

the Shofar

Summer 2025

A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

*CHAI – 18th Annual
Chattanooga Jewish Film Series
"Matchmaking 2"*



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FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Michael Dzik mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com

Welcoming and Engaging

As I've discussed in past writings, the Federation leadership has gone through an extensive process of its programming, outreach and engagement – how we connect with our community and build stronger Jewish experiences. We evaluated the pieces we do well and those that could use a little more focus. We looked at every Federation staff position and realized how “full and overflowing” each person's plate is. How can we better reach the unengaged? Are there target audiences that are unaware or uninvolved in the Jewish Federation and/or the Jewish community as a whole? Are there people that are connected to the Federation on the periphery (like social media only) and not feeling like part of the larger Jewish community? Are newcomers seeking or finding Jewish opportunities?

All of these conversations led us to this point: developing a new position, an Engagement Manager position, that can add tremendous value to the community both short term and long term. After building a job description, we looked at what success looks like for this position, the organization as well as the entire Jewish community. Having a position that is dedicated to engagement with our younger community individuals and couples, our families with children, our teens and the many newcomers that arrive in Chattanooga weekly, is a benefit to everyone. Yes, every Jewish organization in town will benefit. Here's how.

We know of many community members by name, in our database or the directory, but in many cases don't really “know” them (yet). We also realize there are Jewish community members in the Chattanooga area that have yet to self-identify and/or connect with any of the Jewish organizations. We know there are Facebook “friends” of the Jewish Federation that have no other connections other than social media followers. There are hundreds of emails in our weekly emails that we don't hear from. All of these people, and many more, are waiting to be engaged. For every new person that feels connected, that is ready to be part of the community, we will be ready to welcome them and connect them with their peers, interests and passions. We will more actively be reaching out to them through this new position. Many newly engaged community members will become future Federation

donors and congregational members. Some will become leaders throughout our Jewish community.

Additionally, we recognize that we have community members that we DO know more about; they may be involved on occasion but are not feeling the deeper connection (yet). The Federation is in a constant state of outreach, trying to connect through calls, emails, mailings and social media. And sometimes we just don't connect immediately. A person/couple/family may unintentionally fall off our radar and we can and should do better. Internally we keep lists of less-connected community members as well as newcomers and do try to connect more frequently and yet we don't always succeed. And believe it or not, there are many people that have never heard of or don't understand the Jewish Federation at all. All of this to say – doing a better job of engagement, outreach and education are priorities. Creating meaningful opportunities for the entire Jewish community, priority. Developing a more connected community, priority. Focusing on our younger community members, priority. Re-engaging our teens (Jew Crew) and young kids (PJ Library), priority.

And now? After receiving numerous very qualified candidates and conducting even more interviews, we welcome Leah Kaplan to the Federation team and family as the Engagement Manager. Leah comes to Chattanooga and the Jewish Federation with a broad and highly qualified background. She has a BS in Political Science and MA in International Development. For the



Leah Kaplan

past 16 years Leah had been working for USAID, most recently in Ghana. She's also had posts in Niger, Liberia, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Cote d'Ivoire, Pakistan, and Georgia (the country); her job was recently eliminated along with 40,000 other USAID staffers.

Leah is a self-described extrovert and people person. She has extensive experience in outreach and planning programs that bring people together, connecting



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Kenneth Goldsmith kenneth.goldsmith@gmail.com

Keep Pushing

In my teaching, my favorite piece of student feedback is the phrase, “keep pushing.” I never tire of using it in assignment and course feedback. It’s short, affirming, and always forward-looking. It can follow praise or critique. “You did well—keep pushing.” or “You’ve got room to grow—keep pushing.” It’s both encouraging and challenging, and over time it has become my personal motto.

I don’t use that phrase that often in my role as Board Chair of the Jewish Federation of Chattanooga, but I carry it with me in everything I do. It’s a mindset that reminds me we are always a work in progress—as individuals, as a board, and as a community. No matter how well we’re doing, there is always another step we can take to grow, to improve, and to deepen our impact. This past year is a testament to that idea. As a Federation, we’ve made significant strides, and we did it by “keeping pushing.”

One of the most meaningful advances has been at **Aleph Bet**, our early childhood center, which now accepts one-year-old enrollments. This wasn’t a simple shift—it required planning, investment, and a reimagining of how we serve young families. But we listened to the needs of our community, and we acted. The result is not just earlier access to high-quality Jewish education and care, but a stronger connection between young families and Jewish life from the very beginning. That’s a win for everyone.

We’ve also hired a **new staff member**, whose charge is to expand our **outreach and engagement**—both in scope and inclusivity. The goal isn’t to simply add events to the calendar. It’s to enrich the vibrancy of Jewish life in Chattanooga, to invite more voices to the table, and to build the kinds of experiences that bring people back again and again. It’s an investment in connection.

Last year, we also revised our **Board structure and committee system** to better reflect the needs of a fast-changing landscape. In a world that increasingly demands responsiveness, clarity, and agility, we recognized the need to streamline how we operate. This wasn’t a change for the sake of change—it was about enabling quicker decision-making, empowering our committee chairs, and giving our board members the tools and focus they need to lead effectively.

Another bright spot—and one that emerged from the grassroots energy of our members and staff—was the launch of our first **Jewish Food Festival**. The event was an incredible success. But more than just an afternoon of good food and celebration, it was a moment of pride, visibility, and unity. It was an example of what happens when creativity, collaboration, and community come together. We listened to an idea, nurtured it, and brought it to life. And now we have a new tradition that reflects the diversity and joy of Jewish Chattanooga.

All of these efforts reflect what happens when a community keeps pushing—when we refuse to stand still, even in the face of success.

Of course, none of this happens in a vacuum. These achievements are the result of tireless effort by our staff, our board, our volunteers, and every community member who shows up, lends a hand, or offers a new idea. My job, as I see it, is not to have all the answers but to help create the conditions where all can thrive—where bold ideas can surface and be taken seriously, and where feedback isn’t just heard but acted on.

We’ve been through a lot in recent years—nationally, globally, and locally. The world can feel unsteady, and the challenges can feel relentless. But what has grounded me, and I think many of us, is the deep well of resilience in this community. We show up for each other. We stay in conversation. We keep faith in one another. And yes—we keep pushing.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2025, we’ll continue building on this momentum. We’ll seek out new ways to support our most vulnerable, to invest in our youth, to celebrate our culture, and to advocate for a better world. There is still work to be done. And that’s a good thing.

