

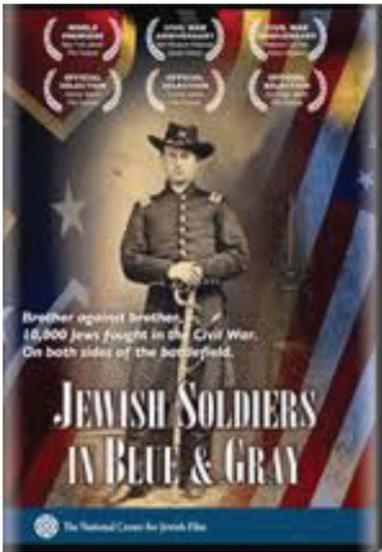
# THE SHOFAAR

A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

Volume 31 Number 5 January 2019

## Jewish Documentary Film Festival Begins January 9th at 7:15 p.m.

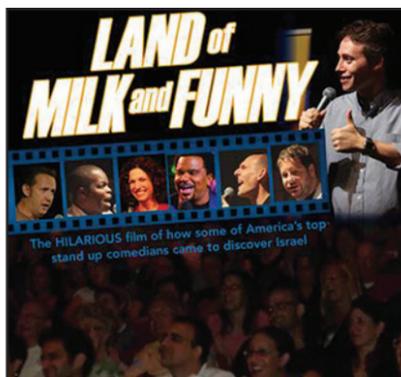
by Frank Miller



We are pleased to announce that the Jewish Documentary Film Series is returning this month on three consecutive Wednesdays beginning January 9th. As usual the \$8 price includes popcorn and a drink. The following outstanding films were chosen by the film committee.

**Wed., Jan. 9 *Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray*** This relates the story of the 10,000 Jewish soldiers who fought on both sides of the Civil War. General Grant's infamous General Order No. 11 expelling Jews from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi is discussed, as well as the rise of Judah P. Benjamin to Confederate Secretary of State.

This film will appeal to anyone interested in Jewish or Civil War history. The film will be introduced by Sonia Young, whose husband Mel wrote about Jewish Civil War soldiers. Jim Ogden from the National Park Service will lead a discussion following the film. Anyone who has heard Jim talk knows what a wonderful treat is in store with such a knowledgeable speaker.



**Wed., Jan. 16 *Land of Milk and Funny***

This film follows American stand-up comedians on tour in Israel over fifteen years, which was sponsored by LA comedian Avi Liberman. It is a film filled with laughter as well as special moments, such as when the comedians are moved by their experiences in Israel.

**Wed., Jan. 23 *Inside the Mossad*** This documentary tells of the exploits of the Israeli secret organization through interviews with heads of the Mossad and its



agents, intermixed with archival film. The capture of Adolph Eichmann, the recruitment of SS Colonel Otto Skorzeny to eliminate German rocket scientists in Egypt, and the recruitment of President Nasser's son-in-law as an Israeli spy are portrayed. This film is not to be missed if you want to learn

inside information about the Mossad's activities.

### SAVE THESE DATES

February 5 – Shlichah series begins, The Israel-Palestinian Conflict  
February 18 – New season of Foreign Policy Supper Club begins  
February 23– Cabaret Music Nights (first of three)

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## Jewish Federation Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 6

Celebrating Our 2018 Achievements!



4:00 p.m.

### Soups and Sweets

4:30

Election of Board Members  
State of the Federation  
Sapir Campaign Award  
Volunteers of the Year Awards

No cost to attend but please RSVP to [rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:rsvp@jewishchattanooga.com), [www.jewishchattanooga.com](http://www.jewishchattanooga.com), or 493-0270.

The Annual Meeting will commence with a short State of the Federation address by Federation Board President Austin Center. Volunteers of the Year from B'nai Zion, Mizpah, Chabad, the Federation, Machanooqa, Hadassah, and Aleph Bet Children's Center will be announced, and the Sapir award for outstanding service to the Annual Campaign will be presented. Soups, bread, and desserts will be served at 4 p.m., with program beginning at 4:30. There is no cost to attend but please rsvp so we will know how much food to prepare.

## International Holocaust Day Sunday, January 27th at 3 p.m.; Special Film Screening



In November 1940, days after the Nazis sealed 450,000 Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, a secret band of journalists, scholars and community leaders decided to fight back. Led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum and known by the code name Oyneg Shabes, this clandestine group vowed to defeat Nazi lies and propaganda not with guns or fists but with pen and paper. It was a miracle that it was recovered, as only three out of sixty members of the Oyneg Shabes survived the destruction of the ghetto and only one knew the secret location of the hidden archive.

Now, for the first time, their story is told as a feature documentary. Written, produced,

and directed by Roberta Grossman and executive produced by Nancy Spielberg, *Who Will Write Our History* mixes the writings of the Oyneg Shabes archive with new interviews, rarely seen footage, and stunning dramatizations, to transport us inside the Ghetto and the lives of these courageous resistance fighters. They defied their murderous enemy with the ultimate weapon – the truth – and risked everything so that their archive would survive the war, even if they themselves did not. The film will be shown in many communities throughout the world on January 27th, including at the JCC at 3p.m. The screening will be followed by a Facebook program from Unesco Headquarters in Paris.

Program is \$8 per person and includes popcorn and a drink. Film runs 95 minutes; language is English, Yiddish and Polish. We will screen the film for area high school students January 28th at the JCC, time TBD. Popcorn and beverage will be served. Contact Ann Treadwell for information at [atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com).

# NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP



## Let's Talk. And Listen.

*Austin Center*  
*Federation Board Chair*  
[boardchair@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:boardchair@jewishchattanooga.com)

This past October, I had the pleasure of traveling to the Jewish Federation's General Assembly in Tel Aviv. The theme was "Let's Talk" and it was about creating dialogue around strengthening the diaspora with Israel, and strengthening Jewish communities around the world. These were not easy conversations. Perhaps you've heard the old Talmudic adage, "Two Jews, three opinions." It became clear that "Let's Talk" meant also "Let's Listen."

