

Whenever the Jews were threatened with disaster, the Baal Shem Tov would go to a certain place in the forest, light a fire, and say a special prayer. Always a miracle would occur, and the disaster would be averted.

In the later times when disaster threatened, the Maggid of Mezritch, his disciple, would go to the same place in the forest and say, “Master of the Universe, I do not know how to light the fire, but I can say the prayer.” And again the disaster would be averted.

Still later, his disciple, Moshe Leib of Sasov, would go to the same place in the forest and say, “Lord of the World, I do not know how to light the fire or say the prayer, but I know the place and that must suffice.”  
And it always did.

When Israel of Rizhyn needed intervention from heaven, he would say to G-d, “I no longer know the place, nor how to light the fire, nor to say the prayer, but I can tell the story and that must suffice.” . . . And it did.

Remember the story, tell it,  
pass it on.





**Michael Dzik**  
 mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com  
 893-5443

There is something about being Jewish. Many of us have had this inexplicable feeling of connection: we know we are each different yet there's the feeling we "know" each other.

Have you ever met someone for the first time, found out they were Jewish, and then felt an immediate bond? It happens to me all the time. I'm not sure this is the case in other faiths and cultures. I truly believe it is something unique to Judaism.

During this coronavirus pandemic, I'm **from the executive director** learning a great deal about myself, the Jewish community, and many Jewish friends

and acquaintances. Zoom has become our new platform for communication and programming. We get to "see" each other, and in a sense, be in the same space (minus the handshakes and hugs!). But it's not really the same.

I was recently reading a story from e-jewish philanthropy. A Jewish woman had moved to London for her work, which began on a Monday. By Thursday of that week she had met several of her colleagues and was starting to get to know people. One of her colleagues realized she was Jewish and invited her to their home for Friday dinner--simply because she was Jewish. We feel a responsibility to connect with other Jews. The Shabbat dinner invitation expresses the idea that we have an extended Jewish family, anywhere and everywhere in the world. These can be transformative moments, allowing us to connect deeply with people.



**Mike Spector, Board Chair**  
 mspector@kleenamatic.com

### The Younger Set

I have been thinking a lot about the future of our Jewish organizations. They all depend on *tzedakah*. There is

### Giving out Challahs

a mindset that goes with charitable giving--a belief in the importance of helping those in need--that was ingrained in me from a very young age.

The generation that lived through the Great Depression and World War II recalls the soup lines. Some of them stood in those lines and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps, which created jobs for those out of work. I believe that those who lived through this time, both those who stood on the soup lines and those who doled out the soup, saw firsthand the dire consequences of economic

A few weeks ago, the Federation gave out loaves of challah, bottles of grape juice, and candles to over 120 families. There were many people I didn't know or had never met until the Friday pickup. Did they feel a connection to something larger? Possibly. But afterwards, there were feelings of appreciation, connectedness, and community--the Facebook posts, emails and thank you cards proved it. For a brief moment, amidst the ongoing quarantine, we all felt that close connection again.

One of the primary goals of your Jewish Federation is to unite and bring all Jews together, not just for a sense of community but to create a connected, engaged and close community. The pandemic has given people the chance to really get to know themselves. In a sense, Zoom is getting people to connect more often and for different reasons. Jewish people recognize that all Jews are different -- they belong to different congregations, and have different rituals, practices and interpretations of the laws. Now is the perfect time to bridge some of our differences, not to change anyone but to get to know each other better on a more personal level.

Just as the Federation is here for preschool, social services, and programming, our ultimate goal is to strengthen the connections between Jewish community members themselves. The Federation is accessible to everyone. As the pandemic recedes and we find our new normal, I hope that we all will continue to reach out and do just that.



**Challahs awaiting pickup at the Federation.**

trouble, and the importance of helping their fellow man.

The events of the last few months may also change the mindset of some of today's youth, in that they are witnessing huge groups of people in need of economic help. I fear there is trouble on the horizon--that because the younger generation is not stepping up to help in the way that older generations have, there won't be the resources available down the road to help those in need. I am hopeful that this will change over time, that the youth will come to see the necessity of supporting our organizations, so that what we are doing for our community and for Jews around the world can continue on after the older generation passes.

The leadership of your Federation and of Jewish Federations of North America are extremely focused on Legacy Giving. If you've not already done so, I hope you will consider leaving a Legacy Gift to the Federation so that we can continue our important, and necessary, work.



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

### **Sometimes Community Finds You**

About fifteen years ago, a feral tabby cat came out of the woods to check me out. He was in great shape: healthy skin, no cuts or

scars. He probably had been dropped off at the top of the mountain by someone who could no longer keep him. or was lucky enough to have a mother who kept him from predators.

Off and on for about five years he would appear, coming to sit fairly close to me if I was outside reading. He never let me touch him. Against all of my rules about woods animals, I named him Buster. On cold winter days I would put food out for him. One day he showed up mangled and bloody, then disappeared for weeks. I assumed the worst. Then he came back, looking better, but clearly not well. Buster died in our carport. A first, a feral cat coming to us to die.

The next spring a female feral cat showed up with markings very much like Buster's. It wouldn't surprise me if she was his daughter or granddaughter. She too comes close. Lets me talk to her...and yes, after four years, I named her: Tink. I treat her much the

same way I did her elder: with mutual respect owing to our difference in species and circumstances.

Last fall Tink showed up with three grown daughters of her own. I think she just wanted me to see that she could have a family without my help and support. They lounged in the autumn sunlight, a calico, a short haired orange tabby and a long-haired orange tabby, all looking very much like their great-grandfather. Sometimes when the dogs and I would walk in the woods, the four would follow us. The wood rules apply: we don't interact with them other than to thank them for keeping the rodent and snake populations under control.

About a week ago, the four showed up again and sat at the back door, calling me out. I walked with them to the carport, where I discovered a "cuddle puddle." They had brought their young kittens for me to see, probably ten or twelve of them. The maternal instinct in me wants to grab the mothers and get them neutered, and get the kittens to a safe place where they can be adopted instead of eaten as prey by other woods creatures. But the woods rules mandate that I not interfere. I remember the trust their grand, great, and great-great grandfather bestowed on me, to respect their way of life, regardless of the consequences.