So, to our board, our staff, our partners, and every member of our Jewish community: thank you for all you’ve done this year. And whatever you’re working on, however far along you are—keep pushing.

MIDDLE CHAI – Ages 40-ish-60-ish

6/25 Lookouts Game

7/26 Queen at Riverfront Nights

Check Middle Chai FB for details



FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Ann Treadwell atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com • 493-0270 ext 13

The Significance of Quiet Time

Each year I wait for June, July, and August. It's not about the weather.

It's not about vacation time. It's not even about fresh fruits and vegetables at the farmer's market. It is about quiet. Here at the Federation we run fast and furious from January through May. Come Shavuot, the tempo begins to change.

For example, we have one major event each month. In June we kick-off the 18th (Chai) Annual Chattanooga Jewish Film Series. All of the hard work to make it happen is over. The Film Committee has seen upwards of fifty films, made selections, negotiated with distributors, and next step is for audiences to enjoy the films. That is until the review starts in late August for the Documentary Series which will take place in January.

In July we have our annual Independence Day Celebration. Back by popular demand for a third year, is the Triple L Trio. Regionally known musician Lon Eldridge will bring his foot stomping musical friends. Of course, Alice will make mouthwatering summer foods. This year we invited the artists participating in the A Sense of Place exhibit to join us.

In August Campaign Kick-off will be a brunch with nationally known Jewish comedian Joel Chasnoff.

His skits, books, and stories have played to many communities. We could all use a bit of laughter. In the gallery will be Mementos & Memories, Exploring Our Archives. Karen Diamond and Archive volunteers have been working to complete oral histories and pull together interesting pieces of Chattanooga's Jewish history.

I did say quiet, not silent. During the summer much of the prep work will be done for September's Nosh-A-Nooga. During the summer is when we listen to what the community wants from January to December of the following year. It is when I pull out many of the past suggestions I couldn't make "real" in the previous year and review their possibilities for the coming year. It is also when I have some AHA moments of what could work.

The summer is the best time for you to share ideas with us. We will be welcoming our new Engagement Manager and our new Shlichah towards the end of the summer into early fall. It would be great for Michael and I to share your suggestions with both of them.

There may not be as many big, loud, in-person activities during these summer months, but we will be busy staying quiet.

HISTORY MATTERS

The Jewish Archives of Chattanooga is humming with activities geared toward preserving our long and rich Jewish history in Chattanooga. Many projects await a volunteer's touch: photos of people to be identified, news articles to be organized, artifacts to be logged in, and memorabilia to be digitized on the Archives' dedicated computer. Call if you are interested in helping and/or if you have relevant donations.

If you would like to record your and your family's history, please let Ann or Karen Diamond (423-227-1505) know.

A volunteer from the Jewish Archives' Oral History Project would spend an hour or so with you getting it all down for posterity! You would receive a copy and the JAC would add it to the more than 60 completed oral histories in the Archives.

Watch for news about our summer JCC exhibit featuring a few of the fascinating and nostalgic items from the JAC's collection.

DURING WORLD WAR II, MIZPAH HOSTED DINNERS FOR THE WACS STATIONED AT FORT OGLETHORPE - 1944



Among those present: Morris & Frances Levine, Harry & Rose Michelson, Herb Cohn, Ben Feinstein, Louise & Ethel Diamond, Joyce Ann Cohn, Lawrence Levine, Rabbi & Lilian Feinstein, Lucie & Nelson Cohn, Eleanor Levine, Goldmann, Ella Goldmann, Stanley Lane, Michelson, Sony Steinberg, Mary & Celestina, Peggy Jane Harris & all the WACS.



FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

Lorri Lipski llipski@jewishchattanooga.com • 893-9241

Summer Happenings

I'd like to first thank everyone for joining us at our event "Before I go..." We received a lot of positive feedback and stories of conversations with family members following our presentation, which is exactly what we were hoping for. If you missed it, feel free to reach out to us, or you can view the presentation on the Jewish Federation YouTube page. As summer is approaching, I hope you all have plans to spend time with friends and family and enjoy the warm sunshine. If you don't have plans, I have some options for you!

- **Almost** every Friday at 11:00 a.m., we have "Coffee and Conversation" here at the JCC. What makes this special? First, it's inside and air-conditioned, which is important in the summer! There is no agenda. We talk about everything from headline news to family to entertainment. And of course, there is coffee! It's an hour to just chit-chat and relax. (*We won't meet for Coffee & Conversation on Friday, June 20 or Friday, July 4).
- For those who enjoy getting outside, we have some trash pick-up opportunities. July 18 is later in the day, and Aug. 5 is earlier in the day, before it gets too hot! This keeps our community clean, gets us out in the sunshine for a dose of vitamin D, and is a great social opportunity!
- On Friday, June 20th, we'll be meeting at **Clumpies** (in Northshore) to celebrate the **1st day of Summer**. The first 20 to RSVP will get a free scoop. This should be a sweet time, and it would be cool if you joined us!
- And our 2nd Annual Grown Up Summer Camp will be on Thursday, July 10, 17, 24, and 31. We will have movement classes, art projects, themed lunches, and lots of fun. On the final Thursday of **Grown Up Summer Camp**, we will set up and host a **Back-to-School Bash** for all our school-age kids (Machanooga!). This is a great intergenerational activity and a wonderful

way to end the summer break. We will also be collecting school supplies for families who may struggle to afford the long list of school supplies from their teacher. Keep an eye out for deals and stock up for this school supply drive!

- We will wind down the summer with a low-key **Board Game Blowout** on Wednesday, Aug. 27. We will have light snacks. It will be interesting to see who has a competitive streak. We'll have some games set up, but bring your favorite one and as many friends as you can!

Please make sure you RSVP to all these events so we can plan accordingly. Check the Shofar or community emails for detailed information.

Remember, if you ever need to chat, Jennifer and I are always available to meet with you here at the JCC or at your home. You can call or email us to schedule a visit.



**FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
ICE CREAM BRUNCH!**

Friday, June 20th at 11:00
Clumpies Ice Cream
26 Frazier Ave (Northshore)
Let us know to expect you:
rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com

****FIRST 20 TO RSVP WILL
GET A FREE SINGLE
SCOOP CONE!**

Don't like to park?
Our Federation vehicles can transport up to 15 people.
We will depart from JCC at 10:45
Call Lorri 423-893-9241 to secure your spot!

