith parents Dustin (Catholic) and Sarah (Jewish). Since moving to Maryville, Tennessee, in 2016, Dinah has been engaged at Temple Beth El through the wonderful religious school led by Norma James, who also served as her Torah coach. Dinah is currently a 7th grader at Coulter Grove Intermediate School. She is a young woman of many talents. She enjoys playing clarinet in the band at Coulter Grove, she has been in numerous plays and musicals with local theater company Broadway Center for the Arts and recently joined her older brother Asher on the Tri-Star JV rowing team, where she is a coxswain. You can often find Dinah alongside her mother at local markets, selling baked goods from Sarah's bakery. Her outgoing personality and confidence are a joy to watch. We are so proud of all the hard work Dinah has put forth over the past few years to prepare for this moment!

Young at Heart at TBE

Author: Kathy Young



On October 7, the Young at Heart Club had its first official program. Dustin Park entertained us all with his incredible journey through television and the programs made here in Knoxville called "Scruffy City TV: The Production Industry in Knoxville." All had a wonderful time and learned so much about our lovely city.

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Remembering to Remember

By: Rabbi Adam J. Rosebaum

There are many unique rituals to mark the secular New Year. When the clock strikes midnight in Spain, some people eat 12 grapes, one for good luck for each month of the year. In Denmark, neighbors place shards of broken plates on their friends' doorsteps, believing that the broken shards are signs of good luck. There was even once a tradition in Romania in which farmers would listen to their animals, and if they heard their animals talk, it was a sign of bad luck.

In the United States and other places, many croon the Scottish folk song "Auld Lang Syne" – which is comforting to many, and bewildering to others. In the movie "When Harry Met Sally", Harry wonders aloud on New Year's Eve what he is singing. "My whole life, I don't know what this song means," he says. "I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot? Does that mean that we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happened to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot?'"

Beneath his query lies an important question regarding the passage of time: What are the consequences of forgetting? And why is the memory of the past so important when we stand on the precipice of moments that seem fresh and new?

The start of the book of Exodus text tells us that a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. This king enslaves the Israelites and plunges them into years of despair. The Talmudic tractate of Sotah notes a disagreement regarding who this king is. According to Rav, he is actually new; in other words, the verse speaks of a man who is newly installed as the Pharaoh. But according to Shmuel, this king is actually the same Pharaoh who had been in power all along; he is merely creating new laws that make him seem like an entirely different ruler than he had been before. According to this interpretation, this Pharaoh indeed knows of Joseph, and understands that Joseph had saved Egypt from years of poverty and despair. Yet, as the Talmud explains, the king acts as if he did not know Joseph.



Rav and Shmuel's disagreement allows us to consider that Pharaoh perpetrates horrible deeds due to not one, but two possible mistakes: the mistake of ignoring the past, and the mistake of not bothering to learn it in the first place. And these mistakes lead to not only the suffering of the Israelite slaves, but also, eventually, the suffering of the Egyptians due to the ten plagues. The Pharaoh's lack of memory costs many people dearly.

The 19th century Polish writer Isaac Peretz said that "a people's memory is history; and as a man without a memory, so a people without a history cannot grow wiser, better." Likewise, the memories we hold today are the building blocks that allow us to grow. Whenever we have the chance to move forward, we must choose whether we will make the mistake of being unconcerned with our memories, or whether we will keep them in mind.

January 1 may well be the secular New Year. Yet, even as a religious community, we should take advantage of opportunities to learn the lessons of history. If we occupy ourselves with memory, it might be as good as the good-luck charms that we find at New Year's Day in other cultures. In fact, we will be creating good luck of our own.

Things About Heska Amuna You Want to Know

Author: Mark Siegel, Chair of Heska Amuna

1. Heska Amuna's Zoom of our services is world class. Developed by Zoom master Doug Weinstein, our system has multiple adjustable cameras, which provide different shots of the bimah and the Congregation, including the famous picture of the open Torah scroll as it is being read (when we can get an unobstructed view). We follow the Torah procession through the sanctuary. When Doug is running the Zoom, he provides captions and other special effects. Actual comment from a viewer: "Thanks to Doug, Heska Amuna has the best camera work on a Shabbat Zoom minyan that I have ever seen."

2. A woman who had moved to Tellico Village was touring our sanctuary and saw our Yahrzeit tablets. She indicated she wanted to get a plaque for her son. When the information for Jason Cayne came in, his date of death was September 11, 2001. Jason died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. He was 32 and left behind a wife and three children. <https://www.atlantajewishtimes.com/911-story-shows-power-faith-family/>. Jason's plaque now hangs in our sanctuary, a permanent memorial at Heska Amuna Synagogue. This year, we said Kaddish for Jason on the anniversary of his passing. We will do

so every year, as we do for all those who have Yahrzeit plaques at Heska Amuna.

3. The name Heska Amuna means nothing, in any language. The first Jews of Heska Amuna were primarily newly arrived refugees of Eastern European origin. They were fleeing violent anti-Semitism. Many were scratch merchants, eking out a living. They were not very good with the English. When they named the Congregation, they were reportedly going for Chaskei Emunah, Defenders of the Faith. Heska Amuna is simply a typo. That's where we came from. We own it.

4. There is a bullet hole in the glass window in our sanctuary. We did not see it before the sanctuary was closed, because it was blocked by the Ark. When the Ark was moved to the Rosen Social Hall, however, the light shining through the hole was hard to miss. Apparently, the hole was created in January 2009, during the First Gaza War. The Temple sustained more damage than we did, on the same night. There are no current plans to remove the evidence of the vandalism.

Adeline Di Salvo-Tinley to Become Bat Mitzvah!



