



A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

Flowers of Hope

See Page 10 for Details

Photo by: Amit Geron

In This Issue

- Aleph Bet Art Fundraiser - Page 8
- SAGE Group - Page 8
- Israeli Dance - Page 9
- Flowers of Hope - Page 10
- Community Dinner & Conversation - Back Cover



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Energized, Exhausted & Refreshed

How is it already March 2026? Can Passover really be here in 5 weeks? It seems like the year is already flying by. Somehow I feel energized, exhausted, and refreshed all at the same time. Is that possible?

Every other year, Jewish Federations of North America puts together a gathering for all Federation professionals called "FedPro". With the abundance of cold weather in Chattanooga it was nice to be in a warmer climate – this year in Phoenix. I was joined by Annette McJunkin and Leah Kaplan from Chattanooga along with 997 Federation colleagues from across North America. This conference allows everyone to be together at moments during the day (plenaries, meals) while also having "tracks" for an individual's work portfolio. Annette attended financial and HR sessions; Leah was in programs, engagement, and volunteering; I attended the CEO track along with fundraising and community relations.

Rather than tell you about the entire conference as a whole, I wanted to focus on one particular session that was most educational for me – artificial intelligence. Yes, we had a session on AI and how it can be helpful and beneficial – safely - to the nonprofit world.

A friend explained AI to me this way – We're already using it! When you type a word or phrase into a google search, that's already AI. Now, with more and more AI platforms and information, computers can provide you with a wide array of tools to make our lives a little simpler (hopefully!).

From previous Shofar articles, you already know that I'm "old school". I will also admit that I'm coming around and using more and more technology, sometimes kicking and screaming, but I do come around. I've used ChatGPT on occasion to help me write a job description, a letter, or even give an outline on a specific topic. Pretty basic. There are apparently other AI companies that are much more robust and user friendly such as CoPilot and Gemini. I learned that you can really ask AI to do just about anything for you. It's all about how and what you present the information to the software.

For example, you can ask AI to write a thank you letter. You can give AI parameters: use 100 words, have

the letter be casual, and have it address certain core values. In seconds it will draft your letter. What is most incredible is that you can then re-ask your AI platform to make adjustments and to refine what you're looking for. You can ask AI to have the letter be more warm or have it be more professional. You can even ask your AI to write more like a human than a computer! My favorite request is to have the letter written as if it came from your Bubbe! Yes, it can do that as well. The more information you give your AI platform the more detailed and dialed in the results become.

When I've used AI in the past, and even currently, I only use it as a starting point. A wise person told me: "It's always easier to edit an existing letter than start from a blank slate". I always want to make sure the message is mine and in my voice. Equally, I want to make sure I'm conveying exactly what I want. These writing examples I'm giving is just one of thousands of ways AI can be used to save time and be more efficient as professionals and organizations.

And just so you know, this article was 100% written by Michael Dzik, without any assistance from AI.

Michael Dzik

Michael Dzik

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

To place a
**Kosher for
Passover**
grocery order, see page 9.





BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Gene and Amy Boulware

Stick With Our Federation

The first time I considered volunteering for a leadership position I was in the 9th grade. Some friends convinced me that I should run for class president. We went all out.... My campaign team consisted of my three best friends; they helped me make posters and flyers that we put up all over the school. I gave speeches and handed out stickers that said vote for Amy. My best slogan was, "Amy Ginsburg is like glue, stick with her and she will stick with you!" I won my bid for president and then I realized I had no idea what being president meant or what was expected of me. I learned my first lesson in leadership: winning the vote was the easy part. Actually, delivering on what our class needed—advocating with administrators, organizing events, managing competing priorities--- that's where real leadership began. Those early lessons about listening, persistence, and the unglamorous work behind every success have stayed with me throughout my life and inform how I approach our responsibility as Gene and I step into the role of co-board chairs.