At one of the breakout sessions titled, "Can We Talk? Peace-Process Realities in Israel," we learned how Israeli and Palestinian teens are working together to create a dialogue about peace far from the political realm, and far from the realm of their parents. The idea that young Israelis and Palestinians can create a program that enables them to dialogue and learn about—and from—one another is a lesson we'd all do well to learn. Ironically, one Palestinian teen told about being prevented from attending one of the dialogue sessions because an Israeli check point was closed. Such is the reality of their situation bumping up against their idealism. Still, they continue to work toward a better future together, knowing that the only way to learn and effect change is to continue to push for dialogue, and to not only talk but to listen. Sometimes the change we seek is far off. Always the answers are not simple. But these young people realize the importance of continuing to try.

At the GA, our Partnership Together Programs stand out as a success, and the Shlichim Program is just one highlight of the relationship we have with Israel. Here in Chattanooga we see first-hand the benefits of this program. Through dialogue, our shlichim have introduced Israel to the greater community, and in turn, community members have traveled to Israel for teacher exchanges, nurse exchange programs, and even marathons. All through our P2G partnerships, we have built lasting bonds with Israel and Israelis. The program shows us that we

share a common bond with Jews all over the world. It's another tremendous, effective dialogue.

Also at the GA, it was heartening to hear that the Jewish Agency is reaching out to and developing relationships with Israel and the Diaspora. Isaac Herzog, the new Chair of Jewish Agency, spoke about the need to foster ties with Jews around the world. Druze spiritual leader Sheik Muwafak Tarif stated, "These days, members of our community feel a deep pain because of the Nation State Law, which defines the state we are loyal to, but does not mention the Druze and their contribution. This law has turned our community overnight into second class citizens." A resolution was passed to reaffirm our commitment to the state of Israel in support of all communities in Israel.

The closing Plenary, a dialogue between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Richard Sandler, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of North America, spoke to the importance of the Jews of the Diaspora. The issues of an egalitarian section of the Kotel, the issue of marriage, conversion, and how to define who is Jewish, are difficult conversations that have had an impact on our view of the Israeli government, at times a polarizing one. We must not lose sight that, as Jews, we are united by our religion and our heritage. In our willingness to have the hard dialogues, we find we have a spot at the table, and that our voices are heard.

Now, perhaps more than ever, talking is important. Here in Chattanooga these past few months, we have brought dialogue to bear on the vigil for the Pittsburgh synagogue victims, and on our response to the anti-Semitic



graffiti at the University of Tennessee. As a leader in our community, I feel it is my job to start, and help facilitate, the difficult conversations that need to be had. And then it is my job to also listen.



## Thank you, Thank You, Thank You, and Goodnight, 2018

*Michael Dzik*  
*Federation Executive Director*  
[mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com)

As a Jew, I always feel kind of lucky when it comes to "new years" – we get two of them! It's always a good time for new starts. It's also a great time to thank all of our volunteers.

First, a huge thank you to Mike Spector for his hard work on this year's Annual Campaign, which will wrap up at the end of January. Through our close work and travels, I've gotten to know Mike better, and I can vouch for the fact that he is a dedicated and passionate individual. He's never afraid to pick up the phone and call someone. In this way, he assembled a great group of volunteer ambassadors for the campaign, and took on dozens of solicitations himself. Thank you, Mike!

Additional thank you's to Edie Weiss (Chai Nite Chair), Kathy Raisin and Finette Winer, who are rolling off the board. Thank you for your service to the Jewish community. Although only moving from the Executive Committee to the regular Board, thank you also to Scott Israel for your years of service as Federation Treasurer.

The Federation is also fortunate to have numerous committee chairs who shine. Sanford Winer continues to lead our best-in-class Film Series, while Frank Miller has taken over coordinating the Documentary Film Series. Karen Diamond leads a dynamic programs committee that continues to bring new and fresh ideas to the community. Max Brener continues to give 110% to ensure our archives are accurate and secure. Tal Cohen guides our Aleph Bet committee and assists with everything preschool. Ken Goldsmith has been working on our Jewish leadership component and is always looking for new ideas to engage the community. Most recently, Lynn Howard is dedicating more time towards our P2G education programming (read her comments on page 8). Bob Berz leads a very engaged Investment Committee and keeps the Federation's assets under professional management. Andy Hodes and Alison Lebovitz are our decades-long advisors for our premier Jewish teen group, Jew Crew. Along with our shlichim, Chen Dahan, they work to connect our Jewish high school teens in fun and meaningful ways. Susan DiStefano took over the reins of the Life and Legacy Endowment this past year and will be starting some new initiatives in the

near future. Elaine Winer leads our Social Services Committee and has been an invaluable asset during the unplanned transitions in our Social Services staff. The Federation's Marketing Committee has met once this year and will be an asset for the organization as we strategize how to best promote ourselves to the Jewish and non-Jewish community. And, finally, our Community Relations Committee (CRC) has been leading by the collective efforts of the entire group with many important issues on the table.

We have many new board members joining the Federation this month. Welcome to Ross Cohn, Art Lewis, and Robert Stahl. I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you better and helping guide your leadership to whatever you feel most passionate about under the Federation umbrella. The Federation also has two new Executive Committee members, Rob Lowe and Cara Weiner. Both have already had tremendous impact in the Jewish community, Rob through Night Run and Campaign 2019, and Cara through the Personnel Committee and staff hiring processes. I know you both have so much more to offer the Jewish community – thank you!

A huge thank you to Austin Center, the Federation's Board Chair. Austin's passion and commitment are unparalleled. He has a unique way of leading with his heart and his head, always looking out for the betterment of the entire Jewish community. I am personally inspired by his enthusiasm and know this community is better because of his leadership. I look forward to another great year with Austin at the helm.

Last but definitely not least is a thank you to the entire Federation and Aleph Bet staff. You are constantly going above and beyond. Your caring and compassion do not go unnoticed. Your willingness to be creative and work with every volunteer equally enables the Federation to be bold in its actions. I am proud to call each of you my colleagues.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2019. May we all go from strength to strength.