Adeline Di Salvo-Tinley will become a bat mitzvah on December 20, 2025. Addy attended the AJCC preschool and KJDS (with one semester of elementary school conducted in Flemish at De Kleine Stad in Antwerp, Belgium). She is a current seventh-grade student at Bearden Middle School, where she is a member of the Science Olympiad team. She enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons, collaboratively writing speculative fiction with her friends, all forms of summer leisure involving water (lake, shore, pool), and spending time with her family. She chose her bat mitzvah date because the evening of December 20 is the seventh day of Hannukah, and she is partial to the story of Judith slaying Holofernes. Her family would like to thank her tutor, Mary Ann Merrell, for her excellent support.

Hanukkah Around the World

Laura Floyd, President

Most would agree that if you ask a child to name the most important Jewish holiday, they will say Hanukkah. After all, it's eight nights of candle lighting, eating special foods fried in oil, spinning dreidels, singing fun songs, retelling the story of the mighty Maccabees, and gifts. I was curious if traditions and foods were similar around the world.

Here is some of what I discovered. While sufganiyot and latkes are very popular in Israel, Jews display their menorahs outside their homes instead of in the window. In Columbia and Cuba, Jews eat fried plantains instead of potato latkes. Jews in Morocco eat donuts made with orange juice and zest instead of latkes, and they hang their menorahs on a hook in the doorway next to the mezuzah. Avignon, located in southern France, is renowned for its wineries. During the Saturday night that falls during Hanukkah, after Shabbat ends, the Jews open a new bottle of local wine in their homes and

make a toast. Then, each family travels around their neighborhood to taste the wines chosen by their neighbors and to toast to the miracle of Hanukkah.

However, the most interesting and relatively new tradition I found is that now we have a second holiday to celebrate dairy other than Shavuot. So, when you're getting a little overwhelmed with all things fried in oil, switch to blintzes, cheese latkes, cheesecake, and other dairy delights. This is to honor the heroism of Judith, the brave woman who is credited with saving Jerusalem from the Assyrian general by feeding him salty cheese to make him thirsty and then enough wine to cause him to pass out, at which point she beheaded him. So, as you light your menorahs, eat potato latkes and sing songs, don't forget the cheesecake for dessert.

Happy Hanukkah! Chag Chanuka Sameach!

Yom Kippur Appeal Clearly Has Appeal

Author: Mary Ann Merrell – Fundraising and Development Vice Chair

Exceeds Expectations. For all of us who have gone through performance reviews in our work world, this is perhaps the most meaningful rating we seek. It reflects not only that you did what you were asked to do, but perhaps more importantly, that your efforts were recognized and valued as being more than simply getting the job done that you were asked to do.

This year's Yom Kippur Appeal most certainly exceeded expectations - but not only in raising significantly more than the goal set by our Board of Trustees, which it most certainly

did. This year's appeal was supported by more members of our community, many who pledged more than they had in years past, and many who participated for the first time. This year's appeal reflects a diverse community that sees the importance of intentional action and personal commitments - and willing support to help Heska Amuna Synagogue grow and be viable in the years to come. This year's appeal indeed had appeal.

We will note all of our donors in the next issue of HaKol.

Contributions by Caring People

Through October 31, 2025

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In Memory of Natan Naumann
Trudy Dreyer

President's Message

Author: Judith Rosenberg, KJA President

Dear Community Members:

During days that sometimes feel dark and heavy, Chanukah makes a case for light, brightness, and joy. I hope your families' celebrations and your personal observances remind you that even the smallest amount of light can add warmth to places and spaces that might seem very dark.

This is a holiday that builds tradition from things that can feel indulgent (oily food, sweets that are dripping with jelly) and shows us that big results can be generated from small, determined groups of people who stand up for what they believe. The values we can take from the Chanukah story like courage, resiliency and religious freedom are great reminders for me during a time when I usually need them.

My favorite part is that the goodness doesn't need to be fancy, and it builds for over a week. It's friends, family, candlelight, dreidels, and a shared sense of peoplehood that grows stronger every night.

May we celebrate the generations of Jews before us who have honored this Festival of Light.

May we remember those who are no longer with us to kindle flames and bask in the glow. May we hold space for those who are too scared or uncertain to openly celebrate. And, may we be reminded of the miracles around us of all shapes and sizes.

Chag Chanukah Sameach!
Shine your light! We need it!



Knoxville Jewish Alliance



2025 Annual Meeting Thursday, December 18

6:00pm Chanukah Candle Lighting & Sufganiyot

6:30pm KJA Annual Meeting & Election

Join us for a Celebration of Light, as we honor the season,
reflect on 2025, and embrace the hope of 2026.

Open to KJA Donors and AJCC Members

KJA Welcomes Shannon Martindale, Director of Programming



Shannon Martindale is thrilled to join the Knoxville Jewish Alliance as part-time Director of Programming. She brings more than 20 years of experience leading teams, streamlining operations, and strengthening organizations through a blend of strategy, empathy, and service. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Valdosta State University as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Beyond her professional life, Shannon is passionate about giving back to the community and has volunteered with organizations like Knoxville Opera, Limmud Atlanta & SE, and the European Training Centre for Human Rights and Democracy.

Shannon can most often be found spending time with her beloved rescue cats and making friendship bracelets for the next Taylor Swift tour. She wholeheartedly believes joy, curiosity, and connection are just as important to building thriving communities as strong leadership and strategy.

Confronting Modern Antisemitism: A Weekend with Evan Bernstein

By: Tara Bain, KJA Director of Community Engagement

Evan Bernstein, Vice President of Community Relations at Jewish Federations of North America, joined Hillel students, Jewish Family Services' L&L program, and the broader Jewish community at Temple Beth El to lead vital conversations on modern antisemitism and its impact on the Jewish collective. His visit, hosted by the Knoxville Jewish Alliance, emphasized the importance of understanding contemporary challenges while fostering leadership, dialogue, and resilience among students and community members alike.