We think it is important for community members to know what we view as our core leadership responsibilities and what you can expect from us. We believe in strengthening Jewish life and community by showing a commitment to supporting vibrant Jewish identity across all generations. We think it is crucial to invest in Jewish education, youth engagement, and young families. We want to create spaces for connection and meaningful Jewish experiences while building bridges across different Jewish movements and perspectives. We have an unwavering commitment to Israel's security and wellbeing. It is our responsibility to address antisemitism, hate, and prejudice wherever it arises. Gene and I are committed to translating our Jewish values into meaningful action including addressing social service needs and supporting those in our community who are vulnerable. We are committed to stewarding our resources with the care and wisdom our community deserves. As leaders we will do our best to help everyone feel welcome and valued. We believe strong leadership starts with listening and collaboration. That slogan from 9th grade may have been simplistic, but I share this with you because I want you to know what kind of co-board chairs I aspire to be. Not the kind who's here for the title or

spotlight, but the kind who sticks with this community through thick and thin. The kind who remembers that relationships—built on trust, nurtured through consistency, strengthened by showing up—are what makes our Federation more than just an organization. It makes it a community. I am asking you to stick with me, stick with our Federation, and stick with each other. Together we'll build a Jewish community that's resilient, vibrant, and worthy of the generations to come!

- Amy Boulware

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere condolences to...

... the family and friends of Sol Lurie, who died on February 10, 2026. He is preceded in death by his wives, Evelyn and Raja; his mother and father; his brothers; his grandson, Seth; and many other relatives and friends that he made in his long life, including those murdered during the Holocaust. Sol Lurie is survived by his two daughters, Bea (David) and Esther; son, Charles; granddaughter, Emily (Michael); and the children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren of his wife Raja.

...the family and friends of Harriet Ruderman, who died on February 9, 2026. She is survived by her brother, Donald Krosin; sons Leslie (Debbie) Forman and Marc (Susan) Forman; grandchildren Samuel Forman, Jacob (Azlin) Forman, and Anna Forman; and great-granddaughter Ella Bee Forman.

...the family and friends of Jay Zuckerman, who died on January 29, 2026. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Dr. Joe and Sylvia Zuckerman and Jake and Sylvia Green. Jay is survived by his loving parents, Sandy and Larry Zuckerman.

...the family and friends of Morton Neal Center, who died on January 23, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Sherman Center; children, Sherman Ian Center (Christina), Celeste Fine Center, Trent Jacob Center, and Austin Neal Center; grandchildren, Caroline Center Gaal (Edward), Laura Center, Hamilton Center, Alexandria Center, Elijah Center, Olivia Center, and Lucille Center



FROM THE CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER

Ann Treadwell atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.org • 493-0270 ext 4

Why Sacred?

At a time when we all feel a need to seek hope, I began wondering what sacred thoughts or things we turn to that ground us. As I created the Call for Art for the Sacred exhibit, I imagined an exhibit which would evoke the artists' personal beliefs. I assumed that most pieces would identify as spiritual, but not necessarily intuitively religious. Some of the pieces in the exhibit do represent this. For example, the Repair the World Tzedakah Box by Fran Addison and the Sanctity of Song by Bonnie Stolloff both convey the personal and religious.

There are several pieces that look at how we perceive the spiritual beliefs of other cultures. This includes David Fishman's Native American Contemplation, Howard Kaplan's Pow-Wow and Stephen and Bonnie Black's Tibetan Mandala.

Some of the artists specifically identify the sanctity of life as being sacred. Works by Maxine Hess and Elisheva Silberman capture these aspects. The sacred love between parent and child is shown in Ruth McRae's Dinner at Tiberios and the love between human and pet in Virginia Urani's Cullen. A few of the artists use their pieces to describe how they feel after Oct. 7, 2023. I was surprised how the terror and loss of that horrific day has also come to be a descriptor for sacred, as a sanctity of life image.

This exhibit has a lot to offer. I encourage you to stop by. Spend a little time with the images and read how the artists are interpreting the subject.