Sometimes a community comes to you, and you respect their needs by simply listening.

## **from the program director**

## **Saying it with Challah: You are Always on Our Mind**

The Federation wishes to thank all of you for the kind notes and phone calls expressing your appreciation for the challahs, grape juice and Shabbat candles. We are delighted it touched so many of you and that it was a reminder that we are here for you always, even when you can't be here.



--What a lovely surprise when the grape juice and candles appeared! I will never get over how you have entered my life and filled it with joy. You have the right moves in everything you do!!  
*Thank you, Fuz Spector*

--Thank you for the delicious challah, candles

and Kedem grape juice for Shabbat at Ashwood Square. What a thoughtful gesture and much appreciated. It has been a very challenging time, however, we have all survived and so grateful for your remembering all of us. Keep well. *Fondly, Judy Richelson*

--What a perfect way to let us know that we are all in this together. It was an unexpected gesture that will long be remembered and appreciated. Many, many thanks for thinking of me in such a meaningful and thoughtful way.  
*Alvin Hodes*

--During both my childhood & adult years one of my most memorable food meals was Challah French Toast...your Federation gift was very special to me. I sliced the loaf... double bagged it & placed in my freezer...will remove two or three slices at a time...your thoughtfulness will remain a long time. Our Federation is providing outstanding service to our Jewish community during these very stressful times. All the Cohn/Cohens are fine...hope the same is true for you. *Kindest regards, Herbert Cohn*

--Thanks for the challah. You folks are doing a great job.  
*Isidore Fruman*

--Thanks for the challahs and all of the treats. Shabbat boxes, what a fun idea! For your next trick, I am sure someone will come up with a community lighting next time via Zoom! Please extend our thanks to all involved in the effort. *Steffi and Rochelle Prigoff*

--Giving challahs (& grape juice & candles) was such a lovely (and delicious) gesture. *Merci'. Marilyn Center*

--What a thoughtful and delicious reminder that the Federation is always there for us. Thank you so very much!  
*Helen and Stan Smith*



## June Foreign Policy Supper Club

**June 1** US Relations with the Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala).

**June 8** China's Road into Latin America

**June 15** The Philippines and the U.S.

**June 22** Artificial Intelligence and Data

Meeting ID: 747 223 9161

Password: 940790

### Quick facts:

--prior to class, send note to [RSVP@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:RSVP@jewishchattanooga.com) saying you would like to register

--Once registered you'll receive all materials and a link to the video

--No charge for this online format



### Mitzvah Meals Suggested Donations

--\$8 per meal

--\$90 per month based on 3 meals/week

--\$125 per month based on 4 meals/week

--160 per month based on 5 meals/week

--190 per month based on 6 meals/week

*Meals are delivery only until further notice.*

All Mitzvah Meal recipients must be preapproved by Christi Haustein, Director of Social Services. Menus are set by the Kitchen Supervisor and Director of Social Services.

**Although this is the last formal issue of *The Shofar* until September, we are planning a special edition issue for late summer. Meanwhile, please check the Federation Facebook page, community emails, and your congregation for the most up-to-date information on event happenings, cancellations, and building closures.**

**In-person Tuesday Cafe will be not be happening in June. We will Zoom it though! Meeting number is: 747 223 9161 and Password: 940790**



We will be delivering meals on Thursdays!

If you would like a delivered kosher meal,

call Christi Haustein at 893-9241, or email [Federation@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:Federation@jewishchattanooga.com).

Vegetarian options available. \$8. Rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com or 493-0270.

### *Mazel Tov*

-- to the Weiss family on the birth of baby Jackson Theodore Weiss, on April 28th. Proud parents are Edie and Josh Weiss. Proud sister is Elliana.

### *Condolences*

**We are sad to announce the passing of**

--David Freeman, originally of Chattanooga.

--Gertrude Horowitz Shavin, wife of Seamour Shavin (z"l), mother of Karen Shavin (Jeff Crabtree), David Shavin (Nancy), and Elliot Shavin (Lori Senasac); grandmother of Lauren Crabtree (Chris Case), Seth Crabtree, Zachary Crabtree, Anna Shavin (Peter Martinson), and Hanna Senasac; great grandmother of Ruth and Sarah Case, and Isaac and Asher Martinson.

### **William M. Hillner, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist**

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**Check our website for our daily menu**



## social services

### The Good Stuff



**Christi Haustein**  
*Social Services Director*  
[chaustein@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:chaustein@jewishchattanooga.com)  
893-9241

I'm going to change things up this month and talk about what has taken place since quarantining--some good things! First, my dogs are loving that their parents are at home all day with them. I have been walking them more often and have really enjoyed the great weather we've had thus far. (You can see their mug shots on the cover of this issue!)

Walking more often in my neighborhood has allowed my husband and me to meet many new neighbors who have now become friends. I am so thankful for this. (Rest assured we have maintained our social distance!) We have also discovered we have many seniors living in our neighborhood, and have been able to help them during this time.

Weekly, I have recently been able to enjoy a virtual cocktail hour with a group of girlfriends, so this has been very enjoyable. I have also thoroughly enjoyed our weekly Tuesday Café Zoom meeting with the Jewish community!! It's been so nice to catch up with you, and I miss you dearly!

I have been very busy with our new United Way fund, Restore Hope (this funding helps individuals who've lost employment or their hours have been cut

due to COVID-19). I'm happy that we've been able to help so many households, but it at times, has been very stressful. If you know anyone who has been impacted by COVID-19 and needs financial assistance, please send them my way. They will need to provide proof from their employer that their income has decreased.

Lastly, I am terribly sorry that I have not had a lot of time to make the phone calls I would normally be making to so many of you. I know Brenda, our nurse, and our volunteers have done a great job reaching out to community members, so I am very glad about that. I hope we can return to normal soon--whatever that's going to look like.

I know we are all ready to go back to our routines, ready to having our loved ones back in our lives in person again. I am, too. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make this time easier for you. I look forward to seeing you in the--hopefully--near future.

