



Jewish Federation[®]
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

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NEWS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

THE SHO FAR



A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

Volume 27 Number 7 March 2014

Ori Naftaly Band Brings Jazz-Inspired Blues to Chattanooga Saturday, March 29, 9-11p.m.



The Jewish Cultural Center will be transformed into a blues club on Saturday, March 29, as The Ori Naftaly Band takes the stage. The band, made up of founder, producer, composer, lead guitarist, and manager Ori Naftaly and songwriter, composer and lead vocalist Eleanor Tsaig, began playing their brand of “jazz-inspired blues” in

November, 2011. By 2012 they had been named Best Blues Album 2012 by Bluesmagazine.nl. Shortly afterward, they won Best Israeli Blues Act and became the first Israeli band to have been voted into the International Blues Competition (IBC), where they were 2013 semi-finalists. They have gained international recognition and support by the international blues community and by an extended fan base located in the USA, Holland, Germany, and India, among others.

Within the course of two years, The Ori Naftaly Band has toured the US three times and the Netherlands twice. Since their release this year of the album, *Happy For Good*, which features a mix of styles including electric blues, funk, rock, and soul, they have been in the Top 5 slot on the International Blues Radio Airplay Charts for eight consecutive weeks. In 2014, the Ori Naftaly Band is scheduled to appear at the Greeley Blue Jazz Festival, the Blues from the Top Festival, and the Mount Baker Blues Festival. Memphis is the band’s new home base.

Tickets to the event are \$18. Beverages and hors d’oeuvres will be available. RSVP to rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com or 493-0270, ext. 10. Brought to you by Jewish Federation’s Young Leadership group.

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Jewish Federation
of Greater Chattanooga

www.jewishchattanooga.com



Friday, April 4

8:00 a.m. Raffle and Silent Auction
8:45 a.m. Doors Open for Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Classroom Performances and Breakfast

Join us for a spectacular breakfast prepared by Alice Goss-Morgan.

Breakfast Tickets

Adult: \$10 (breakfast plus one raffle ticket)
Children \$5 (free if enrolled at Aleph Bet)

Raffle and Silent and Live Auctions!

Restaurant gift certificates • Theme park attractions • Jewelry
Handmade items • Photo shoot • Classroom Artwork
\$5 one raffle ticket \$10/three \$20/ten

**To order breakfast/and or raffle tickets,
see the form on page 11**

Enroll Now for Summer Camps!

PHILANTHROPY CAMP: for rising 1st through rising 6th graders. **July 29-Aug. 2, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Jewish Cultural Center and Chattanooga First Church of the Nazarene. This camp teaches children the value of *tikkun olam*, or “repairing the world.” Games and activities help children explore philanthropy, faith, family, and community. **Cost:** \$120 (\$100 for each additional sibling)

CAMP TIKKUN OLAM: for rising 7th through rising 9th graders **July 29 through Aug. 2, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Each day, campers will do hands-on service at a different local, non-profit organization and have fun learning experiences about each of those organizations. On Friday, the group will give a presentation to Philanthropy Camp. **Cost:** \$120/camper (\$100 for each additional sibling). Space is limited!

For registration and information about either camp, contact camp@jewishchattanooga.com or contact Ann Treadwell at 493-0270 ext 13. Registration WITH PAYMENT must be received to hold your spot.

FEDERATION NEWS



Getting It “Together”

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

Six plus weeks under my belt as Federation Board Chair and it seems like I have things under control. I know that they are under control for many reasons. First, I must thank Andy Hodes and his past two years of board members for ensuring the Federation is in great shape. I realized quickly how important volunteer leadership is and how people make an organization great. Equally, it is past leadership—from last year, ten years ago and even decades ago—that have put the Federation where it is today. I am humbled to know that you, the Chattanooga Jewish community, have entrusted me with the responsibility of stewarding the Federation for the next two years. Thank you.

At the Annual Meeting in January, I talked about a theme that I will be weaving into the community throughout my tenure: We Are One. In these past few weeks, I can honestly say that I’ve already seen this theme in action. One notable example: in January, all three of our community rabbis came together for a rabbinic panel discussion. The topic, “Lessons Learned” was a discussion of mentorships and the important ways each rabbi was influenced. Having all three rabbis on the stage together was a great example of “We Are One.”

And the rabbis’ discussion was just one of many opportunities for the community to come together to learn and share. The Federation also coordinates a quarterly President’s and Professional’s meeting for the Jewish community. Leaders and staff from the Federation, Aleph Bet, the congregations, Chabad, and Hadassah come together to discuss community activities, programs, and common issues. It’s a great way to keep the lines of communication open and to build a stronger Jewish community. We truly are one.