He encouraged Jewish students at the University of Tennessee to engage thoughtfully, take initiative in building community with their peers and the UTK administration, and stand confidently against antisemitism. He also highlighted the

impactful collaboration between JFNA and Hillel International in supporting Jewish students on campus.

Through the L&L program, Evan left a lasting impression on all. His visit reinforced the power of education, engagement, and community in strengthening the Jewish presence in Knoxville.

At Temple Beth El, Evan's session inspired reflection across generations, highlighting actionable ways to create a safe, inclusive, and connected community in Knoxville. His approachable style made complex issues accessible, empowering participants to learn, ask questions, and take meaningful action both personally and collectively.



Celebrate Hanukkah at Home



Play Dreidel!

A fun way to remember the Hanukkah story. The letters stand for Ness Gadol Haya Sham - a great miracle happened there! Unless you have an Israeli dreidel which say Ness Gadol Haya Po - a great miracle happened here!

Watch Videos!

Scan the QR below for a link to the Shaboom Hanukkah Special. Many cartoon favorites have Hanukkah episodes too - including Elena of Avalor, Spidey and His Amazing Friends, and the all-time classic Rugrats!



Hanukkah at School!

Are you the "Hanukkah parent" at school? Check out the blog post "Sharing Hanukkah at School" on pjlibrary.org for great resources and ideas! Need to borrow books, dreidels, etc.? Email pj@jewishknoxville.org



Light Candles!

Whether you use candles or electric bulbs, light the menorah each night and say the blessings together!

Eat!

Latkes, jelly donuts, chocolate gelt, and more - YUM!!



Read Books!

PJ Library has the Ultimate List of Children's Books About Hanukkah for all ages from board books to chapter books. They have books highlighting Sephardic and Interfaith families too.

For more ideas, visit pjlibrary.org/hanukkah, and check out the free download [A Time to Hope](#), a PJ Library family guide.

Dr. King, our dream is for all people to...



“ Give people hugs. ”
- Logan, 5

“ Don't be mean or scary like a dragon. ”
- James, 2

“ Make new friends. ”
- Josie, 3

“ Share with different people. ”
- Lexia, 5

“ Always play with kids, even big kids. ”
- Kate, 2

“ Love people. ”
- Michael, 5

“ Give hugs & kisses. ”
- Zayin Class, 3-4

“ Be kind to everyone and be strong. ”
- Benji, 4

“ Help people up. ”
- Evan, 3

Be a Light in the Community

As we gather to celebrate **Hanukkah**, we are reminded that even one small light has the power to brighten the darkest nights. This season, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance celebrates the many lights that have illuminated our community throughout the year such as the lights of learning, compassion, and tzedakah.

2025 has truly been a **year of giving and gratitude**. Together, we have strengthened Jewish life in Knoxville through educational programs, cultural celebrations, and vital community-building events. From hosting **Evan Bernstein's powerful discussion on modern antisemitism**, to supporting youth education, summer camps, holiday gatherings, and outreach programs, every initiative has been made possible by the generosity of our members and donors. Your support fuels everything we do such as keeping our Jewish community vibrant, secure, and connected.

As we close this meaningful year and look forward to 2026, we invite you to be a light of hope once again. Your **end-of-year gift** to the KJA ensures that the values of tzedakah and community continue to shine brightly through education, advocacy, and shared celebration. Together, we can carry the flame of Jewish life forward, lighting the way for generations to come.



Give today. Be the light that strengthens tomorrow.

Donate at Jewishknoxville.org/kja-donate or scan the QR code.

KJA Contributions

As of October 30, 2025

GENERAL DONATION

William Purushotham
Frank Ramey

Pat Rosenberg
Larry Silverstein
Ellen Schnoll
Marilyn Woh

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Alexandra Rosen
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KJA ARCHIVES

David Beerman
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HILLEL AT UTK

Debra Cohen

Learning in Motion at KJDS

Author: Sarah Butcher, Administrative Operations Coordinator

Step into the Knoxville Jewish Day School (KJDS), and you'll quickly see that learning happens everywhere—not just within classroom walls. One day, kindergarten and first-grade students turned the hallway into a hands-on science lab, testing pulley systems they had built in the STEAM lab. Working in teams, they experimented with lifting each other—and even their teacher—bringing concepts of force and motion to life with laughter, curiosity, and collaboration.

That spirit of exploration runs through every grade at KJDS. In another classroom, students used Oreo cookies to model the phases of the moon—discovering that science can be both delicious and illuminating. Older students have taken on real-world engineering challenges, learning to use

power tools safely as they design and build new games for all students to enjoy on the playground. Across the school, lessons are designed to be active, meaningful, and connected to the world around them.

Guided by Jewish values and a deep commitment to whole-child learning, KJDS nurtures not only academic excellence but also empathy, creativity, and confidence. Students are encouraged to take risks, ask big questions, and support one another as they learn.

At KJDS, education is anything but static—it's joyful, hands-on, and rooted in the values that shape not only bright minds but kind hearts.



Where Are They Now - KJDS Class of 2013



Ben Ebel, sixth from left, with his Naval work team

Ben Ebel

KJDS helped me break out of my shell and become confident and outgoing. That confidence led me to the lead role in my high school performance of Newsies and to joining the cheerleading squad at my university, performing in front of thousands.

Today, I live in Panama City Beach, Florida, and work as a cybersecurity engineer for the Navy. I earned my bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 2024 and am now pursuing a master's in cybersecurity at the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Yuval Koenig posing in front of one of her recent art projects

Yuval Koenig

KJDS encouraged me to try new things through activities like gym, music, clubs, and drama, which helped me become more open and confident. That curiosity led me to discover my passion for design.

