

THE SH FAR

A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

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Tal Beit-Yosef to Speak at Annual Meeting January 11 Community Volunteers of the Year to be Announced



Jewish Federation is delighted to announce that Tal Beit-Yosef will be our speaker at the Federation Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 11 at the Jewish Cultural Center. Tal has been the Chattanooga Jewish Federation's guide in Israel for all five of our recent mission trips (2006-2014). He has also served as a private guide for many Chattanoogaans traveling in Israel.

Over the years, Tal has become not only our guide, but our friend. We are excited to bring him to Chattanooga to experience our community as well as to share his Israel with us. From politics and elections to the peace process and Israel's neighbors, everything will be on the table for discussion during his time here. Tal and his wife Rachel have three beautiful children, Yuval (15), Ayal (13) and Ronni (9).

Also on tap the evening of January 11th, Roy Rosenfeld and Richard Zachary, 2015 Annual Campaign Co-Chairs, will give us a final campaign report, and the 2014 Volunteers of the Year will be announced. Join us for this special evening at the Jewish Cultural Center at 7:00 p.m. Dessert reception to follow. There is no charge to attend, but please RSVP to 493-0270, ext. 10, or rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com.

Rachel Privett is Federation Volunteer of the Year

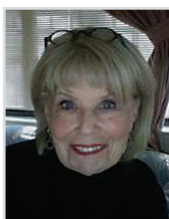


The Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga is pleased to recognize Rachel Privett as our 2014 Volunteer of the Year. As Event Chair for Chai Nite, Federation's signature bi-annual party and fundraiser, Rachel helped the community start 2014 fundraising off with a bang. She led a team of volunteers who together choreographed a financially successful event which met or exceeded Federation's expectations in funds raised, attendance, community engagement, volunteer participation, AND fun!

Rachel is also on the volunteer leadership team of Young Leadership and has attended the national YL Tribe Fest conference twice. She is a current member of the Federation Board of Directors and a past member of the Executive Committee.

We at the Federation want to say THANK YOU, Rachel, for your commitment to the entire Jewish community. We appreciate your efforts!

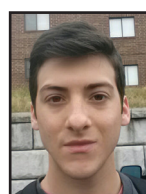
Community Volunteers of the Year



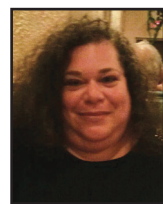
Congratulations to **Teddi Mendel and Amy Snetman**, Aleph Bet's 2014 Volunteers of the Year. Mendel and Snetman serve as the Jewish Early Childhood Initiative Co-Chairs, whose role it is to determine specific eligibility requirements, allocate subsidies, create a model of sustainability for the program, and raise funds. The co-chairs oversee the following subcommittees: Application and Review, Marketing and P/R, Finance, and Fundraising. We appreciate the numerous hours they spent volunteering their time, and we value their commitment to our community's Jewish early childhood education. We also thank them for their willingness to continue to co-chair the JECI committee in 2015.



Congratulations to **Izzy Goldberg**, B'nai Zion's volunteer of the year. Members of B'nai Zion and the wider Jewish community know Izzy as the man who bakes beautiful and delicious challahs. He does this at no charge and donates all proceeds to B'nai Zion. What many do not know is Izzy is also an artist. He has embellished numerous B'nai Zion projects with his calligraphy, thereby contributing profoundly to their beauty and meaning. Izzy is a man with a warm heart and his spirit (ruach) is a gift to everyone he encounters. Izzy has always given of himself humbly and without expectation of recognition.



Congratulations to Chabad's volunteer of the year **Josh Simon**. Josh, a student at UTC, is a member of JewTC and volunteers at the shul and at Hebrew School. Josh came to Chattanooga to study in UTC. He got involved in Jew TC and became an active member. Not only does he help with programming he's also a role model for the next generation, by volunteering at Hebrew School.



Congratulations to **Paula Israel**, the Chattanooga Jewish Congregational Religious School pick for Volunteer of the Year. Paula recruits madrichim, oversees the physical move between Mizpah and B'nai Zion, arranges for special programming, and directs CJCRS office staffers. Paula is dedicating her work this year and this award to the memory of Seth Eichenhal.



Congratulations to Hadassah's volunteer of the year, **Dana Banks**, who is honored for "the splendid job she did for Hadassah last year as Donor Chairwoman."

Mizpah Congregation honors the **Social Action Committee**, chaired by Flossie Weill and organized by Stefanie deOlloqui, and the more than 65 members who participated in social action projects during 2014. With a focus on social justice, the committee's projects included working with Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Room in the Inn, La Paz, Kids on the Block, and the Rhonda Seeber Menorah Project.

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SAVE THE DATE

Monday, Feb. 23

A new season of the
Foreign Policy Supper Club begins.

Kickoff topic:
Russia and the Near Abroad
Dinner and discussion \$10.

NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP



The Year in Review

by **Warren Dropkin**
Federation Board Chair
boardchair@jewishchattanooga.com

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since I became the Board Chair of our Federation. How great it is that we have an organization that provides so much for so many. I want to take a moment to personally thank each and every one of you in our Jewish Community who pledged to our campaign in some way. I want to thank each of you who participated in a Federation program in 2014, and I want to thank each of you who made a difference in someone's life this year. You have heard me say, or you've read it here: "We are One." And that's what makes all of us special. Just a short recap of this past year will amaze you, and hopefully make you as proud of the Jewish Federation of Chattanooga as I am:

*First and foremost, we made and kept our commitment of fiscal responsibility and stayed within our budget.

*The incredible amount of work that our Social Services department took on this year, with home visits, meal delivery and preparation, counseling, help with Medicare and insurance, transportation services, and so much more was truly astounding. Thank you Amy, Edie, Eddie, John, and Alice.

*This year there was some fantastic programming thanks to our staff and community. The Jewish Film Series, the Israeli Independence Celebration, the July 4th Celebration, our recent Chanukah celebration, our special "STAND With Israel" program at Miller Plaza with shlichah Hadas Peled, Yom Hashoah, the performance by comedian Benji Lovitt, Foreign Policy suppers, and Noon Nosh are just a few such programs. There were many more.

*Last annual meeting, I said I wanted to bring Israel to us. There were many Israel-focused programs brought to us by our shlichim, Noa and Hadad, this past year. The exhibits, the Kennedy and Rabin program, and Israeli Dancing with Noa are just a few.

*Better communication was a goal...and we have a new and improved

Shofar that gives us timely and wonderful info on our entire Jewish Community...WE ARE ONE.

*This year was our most successful campaign ever. Thank you to Roy Rosenfeld and Richard Zachary for stepping up and doing a great job as campaign co-chairs.

*We had a community mission trip to Poland and Israel this fall, just one example of the Federation offering us a great way to connect to our history and remind us of the importance of making friends with our brothers and sisters abroad.

In February, your board will have a retreat and finalize our strategic plan for the coming years. Much of the work has been done with committees over the last 24 months. Thank you Andy Hodes, Alan Richelson and others for spearheading this effort. In the coming months I will share our vision.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 11th at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Cultural Center and join us for the Annual Meeting. Our guest speaker will be Israeli Tal Beit-Yosef. Many of you know Tal as our friend and guide on the community trips to Israel. Tal will give us his insights on the current issues facing Israel and how these affect us all. This is just another way your Federation is bringing Israel to you. Please do not miss this event.

Since this is the annual wrap-up report, I'd like to say thanks not to one single person but to all of you and our incredible staff for making our Jewish Community Federation of Greater Chattanooga NUMBER ONE!

Campaign Goal: 1.1 Million
Total as of December 22: **\$1,046,576**

It's not too late to pledge!



Looking Back— and Looking Ahead

by **Michael Dzik**
Federation Executive Director
mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com

There's so much to write about this month that I just couldn't decide what to focus on. So I thought I'd touch on each of the many topics that are on my mind.

First, a huge thank you to the community as we begin to wrap up our Annual Campaign. We are approaching our goal of \$1.1 Million dollars – an amazing and truly generous amount. These dollars will be put to use in so many ways. Van rides, meals and social services will continue to meet the needs of our community. Diverse programming will continue to stimulate and engage people of all ages. Aleph Bet will continue to give our youngest members the right start in Jewish education. Our congregational community Sunday school (CJCRS) will receive nearly 40% of its income from the Federation – your dollars. And all of the connections that are made through Federation, from our updated website and Shofar to annual events such as our Film Series, Chanukah party, Yom Ha Shoah and July 4th celebration – are brought to you by your commitment to the Federation's Annual Campaign. And let's not forget one of our most enthusiastic, energetic, and engaging people, who is here because of our last successful campaign – our shlichah, Noa! A huge thank you to Roy Rosenfeld and Richard Zachary for their campaign leadership, as well as the numerous other volunteers who worked to make this year's campaign a big success.

In another vein, I along with twenty-one other people continue to digest and absorb information from our mission trip to Poland and Israel. I am still numb from our visit to the concentration camps; "chilling" is the only word that can describe the experience that is still with me six weeks later. We met so many people in Israel, people I now call "family." I smile when I think about meeting the Golani IDF soldiers and hearing their personal stories. And when I remember our Shabbat dinner friends, the Lester family who, just a few weeks ago, were visiting family in Memphis and came to Chattanooga to see the Choo Choo. We

had breakfast with them and got caught up. Just another example of how we truly are one big Jewish family!

We are all in for a wonderful treat later this month. So many of you know our friend, my friend, Tal Beit-Yosef. Tal has been our guide in Israel for all five of our Federation mission trips, and has served as a personal guide for individuals traveling to Israel as well. Connecting people to Israel—the land and people—is an important part of our Federation mission. And now we get to grow this by having Tal come to Chattanooga to see his friends and family. Tal will be the keynote speaker at our annual meeting on January 11 at 7:00p.m. We are also looking into additional community events to ensure that everyone has a chance to meet him. I'm very excited to welcome Tal to his Chattanooga home and to share him with our community.