After several months’ break, our Men’s Night convened in February. Twenty-five men gathered for a wonderful dinner (thank you Bruce Weiss) and to hear a speaker. This gathering is for men of all ages and from all parts of our Jewish community. It’s an opportunity to socialize and catch up with each other. I know that many new contacts and friendships have been made and built through this program. If you’re male and have never been before, make an effort to attend the next one – it is definitely a “We Are One” program.

Each month I plan to recognize a community member who has done something special or unique within the Jewish community. This month I want to thank Paul Lefkoff for his incredible work with Super Sunday. Paul not only attended the event last November, he worked the past two months helping us make calls to community members not reached that day. Paul worked tirelessly with Michael Dzik, taking five to ten cards, then five more...then five more...and then even more. All told, Paul completed over 55 pledge cards for the Federation. Thank you, Paul, for your incredible dedication and for ensuring that all community members had the opportunity to be part of our collective campaign. You are a great example of “We Are One.”



Give Till It Helps: Legacy Societies in Action

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

Many of you have heard the terms “endowment” or possibly even “legacy societies.” They come across as very sterile and bland to me, yet they refer to one of the most important bequests a community member can make.

I was speaking with a colleague last week about legacy societies and their importance to community. I knew that many members of our Chattanooga community have taken the necessary steps to make sure that their philanthropy doesn’t end when their annual campaign gifts do. That’s right, many people have already taken steps to ensure that their gifts will live on in perpetuity.

Everyone—yes, everyone—should take the few easy steps to guarantee that the Chattanooga Jewish community has been taken care of in their estate plans. Here’s how:

- First, fill out a very simple one-page form (called a Declaration of Intent) to let the Federation know what your intentions are. It is a non-binding document but it confidentially lets the Federation know what you’re thinking about doing so that we can help you through the process.
- Second – follow through with your estate planning.
- If you have already made provisions in your estate plan, please let me know. I would like to acknowledge your name on the growing list of community members in our Legacy Society. I will send you the one page declaration of intent form so that the Federation can plan for its future – with you as one of our many partners.

That’s it! You can create or make changes to a will or you can take out a special life insurance policy. You can change beneficiaries on retirement pensions or IRAs or even on life insurance. There are various trusts and annuities that may also be the most beneficial to you.

Ten years ago, at the age of 32, I took out a special life insurance policy that included the Federation as the beneficiary. Additionally, I made a change to my will, leaving 2% of my estate to the Federation. A few years later I added additional beneficiaries to my estate plan, including congregations, Hadassah, Camp Ramah, and AIPAC. It seems so logical: if I want these organizations and institutions to thrive for years to come, why wouldn’t I arrange to support them forever? It was the easiest and biggest “no-brainer.”

One of my biggest goals in my role as Federation Director is to encourage and assist community members in leaving a legacy with the Jewish Federation as well as any and all Jewish institutions that are dear to them. It doesn’t matter what your age is or even how much you are able to give. It’s more about your willingness to help support your community. If everyone does their part, together we’ll ensure a thriving Chattanooga Jewish community for generations to come. I look forward to speaking with you soon. And thank you to those who have already become members of our Legacy Society (below*).

Binder, Claire
Chambers, Sandy
Dzik, Michael
Hochman, Lynn
Hodes, Alvin
Lebovitz, Alison
Lebovitz, Charles
Lebovitz, Lauren
Malsh, Rebecca (Deceased)
Nash, Ike (Deceased)
Pregulman, Helen
Siskin, Pris
Zachary, Richard
Fairchild, David

* If you are a member of the Federation Legacy Society and your name was inadvertently left off this list, please let us know.

FEDERATION PROGRAMS



Music Makes the Federation Go Round

by Ann Treadwell
Program Director
atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com

I am a child of the 1960s and 70s. During the cold winter months my father would put a roaring fire in the fireplace, heating the living room to a toasty temperature while leaving other parts of the house tepid. It is no wonder that my sisters, our friends and I would spend our evenings fireside. We would play checkers, eat popcorn, joke, and listen to music. Because my father stayed in the room with us, the evening's musical entertainment would always start with his favorites. As a result, I know most of the lyrics to *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*, and *Stormy Weather*.