Chair Wellness



Free!
No RSVP required.
Please check Community Email
for weekly updates.

Mondays at 1:00
Jewish Cultural Center
5461 North Terrace Rd

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Brainerd Community Food Pantry seeks
volunteers to help feed almost
500 households a month.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays
of the month,
9:15 - 11:15 AM

Second and Fourth Wednesdays
of the month,
4:00 - 6:00 PM



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*Please support our neighbors in need with
a couple of hours of your time once a month,
once a quarter, when you can.*

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Number to schedule a ride
with the JCC!

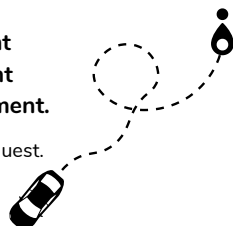
423-551-3716

Please call this number and leave a voicemail with the
following information:

- Your Name
- Date of Appointment
- Time of Appointment
- Address of appointment.

A driver will call you back to confirm your request.

Appts should be scheduled between
9:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday



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Social Services Department.

Orders must be received by
3:00 on Thursday for delivery the
following Thursday (1 week notice).

Call or email Lorri Lipski
423-893-9241 or

llipski@jewishchattanooga.com



people from all walks of life. Her career has focused on building relationships on both the macro and micro level. Leah knows how to both lead and work as part of a team, another tremendous asset as she joins the Federation family.

Leah has deep roots within the Jewish community. She is a product of Jewish schooling, Jewish summer camp, Jewish youth groups, trips to Israel and many other Jewish networks throughout her life. Although her travels have taken her all over the world, she stays connected to her Jewish community in many ways – even throwing a personal “latke and vodka” Chanukah party in whatever country she is living! On her personal time, Leah enjoys yoga, cooking/baking, pickleball, tennis and traveling. Leah also loves raising her 2-year old daughter, Naomi, who will be joining Leah in Chattanooga and will be attending Aleph Bet!

Leah will begin her tenure at the Federation on August 7th. Please join me in welcoming Leah to the Federation as well as our incredible Jewish community.

**Michael Dzik**

Mdzik@JewishChattanooga.com | 893-5443

Ofer – We are extremely thankful for your two years in Chattanooga as our Shaliach. We learned so much from you – music, history, politics, sports – and even that not every Israeli likes fruits and vegetables! You arrived at a difficult time, just before October 7. You’ve persevered personally as well as giving us the grounding we needed after this tragedy. We will miss your welcoming smile and positive attitude. We wish you much success at summer camp and look forward to hearing more about your adventures and successes once you return home to Israel in August. You will always be part of our Chattanooga family and look forward to seeing you again soon. *L’Hitraot and B’Hatzlacha.*

Chattanooga Allergy Clinic



**Todd Levin, MD; Jessica Van Mason, MD; Marc Cromie, MD;
Jennifer Patel, MD; Hyman Kaplan, MD; Lee Perry, MD**

423-899-0431 • chattanoogaallergyclinic.com



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CONGRATULATIONS!

The graduating class of Aleph Bet was asked what they want to be when they grow up.

Wiley Bostwick



"Someday I want to be a doctor and help people."

Cora Conn



"When I grow up I will be an ambulance driver and take people to the hospital."

Mara Largent



"When I grow up I want to work with Mommy and Oma and help clients get a massage."

Logan Mozingo



"I want to be a zookeeper and an astronaut."

Jackson Weiss



"I want to drive a dump truck and build stuff.... Or maybe be a lawyer like Daddy."



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Ofer Musan Federation

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Part of the Journey is the End

Two years ago, two things occurred, and both of them changed my life and turned my world upside down. One of them for the better, and the other one, maybe for the worse. The two happened about a week apart from one another.

Two years ago I came to Chattanooga, and it changed my life for the better. After two years, I can say I feel like home here, and I am so glad I decided to be a shaliach with my placement in Chattanooga. I was able to meet so many great people, to learn so much about Jewish life in America, and to see different and interesting places. I never even thought I would see places here with my own eyes, and also get to work on my English. I did not know how much I did not know. I feel like I have become a member of one of the greatest families on earth.

But, almost two years ago a tragedy happened. Two years have passed since October 7, one of the darkest days in Israel's history. While typing these words the war is still going on, and there are still hostages held in the Gaza strip. It is hard to be so far away from home, to see the names on the screen, people who I knew and are now gone.

During my time in Chattanooga, I think a bunch of mixed feelings always followed me. Even after being shaliach in these two years, especially after October 7, I feel those mixed feelings are getting bigger, due to the fact that the happiest and the saddest part of my two year journey is coming to an end.

I remember seeing an interview with one of my favorite guitar players who was asked what mixed feelings felt like and he said "When you see your mother-in-law flying off of a cliff with your new Cadillac." I think the term mixed feelings describes what I feel the best.

On the one hand, I am sad. I lived here for the last two years. I met so many people, made friends, found new stuff I never saw or had before. I've learned so much about myself, about who I am and about Judaism. I would have never thought about these things in this way before coming here. I want to thank the Chattanooga Jewish Federation, and all of you in the Jewish community for making my time here so memorable.

On the other hand, I am happy. I am about to do something exciting. I'm going to lead a camp in New York City. It's something that if you told me even a

year ago I would have never believed there was even a chance. And after camp I am going back to my home, to Israel. I'm going to see all my friends and family. It means going back to what I grew up with, my culture, my tradition, and going back to speak Hebrew. Missing this was probably my biggest challenge living in the U.S.

I am going to miss every single person I met in these two years I lived here, and I hope to hear from all of you.

If you would like to reach out to me, please do through any of these ways:

My Israeli phone number is- +(972)0504455097

My email is Nuxi12@gmail.com

My personal Facebook- Ofer Musan

My Instagram account- Ofermu

Thank you all for making my time here the greatest time of my life. And as my high school teacher said when we graduated "Don't say goodbye, just say see you later"



CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere condolences to...

...the friends and family of Merle Backer, who died on May 8, 2025. Merle is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce; and her granddaughter, Jessica Lillian Backer. Merle is survived by her three children, Marla Brown, Dean (Katy Mooney) Backer, and Robert (Jennifer) Backer; and grandchildren, Spencer Brown, Carter Brown, Sam Backer, Miles Backer, and Jake Backer.

