



A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

Harmony of Heritage

Saturday, December 6 at 7PM

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FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Engagement = Community, Connection & Peoplehood

I think the Federation word-of-the-year for 2025 is "engagement." According to an online dictionary, engagement means "the act of being engaged/engaging; to participate or become involved in." In a factual way, yes, this is an accurate definition. But I think for the Jewish community, and especially your Jewish Federation, we use the term "engagement" in a much deeper way; in a much more meaningful way. For the Jewish community engagement is demonstrated in a several ways: engagement=community; engagement=connection, engagement=peoplehood. It's who we are, it's how we feel, and it's how we act. Quite literally, it's an integral part of our DNA!

Over the past year your Federation has been doing a great deal of introspective analysis of how we currently "engage" and how we'd like to "engage" moving forward. We even hired an Engagement Manager a few months ago! We've been evaluating not only our offerings but also how we offer these programs; how we promote these programs using diverse methods. Hopefully you've seen a more visible, intentional, and creative presence in our social media and emails. The Federation team has been very deliberate and focused on our messaging as well as the delivery of programs.

We are always looking for opportunities to do things differently. At a recent board meeting we called it "Tribe on the go!" This means we're looking for other venues outside of the Jewish Cultural Center to meet and "engage" you. Don't worry – we're not talking about every event. We're looking for unique opportunities to bring the Jewish Federation into other spaces. For example, in the past few months we hosted Nosh-a-Nooga at the downtown pavilion, held an event at a yoga studio, hosted an event at a restaurant/bar, and used the Common House (social club) as a meeting and event space. (FYI – Federation is trying a one-year non-profit membership at the Common House). We heard you! You're looking for convenient, cool, and hip locations to engage and feel connected to your Jewish community (i.e. build community). And of course, most events will continue to be hosted at the JCC

We have also been looking at how we can attract new and younger community members. Our social media presence is already showing positive results. But to turn first-time attendees into second-time attendees and

eventually into donors we must continue to make each event special. For example, our community loves the Federation's Chanukah party and celebration. It's always packed with old and young. But one item that we've heard is missing is the "engaging" piece for families and kids. This year you will see several interactive games and activities for our youngest community members. We've added a kid friendly drink, "Miracle Mocktail" as well as two adult specialty drinks, the Gin and "Tonickah" & Vodka "Gimmel". Please continue to bring your Chanukiot as we'll all light candles together; we'll enjoy a delicious dinner with latkes and sufganiyot. Haven't been to the Chanukah celebration in a while? Come try this fresh new approach – great for adults of all ages, families, and kids.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, we've leaned on each other as a community. We have engaged and connected more with each other in person. Being together has provided extra strength and a positive feeling of community. I think we have all re-learned that we need each other, and most importantly, we want to be together. The Jewish community is powerfully resilient and connected in times of sorrow and tragedy. It is also important that we find and celebrate the Jewish joy as well.

Your Jewish Federation is investing more in you and in us, the Jewish community. We are working diligently to make sure we have something for everyone. Whether you're a long time participant or you've never been to a program, now is the perfect time to give us a try. Maybe you've been in Chattanooga for years but you feel disconnected to the Federation. That's OK. Let's press the "reset" button together and find ways to make new connections and friendships.

Have you had a positive or poor experience at a Federation event? Please let us know. We can only improve through your feedback. Do you have a program idea? Please share with us. Is there a great indoor or outdoor location you think could be a great venue for a Jewish community event? Give us a call. All feedback is welcomed and encouraged.

Michael Dzik

Michael Dzik

mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com | (423) 893-5443



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Kenneth Goldsmith kenneth.goldsmith@gmail.com

Looking Back, Looking Forward

As this year draws to a close, I've found myself reflecting on the past four years of service to our Federation—two years as Campaign Chair and two years as Board Chair. When I stepped into these roles, I understood the work ahead (well, not really). What I didn't know four years ago was how much I would learn, how deeply I would come to appreciate the dedication of this community, and how meaningful the experience would be to me. Serving in these roles has been one of the most rewarding commitments of my life.

What stands out most is not any single initiative or program (well, actually a few do), but the steady way this community continues to show up—for one another, for Jewish life in Chattanooga, and for Jews throughout the world. Together, we sustained the Annual Campaign in a time when it would have been easy to turn inward or step back. We provided ongoing support to Israel and global Jewish communities, reminding ourselves that we are part of a shared and enduring story. We continued to invest in learning, celebration, caring, and connection here at home—sometimes in familiar ways, sometimes in new ones, but always with intention.