As the evening would wore on and my father felt comfortable leaving us girls and young men together, he would join my mother in more tepid climates to watch television on our black-and-white set. Quietly, we would put on music we knew my father would neither sanction nor listen to. During those pre-spring nights of the early 1970s, we played our favorite singer-songwriters over and over again. One of them was Carole King's rendition of the song *Music: Music is playing inside my head/Over and over and over again/My friend, there's no end to the music*.

As spring arrives, so does the Federation's mini music-a-thon at the Jewish Cultural Center. Noon Nosh on March 18th features the Chattanooga State Choir directed by Darrin Hassevoort. This choir is known for its great

repertoire of music. Equally important, it will give the audience the opportunity to engage with these young adults during lunch. It is an event to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Lunch and program, \$8.00.

The Federation's Young Leadership, facilitated by our shlichah Hadas Peled, will present the Ori Naftaly Band on Sat., March 29. The band was voted Best Israeli Blues Act in 2013 (see front page for details). The concert will begin at 9:00 p.m. Saturday evening the hopes of enticing an audience of 21- 45 year olds, although the young at heart are strongly encouraged to attend as well. \$18 per person gets you live music, beverages and appetizers. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

In memory of his wife Justine Jacobs, Harvey Jacobs has invited regionally known pianist Margaret Ann Randolph to play a short concert after the community dinner on March 31. I've known Margaret Ann for over ten years, and you will be amazed at how she is able to make a piano vocalize! As you know, Harvey donated our wonderful piano to the Federation for just this sort of program. Dinner and the concert, \$10.

In the event that spring comes late this year, or if circumstances in our community or personal lives seem gloomy, join us for all or part of our mini music-a-thon. As Carole King concludes in *Music: Ah, it's not always easy/But the music keeps playing/And won't let the world get me down*.



What You Need To Know About Family Violence, Feb. 4, JCC

Elizabeth Monson, Dr. Charlotte Boatwright, and Federation Program Director Ann Treadwell briefly share the podium at the, "What You Need To Know About Family Violence" joint Hadassah-Federation program.



Noon Nosh on March 18 will feature the 34-person Chattanooga State Choir. Lunch and program: \$8.

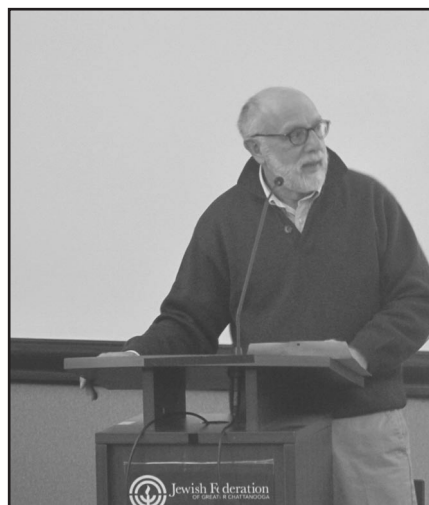


Noon Nosh, Feb. 18

Artist Judith Mogul talked about her art project, the stop action film "Field Play," for which she was a 2013 MakeWork grant recipient.



Noon Nosh, Jan. 21



Irven Resnick, professor of philosophy and religion at UTC and Senior Associate at Oxford University's Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, addresses Noon Nosh. Topic of discussion was Judaic Studies at a Southern University: UTC in 2014.

FEDERATION PROGRAMS

Community Events



Community Dinner and Music Program Monday, Mar. 31, 6pm, JCC.

Join us for this spectacular musical dining event. Pianist Margaret Ann Randolph will play classical selections from Ravel, Brahms, Chopin, and Bach.

Mrs. Randolph is a graduate of Birmingham Southern College and completed her graduate work in music at the University of Illinois. She has been an adjudicator of local and state auditions and has taught at Cleveland Community College, Lee University, Tennessee Wesleyan College, and the University of Illinois.

Cost: \$10 includes dinner

RSVP to 493-0270, ext. 10 or rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please remember to RSVP for Jewish Federation programs
Your RSVP helps us to prepare the right amount of food so that no one is left out and nothing goes to waste.

There are three easy ways to respond:

1. use the RSVP form at www.jewishchattanooga.com
2. call 493-0270, ext. 10
3. email rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com.

Prefer a vegetarian meal? Just let us know in advance.

Thanks for helping us serve you better!

Young Leadership (Ages 21-40)

Habitat Build, Sun., Mar. 9, 9-3pm

The Ori Naftaly Band, Sat., Mar. 29, 9-11pm, JCC

See www.facebook.com/groups/YJLCHA for details

Happenings with Hadas (Israeli Shlichah)

FeminIsrael community reception and program

Wed., Mar. 5, 6:30 p.m.