This month I have the joy of celebrating my daughter Rebecca's bat mitzvah (January 31). Like Rachel's bat mitzvah nearly three years ago, this has been an exciting process. You learn a lot about your kids as well as your family during the planning. It's been a fun journey so far and I look forward to celebrating with my friends, family and community. This community is a huge part of my life and I hope that you'll be able to celebrate with us that Shabbat morning.

As we change the secular year to 2015, I wish all of you a happy and healthy start. I encourage you to participate in your Jewish community – through the Federation, through your congregation or through any of our Jewish organizations. Be part of building a stronger and united Jewish community. Follow your interests and I promise you'll be happy by being involved. Looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting and so many other upcoming events.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN



A Heartfelt Thank You From Us

by *Richard Zachary and Roy Rosenfeld*
2015 Campaign Co-chairs

This column marks the formal end to the 2015 Annual Campaign. We would like to take this opportunity to say todah rabah –thank you very much--to the Federation staff and leadership who made our Annual

Campaign a huge success. Thanks to Executive Director Michael Dzik, Programming Director Ann Treadwell, Board Chair Warren Dropkin, Office Staff Carolyn Sherman and Sarah Distefano, and Kitchen Supervisor Alice Goss-Morgan, the Campaign runs smoothly. Success breeds success, but not without hard work and dedication.

We got off to a rousing start this year with storyteller Judith Black. Our Major Gifts reception featured National Federation Campaign Chair Linda Hurwitz. On Super Sunday, December 7, volunteers made calls to the community. Thank you Lauren Lebovitz for coordinating Major Gifts, and Beth and Rob Lowe for coordinating Super Sunday.

Mostly I would like to thank the Jewish community, whose pledges large and small make our Federation a success. You understand the value of family. Where would we be without the love, patience and guidance of our parents, grandparents, siblings and close relatives? We--you and I--are the future of Chattanooga's Jewish family. Every time you make a pledge to the Federation, think of it as a "down payment" on that future. Years from now, what do you want your legacy to be? Each of us is important, regardless of our position or status, regardless of how involved in Federation we are. The Federation will always be "a work in progress," as we strive to improve and perfect our services. We are all the embodiment of Jewish Chattanooga.

2015 Jewish Federation Campaign Honor Roll

indicates campaign worker

*indicates Federation/Aleph Bet Staff

Chalutzim \$50,000 - \$74,999

#Michael Lebovitz

Kadima \$10,000 - \$17,999

Ruth Holmberg

Lion/Herzl \$5,000 - \$9,999

Kandy Berke

Marvin Berke

Susan and Hyman Kaplan

Becca and Todd Levin

Hatikvah \$3,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous (3)

Monique and Jeffrey Gefter

MJ and Howard Levine

Pam and Richard Schulman

Ben Gurion \$1,000 - \$1,799

Julie and Rob Cowan

Jill and Jim Levine

Susan and Dennis Matzkin

Mensch \$500 - \$999

Nora and Bob Bernhardt

Rita and Bob Brook

Beverly and Steve Coulter

Christie and George Fine

Barry Gold

Ann and Richard Levine

Beth Stephens

Flossie Weill and Barry Parker

Terry and Norton Wheeler

Aliyah \$250 - \$499

Wendy and Raul Beker

*Vicki and Jason Cathcart

Yogi Center

Jeffrey Cohen

Estelle Frank

Karen Diamond and John Giblin

Irv Ginsburg

Judy and Jerry Kleinstub

Kelley Nave-Tucker and Alex Tucker

Michael Seeber

Doris and Bob Streiter

Susan and Alan Waxenberg

Dana and Richard Waxler

Bruce Weiss

Joseph Winick

Mary Jane and Joe Wise

Chavarim \$1 - \$249

Kem Alexander

Debby Alper

Anonymous (3)