...the friends and family of Alice Benson, who died on April 29, 2025. Alice is survived by her husband, Jimmy; daughter, Angela (Matt) Kodsi; son, Daniel (Beth) Benson; and grandchildren, Devin Kodsi, Jessica Kodsi, Sydney Benson, Skylar Benson, and Sawyer Benson.

FOREIGN POLICY SUPPER CLUB

This Summer!

June 16 – The Future of NATO and European Security

European security is more uncertain than it has been for decades. Putin's Russia has launched a war with Ukraine on its doorstep, and America's uncertain role as leader of NATO and security provider has been called into question with the failure of Congress to pass supplemental military support for Ukraine. What are Europe's options, and how might developments on both sides of Western Europe – in Ukraine and across the Atlantic – impact its choices? What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas?

July 21 – AI and American National Security

The AI revolution is the leading edge of a larger high-tech revolution which promises to transform the world. Experts argue that international cooperation is needed to expand the opportunities these new technologies hold while protecting societies from their dangers. What are the key policy debates in this area, and what are the opportunities and limits on global AI rules of the road? How will the AI revolution impact American national security? What are its policy options to secure the benefits of AI and guard against its dangers?

August 18 – After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East

The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

6PM - \$15 for Dinner

**MUST RSVP to jewishchattanooga.com
by the Thursday prior to the program**

Mazal Tov

...to Julian Saul, former president of Queen Carpet and Shaw Industries, on receiving the Greater Dalton Area Distinguished Citizen Award from Scouting America's Northwest Georgia Council on May 1, 2025.

...to Kennedy McJunkin and Logan Lundgren on their wedding that took place May 3rd. Kennedy is the daughter of CFO Annette McJunkin and her husband Ken.

...to Barbara Oxenhandler and Ron Oxenhandler on their grandson Jake Malever (age 16) receiving the annual Hadassah Chesed Student Award in Atlanta on May 4, 2025. This award is presented to one student from each of the local Jewish day schools, participating synagogue religious schools, and Jewish organizations. Jake represented Temple Beth Tikvah. Each organization chooses its own recipient based on criteria that are paramount to Hadassah and its members: concern for Jews, Jewish culture, and heritage; concern for Israel; concern for fellow human beings in manner and deed; and good academic standing. Jake's parents are Debbie and Jerred Malever of Alpharetta, GA.

...to Helene and Steve Weinberg on the birth of their grandson Max, born on May 6th. Big sister Avery and parents Alyssa and Jon Weinberg welcome her to their home in Birmingham, Alabama.

...to Rob Cowan on taking the oath of office as incoming President of the Council of Municipal Court Judges in Dalton, GA.

...to Nathaniel Wilhoite on graduating high school in Dalton, GA. Proud mother is Kathryn Wilhoite, Aleph Bet Director.

BAR MITZVAH

Malcolm Brown will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Mizpah Congregation. Malcolm is the son of Marianna Allen and Jason Brown and the grandson of Bob Allen. A rising eighth grader at Baylor School, Malcolm enjoys science class and after school Innovations in Engineering. In his spare time, he enjoys gaming, reading, and playing with his three cats: Max, Casper, and Shadow.



2025 High School Graduates



Jacob Nash

Jacob Nash graduated from Ooltewah High School on May 15, 2025. He will be moving to Costa Rica to learn about developing investment properties in our family business, Tranquility Real Estate Investors, while attending Purdue Global majoring in Business.

Ari Sloan

Ari graduated as the Salutatorian with honors from Heritage High School on May 22, 2025. Ari is the senior class treasurer, as well as being a member of National Honor Society, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, and National English Honor Society. He is also a sectional leader in the Legion of Generals Marching Band and principal clarinet in the Heritage High School Wind Ensemble. Ari is excited to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology this fall and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.



Zoe Solomon

Zoe graduated from CSLA and is excited to spend her next four years at The George Washington University in Washington D.C. She is grateful to have the opportunity to study there majoring in public health on the pre-med track. Zoe was honored to have received a presidential scholarship and admittance to the Women's Leadership program.

Violet Taylor

Violet is graduating from homeschool on Saturday, May 17, 2025 with a 4.0 GPA. Vil will be attending the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY and will major in Community & Leadership Development while minoring in Jewish Studies and Appalachian Studies.



Amelia Dye Watson

Amelia Watson is graduating from Collegiate/Chattanooga State Community College, proudly earning both her high school diploma and an associate degree with a 3.9 GPA. She began her schooling at Aleph Bet, located at the Jewish Federation. Over the years, Amelia has not only excelled in the classroom but also in the pool. She has been a dedicated competitive swimmer for several years through the McCallie/GPS program. Amelia will continue her education at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where she plans to study psychology. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a degree in ophthalmology at the University of Memphis, aiming to combine her passion for science with a commitment to helping others.

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4TH OF JULY | 11:30 AM INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT THE J

\$15 per person
\$28 for two
\$36 for a family of four
Free for those six and younger

Registration and payment
at jewishchattanooga.com

BBQ chicken, potato salad,
cole slaw, baked beans, watermelon,
cookies and drinks

Vegetarian option available
by advance request.

Live Music featuring Triple L Trio!



GROWN UP SUMMER CAMP 2025

WANDER THE WORLD, ONE WEEK AT A TIME!



Jewish Cultural Center
5461 North Terrace
10:30-2:00

July 10th
July 17th
July 24th
July 31st

\$15/week or
\$50 for all 4 weeks
Meals included!

