

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

Vol. 44, No. 11

Kislev-Tevet, 5783

December 2022

Emmy Award-Winning JuJu Chang Featured at Federation's Main Event

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's 2023 Main Event will take place on Thursday, January 19 at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel. Co-chairs David and Julie Sheffer are excited to announce that we will welcome Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of "ABC News Nightline," JuJu Chang as our featured speaker. Her topic will be "50% Korean. 100% Jewish." That's how Jew by Choice Chang describes her three sons with her husband Neal Shapiro. Their blended cultures share a reverence for education, a powerful immigrant experience, and sadly, a history of persecution, discrimination, and scapegoating in the United States. In this highly personal talk, JuJu shares her journey to Judaism and Jewish identity and discusses the historical parallels between Asian hate and antisemitism. She calls for the two communities to become allies against the rising forces of hate in our country.

Chang has leveraged her platform to become a much-admired champion of social change. She made U.S. broadcast history co-anchoring the 2021 "ABC News Live" special, "Stop The Hate: The Rise In Violence Against Asian Americans," alongside fellow Korean-American co-anchor Eva Pilgrim and a cast of AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) journalists, thought leaders, lawmakers, and

celebrities. Chang also reported from the scene of the mass shootings at three Asian-themed spas in Atlanta, co-anchoring the "ABC News 20/20" special, "Murder In Atlanta."

Chang's highly visible reporting on Asian hate is the culmination of decades of covering everything from natural disasters to terrorism, mass shootings, immigration, violence against the LGBTQIA+ community, and, most recently, the inequities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Known for her in-depth personal narratives and long-form storytelling, Chang has won acclaim for stories with underlying themes of civil and women's rights and social justice. Internationally, Chang has been a powerful voice on gender-based violence.

In addition to reporting, Chang has profiled newsmakers like Oprah Winfrey and Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg; entertainers such as Tom Hanks, Chris Pratt, and Nicki Minaj; and social media moguls Kendall Jenner and Dude Perfect.

An ABC News veteran, Chang joined the network as an entry-level desk assistant in 1987 after graduating with honors from Stanford University. Prior to her current roles at ABC, she was a producer for "World News Tonight," a co-anchor on the overnight show "World News Now," and news anchor



Juju Chang comes to Charlotte as Federation's 2023 Main Event guest speaker.

for "Good Morning America." Chang's work has been recognized with numerous awards, including multiple Emmys, Gracies, a duPont-Columbia, a Murrow, and Peabody Awards.

The Main Event is Federation's largest community fundraising event. A successful Main Event will accelerate Federation's 2023 Annual Campaign into high gear and will benefit

every aspect of our Jewish community. The Sheffers are eager to share remarks with the community about the the impact of the dollars raised though Federation's Annual Campaign. Both are long-time volunteers in our community and Julie is currently a member of Federation's Board of Trustees as well as major gifts chair for the Annual Campaign.

Attendees at the Main Event will have the opportunity to make their pledge to the 2023 Annual Campaign. Tickets are \$36 and are available online at www.jewishcharlotte.org or by phone at 704-944-6757.

The mission of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel, and worldwide. Through education, planning, and community building, Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions, and connections are preserved for current and future generations.



Celebrating Chanukah in Charlotte
Community Calendar pp. 10-11

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From the Editor

An End-of-Year Report Card for Your Community Paper



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

Every so often a well-meaning reader will send me a story about another Jewish newspaper that is going out of print. At first, those stories filled me with anxiety. But over time, as I witnessed the growth of The Charlotte Jewish News (CJN), I came to believe that we must be doing something different and that our community knows it too. All signs point to a paper that is far from becoming obsolete.

Since launching our digital edition and our new website a year ago, we have grown to almost 1,200 online reads per month. Our website and social media now draw readers who value the timeliness and relevance of our regular blog and Facebook posts during the inter-

im between the arrival of their monthly paper. The paper itself has increased from an average of 32 to 44 pages or more. And our advertising revenue has increased to help support this growth.

The goals of the Charlotte Jewish News (CJN) are to represent, inform, and engage the Jewish community of Charlotte.

The CJN **represents** our entire community. Originally created in 1979 to replace the many newsletters of individual agencies, The CJN is now the central communication vehicle dozens of organizations rely on to communicate with a wide audience. Organizations and readers from the full spectrum of religious observance read The CJN, and increasingly our geographic reach grows.

