

HAKOL

February 2022 • Greater Knoxville Jewish Community News

KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE
SCHWARZBART GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS
LOCAL JEWISH ARTIST



HESKA AMUNA
SYNAGOGUE

CENTER FOR MINDFULNESS
AND CREATIVITY

TEMPLE BETH EL

CELEBRATES WOMEN ARTISTS

STANFORD EISENBERG
KNOXVILLE JEWISH

DAY SCHOOL

BECOMING PART
OF AN ENSEMBLE

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Photo: Tile Hexahedron by Adam Rowe

HaKOL Monthly Publication

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

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Knoxville Jewish Alliance

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February 2022 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, FEBRUARY 1

1:00P Torah Chat w/Rabbi Boxt – TBE
8:00P Minyan – HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

4:30P Mid-Week Hebrew – TBE
5:00P Limud School - HA
6:30P Wednesday Minyan – HA
7:00P Talmud Study Group – HA
7:00P Board of Trustees - HA
7:30P Shlichim Virtual Road Trip - KJA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:00A Minyan - HA
11:00A Torah Study/Adult Education - TBE
3:00P Minyan & Talmud Chat - HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

5:48P *Candle Lighting*
12:00P Mindfulness Practice w/Rabbi – HA
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat w/Jack Love – HA
7:00P Shabbat Service w/KJA – TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:47P *Havdalah*
9:30A Shabbat School – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service w/KJA – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:30A Religious School w/ISJL – TBE
12:30P Confirmation Class – TBE
4:00P The Art of Arnold Schwartzbart – Hadassah

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8:00A Minyan - HA
6:30P KJA Executive Committee

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

1:00P Torah Chat w/Rabbi Boxt – TBE
7:00P Healing Service w/Rabbi & Steve Lewis – TBE
8:00P Minyan - HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

4:30P Mid-Week Hebrew – TBE
5:00P Limud School - HA
6:30P Wednesday Minyan – HA
7:00P Talmud Study Group – HA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:00A Minyan - HA
11:00A Torah Study/Adult Education - TBE
3:00P Minyan & Talmud Chat - HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

5:55P *Candle Lighting*
12:00P Mindfulness Practice w/Rabbi – HA
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat w/Jack Love – HA
7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

6:54P *Havdalah*
9:30A Shabbat School – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:30A Religious School – TBE
10:00A Volunteer Day - KJA
11:00A Torah Study/Adult Education - TBE
10:00A Adult Education w/Rabbi Boxt - TBE
?? P2G Red Sofa – KJA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8:00A Minyan - HA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

1:00P Torah Chat w/Rabbi Boxt – TBE
7:30P Book Club - Hadassah
8:00P Minyan - HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

4:30P Mid-Week Hebrew – TBE
5:00P Limud School - HA
6:30P Wednesday Minyan – HA
7:00P Talmud Study Group – HA
7:00P Board Meeting – Hadassah

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:00A Minyan - HA
11:00A Torah Study/Adult Education - TBE
3:00P Minyan & Talmud Chat - HA
7:00P Hello Gorgeous, Life of Barbra Streisand – HAWL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:02P *Candle Lighting*
12:00P Mindfulness Practice w/Rabbi – HA
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat - JCOR
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat w/Jack Love – HA
7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7:00P *Havdalah*
9:30A Shabbat School – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:30A Religious School – TBE
12:30P Confirmation Class – TBE
4:00P Dr. Doolittle Jr. Play – KJDS
7:30P Nefesh Mountain – HA & KJA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:00A Minyan - HA
Preschool at AJCC Closed/KJA Open

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

1:00P Torah Chat w/Rabbi Boxt – TBE
7:00P Healing Service w/Rabbi & Steve Lewis – TBE
8:00P Minyan - HA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

4:30P Mid-Week Hebrew – TBE
5:00P Limud School - HA
6:30P Wednesday Minyan – HA
7:00P Talmud Study Group – HA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:00A Minyan - HA
11:00A Torah Study/Adult Education - TBE
3:00P Minyan & Talmud Chat - HA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:09P *Candle Lighting*
12:00P Mindfulness Practice w/Rabbi – HA
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat w/Jack Love – HA
6:30P Kabbalat Shabbat w/music of Debbie Friedman - JCOR
7:00P Shabbat Service – TBE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:06P *Havdalah*
9:30A Shabbat School – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – HA
10:00A Shabbat Service – JCOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

9:30A Religious School – TBE
?? P2G Rosh Chodesh - KJA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:00A Minyan - HA

COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Art of Arnold Schwartzbart

Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge asks you to join us for The Art of Arnold Schwartzbart, presented by Mary Linda Schwartzbart.

Sunday, February 6 at 4:00pm
Presented on Zoom
Meeting ID: 884 1407 0150
Zoom Passcode: 025298

Photo: The Art of Arnold Schwartzbart

Kabbalat Shabbat Commemorating Debbie Friedman



Kabbalat Shabbat with the music of Debbie Friedman, Friday, February 25 at 6:30pm, Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge

Please join us live (health climate permitting) or on Zoom, as we commemorate Debbie's legacy with a special Shabbat featuring her musical prayer settings.

Led by Cantor Jacqueline Marx. 101 W. Madison Ln., Oak Ridge, TN. Contact: office@jcor.info

Meditation ASKS YOU TO INHALE DEEPLY.

Meditation from Sinai INSPIRES YOU TO LIVE DEEPLY.

Join Rabbi Yossi Wilhelm
Six Tuesdays, starting February 8, 2022
Fee: \$99 (textbook included)

We hope to have this course in-person. The option to join by Zoom will be available.

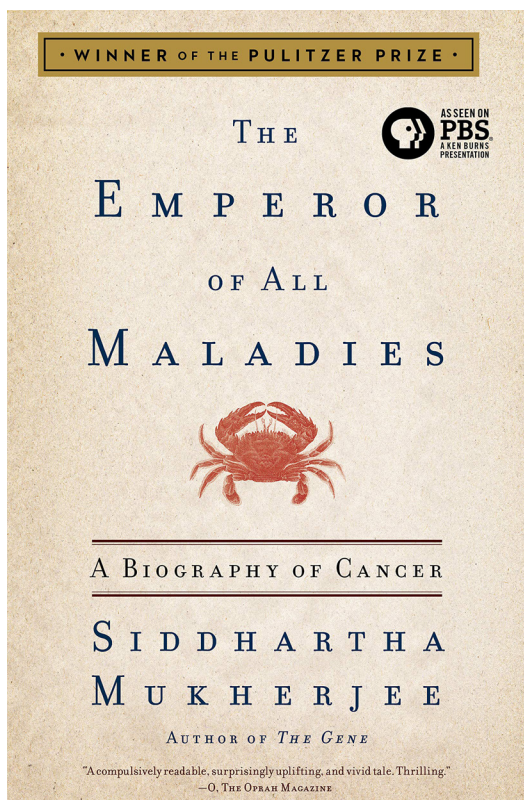
APA
APPROVED
SPONSOR

Continuing education credits are available for social workers, LMFTs, and LPCs in most states. Comments by Al and The Wellness Institute (TWI) to support by the American Psychological Association to grant continuing education for practitioners. TWI maintains responsibility for the program and its content.

Meditation FROM SINAI

SIGN UP TODAY AT
myjli.com/learn/knoxville

Hadassah of Knoxville-Oak Ridge Book Club News



By: Barbara Mintz

We welcome you to participate in our next Hadassah Book Club meeting. On February 15 we will be discussing *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukherjee. This book is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize. We will be using a zoom only format for this book club meeting and we will start at 7:30p.m.

The Emperor of All Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee:

Physician, researcher, and award-winning science writer, Siddhartha Mukherjee examines cancer with a historian's perspective and passion. The result is an eloquent chronicle of a disease that humans have lived with—and perished from—for more than five thousand years.

The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance, but also misperception. Mukherjee recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, victories, and deaths, told through the eyes of his predecessors and peers, training their wits against an infinitely resourceful adversary that, just three decades ago, was thought to be easily vanquished in an all-out “war against cancer.” The book reads like a literary thriller with cancer as the protagonist.