Now, I'm living in Tel Aviv and studying Visual Communications at Shenkar College, focusing on UI/UX and branding. I also love traveling and exploring Europe whenever I get the chance, and I'm excited to see where my career takes me—whether here in Israel or beyond.



Matias Landua receiving his rabbinical ordination

Matias Landua

KJDS encouraged me to explore my interests in math, Hebrew, and soccer, and it was there that the flames of my passion for Judaism were fanned. Those experiences helped me become confident, focused, and curious, and that drive stayed with me as I grew.

Today, I'm thrilled to have achieved my dream and received my rabbinical ordination! I continue to be inspired by learning and leadership—and yes, I still love to play soccer. I'm excited to see where my journey takes me next!

Sukkah Hopping Around Knoxville!

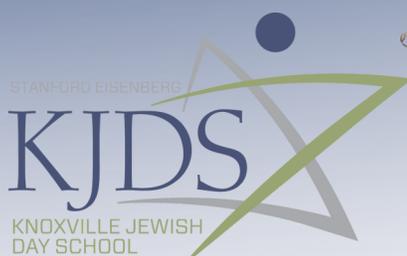
The Knoxville Jewish Day School's annual Sukkah Hop was a joyful journey through our community! This year, students visited a family's sukkah, Heska Amuna, Temple Beth El, and the Arnstein Jewish Community Center, where we joined the preschoolers (and lots of siblings!)

before ending at Chabad for a special visit with Mayor Glen Jacobs. Exploring the many sukkahs around town helps our students feel connected, engaged, and part of something bigger—a true celebration of community and unity.



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WHERE LEARNING IS A PASSION AND
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Looking Back at an Unforgettable High Holiday Season at Chabad!

By: Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm

What a season of connection! From meaningful meals to joyful celebrations, our community came together in so many ways. Here's the High Holidays **in numbers**:

90 participants enjoyed a delicious and meaningful Rosh Hashana Dinner.

3 "world cakes" were decorated by our children — celebrating the birthday of the world at our Rosh Hashana kids' service.

50 guests stayed overnight at the Crowne Plaza, joining many others for inspiring services blending Sephardic and Ashkenazic tunes.

100 friends joined us to break the fast — a true moment of connection after 24 hours of service.

200 meals were served in our gigantic Chabad sukkah during the first two days of Sukkot.

150 individualized pizzas baked in Ooni ovens delighted participants at Chabad's Sukkot Family Festival

1 turtle from Israel joined a baby llama, baby pony, mini cow and 2 goats, bringing extra joy to festival participants.

7 Hakafot were danced with a record-breaking crowd during Simchat Torah.

Looking Back at an Unforgettable High Holiday Season at Chabad!

By: Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm

Nineteen years ago, Simchat Torah was pure joy — Mendel had just been born, and I'll never forget watching my father, brothers, and Rabbi Yossi dance with Baby Mendel before celebrating Hakafot with our community.

This year, that same joy returned. As we began Simchat Torah — still uplifted from the hostages' return — nearly 200 people filled The Light House, dancing with the Torah for the miracles we've witnessed, and prayers answered.

The night was alive with singing, break dancers, a

festive dinner, children on shoulders for Hakafot, and endless circles of dancing and connection.

The grand finale — holding pictures of the returned hostages high as we danced and sang, thanking g-d that they are finally home — was unforgettable. Even the bartender said it was one of her favorite nights ever: "the joy was palpable."

From meaningful meals to joyous dancing, this season reminded us that at Chabad, every celebration is about joy, connection, and community — and if you haven't yet experienced it firsthand, we'd love to see you at an upcoming event and share it with you.



Rhythms of Time

By: Rabbi Ahuvah Loewenthal

Mordecai Kaplan famously reflected on how U. S. Jews are “living in two civilizations.” Living as a minority, each Jewish community in the diaspora must uniquely navigate choices. And living far from major U.S. Jewish population centers sharpens what may feel like a dilemma: to what degree do we participate in the dominant culture, and to what degree do we maintain our distinctiveness? As social creatures, if we hold ourselves apart from the general local community that surrounds us, we may feel lonely, we may overlook tangible support being offered to us, we may miss opportunities to do good where we live.

And yet, sometimes our full participation in the non-Jewish world conflicts with the traditions and values that form the bedrock of our identities.

Ideally, diaspora Jews will find ways to join our neighbors in meaningful pursuits without compromising our own cultural and religious integrity.

A common experience while “living in two civilizations” is feeling the push and pull of two different ways of reckoning time. In the diaspora we follow the rhythms of the secularized Christian calendar. I contrast this with the amazing experience of two years living in Israel, following the rhythms of the Jewish calendar.

The week centered around preparing for and celebrating Shabbat. The work week began on Sunday morning and ended on Thursday night, or perhaps with a short partial day on Friday. Most Israeli Jews gathered for a special family meal on Friday night, whether or not they went to synagogue. On erev Shabbat, the Yarkon Park was full of picnicking families who decorated their table sites with festive balloons.

The wares of the purveyors at the shuk (open air market) as well as those of less formal peddlers reflected the Jewish year’s changing seasons. Pomegranates and honey candies abounded before Rosh HaShanah. Toward the end of Sukkot, boys hawked bunches of willows for Hoshana Rabbah. Sufganiyot (filled doughnuts) were everywhere, ranging from basic jelly doughnuts at corner bakeries to the highly elaborate creations by Roladin. Dreidels (s’vivonim) with the letter “peh” (a great miracle happened HERE) were easy to find in December.

Magnificent assortments of dried fruits appeared in the weeks before Tu BiSh’vat. Hamantaschen and pre-assembled shalach manot (gift baskets) were available leading up to Purim. Restaurants announced whether they would close for Passover or plan a Passover-only menu following a deep cleaning. Food stores were plunged into chaos as shelves were purged of non-Passover foods and quarantined behind plastic curtains.