Exhibit Contributors' Statistics

Twenty-seven artists and collectors

Located from Massachusetts to California, and Israel

Thirteen artists and collectors are from the Chattanooga area

Diverse ethnicity

Majority are female

The Sacred exhibit will be in the gallery area through March 23

Sacred is also the importance of being part of a community. The Federation is part of the global Jewish community. In March we will be hosting part of our global family twice. Our first visitors will be 19 Israeli shinshinim, high school graduates delaying their mandatory IDF service to serve their diaspora communities. These shinshinim are serving in Atlanta and Florida and are coming for a taste of Chattanooga and to learn about Paperclips and Children's Holocaust Museum in Whitwell. They will be with us for two days.

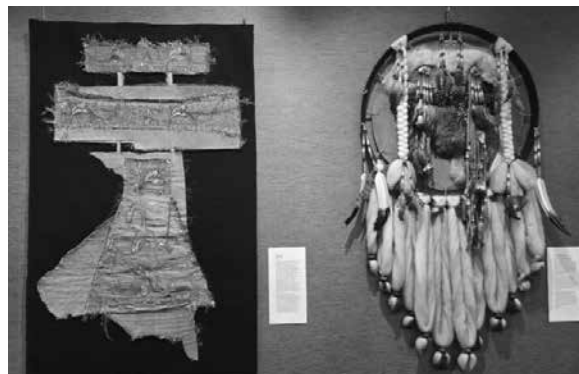
The second group are tenth grade teens from our P2G (Partnership Together) region in Hadera-Eiron, Israel. These teens have been part of a year-long program, funded by the Federations in our Southeastern Consortium. Along with their chaperone they will be in Chattanooga for four days. While here they will be engaging with host families, getting a taste of Chattanooga's history, volunteering at the

Chattanooga Area Food Bank, and meeting with our teens. You will have a chance to meet them during our Community dinner and Conversation on Monday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. This is an all ages event, open to everyone. Go to www.jewishchattanooga.org for more details and to register.

ISRAELI TEENS THAT WILL BE VISITING CHATTANOOGA



SACRED EXHIBIT





JEWISH FEDERATION NURSE

Jennifer Waxenberg, RN nurse@jewishchattanooga.org • 423-322-8641

The Pressure Is On!

We all know it well. The visit to the doctor's office starts with a list of current medications, chief complaints, and vital signs. Part of that usually includes a measurement of your blood pressure. This is very important information for your healthcare provider to have as they keep an eye on your overall wellness, or monitor any chronic or acute illnesses.

Hypertension is a known risk factor for multiple diseases. Even before a person is aware they have high blood pressure, there might be slow damage occurring. The heart, brain, kidneys, and eyes can all be negatively affected by hypertension. This includes increasing risk of stroke, heart disease, heart failure, kidney failure, and even dementia.

Monitoring your blood pressure from home may be recommended by your healthcare provider, and is generally recommended for anyone with a

diagnosis of hypertension, or currently on blood pressure medications. It is easy to do with the right equipment and tools. Automatic cuffs are available at most drug stores and supermarkets. I will include the link below to check if your cuff is considered validated and gives accurate information. I will also include a link to a log that makes it easy to track and report to your medical team.

Taking your blood pressure at the same time of the day is a good way to provide your doctor with your general trends.

The chart below shows the different ranges and stages of blood pressure and can help you determine where you are and report back to your health team.

Taking control of this aspect of your health is one of the best things you can do to be proactive in preventing so many chronic diseases! Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Stay well!

<https://www.validatebp.org/>

<https://www.heart.org/-/media/files/health-topics/high-blood-pressure/my-blood-pressure-log.pdf>

references:

Mayo Clinic, American Heart Association

BLOOD PRESSURE CATEGORY	SYSTOLIC mm Hg (top/upper number)	and/or	DIASTOLIC mm Hg (bottom/lower number)
NORMAL	LESS THAN 120	and	LESS THAN 80
ELEVATED	120 – 129	and	LESS THAN 80
STAGE 1 HYPERTENSION (High Blood Pressure)	130 – 139	or	80 – 89
STAGE 2 HYPERTENSION (High Blood Pressure)	140 OR HIGHER	or	90 OR HIGHER
SEVERE HYPERTENSION (If you don't have symptoms*, call your health care professional.)	HIGHER THAN 180	and/or	HIGHER THAN 120
HYPERTENSIVE EMERGENCY (If you have any of these symptoms*, call 911.)	HIGHER THAN 180	and/or	HIGHER THAN 120

Chair Wellness



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

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



**FREE
COFFEE
& CONVERSATION**

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 11:00-12:00

A TIME TO CHAT, REMINISCE & TACKLE LIFE'S CHALLENGES!