None of this happens in isolation. It happens because of the people who give so much of themselves—donors who contribute generously, volunteers who show up and keep showing up, and community partners who collaborate in the spirit of shared purpose. And at the heart of it all is our professional staff, whose dedication is constant and whose care is deeply felt. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is visible everywhere. I am grateful for their partnership and their leadership.

These years have also held challenges. We stayed together through a global pandemic that changed and still changes how we gather and how we take care of one another. Oct. 7 happened, and we have faced rising antisemitism and the emotional weight of conflict abroad. Yet even in difficult moments, what I have seen is a community choosing connection. Choosing to reach out. Choosing to listen. Choosing to care.

One of the most meaningful lessons I've learned in this work is that community does not simply exist—it is built, shaped, and tended to every day. It requires patience, curiosity, empathy, and courage. It asks us to honor the many different ways people live and experience Jewish

identity. And it asks us, again and again, to see one another with generosity.

I am grateful to my fellow Board members—past and present—for their dedication, thoughtful leadership, and willingness to engage fully in the conversations that matter. I am also grateful to Federation staff, who took the Board's goals and participated in the creation, implementation, and execution of programming to achieve them and make our community thrive. And I want to thank my wife for her encouragement and support over these four years. Leadership is shared work, not only among those who serve, but among those who support those who serve.

As I step out of the role of Board Chair, I do so with confidence and optimism. I am not stepping away from this community—I am simply moving into a different role within it. Leadership evolves, and that is how strong communities endure. I deeply believe in the leaders who are stepping forward, and I look forward to supporting them as we continue our work together.

My hope for the year ahead is that we keep nurturing the connections that make this community strong. That we continue to care for one another with steadiness and kindness. And that we remember that, in times of joy and in times of challenge, we are not alone—we walk this path together.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve. It has truly been my privilege.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Finally – The Federation is back up to full speed with our transportation department. As you know, we lost 4 vehicles in the summer floods in Brainerd. Our auto insurance payout allowed us to purchase 3 replacement vehicles which was done within weeks of the incident. We received many donations through the community, from Jewish and non-Jewish donors, and after the flood as well. With the help of a State of Tennessee grant which began Nov. 1, we were able to secure the final funding to purchase the 4th vehicle! Thank you for your generosity. Looking forward to seeing you on the road soon!



FROM THE ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Leah Kaplan lkaplan@jewishchattanooga.com • (423) 394-2005

Introductions and New Programs

Many of you were able to join us for Linor's introductory program at the Common House. While it was our chance to hear more about Linor, it was also the launch of our membership at the Common House on the Southside of Chattanooga. Set inside the renovated historic YMCA building, the Common House is a modern, contemporary social club, designed for connection. This is part trying something new, part response to some in our community's requests for more diversity in our programming and the location of our events, and part our willingness to adapt to changing times and needs of the people we support. The Common House has a variety of spaces that can be used by the Federation, primarily the Penny Backer room where we can host quarterly events. There's a lovely restaurant on the second floor, co-working spaces on the third floor, and Ruby Hall which was the gymnasium but has been turned into a beautiful reception hall that can accommodate up to 300 people. There's a pool for the warmer months and



two other outdoor spaces for social gatherings. We also have access to conference space and a podcast studio.

I'm really excited about the new programming we are developing for 2026. Look out for more health and wellness events, we had a great turnout for the Sandwich Generation Lunch and have some new topics we think will help our community take better care of ourselves and others. A huge thanks to the volunteers who came to the Aleph Bet Beautification Day! More volunteer Tikun Olam programming is coming your way! At the end of November, we partnered with Chattanooga Theatre Center on an interactive theatre show for young kids and I'll be exploring other theatre and arts events for a wider range of people. For Next Gen and Middle Chai, we'll be restarting Shabbat Dinners, which will take place during months with a fifth Friday. That will be January, May, July, and October.

Finally, Chanukah season is quickly approaching and we've added some new activities, creative drinks, and other treats to our annual Chanukah Party, so be sure to get your tickets. With the help of Aleph Bet kids, we've put together a fun Chanukah gift bag with candles, a kid decorated dreidel, and lots of yummy treats. All proceeds go to supporting Aleph Bet so don't forget to pick one up! As always, feel free to reach out with ideas, feedback, or just to chat.





FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

Lorri Lipski llipski@jewishchattanooga.com • (423) 893-9241

Small Changes - Big Benefits

Show of hands--how many of you had to loosen your belt after Thanksgiving!? It's that time of year... Holiday meals, festive treats at the office, and the weather lends itself to indulging in warm comfort food. As a matter of fact, humans (and some primates) may experience seasonal changes in body weight, often having a tendency to gain weight during the colder months, which is thought to be an evolutionary adaptation to periods of potential food scarcity and increased energetic demands. It's in our blood! But there are some steps we can take to stay balanced.