Jennifer and Robert Backer

Larry Baras

Elena and Boris Belinskiy

Jenni Berz

Nancy and Jeff Beskin

Carole and Joe Blass

Janet and David Brodsky

Helen and Edward Brody

Marty Brown

Donna and Mark Butler

Tania and Frank Castagnaro

Daniella Cathcart

Jordan Cathcart

Samara Cathcart

Channing and Trent Center

Cathryn Cohen and Art Marder

Dean Cohen

Gay and Larry Cohen

Ross Cohn

June and Robert Collins

Arlene and Art Dees

Sam Diamond

Lily Dropkin

Sam Dropkin

Rachel Dzik

Rebecca Dzik

Donnajeanne and Larry Ettkin

Marty Fanburg

Rita and Leroy Fanning

Ashley Farrar

Debbie and Gary Fassino

Vivian and Allen Fine

Ellen Freiberg

Nancy and Harold Goldberg

Jay Goldblatt

Sonya Golden

Sharon and Joel Gollop

Pamela Gordon

Kim and Joel Gravitz

*Meghan Graybeal

Gnara and Jeffrey Greene

Bernice Greenfield

Gabriela Halfin

Cori and Terry Hasden

Vivian and Martin Hershey

Susan and Bill Hillner

Elichai Hoenig

Mark Issenberg

Maddie Israel

Zach Israel

Harvey Jacobs

Janice Jacobs

Lon Jacobs

Rick Jacobs

Andra Jurist and Bruce Stewart

Myrna and Howard Kaplan

Lois Kiselik

Robert Kiselik

Ronald Kiselik

Caren Krasno

Patricia and Ezra Lander

David Lawrence

Donna Lawson

Deborah Levine and Earl Berkun

Merrill and Harold Levine

Jennifer Lewin

Carol and Stuart Lewis

Edie Lipman

Ira Long

Debra and Henri Lorberbaum

Pamela and Sam Lowy

Linda Lutin

Brenda and Terry Major

Tracy and John McCarley

Doetje McFadden

Nora and Gene McNeill

Phyllis and Jed Mescon

*Alice Morgan

Linda Morris

Susan Moses

David Navas

Rosie Newton

Marcia Noe and Robert Marlowe

Pamela O'Dwyer and John Chandler Jr.

Rose and Ken Opengart

Adam Parker

Phyllis Perlman

Marina and Nick Peshterianu

Andrea Pitkow and Raymond Pyter

Sharon Plainstein

Susie and Phil Pollock

David Poss

Henry Poss

Rochelle Prigoff

Elizabeth Raisin

Kathy and John Raisin

Erin and Cliff Reade

Elizabeth and Irv Resnick

Liga Richelson

Valdis Richelson

Paula and Joel Rind

Beth Roberts

Kim and Randy Roberts

Nicole and William Roberts

Patricia and David Rose

Kathryn and Arthur Rosenberg

Janiece and James Rosenbloom

Debra and Mike Royal

Harriet and Alan Ruderman

Jackie and Richard Sadowitz

Rachel Sadowitz

Sylvia Saloshin

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Meryl Stark

Sheila St. Aubin and John Reis

Bonnie Stoloff

*Lisa Tatone

Betsy and David Temple

Michael Ulin

Lester Votava

Beth and Johnny Walling

*Kathy Weber

Andrew Wein

Cara Weiner and JR Hill

Beverly Weiss

Stacey and Kevin Whited

Cherie Wise

Billy Wise

Sylvia Wygoda

This page reflects pledges made between November 13 and December 22

SOCIAL SERVICES



Happy Endings Are My Weakness

by Amy Boulware
Social Services Director
aboulware@jewishchattanooga.com

- Senior Programming
- Intergenerational Programming
- Family Support
- Community Partnering, Friendly Visits, Excursions, Advocacy

I have an addiction. It's one I don't tell many people about, for fear of being judged, but I have decided to come clean and tell the whole community. I am addicted to Hallmark Hall of Fame movies! I read fine literature, watch cerebral movies and have even been known to have intellectual conversations on any number of topics, but that doesn't stop me from loving these cheesy and predictable movies.

As I have been recovering from my recent kidney surgery, I have found out just how bad this addiction can be. The other day I found myself in my nightgown, curled up in a fluffy blanket, watching these movies all day long with only breaks to go to the bathroom. Even though I could have easily walked away and come back many minutes later without losing track of the plotlines, I didn't want to avert my attention from the screen.

As I sat there, I started to wonder what the attraction to these movies could possibly be, with the washed-up actors, the simple dialogue, and the inevitable happy endings. And that was when I got it, the reason I liked them so much: in a 24-7 news world that is full of killings, rapes and rioting, happy endings are a delightful reason to keep feeding my addiction. I am a hopeless romantic at heart who really yearns for happiness and peace.

I am not, however, unrealistic to the challenges we face as individu-

als, as Jews and as a nation. As I look at the world around us, I am frightened by the hatred, violence and prejudice that are so evident. These very difficult issues can't be easily resolved in an hour or two like in the movies, but I do think it's our responsibility to be vocal and active and to advocate for what is right and just in our world, rather than sitting back like a member of the audience.

My parents always taught us that as Jews and as human beings we are responsible for aiding those less fortunate than we are and for advocating even when it might not be the most popular thing to do. I am living their dream as a social worker who still believes that individuals can make a difference and that happy endings are possible, even though they take hard work and time.

Editor's note: Amy appreciates all of the thoughts and prayers from the community during her recent kidney surgery and we are happy to report that her positive attitude and excellent medical care will allow her to return to work in early January.



Dealing with Post-Holiday Blues

by Edie Redish
Community Nurse
nurse@jewishchattanooga.com

After the winter holidays draw to a close, and we are no longer entertaining family, friends, and children, it's not uncommon to feel a let-

down. "The Blues"-- which can include feelings of sadness, guilt, and anger--can quickly change from mild feelings of unhappiness to more troublesome symptoms of insomnia, irritability, inability to eat or overeating, difficulty concentrating, fatigue and anxiety. Here are a few suggestions to help you ward off, or chase away, post holiday blues.