Jewish Cultural Center 5461 North Terrace Rd

No RSVP required, Just join us if you'd like!

**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*

**Jewish Federation
Transporation Services**



**OUR STAFF
AND FLEET**

We have 4 drivers
and 4 cars,
including a
wheelchair van!



WHY WE DO IT

To promote and support
health & wellness in our
community and the
greater Chattanooga
area!



HOW CAN I HELP?

You can donate! We want our
rides to remain cost-free, but
if you can donate, we
encourage that. Our annual
campaign helps provide
services just like this and we
invite you to be a part of this
community!



OUR COSTS

It costs on average
\$40 to transport
a client from their
home to a doctor
appointment
and back home.

WAYS TO DONATE

- Cash or check donations in the provided envelope to the driver
- Venmo donations to @jewishfed
- Call 423-493-0270 for credit card donations
- Mail donations to:
P.O. Box 8947
Chattanooga, TN 37414



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OUR MEALS ARE PREPARED WITH LOVE TO NOURISH THOSE WHO
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- \$5 UPCHARGE FOR SALMON
- \$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.org • (423) 385-0098

Powerful Women in Israel: An International Women's Day Reflection

When I think about International Women's Day, I don't think about slogans or formal celebrations. I think about the women I've known in Israel, the ones who quietly shaped how I understand strength, leadership, and responsibility.

In Israel, powerful women aren't rare or exceptional. They're everywhere. They're mothers, friends, teachers, soldiers, coworkers, and neighbors. They carry responsibility naturally, often without calling attention to it. Growing up, I learned pretty quickly that leadership isn't about titles, it's about stepping in when something needs to be done.



That idea runs deep in Israeli society. Even leaders like Golda Meir didn't lead with polish or perfection. She led with honesty, stubbornness, and a deep sense of responsibility for her people. That kind of leadership still feels very Israeli to me: direct, imperfect, and deeply human.

One of the most striking things about life in Israel is how early women are trusted with responsibility. Women serve throughout the Israel Defense Forces as commanders, intelligence officers, combat soldiers, pilots, and medics. Many are young, but they're expected to lead, make decisions, and take responsibility for others. That experience stays with you. Leadership isn't something you grow into later, it's something you live early on.

But strength in Israel isn't only shaped in uniform.

I've seen women be the first to show up when things fall apart. They organize, support, listen, and hold people together. Often quietly, often while carrying their own fears and responsibilities. In moments of uncertainty, women don't wait to be asked. They just act.

I've also learned that caring deeply about Israel means being willing to sit with its complexity. Some of the women I admire most are those who speak honestly about identity, belonging, and disagreement, without giving up on the idea of shared society. Voices like Lucy Aharish remind me



that strength can mean choosing dialogue, even when it's uncomfortable, and insisting that different stories can exist in the same space. As an Arab Israeli journalist and television host, she has built her career on difficult conversations about identity and coexistence. Her presence in Israeli media challenges assumptions and reflects the layered reality of the society she represents.

At the same time, Israeli women are leading and creating in so many areas: business, education, medicine, culture, and community work. They are building companies, advancing research, and shaping conversations that reach far beyond Israel's borders, even while being deeply rooted in life here. And then there's the strength that doesn't get talked about enough, the everyday strength. Women balancing work, family, service, and community in a reality that can change overnight. Women who keep routines going, keep showing up, and keep caring, again, and again. It's quiet, steady, and powerful.

This International Women's Day feels like a reminder to pause and notice the strength that surrounds us. The women of Israel carry responsibility with courage, care, and persistence, and their leadership both visible and quiet, continues to shape the heart of this place.