Save the Date

Yom Hashoah Commemoration April 27, 7pm, JCC



Middle Eastern (Belly) Dancing

Jillanna Babb-Cheshul of Merry Bellies teaches this drop-in, one-hour, very fun class, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Pay as you go. \$5/class. For information, contact 493-0270, ext. 10; federation@jewishchattanooga.com.

Foreign Policy Supper Club

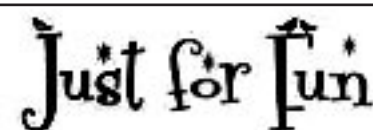
Monday, Mar. 24, 6:00p.m. Topic: Israel and the US



Enjoy a family-style dinner, watch a brief presentation, and discuss a different topic on a Monday each month. Articles produced by the Foreign Policy Association and Great Decisions will be available prior to the discussion, and, when possible, an informed guest will join the discussion.

Cost: \$10 includes dinner

RSVP 493-0270, ext. 10; rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com



Opportunities!

Rising 10th thru 12th Graders

Contact: Ann Treadwell 493-0270 ext.13 or atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com

P2G Tikkun Olam

Tentative Dates in Israel: June 23 – July 6

This program in Israel is designed to encourage leadership, community, and social action. Participants going to Israel will then host the Israeli teen they stayed with for two weeks after returning to Chattanooga. The trip includes visits to a Bedouin Hafla, Yad Vashem, the City of David, Jerusalem, Yehuda Market, the Western Wall, kayaking the Jordan River, the Hall of Independence, a Haifa and the Bahai Gardens, an archeological dig for a day, and much more. Cost to participate is apx. \$1,500, an amount significantly subsidized by the Jewish Federation.

Host Family

Tentative Dates in Chattanooga: July 20 – August 3

Four Israeli teens will be coming to Chattanooga during this time. The teens will stay with those teens that go to Israel with the program but we anticipate that additional teens will be needed to host our guests. The host family teens and the Israeli teens will participate in Philanthropy Camp as counselors, or in Camp Tikkun Olam (the service camp for rising seventh through rising 9th graders that runs concurrently with Philanthropy Camp). Host families will be responsible for overnight accommodations and all meals for their guest.

Philanthropy Camp Counselor

Training dates July 23, 24 and 25

Camp dates July 28 – August 1

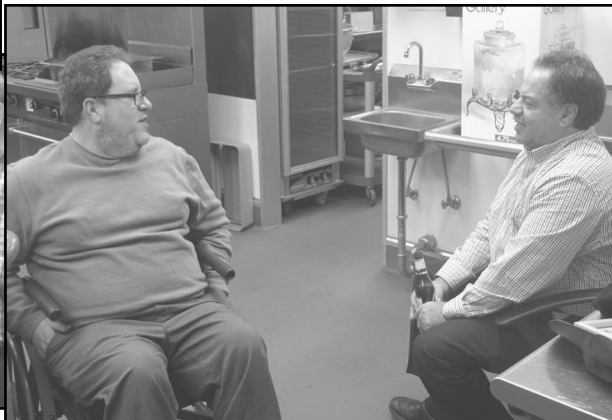
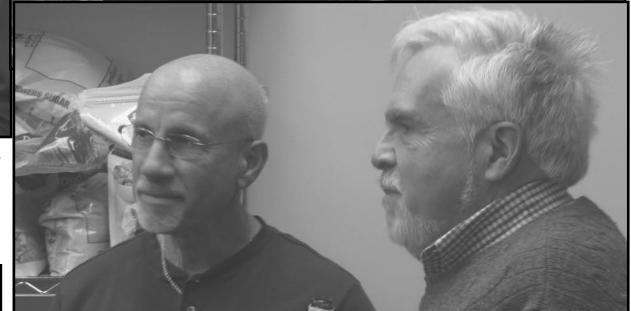
Philanthropy Camp, now in its 7th year, is for rising first through rising sixth grade students giving them the opportunity to give back to their community. Rising 10th through rising 12th grade students are the counselors and function as both mentors and program assistants. Applications to be a counselor are available now.

FEDERATION PROGRAMS

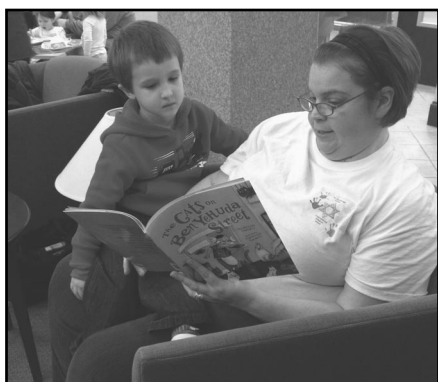
Men's Night, Feb. 10



(above, R) Speaker Jerre Haskew (aka The Music Man) talked about his musical career and work on Sport Talk radio.