Boys peddled wood for LaG BaOmer bonfires. In Jerusalem, free coffee stands enlivened those relishing the Shavuot all night study opportunities, while kibbutzim offered harvest festivals.

Returning to the diaspora, I am still nostalgic for that experience of communally living by the Jewish calendar. In the U.S. in general, and especially here in the Baptist Belt of East Tennessee, Friday night and Saturday are considered free time, while Sunday is a day for religious observance. Jewish people who refrain from doing commerce on Shabbat regret having to miss out on countless arts and recreational opportunities.

A high point of the secularized Christian year is Christmas. Many families that include Jewish and non-Jewish members observe Christmas together. Jews whose friendship groups are mostly comprised of Christmas celebrators will field many social invitations.

My experience of these gatherings has ranged from comfortable to highly awkward. I am happy to be a guest sharing in others’ Christmas joy with people who understand that I like hanging out with them but that it isn’t my holiday.

A particularly bizarre phenomenon was the December office party organized by a well-meaning supervisor. Although labeled a “holiday party” it was a Christmas party with an apologetic gesture toward the one Jewish employee, me. Whether or not Chanukah is actually long past, my fellow workers assume that their awareness of Chanukah can unlock a path for my parallel participation in the team party. While their intention to help me feel included warms my heart, their solution of doing so by erasing or minimizing our difference is uncomfortable.

For years, articulate Jewish educators have been explaining that Chanukah is not the “Jewish Christmas.” They trace the evolution of Chanukah from a minor holiday with a few simple ritual observances to what it has become today – a multi-million-dollar commercial extravaganza. Try as we might, it’s hard to convince many non-Jews that Chanukah is not our most important Jewish holiday.

My fellow Jewish educators expend much energy and social media time trying to call attention to our truly most important High Holy Days, the literal start of our Jewish calendar year. In the month of Elul, we begin reflecting on our aspirations to be our best selves in the upcoming year. Through introspection, repair of relationships, and communal gathering, we set ourselves up right to launch into the New Year. So it’s a bit unsettling when January 1st comes and suddenly we are surrounded by talk of New Year’s Resolutions, which we were making three months earlier.

How can a diaspora Jew navigate “living in two civilizations” with equanimity? One model is to participate in the dominant culture as a cheerful guest. The other side of this model of hospitality is to welcome non-Jews to learn about us and celebrate alongside us as our guests.

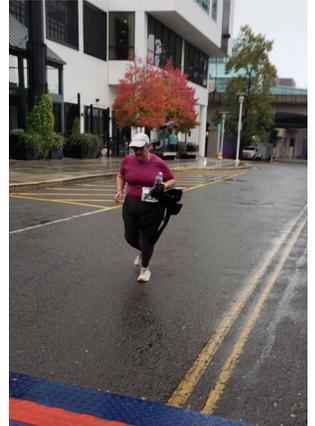
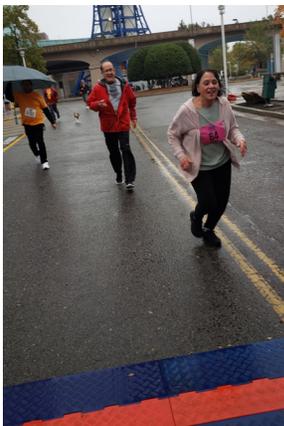
A third interesting possibility was suggested by a lovely recent Rosh Chodesh gathering. We received a packet published by At The Well (www.atthewellproject.com) for Rosh Chodesh Marchesvan, “A Moon Manual for Cheshvan 5786.” The theme of this collection of rituals and essays is “Integrating.” The month after the spiritual intensity of the High Holy Days and Sukkot festival could be understood as a letdown. But another approach is to see this post-Chag period as a quieter time to reflect on all we thought and felt during the peak of our holy days. We are encouraged to integrate our recent learning and aspirations into the ordinary time which now stretches before us. So too, we have choices about how to regard the disjunction of trying to live in the rhythms of Jewish time while participating in a dominant culture running on a secularized Christian calendar. We can feel pulled in all kinds of directions. We can isolate ourselves. We can, despairing, minimize or even drop our own traditions. But another approach is to bring a Jewish gaze with us always. Let’s continue to nurture our Elul and Rosh HaShanah insights and goals throughout 5786, using January 1st as a quarterly checkup.



JCOR/CA Team Thatch



THE 2025 RACE AGAINST CANCER!



JEWISH CONGREGATION OF OAK RIDGE

Chanukah Sale 2025

JCOR Sisterhood's Annual CHANUKAH GIFT SALE!

December 7, 2025

10:00am - 2:00pm

101 W Madison Lane - Oak Ridge, TN



Chanukah Party 2025 Invite

JCOR SISTERHOOD
INVITES YOU TO:
*Bring Your Menorah to our
Chanukah Celebration*

DECEMBER 14TH AT 5:30PM

A delightful craft adventure for kids, along with an educational segment for adults, kicks off at ****4:00 PM****. Then, at ****5:30 PM****, we will celebrate our annual family Chanukah gathering featuring songs, candle lighting, and plenty of family fun, topped off with a delicious dinner. To wrap up the festivities, the kids will have the chance to break a piñata filled with candy!

\$10 adults and free for under 13

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YOM KIPUR APPEAL

\$30K

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Thank You...

Third Sundays: Sisterhood Game Day

SISTERHOOD GAME DAY!