- **Walk.** Walking is one of the best forms of exercise, with studies showing a 30 percent reduced risk of early death, heart disease, and diabetes. No equipment needed. It is an all-weather activity (though we all know it's hard to get motivated when it's too cold or too hot outside- **just do it!**). Aim to do this 5 out of 7 days — you can choose your rest days. If you can't walk outdoors, find an indoor location nearby. Side note: Research shows that the worst thing you can do after a meal is sit down and relax. After a meal is a perfect time to get some fresh air. Just a 10-minute walk helps with digestion and blood sugar regulation! It also releases endorphins and boosts your mood! You could also consider the Japanese method of walking. Researchers from Shinshu University and Jukunen Taiikudaigaku Research Center in Matsumoto published a study in 2017 that included more than 6,400 middle-aged and senior adults from Japan, the United States, and Denmark. They included healthy individuals and those with lifestyle-related diseases, such as high blood pressure and diabetes, starting in 2007. They experienced a 20 percent reduction in lifestyle disease scores, which track obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol. Here's the formula:

1. Start with a slow, comfortable pace for 3 minutes.
2. Increase your pace to a brisk walk for 3 minutes. **Swing your arms to get a full body workout!*
3. Repeat this cycle 5 times for a total of 30 minutes.

- **Food.** The keyword here is MODERATION. Aim for whole foods and eat a variety of them. Talk to your doctor about your protein and fiber intake

and what your body needs. Reframe your mind to recognize that dessert is a special treat, not an everyday requirement. Please note, sugar isn't just in desserts. Look for ways it has snuck into many unexpected items. Sugar should account for no more than 10% of your daily calories, from ALL sources. Practice the Japanese method of "Hara hachi bu," which suggests stopping eating when you feel about 80% full, not when you are completely stuffed. Here's how: **Eat slowly:** It takes about 15-20 minutes for your brain to register that your stomach is full. Eating slowly gives your body time to send that signal. **Be mindful:** Focus on your food, avoid distractions like screens. Use smaller plates: This can help you control portion sizes. **Stop when you are no longer hungry:** The goal is to feel satisfied, not uncomfortably full. This is a key part of being aware of your body's signals.

- **Beverages.** Water should be your primary beverage. If you are going to drink anything else, start with a glass of water first. Limit or avoid sugary beverages- they are empty calories. And don't come at me...but the World Health Organization has published a statement in The Lancet Public Health: when it comes to alcohol consumption, there is no safe amount that does not affect health. But, if you do choose to drink, reserve it for special occasions!

Lunch
OUT

JOIN LORRI & JENNIFER AT 11:30
ON THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
FOR LUNCH (SELF-PAY)!

JAN 27 // KENNY'S (SOUTHSIDE)
FEB 24 // WHISTLESTOP (OOLTEWAH)
MAR 31 // MIKE'S TAVERN (HIXSON)
APR 28 // OX2 BUNS & NOODLES (GUNBARREL)
MAY 26 // BLEU FOX CHEESE SHOP (SOUTHSIDE)
JUN 30 // HAN MI (ST. ELMO)

RSVP TO LLIPSKI@JEWISHCHATTANOOGA.COM
**Location subject to change based on seating availability.
Please RSVP 3 days before each event

FEDERATION CLOSURES

Wednesday, December 24
Staff Work From Home Day
(Office and Aleph Bet Closed)

Thursday, December 25
Office and Aleph Bet Closed

Thursday, January 1
Office and Aleph Bet Closed

SAVE THE DATES!

Documentary Film Series
Sundays in January: 4, 11, 18 & 25

Israeli Cultural Storytellers and Musicians
January 7 – 9

Former American Ambassador to Israel
Daniel Shapiro
January 19

*Federation Annual Meeting
and Community Lunch*
January 25

*International Holocaust Day event
with Bea Lurie*
January 27



**Number to schedule a ride
with the Federation!**

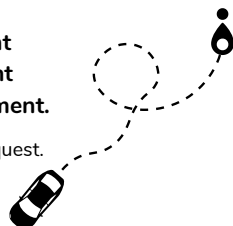
423-551-3716

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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**COME LISTEN TO LINOR, OUR
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Jewish Cultural Center 5461 North Terrace Rd

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- \$8 MATZA BALL SOUP OR CHILI

All orders must be placed through the 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

**Linor Shirinov** Federation

israel@jewishchattanooga.com • (423) 385-0098

New Family and Friends Here in Chattanooga

December has always been a full month for my family, and for me it carries layers of meaning. On a personal level, it's the month both my dad and my brother were born. Religiously, we celebrate Hanukkah. And traditionally, because of my family's roots - we also celebrate Novy God.

