

July 29, 2010

For Immediate Release

The Knoxville Jewish Alliance recognizes and deplores the planned march in Knoxville by the National Socialist Movement. Along with all organizations and individuals that work for equality, civil rights and community harmony, we have no patience for groups who come here with the purpose of gaining attention in order to spread hate.

Though we cherish the constitutional right of free speech, we do not have respect for those who use it to as a loop hole for intimidation and abuse. The Jewish community of Knoxville has a long history and understanding of the Nazis, Klan and other groups who see eye to eye with the NSM. We have no fears when it comes to standing up against them. At the same time, we have no fear of turning our backs and ignoring them.

On August 14, the Knoxville Jewish Alliance will be celebrating Shabbat in our congregations and in our homes. We encourage people of all faiths as well as those who work to better society to use their time wisely and productively. This could be a day of rest or one in which you engage in acts of Tikkun Olam (healing the world). Nothing good can come from spending your time with a group from which comes nothing good.

Simply put, it can be a win-win situation for all of us. The NSM gains nothing from speaking out in a vacuum and we as a community gain when productive and enlightened people put their minds and energy toward making Knoxville a better community. Together we can make August 14 a day to remember for people who care and day to forget for people who hate.

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