Please contact Barbara@bmintz.com if you have any questions or feedback. Also let her know if you have any changes in your email address or if you want to be removed from the master mailing list.

Here is a list of future book selections:

March 15: *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah

April 19: *The Winemaker's Wife* by Kristen Harmel

2022 Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Youth Aliyah Concert

It is time to make plans for the 2022 Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge Youth Aliyah Concert. This Youth Aliyah Hadassah annual event, now in its 56th year is a showcase for young musicians from all over East Tennessee chosen by audition to perform in a special honors recital. One student is also selected from the group to perform with the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra in their annual free family concert.

The competition is judged by Dan Allcott, conductor of the ORSO and a panel of professional musicians and music teachers. The full slate of judges will be announced in February 2022.

All students receive written comments from the judges following their auditions. Students of any age may audition if they have not yet graduated from high school. Since we have a large number of students at auditions and a limited amount of time, we must follow a few guidelines:

- Students must select only one piece for their audition.
- Students may try out either as a solo or as an ensemble.
- Students should audition on only one instrument. Singers are also welcome to audition.
- Selections should be limited to 3-4 minutes. A limited number of exceptions will be made to advanced music students who are encouraged to prepare longer pieces. At the audition we may ask these students to play only 3 minutes.
- Students must register by February 17, 2022. Registration is now available. Please email hadassahknoxvilleac@gmail.com and in subject area write YOUTH ALIYAH. Please give the following information: name, age, musical selection, composer, accompanist, name of teacher, and student's phone and address and length of selection. For students who do not have access to the internet or have any questions about audition times or would like more information, please call Andrea Cone at 301-335-2355.
- Students may bring music to their audition but preferably should have their piece memorized for the concert.
- Students check their calendars in advance to be sure there are no conflicts with dates or times if they are selected. Also, they should check that their calendar is clear to perform on the concert date April 3rd, 2022.
- Taped auditions are discouraged but may constitute an alternative in some cases.

Since 1966 Hadassah Oak Ridge has continuously sponsored this event as a way of showcasing young talent in our Knoxville-Oak Ridge and extended areas. The concert is always free, but donations in support of Youth Aliyah in loving memory of Catherine Braunstein, who spent years directing the Youth Aliyah Concert, are appreciated. Proceeds benefit children in Israel and around the world, many of whom are refugees, come from troubled families, or have very specific physical and emotional hardships. Your donations benefit the Youth Aliyah program of Hadassah in Israel. The Youth Aliyah villages host underprivileged children and provide them with a good education and a most needed family type support. Please make your donations at <https://my.sharuku.com/tile?q=byajx> (Hadassah Knoxville-Oak Ridge, Ralph Einstein Youth Aliyah Concert).

Feel free to reach out to Andrea Cone (hadassahknoxvilleac@gmail.com) for more detailed information.

Chairwomen Andrea Cone and her Hadassah Knoxville - Oak Ridge Team cannot thank the First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge enough for once again offering their beautiful sanctuary for the auditions and the concert. We also hope that you will help spread the word among young student musicians in our community so that they can participate in this exciting, musical event.

Dates for the event are the following:

Audition: Sunday, March. 6th, 2022 - 12:00 - 5:00 PM
First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge

Concert: Sunday, April 3rd, 3:00 - 5:00 PM
First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge



Use your phone camera to scan below to register!
Or look for the link on Facebook / email.



SCAN ME

Hello Gorgeous!

By: Anita Kay for Heska Amuna Women's League

Barbra Streisand's talent spans from nightclubs to Broadway, television to film, musicals to comedies to dramas, and has earned her numerous Oscars, Grammys, Emmys – even a Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a young singer, she was dismissed as too Jewish, too plain, and too obstinate, but Barbra upended the celebrity pantheon by refusing to let anyone rain on her parade. So what if she was born in Israel Zion Hospital and refused to pretend that Flatbush didn't course through her veins? If she didn't have a pert button nose or conform to anyone else's view of femininity? Barbra Streisand was too talented to be ignored. A force of nature, she not only parlayed her vocal prowess and unique style into international stardom; she redefined female celebrity, paving the way for a new generation of women performers—and millions of Jews—to unapologetically be themselves.

Heska Amuna Women's League presents an opportunity to explore the life and work of this living legend. Get an inside look at Hello Gorgeous, an eclectic showcase of costumes, photos, videos, record album covers and other objects, celebrating Barbra Streisand! The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, the exclusive Southeast presenter, is proud to pay tribute to the iconic singer, actress, director, and producer, in this original exhibition.

Register for the Zoom link using the QR code or look for the link on Facebook and email. This event is FREE for Heska Amuna Women's League members and only \$10 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to "Heska Amuna Women's League" with "Hello Gorgeous" on the memo line. Please mail your check to Heska Amuna Synagogue, 3811 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919.

Hello Gorgeous was organized by the Bernard Museum, Temple Emanu-El, with a special thanks to Lou Papalas of Palm Springs, CA.

Questions? Contact Anita Kay, 865-382-384 or anitakay@knology.net.

**Guided Virtual Exhibit Tour
Thursday, February 17 at 7pm**



Photo: Scale Tile Listing Band by Adam Rowe

Schwarzbart Gallery Highlights Local Jewish Artist

By: Anna Iroff-Bailey, Director of Jewish Life

As you enter the Arnstein Jewish Community Center, you can't miss the beautiful display cabinets of the Schwarzbart Gallery. The gallery was created in 2016 to be both a permanent exhibit of some of Arnold Schwarzbart's work as well as a place to showcase local Jewish art and cultural history. Arnold's pieces of Judaica blend beauty with function, emotion with sensibility, history with modernity. Visiting this exhibit puts you in the presence of an internationally recognized Judaica artist (though he preferred the term "artisan"), but to most of us, it also feels like visiting with an old friend.

Currently, our gallery is honored to showcase the work of Adam Rowe in "Knot Theories II". Adam states that "this collection of artworks further explores the use of repeated, simple shapes and lines translated or rotated to create complexity in a knot design" that was the basis of his exhibit at The Emporium Gallery downtown in early 2021. Adam represents knots as you have never seen them before through a variety of techniques and media including metal, wood, paper, glass, and ink. Each piece is based on a component that is layered and twisted into shapes that he refers to as "purely geometry". The exhibit is deceptively simple, enticingly intricate, and lives at the corner of mathematics and art.

The Schwarzbart Gallery is open for visitors during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm, and by special appointment.

If you are a local Jewish artist, artisan, or craftsperson who would like to be featured in the Schwarzbart Gallery, please contact Anna Iroff-Bailey at 865-690-6343 or airoffbailey@jewishknoxville.org.



Photo: Metatronic Solid (Hexahedron) by Adam Rowe



Photo: Knot Tiling Triangle-Faced Polyhedra by Adam Rowe



Photo: Unicursal Hex Knot by Adam Rowe

Showcasing Artists at AJCC

By: Laura Sadler, Senior Director of Development and Jewish Community Services, and Tara Bain, Director of Community Engagement

If you continue past the Arnold Schwartzbart Gallery in the upstairs hallway at Arnstein Jewish Community Center, there are featured paintings on display. These creations of various mediums are donated or on loan by members of our community. Some of these pieces highlight stories of the Torah while others simply tap into life through the eyes of the Jewish artist who created them. All are beautiful works of emotion and soul.

One of the artists showcased is Bunny Scherzer-Brooks. Bunny moved to Knoxville from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Although she had the option to return to New Orleans or move to Colorado where her son lived, she decided to make Knoxville her home until her death. She was a gifted singer and dancer, as well as an immensely talented artist. She made a career

for herself at a time when many women were not afforded the opportunity to do so. She was an artist in every sense of the word, but she always said her career was in advertising. She worked for department stores, sketching detailed drawings of their merchandise for print in newspapers. She also created and illustrated advertising campaigns for restaurants such as Joe Fein's Catering and the Court of Two Sisters.

We welcome community members to view Bunny's talent, as well as our other artists' pieces, in the hallway gallery during KJA office hours, Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm or by special appointment. If you are an artist interested in sharing your paintings or drawings with our community, please contact Tara Bain at tbain@jewishknoxville.org to learn more.