The CJN **informs** its reader of more than just the news of local Jewish agencies. We spotlight community members and bring stories of general interest to our readers. With our syndication rights with Jewish Telegraphic Agency, we bring arts and entertainment news, reports on the current state of Judaism, human interest stories, and even news from Israel.

Perhaps the most important —

The CJN **engages** the community. With the the number of unaffiliated Jews increasing and a continued influx of new residents to Charlotte, the importance of helping readers find ways to connect and become involved with our Jewish community cannot be understated. How else would organizations reach these individuals and families? The CJN is also an important way that many agencies represented in our pages stay in touch with what their counterparts in other agencies are doing, fostering valuable relationships and partnerships. Readers look to The Charlotte Jewish News when deciding where to do business and they support our advertisers. And on more than one occasion I've been told of a sizeable donation made to an organization as a result of an article in the paper that caught the donor's attention.

These goals were established when I became managing editor in 2020 to ensure that we are filling a need in Charlotte's Jewish community. If we're achieving these goals, then The CJN is succeeding in meeting important needs and plays an essential role in the community. With that in mind, I decided to reflect on our year and see how we're doing.

A look back at some of our past issues in 2022 reveals how the stories and features we've shared meet these goals:

This was the year that Anti-Defamation League CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, came to Charlotte to help launch Jewish Federation of Greater Char-

lotte's "Outshine Hate: Together Against Antisemitism" initiative. We shared that Jewish leaders launched the North Carolina Jewish Clergy Association and informed readers of renovations taking place at Shalom Park. We celebrated Charlotte youth bringing home medals from the Maccabiah Games in Israel. Over the course of the year, we've shared news of the resignation of prominent leaders and welcomed new rabbinic, volunteer, and professional leaders. We've announced and reported on literally hundreds of special events.

This year we published our first-ever "Celebrating Jewish Youth" issue, with a youth essay contest, the community-wide debut of the Charlotte Jewish Day School student newspaper, and stories that highlighted outstanding youth.

Two of the most popular features that we offer each month from the JFGC's Center for Jewish Education are "Sue's Bookshelf," and "Miss Debby's Best-Loved Books for Children," with book reviews and author interviews. This year we introduced a new feature, "Around the Table," by local food blogger Charlotte Rouchouze, who (metaphorically) invites local community members to her table to share their stories and recipes.

Our Passover and High Holiday issues featured a comprehensive community calendar and "From the Bimah," messages from Charlotte's senior rabbis. This month, we again share a Chanukah community calendar

on pages 10-11.

Upon review, I feel gratified to see that we have met our goal to represent, inform, and engage the Jewish community.

Each December, we include an envelope with the paper and ask for your support. The paper is free to read, but not free to produce. Typically reader support only amounts to approximately 3% of the revenue for the paper, the remainder coming from our advertisers, who we encourage you to do business with. This year, however, we have seen some of our expenses rise dramatically. We can not pass on all of these costs to advertisers. If you agree that the need we are filling is essential, this year we are asking you — the reader — to help us to make up the difference. We've made it easier than ever to support The CJN. You can return the envelope inserted in this issue, or go online at www.charlottejewishnews.org to quickly and easily make a contribution.

I want to personally thank you for sharing your year with The Charlotte Jewish News. It has been a pleasure serving as managing editor, and I look forward to continuing to serve you in 2023.

Shira



Scan to contribute to The CJN

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

- December 2 — 4:53 p.m.
- December 9 — 4:53 p.m.
- December 16 — 4:55 p.m.
- December 23 — 4:58 p.m.
- December 30 — 5:03 p.m.

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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An affiliate of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte



Are you looking for career opportunities with Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte or with one of Charlotte's Jewish nonprofits? Visit our Jewish careers page at www.charlottejewishnews.org.

Help us improve your community paper. We welcome your feedback with this short survey.



Happy Hanukkah

May the Light of this season fill your home with Joy and Peace!