PJ Library and Sifriyat Pijama B'America (SP-BA) Challah Fun, Feb. 9, 2014



For more information, or to enroll in PJ Library or SP-BA, visit www.pjlibrary.org

FEDERATION PROGRAMS



Seventh Annual Jewish Film Series

starts April 30



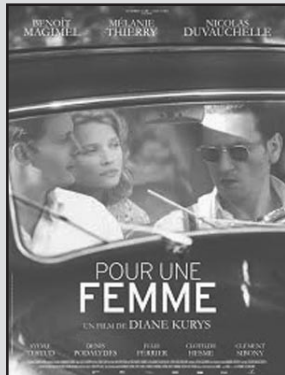
Be a star! Become a sponsor!

\$90 Producer's Circle Ten single-admission tickets plus two tickets to the sponsor reception on April 23, your name on the sponsor board, and recognition in *The Shofar*.

\$72 Director's Circle Five single-admission tickets plus two tickets to the April 23 sponsor reception, your name on the sponsor board, and recognition in *The Shofar*.

To become a sponsor, contact Ann Treadwell 493-0270, ext. 13 or atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com

All films screen on 5 consecutive Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Jewish Cultural Center, beginning April 30. Individual Tickets: \$7 (includes popcorn and a soft drink or water). Films are suitable for ages 16 and older. **Look for full descriptions of these films in the April Shofar**



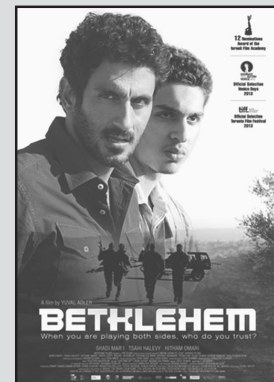
Pour Le Femme



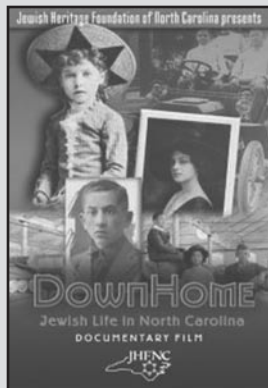
Aftermath



Kidon



Bethlehem



All sponsors are invited to a free screening of *Down Home*, a remarkable documentary that tells the story of Jewish life in North Carolina from its pioneering settlers to the diverse communities of today. **BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE!** Screening includes a reception featuring the best of southern Jewish cooking and live music, Wednesday, April 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the JCC.

The Federation thanks the following corporate sponsors (as of February 19)

- Chattanooga Allergy Clinic
- Henderson, Hutcherson McCullough, PLLC
- Raymond James Classic Wealth Advisory
- Southport Capital
- WTCI, Tennessee's PBS Station



By the Numbers

3

Number of days Federation offices were affected by the snowstorm. No heat, no electricity, no computers, refrigerators down, fallen trees, postponed programs.

Oy vey!

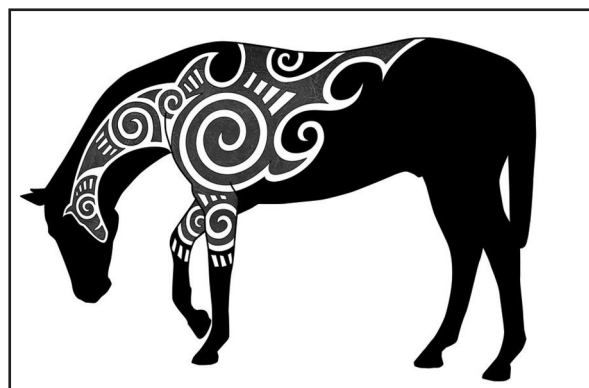
FEDERATION SOCIAL SERVICES



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

by Amy Boulware
 Social Services Director
 aboulware@jewishchattanooga.com

What Is Beauty?



A few weeks ago I was sitting by the bedside of a dear friend who was dying. She knew it. I knew it. What little time we had left to interact with each other was very precious. I have told many people that the worst part of my job as a geriatric social worker is death. I am fortunate to be able to have long term relationships with many of the people I care for, and because of that closeness I am often involved in the end of life journey of these individuals and their families.

I go through many emotions as I see a life coming to an end. I am sad, sometimes angry, afraid, relieved and always thankful that I have had time with the person. Connecting with others and really listening to what they are saying is something that brings me great joy and satisfaction.