EXPECT SOME LETDOWN. The holidays often bring family visits, the expectation of gifts, cooking, non-stop activities, parties to plan and attend, babysitters to arrange, and the stress of crowds and traffic. If you expect to feel some letdown when it's over, it's less likely your feelings will consume you. **MAKE PLANS.** Give yourself something to look forward to so you feel better leaving the festivities behind. Call a friend for lunch, plan a weekend trip in the spring, read that book on your bedside. Be gentle on yourself. No one is judging you with regard to your New Year's resolutions.

KEEP PEOPLE AROUND YOU. It is common to hibernate when you feel the blues approaching, but the cold, cloudy weather can be a good time to make a pot of soup or get out a jigsaw puzzle and call family and friends to join you. It's most important to stay connected.

MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES. Make a conscious effort to eat well and get a little exercise during this time. It will help your body and clear your mind. Keep exercising no matter the weather, as exercise will give you a mood boost. Walking is always the best option. Eat away the blues with healthy foods: poultry, greens, fruits and fiber. Don't forget your vitamins!

SEEK HELP. If you think your holiday blues have turned into depression, seek help, either from your inner circle of loved ones or from a health care professional. Depression is a real condition and you don't have to go it alone. Sometimes, verbalizing your mood and feelings and knowing someone is there to listen can go a long way toward improving your mood.

HOPE IS AHEAD: No matter what the issue, never fear! Valentine candy is right around the corner, and it's hard not to smile about that!



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Come Roost With Us

by Ann Treadwell, Program Director
atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com

The woods in the winter are bare! No greenery, just tall stalks of grey trunks sticking up from the red-brown ground. And when the sky is not blue, you can barely tell heaven from earth. It's quiet, except for the sound of leaves rustling from a stray squirrel, a cat, or deer passing through.

Recently I was sitting on my back deck watching the neighbor put up a wire fence along the meandering creek we share. It looks like I will have cattle next door soon. No real noise there, at least not the urban kind.

And then--through the air came the crackle of blackbirds, those huge American crows. Not one, not two, but dozens of them flying about and then landing in the bare limbs of a tree. The scene brought back memories of Alfred Hitchcock's movie *The Birds*.

The crows swooped back and forth between me and the creek. They didn't seem to be looking for food, or to settle in. They were loud and obnoxious, almost like they were trying to bully me. There was not a songbird among them. I was unnerved. Even the dog barked from inside the glass deck doors.

And then I thought, *No way you birds are taking away my quiet winter reflection time. This is the time I need to incubate before jumping into spring.* My mind grabbed on to some Beatle lyrics:

*Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly*

All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to arise

Blackbird singing in the dead of night

Take these sunken eyes and learn to see

All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to be free...

And then I began to reimagine myself. Perhaps I need to be these blackbirds for our community in January. Maybe I need to encourage you to come see things with me that will help you during this winter incubation period. It will be a month of discovering a very different Israel. The touring exhibit, "Sound of Many Waters," with Israeli and American artists (including Austin Center and Roslyne Steinberg) will be in the gallery along with Noa Hadad's "Israel For Me" exhibit.

In addition, two amazing documentary films, *Above and Beyond* and *Before the Revolution* relate the history of Israel through information you probably don't know.

And we have a special guest speaker coming for the annual meeting. Tal Beit-Yosef, the tour guide who has led so many of our mission trips to Israel, will be here to speak and also spend time in the community. And there is an informational lecture on the Ark of the Covenant.

I would be remiss in not addressing the singing of the blackbirds. Here at Federation, the music will be less chaotic, more soothing, and not at all like the noisy singing in my woods; instead, the Chattanooga Harp Ensemble Quartet will perform for Noon Nosh. All your life, you were only waiting for these moments ...so come roost a while with us.

Middle Eastern (Belly) Dancing

Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m., JCC

Jillanna Babb-Cheshul of Merry Bellies teaches this drop-in, one-hour, very fun class. Pay as you go. \$5/class. No RSVP.

Winter Documentary Film Series at the JCC

\$7 includes popcorn and a beverage.

Saturday, January 10 @ 7pm.

Screening of *Above and Beyond*

Saturday, January 17 @ 7pm

Screening of *Before the Revolution*

For more information see page 11

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 11 @ 7pm.

See front page for details.

Noon Nosh

Tuesday, January 20, 12p.m. \$8 includes lunch. RSVP.

Chattanooga Harp Ensemble Quartet performs.

Eyewitness Report From Gaza

Thursday January 22 @ 7p.m.

Dessert and coffee. RSVP 493-0270 or rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com

Israel for Me and Sound of Many Waters

Exhibits Open

On Thursday, January 15 two exceptional exhibits will open at the Jewish Cultural Center. *Israel and Me*, curated by Federation shlichah Noa Hadad, features photographs, drawings, and notations from members of the community who answered the question, "What Does Israel Mean to Me?"

Sound of Many Waters is an exhibition featuring works by visual artists from Jewish communities in the Partnership2Gether Southeast consortium and its partner region in Israel, Hadera-Eiron. Chattanooga artists Roslyne Steinberg and Austin Center are representing Chattanooga.