# @JEWISH CULTURAL CENTER



## Dream Big

**Ann Treadwell**  
Program Director [atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com)

In December, Chan Dahan, our shlichah (cultural emissary), Lynn Howard, and I were in Charlotte, North Carolina at Shalom Park for the P2G Educators Conference. Shalom Park is the center of Jewish life in Charlotte. In addition to Conservative and Reform synagogues, their Federation, JCC, Day School, archives and other Jewish life organizations are housed on an 81-acre campus. Each organization has its own separate part of the campus. Each organization has its own Board of Directors and fundraising, but all work together as a community, especially in times of financial or leadership crisis. What struck me was not the concept of the Jewish life campus, but the big dream the founders had of coming together as one community.

Looking across the JCC yard and seeing our old building, I started thinking about what it took the (then) JCC and Federation Board members to dream big about creating a cultural center versus a recreational community center. Oh yes, I have heard from more than one community member about the split and division that the sale of the building and creation of the cultural center caused across the Jewish community. But I am thinking about the big dream that all of those people had for us: of building a cultural place rooted in Jewish values that could house the services we have to offer and raise our visibility, strengthen our identity, and foster relationships in the Chattanooga community. A big dream.

Dreaming big always, yes always, has at least one passion leader willing to take on the task of articulating the dream and initiating the action required to make it real. A few passion leaders have dreamt big for the Federation's programs. Sanford Winer and the Film Series comes to mind. As does Karen Diamond's leadership for summer exhibits and programs; Max Brener's passion for the archives; and Rob Lowe's leadership of Night Run. The list goes on. Admittedly, sometimes big dreamers can frustrate me with their chutzpah and dogged visionary actions. But these people make us, make me, move forward.

Back to the P2G Educators Conference: I was struck by their quest to dream big when it comes to education about Israel. And I have so many questions. My questions are things like, *What should all Jewish children in Chattanooga know about Israel?* No, not just those children closely connected with the synagogues, but all Jewish children. *What should we expect parents to be teaching their children about Israel?* Chen asked great questions: *Do you have to be Jewish to be a Zionist? How does American Judaism interface with Israel?* And then there's my big dream question, *Is there a passion leader we can work with to create the Israel Big Dream at the Federation?*

After the vigil for victims of the Tree of Life synagogue massacre, I know several members of the community are dreaming big about how the Federation can be part of a community effort to decrease hate and intolerance in our community. Are you a dreamer willing to help with this effort? Are you the passion leader we are looking for?

In January, the Chattanooga Jewish Documentary Film Series brings to us many big dreamers and the causes they believed in and acted upon. Whether it is Jewish soldiers during the Civil War, a comedian using his connections to give back, or the Mossad watching over the State of Israel, all had big dreamers involved.

Also in January, we will be participating in International Holocaust Day with a screening of *Who Will Write Our History?* This is a story led by historian Emanuel Ringelblum and known by the code name Oyneg Shabes, a clandestine group of journalists, scholars, and community leaders in the Warsaw Ghetto who vowed to defeat Nazi lies and propaganda with pen and paper. The film was written, directed and produced by Roberta Grossman with Executive Producer Nancy Spielberg. You can read more about it on the front page.

Seeing what others have done, I have to ask the next question: What is the Federation's next big dream? And are YOU willing to be part of it, difficulties, challenges and all, to make it a reality?

Do let me know.

**STAY IN THE LOOP!**  
Our NEW AND IMPROVED website is <http://www.jewishchattanooga.com>.  
Our Facebook page is  
Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga (JFGC)

## Tuesday Cafe



Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 at noon. Menu will be listed in the community email. \$10. To-go orders may be available after all event attendees are served. Please RSVP.

## Young Jewish Leadership Thirsty Thursday

Thursday, January 3 at 5:30 pm. Contact [israel@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:israel@jewishchattanooga.com) for info.

## Federation Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 6 @ 4:00, JCC. See front page for details. RSVP.

## Rearing Its Ugly Head: Hate Comics Exhibit

Opens January 6, runs through February 28.

**Jewish Documentary Film Series screening of "Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray."** Wednesday, January 9 @ 7:15. \$8 includes popcorn and beverage. See front page for details. RSVP.

## Israeli Dancing Classes

Mondays, January 14th & 28 @ 5:30 pm. [Israel@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:Israel@jewishchattanooga.com)

**Jewish Documentary Film Series screening of "Land of Milk and Funny."** Wednesday, January 16 @ 7:15. \$8 includes popcorn and beverage. See front page for details. RSVP.

**Jewish Documentary Film Series screening of "Inside the Mossad."** Wednesday, January 23 @ 7:15. \$8 includes popcorn and beverage. See front page for details. RSVP.

**International Holocaust Day Screening of "Who Will Write Our History?"** Sunday, January 27 @ 3pm. See front page for more information. \$8 includes popcorn and a beverage. RSVP.

**Monday, January 28 @ time TBT**, screening for high school students at JCC. Contact [atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com) for info.

## By the Numbers

# \$1,200

Annual gift voucher to Aleph Bet Children's Center for eligible families

**Your R.S.V.P. assures you a seat, a meal, and allows us to meet your special dietary needs.**

**There are three easy ways to RSVP:**

1. On the WEBSITE at <http://www.jewishchattanooga.com>.
2. Via EMAIL at [rsvp@Jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:rsvp@Jewishchattanooga.com)
3. Via the old fashioned TELEPHONE, at 493-0270 ext. 10.

### No Meat? No Problem!

If you prefer a vegetarian meal at one of our events simply RSVP to the Federation AT LEAST three work days prior to the event. **We are happy to accommodate you but must have advance notice.**

## Did We Goof?



Sometimes, we make mistakes. And sometimes, you catch them. What should you do if you find an error in *The Shofar* or on the website or our Facebook page? Go to the source! Email Communications Director Dana Shavin at [dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com) and she will fix it. Thanks for paying attention.

## 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) at 493-0270, ext. 13; or [atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com) to get your order packaged and ready to go!

