

In Memory of Harriet Cooper: Community Volunteer

By Hanna B. Smith



From its beginning, the Lexington Jewish community has been fortunate to have many members dedicated to the community's welfare. These men and women have given of their time, energy, and talents to create a vibrant Jewish life during their lifetimes, and to ensure that the community and its institutions continues to be there for future generations. Harriet Cooper, who died on October 28, 2014, was one of those wonderful people.

Harriet, husband Leon, and two of their children arrived in Lexington from Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1958. Their third child was born in Lexington.

Harriet graduated from Radford College, Radford, Virginia, and she held a teaching certificate. Like most married women of her generation, she was expected to devote her energies exclusively to her family. In later years, though, she worked as a research assistant, model, and operated a business together with her friend, Barbara Derer.

In spite of the social restrictions laid upon women of past generations, many of these women, Harriet among them, worked as volunteers to support and to improve the communities in which they lived and raised their children.

We have to thank our mothers and grandmothers for many of the cultural, social and legal institutions in our community that make our lives easier, and that we take for granted.

Harriet's neighbor, Judy Saxe, herself a tireless community worker, describes Harriet's great love for the Jewish community. According to Judy Harriet's commitment and hard work made Harriet a force in the Lexington Jewish community. Harriet was involved in the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, the Jewish Community Association Forum Series, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, Camp Shalom, and the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation (now Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass). *(continued, page 2)*

Jewish Studies Program of the University of Kentucky announces March programs

This spring, the "Year of the Middle East" continues at the University of Kentucky. The program, a part of the College of Arts and Science's "Passport to the World" series, highlights the region of the Middle East through a number of exciting events. March features two noteworthy readings sponsored by The Jewish Studies program. All, including students, faculty, and community members—are welcome to partake in events that will prove to be both engaging and enlightening.

"A Reading and Conversation with Emily Raboteau"
March 26 @ 7pm – Niles Gallery

The American Book Award winner Emily Raboteau will read from and discuss her most recent work, *Searching for Zion: The Quest for Home in the African Diaspora*. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Studies, African American & Africana Studies, English Creative Writing, and Social Theory programs. *(continued, page 5)*

CAMPAIGN NEWS

For Women Only – An evening of vintage dance, dinner, wine and friendship.

Please join us on Thursday, March 19, 5:30 pm at Ohavay Zion Synagogue for a women's night out. Leave work and family concerns at home and enjoy a delicious dinner, vintage wine and vintage dance. Our program of historic dance, choreographed to music by Jewish composers, is being brought to us by Lexington Vintage Dance. These dancers have performed in theaters, museums, historic homes, colleges, weddings, reenactments, and even the White House. They will perform a number of dances from periods beginning in 1800 through 1930 while wearing authentic costumes of those eras. The program will be narrated and accompanied by Dr. Lorne Dechtenberg. Dancers are Michael French, Paula Harrison, Tim Lamm and Barbara Ramlow. The buffet dinner will be catered by Gayle Bourne and sons Will and Ian.

The couvert for the evening is \$18 per person. A contribution of at least \$18 to the 2015 Women's Philanthropy Campaign of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass is requested. For reservations and information, please call Judy Wortman at 268-0672 or email her at jfb@jewishlexington.org.