



Danny Tissebaum (from left), a Green Knot Steering Committee member, with Adam Sadovsky and Jody Lockshin at the Green Knot kickoff event.



Steve Lampin and Miriam Raviv network at the Green Knot event kicking off the new real estate division of the Jewish Community Association of Austin.

Green Knot: JCAA 'breaks ground' on its new real estate division

More than 70 Jewish real estate professionals from across Central Texas recently launched the first local Jewish real estate networking group.

The group heard from Austin Mayor Will Wynn, keynote speaker, at a kickoff event in January for Green Knot, founded by local commercial real estate broker Jolie Schooler. Schooler, Green Knot chair, says the mission of the group is to bring real estate professionals together to discuss trends in real estate, hear from top community leaders to provide a broader perspective on the Austin real estate market, and to give back to the community through donating time and services. Participants also will have opportunities to get involved with fundraising and philanthropy projects.

"Jay Rubin and I came up with the name over lunch when the real estate division was merely a concept," Schooler said. "Since we have Blue Knot for technology professionals, and there is such a focus on 'green' buildings and development, Green Knot seemed like the perfect name for the Jewish Community Association of Austin Real Estate Division."

Since then, there has been a steady stream of interest from those wanting to get involved in Green Knot.

Rubin, JCAA chief executive officer, is optimistic about the value of Green Knot for real estate professionals and also people peripherally involved in the industry.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

"This will be a great way for real estate attorneys, architects, appraisers, lenders and others to grow their business while strengthening the cohesiveness of the Jewish community in Austin," Rubin said.

At the kickoff event, hosted by Lily and Yigal Saad, Mayor Wynn painted a positive picture of the Austin real estate market. Statistically, he said, Austin is the youngest, safest, fastest-growing city of its size in the nation. He also highlighted the future development of the Green Water Treatment and Seaholm Power plants.



Austin Mayor Will Wynn, Green Knot chair Jolie Schooler and Jay Rubin, chief executive officer of the Jewish Community Association of Austin, at Green Knot's kickoff event.

JCAA Board President Robert Krumholz, also at the event, said he "was

impressed with the turnout at the kick off event and the overwhelming interest that

the Jewish community has in helping to make Green Knot a success. And it's also true that, as much as you give, you will get back even more in return."

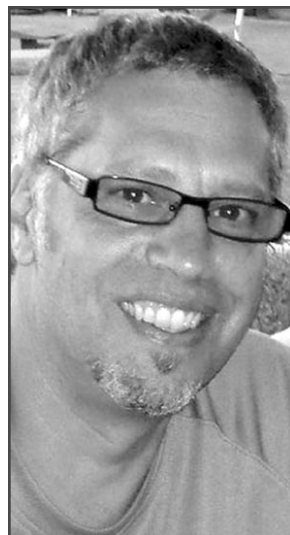
Schooler said, "My involvement with JCAA continues to be a very rewarding experience. The resources to help people are often right in front of us. When we come together for a common cause, we really do make a difference."

So far, Green Knot has set up a networking "Lunch Around" on the first Tuesday of each month at Mandola's Italian Market at the Triangle. Also, networking happy hours will be held quarterly (the first was March 4, at the Belmont). The next speaker event will be held the first week of June. Stay tuned for the announcement of the location and speaker.

In addition to Schooler, other Green Knot Steering Committee members are Shaun Adler, David Kahn, David Kline, Ben Kogut, Jonathan Saad, Jason Steinberg, Andre Suissa and Danny Tissebaum.

If you work in real estate in any capacity, go online to www.shalomaustin.org/green-knot to add yourself to the mailing list.

For more information on Green Knot, contact Liza Levine at 795-9937, ext. 14, or lizalevine@shalomaustin.org.



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