THIRD SUNDAYS

1 – 5 PM

Whether you're here to play games - including the opportunity to learn Mah Jongg! - or enjoy good company while doing a jigsaw puzzle or crafting, we'd love to see you on the third Sunday of the month. Snacks and drinks are provided, and feel free to bring something parve or dairy to share

ALL KINDS OF GAMES
EVERYONE IS WELCOME



KJCFF Israel Partnership Fund needs another Partner

The relationship between Israel and the American Jewish community is different today than it was two years ago. For some, that relationship is closer and stronger. For some it is more distant and lessened. As a community, we can't ignore this and must increase our efforts to build and improve the partnership. KJCFF holds KJA's Israel Partnership Fund. The balance is just \$6,000 as it was created as a start-up rather than a completed endowment. This can be a highly effective grant-making fund if the balance were to have another zero or two. We have a lot of work to do with the diaspora-Israel partnership and local community programming provides the most leverage. A strong endowment could support travel scholarships, exchanges, educational and cultural programming and other types of relationship-building interaction.

If you want to talk about growing our partnership with Israel, call Stephen at 865-599-1853.

Leave your Bequest to KJCFF now so we can Thank You in Person

Many of us are fortunate to be able to leave bequests to community organizations in our wills. The process can be estate-tax efficient, operationally easy for executors and beneficial for our local Jewish organizations. The only problem is we can't thank you in person. If you have the financial flexibility, how about gifting your bequest to KJCFF now? You will get the same estate tax benefits plus an income tax deduction. If you make the gift to the organization now, we can work with you on tailoring the grants during your lifetime. You can't retain control, but you can serve on an advisory committee. After your passing, the funds can fully revert to the beneficiary's advisory committee under KJCFF ownership.

If you want to set the date for your appreciation reception, email Stephen at Stephen.rosen@raymondjames.com.

KJCFF accepts online donations for all of our funds!

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

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS: Giving Time is Tzedakah

Author: Barbara Mintz: Chapter President

We are asked during the Holiday season to give money to our Jewish organizations. In November our Chapter seeks funds for our Hadassah Medical Organization fundraiser and for Youth Aliyah. It needs to be recognized that many family units do not have "extra" money to give. Many pull back to not have to say NO again. There is an equally valuable source of giving and that is giving some of your **TIME**.

We are all required to give tzedakah, the giving of charity regardless of our financial status. **GIVING YOUR TIME is a wonderful form of tzedakah if you are poor or rich!** We think of giving to the needy yet it is also tzedakah to give to each other. You could give your time at a registration table, make calls or texts, bring refreshments, or ask someone "need any help?". All activities and events necessitate peoples' efforts to sustain them.

Organizations are businesses and they need both funds and active members to keep running. If we want to network, learn, share in a Jewish community, etc. then some will need to give more of themselves, though it does not always need to be gigantic pieces of time. You can serve in some way to a board even if you are not willing to be a board member. You could commit to chairing, or co-chairing, or being a member on some committee. The point is, you do not have to take on the biggest roles as all supports give tzedakah!

All of our local Jewish Organizations truly need more of your **TIME**. Join in!

Hanukkah: What Really Happened?

Author: Dale Rosenberg, Hadassah VP for Education

Hanukkah is an unusual holiday. Like many Jewish holidays, it celebrates a story from our distant past. Hanukkah is the story of the Maccabean Revolt and the beginning of the Hasmonean Dynasty that ruled in ancient Israel. Like some other Jewish holidays, there are varying views on just what the celebration commemorates. Does it celebrate the military victory, as the Al HaNissim prayer suggests? Or the Miracle of the Oil, a story emerging only hundreds of years later? Is it about fighting against an outside power, or against assimilation? Perhaps it is all of the above.

Unlike our other longstanding holidays, the events that occurred during and after the Maccabean Revolt have contemporaneous historical accounts. We can read and compare those with the story as told later in liturgy and rabbinic sources. The Books of First and Second Maccabees were Jewish texts when they were written but were preserved only because they later became part of the Christian bible. The books of the Maccabees don't always agree with other historical texts of the time, or with the later renditions of the story that were preserved by Jewish tradition, or even with each other.

Is it possible to compare a variety of sources and figure out what really happened? We're going to try to do just that at Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge on December 10 at 7:00. Want to join us?

Let me know at daleqr@gmail.com. All are welcome.

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2026 Hadassah Membership Directory Update

Author: Julie Stein, Directory Chair

Hadassah is excited to be in the process of putting together the 2026 Membership Directory. As part of the 2026 Membership Directory, Hadassah would like to update all current members' information, including **names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses**. Therefore, Hadassah is asking you to send **all updates** to Julie Stein at juliestein18@gmail.com by **December 31, 2025**. In addition, if there is any of the above-listed information you would prefer not to be included in your listing in the 2026 Membership Directory, please also send that to Julie Stein.

In addition, another part of the 2026 Membership Directory is the Memorial Section, also know as the Yahrzeit Section. The Memorial Section is a section of the Directory where people may place memorials in remembrance of those that have passed but will never be forgotten and whose memories will always remain a blessing. If you would like to place such a memorial, please contact Julie Stein at juliestein18@gmail.com.

Finally, the 2026 Hadassah Membership Directory Team is always looking for new volunteers! We need solicitors, proofreaders, and content creators!! If you are interested, please contact Julie Stein at juliestein18@gmail.com.

HADASSAH
Knoxville - Oak Ridge

Coming Early 2026

The Knoxville-Oak Ridge Directory, Shopping Guide & Datebook

Ad Rates	Yahrzeit Rates
Quarter (1/4) Page: \$110	Memorial Page Third (1/3) Page: \$75
Third (1/3) Page: \$130	Full Page: \$125
Half (1/2) Page: 150	In Memoriam (75 characters): \$36
Full Page: \$250	

Advertising in the Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Directory:
-Supports Hadassah's many worthwhile projects
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Join the directory team!
We are always happy to welcome new solicitors, proofreaders, and content creators.