Join us that Thursday, January 15 at 5:30 for a Meet the Artists reception for both exhibits. *Israel and Me* and *Sound of Many Waters* will be on view at the JCC through March 6. No reservations necessary and no charge to attend.



Tal Cohen's basketball days in Israel



Roslyne Steinberg's New York City Skyline

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FEDERATION SHLICHA



Israel for Me, For You

by Noa Hadad, Federation Shlichah
Israel@jewishchattanooga.com

In January my exhibit *Israel for Me* will be on display at the Jewish Cultural Center. In this exhibit my goal was to allow other people to show how and why they are connected to the Holy Land. I asked twenty members of the Chattanooga Jewish community, and twenty Israelis currently living in Israel, *What is Israel to you?* I got forty distinct responses. So what does Israel mean to us? The best way to put it is: Israel means Everything.

When I started to think about what Israel means to me, I got too many ideas. But, here are my top three:

1. Our HOME. No matter what happened before or what happens next- this is our home. We have nowhere else to go. It's the only place I can feel safe, no matter what's happening – war, terror attacks or missiles. This is my home, our home. The home for all Jewish people from all over the world. Our history and our future is on this holy land. It's the only place in the world that you can see so many Jews in the same place. Jews that you don't know but still feel are part of your family, your history and your hope for the future.

2. Israel as one big family. For me, one of the best things about Israel is that no matter where you are or who you are with – you feel they are your family. When something bad happens, we all stand strong together as one family and support each other. When something good happens, we all are happy to be part of it and share the joy. Family is a Jewish thing. You can't escape it. It's stronger than you. And don't lie to me – you love it!

3. Israeli music. Israeli music is a big part of my life. I've heard music since I was a little girl. Music helped me both in difficult times and in the most exciting moments of my life. Israeli music talks about all kind of Israeli events through history. It speaks about our country, the way of our lives during the wars, love, sadness--everything. Israeli music makes me feel my connection to Israel, to my home. It's connected to my happy and sad moments and gives me hope to continue no matter what happens. We can learn so much about Israel through Israeli music.

I must say that since coming to Chattanooga, I've become more Zionist and connected to Israel. My feelings are stronger than ever. I'm so proud to be part of the State of Israel and the Jewish community. And I know that every Jew has a connection to Israel, no matter what kind of connection or how it's expressed.

Each person who answered the question *What does Israel mean to me* answered differently. Pinpointing what makes people so passionate about Israel is not an easy thing, perhaps because there are so many options. It is the Jewish state, the only political entity in the world where Jews are a majority. It is the historical home of the Jewish people, the land of King David and the Temple Mount. It is the religious center of the Jew-

250 Shlichim Strong

Every year the Jewish Agency For Israel has a big convention for the 250 shlichim all over the US. It was an amazing experience for me to meet them! We talked about different ways to bring Israel to our community, shared ideas for programs and teaching values, and we learned so much from each other.

I met the chairman of the Jewish agency, Nathan Sheransky, who is responsible in large part for bringing Jewish people all over the world to Israel (more than 2 million!). I also visited the UN in New York. I learned about the place, the ambassadors' work, about Israel's effect there, and about the things we can do to make a difference.

I can promise you that this year is going to be a very interesting one for all of us. And I have to say that I heard a lot about each community, and I still think that we are the best!! So thank you again for giving me the opportunity to be part of yours.

Your gift to the Annual Campaign enables the Federation to fund the Shlichim program.
Thank you!

Israel For Me
Your impressions, your thoughts, your visions, your illustrations about YOUR ISRAEL. Opening reception Jan. 15 @ 5:30 p.m. at the Jewish Cultural Center

ish universe as well as a holy land to billions of Christians and Muslims. And it is a refuge for Jews across the globe dating back to before the Holocaust. Israel is a rich, complicated place, qualities that are simultaneously the source of its greatness and its greatest challenges.

We're all one Jewish people, but the people in Israel are the ones who are living on the front lines. Our job is to keep Israelis safe, and one of the best ways we can support them is to make sure we bring Israel's stories out front, tell people the real story behind media reports. We need to make sure that the United States government keeps Israel as a strong ally.

Israel means everything. We waited 2,000 years for our Jewish home. I was born 40 years after it became a state. My role as an Israeli, as an emissary, is to make sure that we don't lose it. Not on my watch.

I hope to see y'all at the reception for the exhibit *Israel for Me* on January 15, at 5:30p.m. at the Jewish Cultural Center. Come to see, and to answer the question for yourself.

Cafe Dilemma at the The Flying Squirrel



Thank you all for coming to the Café Dilemma program about the Israeli – Palestine conflict. It was a great chance to listen to your opinions and to learn from you all. A big thank you to The Flying Squirrel as well.



Above: *the JAFI Convention*; below right, *shlichim in front of the UN*



Nathan Sheransky and Noa



FEDERATION PROGRAMS

Young Leadership (Ages 21-45)



Find us on facebook [facebook.com/groups/YJLCHA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/YJLCHA/) or email us to get on the mailing list at Israel@jewishchattanooga.com.