Sign up by July 4th
www.jewishchattanooga.com

SPONSOR FILM

Never Alone



Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 p.m. Sponsor Reception & Screening

The gripping story of Jewish refugees seeking safety in Finland during WWII. As Nazi influence grows, the Finnish-Jewish businessman Abraham Stiller risks everything to protect the refugee community. Based on actual events during World War II. 85 minutes
Finnish, subtitles Virtual noon June 15 - noon June 20

CHAI - 18th Annual

Chattanooga Jewish Film Series

In-person Sunday, June 22, 4:00 p.m. Virtual noon June 22 - noon June 27



Matchmaking 2 At 28, Baruch is "over the hill" in the ultra-Orthodox world, where most are married by now. When he meets Shira, the gorgeous, brainy daughter of his tough matchmaker, sparks fly 109 minutes
Hebrew, subtitles

In-person Sunday, June 29, 4:00 p.m. Virtual noon June 29 - noon July 4

The Stronghold Israeli soldiers trapped in Sinai during 1973 Yom Kippur War face annihilation. Lieutenant and doctor weigh final stand against risky gambit, potentially compromising values. Intense siege drama based on actual events. 113 minutes Hebrew, subtitles



In-person Sunday, July 6, 4:00 p.m. Virtual noon July 6 - noon July 11

No Name Cafe An ultra-orthodox Jew and a Bedouin guide's car breaks down in the Sinai desert while en route for Passover rituals, forcing them to unite for survival as they seek their destination. 120 minutes Hebrew, Arabic, English, subtitles



In-person Sunday, July 13, 4:00 p.m. Virtual noon July 13 - noon July 18

The Property Regina and her granddaughter Mika embark on a journey to Poland to reclaim their family property seized during World War II. But their quest quickly unravels. Regina unexpectedly decides to abandon the mission entirely, leaving Mika lost and confused. 108 minutes, Hebrew, Polish subtitles



In-person Sunday, July 20, 4:00 p.m. Virtual noon July 20 - noon July 25

Midas Man A young record store owner walked into Liverpool's Cavern Club and discovered the greatest pop act the music world would ever see. The story of Brian Epstein, the man who found The Beatles, and their journey. 112 minutes, UK, English

All films will screen in person on the day listed and virtually beginning at noon the day listed and ending at noon the day listed. Popcorn and a drink will be available prior to each in-person screening. Virtual screenings must be pre-paid in advance by visiting www.jewishchattanooga.com; login code the morning of the listed screening.

We appreciate our corporate sponsors: Apogee Wealth Partners, Chattanooga Allergy Clinic, Smith+Howard, Patton Albertson & Miller, Chambliss, First Horizon, and Kleen-A-Matic.

CHATTANOOGA JEWISH FILM SERIES

Thanks Our Corporate Sponsors

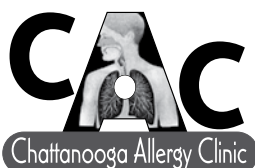
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C Chambliss®



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& MILLER**
Financial Life Management

**FIRST
HORIZON.**

Times Free Press

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Kenneth and Jan Goldsmith	David and Betsy Temple
Vivian and Marty Hershey	Tom and Trudy Trivers
Andy Hodes	Alan and Susan Waxenberg
Candy Kruesi	Dana and Richard Waxler

Together, We Clean

Are you tired of seeing trash everywhere? **SAME!**
Let's come together as a community to clean up
our city, making it a brighter and healthier place
for everyone!

Wednesday, June 18th at 3:00
AND

Tuesday, August 5th at 10:00

****Refreshing beverages provided****

Meet @ JCC (Weather Permitting)

Safety gear provided.

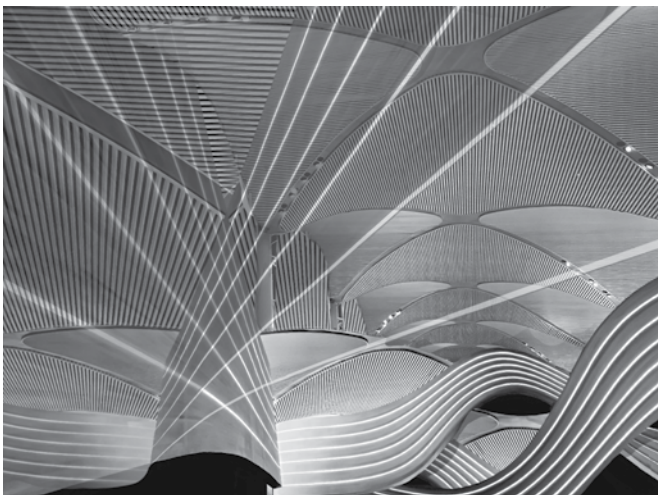
RSVP to

llipski@jewishChattanooga.com



EXHIBIT: A SENSE OF PLACE

June 9 – August 1



Howard Kaplan
Istanbul Layover

MENTOS & MEMORIES: *Exploring our Jewish Archives*

Exhibit: August 11 – September 26





Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA



Brainerd
Community
Food Pantry



As a partner agency with the Brainerd Community Food Pantry, which serves the neighborhoods surrounding the JCC, we'd like to start a monthly collection to provide the pantry with nutritious food for our neighbors. Each month we will collect 1 specific item. Our goal is to collect 225 of each item, which is the number of households the pantry serves at each distribution! Below are items we are collecting for the next 3 months!

June: Peanut Butter

July: Jam

August: Canned Chicken

Please drop off during working hours, or bring to any Federation event you attend!



<--- Scan Here
to make a financial
contribution to the
BCFP!

Scan Here >--->
to order from the BCFP
Amazon wish list and have
it sent directly to the
pantry!



If you would like to get involved, please call Lorri Lipski and she can connect you with volunteer opportunities!

NOSH-A-NOOGA 2025

It may seem like September 7, 2025 is far away, but we are already so excited and we've been very busy getting ready for the new and improved Nosh-A-Nooga!

Save the date and get ready for delicious Jewish food, music, childrens' activities and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome so plan to bring your family and friends.

VOLUNTEER

To make this food festival a big success, we need your help. If you are able to help on September 4th, 5th, or on the day of the event, please contact Ann at atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com. Every volunteer is greatly appreciated.

See you at Nosh-A-Nooga!!!

Randi Weiss Nosh-A-Nooga Chair

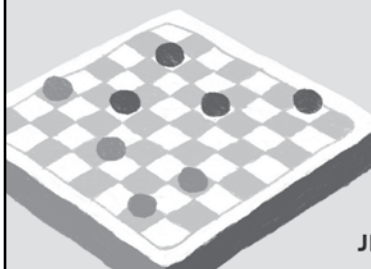


Board Game Blowout!

**Wednesday, August 27
1:00-3:00**

Dust off your dice, and get ready for an afternoon of friendly competition. Find a table that has a game you like- or bring your own!

**JCC
5461 North Terrace**



Snacks will be served!

**RSVP PLEASE
JEWISHCHATTANOOGA.COM**



A PROGRAM AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHATTANOOGA JEWISH FEDERATION

Your Jewish Federation partners with PJ Library and financially invests so that all Jewish children ages 6 months to age 8 in the metro area can receive FREE Jewish themed books. In the near future, the Federation will be introducing programming for these families using PJ library as a platform.