# 2019 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

## King David \$100,000+

Charles Lebovitz  
Lebovitz Family Trust

## Jerusalem \$75,000 - \$99,999

Anita and Julian Saul

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

Anonymous  
Michael Lebovitz

## Maccabi \$25,000-49,999

Alan Lebovitz  
Alison Lebovitz  
Betty Lebovitz  
Lauren Lebovitz  
Helen Pregulman  
Pris Siskin  
Robert Siskin

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

Claire Binder  
Bobby Chazen  
Sally and Gary Chazen  
Ernie Kresch

## Lion/Herzl \$5000-\$9,999

Dana and Sam Banks  
Kandy Berke  
Marvin Berke  
Gail Cohen  
Dalton Jewish Community  
Fran and Joe Dzik  
Paula and Michael Dzik  
EMJ Corp  
Cora and Ted Feintuch  
Lynne and Michael Herman  
Lynn Hochman  
Peggy and Norman Hofferma  
Susan and Hyman Kaplan  
Ira Kraus  
Becca and Todd Levin  
Lynda and Scott Norman  
Judi and Irvin Pressman  
Milton Ratner Foundation  
Fuz Spector

## Hatikvah \$3600-\$4999

Owen Allen  
Jeff Balsler  
Andy Berke  
Jane and Bob Berz  
Austin Center  
Marilyn and Morton Center  
Herb Cohn  
Teresa and Ross Cohn  
Gail and Stanley Dressler  
Monica and Jeffrey Geftner  
Doris and Ival Goldstein  
Shirley and Richard Krause  
Gary Lander  
Lisa and Stephen Lebovitz  
M.J. and Howard Levine  
Susan and Dennis Matzkin  
Jackie and Roy Rosenfeld  
Pam and Richard Schulman  
Sheila and Jerry Sear  
Jim Shire  
Linda and Mike Spector  
Donna White-Dropkin and  
Warren Dropkin  
Elaine and Sanford Winer  
Carol and Larry Young

## Pomegranate \$1800-\$3599

Robin Balsler  
Monique Berke  
Ronnie Berke  
Betsy and Lee Brouner  
Lynn and Stuart Bush  
Erin and Tal Cohen  
Bev and Steve Coulter

4 January 2019 *The Shofar*

## Ben Gurion \$1000-\$1799

Donna and Jeffrey Alper  
Anonymous  
Bonnie and Stephen Black  
Susan and Max Brener  
Amy and Jon Cohen  
Karen Diamond and Clark White  
Susan and David DiStefano  
Carolyn Drake and Keith Reisman  
Shelton Goldblatt  
Vic Hanan  
Lynn Howard and Alan Richelson  
Paula and Al Jarman  
Krissy and Charles Joels  
Myrna and Howard Kaplan  
Candy Kruesi  
Louise Kushner  
Brenda and Paul Lefkoff  
Ruth Longway  
Beth and Rob Lowe  
Pam and Frank Miller  
Taylor and Mike Monen  
Janice and Clayton Rhodes  
Cassie and Kevin Rose  
Jackie and Marty Scheinberg  
Rachel and Henry Schulson  
Howard Schwartz  
Judy and Kevin Spiegel  
Sandy and Ben Tabakin  
Finette and David Winer

## Mensch \$500-\$999

Debby Alper  
Beth Backer  
Merle Backer  
Nora and Bob Bernhardt  
Alexis and Barry Bogo  
Jerry Bohn  
Amy and Gene Boulware  
Laureen Brock  
Rita and Bob Brook  
Ellyn and John Brooks  
Ruth and Manny David  
David Fairchild  
Sheldon Gelburd  
Millie Lander  
Vicki and Art Lewis  
Erica and Brandon Newman  
Barbara Oxenhandler  
Melinda and Chuck Rosenthal  
Malia and Jeffrey Rothenberg  
LeeAnn and Joe Rubenstein  
David Sachsman  
Judy Sachsman  
Amy and Robert Snetman  
Diane Stoller  
Joel Susman  
Mary Susman  
Rabbi Susan Tendler and Ross Sadoff  
Ann Treadwell  
Trudy and Tom Trivers  
Jennifer and Danny Waxenberg  
Dana and Richard Waxler

## Pomegranate \$1800-\$3599 continued

Sandy and Bill Dittus  
Dot and Reuben Dubrow  
Izzie Frumin  
Faith and Robert Goldberg  
Jan and Ken Goldsmith  
Jan and Michael Hanan  
Alvin Hodes  
Andy Hodes  
Jill and Jim Levine  
Judy Monen  
Rebecca and Jordan Parker  
Steve and Barbie Potts  
Judy Richelson  
Fern Shire

## Aliyah \$250-\$499

Iris and Lee Abelson  
Joy Adams  
Anonymous  
Jennifer and Robert Backer  
Merav and Tom Balazs  
Lindsay and Isaac Barukh  
Carol Berz and Charles Dupree  
Rosalee and Jerry Bogo  
Deena and Louis Brody  
Erika Brouner  
Trent Center  
June and Robert Collins  
Susan and William Ferguson  
Ellen Freiberg  
Caitlin and Zachary Gardner  
Meghan Graybeal  
Howard Gropper  
Ellen and Ken Hays  
Susan and Bill Hillner  
Brenda Hodges-Binder and David Binder  
Melanie and Elichai Hoenig  
Charlotte Jacobson  
Marian Kern and John Beck  
Bea Lurie and David Eichenthal  
Jacob Myers Deli  
Bonnie and Rick Marcus  
Nona Martini and Mark Issenberg  
Sherie and Bill Lefton  
Anita Levine  
Ellen and Arnold Manaker  
Annette McJunkin  
Leslie McWilliams  
Judie and Spence Misner  
Jo-Ann Morris  
Pamela O'Dwyer  
Rose and Ken Opengart  
Kathy and John Raisin  
Liga Richelson  
Valdis Richelson  
Beth Roberts  
Patricia and David Rose  
Sande Schulman  
Lisa and Gregg Shander  
Sandra and Mark Shapiro  
Carla and J.R. Smith  
Helen and Stanley Smith  
Judy and David Solovey  
Doris and Bob Streiter  
Gail Susman  
Kathleen Tice  
Kelley Nave-Tucker and Alex Tucker  
Ruth and Lester Votava  
Susan and Alan Waxenberg  
Dana and Richard Waxler  
Cara Weiner and J.R. Hill  
Terry and Norton Wheeler