Hadassah Shabbat: Bringing Sephardic Spice to the Mix of our Rich Hadassah History

By: Shuli Mesa

On Purim, we read Megillah Esther, the story of a heroic Jewish woman who risked her own life by going to King Achashverosh, without permission, to save the Jewish people from extinction. Esther's story demonstrates the important role of women in our communities and encourages them to act even in the face of danger.

Like the story of Esther, the story of Hadassah also began with one woman - Henrietta Szold -- and her visit to Palestine over a century ago. She was moved by the beauty of the land but also saddened by the suffering of its inhabitants due to unsanitary conditions and pervasive disease.

Upon her return to America, she challenged her small study group of Jewish women to take on the task of aiding those in need in the British Mandate of Palestine. Since her group first met on Purim of 1912, they named themselves Hadassah, the Hebrew name for Esther. Their goal was to continue Esther's legacy of bravery and action.

Hadassah has been an organization of action as well as compassion. With over 300,000 members and associate members, Hadassah has continued to tackle the challenge brought to us by Henrietta over 100 years ago.

This year, we will celebrate our anniversary with a special Havdalah service on March 5th. We invite the community to join us as we welcome the week ahead while continuing our conversation on the Sephardic Jewish culture. We will be including Sephardic melodies and music to enrich our service along with several guest speakers. While Hadassah Shabbat has traditionally been housed at the local shuls, we are excited to bring a new approach to our idiosyncratic anniversary. Join us, as the women who do...even long, long ago.



Hadassah Installation: A Colorful Success

Photo: Pictured from left to right: The Hadassah Executive Board; Shuli Mesa, Revital Ganzi, Andrea Cone, Laura Floyd, and Harriet Glasman. Not Pictured: MaryAnn Merrell and Peggy Littmann.

By: Shuli Mesa

Despite the day's rainy weather, Hadassah's Installation Brunch left its colorful mark in the best of ways. Mary Evars-Goan brought a wealth of color as she officiated the installation by granting each incoming board member a color in the form of Sharpies. We thanked Andrea Cone for her many, many years of service and pleaded with her to remain on the board as Immediate Past President/Advisor. We welcomed Harriet Glasman as President and swore to support her in all of her amazing efforts with our fabulous chapter! A huge thank you to Revital Ganzi and Little T for hosting us! Thank you to everyone who joined us both in person and via Zoom and to everyone who baked, bought, and brought all the delicious food we were treated to! We can't wait to see what the new board does!



Photo: Mary Evars-Goan did a wonderful job at installing our new board including President Harriet Glasman



Photo: Laura Floyd pins the Past President Pin (the most coveted pin in the region) on outgoing President Andrea Cone.

Temple Beth El Celebrates Women Artists

By: Kathy Young, Temple Beth El President

This month's HaKol is about the Arts. While there are many people who are "artists" in their own right, I have chosen to highlight two of Temple Beth El's artists who have contributed so much, not only to TBE, but also to the Knoxville Community at large. Thank you, Shelley Mangold and Marilyn Kallet, for all you have done to enhance our community at large. Following is information about each of these fabulous women.

Bio of Marilyn Kallet - Poetry's Power in Troubled Times

By: Marilyn Kallet

On March 18, 2020, Yo-Yo Ma performed "Songs of Comfort" on PBS. He explained that he was composing a new song each day of the pandemic. He encouraged everyone to do the same. That day, I began writing daily "comfort songs." Here's "Spiritual," the poem that came to me on the second day of this endeavor.

Spiritual
What power has love during a pandemic?
Ours was always virtual.
Plato had it right.
Kind love swells, stronger,
like a muscle that has been working
out, but lighter, invisible,
like atomic weights--
love that lifts us daily without
hope of gain.
We practiced for this.
Virtual, virtuous,
Faut de mieux.
Write to me, Buddy.
Plato, play dough.
Mixed metaphors
taste good.
Honey, words
are all we have
& hold.

My new book that contains these poems and more love songs is called *Even When We Sleep*. The title comes from a line by Paul

Eluard, whose love poems I translated from the French: "Even when we sleep we watch over one another." The book will be out soon, from Black Widow Press.

The book's cover is a painting by Mindy Weisel, who was born in Bergen-Belsen. Her parents were Holocaust survivors. I'll attach the cover image. Weisel's painting is called "Memory, Like Lace, is Full of Holes." Poetry and painting are kin!

My bio: This will be my 19th book, my eighth book of poetry. The most recent poetry volume is *How Our Bodies Learned*, Black Widow Press, 2018. The other titles include children's books, translations, and anthologies. Recently, I served two terms as Knoxville Poet Laureate (June 27, 2018-June 2020).



Photo: Even When We Sleep

Bio of Shelley Mangold



Photo: Shelley Mangold

One of our featured artists is longtime Temple member Shelley Mangold. Shelley is a teaching artist, renting studio space in Studios North with other artists in the 4th and Gill Knoxville neighborhood. She has a BA in Art from Adelphi University and a MS in Curriculum and Instruction from U.T.K. She is also a long-time potter and former public-school teacher of the gifted (TAG) then returning to UTK for Art certification.

She has exhibited in the Emporium, Fountain City Art Center, Broadway Gallery and currently (for the 3rd time) her mixed media work "Markets" is hanging at the Arts in the Airport biennial juried group show until April.

Husband, Marc and Shelley enjoy biking, kayaking, local growing family time and walking their rescue mutt, Sadie near their Holston Hills home of almost 20 years!

Shelley uses a variety of art materials and techniques, thus her love of the term "mixed media". After taking many week-long workshops at Arrowmont the Art school in Gatlinburg and other art centers, she creates one-of-a-kind papers to collage (gluing papers) to boards or canvas, adding inks and/or paint. Some of her works including the personal Dor L' Dor use only alcohol inks and a bit of paper. Autumnal has tissue paper collage and acrylic paint for the trees and altered magazine papers for the reflections. The Threatened Birds of Tennessee is mostly done in pastels with ink pens for the details.



Photo: Shelley Mangold



Photo: Dor L' Dor Generation to Generation

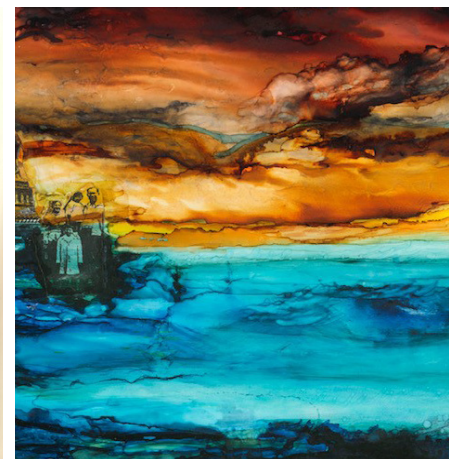


Photo: Threatened Birds of Tennessee

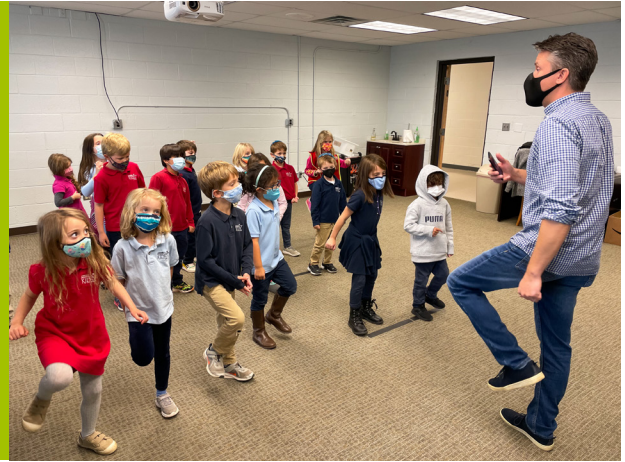
Becoming Part of an Ensemble at KJDS

By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm, Head of School and Anna McDonald, Director of Admission

Our students benefit tremendously from the strong arts program at KJDS. As 21st century learners, it is important to us that our students develop independent opinions, find their voice and articulate their thoughts. Each year all of our students, from Kindergarten through fifth grade, become part of our full school ensemble for our yearly production. Students learn to be in control of their movement, expression, and voice, while also learning the valuable lesson of how to accept constructive criticism. This experience helps them establish their confidence and stage presence to present confidently and publicly. Most importantly, they learn to maintain their independent roles while being in sync with others so that they become a true ensemble, able to work together to put on a show.