Hanukkah has always been one of my favorite holidays. I used to love making a Chanukiah together with my mom, and then use it during Hanukkah. Every night of Hanukkah we would gather around the chanukiah and light the candles, say the prayers, sing Hanukkah songs and finish it off with a good Sufganiyah. After Hanukkah we would celebrate Novy God on the night of December 31st.

Novy God, which literally translates from Russian to English as "New Year," is exactly that: a festive celebration of the new calendar year. But behind it lies a fascinating history. In the Soviet Union, religious holidays were abolished due to the Communist Party's unofficial policy of state atheism. In 1935, politician Pavel Postyshev proposed creating a secular New Year celebration that would benefit Soviet youth. Many Christmas traditions were adopted in a non-religious form: decorated trees- symbolizing happiness and prosperity- replaced Christmas trees, and the beloved figure of 'Ded Maroz' (Grandfather Frost) emerged to bring gifts.

In Israel, Novy God (נובי גוד) became an important tradition among first- and second-generation immigrants from the former Soviet Union- families like mine. These celebrations have been especially common in communities with large Russian-speaking populations. Growing up, the holiday was sometimes misunderstood, and not always welcomed by the wider public. But over the past decade, more and more Israelis regardless of background have embraced Novy God, appreciating it as a cultural celebration, a family gathering, and a joyful way to welcome the new year.

For me, Novy God has always been another opportunity to celebrate family. Every year we decorated a tree, sat down together for a festive dinner filled with traditional Russian dishes, exchanged gifts, and shared our hopes for the coming year. It was a ritual of warmth, togetherness, and renewal.

Another reason why Novy God is so special to me, is because it is the whole reason why I was born. My big brother Daniel wrote a letter to Ded Maroz asking for

a little sister. And believe it or not- 9 months later I was born.

This year, for the first time in my life, I won't be welcoming the new year with my family in the way I'm used to. It feels strange, but also meaningful. Even from afar, I know I'll carry the spirit of Novy God with me and find my own new way to celebrate the start of the calendar year.



Mazal Tov

Devin and Siena Kodsi on their marriage. Devin is the son of Matt and Angela Kodsi and brother of Jessica Kodsi.

ISRAEL TRIP

Randi Weiss is our Partnership Together (P2G) Chair for Chattanooga.

She recently went on a trip to Israel and visited with former Shlichim and our Hadera P2G family.

I first heard about P2G ten years ago when I moved to Chattanooga. At the time I thought, "Great! The federation will send me to Israel for free!" I really had a lot to learn, and my recent trip to Israel over Sukkot proved just that.



Jeff and I started our visit by staying with Merav whom I first met in 2016 when I went to Israel through the P2G Educators Exchange program. Since that time, Merav and I have remained good friends, our students have exchanged cards and videos, and they even light Chanukah candles together on zoom. It was wonderful to actually spend time together and celebrate the holiday of Sukkot with her family. Merav took us on a 2 day trip to Jerusalem where we experienced Hol Hamoed Sukkot at the Shuk, The Old City, and shaking the lulav and etrog at the Kotel.

Another highlight of our first week was visiting Nadav, my student from the One2One English program and again enjoying Sukkot with him and his family. We sat in the sukkah, ate a delicious meal, and spent hours talking.

Each night meant another sukkah at another home— each giving us another opportunity to connect with friends we have met through P2G and really feel at home in Israel.

From there we drove to Hadera where we stayed with Chattanooga's first Shaliach, Raoul Molnar, his wife Mati, and their three beautiful children whom we now consider our Israeli grandchildren. We spent the day in the park together having a quiet Shabbat and shared a beautiful sunset together in Caesarea - an amazing day feeling like being part of an Israeli family.



Our next stop was with Jeff and my Leadership Together (L2G) partners, Amihay and Edna Rabenu. After spending hours on zoom with them, we now got to be together in Israel where they planned many adventures for us including exploring the Kinneret (The Sea of Galilee), the Golan Heights, and even hiking through the land between Israel and Jordan. We were fortunate to get to know their 4 children, most home from the army for Sukkot, and learn first hand what it is like to be a soldier on the ground in Gaza. Jeff had a fun evening hanging out with Amihay and his friends, further expanding his P2G connections. A definite highlight was celebrating Simchat Torah as part of an Israeli family. The music! The Euphoria! The beautiful Torahs! And Jeff carried one of the Torahs for one of the Hakafot – an unforgettable experience.