**The Federation will continue to provide rides to doctor appointments and the grocery store though we encourage you to utilize grocery store and pharmacy delivery services. Some places offer these for free but we can cover the cost of delivery if you need help.**

**We are starting to phase back in normal transportation service and will continue to practice cleaning and social distancing procedures. Contact the drivers directly for rides. See schedule at <https://www.jewishchattanooga.com/van-drivers/>**



**Brenda McColpin, RN, MSW**  
(423) 322-8641  
Hours: Monday/Tues/Thursday

### Community Heals

It is easy to understand how Shirley, one of my clients who was "adopted" by her neighbors and the movers who helped her transition into a nursing facility, would agree with this quote from Woodrow Wilson: "Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together." She describes getting a call on Mother's Day to look out her facility window. When she did, six cars drove by with balloons, signs, horns beeping, and a car full of gifts --her newfound friends had banded together to wish her a happy Mother's Day.

"How can people be so wonderful?" she asked me, incredulous. "I do not know anyone here. I had just moved in when Covid 19 started. That gesture took away some of the hurt of being alone.

"I love these friends more than life itself," she said. "They are unbelievable. There are not enough words in language to express my feelings. How many ways can you say thank you? I wanted to get on the rooftop and tell the world."

Sometimes a small gesture goes a long, long way.

Right, *when life gives you quarantine, make bagels!*



**Stay in touch through the website, community email, and our Facebook page. See inside back page of this *Shofar* for handy list of email addresses.**



*Meghan Graybeal*

*alephbet@jewishchattanooga.com*

*(423) 893-5486*

We asked the Aleph Bet kids two questions:

**What do you miss most about Aleph Bet?**

**What is your favorite part about being at home?**

As for us, we teachers miss your hugs and snuggles, your questions and observations, and most of all the absolute joy you bring to our lives. We simply cannot wait until we're all together again!



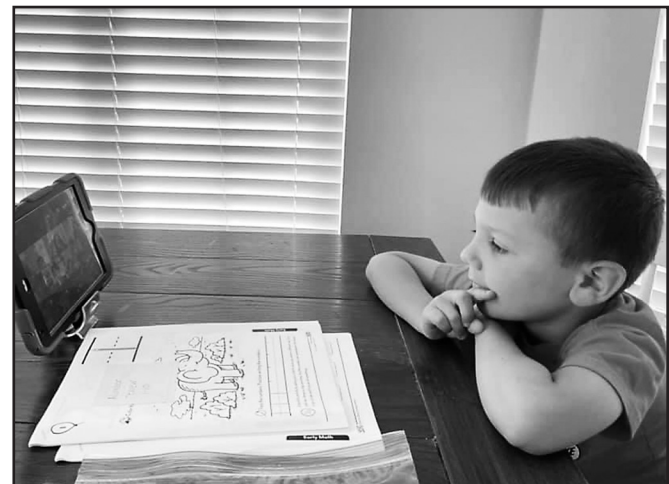
Sparrow (left, age 3) I miss challah and circle time at school; I like going on adventures with Mama and making a schedule every day. Elijah, right, age 3): I miss drinking juice after the Shabbat song; I like wearing dresses and having tea parties at home.



Gia (age 3) I miss Miss Shannon and Miss Haley; I like playing with mommy.



Oliver (age 5): I miss my friends; I like playing with my brothers.



Henry (age 5): I miss playing with Dean at school; I like fishing at home.



Above, Lydia (age 3): I miss hugging Miss Shannon! I like hugging my family!



Left, Caitlyn (age 5): I miss playing outside on the playground; I like snuggling up with mommy.

Right, Maisy (age 4): I miss the slide and arts and crafts. Ms. Julie is kind, I love Ms. Kat and talking to my friends; I like caring about Mama and her kindness. She helps me feel better if I'm sad.





# Community Business Listing

The following businesses are community-owned. This listing is a courtesy of *The Shofar* and is intended to encourage community members to support their fellow business owners. Want to buy an ad in future *Shofars*? Email [Dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:Dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com) for rates.

## **\*Allied Eye**

Dennis & Susan Matzkin  
Ophthalmologist, accepting most insurance plans, comprehensive optical shop [www.alliedeye.com](http://www.alliedeye.com)

423-855-8522 call or text for appointment

## **Best Results Organizing**

Julie Bestry, <https://juliebestry.com>  
Virtual and in-person organizing and time management for residential, home office, and small business clients.  
6220 Shallowford Road, Suite #224  
423-899-7151  
[organize@juliebestry.com](mailto:organize@juliebestry.com)

## **\*Chattanooga Allergy Clinic**

Mark Cromie, MD  
Various Locations  
(423) 899-0431

## **Epstein Law Firm**

Valerie Epstein  
724 Cherry St.  
Phone: (423) 265-5100  
[epsteinlawfirm.net](http://epsteinlawfirm.net)

## **Cici's Pizza**

Barbie and Steve Potts  
Pizza, Italian food pickup and delivery  
5425 Highway 153  
(423)876-1000

## **\*William H. Hillner, PhD**

Marriage and family counseling, individual and group therapy, help with trauma and divorce, learning disability and ADHD testing, custody and neuropsychological evaluations.  
[www.relationshiptherapy.com](http://www.relationshiptherapy.com)  
(423) 855-4091

## **\*Keller Williams Realty**

Andy Hodes  
D: (423)664-1818  
O: (423)664-1600

## **Milligan Reynolds Title Agency**

724 Cherry St  
(423) 756-0911

## **Marcos Pizza**

Shlomi Ashkenazi  
6016 Ringgold rd  
East Ridge TN 37412  
423-475-8300

## **Rose Opengart, Ph. D.**

Interviews That Work  
[www.interviewsthatwork.com](http://www.interviewsthatwork.com)  
256-603-7279

## **Pink Peaches Design**

Marilyn Townson Swanson  
Designing kitchens, baths, homes, business spaces  
1280 Market Street #305  
(423)886-5269

## **\*River Street Deli**

Bruce Weiss  
Currently offering take-out deli food  
151 River Street  
[riverstreet-deli.com](http://riverstreet-deli.com)  
(423) 756-3354 (deli)  
fax (423) 266-8646 (to go)