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Sue's Bookshelf

Center for Jewish Education Book Club 2023 Lineup



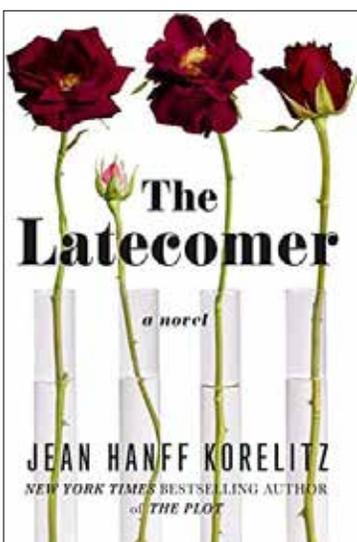
By Sue Littauer

It's that time of year when I obsess about what books to choose for the Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Book Club for the coming year. Although it would be easier for the women who attend on a regular basis to choose the books, it doesn't work like that in reality — they like for me to make the selections. So, taking into consideration which books will provide the best discussions, which are not too depressing, which are written by Jewish authors or have Jewish themes, the books I've chosen so far are:

“The Latecomer” by Jean Hanff Korelitz

“The Latecomer” is a layered and immersive literary novel about three siblings, desperate to escape one another, and the upending of their family by the late arrival of a fourth.” *Amazon*

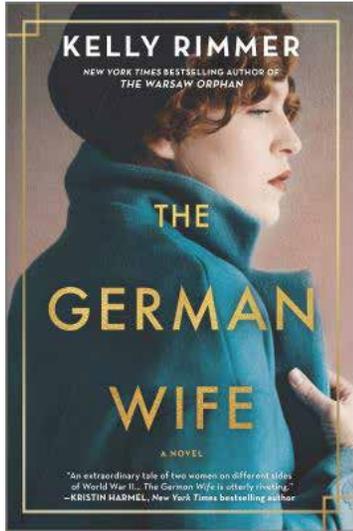
“The Latecomer” raises multiple issues on which to base an excellent book club discussion.



“The German Wife” by Kelly Rimmer

“...A gripping novel inspired by the true story of Operation Paperclip: a controversial secret US intelligence program that employed former Nazis after WWII.” *Goodreads*

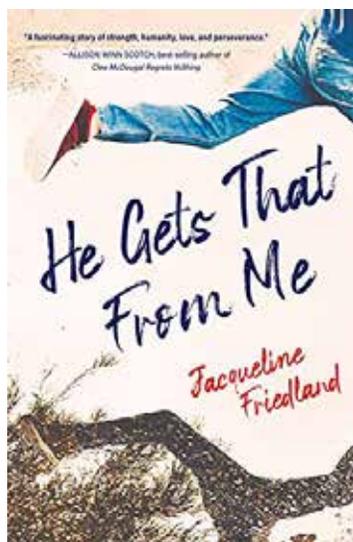
The German Wife is an excellent novel on so many levels. It raises many issues from various points of view, and while reading, I kept thinking how interesting it will be to discuss.



“He Gets That From Me” by Jacqueline Friedland

It is hard to imagine a better novel for a book club discussion ... A thoughtful and gripping family tale that will haunt readers long after finishing it. *Kirkus Reviews*

I did not read a review of this book before I read it, and would suggest that you don't either. There are plot twists and turns that are best left to discover as you go along.



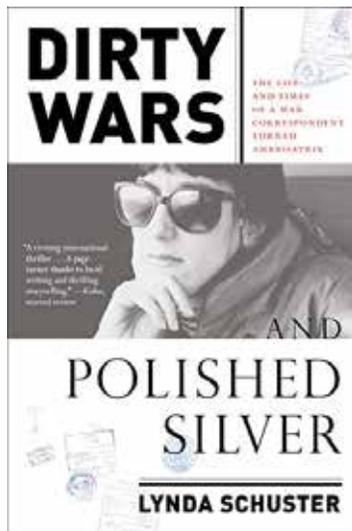
“Dirty Wars and Polished Silver” by Lynda Schuster

From a former Wall Street Journal foreign correspondent, an exuberant memoir of life, love, and transformation on the frontlines of conflicts around the world. *Amazon*

I admit that the title of the book is what intrigued me, but I had no idea what an excellent writer Lynda Schuster would be. The book is emotionally raw, educational and inspiring. I would love to hear the author speak about her life.