WEBSITE: <http://www.Jewishchattanooga.com>
423-493-0270

The Young Leadership Group, YJL, of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga, is a vibrant mix of young adults from the Chattanooga area. Our mission is to engage 21 to 45 year olds to participate in Jewish Federation, Shabbat dinners, community service, and social action events, through a combination of local and national programs, and social mixers.

YL Service Project at Aleph Bet

January 23 3-5pm
January 25 9am-12pm



Left, Rachel Privett, Tal Cohen, Michael Dzik, and Rob Lowe volunteered for November Turkey Train



Join us for the UTC basketball game 1/24/15. Call Tal for more information.

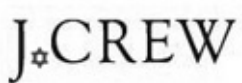
YJL is always looking for new members!

Social Committee- Tal Cohen handles mixers and entertainment. (518) 256-5464

Philanthropy- Rachel Privett handles volunteer events and community service projects. (423) 280-6588

Networking- Erica Newman handles events for making new connections/growing relationships. Ericagnewman@gmail.com

Your gift to the Annual Campaign enables the Federation to partially fund YL. Thank you!



Ending the Year With "Latkes" to be Happy About

by Alison Lebovitz and Andy Hodes, co-advisors, and Noa Hadad

In November the teens competed in some "Jew Crew Style" Minute-to-Win-It games which was a great time and made for good laughs. We concluded 2014 with a record fifteen teens at our annual Chanukah Party in December, complete with Andy's homemade latkes and Noa's famous doughnuts. Eamon McFadden won the Chanukah trivia competition, but everyone went home with a prize after playing a mean game of "Dirty Chanukah." The Crew is excited for 2015 and we hope to see everyone at our monthly programs in the coming year, especially at our annual Jew Crew Retreat at Ramah Darom the weekend of February 27 - March 1. Happy New Year from Alison, Andy and Noa!



Your gift to the Annual Campaign enables the Federation to partially fund the Jew Crew. Thank you!

FEDERATION NEWS

Chattanooga Harp Quartet to Perform at Noon Nosh in January

The Chattanooga Harp Quartet draws its members from The Chattanooga Harp Ensemble, a division of Jan Pennington Gray Harp Fund, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing harp music to the public and to support, educate, and advance harpists around the world. Their performance Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the JCC will consist of a variety of musical selections including Celtic, Jewish, Broadway, original compositions, and even storytelling. Program begins at 12 p.m. \$8 per person. 493-0270 ext. 10 or rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com.



HEART HEART

A WOMAN'S JOURNEY TO ISRAEL February 1-5, 2015



Mission Highlights

- Participate in a workshop and fair with artists from Southern Israel
- Meet the spouses of IDF commanders and learn about their daily lives
- Meet with female combat soldiers in the desert
- Take part in a Heart-to-Heart-Style "Amazing Race" around Jerusalem, meeting female artists, chefs, designers and entrepreneurs along the way
- Learn from Israeli women who are in the forefront of some of the world's most interesting scientific achievements
- See some of the unbelievable programs and projects that are changing and saving lives, thanks to support by Jewish Federation dollars and our overseas partners.

Co-chaired by our very own Lauren Lebovitz! Contact her directly at 423-505-3090 or lalalebovitz@gmail.com

Please go to <http://www.jewishfederations.org/heart-to-heart.aspx> for a comprehensive overview of the trip

Join our intrepid group of smart, motivated women on a journey to Israel. Learn how Israeli women and their families are moving forward after last summer's conflict, and how we can continue to support them. Meet amazing women who are playing leading roles in the fields of medicine, fashion, art, business and spirituality. Experience groundbreaking, Federation-supported programs that are improving the lives of vulnerable Israelis. Return home empowered to be a leader in your community.

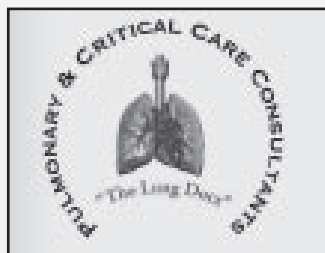


Michael T. Czarnecki, M.D.
(Dr. Mike)
Board Certified

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- General Pulmonary Medicine



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ALEPH BET CHILDREN'S CENTER



by Vicki Cathcart
Aleph Bet Children's Center
Director/
PJ Library Coordinator
alephbet@jewishchattanooga.com

Aleph Bet will be closed
Jan. 1 -New Year's
Jan. 2 -Teacher Training

Early Bird Registration starts Jan.16 for summer 2015 and school year 2015-2016. See AB website for more information



We appreciate the following donations:

Elizabeth Monson
The Eves Family
Joe and Fran Dzik
The Talley Family
The Parker Family
The Galletta Family
Herb Cohn
The Cathcart Family

Virginia and Ralph Murray
The Ankar-Burdette Family

6 rolls duct tape
Lysol
Books
Costumes
Contact Paper
Disinfecting wipes and lighted fort
Books
Play-doh, puzzle, coffee/cupcake play stand
wipes, glue sticks, and envelopes
paper towels and trash bag



Aleph Bet Children's Center, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga, aims to provide an educational, interactive and developmentally appropriate preschool program that is enriched by Jewish traditions and values and implemented by a trained, dedicated, and nurturing staff.