## **SanMar Enterprises**

Sandra and Mark Shapiro  
Telecommunications specializing in all types of business lines  
8461 Flower Branch  
423-503-8511  
[Mark.Shapiro--marks8946@aol.com](mailto:Mark.Shapiro--marks8946@aol.com)  
Sandra Shapiro--[scroftshapiro13@gmail.com](mailto:scroftshapiro13@gmail.com)

## **Shire Facial Plastic Surgery**

James R. Shire, MD, FACS  
6151 Shallowford Rd.  
(423) 870-3223

## **Speech and Hearing Center**

Erica Newman, CEO  
2212 Encompass Drive Suite 148  
423--622-6900  
[www.speechhearing.com](http://www.speechhearing.com)

## **True North Advisors at Raymond James**

Sandy Chambers Dittus, CFP®, CPA, AEP®  
6150 Shallowford Road, Suite 106  
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Office : 423/531-4411  
Cell: 423/240-1625

## **Women Repair Zone**

Bea Lurie  
Workshops for women taught by women in home repair, home improvement and auto maintenance skills.  
[womenrepairzone.com](http://womenrepairzone.com)  
423-240-4420

## **Yogi's Primopromo**

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402 S. St. Marks Ave.  
423-321-8300

\*denotes current *Shofar* advertiser

# A Sense of Community: Our Stories



## **Rabbi Craig Lewis, Mizpah Congregation: Shaken, but Not Stirred**

As the world is shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic, and as the economy is being strained, the very foundation of Torah is threatening to show cracks.

The greatest of all mitzvot is, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In all times of tragedy, we are collectively tested to respond. We must empathize with the feelings of our neighbors so we can anticipate their needs. Then we work to fill those needs, even before they have asked. Imagination is essential. So too is our willingness to act, to not remain indifferent.

The bad news is, the more we apply our imaginations to empathize with our neighbors, the more needs continue to emerge. It seems endless. The good news is, beyond the material needs of food and shelter, much of the need is for that which is in endless supply: caring for one another. Furthermore, the good news is we are passing the test.

We are upholding the foundation of Torah by loving our neighbors. Collectively, our willingness to wear masks, and to follow protocols aimed at containing the virus, demonstrate our ability to think beyond ourselves and to care for others. At a personal level, the Jewish Federation and the congregations have been doing great work. At Mizpah, our Chaver L’Chaver program immediately

reached out to the most vulnerable populations to make sure they were safe and to identify any immediate needs. Recipients of those calls were glad to have the personal contact, to know they were being thought of. By holding classes, services, and programs online, we have provided meeting places for friends to see each other. We have helped members learn new technology they can use on their own to stay connected.

Beyond health, which is the primary concern at this time, we have been able to soothe the secondary problem: isolation. No one should feel alone—ever—but especially now. We have been proud to partner with other organizations and to mobilize volunteers, as together we are passing the test of loving our neighbor. The challenge in the coming weeks will be to resist the temptation to let up. The earth is still shaking; the foundations of Torah are still vulnerable. Loving our neighbor is not just about an immediate response to crisis. It is a command for all time, a call for enduring empathy, imagination, and action.

The need for masks will not end because we get tired of wearing them. The health threats do not go away just because we feel like going to a show. The isolation and need for human interaction do not dissipate just because we are tired of staring at screens. The real test will be in how our response to emergency expands to an on-going reality. The test will be for us not to become indifferent as we actively love our neighbors. May we pass this test together.



## **Rabbi Susan Tandler, B’Nai Zion: Community is a State of Mind**

Achad Ha’am once said, “More than the Jewish people have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish

people.” Throughout my career, I have thought much about this phrase. What is it about Shabbat that offers such a strong foundation? At its root, I believe the secret lies with Jewish community. Community offers support, socialization, and opportunities for celebration. Community is the family that we can choose, or that adopts us, assuring each of us that we are an irreplaceable part of a larger whole. To me, this aspect of community fills two innate human needs—to feel loved and part of something greater than oneself.

As my family prepares to move from Chattanooga, we have spent quite a bit of time reflecting about the special quality of the Chattanooga Jewish community. From the

moment we arrived we felt at home. Ella, six weeks old, was cared for immediately. Hannah Sofia had a place at Aleph Bet. Our first Rosh Hashanah when our house flooded, numerous individuals rushed forward to help. And how many public gatherings would Ross and I look up to see our children happily in the care of other members of our “family”? I recall trying to teach our children not to take food from people. Then came the long list of exceptions-- all of their surrogate parents, proving it truly does take a village to raise a child. And Chattanooga was that village. This aspect of community extends outside of Chattanooga, too. At Camp Ramah Darom, our community is known for the exceptional way in which campers and staff act like they belong to the same family, looking out for one another at all times.

As we move from Chattanooga, we know that community is not defined by physical space. We know we can move and still stay, and look forward to growing and deepening our communal connections. Wherever we are physically, we will always know that Chattanooga will symbolize home, complete with family and a special community!



# A Sense of Community: Our Stories



## **Carol Berz, District 6 Councilwoman: Humanness Over Diversity**

It's strange how things happen - or are maybe a precursor of things to come. On March 4th, Pastor Micah Fries and several others from Brainerd Baptist Church met at my office to discuss getting together a group of folks in the community to "brainstorm" setting up a Community Grocery Store for those in need. We set a next meeting for March 26th, and Micah and I, as co-organizers, set about inviting our friends Pastor Eric Johnson, Church of the Nazarene; Pastor Terna Jordan, Mt. Canaan Baptist Church, Rabbi Susan Tandler, B'nai Zion Congregation; Michael Dzik, Jewish Federation Executive Director, and others - all of whom we know to have deep respect for social justice and great ideas regarding social action, and who just might know of others to participate in the project.

By March 24th, the world had changed, and Micah and I agreed to re-contact our group to say that the meeting should likely be postponed until things calmed down. We had little idea that we both would be thrust into doing much

more than merely thinking about food - I at the government policy level and he at the religious one. And yet our work was about the same thing: Our communities and their healing. What we could not know is that were more challenges to come, and that helping people maintain a sense of community would get harder.