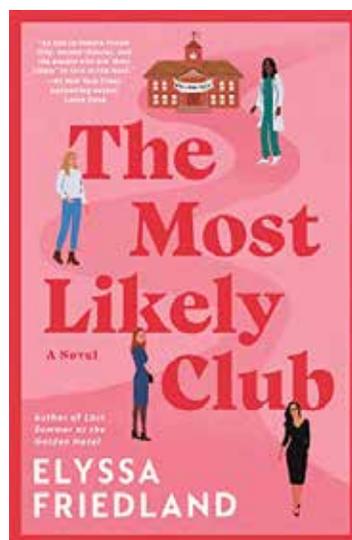
“The Most Likely Club” by Elyssa Friedland

At their milestone high school reunion, a group of friends make



a pact to finally achieve their high school superlatives one way or another, in the lively new novel from the acclaimed author of “Last Summer at the Golden Hotel.” *Goodreads*

Yes, the book is an easy read just like Elyssa Friedland's “The Floating Feldmans” and “Last Summer at the Golden Hotel,” and is every bit as warm and witty yet filled with heavy themes for contemplation and discussion.



Federation Introduces New Education and Engagement Director

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is pleased to announce that Chad Schaeffer has been named education and engagement director.

In this role, Chad will focus on developing and implementing meaningful experiences and innovative learning opportunities for a variety of demographics to connect, build, and deepen relationships with one another, with Jewish life, and Federation.

Chad joins Federation after serving in a variety of positions in community outreach, education and marketing at the IJ & Jeanne Wagner Jewish Community Center, and United Jewish Federation of Utah in Salt Lake City.



Chad commented, “Personally, I am deeply honored to be able to join the team at the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. I look forward to being part of this wonderful organization and community.”

Chad will report to Tair Giudice, chief impact officer.

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Andrew is an award-winning agent ready to assist in your real estate journey. Named in the Top 1% of All Real Estate Agents in 2021 by Real Trends. In addition, Andrew is an involved member and leader in our Charlotte Jewish community.



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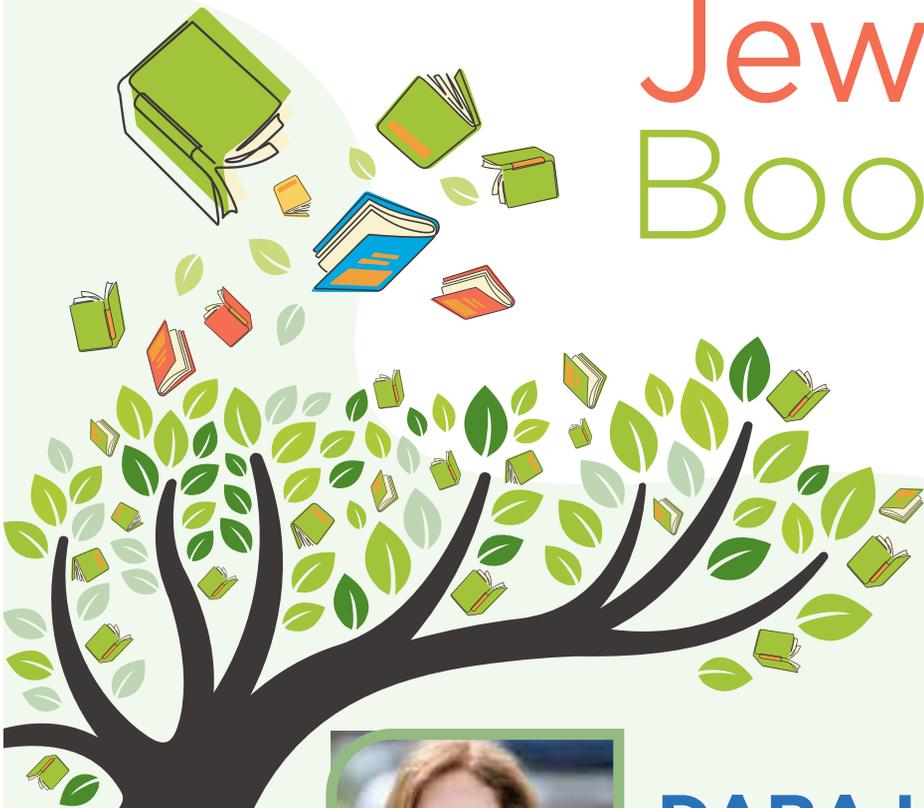
Keith Greenspon
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SAVE THE DATE!

Jewish Book **FESTIVAL** 2023

This year in person!