Aleph Bet is recognized by the State of Tenn. for its commitment to good health

At the Jewish Cultural Center
5461 North Terrace Road 37411
(423) 893-5486
Director: (423) 493-0270, ext. 18
alephbet@jewishchattanooga.com
www.aleph-bet.com

100 Reasons, 100 Hours of Giving Report

Goal: \$7,500

Total Raised: \$9,250 (as of December 19, 2014)

We thank and appreciate everyone who supported our fundraiser!

Amelia and Owen Allen
Sam and Joyce Ankar (in honor of Tarek Burdette)
Michelle Archambault (in honor of her nieces: Samara and Daniella Cathcart)
Dr. Bruce and Merle Backer
Dr. Robin Balser (in honor of her children: Seth, Jake, and Sam)
Dr. Sam and Dana Banks
Claire Binder
Barbara and Jerry Bohn
Michele Bolton
Burdette Ankar Family
Jason, Vicki, Jordan, Samara and Daniella Cathcart (in honor of the AB teachers, children and families)
Terri Cathcart (in honor of Samara, Daniella, and Jordan Cathcart)
Tal, Erin, Daniella, and Dean Cohen
Julie, Rob, Sadie, and Max Cowan
Leo, Lielanie, and Lorena Dacoregio
Destiny Transportation (in honor and celebration of the Cohen Family; Daniella and Dean)
Donna White-Dropkin and Warren Dropkin
Dr. Reuben and Dot Dubrow
Michael Dzik
Emily Eiselstein
Jessica, Eric, and Lily Ellis
Barry Parker and Flossie Weill
Estelle Frank
Isidore Frumin
Lynn and Colman Hochman
Scott and Laura Israel
Dr. Paul, Caroline, Amelia, and Ava Kaplan (in honor of the 6 wonderful years spent at ABM)
Millie and Gary Lander
Alan, Alison, Arthur, Abe, and Levi Lebovitz
Beth and Rob Lowe (in honor of Vicki, Samara, and Daniella Cathcart)
Cynthia McGee
Teddi Mendel (in honor of the children)
Dr. Jay and Marcia Menuskin
Virginia and Ralph Murray
Julie Newton
Lene't Solomon Parker (in honor of Lilah and Aaron Parker)

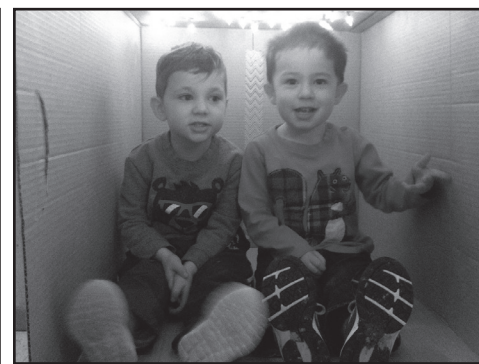


Kate Pinson
Helen Pregulman (in honor of Milton Goldstein's special birthday)
Rachel Privett
Teri Reneau
Dr. Clayton and Janice Rhodes
Dr. James Richmond, Jr
Kevin, Cassie, and Eliza Rose
Harriet and Alan Ruderman
Rabbi Susan and Tendler and Ross Sadoff (in honor and appreciation for the work of Vicki Cathcart)
Dr. Barry and Sande Schulman
Dr. Jim and Fern Shire
Pris and Robert Siskin
Traci Sloan (in honor of the future of Jewish Education)

Matt, Whitney, Isaiah, and Tallulah Smith
Loren and Rebecca Sykes (in honor of their nieces: Samara and Daniella Cathcart)
Lynne Sykes (in honor of her grandchildren: Jordan, Samara, and Daniella Cathcart)
Sandy and Ben Tabakin
Lisa and Ted Tatone
Sarah, Michael, and Wyatt Taylor
Paula Udell
Kathy and Tom Webber
Craig and Linda Woods
Dr. Larry and Carol Young



Meant to donate but forgot? It's not too late! Send your contributions to Aleph Bet Children's Center or go online at www.aleph-bet.com to donate! We THANK you!



Clockwise, Yellow Room children have fun outside; inside a much-loved donated fort; Andy Hodes visits AB Shabbat Dec. 12

FEDERATION PROGRAMS

Major Gifts at Home of Gary and Sally Chazen, Nov. 23



Far left, *Bobby Chazen, Michael Lebovitz, Gary Chazen*
 Middle: *Richard Zachary*
 Right, *Speaker Linda Hurwitz*

Below, l-r: *Candace and Bobby Chazen, Major Gifts Chair Lauren Lebovitz and Rabbi Bill Tepper; Charles Lebovitz and Pris Siskin; Sally Chazen*



Super Sunday December 7 at the Jewish Cultural Center



Sincerest thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Super Sunday a super success!