Any questions, please reach out to Julie Stein at juliestein18@gmail.com

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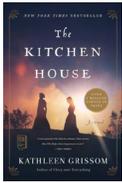
<https://bit.ly/KnoxvilleOakRidgeMembershipDirectory2026>

Book Club News December 2025 & January 2026 Books

Author: Rhonda Sternfels

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

We always select our books. Email book suggestions for next year to Harriet Cooper spock52@prodqiy.net



THE KITCHEN HOUSE BY KATHLEEN GRISSOM DECEMBER 16, 2025

Young Irish Lavinia arrives in the US in the 19th century and is placed as an indentured servant at Virginia plantation. She learns to straddle the worlds of the white big house and the black kitchen.



THE BRIAR CLUB BY KATE QUINN JANUARY 20, 2026

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

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

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The Knosh Spot

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services

Decadent Fudge Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter or margarine (softened)
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ cup semi sweet chocolate mini morsels (divided)
- 2 (4oz) bars sweet baking chocolate, melted and cooled
- ⅓ cup chocolate syrup
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 oz white chocolate chopped
- 2 tablespoons & 2 teaspoons of shortening divided
- chocolate & white chocolate leaves (optional)

Directions:

- Cream butter in a large mixing bowl; gradually add sugar, beating well at medium speed of an electric mixer. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition.
- Dissolve soda in buttermilk, stirring well. Add creamed mixture alternately with flour, beginning and ending with flour. Add 1 cup of mini morsels, melted chocolate, chocolate syrup and vanilla, stirring just until blended. (Do not over beat)
- Spoon batter into heavily greased and floured 10 inch bundt pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 1 hour and 25-35 minute or until cake springs back when touched. Invert cake immediately onto serving plate, and let cool completely.
- Combine 4 ounces chopped white chocolate and 2 tablespoons shortening in top of double boiler; ring water to a boil. Reduce heat to low; cook until mixture is melted and smooth. Remove from heat. Drizzle melted white chocolate over cooled cake. Melt remaining ½ cup mini morsels and 2 teaspoons shortening in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat, and let cool; drizzle over white chocolate. If desired, garnish with chocolate and white chocolate leaves. Yield: 10 in cake.

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Yahrzeits



Temple Beth El

December 5

Ben Altshuler • Shiela Belensen • Bessie Gelber •
Thelma Ham • Ella Heart • Rose Holz •
Arlene Karklin • Iris Kenton • Werner Mangold •
Sadie Rich Miller • David Rayman • Faye Raymon •
Phyllis Stein • Meyer Weintraub

December 12

Sondra Bressler • Ruth Brown • Gladys Caller •
Phillip Engel • Mary Epstein • Anna Gassel •
Matilda Goodfriend • Lillian Herrmann •
Joseph Krinsky • Emmett Ledbetter • Elise Levy •
Edwin Miller • Jacob Pais • Joseph Rabin •
Zakhar Sapozhnikov • Jacob Victor

December 19

Linda Barber • Frances Brody • Greer Brody •
Eugene Cohn • Gersh Dolgonos • Nelda Doss •
James Friedman • Abraham Garber •
Minnie Goldberger • Elise R. Guthman •
Lillie Haas • Edith Hecht • Emily Keisler •
Jennie Levitt • Charles Manis • Frances Pfeiffer •
Louis Pollock • Dorothy Reiter • Camille Sene •
Artie Shagan • Benjamin Slate • Harold Winston •
Naftule Zauber

December 26

Terry Bain • Lena Loveman Bloom •
Barbara Dillon • Mandel Epstein •
Esther Feldman • Leah Freeman •
Florence Straus Gerson • Sigmund Green •
Robert Keisler • Risel Kronick • Ann Lieberman •
Abraham Markman • Jacob Nechamkin •
Ted Pais • Richard Raskin • Charles Robinson •
Samuel H. Robinson • William Rockmaker •
Harry Sturm • Gertrude Tucker • Lena Walowitz •
Lucy Williams

January 2

Rosa Bart • Mildred Bletz • Robert Bletz •
Tammie Brodie • Irene Fox • Jean Fribourg •
Luba Golburt • Ricka Goodfriend • Elizabeth Gunn •
William Haas • Ida Kaminsky • Samuel Levy •
Fannie Lindy • Anna Livshits • Sam Morrison •
Lena Silverman Moskowitz • Pauline Orovan •
Sandy Parsons • Eileen Pucci • Esther Reich •
Sanford (Sandy) Sachs Dorothy Schwaratz •
Abe Schwartz • Lillian S. Weiss • Ben Winick • Lois
Wolpert

January 9

Marcus Bressler • Harry Bronstein • William Egan •
Mildred Erwin • Alexander Feldblum • Elise Hyatt •
Millie James • Lena B. Konigsberg • Robert Oury •
Robert (Bob) Parsons • Roger Simon • Arthur Slome •
Helen Tumpson • Raphael Wolpert • Bella Zavels

January 16

Ralph Barnett • Fannie Liebman Beiler • Isadore Beiler •
Walter Blaufeld • Minette Clark • Henrietta Feldblum •
Marilyn Gottlieb • Harold Stanley Harris • Milton Heller •
William Hicks • Minnie Hochenberg •
Mary Kichler Licht • Marie Noon • Ceil Rosenberg •
Samuel Webber • Stanley Webster • Robert Zivi •
Max Zuckerman

January 23

Maxine Arbital • Bailey Barash • Frank Bernard •
Mary Bernard • Ethel Brown • Joseph Herman Bush •
Bill Dillon • Robert Goldstein • Muriel Greenbert •
Henry Handler • Theodore Hecht • John Kelleher •
Ella Marx • Cecil Nichols • Sarah Vendig Samuel •
Helen Sandberg • Irvin Shenkman • Alla Sherman •
Joseph Soss • Jacob Spiro • William Steinberg •
Muriel Zuckerman