**ANNOUNCING A
NEW FEDERATION
AFFINITY GROUP**

SAGE

"Senior Adults Going Everywhere"
**A social group for Jewish people
60ish and above**

**UPCOMING EVENTS--
THEATRE SHOWS, CONCERTS,
RESTAURANTS,
ART EVENTS, DAY TRIPS**

STAY TUNED...

CO-ORGANIZERS OF THE GROUP ARE MARILYN
GOLER AND RICHARD ZACHARY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BE ADDED
TO THE GROUP MAILING LIST CONTACT
RICHARD ZACHARY: (423) 322-3332

**SAGE - WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE
ADD A LITTLE SPICE TO YOUR LIFE!**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga has created an affinity group for 60ish and over adults: Senior Adults Going Everywhere (SAGE). We hope SAGE events will provide an opportunity to get to know others, foster new relationships, and introduce participants to places and activities they may not have tried before.

Our first event is on March 10:
brunch at Ruby Sunshine Restaurant,
405 Market Street from 10 a.m. to noon.
We have reserved a private room.
The menu is extensive, so we strongly suggest
you view the menu <https://rubybrunch.com>
prior to the event.

RSVP at jewishchattanooga.org
Please join us.

Marilyn Goler and Richard Zachary
co-chairs



**ALEPH BET
CHILDREN'S CENTER**

ART GALLERY

FUNDRAISER

When: March 22nd, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**Where: Jewish Federation
5461 N Terrace, Chattanooga, TN 37411**

Please consider donating an art piece (or more) to sell
to our local community. All proceeds will benefit the
school's infrastructure and programs!

 423-893-5486

 alephbet@jewishchattanooga.org



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"Aleph Bet was more than just a place to learn ---
it was a warm, safe beginning where our kids were
loved, nurtured and prepared for kindergarten by
the most amazing teachers. It will forever hold a
special place in our hearts."

-Edie Weiss, parent of two Aleph Bet alums

5461 North Terrace Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411
423.893.5486

alephbet@jewishchattanooga.org
www.aleph-bet.com

Aleph Bet Children's Center is a program of the



- 13-month through pre-k
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- Open year-round
- Low teacher-child ratio
- Accepts State Certificate
- Enrichment including gardening, creative movement and in-school fieldtrips
- Children of all faiths, nationalities and cultures welcome

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**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
6PM-8PM**

EAST BRAINERD CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7745 EAST BRAINERD ROAD
UPCOMING DATES: MARCH 4, APRIL 1, MAY 6

RSVP TO LKAPLAN@JEWISHCHATTANOOGA.ORG

ISRAELI DANCE PROGRAM

Move. Connect. Celebrate Israel!



Join us for fun Israeli dances, music & community!

Great
Israeli Music

No Experience
Needed

Connect
& Celebrate!

DATES: March 5, 2026 | March 12, 2026 | March 26, 2026

TIME: 6:30 PM LOCATION: Studio34

3214 Brainerd Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37411

STUDIO34

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA



RSVP: Israel@jewishchattanooga.com

\$5 per class

Passover Grocery Shopping!

Since 2020, your Jewish Federation has made a road trip to Atlanta to assist our community in obtaining Kosher for Passover food. This can include dry goods and cold items. We know how appreciative you are of this service and it will continue this year!!!

You will only pay for the cost of your order; no pickup, delivery or extra fees. We want to ensure that everyone has what they need for the Passover holiday. Please know we will do our best to find every item you request but know some items may be more difficult to find. We'll do our best!

Just send your list to Federation@jewishchattanooga.org and you will receive a reply letting you know you are added.

Order Deadline: Friday, March 13

Pickup dates below.

Thursday March 19 noon-4pm

Friday, March 20 9am-noon



You are invited to a

FLOWERS OF HOPE CERAMICS WORKSHOP

Experience

March 8th, 2026 | 5:00 pm
Women's event for International Women's Day with Israeli wine tasting & appetizer's
\$10 per person

March 23rd, 2026 | 6:00 pm
Community dinner & Israeli P2G teen visitors
\$15 per adult/ \$7 for 7-13/ Under 7 free

March 27th, 2026 | 11:00 am
Coffee & Conversation
No cost

5461 N Terrace rd. Chattanooga
RSVP: jewishchattanooga.org

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CHAI NITE 2026 WAS A SUCCESS!