We ended our travels in Tel Aviv with our Chattanooga Israeli family – past shlichim who took good care of us – Ofer, Inbal, Shiran, and Chen! Great conversation, walks, food, (Jaffa knafeh!) and memories, like any family reunion.

We were definitely welcomed into homes and families in Israel. But when it was announced that the hostages were coming home, and we experienced the return of the 20 live hostages back to Israel, we became part of a bigger family. A nation – for which we are so grateful! Thank you to P2G and the Jewish Federation of Chattanooga for giving us the chance to make these connections that lead to lasting friendships and to enjoy this partnership both in Chattanooga and Israel.



ALEPH BET CHILDREN'S CENTER

Jessica Abramson alephbet@jewishchattanooga.com • (423) 893-5486



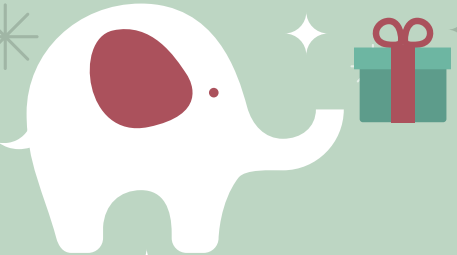
Aleph Bet provides an educational, interactive and developmentally appropriate preschool program enriched by Jewish traditions and values.

MAGIC OF WINTER AND THE HOLIDAYS

It is hard to believe it's already December! Winter is right around the corner, and with that comes the changing of the seasons and the holidays. It is so fun to see the magic of winter and the holidays through the eyes of the children. Children have been busy at Aleph Bet: Dance Classes on Thursdays, Learning with Linor on Wednesdays, Soccer Shots on Tuesdays...the list goes on and on.

Miss Anna, our Lead Toddler Teacher, was able to teach and collaborate with the Aleph Bet staff to introduce our new curriculum philosophy: Emergent Curriculum. Emergent Curriculum allows children to be the leaders in their education and to follow their interests. Based on observations and discussions, teachers then create activities and lesson plans around the children's interests. Most classrooms took the natural environment as their learning environment this past month, and spent a lot of time learning about the changing color of leaves, pumpkin exploration, and stomping on leaves outside.





JEW CREW WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

An interfaith winter holiday celebration
for the Jew Crew and the Bible Crew!
Meet new friends, celebrate holiday
traditions together, and have fun!

Bring a white elephant gift no
more than \$20. Food, drinks and
dessert provided.

DECEMBER 07, 2025 • 12:30-2:00PM
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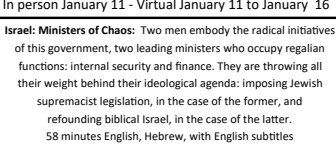
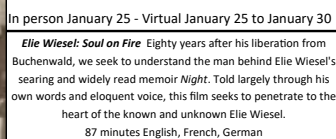
Chattanooga Jewish

January 2026



DOCS
Documentary Film Series

In person at the
Jewish Cultural Center
5461 North Terrace Road
Virtual screenings available

In person January 4 - Virtual January 4 to January 9 Even the Walls Cry: In the wake of the devastating Hamas-led massacre in Israel on October 7th, four survivors share their harrowing stories. 62 minutes Hebrew with English subtitles	
In person January 11 - Virtual January 11 to January 16 Israel: Ministers of Chaos: Two men embody the radical initiatives of this government, two leading ministers who occupy regalian functions: internal security and finance. They are throwing all their weight behind their ideological agenda: imposing Jewish supremacist legislation, in the case of the former, and refounding biblical Israel, in the case of the latter. 58 minutes English, Hebrew, with English subtitles	
Hadassah Reception at 2:30 PM prior to the Film In person January 18 - Virtual January 18 to January 23 Labors of Love: The Life and Times of Henrietta Szold: A visionary leader and one of history's most influential, yet under-recognized, American Jewish women, Henrietta Szold left an indelible mark on the 20th century. She founded Hadassah in 1912, creating a vital link between American women and communities in Palestine. 79 minutes English	
In person January 25 - Virtual January 25 to January 30 Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire Eighty years after his liberation from Buchenwald, we seek to understand the man behind Elie Wiesel's searing and widely read memoir <i>Night</i>. Told largely through his own words and eloquent voice, this film seeks to penetrate to the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel. 87 minutes English, French, German	

All films will screen in person on the day listed at 3:00 p.m. and virtually beginning at noon the day listed and ending at noon the day listed. Popcorn and a drink will be available at each in-person screening. Virtual screenings must be pre-paid in advance by visiting www.jewishchattanooga.org; you will receive the login code the morning of the listed screening. Subscription for all 4 films is \$36. \$12 one film at a time.