## Pomegranate \$1800-\$3599 continued

Hannah and Lance Silverman  
Shelley and Martin Simms  
Richard Zachary  
Sandy and Larry Zuckerman  
Sylvia Zuckerman

**It's never been easier  
to pledge!  
Call Michael Dzik at  
493-0270  
or log onto  
jewishchattanooga.  
com/donate**



**Pledges as of Dec. 17  
\$1,033,283**

**THANK  
YOU!**

## Chavarim \$1 - \$249

Kem Alexander  
Anonymous  
Jake Balsler  
Zac Beker  
Jenni Berz  
Ellen and Uzi Boyangiu  
Janet and David Brodsky  
Jenny and David Brodsky  
James Brown  
Donna and Mark Butler  
Ronni and Chaim Charyn  
Daniella Cohen  
Daya Cohen  
Dean Cohen  
Gay and Larry Cohen  
Sadie Cowan  
Chen Dahan  
Stefanie and Val deOlloqui  
Sam Diamond  
Rachel Dzik  
Rebecca Dzik  
Susan and Jonathan Dzik  
Donnajeanne and Larry Etkin  
Marty Fanburg  
Rita and Leroy Fanning  
Fifi Ginsberg  
Irv Ginsburg  
Arlene and Les Goins  
Cristine Goldberg  
Nancy and Harold Goldberg  
Debra Goldblatt  
Sonya Golden  
Marilyn Goler  
Sharon and Joel Gollop  
Pamela Gordon and Horton  
Brumlow  
Danny Gottlieb  
Bernice Greenfield  
Noa Hadad  
Rachel Hanan  
Cori and Terry Hasden  
Nikki and Wes Hasden  
Christi Haustein  
Vivian and Martin Hershey  
Jonah Hodes  
Melody Hodes  
Micah Hodes  
Carolyn and Michael Insler  
Harvey Jacobs  
Janice Jacobs  
Rick Jacobs  
Elaine Kaset  
Lois Kiselik  
Robert Kiselik  
Leslie Klasterka  
Gene Kleiman

*continued on page 6*

# FEDERATION NEWS

## 2019 Board of Directors

### Terms expiring January 2022

Stephen Black Tal Cohen Art Lewis  
Erica Newman Fern Shire

### Terms expiring January 2021

Owen Allen Nicole Berger Scott Israel  
Jed Mescon Roy Rosenfeld Joel Susman

### Terms expiring January 2020

Ross Cohn Ken Goldsmith Rachel Hanan  
Barbie Potts Robert Stahl Elaine Winer

### One Year Board Chair Appointment

David Israel Karen Diamond

### Thank you to our Board Members Rolling Off

Kathy Raisin Edie Weiss Finette Winer

### Executive Committee Members

Austin Center	Board Chair
Mike Spector	Vice Board Chair
Kevin Rose	Treasurer
Cara Weiner	Secretary
Robin Balsler	Member-at-Large
Alison Lebovitz	Member-at-Large
Rob Lowe	Member-at-Large
Lee Brouner	Immediate Past Board Chair



## Campaign in Review

by Mike Spector, Campaign Chair

Although this will be the final 2019 campaign article in *The Shofar*, the campaign still has a few more weeks before it wraps up at the end of this month. I'd like to say thank you to all forty volunteer ambassadors for their incredible work this year. We've reached hundreds of community members, and had vital conversations about the Jewish community and the Federation. More and more, people are becoming educated about the important and necessary work of the Federation. Thank you for your efforts and commitment. Thank you also to Jane and Bob Berz for hosting this year's Major Gifts Brunch event, as well as to Fern and Jim Shire for co-chairing Major Gifts.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of the community. You continue to answer the call and give generously. As we go to print, our campaign total is \$1,033,283 – and growing! If we've not contacted you yet, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the Federation. Every gift matters; every gift is meaningful; every gift is important. No gift touches more lives.

Lastly, the Federation has instituted an award which honors a community member for their years of service and dedication, specifically where the annual campaign is concerned. It is called the Sapir Award (in English, Sapphire), and this year it goes to Judy Sachsman. Judy has decades of service as an ambassador. Every year, she begins speaking with community members as soon as the campaign begins, and she has participated in every Super Sunday. Thank you, Judy, for your lifelong commitment to the Federation's annual campaign and mission.

We will honor Judy along with all of the community Volunteers of the Year at the Federation annual meeting on Sunday, January 6 at 4 p.m. at the JCC.

## Interfaith Community Members and Clergy Join Together to Discuss Solutions to Hate

by Michael Dzik

On December 11, the Jewish Federation hosted a multi-faith clergy luncheon. It was a follow-up to the community-wide vigil that was held at the JCC to honor the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh in October. Seventeen clergy were in attendance as were several Federation Community Relations Committee members (CRC), Christians United for Israel (CUFI) representatives, and a member of the Mayor's Council Against Hate.

University of Tennessee professor Dr. Gail Dawson started the meeting with a presentation on stereotypes, after which she led the group in an interactive exercise that truly put us in the shoes of others and helped us see our own predisposed biases. The second half of the event was a brainstorming session on action steps we can take together as a multi-faith community to combat hate and bias.



Numerous ideas came out of our conversation, including training community speakers, hosting or encouraging shared celebrations, small interfaith home gatherings, and several events for teens. We'll keep the community informed as we move this process forward.

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

\* Deceased

See how easy it is to join the Legacy Society!

Call Michael Dzik at 493-0270 ext 15.

## Jewish Resident Camp Grants

The Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga (JFGC) provides grants for a recognized Jewish overnight camping experience. Its purpose is to encourage our youngsters to have an intensive Jewish camping experience as part of their growing up, and the grant reflects the Federation's desire to increase the number of young people who will have this opportunity.

For more information about camp grants and to fill out an application, go to <https://www.jewishchattanooga.com/education-grants/grants-scholarships/review-qualifications-and-guidelines>.