Photos by Ray Soldano



THIS MONTH AT THE FEDERATION

REGISTER FOR OUR EVENTS AT
JEWISHCHATTANOOGA.ORG

March

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Chair Wellness 1PM	3	4 SNACK PACK VOLUNTEERING 6PM	5 ISRAELI DANCE PROGRAM 6:30PM	6 COFFEE & CONVERSATION 11AM	7 WOMENS FLOWERS OF HOPE CERAMICS WORKSHOP 7:30PM
8	9 Chair Wellness 1PM	10 SAGE BRUNCH 10AM NextGen and Middle Chai GAME NIGHT 6:30PM	11	12 ISRAELI DANCE PROGRAM 6:30PM	13 COFFEE & CONVERSATION 11AM	14
15	16 Chair Wellness 1PM Archive Photo ID 12PM	17	18	19 Cabin Fever CAMP 10:30AM	20 COFFEE & CONVERSATION 11AM	21
22 ART GALLERY FUNDRAISER 2PM	23 Chair Wellness 1PM COMMUNITY Dinner & Conversation 6PM FLOWERS OF HOPE CERAMICS WORKSHOP 6:00PM	24	25	26 ISRAELI DANCE PROGRAM 6:30PM	27 COFFEE & CONVERSATION 11AM FLOWERS OF HOPE CERAMICS WORKSHOP 11:00AM	28
29	30 Chair Wellness 1PM	31 Lunch OUT 11:30AM				



ALEPH BET CHILDREN'S CENTER

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



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

SUPPORT ALEPH BET

Running an early childhood center is no small feat, and it would not be possible to run Aleph Bet without the support of our families, staff, and you, the Jewish community. I want to personally thank each and every person who has supported Aleph Bet in one way or the other over the years. It is inspiring to witness and hear how much this school means to the community.

With that being said, I want to invite you, the Jewish Community and supporters of Aleph Bet, to participate in our Spring Fundraiser. We will be hosting an Art Gallery and Art Sale on Sunday, March 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the JCC. We have community members, parents, and teachers donating pieces of art work to sell. Invite friends and neighbors. All are welcome. All the proceeds of the sales will go to the school to support all that we do for our families.

If you are interested in donating a piece of art work, please reach out to alephbet@jewishchattanooga.org or (423) 893-5486.

Thank you,
Jessica



OUR CHATTANOOGA JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM 1900-1945

The Tennessee Holocaust Commission recently requested information about our Jewish community from 1900-1945 for a project they are doing. The Shofar is reprinting excerpts from the document sent by your Archives committee in this and future issues. My thanks go to Wes Hasden and Dr. Max Brener for their contributions to this brief history of the first half of the 20th century. To those for whom this information is new, we hope you enjoy learning a bit about our City's Jewish history.

PUTTING A MYTH TO REST: Mizpah Congregation was founded in 1866 by a group of 21 German Jews. Dr. Brener has researched all 21 founders of Mizpah and determined that none served in the Civil War. There is no mention that any of these were Civil War veterans. We think the misconception about Mizpah's founding by Civil War veterans was started by Joy Adams in her 2004 history of Mizpah Congregation, *Go Tell It To The People*: "Our congregation was founded in 1866 by a small group of Western European and German Jewish businessmen, most of whom had been mustered out of the army following the War Between the States." Four Civil War veterans are buried in Mizpah Cemetery including Julius Ochs, Adolph's father, but again, none were founders. We are hereby putting this myth to rest!

CHATTANOOGA'S FIRST TWO JEWISH MAYORS: Just prior to 1900, Chattanooga had two Jewish mayors. The first was George Washington Ochs-Oakes, who served as mayor from 1893-1897. He also served as Police Commissioner and was President of the Board of Education. He lived a long life of service to the Jewish and the greater Chattanooga communities. Last summer, our Chattanooga Public Library's history department mounted an exhibit called, "The Other Ochs Brother." George was the brother of Adolph Ochs, perhaps our most famous Jewish citizen. Some members of George's family changed the name from Ochs to Oakes to counter perceived anti-German sentiment during to WW I and were then known as Ochs-Oakes.



