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**HEADLINE:** Jewish Federation to hear leader in social justice causes

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**BODY:**

Not many people would quit their jobs to spend their time doing volunteer work.

But that's exactly what **Shoshana Cardin** did in 1950.

Now, after many awards, citations and honorary degrees, Cardin is known worldwide as a leader in social justice.

"The importance of life is getting involved and helping to resolve human issues," she said.

Cardin will be speaking about her work at the Knoxville Jewish Federation's annual meeting on Jan. 24. There she will talk about the importance of volunteering, leadership and community activism. She retired from her job as a secondary schoolteacher with the Baltimore City School District in 1950. Since then, she has spent her time focusing on health issues and on women's right. For the past 20 years, Cardin has directed her efforts toward Jewish involvement, world equality and peace.

"Out of my Jewish heritage emerges my awareness of social consciousness and responsibility," Cardin said. "Remembering that we were once slaves, we must encourage religious, cultural and civic freedom. Productivity in society results when we work together and apply our collective synergy for mutual benefit."

Cardin's work has garnered many awards, including a Congressional Certificate of Merit, a Governor's Citation from the state of Maryland and the Golda Meir Human Relations Award.

She's also met with many heads of state, including former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev; she encouraged him to condemn anti-Semitism in the then-Soviet Union. Cardin also maintained strong working relationships with Israeli Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir.

Cardin is the sole person to have chaired the four major national Jewish organizations: the Council of Jewish Federations, the National Council on Soviet Jewry, the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and the United Israel Appeal.

"Shoshana is considered the most significant lay-leader in the Jewish culture," said Mary Linda Schwarzbart, president of the Knoxville Jewish Federation, "but she has influenced our society worldwide. The federation is proud to be bringing in someone of her importance to Knoxville."

Helping people around the world is something that Cardin loves to do.

"There is an exhilarating sense of accomplishment when one sees a difference because of one's actions, whether the motivation is faith, humanistic conviction or social consciousness," she said.

Cardin's speech will take place at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center at 1 p.m. on Jan. 24. She'll also be the featured speaker at the annual PaceSetters Dinner at the Gettysvue Polo, Golf and Country Club. For more information, call 693-5837.