Applications must be postmarked no later than January 11

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Chavarim \$1-\$249

*continued*

Kary Klein and Stephen Gordon  
 Judy and Jerry Kleinstub  
 Marilee and Joseph Kodosi  
 David Lawrence  
 Donna Lawson  
 Carol and Bruce Lebovitz  
 Bunny Leff  
 Deborah Levine and Earl Berkun  
 Merrill and Harold Levine  
 Gail Lindsey  
 Eileen and Neil Loeffler  
 Ira Long Jr.  
 Pamela and Sam Lowy  
 Brenda and Terry Major  
 Tracy and John McCarley  
 Doetje McFadden  
 Stella and Michael McHugh  
 Nora and Gene McNeill  
 Teddi Mendel  
 Frances Mogul  
 Judy Mogul and Tom Farnam  
 Elizabeth Monson  
 Alice Morgan  
 Linda Morris  
 Susan Moses  
 Julie Newton  
 Carla Nixon  
 Barbara Paper  
 Stephanie Paradise  
 Rosemarie and Pat Park  
 Cecile Parris  
 Andrea Pitkow and Raymond Pyter  
 Sharon Plainstein  
 Susie and Phil Pollock  
 Lori and David Poss  
 Warren Posternack  
 Rochelle Prigoff  
 Steffi Prigoff  
 Leo Procise  
 Teresa and Phil Raisin  
 Emalee Reardon  
 Edie Redish  
 Eddie Reel  
 Elizabeth and Irv Resnick  
 Beverly and David Rice  
 Eric Richelson  
 Leonard Richelson  
 Kim and Randy Roberts  
 Nicole and William Roberts  
 Gayle and Sam Roistacher  
 Elliot Rose  
 Janiece and Jim Rosenbloom  
 Kathryn and Arthur Rosenberg  
 Debra and Mike Royal  
 Harriet and Alan Ruderman  
 Rachel Salomon Sadowitz  
 Sylvia Saloshin

LeeAnn and Larry Samuels  
 Bethany and Josh Schklar  
 Lynn and Martin Schuster  
 Elwynn Schwartz  
 Phyllis Schwarz  
 Dana Shavin and Daryl Thetford  
 Marion Shuman  
 Lillian Siegel  
 Traci Sloan  
 Ellen and Philip Smith  
 LeNe't Solomon-Parker  
 Leigh and Jonathan Speal  
 Kristi and Terry Springfield  
 Sheila St. Aubin and John Reis  
 Judy and Robert Stahl  
 Meryl Stark  
 Joan Steigman-Hayes and William Hayes  
 Vicki and John Steinberg  
 Bonnie Stoloff and Bruce Shaw  
 Lois Sussman  
 Betsy and David Temple  
 Beth Thomas  
 Joyce Thomas  
 Jason Shuman  
 Sara and Aaron Solomon  
 Ros Steinberg  
 Penny Wallace  
 Beth and Johnny Walling  
 Karen Weintraub  
 Jill and Seth Weitz  
 Cherie and Billy Wise  
 Cindy Wood  
 Sonia Young

**Your Support  
 Helps Locally  
 and Abroad**

**Your Annual  
 Campaign  
 donation helps  
 support  
 Social  
 Services,  
 Jew Crew,  
 the Shlichim  
 Program, and  
 more**

## IDF Platoon Adoption Update

by *Michael Dzik*



*Yuval Beit-Yosef on the far left, with two of his platoon mates*

Just this past week I was in touch with our friend Tal Beit-Yosef in Israel. As you know, our Jewish community has adopted his son Yuval's platoon. Our donation was delivered in October and their platoon will soon be getting their jackets or sweatshirts. Meanwhile, they've been on active duty for a few months.

Yuval was ranked as the #1 soldier in his platoon by his commanders – a very high honor. Their job has been to patrol the Gaza border and keep Israel safe. As we all heard on the news, there were hundreds of rockets fired from Gaza into Israel last month. Thankfully, Yuval and his platoon-mates were safe, however, there were many explosions very close to them. They fulfilled their duty bravely and as trained. Thankfully, the border is again quiet and their patrols have become more routine.

We will continue to update you on the platoon's status and hope to have a few photos in the near future as well. It is our plan to send the platoon Purim gifts, mishloach manot, in a few months. We thank Yuval and his platoon for keeping our homeland safe.

there were hundreds of rockets fired from Gaza into Israel last month. Thankfully, Yuval and his platoon-mates were safe, however, there were many explosions very close to them. They fulfilled their duty bravely and as trained. Thankfully, the border is again quiet and their patrols have become more routine.



*Michael Dzik and Austin Center present check to Tal Beit-Yosef in Israel*

## Aliya Opengart Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, January 19



Aliya Opengart, daughter of Ken and Rose Opengart, sister to Juliana and Zachary, and granddaughter to Miriam Edelstein of Nanuet NY, Richard and Pat Edelstein of Monterey, Mass. and Arlene Opengart of Richmond VA, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at Mizpah Congregation on January 19. Aliya attends Signal Mountain Middle School, where she is in the gifted program and plays varsity tennis and plans to play lacrosse in the Spring. The community is invited to attend the service.

**STAY IN THE LOOP! Our NEW And IMPROVED website is <http://www.jewishchattanooga.com>. Our Facebook page is Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga (JFGC)**

## How Will You Assure Their Future, Rain or Shine?



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The time to act is now. Contact your congregation president or Michael Dzik

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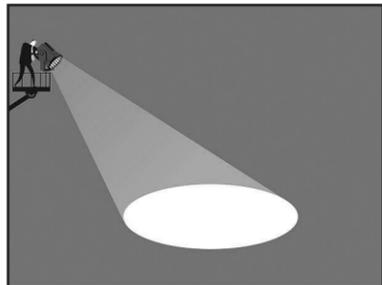
# COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

## Federation/Hadassah Chanukah Luncheon was December 4



The Federation and Hadassah celebrated Chanukah with brisket, latkes, klezmer music, and a very special visit from 2017 shlichah Shiran Amir. For more pictures, see page 17.

## Searching for a Few Good Directories



The Archives Committee is looking for copies of the Federation directory from 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010. If you have one in good condition, please bring it to Ann Treadwell at the Jewish Cultural Center. Thank you!