There is no additional charge for pre-paid corporate sponsors, patrons and summer film sponsors.

SAVE THE DATE

CHAI NITE RETURNS

Saturday, February 7, 2026

7:30PM

Jewish Cultural Center

DINNER. DANCING. DRINKS.
A TIME TO CELEBRATE LIFE
WITH COMMUNITY.

“LAISSEZ LES
BON TEMPS ROULER”

HARMONY OF HERITAGE: A FUSION OF MUSIC FROM BLACK AND JEWISH CULTURE

*MUSIC, COMMUNITY,
AND GOOD VIBES!*

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6
7:00PM**

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SAM COOKE, PENTATONIX
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CAMP AND ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIPS FROM YOUR JEWISH FEDERATION!

Applications open NOW through February 15; Up to \$1,750 per camper

The Chattanooga Jewish Federation is partnering with One Happy Camper (OHC) and PJ Goes to Camp for first time campers. Been to camp more than once? More than twice? Three times? Your Chattanooga Federation offers camp scholarships for ALL! ALL Chattanooga applications go through OHC: jewishcamp.org. NOTE – If this is not your first time, the application may “deny” your grant. Not to worry, OHC collects that data for Chattanooga and you WILL get a grant! Grants range from \$500-\$1,750 per child, per summer, from the Federation. Requirements • Must be approved Jewish summer camp (through movements, Hadassah, etc) • Family must live in the Chattanooga metro area • Family must make annual campaign gift (and in good standing) to Federation – at any level.

Contact Michael Dzik – mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com



The Federation recognizes the life-long benefits of Jewish summer camp, building Jewish identity, friendships and independence.



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

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS REPORT BY DANA WAXLER

The 39th World Zionist Congress convened in Jerusalem on Oct. 28-30. The Congress meets every 5 years and has not met in person for 10 years due to COVID. This year 2,500 participants from 42 countries attended, the largest delegation ever! The WZC is considered the "parliament of the Jewish People," and during this conference it is determined how the \$1 billion in annual funding is directed to the Jewish agencies throughout the world including the World Zionist Organization (WZO), Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish National Fund/KKL, and Keren Hyesod. The Congress is composed of over seven hundred delegates who then meet in committees and vote and set the agenda which goes to the Congress for a vote. Resolutions that are passed are eligible for funding.



**Entrance to the Congress
with Theodore Hertzl**

Hadassah had 32 delegates. I was so extremely fortunate to be chosen as one of the two National Vice Presidents to represent Hadassah as a delegate. It was truly an extraordinary experience. Before the Congress started, Hadassah attended a welcome lunch hosted by the American Zionist Movement that comprised of 155 delegates from the United States.

The congress opened with a moment of silence for those who lost their lives during the Oct. 7 attack. At the main opening Plenary an appeal was made to all for unity considering the Israel-Hamas war. During this Plenary, Hadassah's own Barbara Goldstein (aka BG) was honored as a Fellow of the World Zionist Conference, one of the most coveted awards from the organization. I must say this was for me the most exciting part of the Congress! The auditorium was abuzz with Jewish Zionists from all over the world, united (at the time), and I felt that my participation was a part of a historical and empowering event.

The other Plenary sessions included discussions on Antisemitism, Zionism on social media, and Women in Zionism chaired by Hadassah National President Carol Ann Schwartz. That evening we attended a gala dinner followed by an Opening Evening honoring the IDF soldiers and prominent speakers including Israel's President Herzog. The next morning the Hadassah delegates met to go over the resolutions from the 10 Committees. We were each assigned to a committee and discussed in general what resolutions Hadassah supported. Before we went into our committee meetings, we attended an interactive and inspiring round table Plenary chaired by Professor Gil Troy. Hadassah assigned me to the Leadership and Empowerment Committee. This committee had 3 resolutions: Promoting Zionist Women's Leadership in Israel and the Diaspora, Empowering Women as Pillars of Jewish continuity and Zionist Leadership and Advancing the Aliya of Sherut Leumi (National Service) volunteers to Israel. Of course, Hadassah completely supported all the resolutions. There were minor wording changes, and it passed through committee with no problems! The Congress was scheduled to vote on the resolutions the next and final day.