Are you an eligible family that is not receiving these books yet? Sign up at PJLibrary.org and look for "Chattanooga" as your home community.

PJ LIBRARY PROJECT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

1. **Find out what your local food bank needs.** Then gather donated food items, and take them there.
2. **Donate unwanted clothing** to a local shelter or charity shop.
3. **Pick up litter in local greenspaces.** Remember to wear protective gear and check with the local parks department or landowner to ensure safety for all.
4. **Make a picture or card for older people** who are living in nursing homes, or even speak to the homes and see if they have certain visiting times for children. Children can help bring joy to the elderly and many nursing homes have special programs for these type of visits.
5. **Donate films, games, toys, crayons, paper or books** to the local children's hospital. *Bikur cholim*, visiting the sick, is an easy, but impactful mitzvah to perform.
6. **Help to plant trees, flowers, and vegetables** in the local community.
7. **Help an older neighbor with their gardening** (e.g. you could mow the lawn and your children could gather the grass) and check in with them from time to time.
8. **Visit homebound neighbors.** You could do some baking ahead of the visit and bring round the homemade treats to share.
9. **Help out at a local animal shelter**, either by donating items they need or by spending time socializing with the animals, or cleaning out their cages etc. It's a wonderful way to teach *tza'ar ba'alei chayim*, the ethical treatment of animals.
10. **Set up your home for recycling** and get your children involved in recycling items into the right bins etc. This makes for a perfect lesson in *bal tashchit*, preventing waste.

HOW TO SAVE AND PAY FOR COLLEGE, by Rose Opengart & Sandy Dittus

College is very expensive these days. But most parents don't know that the "net price" is the most important information. Net price is what you really pay. It is a college's published price/total cost of attendance (COA), minus your gift aid and education tax benefits. Gift aid means grants and scholarships — money you don't have to pay back.

COA is the average cost to attend for a full academic year (not counting summers) and must include: 1) tuition and fees; 2) room and board; 3) books/supplies; 4) transportation; and 5) personal expenses. Colleges are required to update the COA annually.

What is FAFSA? FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid - a form students fill out to get financial aid from the U.S. government. There are different types of financial aid and scholarships, including need-based and merit-based. The FAFSA determines eligibility for need-based aid. Merit scholarships have specific requirements and are awarded to applicants based on certain skills and accomplishments.

There are two credits for education: the American Opportunity Credit (AOC) and the Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC). Currently, the credit for the AOC is \$2,500 and is available for the 4 years of undergraduate school, and the LLC is \$2,000 and is available for students beyond the first 4 years. To take the credit, the student cannot have been convicted of a drug felony, and they must attend school at least half-time. There is an income cap on both credits.

529 plans allow you to prepay tuition. Contributions to a 529 plan are not deducted, but distributions are not taxable if used for qualified expenses; if not, there is a 10% additional tax. Distributions from 529 plans can be for eligible elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools.

There are no income caps on 529's. You are allowed to contribute 5 times the qualified annual gifts every 5 years. If the beneficiary does not plan to attend a post-secondary school, the 529 can be rolled over to members of the beneficiary's family.

Dr. Rose Opengart is a Career & College Consultant and Sandy Dittus is a Financial Advisor. Thank you Jewish community members Rose and Sandy for sharing this important information.

923 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37403
423-267-9771
www.mizpahcongregation.org
office@mizpahcongregation.org

Page Editor: Richard Zachary



We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation, offering worship, learning, social action, and social programming that enhances the lives of our members, helping us as we make choices of our lives that we might better ourselves and our world by our actions.

FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY SHABBAT

JUNE 6, 2025

SERVICES AT 6:00PM
DINNER AT 7:00PM



**CHATTY
Fundraiser**

Spaghetti Dinner



OUR TEENAGERS WILL BE
PREPARING DINNER!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
"THE TREVOR PROJECT"

Adult Members: \$12

Age 13-22: \$9

Under 12: No Charge

Adult Non-Members: \$15

Age 13-22 Non-Members: \$11

Under 12: No Charge

Please RSVP to the office at 423-267-9771 or
email: office@mizpahcongregation.org

MIZPAH WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Shabbat worship: Fridays 6:00 pm
Saturdays 11:00 am
Torah Study: Saturdays 9:15 am
Beyond Torah: The Prophets Tuesdays 5:00 pm
Mussar: Ethics of Judaism Wednesdays 7:30am (zoom)
Mizpah Shabbat choir practice: Thursdays 5:00 pm
For exact schedule, contact **Marianna Allen**
(423-432-0980)

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025



Back row, from left: Mollie Gabelman, Eden Lewis, Rabbi Craig Lewis, Vil Taylor, Eli Val, Jacob Nash
Front row from left: Ava Raber, Maddie Gabelman, Ava Kaplan



Rabbi's Dad Stu, who chanted his Torah parsha from 70 (seventy) yrs ago, Eden Lewis, Stu's friend Jean Wise and Jen Lewis' brother Bob Brownfield



Mizpah Social Action: Community Spotlight Series Shabbat with Purpose

Mizpah Social Action is shining a spotlight on local grassroots efforts that address critical issues impacting our communities. Join us for a three-month series designed to raise awareness, foster meaningful discussions, and inspire action. Together, we can engage in the essential work of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world—by learning from local efforts to explore ways to create lasting change.

Featured Topics & Speakers

Faith-Based Network Support of New Arrivals - May 23
Strength to Live - Luis Caballero

LGBTQ+ in Tennessee - June 13
Tennessee Equality Project - Marcus Ellsworth

We invite you to be part of these critical conversations as we work together to support community resilience as part of our Shabbat worship.

Shavuot Family Party

Jewish Trivia - Crafts - Potluck Dairy Buffet

Bring a dairy or pareve dish to share. Fun for all ages!

Sunday, June 1 - 6:00 PM - Feinstein Hall

RSVP: family@mizpahcongregation.org



MIZPAH TORAH STUDY

9:15 am Shabbat
Bagels and lox prior -
Mizpah Feinstein Hall



3RD SHABBAT EACH MONTH:
TOT SHABBAT 5:15 pm
SHIREI SHALOM 6:00 pm
Sabbath of Song and Meditation



Celebrate and Enrich Jewish Life

B'nai Zion's vision is to inspire a vibrant, uplifting, and inclusive community connected to the dynamic traditions of Conservative Judaism.