Let us feature your bar/bat mitzvah or soon-to-be graduating senior in *The Shofar*! Email [Dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:Dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com) to find out how.

## Mazel Tov

--to Rachel and Julian Joerges on the birth of daughter Esther Joan.

--to Jennifer and Jason Hillner, and Dr. Bill and Susan Hillner, on the birth of son/grandson Lyndon.

## Condolences

*We mourn the passing of the following beloved friends and family:*

--Lidia (Carbajal) Anavi, wife of Meir Anavi, mother of Chayah Anavi of Netanya, Israel and Yigael Anavi, grandmother of Daniel Anavi also of Netanya, Israel. on December 10.

*Although the Shofar deadline is the 8th of the month, mazel tovs and condolences are accepted at any time. Contact Dana Shavin at 493-0270, ext. 12 or [dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com).*

## Tributes

### In Honor of

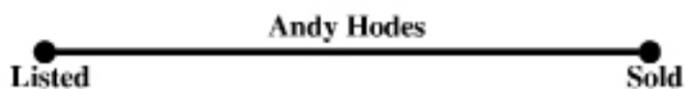
--Christi Haustein, Jane O'neal; Mary Stewart

### In Memory of

--Colman Hochman, Stuart Gansky



## The Shortest Distance Between Listed and Sold



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Our website is up-to-date and state of the art. Please begin using it if you haven't already!

You can rsvp to events, register to volunteer, read *The Shofar*, and even donate.

<http://www.jewishchattanooga.com>.

**You're gonna love it!**



## 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 available for pick-up or delivery.*



To-go orders from any/all community programs will be charged the program fee (\$10-\$12) as opposed to the Mitzvah Meal fee. All Mitzvah Meal recipients must be pre-approved by the Director of Social Services. Menus are set by the Kitchen Supervisor and Director of Social Services.

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# SHLICHIM PROGRAM



## Israel Lights the World

*Chen Dahan, Federation Shlichah*  
*Israel@jewishchattanooga.com*

This Hanukkah I had the privilege of being introduced to eight Israeli organizations that are lighting the world with good deeds and *tikkun olam* every single day. Tali Bass, the shlichah in Hartford, Connecticut shared this amazing exhibit that she created for Hanukkah and asked all of the shlichim to spread the light and present the exhibit in our communities.

You may have seen the exhibit (top right) that was displayed during the eight days of Hanukkah at the JCC, but since eight days is not enough to appreciate these good works, I decided to share some of the information here as well, to make sure those important organizations are getting the exposure they deserve.

**Art Joy Love** is an Israeli volunteer program benefitting HIV-positive orphans in Ethiopia and Uganda. It helps local teams give the children multidisciplinary medical care, along with joy, love, education, skill development, and hope, as they grow to become fully functioning, independent adults.

**IDF's Operation Good Neighbor** Since June of 2016, the IDF has operated a massive, multi-faceted humanitarian relief operation to keep starvation away from the thousands of Syrians who live along the border with Israel. The IDF also provides basic medical treatment to those who cannot access it in Syria due to the civil war.

**Heroes for Life** is an Israeli Zionist organization that leverages the hundreds of thousands of young Israeli backpackers in third world countries to do humanitarian volunteer work while they are traveling. Israeli backpackers are volunteering in seven humanitarian delegations every year in Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Guatemala, Nepal and Argentina.

**Innovation: Africa** is a non-profit organization on a mission to bring innovative Israeli solar, agricultural, and water technologies to remote African villages to provide electricity, clean water, food, and proper medical care to over 130 villages populated by more than one million people.

**The International School of Peace (ISOP)** is an Israeli Arab and Jewish youth organization working together to provide education to families of mostly Syrian refugees in Greece.

**IsraAid** is an international humanitarian organization on a mission to provide lifesaving emergency relief for populations affected by natural disasters, epidemics and post-conflict situations.

**Mirembe** is a non-profit organization on a mission to create a source of income for Ugandan women in poverty, by selling their handmade arts on the global market.

**Save a Child's Heart (SACH)** is an Israeli-based international non-profit organization with the mission of improving the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children from developing countries. SACH is also creating centers of competence in those countries.



### Host Wanted!

The Next YJL Shabbat dinner is on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for a family to host the dinner. Please contact Chen if you are interested.



*Isra-Aid*



*Operation Good Neighbor*



*Save a Child's Heart (SACH)*



*International School of Peace*

## Notes from Inside the P2G Educators Conference



The P2G Educators Conference took place in Charlotte, NC December 6, 7, and 8. Lynn Howard, Chen Dahan, and Ann Treadwell attended, as did members of the Southeastern U.S. Consortium and Israeli teachers. The following remarks are from Lynn.

"I wonder sometimes what the equation is for magic. I often saw it happen when I took students on various trips to participate in some event for which they had been preparing for months. I also saw it happen among teachers attending particularly amazing professional development that they knew they would use in the classroom immediately.

"This past weekend, I was a participant in the magic. About 25 Israeli and American educators and staff facilitators came together in Charlotte as a part of the P2G educator exchange. We quickly came to know one another through activities and seminars. It seemed that every person there made at least one deep connection with another educator. We were challenged to discover ways that we could partner with teachers from other places, to bring about more enduring partnerships between the educators and students.

"I am excited about this new piece of the educator exchange program. I believe it holds the promise of further cementing the relationships between Israeli and American educators and building bonds between their respective students. Even though we did have to leave a whole day early to avoid bad weather, I'm confident the bonds are strong and the new partnerships hold much promise."

*Israeli*  
**I feel like dancing!**

Join us for Israeli dancing classes

Every other Monday during January - February

5:30 pm, JCC



January 14<sup>th</sup>

January 28<sup>th</sup>

February 11<sup>th</sup>

February 25<sup>th</sup>

for more information please contact Elizabeth Ford at [corvaluesllc@icloud.com](mailto:corvaluesllc@icloud.com)

Please RSVP at [Israel@jewishchattanooga.com](mailto:Israel@jewishchattanooga.com)

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Shlichim Program is made possible by your donations to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.