**Dana Waxler, Georgia State Representative,
Esther Panish, Sharon Goresksy, and Hadassah
National President Carol Ann Schwartz.**

That afternoon all of the Congress and delegates were scheduled to go on tours to the Gaza Envelope or sites in Jerusalem, however the delegates were informed we could not go on our tours because the Congress was having to cancel the last day of the meetings due to a massive Haredim Jews protest that was going to take place in the Central part of Jerusalem and block the streets to the convention center. Consequently, it would have been impossible to leave the center the next day when the Congress was to end. So, the voting delegates were required to remain at the center for the voting of the Resolutions that had been approved by the committees. We were there until midnight. It was an exceptionally long day!

The delegates will vote by Zoom on the remaining Constitutional resolutions. It was disappointing that this situation upended the Congress. Overall, it was an incredible experience, and I am so grateful I was there to represent Hadassah.

Machanooga is a joint program between Mizpah and B'nai Zion that serves children from pre-K to 8th grade.

מחנווגה
machanooga
A bridge to Jewish learning



Jen Lewis
Co-Director
roshnooga@gmail.com



Traci Sloan
Co-Director

MACHANOOGA WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HANUKKAH!

Machanooga Happenings



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



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.

Mizpah CONGREGATION LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER

HANUKKAH Party

FRIDAY, 12/19/25

BRISKET DINNER, LATKES, VEGGIE, SALAD BAR AND DESSERTS

CHICKEN NUGGETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN
VEGGIE & GLUTEN FREE OPTION

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

Adult Members: \$12 Adult Non-Members: \$15
Age 13-22: \$9 Age 13-22 Non-Members: \$12
Under 12: No Charge Under 12: No Charge

Services Start at 6:00 PM

Bring your Hanukkiah we will light the 6th candle together

Mizpah CONGREGATION *First Friday Family Shabbat*

DECEMBER 5, 2025

SERVICES @ 6:00 PM
DINNER @ 7:00 PM

Rosemary Dijon Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, peas, salad bar and desserts
CHICKEN TENDERS FOR KIDS
VEGGIE & GLUTEN-FREE OPTION

Adult Members: \$12 Adult Non-Members: \$15
Age 13-22: \$9 Age 13-22 Non-Members: \$11
Under 12: No Charge Under 12: No Charge

PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE AT 423-267-9771 OR
EMAIL: OFFICE@MIZPAHCONGREGATION.ORG

Mizpah CONGREGATION *December will be the 2nd Friday*

For Mizpah tots and families

TOT SHABBAT
Candles Music Challah
with Amy Cohen & Abby Lewis

TOT SHABBAT
Friday, 12/12
5:15 PM
in the Sanctuary

SHIRAI SHALOM SHABBAT
Friday, 12/12
6:00 PM
in Feinstein Hall

MIZPAH TORAH STUDY

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

MIZPAH WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Shabbat Services:	Fridays 6:00 PM
	Saturdays 11:00 AM
Torah Study	Saturdays 9:00 AM
Beyond Torah: The Prophets	Tuesdays 5:00 PM
Mussar: Ethics of Judaism	Wednesdays 7:30 AM
Mizpah Choir Practice	Thursdays 5:00 PM

For exact schedule, contact Marianna Allen - 423-432-0980

Community Candle Lighting

Mizpah invites our Fort Wood Community to join us as we Celebrate Hanukkah!

We will light our menorah for the 3rd Night
Tuesday, 12/16/25 6:00 PM

On the Steps of the Front Entrance
923 McCallie Avenue - Enter off Oak Street
5:00 PM - Levivot Making:
Come to Feinstein Hall to make Sweet Cheese Levivot (ricotta pancakes) with Marianna

Hot Chocolate being served

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.



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office@bzcongregation.com

Southern Schmooze at Ramah Darom

Join us in the North Georgia mountains for a fun-filled, family-friendly, all-inclusive weekend with members of our community and a chance to schmooze with others from around the Southeast.



Southern Schmooze at Ramah Darom
70 Darom Lane, Clayton, GA 30525

Feb 27-Mar 1, 2026

\$195/per person (ages 3 & up)
\$36/per infant (ages 2 & under)

This all-inclusive price covers your activities, programming, comfortable hotel or cabin accommodations and delicious kosher meals, snacks and drinks.

Learn more and register today!

ramahdarom.org/schmooze



B'nai Zion Calendar

Friday Night - Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:00 pm

Shabbat Morning Services: 9:30 am

BSI: Dec. 3, 10, 17

Minyan/Foundations: Tues., 6:00/6:30 pm via Zoom

Weekly Parsha Study: Sundays, 7:00pm

Weekly Talmud Study: Thursdays, 10:00am

December

6	Shabbat Muffins
7	BLT (Bagels, Lox, Tefillin) / Jews & Brews
13	Teen Beit Midrash / Lunch & Learn
17	Hanukkah Party
19	Shira v'Shulchan

BZ Hanukkah Party

Wednesday, December 17

6:00pm

Social Hall

Bring your favorite hanukkah for a fun community gathering with jelly donuts, hot cider, and a latke bar!