6210 Airpark Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37421
423-894-8900
www.bnaizioncongregation.com
office@bzcongregation.com

Upcoming this Summer!

BLT (Bagels, Lox, Tefillin): Sundays, 9:30am – July 6 & August 10

Jews & Brews: Sundays, 2:30pm @ Oddstory – July 6, Aug. 10, and Sept 7

Weekly Parsha Study: Sundays, 7:00pm via Zoom

Foundations of Judaism: Tuesdays following Minyan at 6:30pm via Zoom

Weekly Talmud Study: Thursdays, 10:00am

Shabbat in the Park: Friday, 5:30pm @ Coolidge Park – July 11 & August 15

Tisha B'Av Learning and Reading of Aicha: Sunday, August 3, 7:00pm

SHIRA V'SHULCHAN שירה ושולחן

Friday at 6:00pm
August 22
Social Hall

Shira v'Shulchan - *Song and Table* is a unique musical Shabbat experience for all ages led by our BZ band, followed by a dairy potluck oneg!



BSI CALENDAR | 2025-2026

BEIT SEFER IVRI בית ספר עברי

THE TOOLS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



All Classes 4:30pm-6:00pm
Zoom Classes (in bold) 4:30pm-5:15pm

August: 13, 20, 27
September: 3, 10, 17
October: 22, 29
November: 5, 12, 19
December: 3, 10, 17
January: 14, 21, 28
February: 4, 11, 18, 25
March: 4, 11, 25
April: 15, 22, 29
May: 6, 13



BSI 2025/26 registration is open for K-8th grade.
Scan QR code to register!

Thanks for a Great Year at BSI!

950 Vine Street
Chattanooga TN 37403
423-490-1106
www.jewishchatt.com
rabbi@jewishchatt.com



Chabad is a philosophy, a movement, and an organization.

Chabad is an educational organization dedicated to helping every Jew, regardless of background, affiliation, or personal level of observance, to increase their level of Jewish knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment.

CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL 2024/2025

Time flies when you are having fun! Chabad Hebrew School 2024/2025 has absolutely proven this truth! What a year filled with tremendous knowledge, and what Jewish spirit the kids have gained!!! Throughout the year CHS children gained skills to be a Lighthouse in our world. They were given an appreciation of our Torah and adventured through the Mitzvot while making remarkable progress in their speed, accuracy, and Hebrew reading, through our top-of-the-line Chabad Aleph Champ program. Kosher Costco, Jewish roblox, a Giant Mitzvah Fair and a beautiful Light up village are just some of the amazing highlights from this past year. To our teachers and volunteers we say toda raba and to our students and families we say mazel tov on another successful year! (Watch for our 2025-2026 HS calendars.)



CAMP GAN ISRAEL CHATTANOOGA 2025

WWW.JEWISHCHATT.COM/CAMP



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
June 23 Welcome to CGI Bubble Foam Pit	June 24 Tie Dye Tuesday! SLIME	June 25 A Day on the Campgrounds Bunting, Baking, Fishing, Sports	June 26 ISRAEL DAY! FREE OF JEWISH CHAT	June 27 CHALLAH BAKE GLOW IN DARK Shabbat Party
June 30 CARNIVAL DAY AND IZZY'S TALENT	July 1 A Day on the Campgrounds Bunting, Baking, Fishing, Sports	July 2 SPORTS DRESS UP DAY IZZY'S Pizzeria	July 3 HIGH POINT CLIMBING AND FITNESS	July 4 INDEPENDENCE USA DAY! Shabbat party
July 7 Grand RACING Master Chef (Gory Izzy)	July 8 Wacky Water Day JEW JOKES	July 9 A Day on the Campgrounds Bunting, Baking, Fishing, Sports	July 10 U.S. Space & Rocket Center BubbleMania	July 11 GRAND GOODBYE SHABBAT OVERNIGHT

= Sports = Swimming = Challah Baking

SHAVUOT ICE CREAM PARTY

JUNE 2ND
5:00 PM

HEAR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

KIDS PROGRAM

DAIRY DINNER BUFFET

CHABAD 950 VINE ST.

JEWISHCHATT.COM/RESERVE



Hadassah enhances the health and lives of people in Israel, the United States and worldwide. By connecting and empowering Jewish women to effect change, we are the women who do. Now, and always, we are Hadassah. Be proud of who you are, Hadassah women.



**Judy Sachsman
& Beth Thomas**
Co-Presidents of Chattanooga
Chapter of Hadassah

DIGNITY FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

John Pregulman, President and Co-founder of KAVOD, addressed Hadassah members about KAVOD, an organization he Co-founded with his wife Amy. KAVOD is a nonprofit that ensures dignity for Holocaust survivors as it seeks to find and assist these survivors. The January/February Hadassah Magazine ran a cover story about Holocaust survivors "The Last Generation." John Pregulman, who grew up in Chattanooga, took many of the magazine's Holocaust survivor photographs as part of KAVOD. John has taken over 1,500 photos of survivors around the globe as part of KAVOD's mission. Helen Pregulman, John's mother, graciously hosted this program at her home.



SAVE A LIFE - CPR TECHNIQUES

Hadassah is hosting a two-hour demonstration on "Save a life: one person at a time" on Sunday, Oct. 19. This program will review general adult CPR techniques and use of the AED and LifeVac for people who may have a compromised airway (choking). WeRCPR will assist with the hands-on demonstration that is planned for that afternoon. Bev Coulter is happy to answer any questions about this program.

HADASSAH CHESED STUDENT AWARD

Mazel tov to Barbara Oxenhandler and Ron Oxenhandler on their grandson Jake Malever (age 16) receiving the annual Hadassah Chessed Student Award in Atlanta on May 4. Jake's parents are Debbie and Jerred Malever of Alpharetta, GA.



Please support the 5786 Rosh Hashanah greeting card. Donations will go toward the Gandel Rehabilitation Hospital for mental and physical rehabilitation at our Mt. Scopus campus.



Mah Jongg & Margaritas!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location will be provided upon registration.

Play Mah Jongg and Board Games, win Door Prizes, and enjoy socializing with friends.

Bring a friend, and an appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.

Nonmembers are invited and will be eligible for a special drawing for an annual membership!