In one of my last conversations with my friend, she asked me to sit close to her on her bed. She was so fragile and weak that I was afraid I might hurt her by just sitting down and making the bed move, but I complied with her request. She leaned in very close to me and said, "Amy, I don't know if I ever told you this before, but you are such a blessing to not only be with, but to look at." She told me that I have the most beautiful skin and eyes, and that just looking at me made her feel happy. She said she loved being in my presence.

I was taken aback. At this most difficult time, when she knew she was dying and she felt terrible, she took the time to compliment me and to thank me for being present.

I thought about what she'd said. I must tell you, I look in the mirror every morning and often what I focus on are those things I consider flaws. There are dark circles under my eyes, I have a double chin I have always hated, and let's not talk about the gap between my

front teeth that braces didn't fix. In that moment, however, my friend saw none of my flaws, and only what she considered beautiful.

After our visit, I was left thinking about two things. First, how at a time when my friend could have been focused on how horrible she felt, she was able to share that being with me made her happy. Second, and more importantly, I questioned why many of us spend so much time focusing on our "flaws" when those around us probably don't even see them. I bet if I'd asked my friend about that gap in my teeth, she would have told me I had a great smile.

That same week I visited a lady at an area nursing home. I was feeding her lunch when another gal pushed up to our table in a wheelchair. I introduced myself and thanked her for joining us. We chatted for a bit, after which she suddenly looked straight at me and said, "You are so beautiful." In the next breath she said she is totally blind and that she really couldn't see me, but she knew I must be beautiful because I talked to her with such kindness.

"We don't get that very often around here," she said.

How often do we actually look at ourselves as others look at us? What kind of beauty were these women, one dying, one blind, talking about? It was the beauty of time, the beauty of kindness, the beauty of being present. This is beauty we all have if we are willing to see it and share it, as I did and as they did as well.

Since those visits, I have made a concerted effort to really look at myself every morning and focus on my beauty. I encourage each of you to do the same.

Take Home Chef Alice Goss-Morgan's "Bowls of Love"

Purchase matzo ball soup or chili for just \$4 for a one-bowl container or \$8 for a two-bowl size.

Call ahead to reserve; we do run out. Contact Ann Treadwell (do not call the kitchen directly), 493-0270, ext. 13; atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com to get your order packaged and ready to go!



Spring Health Tip

Feel the NEW ENERGY of Spring. Take a deep look at where you are and see what you no longer need in your life, what no longer serves who you want to be. This is the season to plan your new year, for the new YOU. Creativity is the word for spring. We are naturally creative beings, but we can easily get blocked. We do that with our minds and attitudes, fears and doubts, with our foods and toxins, and by other stresses and resistances to life.

Source: © Elson M. Haas MD, Healthy.net.com.

At Your Service!



New Riders - Call Amy Boulware 893-9241
Current Riders, contact:
John Schneider 504-6324
or Eddie Reel 503-0238

The Federation van runs
 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Monday through Thursday.
 For evening or weekend programs at the Jewish Cultural Center, there must be 3 or more van reservations.

Take the van to: ...exercise class
 ...the grocery store
 ...visit a friend
 ...the doctor
 ...get your car from the shop.

Your Annual Campaign gift helps make van service possible.

*Van service is free to/from Federation events. There is a minimal charge for errands and appointments. Call Amy Boulware for details.

Where there's a will there's a ride!

ALEPH BET CHILDREN'S CENTER



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



aleph bet
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Learn and play with us!
Now enrolling

We welcome children of all faiths, nationalities, and cultures.

5461 N. Terrace Road · Chattanooga, TN 37411
 alephbet@jewishchattanooga.com
 www.aleph-bet.com
 423-893-5486

Ask about our current enrollment specials!

A program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

PJ Library® and Sifriyat Pijama B'America Share Shabbat



Friday, March 7

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Jewish Cultural Center

All families with children ages birth to five are invited to participate in PJ Library Share Shabbat Program. We will sing a few songs and then join Aleph Bet for their weekly Shabbat celebration. Special guest, Dr. Paul Kaplan, of Diagnostic Pathology Services, P.C., PJ Library sponsor, will read a story too! Come dressed in your pajamas! No cost. Rsvp to Vicki (Vcathcart@jewishchattanooga.com or 893-5486).

Donations to Aleph Bet (as of Feb 19). Thank You!