Our KJDS curriculum is driven by the authentic experiences we offer our students as they explore the world and study it. The authentic experience of putting on a stellar musical each year is one of those authentic experiences with so much to learn.

This year's production is Dr. Dolittle Jr. led by local professional director, Geoffrey Scheer. Every single student has a valuable role to play and they put in months of hard work and training to put on the big show, even while in the midst of a global pandemic!



K/1 students learn new choreography from Mr. Geoff during drama class. Credit: Lev Gross-Comstock



Mr. Geoff works with the 2nd and 3rd graders Credit: Lev Gross-Comstock



4th and 5th grade students work on their choreography during drama class. Credit: Lev Gross-Comstock

2022 KJA Campaign: Welcome Home

KNOXVILLE JEWISH ALLIANCE

By: Bryan Goldberg, KJA President

Welcome to February and the Kickoff for the Knoxville Jewish Alliance's Annual Campaign! Our Jewish community has a beautiful blend of cultural and religious opportunities, and our hope at the KJA is to create a space of togetherness. We welcome you to gather with friends and family. We welcome you to create space to meet new friends and feel the comfort with familiar ones. We welcome you no matter how Jew-ish you are. We welcome you for you. The KJA looks forward to 2022, and we say, "Welcome Home."

Our goal for this year's campaign is \$310,000. This is the first time in over 5 years our goal has been above 300K and I know we can achieve it! My confidence stems from our focus to create welcoming spaces for children and families, to strengthen our wellbeing and support those in need, and to enhance community relations with Tikkun Olam projects consistent with our Jewish values. In partnership with the Jewish Federations of North America, the KJA serves as home to the Preschool at AJCC, Milton Collins Day Camp, PJ Library, BBYO, Hillel at UTK, Jewish Family Services, KJA Archives, Arnold Schwarzbart Gallery, Greater Knoxville Jewish Men's Club, and Partnership2gether: The Jewish Agency for Israel. The brick-and-mortar home of our Alliance is the Arnstein Jewish Community Center (AJCC), which in addition to our community building includes an outdoor pool and baby pool, a picnic area, soccer fields, tennis courts, community garden, a frisbee golf course and more!

Here are three easy ways you can join our annual campaign:

- Visit www.jewishknoxville.org/donate
- Mail a check to Knoxville Jewish Alliance, 6800 Deane Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919
- Call the KJA office at 865-690-6343

However you decide to give, know you are strengthening, creating, and inspiring Jewish life and values in our Jewish home. Thank YOU for giving today and... "Welcome Home."

By: Renee' Hyatt, KJA Vice President of Campaign

The 2022 Knoxville Jewish Alliance Campaign begins this month. As a result of a successful 2021 Campaign, we set a goal of \$310,000 for this year. This is the first time in several years we have been able to set our sights higher.

Our volunteer solicitors and KJA Board members have received their contact lists for making Campaign calls. I want to encourage you to answer your phone, listen to your voicemails, watch our social media pages, and give as generously as you are able to make our Campaign successful again. Of course, you can always call the KJA office, (865)690-6343, or click DONATE on KJA's homepage, www.jewishknoxville.org, to make your pledge.

In case you were not aware, you may now designate all of your pledge to any single KJA program, or you may divide your pledge among as many KJA programs as you choose. Likewise, you may designate all or part of your pledge to Jewish Federations of North America whose mission is to serve the needs of Jewish communities in the US and abroad, including Israel. Your pledge to Campaign will help ensure a bright future for Jewish life in Knoxville and beyond.



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Center for Mindfulness & Creativity

By: Rabbi Alon Ferency

Art is activism, and mindfulness can heal ourselves and the world.

– Sharon Salzberg, meditation teacher and author

Artists need Judaism – Judaism needs new artists and their art. Judaism thrives in the fertile ground between Ma’aseh B’reisheet, Genesis’ creation, and Ma’aseh Merkavah, Ezekiel’s mysticism. We experience Ma’aseh B’reisheet through creativity and Ma’aseh Merkavah through mindfulness. I think of this as the energizing dynamic between art and spirituality. I propose the home for that virtuous cycle in Knoxville: a Center for Mindfulness & Creativity to be a maker space for collaborative creation. The Center for Mindfulness & Creativity will decode and deconstruct Judaism to rebuild it in awesome new content, while equipping artists with tools to get creatively unstuck and make subversive art.

Jewish “Intellectual Property” gets artists creatively unstuck, and Judaism can be decoded, deconstructed, and rebuilt to make amazing new content. There’s already so much Christological art in the Western cannon – from DaVinci’s The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne to Steinbeck’s Grapes of Wrath to Norman Greenbaum’s Spirit in the Sky – but not enough wide-reaching art inspired by Judaism. So, let’s encourage musicians and other artists to find their muse studying and applying traditional and modern Judaic, Hebrew, Ladino and Yiddish sources, texts, narratives, images, parables, and musical motifs. This would lead to the creation of new artistic content suffused with spiritual energy and purpose. Simultaneously, it would create a community of practice, virtual and live, while bringing fresh blood into what is a classic Jewish community, in Knoxville and beyond. Artists will deepen their spiritual practices through engagement with faith traditions, while spiritual seekers find refreshment in artistic pursuit.

I’ve already had a few similar experiences working with musicians and other artists, when giving them Jewish wisdom was transformative for their creative process. For example, when I was a rabbinic intern at the Jewish rehab Beit T’Shuvah, “Sasha,” a resident and former teen pop singer, had trouble connecting to liturgical prayer. As she said, every prayer seemed like a missed opportunity to sing. I pointed out to her that many

prayers came from Psalms, which were once intended to be performed. We read psalms, and then I played her U2’s “40” (based on Psalm 40:1-4). She went on to write her own song based on another psalm, which she performed regularly at Kabbalat Shabbat services.

The Center for Mindfulness and Creativity would be a vital and vibrant space for artists, art, Judaism and Jewish communities, by creating a feedback loop of visual and performing artists becoming ambassadors for Judaism, and having Jewish communities become more creative and engaging. Many really interesting people enter our community because they are fascinated by our teachings, our openness, our liturgy and ritual. I see a future in them: people who are new to Judaism have a lot of original questions, innovative ideas, and creative impulses to bring fresh blood, literally and figuratively. And, I think there’s great scope to push Judaism out further: I am confident that a new profile would open the community to further engagement and growth and lead to us becoming recognized nationwide as the little-big community that could!

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The Spiritual Heart of Heska Amuna: A Vision

By: Rich Adlin, President

My reading group is engrossed in a book called “Judaism for the World: Reflections of God, Life, and Love” by Rabbi Arthur Green (2020). A scholar, mystic, and self-described non-denominational Neo-Hasid, at 80-years-old, he details in a very personal way, the Judaism he embraces and his journey to it. It reads both as a spiritual autobiography and a profound theological treatise. When the reading group called for a vote on a book to read, I wanted to read one that spoke to the future of Judaism, particularly Jewish observance. More than a personal interest, I was also looking for ideas and inspiration for worship at Heska Amuna given my current role as President and chair of the Rabbi & Religious Services committee. We are only in the third chapter, but Rabbi Green’s work is serving me well. Judging by the amount of time it takes the group to get through a page, it is clear that we are all very inspired. (In a Jewish way of course—questioning, debating, and pontificating!)

Rabbi Green speaks directly to the foundations of Judaism that many Jews struggle with, especially those who are not orthodox—halacha (law) and mitzvot (commandments). Many of us live with some unease about these aspects of our faith or reject them altogether as moderns with a secular education, informed by Biblical criticism that challenges divine authorship of Torah. And yet the Standards of Congregational Practice of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, of which Heska Amuna is an affiliate congregation, state, “Jewish law, which has continuing vitality and relevance in modern life and establishes behavioral norms, is binding upon Conservative Jews. All member congregations are expected to conform to Jewish law.” This language of divine authority is often the source of scorn from disaffected, unaffiliated Jews and many practicing Jews also struggle with it.