SHIRA V'SHULCHAN שירה ושולחן

Friday at 6:00pm
December 19
Social Hall

A unique musical Shabbat experience for all ages!
Followed by a dairy potluck oneg.

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

This year's Israel Quest curriculum has been an unforgettable adventure! Our students circled Jericho and watched the walls crumble, bid at the Mitzvah auction with Ruth, traveled with Chana's robot around Jerusalem and crafted their very own leather siddurim. We also planted a fig tree and stepped into Sarah's tent with its 4 special doors. Sundays are buzzing with Torah learning! There's still time to join the second semester - reach out to us to learn more!



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A MONTHLY GATHERING FOR WOMEN
TO CONNECT, LEARN, AND GROW.
JOIN FOR TEA, TREATS, AND
AN ENGAGING DISCUSSION.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 10:00 AM

EVERY ROSH CHODESH
NEW MONTH ON THE JEWISH
CALENDAR

UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER 22 JANUARY 20
FEBRUARY 18 MARCH 19
APRIL 20

CHANUKAH
ON

ב"ה

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

5:30PM Parade begins | 6:00 PM Chanukah on Ice and Rides!

Chattanooga Theatre Center - 400 River St. | First Horizon Pavilion - 1826 Reggie White Blvd.

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

HADASSAH IS THE ONE

The newest national Hadassah campaign "Hadassah is the One," promotes a membership drive and contest for 2025. **Hadassah is the One You've Been Searching For!** Chattanooga was the first Hadassah chapter in the Southern Region. Think of membership in Hadassah when you need a gift that fits every occasion.

GREETINGS

Hadassah members greeted the new Shlich, Linor Shirinov, as well as the new Federation Engagement Director, Leah Kaplan, with lunch at the Federation after Coffee and Conversation. Hadassah members were able to ask questions about the role of the Slich and the new position of Engagement Director.



SOUTHERN REGION BOARD

The Southern Region Board meeting in Birmingham was attended by Judy Sachsman, Beth Thomas and Dana Waxler. The next in-person Board meeting will be held in Birmingham March 21-22.



LIFE MUST GO ON

In conjunction with the Federation, Hadassah will be celebrating Chanukkah with the annual dinner and candle lighting at the JCC on the first night (Dec. 14). On Sunday, January 18, as part of the Documentary film series, the latest movie about Henrietta Szold, the woman who created Hadassah, will be shown. Hadassah members will provide an array of dairy desserts after the movie. Hadassah will join the Federation in commemorating National Holocaust Day on January 27 when Hadassah member Bea Lurie will speak about a book she recently published about her father's experiences surviving the Holocaust, **Life Must Go On**.

WORLD ZIONIST CONFERENCE

The 39th World Zionist Congress convened in Jerusalem on Oct. 28-30. The Congress meets every five years and has not met in person for 10 years due to COVID. This year 2,500 participants from 42 countries attended, the largest delegation ever! Hadassah had 32 delegates. Dana Waxler was fortunate to be chosen as one of the two National Vice Presidents to represent Hadassah as a delegate. Hadassah assigned Dana to the Leadership and Empowerment Committee, where they considered three resolutions: Promoting Zionist Women's Leadership in Israel and the Diaspora, Empowering Women as Pillars of Jewish continuity, and Zionist Leadership and Advancing the Aliya of Sherut Leumi (National Service) volunteers to Israel. Hadassah supported all the resolutions which were passed by the committee.



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 calendar for the Hadassah National Conference Oct. 26-30.

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 Judaea 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.





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 (423) 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**

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Michael Dzik, President & CEO

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Community Chanukah Celebration and Candle Lighting

FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 5:30PM
JCC - 5461 NORTH TERRACE

- *FAMILY FRIENDLY: KIDS GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
- *CANDLE MAKING AND DONUT DECORATING
- *ADULT BEVERAGES: A "GIN AND TONIKAH"
AND THE "MIRACLE MOCKTAIL"
- *PREMIER OF THE NEW CHATTANOOGA FEDERATION
SONG (WITH VIDEO AND LYRICS)
- *BRING A MENORAH: WE'LL PROVIDE THE CANDLES

 **Jewish Federation**
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

Adults - \$15

Kids 6-15 - \$5

Kids under 5 - Free

Register: Jewishchattanooga.com