# SOCIAL SERVICES



## How to Know When a Scam is a Scam

**Christi Haustein, LMSW**  
**Social Services Director**  
*chaustein@jewishchattanooga.com*  
893-9241

In the midst of a very busy time of my life, I was the victim of an email scam. I'm sharing this because I'm embarrassed that I fell for such a thing, and because

I think it's important that everyone be aware of email scams, as well as other scams that are going around.

In my case, I received an email that appeared completely legitimate and unfortunately, due to my hurried and frantic state, I acted first and thought later. The email included a request from someone I "knew" for financial assistance in the form of gift cards. Because it looked legit, I opened it quickly and responded.

Some fraudulent emails are attempting to get personal information about you or someone you may know. Many are seeking to place malware on your computer, which happens if you click on their link. Please read below for some tips about how to avoid becoming the victim of a scam.

### How to Avoid Common Scams Online

Whether it's an email scam or a social networking scam, there are some dead giveaways when it comes to recognizing them before they get you. Here are five ways to avoid common scams:

- 1. Delete Unsolicited Emails** One of the best ways to avoid email scams is to delete unsolicited emails. Legitimate companies will never send you pertinent information by email.
- 2. Don't Believe Promises of Money or Prizes.** Any email or social networking link that promises free money or prizes should be dismissed, as these are almost always scams.
- 3. Question Requests for Donations.** Whenever there's a national disaster, con artists have a field day sending bogus requests for donations. Instead of donating through email to an unknown charity, give to legitimate charities.
- 4. Never Disclose Sensitive Personal Information.** Any person who sends you an email asking for sensitive information, such as your bank account number or Social Security number, is up to no good. No matter what they promise you, mark the email as spam and move on.
- 5. Hover Before You Click.** Whenever you receive an unsolicited email asking you to "click here," beware – even if it sounds like a legitimate company. The same goes for social networking links that take you to what appear to be login pages. These may be, in fact, sites designed to steal your information. (*Adapted from Moneycrashers.com*)

## Have You Lost Touch?

No longer getting weekly e-mails from the Federation? Please call Jake at the front desk at 493-0270 to make sure we have your correct e-mail address. If we do, but you're still not getting them, you may have accidentally unsubscribed. It is very easy to get you back in touch. Just let us know.

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## Better Habits for a New Year--and New You!



If you want to make a change, grow or break a habit or routine, look to your environment - the people around you, where you work, what you read

and how you speak to yourself. All have significant influences on what you are internalizing, and have an impact on how you live your life. Here are five tips on keeping a healthy mind to help you on your way!

- 1. Meditation/Mindfulness:** When you meditate, you are giving your mind time to clear, reformat itself for all the new information that is going to be taken in the following day, or day ahead.
- 2. Media:** As important as it is to be aware of what is going on in the world, the media is very centered on pain and negativity. This fuels pessimism, and ideally it's best to avoid subjecting your mind to it regularly. If you want to make a difference to the world in some way, you could seek out some voluntary work or donate to a charity.
- 3. Surround yourself with people who give you opportunities to grow.** If you continue to hold on to relationships which no longer serve you, they sap your energy resources or distract you from focusing your mind. Don't be afraid to let go if you feel the time is right; you will find that new opportunities will arise as a result. You never know who that next amazing person/teacher/friend/lover/mentor is going to be!
- 4. Eat healthy.** Of course, eating healthy and staying hydrated are really important for brain function. Of course, the experience is different for everyone, which is why only you know what your body needs and would benefit from eliminating. You can experiment by cutting out a certain food or drink for as short as a week if you suspect that your body is rejecting it. The turnaround time is normally five days to completely flush it out of your system.
- 5. Spend your time doing something you LOVE!**

The most important thing of all is to ensure you spend time doing a hobby or activity you love. When we participate in doing something we love, we radiate so many positive emotions, all magnetizing out into the universe to bring you back more joy and happiness. Find something you love to do, and do it daily.

--Adapted from Mindbodygreen.com

## Need a Ride? Tips for Van Travelers



Contact the Social Services department for approval to receive transportation services. Once you have been approved, you may call the appropriate driver for the day you need transportation.

Please book trips at least 48 hours in advance by contacting the appropriate driver **during office hours** (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

- Contact the office or driver as soon as possible if unable to take the trip.
- Please schedule all possible location stops with your driver while making your appointment to accommodate your needs.
- We are more than happy to stop at an unexpected location for you but we cannot guarantee to accommodate you because of other scheduled trips

**Mondays** - Rick Jacobs  
**Tues. & Thurs.-** Eddie Reel & Jason Shuman  
**Wednesdays** - Eddie Reel & Rick Jacobs

Eddie: 423-298-7169  
Jason 423-320-1480;  
Rick Jacobs 423-432-2222

### DID YOU KNOW?

**The Social Services Program is made possible by your donations to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign.**

# JEW CREW

## The Jew Crew: Finding Meaning and Making Memories

This has been a busy, fun and productive season for the Jew Crew. In October, our annual painting party turned into “painting for a purpose.” We created trees of life in memory of the eleven killed at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, which had tragically occurred just the day before our program. Our guest speaker was Austin Center, an incredibly gifted artist and our Jewish Federation Board Chair, who reminded us that trees of life begin with planting seeds of kindness. As we painted our trees, we talked about the importance of taking a stand against hate and remembering that our actions today create the change we want to see tomorrow (see three photos, right).

In December, we celebrated the last program of 2018 and the last night of Chanukah with our annual Chanukah party and latke-fest, thanks to the incomparable Chef Andy Hodes. We had an outstanding turnout, with 19 teens arriving with wrapped gifts in tow for the ever-popular “dirty Chanukah” gift exchange. The most coveted item this year was definitely the “tacky” Chanukah sweater which ultimately ended up with Sam Levine. And new this year was a twist on the traditional, as we played some competitive rounds of Texas Hold’Em Dreidel where Charlie Bernstein ran the table, winning by far the most gelt and, ultimately, the grand prize. See photos below.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our January program in 2019, and at our annual Jew Crew Retreat at Camp Ramah Darom in February.

Oy to the World,  
Alison, Andy and Chen