Rabbi Green would agree with those who dismiss and struggle with the concept of Jewish law: “I do not believe in a G-d who has commanded me to observe specific forms of religious behavior, nor do I consider such behavior legally binding...” But this is not the end of the matter for him as he kindles Jewish observance based on halacha and mitzvot by pointing to the literal meanings of these words, with roots in scriptural sources. Green explains that halacha is a “way of walking, or a path toward G-d” and a mitzvah is a “sacred deed” that joins one with G-d, based on the root word tsavta, “togetherness.” Mitzvot are therefore a means of connecting to G-d, especially when done with kavanah, an intent that is mindful of the Almighty. In this regard, a friend once referred to halacha and mitzvot as the “holiness code” of the Jewish people. Devoting and committing oneself to them, which involves discipline and self-restraint, is not blind obedience or conformity to an imposed law or commandment but a response and fidelity born out of faith in the Divine. In this sense, one feels commanded.

Green therefore elevates Jewish law by defining it not as an authoritarian imposition that results in punishment when violated, but as a vehicle that brings the Divine Presence into one’s life. It follows that even if Torah, and halacha that is derived from it, are understood to be of human origin, evolving over time, or influenced by geography, they are not diminished but continue to be a source of reverence. To Green, the foundation of such reverence for more a traditional-leaning form and language of Jewish worship and mitzvot finds its source in the “collective memory of a people” and its sages over millennia and centuries. Mitzvot and traditional forms of tefillah (prayer) are sacred, ancient portals through which one enters and is lifted out of the present, into history and the expanse of timelessness and closeness to the Divine Presence.

What I have found to be profound about the Conservative movement is its mission to honor the beauty of ancient forms of observance and tradition while emphasizing attention to modernity, its sensibilities and its challenges. This facilitates room for innovation and creativity. There is much enthusiasm for this in our synagogue during this time of transition and change. My hope is that such change magnifies the richness of our traditions and infuses them with spirituality and kavanah, as described by Rabbi Green. I have found that many congregants, both those raised in synagogues and those who discovered their Jewish souls later in life, find meaning specifically in more traditional Conservative observance and worship. To be inclusive, synagogues will hopefully find ways to honor these members as well as those who find meaning in newer forms of worship. While some congregations have created different worship services to cater to each, I believe it is possible to be innovative within traditional forms of worship and observance, without significant sacrifice, especially with more teaching, both in services and the classroom, to promote kavanah and emotional connection. To this end, Hadar, a post-denominational congregation, has articulated inspiring principles of a vibrant and spiritual Jewish observance that is a model of inclusivity: “Sustained practice of mitzvot fills our lives with meaning”; “Passionate, rigorous Torah study is available to every single Jew, regardless of gender or identity”; and “Religion and belief make us more empathic, sensitive, and kind.” A synagogue that embraces these principles, that preserves the observance of our sacred rituals of worship, and promotes mitzvot and study, illuminates the beating heart of Jewish spirituality, beckoning us to a follow a path of deeper devotion.

Chag Purim Sameach!



By: Shush Carson, Heska Amuna Director of Family Religious Life

Purim is just around the corner - Wednesday March 16 and Thursday March 17!

The Heska Amuna Religious School will once again be sending Mishloach Manot (gift baskets of food - one of the four Purim mitzvot) to everyone in our Heska Amuna family. We are excited to be reopening our synagogue kitchen just in time to make Purim treats that will be prepared according to all kashrut and COVID-safe food handling procedures.

Heska Amuna members: Wish your synagogue family a happy Purim by adding your name to their Mishloach Manot. Order extra hamantaschen at \$12 a baker's dozen, too!

A link to order Mishloach Manot and hamantaschen will be emailed to you Feb. 15

We are pleased to offer Mishloach Manot baskets at the same price as last year:

- \$18 to add your name for one household
- \$10 to add your name for each additional household
(from 2 to 7 households)

Special Pricing \$90: Add your name to the Mishloach Manot to all Heska Amuna Households!

Mishloach Manot for non-members (you pick-up and deliver): \$25 or mailed to your friend or family for \$40 (includes postage for continental US)

Orders accepted: February 15 – March 10

Mishloach Manot delivery (Metro Knoxville area only): March 13 – March 17

To our community friends: Send Mishloach Manot to your friends and family and enjoy some hamantaschen, too! Check our website/www.heskaamuna.org for order information.

Questions? Send an email to Purim@HeskaAmuna.org
Thank you for supporting the Heska Amuna Religious School!

Heska Amuna Religious School (HARS) Happenings

By: Shush Carson, Dir. of Family Religious Experiences

New Preschooler Program Gan K'ton in the Park!
 The Big News around HARS is the addition of Gan K'ton in the Park! Gan K'ton in the Park is a once monthly pre-school program taught by Vanessa Rodriguez and Sarah La Fetra. There will be Jewish Music, Stories, Arts and Crafts and will meet from 11-12 at a local park (location TBD.) We encourage families to pack a picnic lunch and stay, connect, and play together after class. Please check Nu News each month for additional information.



HARS Schedule for February

Limmud will meet every Wednesday (2/2, 2/9, 2/19, 2/23) with Morah Rachael. Shalom Learning & Hebrew and Harmony at 5:00 p.m.

Shabbat School will meet every week (2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26) with Morim Vanessa, Rachael, and Jennie. Gan Gadol with Morah Vanessa starts at 9:30 a.m. T'fillah with Sarah is at 10:30 a.m. Limmud with Morah Rachael starts at 10:50 a.m. Hebrew High with Morah Jennie starts at Noon.

“New” Morah (Teacher) Returns

HARS wants to welcome back Morah Martha Iroff as our One-on-One Hebrew Specialist for the remainder of the year. We are so blessed to have such an amazing teacher step in for us as Rachel Brown takes a new position as a Religious School Director in Cincinnati. Congratulations, Rachel!

Welcome Back, Martha!



CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions by caring people. Donations listed were received as of December 30, 2021

Bikkur Cholim

In gratitude for Bikkur Cholim while ill
Marc Forman

Educator's Supplement Fund

Marian Jay

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Louis Gross & Marilyn Kallet

In gratitude for Weekly Mindfulness Meditation
Judy Barnette

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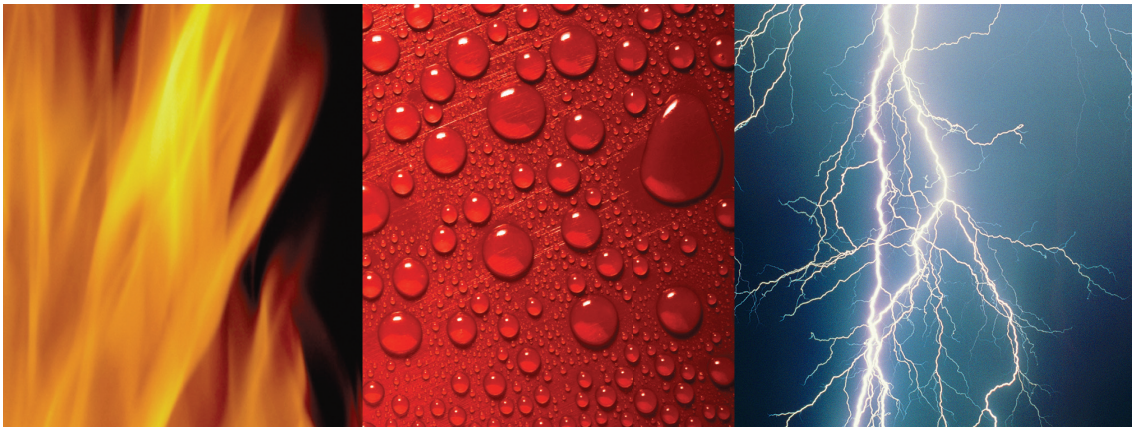
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Shalom Y'all

By: Rabbi Erin Boxt

2021 ended...and now we are in 2022! While these last couple of years have been rough (to say the least), there have been many great opportunities for us to celebrate. And, moving forward, there seems to be a renewed sense of hope that perhaps was absent for a while. One of the most important ways to escape (even for a little while) from what seems to be the mundane is to open a good book, listen to a new song, or spend some time looking at pictures. Really, artwork of any kind can be exhilarating and allows us the chance for renewal.