Scan the QR Code or use the link below to register!
<https://bit.ly/ChattanoogaMahJonggandMargaritas25>



When Israel opens for tourists, be ready; it will need us visitors! May we spend next year in Jerusalem in 5786. And put a trip to Israel on your 2026 for the Hadassah National Conference October 26-30. Meanwhile, join Hadassah in Miami August 10-12 for the National Conference "Together We Will Heal." Information will be emailed to members very soon.

Annual Giving enables Hadassah to provide ongoing reliable funds for its many projects such as: Hadassah Medical Organization, which supports saving lives, healing, research, and cutting edge medicine at its two Jerusalem hospitals; Youth Aliyah, which educates and nurtures children at risk; and Young Judea scholarships, which enables children to attend camp and young adults to spend a "gap" year in Israel.

Annual Givers start with:

Chai Society members (\$180/year)
Silver Chai members (\$360/year)
Traditional Keepers (\$1,000/year)
Chai Keepers (\$1,800/year)
New Silver Keepers (\$2,500/year)
Golden Keepers (\$5,000/year)

Those who are already Annual Givers should consider increasing donations or stepping up to the next level. Contact Dana Waxler at dwaxler@hadassah.org.

By connecting and empowering women to effect change, **we are the women who do.** Be proud of who you are, Hadassah women.





LEGACY SOCIETY

JOIN THE JEWISH FEDERATION LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is made up of individuals who, in the tradition of our Jewish faith, wish to share their blessings with others by providing for the future needs of the Jewish community. There are a number of ways to contribute to the Jewish Federation's Endowment through estate planning: a bequest in a will, contribution of the remainder of an IRA or other retirement plan, a life insurance policy, charitable remainder trust, donor advised fund, charitable gift annuity, piece of real estate, securities or other property, or the donation of other assets. However they choose to contribute, Legacy Society members can be sure that their planned gift will turn their dreams or a strong future Jewish community into a reality. Join today.

Anonymous (2)	Center, Austin	Hanan, Rachel	Levine, Lawrence*	Schwartz, Holly
Allen, Amelia*	Center, Marilyn	Hanan, Victor*	Lewis, Art	Schwartz, Skip
Allen, Owen	Cohen, Tal	Hill, J.R.	Lewis, Vicki	Siskin, Pris
Alper, Maxine*	Cohn, Herb*	Hochman, Colman*	Lowe, Beth	Sivils, Janet
Balser, Jeff	Cohn, Sue*	Hochman, Lynn	Lowe, Rob	Spector, Linda
Balser, Robin	Cowan, Rob	Hodes, Alvin*	Lowy, Pamela	Spector, Mark*
Barukh, Rebecca	Diamond, Karen	Hodes, Andy	Lowy, Sam	Spector, Mike
Bean, David*	DiStefano, David	Hodes, Melody	Malsh, Rebecca*	Susman, Gail
Bean, Margaret	DiStefano, Susan	Howard, Lynn	Nash, Ike*	Susman, Joel*
Berz, Bob	Dittus, Sandy	Israel, David	Oxenhandler, Barbara	Weiner, Cara
Binder, Claire	Dropkin, Warren	Israel, Scott	Parker, Jordan	White-Dropkin, Donna
Black, Bonnie	Dzik, Michael	Jaffe, Dot*	Posternack, Warren	Winer, David
Black, Stephen	Dzik, Paula	Jaffe, Sam*	Pregulman, Helen	Winer, Elaine
Bogo, Jerry	Fairchild, David	Lakow, Harry*	Richelson, Alan	Winer, Finette
Bogo, Rosalee	Frank, Estelle*	Lebovitz, Alison	Richelson, Miriam*	Winer, Sanford*
Bohn, Jerry*	Gelburd, Alexander	Lebovitz, Alan	Rose, Cassie	Zachary, Richard
Brooks, Ellyn	Sheldon	Lebovitz, Betty	Rose, Kevin	
Brooks, John	Goler, Marilyn	Lebovitz, Charles	Rosenfeld, Jackie	
Brouner, Betsy	Hanan, Jan	Lebovitz, Lauren	Rosenfeld, Roy	
Brouner, Lee	Hanan, Michael	Lebovitz, Michael	Sachsman, Judy	

*** Deceased**

**See how easy it is to join the Legacy Society!
Call Michael Dzik at 493-0270 ext 15.**

**Thank you
for insuring
our future.**

STAY INFORMED

A full listing of monthly programs is on our website,
www.JewishChattanooga.com, where you can RSVP

Find up-to-date information about online programs,
cancellations and changes in our:

- Weekly Community Email
- Federation Facebook Page
(Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga)
- Federation Website
(JewishChattanooga.com)

**QUESTIONS? Call us!
423-493-0270**

CONTACT LIST

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Kathryn Wilhoite	Alephbet@JewishChattanooga.com
Jake Balser	Federation@JewishChattanooga.com
Jennifer Waxenberg, RN	Nurse@JewishChattanooga.com



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE
THE **POWER** OF A COMMUNITY

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the Shofar

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Ken Goldsmith, Board Chair
Michael Dzik, President & CEO

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Find us online at
JewishChattanooga.com



Next Shofar will be in September 2025. Have a great summer.



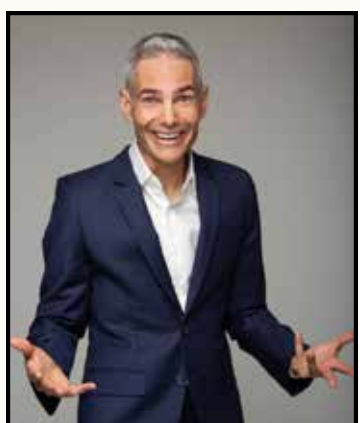
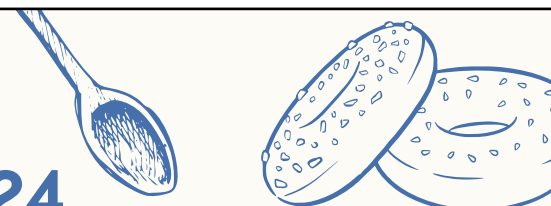
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
10:30AM - JCC

*Jewish Federation
Campaign Kick-Off*

BRUNCH

No cost to attend; you will have the opportunity to pledge
Register online at Jewishchattanooga.com

Babysitting and kids activities available



Internationally known
Israeli-American comedian
Joel Chasnoff.

When we laugh together,
we are together.