Moving and shaking: Wonder Woman Walk; ADL/El Cab Tournament and Dinner; JCPSC and more

by Ryan Torok
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Shortly before erev Rosh Hishanah began on Sept. 13, more than 1,000 people participated in Tower Cancer Research Foundation’s (TCRF) inaugural Jessica M. Berman Wonder Woman Walk for Breast Cancer, a 5K charity walk held at Palisades Park and Recreation Center. It raised nearly $500,000 for the Jessica M. Berman Fund at TCRF, according to TCRF representatives.

“It’s not a timed race, it’s not a competition. It’s a family walk, and that is very much in line with the Jewish tradition,” David Berman told the Journal. The husband of the late Jessica Berman is a TCRF board member and founder of the walk.

Jessica Berman died of breast cancer last year at 38, four years after being diagnosed while five months pregnant with her son Leo. She was a Jewish convert and a fan of comic book hero Wonder Woman.

Donning a Wonder Woman costume and face paint, the Bermans’ daughter, Abby, joined her father on stage as he presented awards to actress Christina Applegate, who was diagnosed with breast cancer while in her mid-30s, and oncologist Philomena McAndrew.

Most participants set out on foot while some of the kids rode scooters. Toddlers enjoyed a bongo drumming station, a moon bounce and more.

“We are at the beginning of something fabulous,” TCRF CEO Linda David said in an interview. “What a great way to start the new year, with lots of blessings.”

The event was presented by the Jessica M. Berman Memorial Foundation and TCRF, which was founded in 1996 and provides funding for breast cancer research and patient support services.