On April 12th, the tornado came. Again, my community was hit, this time by wind and rain resulting in, for many, the loss of homes, personal belongings and the security of a "safe place." One of my community's institutions, Silverdale Baptist Church, offered a facility for use as a command center for police, fire, EMT and other services to support the needs of neighborhoods suffering loss and in pain. As I met with city personnel, spent time in ravaged neighborhoods, spoke with residents and worked on ways to meet their challenges, I was impressed by the smiles and the unselfishness of the many who gave of their time, their energy and their resources to rebuild not only their own lives but those of their neighbors - all of this in a spirit of community love.

So what have I learned? That my sense of community has grown and is important to me; that our diversity is not nearly so important as our humanness; and that the most important things in life are really not things at all.



## **Ken Goldsmith, Professor of Legal Studies, Chattanooga State: What We Need Now is Communication**

When I reflect back on what a sense of community has meant over the last eight weeks, I think about communication. As a faculty member at Chattanooga State, I have to communicate formally and informally with several hundred students, faculty and staff every week. When the college was closed to the public in late March, my immediate concern was how to effectively do this. While I experimented with Microsoft Teams, WebEx and Zoom to try to provide a "face" to these communications, I realized that my students needed more of a sense community than online services could provide. Yes, they could see me, but they could not "feel" me, and neither could I "feel" them.

What became evident by week two was that each student had a different need for community but could not express that need using video conferencing tools. This made me realize that the best way to reestablish a sense of community was to ask a simple, "How are you doing" question in an email. The responses I got shocked me. I was shocked by how much they needed me to ask that question. Normally, emails are imper-

sonal, and many students fail to respond to them (or fail to respond in a timely manner) but over the last eight weeks, they responded in mass and thanked me for asking. Some told me stories of sheltering down with families and pets. Too many others told me stories of being out of work and needing help from the college for food and mental health services.

These stories reinforced how much our society has changed since I was a college student. In those days at the University of Florida, being an active member of the University community was a responsibility placed upon students. Today my college expects all faculty and staff to engage in building community with students in classrooms and at college events. This is based upon research that says student success is directly related to their sense of belonging at the college.

This made me think about the services the Federation provides to the Chattanooga community. At the Federation we provide services that go beyond helping our own members and go beyond immediate need. We do this because we accept that it is our responsibility to strengthen our entire community, because at all times there are community members who need us to help them belong and thrive.



# WHILE WE WERE HOME: IMAGES FROM QUARANTINE



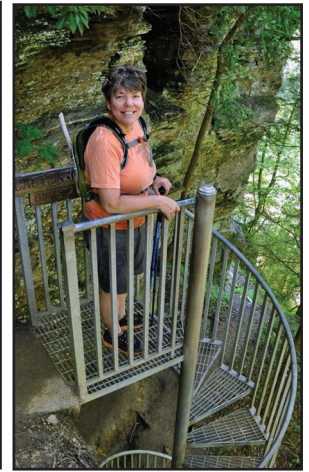
*Riki Jordan home: quarantine is better with challah!*



*The Potts, masking in style*



*Federation Executive Administrator Jake Balsler's personal picnic*



*Federation nurse Advocate Brenda McColpin*



*Picnic, quarantine style, Carla Eymann and Ted and Cora Feintuch*



*Rebecca Dzik visiting with her bubbe (in driveway)*



*Aspen Dressler holding book from Flat Stanley series*



*Might as well get another dog. Shofar editor Dana Shavin with Zayde*



*BZ Office Manager Amy Sandy's dog Riley wonders when quarantine will end*



*Challah, grape juice and Shabbat candles given out by Federation to remind the community we are always here for you*

On the cover: Federation Social Services Director Christi Haustein's dogs, Finley and Rolo





She's Back! Drive By to Say Hi!  
 Alice Morgan is back in the Federation kitchen  
 and has her baked goodies to hand out.

Thursday, June 4, 11:30-2pm at the JCC

RSVP@jewishchattanooga.com or 493-0270  
 if you'd like goodies!  
 Can't come by? We can deliver.  
 Let us know when you RSVP.



### Two Words of Advice for the Concerned Buyer or Seller:

When you buy or sell real estate, and you want assurance that your investment is protected, heed these two words of advice:

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# A Sense of Community: Our Stories



## Rachel Lowe: We'll Get Through This Together

My seventh and final summer at Camp Ramah Darom has just been canceled. I have no idea how to start saying this, and I never thought I would have to. Judaism is the forefront of my identity. Everyone who knows me knows that I am proud to

be a Jew. My Judaism has made such an incredible impact on my life, and I owe it all to my summer home, Camp Ramah Darom.

Camp has helped me foster my Judaism in a way that can never be replicated. I have been looking forward to this summer since I was ten years old, and it hurts more than I can comprehend that I won't get to drive to camp on the first day, hug all of my friends so tightly, and start my Geshher summer off with a bang with all the things we already have planned for opening ceremonies. I won't get to go to the other chadars, with all the ruach and the screaming and jumping around that is so much fun. I won't

get to go on Etgar and bond with my friends and do the mud course. I won't get to plan Yom Sport and watch my friends light a rope on fire, and hug them with so much appreciation for all they have done for me and the incredible things they've accomplished. I won't get to be a CIT and make an impact on the future of our home. I won't get to lead Geshher in kab shab, my dream since as long as I can remember.

Despite all these "I won'ts," I have so many memories I can look back on with joy. I have JWA, who are my favorite people to perform with. Our Yom Sport performance was a dream, and it makes me happy every single day. I have all of the past Yom Sports I have been in that have inspired so much passion. I have all the ruach and sloach on Shabbat that have further ignited my Judaism and passion for camp. I have these incredible memories, and I also have a family. To @gesherxx, my 70-something group of best friends, we will get through this together, and there is nothing that can stop our ruach. We are the best Geshher I can imagine, and our passion and dedication will help us become incredible counselors, so we can ignite the same passion in our campers. Camp Ramah Darom, my home, my life, my place. I am so grateful for all you've done for me and so many others. I miss you, and I will see you again soon.