The second Jewish mayor of Chattanooga was Joseph Wassman who served from 1899-1901. His son, Emil Wassman, was later the Commissioner of Parks and Public Buildings of Chattanooga and served two terms as a member of the City Commission until his death at age 59 in 1924. He left a widow and two children. Several of his descendants still live in Chattanooga including his great-great niece Elizabeth Geismar, daughter of Robert "Bootsie" Geismar; and great-great-nephews Frank Geismar, son of Bootsie's brother Herman Geismar, and Alan Bergheimer.

Additional note sent to the TN Holocaust Commission: As we know, Chattanooga's third Jewish mayor was Andy Berke who served from 2013-2021 after serving as Tennessee State Senator from 2007-2012.

-Karen Diamond

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

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

מחנוגה
machanooga
A bridge to Jewish learning



Traci Sloan, Director
roshnooga@gmail.com

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 Madness ★

IS BACK.... NCAA BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER

NO Basketball Knowledge Required

\$50 A Square
\$25 Half-Square

MORE DETAILS TO COME
RESERVE YOUR SQUARE TODAY

Call: (423) 267-9771

Email:

office@mizpahcongregation.org

Venmo: @Holly-Schwartz-19



Passover Seder

Mizpah Congregation

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 6:00 pm

RSVP Deadline is March 26 at 3:00pm

Members \$50

(18 and under for members is free)

Non-members \$65

(12 - 18 for non-member kids \$25

11 and under is free)

All Jewish college students and Military are also free

If you would like to volunteer -
Please call Mizpah Office at 423-267-9771

Pay by check in the office, by phone or on our website under
the donate now tab: www.mizpahcongregation.org



Your Payment is the confirmation
of your RSVP!



Reform-Led Community Religious School

2026 - 2027

- Open to All Jewish Families
- Tuition Assistance Available
- Inclusive & Supportive Community



- Values-Driven Learning
- Pluralism & Social Justice
- Lifelong Jewish Learning

MHS (Mizpah Hebrew School)
Grades K - 7
Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

- Hebrew Reading
- Prayer & B'Nai Mitzvah Prep



Community Sunday School
Grades Pre-K - 7
Sundays 9:30 - 12:00 PM

- Torah & Holidays
- Israel, Ethics & Social Justice
- Jewish Values

Pizza Dinner - \$80 - \$100 /year
Snacks & Supplies Included

Tuition for both programs will
be coming out in the next
couple of months. Stay tuned...

Bridge-Year Options

- Sunday Only
- Wednesday Only
- Flexible Mix
(Prorated Tuition)

Transitional Choices for
2026-2027

Program Timeline

July 2026 Registration Opens	August 2026 Teachers Assigned	September 2026 Programs Begin	Fall 2026 - Spring 2027 Ongoing Sessions

More details will be coming out in the next couple of months!

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



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

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

B'nai Zion Calendar

Friday Night - Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:00 pm
Shabbat Morning Services: 9:30 am
BSI: Feb. 4, 11, and 25 (Zoom)
Minyan/Foundations: Tues., 6:00/6:30 pm via Zoom
Weekly Parsha Study: Sundays, 7:00pm
Weekly Talmud Study: Thursdays, 10:00am

March

2	Purim Party
7	Shabbat Muffins
8	Jews & Brews / Kadima
14	Teen Beit Midrash / Lunch & Learn
21	Women's Shabbat
27	Shira v'Shulchan
28	Lunch & Learn

B'nai Zion Women's Shabbat

Saturday, March 21, 9:30am

Women lead this very special
Shabbat morning service!

SHIRA V'SHULCHAN שירה ושולחן

Friday, March 27
6:00pm
Social Hall

Shira v'Shulchan - *Song and Table*
A unique musical Shabbat experience
followed by a dairy potluck oneg!