Estelle Frank.....wireless keyboard

The Eves Family.....card stock and paint

The Cathcart Family.....paint

The Murray-Au Family..K-Cups for teachers

Please consider donating the following items to Aleph Bet:

- Wireless keyboard and Mouse
- Paper towels
- Lysol
- Card stock (any colors)

A Message from Director Vicki Cathcart

As a young adult I remember my mother telling me, "Prepare for the worst—hope for the best." I thought this was a strange admonition coming from someone who I considered an optimist. I get it now. As a mom and a preschool director, those eight words have helped me through a variety of situations.

During the last week of January, we all were affected by winter storm Leon. We did the best we could to take care of our families and friends—many drove hours in the car to get home, while some walked miles in the snow. Others helped a neighbor or stranger. We are so thankful that our families and teachers made it home safely.

It's during these times that we have the opportunity to think about what it really means to be in an emergency situation. What would you do if you lost power for a few days? If you had to evacuate your house? If you had a flat tire and couldn't reach your child for pick up? We encourage you to create or review your family emergency plan. Visit FEMA's website, www.ready.gov for preparedness plans, family communication documents, and suggested supply lists. In other words, "Prepare for the worst—hope for the best."

I want to share a story I recently viewed on ABC's 20/20. An undetected carbon monoxide leak killed three people and sickened others in a hotel in North Carolina. Carbon monoxide poisoning can be difficult to detect because it's colorless, odorless, and tasteless—but these deaths could have been prevented. Many hotels do not have carbon monoxide detectors in the rooms because of cost. There are also no federal regulations requiring their use. When traveling with your family, please consider bringing one with you. Make sure to have one on each floor at home too. I recommend purchasing a detector that plugs in so you don't have to worry about batteries. It could save your life!

We recently purchased carbon monoxide detectors for the classrooms. This past summer, we updated our emergency plan and will be reviewing the information with our State of Tennessee DHS licensing representative as mandated. We are thrilled that we will soon be able to quickly and efficiently communicate with families via text messages. We continue to evaluate the best way to care for our families and always welcome comments and/or suggestions.

Snowy Play at Aleph Bet



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.



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CHATTANOOGA JEWISH CONGREGATIONAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Tzedekah Fair (continued)



A Month of Feasting and Joy

by *Ronni Charyn, Director*
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Purim is a holiday of sweetness and joy, a time when we reflect on the power of an individual and the victory of the

Jewish nation in the face of destruction. One of the exciting elements of Purim is the giving of food gifts to friends and family. We are commanded to give at least two foods to at least one person, and they must be ready-to-eat food items.

Mordechai, one of the Purim heroes, instituted the practice of “Mishloach Manot”, as is quoted in the Megillah: “Mordechai enjoined the Jews to make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar.....feasting and joy, and sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.”

So let’s get creative! Each basket can become a special gift. Chag Purim, Chag Purim, Chag Gadol, L’Yehudeem! A few ideas to get your creative (and digestive) juices flowing:

For coffee lovers (like me): a bag of specialty coffee, a ceramic mug, a chocolate bar with hazelnuts, and a few special cookies.

For the health conscious: whole wheat cookies or hamantaschen, a tofu snack bar, a plastic bag filled with fruit/veggies, and a container of hummus.

For the traditional: a small Israeli salad with feta cheese, a pita filled with falafel, eggplant, and other veggies with hummus/tehina sauce.

For the “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” aficionado: a kosher hot dog-ready and prepped, plus popcorn or chips, and don’t forget the kosher pickles. Your recipient will need a Dr. Browns soda to wash it all down.

Whether you choose to give New York deli style, breakfast or lunch brown-bag style, or any of the above basket ideas, a Mishloach Manot food gift will bring a smile to anyone’s face.



Purim: A Holiday Like No Other

by *Adam Wassell, Education Fellow*
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And Haman, Booooooo! This noisy sentiment is often expressed during the holiday of Purim. The holiday commemorates the Jewish triumph within the ancient Persian Empire over the evil Haman, the royal vizier of King Ahasuerus, who plotted to kill the Jews. Haman’s plan was ruined when two Jews, Mordecai and Queen Esther, exposed Haman to the king, and saved our people. For this reason, Purim is a day which celebrates the survival of the Jewish people.

Many Americans consider Purim to be the Jewish version of Halloween due to its customary masks, costumes, and yummy treats. But Halloween’s origin marks the beginning of the period that is used to remember the dead, in particularly the saints, and was celebrated with a large feast. As you can see, the only thing Halloween and Purim have in common are their excessive costumes. Rather than a period of mourning, Purim celebrates the triumph of justice and the preservation of Jewish people worldwide.