## Hannah Lowe: Life in Quarantine

These last couple of months have certainly been unusual. For those of us who are in school, we don't get to see our friends and we're doing all of our schoolwork online, which isn't as effective as learning in a classroom setting. However, when life goes back to

normal and the next school year begins, it'll give me a new appreciation for my friends and teachers, and I'll be ecstatic to see them all again.

Even though we don't get to see people from the community, it doesn't mean we're alone. My family and I have done a lot of activities together, from watching movies and going on walks to playing card games and cooking. It's not always perfect, but in a time of tragedy and uncertainty like this, it reminds me that my family is very lucky because we're all healthy. For that, I'm very grateful, and I'll take advantage of spending time together while this social distancing is still going on.

Of course, I can't write an article for *The Shofar* without mentioning how Jewish activities have changed since quarantine began. Due to quarantine, people

weren't able to gather together to have a traditional Passover seder. Luckily, my relatives had a solution. We used Zoom to celebrate Passover together. As awkward as it was to watch my older relatives try to figure out how to use it, I thoroughly enjoyed the seders, and I hope that we can do that again next year, even when we're able to travel again.

Also, camp has officially been canceled this year. This would've been my Geshher summer, my last summer at Ramah Darom, so it absolutely breaks my heart that I don't get to spend time with my camp friends and experience the time that every kid anticipates since they start camp. I won't get to participate in services or Havdalah with my friends and counselors, either. Luckily, we can still see each other and complete some Geshher rituals thanks to, you guessed it, Zoom. As disappointing as it is to not get to celebrate Jewish holidays or milestones with our loved ones in person, we can still be together thanks to technology, and in the end, that's what matters most.

It's been quite an adjustment to live in a world that's been ravaged by a global pandemic. But this serves as a reminder that we as a community are stronger than a virus, and we will get through this together. I hope that all of you are healthy and otherwise doing well. It's been said that absence makes the heart grow fonder, so wouldn't that mean that when we all see each other again it'll be even more special?



# A Sense of Community: Our Stories



*Sadie Cowan, third from left*

## Sadie Cowan: Finding Community at College

I started my first year of college in search of community. Leaving everything I had ever known behind me, I ventured to New England for my first semester at Boston University. I chose BU partial-

ly because of the promise of a large Jewish community and incredibly active Hillel, but my experiences speak to much more than the community described on paper. I was lucky to be surrounded by so many wonderful, engaging, and vibrant communities growing up, from the Jewish community in Chattanooga to that at Camp Ramah Darom and even to my hometown of Dalton, GA, but what I found at BU feels like all of the best parts of home.

While Hillel pulled me in with its packed Friday night services and Shabbat dinner, it also offered me a community that brought me closer to my passion for social justice work, to my Jewish identity, and to my peers - some of whom are now among my closest friends. The picture I chose to include is from a Jewish Learning Fellowship (JLF) class that my roommate and I took first semester. In this class, called Jew Food, we explored the differences between Jewish communities around the world by cooking the foods unique to each. We also discussed Judaic texts about the importance of breaking bread with one's community, just as we

were breaking the ice and becoming one ourselves.

The friendships that I have cultivated through my experiences at Hillel have inspired me to become even more involved in the Jewish community at BU. I was part of a Social Justice Fellowship through Hillel where we delved into tough conversations about our experiences with political advocacy and also spent time in the greater Boston community delivering meals, packing groceries, and helping with other volunteer projects. I became even more engaged in the community through Hillel's Alternative Spring Break trip to Argentina, which we turned into a volunteer project for the Argentinian orphans that we were intending to assist. We created lessons in Spanish for the kids and mailed over fifty individualized cards for them in place of our visit, which was canceled because of COVID-19.

Leaving was really hard when school was abruptly cut short because of the pandemic. However, the transition to virtual programming has made me realize even more that I am so lucky to be part of such an amazing community at BU. Being part of such a warm and bright group of people has allowed me to become more confident in my Jewish identity and has given me friends that I know I will have for a lifetime.

## Devin Kodsi to Graduate from Signal Mountain High School



Devin Kodsi will graduate from Signal Mountain High School this spring. He is the son of Angela and Matt Kodsi and the older brother of Jessica Kodsi. He is the grandson of Alice and Jimmy Benson and Marilee and Joseph Kodsi.

Devin was involved in numerous activities including Signal Corps Marching Band, Mu Alpha Theta, Chattanooga Boys Choir, Beta Club, Youth in Government, and Model United Nations. He is also the recipient of many awards including Band Director's Award 2019, Most Outstanding Student Language and Literature 2019, Greatest Academic Achievement Spanish 4 2019, Highest AP World History Grade 2018, National Honor Society 2018, Most Outstanding Honors Algebra 2 Student 2017, and Most Outstanding Honors Biology Student 2017.

Devin is the 2020 SMHS Salutatorian. He will attend the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where he will be a part of the Honors College and will march in The Million Dollar Band. His major will be physics.

## Congratulations to all of our 2020 high school graduates!

*Alex Center*

*Ethan Farnam*

*Micah Hodes*

*Robert Chazen*

*Miriam Cowan*

*Rebecca Dzik*

*Devin Kodsi*

*Abe Lebovitz*





923 McCallie Avenue  
 youth@mizpahcongregation.org  
 traci.sloan@gmail.com.



Lily Dropkin Traci Sloan

Please take our survey at:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RM793GY>

Machanooga is a combined community program for youths. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10am to noon. The location alternates annually between Mizpah and B'nai Zion Congregations.

<b>Machanooga Calendar</b> <b>2020-2021</b> <b>25 sessions</b>	
August 16 - Staff Orientation	January 10 - Term Begins C4
August 23 - Term Begins	January 17 - MLK Day - Field Trip
August 30	January 24
September 6 - Labor Day	January 30
September 13	February 7
September 20 - Rosh Hashanah	February 14 - President's Day
September 27 - Yom Kippur	February 21
October 4 - Sukkot	February 28 - Shushan Purim
October 11 - Fall Break	March 7
October 18	March 14
October 25	March 21
November 1	March 28 - Pesach
November 8	April 4 - Spring Break
November 15	April 11 - Good Deeds Day
November 22	April 18
November 29 - Thanksgiving	April 25
December 6	May 2 - Last Day of Spring Term
December 13 - Chanukah - Last Day of Fall	

**Have a wonderful summer! Stay safe and well!**





923 McCallie Avenue Chatt.  
TN 37403 423-267-9771

Office@mizpahcongregation.org  
www.mizpahcongregation.org

**Light the Candles:  
A Mizpah Shabbat  
Tradition on Facebook**

Worldwide, Jews are lighting Shabbat candles at home, some for the first time, some because we cannot gather on Friday night, some because we cherish tradition. Below are a few photos from local families. Please post your pictures on the Facebook page, Light the Candles.

**WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE**  
**June, July, August**  
 NOTE: COVID-19 Schedule  
 All Programs are on ZOOM or Live Stream  
 Check our Mizpah Email Announcements Monday and Friday  
 Mizpah building use awaits decision-making healthcare professional,  
 city government and Mizpah / B'nai Zion Board  
*Note: Mizpah Erev Shabbat worship services feature Rabbi Lewis LIVE!  
 along with guitar and song by Amy Cohen or Marianna Allen*

Wednesdays:	Mussar: Sacred Teachings and Ethics	7:30 am
Thursdays:	Lunch 'n Learn: Seasonal / current events	12:15 pm
Fridays:	Oneg/Kabbalat Shabbat Services	6:00 pm
Saturdays:	Torah Study w/ breakfast	9:00 am
	Shabbat Worship services w/ Torah Reading	11:00 am

BE WELL – STAY SAFE - REACH OUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING  
 Office@mizpahcongregation.org  
 423-267-9772



*Ruth Longway, Richard Zachary home*



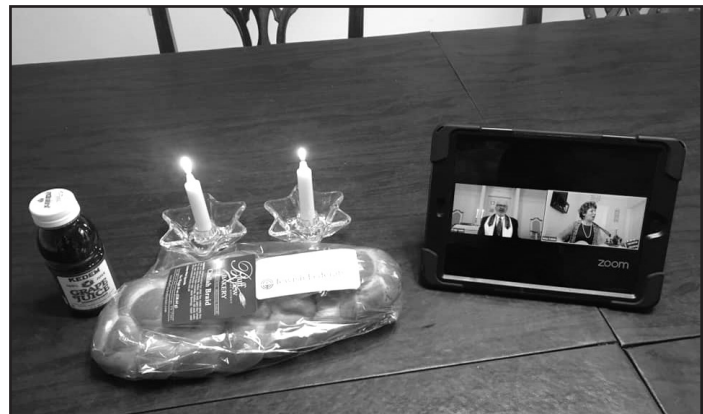
*Riki Odineal*



*Gabelman Shabbat*



*Glyn and Will Melnyk*



*Marianna Allen*



## Goodbye and Toda Raba to Rabbi Tendler

by Dr. Bill Hillner



B'nai Zion offers a sad goodbye and all the best to Rabbi Tendler as she leaves us on June 30 – after eight years - to take the next step in her and her family's life journey.

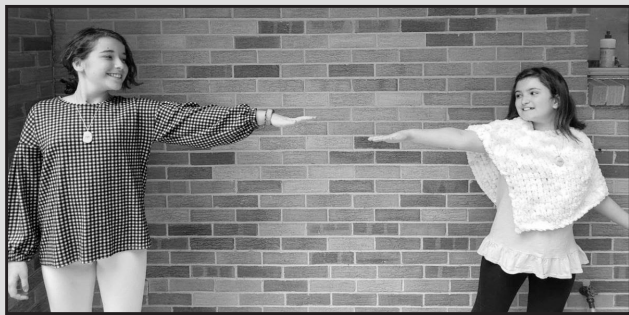
Rabbi Tendler has brought so many experiences to B'nai Zion such as Break for a Bessel; Kavanah to Kaparah; Open House Shabbats and bringing the Friday Shabbat experience to those at Ashwood Square; her support of Scholars of the scroll; the Book Club; and her advocacy to change our cemetery rules so couples can be laid to rest together.

During her time here at B'nai Zion, we have had many unexpected challenges. While this has been a difficult time for all of us, Rabbi Tendler's support has been invaluable.

Of course, we are not just losing a wonderful Rabbi, we are also losing her husband Ross and their children. It has been a pleasure to watch the girls grow and prepare for their bat mitzvahs, and I am sorry we will miss the service.

Rabbi Tendler, I know your next congregation will receive the gift of your talents, your leadership, your spiritual insights and your ability to make Torah relevant to today's challenges. We will miss you and the impact you have had on B'nai Zion. Your time here has created many positive changes which will be felt for years. I will also miss you as a friend and wish you only the best and many blessings. Thank you for being you.

### Mazal Tov!



Mazal Tov to Hannah Sofia Sadoff and Lilah Parker, who were inducted into Ashrei Academy! Both young ladies are well on their way to becoming regular service leaders while preparing for their b'not mitzvah.

## "Shalom" to Laurie Fisher, Director of Education and Engagement

by Dr. Bill Hillner



At the end of this month, Laurie will no longer be our Education Director. I want to take this opportunity to wish her a profound and heart-felt toda rabah. Her contributions were too many to name but they include providing important educational opportunities for both the younger and the older members of our congregation.

tion.

This past summer, Laurie helped to organize a rotation of monthly youth services including Shabbat in the Park and Yom Om. During the High Holidays, we needed programming that was meaningful, safe, relevant, and fun for our younger Jewish youth so that their parents could attend and/or participate in Holiday services and rituals of their own. Laurie truly raised the bar in organizing these content-filled, engaging experiences.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from Torah study via Scholars of the Scroll. Even on those days in which Laurie could not be present, she provided a structure, schedule and content for this important adult educational activity.

Laurie, the entire B'nai Zion family and I want to thank you and wish you, Matt, and your family the best for your future. We hope you know how much we appreciate you both and hope that you will always consider B'nai Zion your home. Thank you again for your contributions.



### Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom. Sunday, June 7, 10:30 a.m.

This meeting will include a review of B'nai Zion's financial status and reports from various committees. Various votes will be requested and the status

of the Rabbinical Search will be reviewed. President Bill Hillner will give a presentation of the State of the Synagogue. The new President, Scott Israel, will be installed, as well as the Executive Committee and new members of the Board.