TORAH | BEER | SCHMOOZE

JEW AND BREWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
2:30 PM

AT ODDSTORY
1604 CENTRAL AVENUE



BZ Passover Seder

Thursday, April 2

BZ Social Hall
6210 Airpark Dr.

6:00 pm



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.

FEBRUARY FUN!

Hebrew School, mahjong, Torah and Tea and so much more!!
We're excited for the month of Adar - full of Joy!

Torah & Tea

“Your monthly dose of friendship and inspiration.”

THURSDAY MORNING
MARCH 19 ~ 10:00 AM
AT CHABAD - 950 VINE ST.

UPCOMING DATES

MONDAY, APRIL 20 MONDAY, MAY 18

Chabad Chattanooga

**ROARING 20'S
PURIM PARTY**

TUESDAY MARCH 3
5:30PM

FILLMORE MANOR | 1100 E 16TH ST.

DINNER SOIRÉE
ILLUSIONIST • ESCAPE ROOM
GLITZY PHOTO BOOTH

INTERACTIVE MEGILLA READING
SPEAKEASY L'CHAIMS
GIN & JAZZ

ADMISSION \$25
\$5 DISCOUNT WITH COSTUME

KIDS IN COSTUME ARE FREE
RSVP JEWISHCHATT.COM/RSVP

MAHJONG



CAMP Gan Izzy
CHATTANOOGA

JUNE 22 - JULY 12
9:00AM-3:30PM

Summer of a Lifetime! - Safe. Fun. Jewish.
Warm and Caring staff • Delicious Hot Lunches
Trips and Overnights • Sports • Art
Swimming On-Site

Boys and Girls | Ages 4-12
THREE ONE WEEK SESSIONS!

AT CHABAD OF CHATTANOOGA
950 VINE ST.

JEWISHCHATT.COM/CAMP

**GRAND
PASSOVER
SEDER**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 7:15 PM
950 VINE ST. CHATTANOOGA, TN

Enjoy an exquisite passover menu | Meaningful and interactive Seder | Hand-made Shmurah Matzah
Four choice israeli wines for the four cups.

RSVP REQUIRED BY MARCH 24
JEWISHCHATT.COM/SEDER



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.

PURIM

Purim is a special holiday for Hadassah since Henrietta's Szold's Hebrew name was Esther. Hadassah members gathered at B'nai Zion to bake Hamantaschen, led by Randi Weiss, followed by learning with Rabbi Keillah Lebell.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

At the Federation's Annual Meeting, Kathy Kessler and Susan Leininger were recognized as Hadassah's Volunteers of the Year. Kathy has taken over some Treasurer responsibilities and Susan has assumed responsibility for the Annual High Holiday Greeting card.



DAY OF IMPACT

Judy Sachsman and Dana Waxler will participate in "Hadassah on the Hill: Day of Impact" March 10 as Hadassah members visit Washington DC to meet with legislators and attend a session on antisemitism. Hadassah members are also welcome to visit Birmingham for an in-person Region Board meeting March 21-22. A special Evolve session will be presented.

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 October 26-30.

Hadassah members helping sort through the archives.



DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

As part of the Federation's Documentary film series, the latest movie about Henrietta Szold, the woman who created Hadassah, was shown with Hadassah members providing desserts. Thank you to the Hadassah bakers.



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.org, 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.org)

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

CONTACT LIST

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

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

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**Jewish Federation of
Greater Chattanooga**

Amy and Gene Boulware, Board Co-Chairs
Michael Dzik, President & CEO

The Shofar is mailed at no charge to
local members of the Jewish community.
Cost for out-of-town subscribers is \$30/year.

Find us online at
JewishChattanooga.org



COMMUNITY

*Dinner, Conversation
& Ceramic Workshop*

with Israeli teens from our
P2G region of Hadera-Eiron

Monday, March 23, 6PM

\$15 per adult

\$7 for children 7-13, Under 7 Free

Register at jewishchattanooga.org

JCC | 5461 North Terrace Road

Additional Flowers of Hope
Ceramic Workshops
see page 10