As 2022 continues, it is imperative also that each of us find a way to stay focused, connected and committed to our Jewish community. This is your Jewish community, and it will be as strong and successful as you want it to be. Do you have an idea for an amazing project? Great, bring it to me and let us work together to get it started! Is there a particular kind of prayer service you would like to see at TBE? Great, make an appointment with me and let's talk about it. Your rabbi is committed to making this congregation about you and that is of utmost importance.

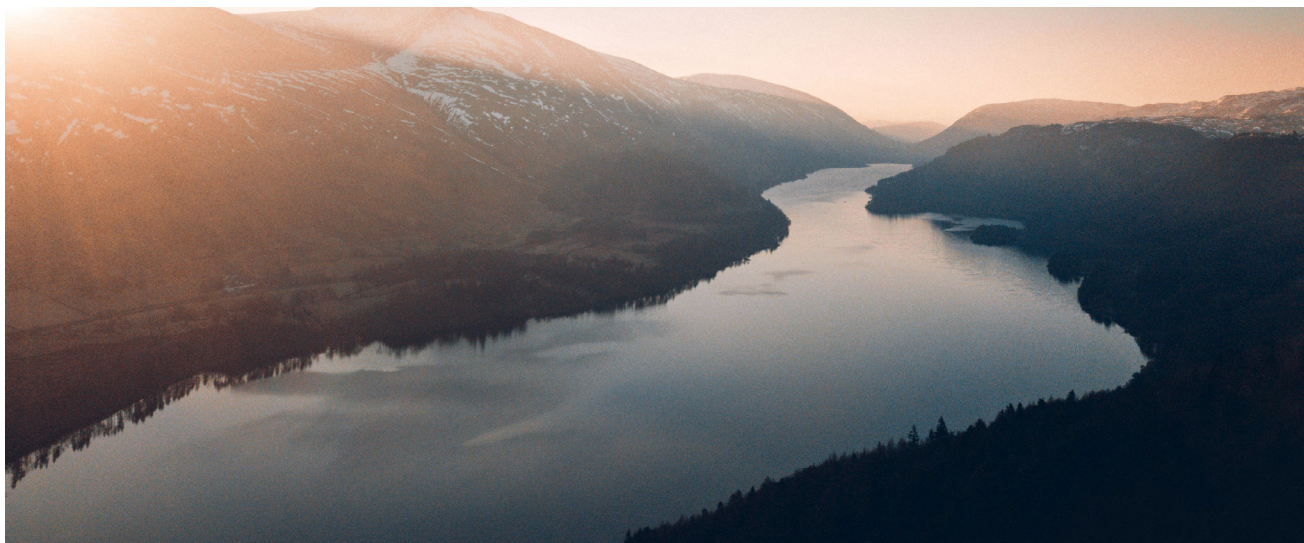
I have been so impressed with the way that everyone comes together and works together. Our community wide events, such as the session with Author Dan Grunfeld, have been amazing!! We are celebrating together as our young adults become B'nei Mitzvah, even in this strange world of Covid. Find

your niche...come and connect! Whatever it is, just find a way to continue your Jewish education and remain attached to us! Every one of us is an important part of the TBE community!!!

As I sometimes like to do, I will end this article with a short story (Chaya Sarah Silberberg):

An old Chinese woman had two water cans which were attached to a yoke. Each day she put the yoke over her shoulders and went down to the river, filled the cans, and walked back to her modest hut. The water can on the right side of the yoke was fine and sturdy; when she arrived home, it was always full. But the can on the left had a crack in it. By the time the woman arrived home, half the water was usually gone.

The cracked water can always felt inferior to his partner. He was ashamed that he was cracked and wasn't pulling his weight. One day he turned to the woman and apologized for being defective. The woman smiled gently and said, "Did you think I didn't know that you had a crack, and water dripped from you? Look at the path from the river to my hut. Do you see all the beautiful flowers that are growing on the one side of the path? Those are the flowers that I planted there, that you watered every day as I walked home from the river."



Social Justice: The Missing Piece

By: Steve Lewis, Chair of Social Justice Committee

"Justice, Justice, shall ye pursue . . ."

Social Justice is a foundational Jewish tradition, and as evidenced by that most familiar quote above, a very unique one. The full quotation, from Parashat Shoftim, (Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9), reads as follows: **"Justice, justice, shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you."** Here is a mitzvah that differentiates itself from other commandments; its performance will earn the people a reward – to occupy and thrive in the land of Israel. Very special, indeed.

Your Board of Directors recognized just how important Social Justice is to the Jewish people and to our congregation when, at its recent retreat, it identified Social Justice as one of three major initiatives it wished to pursue this year and beyond.

What is Social Justice, and how does it differ from Social Action? In one secular commentary I found it stated that Social Justice speaks to fairness as it manifests in society -- including fairness in healthcare, employment, housing and more. We could certainly replace "more" with race, gender and sexual orientation, among others. Or to put it more simply: It is the opposite of discrimination. Interestingly, this same piece noted that Social Justice appeared in American tradition as early as the Federalist Papers.

How do contemporary Jewish organizations define Social Justice? CSI Nyack, a Reform congregation in New York State, states that its Social Action programming includes three key areas of focus: **Welcoming the Stranger** (Hachnasat Orchim), **Feeding the Hungry** (an act of lovingkindness, or Gemilut Hasadim), and **Creating a More Just Society** (Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof). This approach echoes that of the URJ, whose Social Justice arm, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) falls under the auspices of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Looking back at the three pillars of the CSI Nyack Social Action endeavor, we do the first two very, very well. The third? To be honest, not so much.

That's where our new Social Justice Committee comes in; our goal is to complete our picture of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, by adding the missing piece. The committee, chaired by Steve Lewis, includes Larry Tucker, Justin Park, Larry Markel, David Butler, and Ed and Linda Weintraub. At our initial meeting, we decided our first step would be to identify and reach out to leading Social Justice organizations in Knoxville, get to know their leaders and members, learn about their needs and determine how best TBE can help them meet those needs.

One of those needs will clearly be volunteers. No doubt our committee members will be looking to volunteer with these organizations, but as we identify them and share that information with the congregation, we hope that many more of you will want to give of your time and energy to help us do our part in making a more just society.

We have many more ideas about future projects and programs, and as we communicate them to you, we hope we will have your strong support, as we express one of the oldest and deepest of Jewish traditions.

**"Justice, Justice
shall you pursue"**

-Deuteronomy 16:18-20

Hands On, Hearts On, Minds On Learning

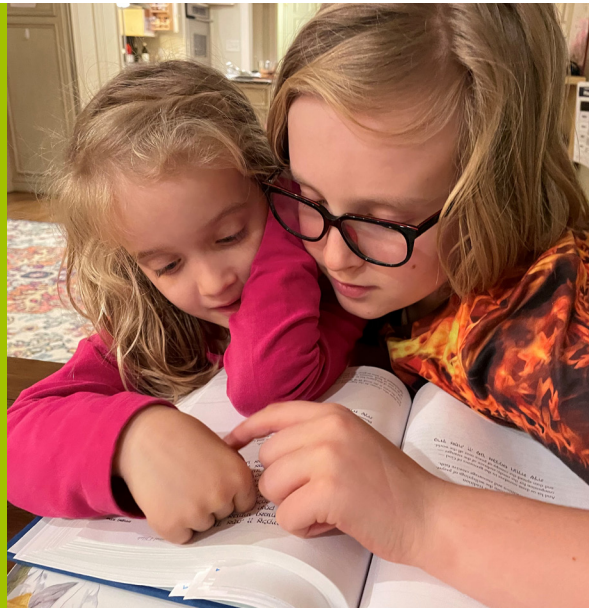


Photo: Zach and Claire learning Hebrew together.

