

Janice Tuchfeld McKellar (April 30, 1903 – May 30, 1998) is on our May Yahrzeit list. The following is from an article written by Ray Hill (historical columnist) for the May 20, 2012, issue of the *Knoxville Focus*.

Janice Tuchfeld McKellar was born in 1903 and lived to be ninety-five years old. I recall Janice was still going on cruises around the world when she was quite nearly ninety. Her conversation was spiced with laughter, frank talk and fond memories. Janice had the capacity to be almost shockingly objective about people, things and even family members. Janice never bothered to sugarcoat anything, simply saying, "That's how it really was."

*The Tuchfelds were a prominent and successful Jewish family in Jackson, Tennessee. Janice was the daughter of **Joe and Raye Levy Tuchfeld**. [Her siblings were **Sol Tuchfeld and Emily Tuchfeld Baldrige**.] While much of the family fortune had been lost with the stock market collapse in 1929, they remained quite comfortable. Janice had attended Martha Washington Seminary, a business school, and joined the staff of Senator Kenneth D. McKellar in the early 1920s where she met the Senator's youngest brother, Don. When Don and Janice (pronounced Jah-niece) Tuchfeld had reached the point where they had been dating for almost ten years, Janice finally told Don matter-of-factly in 1936 that she was ready to move on, as they apparently weren't going to get married. Don immediately replied that Janice should get her coat and they were promptly married and remained that way until Don's death in 1945.*

Don and Janice McKellar enjoyed playing cards and their poker parties were frequently attended by much of Washington's elite. The McKellars also liked going dancing and occasionally slipped away to New York City to see Broadway shows. Janice enjoyed fine clothes and was always dressed immaculately and she loved to travel, a hobby she continued almost to the end of her life.

The happy and busy social life enjoyed by Don and Janice McKellar likely slowed down a bit with the arrival of their only child, Donna Charlotte Bacon McKellar, who was born in 1939. Donna was born late in life to her parents and was the youngest of the fifteen nieces and nephews to Senator McKellar, who doted on her, as did her parents.

After Don's death in 1945, Janice continued working for her brother-in-law until McKellar's defeat in 1952. Janice's ability and efficiency was recognized by no less than Tennessee's other Senator, Estes Kefauver. McKellar and Kefauver were not personally fond of one another and despite their political differences, Kefauver hired Janice as his executive secretary after Senator McKellar left Congress in 1953. After Kefauver's sudden death in 1963, Janice worked for Herbert "Hub" Walters who was appointed to serve an interim appointment by Governor Frank Clement. Finally, Janice worked for Congressman William Anderson, who had been the Captain of the submarine Nautilus and is still remembered to this day for the famous journey from the Pacific to the Atlantic oceans by going under the North Pole.

Janice retired following Anderson's defeat in 1973 and returned to Jackson, Tennessee, and lived a very active life until she passed away in 1998. She rests with her family members at B'nai Israel Cemetery in Jackson.

Zichrona Livracha
May her memory be for blessing.