January 30

Albert Bessel • Eva Bornes • Francis Buescher •
Leo Diamond • Gustave Dreyfuss • Mike Evans •
Betty Ann Feldblum • Frank Heart • Annie Joffe •
Jay David Lee • Lillian Leimsidor • Abraham Lewis •
Selda Lewis • Regina W. Lippner • Charlotte Loebel •
Boris Shusterman • Oscar Sisman • Fannie Spiro •
Jeanne Vogelfang • Tom Watson • Evalyn B. Weiss •
Carolyn Ziegler

YAHREZEITS



Heska Amuna Synagogue Yahrzeits

December 6

Sigmund Bank · Eleanor Belaief · Arthur Brown ·
Rose R. Busch · Isaac Chazen · Rachel Chazen ·
Charles Davis · David Eisenberg · Walter Floyd ·
Max Gabler · William Hershey · Bessie Hite ·
George Kramer · Bella Leeds · David Liberman ·
Meyer Linke · Isidor Lippner · Meyer Miller ·
Norman Nadler · Morris Panitz · Pace Robinson ·
Alexander Sanders · Toby Schwartz ·
Murray Schwartz · Thelma Weisberg

December 14

Betty Abrams · Gustave Deitch · Benjamin Geller ·
Eli Goldstein · Mordechai Golinkin · Sigmund Green ·
Sarah Green · Eugene Gross · Carol Harris ·
Lesley Rosenblatt · Cindy Shepler · Gertrude Weiner ·
Fannie Werner · Harold Winston

December 20

Bonny Lyn Barsky · Irene Binkley · Ethel Deitch ·
Bernard Diamond · Liebel Goldstein ·
Matilda Goodfriend · James Greenfield · Mark Hahn ·
Calvin Hahn · Irene Hershey · Helaine Jacobs ·
James Kutsubos, Sr. · Louis Levin · Madelyn Millen ·
Mitchell Robinson · Joseph Shamitz · Moe Slovis ·
Max Wolf

December 27

Frances August · Helen Billig · George Busch ·
Simon Deitch · Ben Diftler · Alvin Ellin · Robert Geller ·
Ida Glazer · Louis Glazer · Marion Goodstein ·
Idell Harris · Minnie Kramer · Barbara Leeds ·
David Mandell · Samuel Rosen · Alan Ruderman ·
Morris Schneider · William Shaw · Julius Siegel ·
Bernard Simon · Minnie Slovis · Henry Sturm ·
Florence Woolf · Andrew Zalkin · Benjamin Zwick

January 3

Lazarus Abrams · Bertha Bernstein · Nathann Busch ·
Edna Cohen · Gerson M. Corkland · Taube Diftler ·
Max Euster · Samuel Forman · Dora Friedlob ·
Hyman Gabler · Abraham Garber · Louie Herbin ·
Max Isaacs · Benjamin Joffe · Louis Levin · Rose Levy ·
Harry Lieberman · Arthur Meyer · Sam Milmot ·
Lottie Mottzman · Herbert Ogle · Isadore Rosenblatt ·
Jacqueline Russler · Sam Saroff · Selma Vogel ·
Norma Wolf

January 10

Alice Abrams · David Abramson · Mark Balloff ·
Samuel Berbergal · Joseph Bernstein · Bernard Cohen ·
Nathan Deitch · Leib Gabler · Aaron Glazer ·
Louis Gluck · Channah Goldstein · Terry Hahn ·
Adrian Harris · Maurice Lieberman · Fannie Moskowitz ·
Leonard Rader · Natalie Robinson · Leon Saroff ·
Abraham Schwartz · Helen Shersky · Melvin Shorr ·
Laurence Soloway · Stephen Sugarman ·
Stanley Webster · Jill Witten

January 17

Rose Bart · Rose Bart · Stanley Berry · Bella Bresoff ·
Elaine Brown · Nathan Diftler · Isaac Ducken ·
Zelig Frumin · Eva Isaacs · Isreal Kauffman ·
Sam Morrison · Charles O'Brien · Delia Skalet ·
Ben Winick

January 24

Beverly Abrams · Celia Berry · Samuel Brown ·
Barbara Cantor · David Cohen · Shirlee Eisenberg ·
Romaine Eisenstadt · Jan Fay · Annie Joffe · Sybil Joffe ·
Gladys Johnson · James Kutsubos, Jr. · Earl Mazur ·
Marjory Rogers · Mildred Schwartz · Milton Shamitz ·
Mae Stern · Harry Tobe · Elias Ullman · Frank Winick

January 31

Madeleine Bendriem · Jacob Goodstein · Helen Hahn ·
Robert Moody · Lillian Morrison · Walter Orr ·
Rabbi David Panitz · Hilda Presser · Sarah Rubenstein ·
Hinda Scott · Rose Shapiro · Charles Silverman ·
Harry Strauss · Kim Webber



Chag Hanukkah Sameach

December 14 - 22, 2025

This Hanukkah, may we celebrate the light that connects us and strengthens our community.

— With gratitude and warm regards, KJA Board & Staff



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

The Way We Were in 1967 Hadassah Donor Luncheon



Participants in the play "Fiddling for the Loot," written by Sally **Morris** and directed by Gerri **Diftler** for the 1967 Hadassah Donor Luncheon, were, left to right, Gerri **Brown**, Judy **Kaminsky**, Margaret **Skalet**, Barbara **Leeds**, Rose **Busch**, and Barbara **Shagan**.

Barbara **Shagan-Dave** lives in Knoxville. Gerri **Diftler's** children Bob and Dona **Diftler** live in Knoxville, as do Gerri **Brown's** children Adam and Suzanne **Brown**. Barbara **Leeds's** daughter Rachel **Harris** lives in Knoxville.

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



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