Purim also draws mainstream similarities to Mardi Gras, due to their proximity on the calendar. During Mardi Gras, it is also customary to wear costumes, eat treats, and have lavish parties and parades. In actuality, Mardi Gras has more in common with Yom Kippur, due to the shared themes of repentance and spiritual cleansing. The words “Mardi Gras,” are French for “fat Tuesday,” and refer to the last night before Lent: the six weeks leading up to Easter where Christians are commanded to repent and reflect, and to abstain from eating or drinking certain things.

But the American holiday that most shares a common story with Purim is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. His fight for equality was a struggle, but ultimately ended in a measure of success. What we can learn from this comparison is that the struggle for freedom is one that will be fought for centuries, and that, with the will to succeed, we can triumph.

The Jewish people overcame the hatred of Haman and many other oppressors throughout our history, and for that reason, it is our responsibility to continue to fight for the freedom of all people. During this year’s celebration of Purim, I urge you to remember this responsibility, and to work every day to fight for freedom for all. In doing so we honor the memory of Mordecai and Queen Esther, who risked their lives to ensure our freedom.

Tzedekah Fair Feb. 2



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Your gift to the Annual Campaign enables the Federation to fund almost half of the operating costs of the CJCRS. Thank you!

FEDERATION SHLICHA



Six Months In, Rediscovering My Connection to Israel

by Hadas Peled
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As you read my article, I will have been in Chattanooga for six months. It has been an emotional roller-coaster. I feel like I've had a makeover, like the ones you see on reality TV. I can divide my time into "six months ago" and "now." You might wonder what could have possibly happened (besides me gaining a couple of pounds!) that has created the shift. I'll tell you: my perspective about Israel changed.

When I was training for this job, I knew that my goal and role as shlicha was to do everything I could to educate and strengthen the Chattanooga connection with Israel. On the one hand, I knew that I wanted to raise awareness, inspire people to ask questions, and enrich peoples' lives. But I also know that Israel is a complex land with a complex life. And so my journey to Chattanooga began with a question: Why, with all the drama, conflict and political strife that defines Israel, should Chattanooga Jews care about it?

As an Israeli, I do not always agree with every action or decision Israel makes. Most of the time I separate myself from the politics and chaos because I love Israel as a land—the land of my ancestors and the land that I believe God gave us to live in. But most importantly, Israel is all about the people. My time in Chattanooga made me realize that my shlicut (my mission) is the same: it's all about the people and the personal connections I make while I'm here.

Many of the people I've met here in the community have shared their stories about their trips or their desire to travel to Israel. Many of the community members who have already been there have said they felt they belonged there from the moment they landed. Why is that? It's because they were surrounded by family, or as I call it, the Jewish "peoplehood" family. And it works both ways: that's exactly the way I feel here in Chattanooga: like I am surrounded by family.

PJ Library Challah Fun with Hadas Peled, Feb. 9

(more pictures from event on p. 7)



Inside the reading tent with Hadas Peled.



Hadas Peled is available for public speaking for civic groups, schools, churches, and other community organizations. Please contact Hadas at Israel@jewishchattanooga.com or 385-0098.



Let's take a moment to think about why we love Israel, why we feel so connected to it, and what is it about Israel we are so passionate about. Is it because it is the Jewish state? Is it because it is the historical home of the Jewish people? Is it because Israel is a holy land for Jews, Muslims and Christians? Is it because of the beauty of Israel? Maybe it's because of the feeling of connectedness we feel while we are there. Or perhaps it's because we share a collective memory.

I don't have all the answers, but there's one thing I do know for sure. It is almost too easy to forget the reason we have the land of Israel, too easy to sink in our daily life and routine. It is easy just to be Jewish, and to let other people deal with social and political problems.

I have matured. The Israeli bubble I lived in for so long has popped. I have new insights about myself and about my country (for good and bad). I feel that I "got Israel back," that I'm able to see and appreciate its meaning from a different perspective. I understand its enormous value, for my family and for me, in and out of Israel. I always knew that there would never be another home for me, but today it gained a whole different meaning. Israel is not just valuable as a land or as my home, it's my essence. I encourage you to find your connection to Israel as well.

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FeminIsrael Community Reception, Program, and Exhibit Wed., March 5, 6:30 p.m.

Hadas Peled leads a discussion about women of distinction who left a mark on Israeli society and culture. Additional speakers from the local community will contribute to discussion.



No cost to attend. RSVP 493-0270, ext. 10 or rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com. Exhibit runs through Mar. 28.