By: Norma James, TBERS Director

“If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if I create from the head, almost nothing.” — Marc Chagall

TBERS uses a wonderful curriculum from our partner, the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL). Art and creative expression are interwoven into every aspect of the lessons. Every lesson, every week will have some creative piece because art is a natural way for young people to express themselves. It is only later that children decide who can and cannot draw. Just as those who decide that they cannot sing, we must encourage our youth that when something comes from your heart, it is beautiful whether it is a song or a poem or a piece of art. I come from a family of artists, and I decided early that I can see in my head what I want to create, but I cannot make it happen. I think my mistake might have been that I was drawing with my head and not my heart. I tried to hard to measure up to the high standards of my talented father and sisters. In my day, we colored pictures draw by someone else. That is why I love this curriculum. It guides students to express what is true for each individual child.

On February 6th, we will host a program associate from the ISJL for a virtual visit. Matthew Osterman has created special programs for our younger, middle, and older students that will be art based. Matthew and I collaborated on this program to meet the needs of our students. I am looking forward to it. This month Tu BiShvat occurs on Martin Luther King weekend, January 16/17. On Tu BiShvat our school explores how we can celebrate nature and be good stewards of the earth. On MLK weekend, we explore how we can celebrate diversity and pursue love and justice for all. This will be a perfect opportunity to intertwine these themes into G'milut Chasadim, acts of loving kindness. We will have special programming for our students which combines art, music, foods, and worship. It will be an exciting day for all.

Bake It and They Will Come!

If you are interested in ordering homemade Hamantaschen, please let me know. The cost is \$1.00 each or a dozen for \$10.00. Flavors are raspberry, chocolate, apricot, or prune. Orders need to be placed by February 18, 2022. Proceeds go to Sisterhood. Orders are to be picked up at Temple Beth El on Sunday, March 6. An order form will be in the Blast.

Meet Our ISJL Fellow

By: Matthew Osterman

Hi y'all! My name is Matthew Osterman and I am from Houston, Tx. I went to the University of North Texas where I earned my bachelor's degree in Religious Studies. My plan after the ISJL is to go to Hebrew Union College where I will study to become a rabbi. For my visit I plan on letting the kids channel their Judaism and creativity into arts and crafts. I'm looking forward to meeting y'all!

Photo: Matthew Osterman, 2022 ISJL Fellow for Temple Beth El



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In memory of my parents, Marvin & Sonia Shey

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In memory of Bobby Zivi

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 To celebrate this milestone in Steve Lewis' life
 Steve Rockmaker
In memory of my father, William Rockmaker

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.



JUDAIC STUDIES

Europe Culture Day



Students, Noah Johnson and Jaden Messing, delve deep into a book together during Europe Culture Day. Credit: Bekka Blanchard



Second and third grade students enjoy their discussions together during a French Salon on Europe Culture Day. Credit: Bekka Blanchard

By: Bekka Blanchard

In December, grades 2/3 took a Grand Tour of Europe! Our students have read, written, and compared and contrasted over the last 2 weeks, learning all about the cultures of different regions and countries through Europe. In order to bring these places to life for our learners, the kids “traveled” to France, England, and Spain.

During our French salon, the kids enjoyed reading poetry, looking at art, and eating crepes. They also discussed the questions “What is art?”; “How can we compare and contrast different schools or types of art?”; “What is poetry?”; “How can we compare and contrast poetry and prose?”.

After our salon, we traveled on to England for a spot of tea. The children read books by English authors, looking for parts of these stories they have seen as allusions in other books, movies, or in their own conversations and learning.

Finally, we wrapped up our day with a siesta in Spain. The students read books at their individual levels to learn more about the culture of Spain and added this information to their ongoing graphic organizers. Then, they read fairy tales from around Europe or took a little nap.

We will continue our investigations with up-close looks at a variety of countries, as our global citizens create travel posters for countries they will be studying in-depth. I look forward to seeing their creativity and knowledge shine!

KJDS Alumni Spotlight - Abigail Quartararo

By: Jami Quartararo

During Abigail's years at KJDS, drama was one of the things she looked forward to most each year. Through the years of putting on plays, Abigail went from being a background dancer and singer to a main character. Those experiences aided in her transition to West Valley Middle School, where she is currently a 6th grader. Drama enabled her to be able to communicate with new peers, as well as teachers confidently. Whether she is speaking in front of her class or even sharing something on the morning announcements for school, all the skills she learned during drama at KJDS are evident.

Photo: Abigail Quartararo, on the right, in last year's KJDS production of School House Rock Live, Jr. Credit: Lev Gross-Comstock



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 or schedule a virtual tour, please contact:
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 amcdonald@kjds.org • 865.560.9922
 8042 GLEASON DRIVE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

Joy and Judaism through the Art of Baking

By: Miriam Esther Wilhelm

Growing up some of my fondest memories were created in the kitchen. My mother hosted guest every Shabbos, while raising a family of eight children and both of my parents worked full time. Thursday after the younger kids were tucked into bed I would spend hours in the kitchen helping my mother prepare for Shabbat. We talked about friendships, world events, sang our favorite songs, and had so many special mother daughter conversations.

It comes as no surprise that one of my favorite ways to enjoy time with my kids and our community children exploring Jewish customs is in the Kitchen. When Chabad launched Kids in the Kitchen for the 2019-2020 year who could have imagined that the Hamantasch Bake would be the last Kids in the Kitchen event for two years!

While Omicron is raging...and there is so much uncertainty one thing we know is it is time to get our kids back in the Kitchen to make lasting Jewish memories. This year on March 13th @2:30pm we will once again have Kids in the Kitchen: Hamantaschen Bake. More information to sign your child up for this program text Miriam Esther @865-386-3827.



Photos: In preparation for Purim 2020 children baked hamantasch using a variety of doughs and toppings.



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Jewish Music for the Ages

By: Cantor Jacqueline Marx

What do these four have in common?

- Salamone Rossi (1570-1630)
- George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)
- Max Bruch (1838-1920)
- Deborah Lyn Friedman (1951-2011)

They all created Jewish music for the ages. Two were court musicians. Two were non-Jews, inspired by ancient sources. One never learned to read music but encouraged us to stop listening and start singing. Each remains alive today through major imprints in music still widely heard. They imprint over 430 years of music collectively.

Rossi, whose compositions personify late-Renaissance music of the Italian synagogue, was exempt from wearing the yellow star that identified him as a Jew. His patron was the Duke of Mantua, whose feckless character features in Verdi's opera, Rigoletto. (Sample the 400th-anniversary recording commemorating Rossi's setting of Psalm 8, via a quick YouTube search.)

Handel, the acme of baroque music, enjoyed careers in Germany and Italy before becoming Royal Composer to King George III of England. Though fluent in three languages, Handel's unique syncopation of English syllables is so well known that purists leave it intact. Supposedly, the Church of England forbade Handel to create Christian compositions during Lent. That's when Handel turned to the prophets and Apocrypha; whence sprung his oratorios Samson, Esther, Judas Maccabeus, Deborah, Jephte, and more.

Lushly Romantic German composer Max Bruch had no Jewish ancestry. Yet his iconic setting of Kol Nidre (whose anonymous

core melody is considered mi-Sinai, "from Mt. Sinai,") classified his music forbidden in Nazi Germany; the Third Reich was convinced Bruch was a secret Jew. Kol Nidre inspired Ernst Bloch, a Swiss Jew (Avodat HaKodesh /Sacred Service) to create Sh'lomo: Hebrew Rhapsody of 1916. Like Kol Nidre, Sh'lomo is set for cello and piano/organ.

Many know Debbie Friedman's musical impact on modernity. Friedman's first album, Sing Unto God, grew out of her affiliation with the UAHC (now URJ) summer camp Olin-Sang-Ruby in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin in the early 1970s.

In the 1980s, Friedman experienced a severe medication allergy, which led to paralysis. She attributed her recovery not only to her healers, but to the healing prayers by her family, friends, friends of her friends, etc. This inspired Friedman to compose her well-known "Mi SheBeyrakh," included in many modern Shabbat or holy day services. She went on to write many other healing songs.

Tragically, Debbie died young in 2011. Her music endures for its contemporary folk-pop sound, accessibility, and clear messages. Debbie's most lasting gift was to change the face of synagogue music by lifting the congregation to active singing on a previously unprecedented level. This year, JCOR commemorates Debbie Friedman's birthday with a Kabbalat Shabbat service featuring her melodies. As a cantor, I can think of no holier atmosphere than to be blanketed by your voices. Join us on Zoom, or in person (health climate permitting) on Friday, February 25 at 6:30pm.