Check out our website at [www.bnaizioncongregation.com](http://www.bnaizioncongregation.com) and like us on Facebook!





*Rabbi Shaul Perlstein*

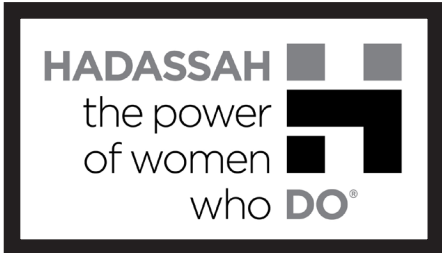
Who can believe the school year is coming to an end? When we started, we had no idea what lay ahead in March and how differently everything would turn out for all of us. We are SO proud of our students for all their hard work and effort during this difficult time.

It was a year filled with tremendous gains in not just knowledge but bold Jewish spirit as well! This year CHS children learned how to properly navigate a Jewish calendar. They were taught an appreciation of fundamental Torah dates and of the mitzvot of Torah with its many layers and wondrous depths. At the same time they made remarkable progress in their speed and accuracy of Hebrew reading, through our top-of-the line Aleph Champ program.

Shofar Factory, Mega Challah Bake, the assisted living trip, the kosher scavenger hunt, Purim shpiel, family Tu B'shevat day, and ZOOM games and crafts were just some of the highlights from this past year. To our teachers and volunteers we say toda raba and to our students and families we say mazel tov on another successful year!



*Toda Raba & Mazel Tov!*



# Hadassah Happenings

by Judith Sachsman

Hadassah's No-Show Donor in support of the 360 Degrees of

Healing Campaign is going on right now! Check your email, and see a copy of the invitation below. Note that each donation will "Double the Impact for a Dollar-for-Dollar Match."

The Super South Tri-Region Hadassah Conference, "Plug In & Power Up" highlighted the power of Facebook, and National Hadassah President Rhoda Smolow discussed how Hadassah Hospital and Israel are coping with the COVID-19 virus. Hospital administrators are expanding the number of ventilated ICU beds, offering more COVID-19 treatment areas, and bolstering testing capabilities. In addition, HMO researchers are working on their own version of a virus vaccine. It has never been so important to support Hadassah and Hadassah Hospital in this fight against COVID-19.

# Annual Giving

Annual Giving starts at Chai Society of \$180 a year and includes Keepers of the Gate, which starts at \$1,000 a year. New members of Chai Society will be the first to receive a specially designed new pin. Annual giving enables Hadassah National to plan the charitable support of Hadassah Hospital in Israel as well as countless other projects. Celebrate each lifecycle event with membership in Hadassah.

Contact Judy Sachsman for information about annual and life membership. (jmsachsman@gmail.com) and Dana Waxler (dwaxler@comcast.net) for information about Annual Giving.

Those members hunkering down at home can go to the MyHadassah.org website for interesting videos, recipes, concerts, and interviews. Let Hadassah take you places!

### Double Your Impact: Dollar-for-Dollar Match

A private foundation has announced it will match, dollar-for-dollar, every donation to Hadassah up to \$3.75 million. Each dollar you donate to Hadassah will now go twice as far in helping Hadassah Medical Organization meet the costs of crisis care for patients with COVID-19.

**A gift of \$54 becomes \$108, \$100 becomes \$200, \$500 becomes \$1,000 and \$1,200 becomes \$2,400.**

Your gift, when DOUBLED, could help Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem purchase some of the following:

- Syringe and Infusion Pumps  
\$4,436 per set
- Blood Pressure Monitors  
\$2,500 each
- Personal protective equipment sets  
\$1,000 for each set of 30 N95 masks  
\$500 per box of 250
- Electronic stethoscopes  
\$275

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. In the time of a Global Pandemic, we are Hadassah. Be proud.

The non-event fundraiser of 2020 to benefit Hadassah's COVID-19 Campaign, dedicated to the nurses, doctors, aides, other essential staff and COVID-19 patients in Hadassah Hospital.

**DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT: DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH**  
A PRIVATE FOUNDATION HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL MATCH, DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR, EVERY DONATION TO HADASSAH UP TO \$3.75 MILLION.

<b>Cancelled:</b>	<b>Cancelled:</b>
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✓ Makeup	✓ Caterer
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**This event is VIRTUAL, Hadassah's need is REAL**

Critical Supplies Needed to Confront COVID-19:  
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Levels of Giving:  
 \_\_\_ \$18.00 \_\_\_ \$36.00 \_\_\_ \$54.00 \_\_\_ \$72.00 \_\_\_ \$100.00 \_\_\_ \$500.00 \_\_\_ \$1,200.00  
 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**"RSVP" by June 30, 2020**

### Payment can be made by check

Make checks out to Hadassah (write COVID-19 in the memo) & mail to:  
 Hadassah  
 P.O. Box 1100  
 New York, New York 10268-1100

You are not *stuck* at home, you are *safe* at home!





# JUNE

## Federation Happenings

*A full listing of monthly programs is also on our website, jewishchattanooga.com, where you can RSVP.*

### Stay Informed!

Up-to-date information about online programs, cancellations and changes can be found here:

--weekly community email

--Federation Facebook Page

(Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

--Federation website

(Jewishchattanooga.com)

QUESTIONS? Call us! Our lines are forwarded to our cell phones during regular business hours.

### CONTACT LIST

all addresses are @jewishchattanooga.com

Michael Dzik	mdzik
Annette McJunkin	amcjunkin
Ann Treadwell	atreadwell
Christi Haustein	chaustein
Brenda McColpin	nurse
Meghan Greybeal	alephbet
Jake Balsler	federation
Dana Shavin	dshavin

**Please let the Federation know how we can help you during these challenging times.**

**Federation offices slowly re-opening. See you soon! Stay safe and stay masked.**

### 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 for a strong future Jewish community into a reality. Join today.

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

**See how easy it is to join the Legacy Society!**

**Call Michael Dzik at 493-0270 ext 15.**



# Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

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## ***The Shofar***

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Michael Dzik, Executive Director  
Dana Shavin, Editor

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