Until then, give your playlist a boost. Search YouTube and immerse yourself in the works of the ageless composers mentioned here.

B'shir,

Cantor Jacqueline Marx, she/her(s)
Interim Spiritual Leader, JCOR

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Knoxville Jewish Community Family of Funds

By: Stephen Rosen, KJCFF President

Mazal Tov to Stanford Eisenberg KJDS on New Fund

Once again, the Knoxville Jewish Day School is launching a new fund with KJCFF. The KJDS Discretionary Fund will be advised by the school's board of directors. This fund will give the school the ability to quickly respond to opportunities and solve problems. Too often, a non-profit is confronted by unforeseen circumstances, both good and bad. As an "unknown-unknown," there is no way to budget for such situations and waiting for the next board meeting isn't always viable. Due to the beneficence of an anonymous donor, KJDS now has a pool of money that is invested for the long-term while standing ready for the short-term. Great job KJDS!

Knoxville Needs a Fund for What You Want

This column usually pitches an idea for a new fund in KJCFF. We identify a problem, give some thought as to how the need can be met, and sometimes attach a price tag. The hope is that someone in the community will say "waiter, one check and it's on me." But what about the people who like the idea and want to run with it? There are people in our community who can be leaders but are not capable of meeting the total financial need of a project. Philanthropic work takes TIME...Time, Intellect, Money, and Energy. If you would be willing to make the first gift and then invest your time, energy, and intellect to multiply your efforts, let's talk about it. You can work on one of our ideas or one of yours. You don't have to do it all and you never know who might follow your lead to help secure the future of our community.

If you want to volunteer your TIME on a KJCFF effort, contact Stephen or Laura.

How to Request a Grant

KJCFF is only as good as the grants we make. If the money just accumulates in our family of funds, what does it matter? If our grant dollars build Jewish life in Knoxville, in Israel or around the world, then we are accomplishing something. If you have an idea for a program that would benefit an organization or the community at large, your efforts may be eligible for a grant from one of our KJCFF funds. We have a formal and professional process for making grants, but the starting point can be more casual. You can call or email Laura and/or Stephen with a quick description of your idea. We can respond fairly quickly and let you know if a grant is possible and appropriate. If we get past step 1, we can provide a grant request form so that you can give it a shot. No promises and not all requests get funded. However, nothing bad ever comes from starting a conversation about moving our community forward.

Laura can be reached at LSadler@jewishknoxville.org and Stephen is Stephen.rosen@raymondjames.com

How to make out a check for a KJCFF donation

If donating to a KJCFF fund by check, it should be made out to KJCFF with the fund name in the memo line on the check or in an accompanying memo. Need DTC instructions for a stock transfer? Please contact Stephen or Laura.

Yahrzeits



Temple Beth El

February 4

David Bessel • Gustave Dreyfuss • Mike Evans • BettyAnn Feldblum • Dr. David Lee • Paul Lee • Lillian Leimsidor • Regina W. Lippner • Michael Massing • Bobby Mintz • Mrs. Celia Polasky • Morris Reich • Selah Rose Ringuette • Bernard Silverstein • Oscar Sisman • Fannie Spiro • Jeanne Daily Vogelfang • Tom Watson • Carolyn S. Ziegler

February 11

Mathis Bush • Isaac Cohen • Clarence Cole • Helen Dolgonos • Jeffrey R Epstein • Julius Glassman • George Gudis • Helen Hyman • Rose Imbrey • James H Lees • Yetti Liebman • Lela Lippner • Ellen Markel • Harold Markman • Inez Rayman • Bettie Bloom Reich • Phillip Herbert Robinson • Morris Leonard Shagan • Abe Slovis • Frances Sturm • Joan Berna Tumpson-Rivlin • Samuel A. Wender

February 18

Evelyn Adelman • CW4 Fred H. H. Caylor • Rabbi Matthew Derby • Gussie Dresner • Deborah Rabin Freeman • Rose Friedman • Diana Harris • Ira M. Jacobs • Bertram H. Joseph Jr. • Yetta M. Konigsberg • Mariya Luchanskaya • Blume bat Malkeh • Isadore Misner • Dorothy Scott Moiger • Harry I. Moskowitz • Roy Mostov • Mr. Kenneth Palmer • Sam Pollack • Eleanor Radoff • Peggy June Sachs • Henrietta H. Samuel • Randall Schwartz • Anne Simon

February 25

Abram Badalov • Jack Balaban • Della Mae Childress • Daniel Davis • Herbert Davis • Benjamin Epstein • Leopold Fleischmann • Yvonne Fribourg • Jacob Joseph Gelber • Erma Gerson • Jerome S. Gerson • Riva Golden • Rose Greenberg • Isaac Gutman • Lucas Helm • Samuel G. Herrmann • Blanche K. Jacobs • Edward H. Jacobs • Gussie Kligman • Hyman Kligman • Dora Kohen • Sylvia Miller • Sarah Nechamkin • Dr. Arthur B. Pardee • Jerry Spritz • Annie Rebecca Striner

Heska Amuna Synagogue

February 5

Molly Botnick • Gerson Corkland • Isaac Corkland • Gertrude Danziger • Rose Delinsky • Elizabeth Farkas • Joseph Gluck • Helen Gries • Elliott Jaffrey • Ronald Lawhead • Rose Leeds • Zeldia Levin • David Levine • Florence Lieberman • Esther Mann • Robert Moore • Harry Moskowitz • Nathan Oleshansky • Kenny Palmer • Miriam Ring • Max Robinson • Doris Rothbart • Morris Shagan • Roslyn Shamitz • Marilyn Shorr • Abe Slovis • Roberta Smith • Anna Snyder • Rita Solomon • John Walton • Ethel Wittenberg

February 12

John Abrams • Maida Bendes • Edith Brotman • Lillian Ellin • Samuel Fayonsky • Mary Ginsburg • Herman Linke • Hercolino Lourenco • Edwin Markoff • Rita Nichols • Paula Rader • Judith Rattner • Ruben Robinson • Nathan Samet • Barney Schiff • Elsie Shorr • Toby Slabosky • Razelle Toronto • Herman Werner • Aaron Wise • Norman Wolf • Mayer Zucker

February 19

Sarah Berry • Pauline Botnick • Max Burnett • Goldie Craycroft • Rudolph Deitch • Geraldine Diftler • Debby Freeman • Albert Goodstein • Pearl Goodstein • Dora Green • Leah Herz • Norma Herz • Benjamin Homer • Ruth Kaplan • Esther Kisilinsky • Louis Klinkowstein • David Leibowitz • Bessie Liberman • Yetta Nadler • Ida Nius • Elsie Rattner • Morris Rattner • Sam Rosenblatt • Dorothy Schnoll • Joyce Simon • Esther Strauss • Melvin Sturm • Rae Weisberg

February 26

Marion Abrams • Morris Bart • Irving Bayer • Alvin Bobroff • Donald Brown • Samuel Jacobs • Paul Kanfer • Monte Kaplan • Pearl Meyers • Theodore Nius • Joslyn Presser • Rebecca Reznick • Sarah Robinson • Milton Ross • Caroline Schwartz • Arnold Schwarzbart • Sol Winer • Jacob Winick

The Jewish Community Archives of Knoxville and East Tennessee



**The Way We Were:
Circa 1956**

Wednesday Night Bridge Night

After Hermina **Beiler** gave a bridge class at a Temple fundraiser, the Strasburgers and Lichts became avid players, devoting their Wednesday nights and some Gatlinburg weekends to bridge. Here, at the Licht home, are, left to right, Clarence **Strasburger**, Dorothy (nee **Levy**) **Licht**, Emilie (nee **Ehrlich**) **Strasburger**, and Leonard **Licht**. All have passed on.

Leonard and Dorothy's son Richard continues to live in Knoxville. Clarence and Emilie's daughter Linda **Bolt** lives in Knoxville.

Thanks to Richard **Licht** for donating the photograph he took as a child and providing 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 or contact the archivist at (865) 690-6343.



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