DARA HORN

People Love Dead Jews

Sunday, March 19 | 7 PM



RON BALSON

An Affair of Spies

Tuesday March 21 | 7 PM



MEG WAITE CLAYTON

The Postmistress of Paris

Thursday, March 23 | 7 PM



**SHAUNNA EDWARDS
& ALYSON RICHMAN**

The Thread Collectors

Sunday, March 26 | 1 PM



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books

Does God Have a Big Toe?



By Debby Block

The books of Rabbi Marc Gellman have provided a valuable touchpoint for me throughout the years. I remember reading his books to religious school students. His books were inspirational in plays I created for children to perform, the speech at my son's Bar Mitzvah, and even a d'var Torah for an adult audience. Marc Gellman's stories are sure to delight readers of almost every age.

"Does God Have A Big Toe: Stories about Stories in the Bible" and its sequel "God's Mailbox: More Stories About Stories in the Bible" take the classic tales

of the Torah and Jewish midrash and bring these stories to life in a humorous, down-to-earth, and completely relatable way. For example, one story explains how Adam named all the animals in the Garden of Eden. According to Gellman, Adam tries to number all the animals but soon loses count. Then Adam decides to call every animal "hey you" but, of course, that does not work well either. Finally, the animals suggest that Adam ask what they would like to be called, and that is the perfect solution. If you would like to share stories from the Torah with your children/grandchildren, I highly recommend these books of short-stories especially for elementary school-aged students.

As parents (and grandparents) we often ask children to do things that may not make perfect sense to a young mind. Gellman does an incredible job of explaining many of these rules while simultaneously making the parents' demands less arbitrary and more understandable. How about talking with your mouth full? In this chapter, Rabbi Gellman explains that not only does it look pretty gross, but the



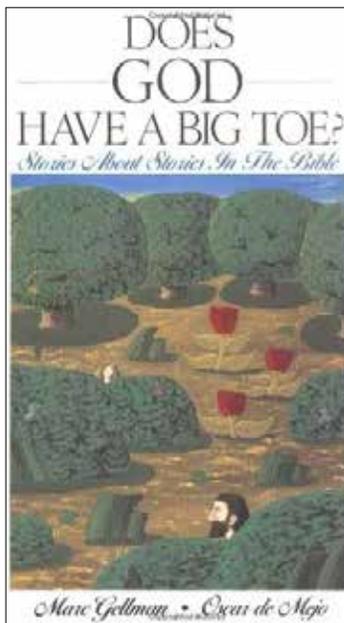
Rabbi Marc Gellman

bigger reason for this rule is that each person needs to learn to do one thing at a time. "Always Wear Clean Underwear! And other ways parents say 'I Love You'" could spark meaningful discussion between adults and children. This book of short-stories is sure to be a best-loved, read-aloud favorite in your home as well! Recommended for ages 6-11.

Children are always asking questions and often it is challenging to answer their questions about God and religion. One of the most perceptive and helpful books I have ever discovered

about explaining God to children is "Where Does God Live? Questions and Answers for Parents and Children" co-authored by Rabbi Marc Gellman and Monsignor Thomas Hartman. I particularly love the authors' analogy that explains that the Divine is on the top of a mountain and that each religion may take a different path up the mountain to find God. Recommended for any adult and their children ages 6-12.

Readers may find these books and many other amazing books for children and adults at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library on Shalom Park. We encourage you to drop in and check us out. Library cards are free and available to all. We would be happy to put any book on reserve for you so, contact us at library@jewishcharlotte.org or (704) 944-6783. We look forward to seeing you in the library soon!




Pluralistic Adult Learning
FOR THOSE SEEKING A MORE MEANINGFUL JEWISH LIFE



Winter Semester Starts January 18th

Melton Charlotte is a collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Center for Jewish Education, Temple Israel, and Temple Beth El.

For more information go to www.meltonschool.org/charlotte



ב"ה

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So, You're This Year's Chanukah Parent ... Sharing Chanukah in the Classroom

By Lisa Garfinkle, JFGC Operations and Projects Manager

So you're the designated "Chanukah parent" at your child's school – Congratulations! Your child is one of the only, (or maybe the only) Jewish children in their class, and among the "winter" celebrations, "holiday" concerts, or even "Christmas" parties, the teacher asked you to come in and teach the class about Chanukah. This is a great opportunity to share your Hanukkah traditions with teachers and students who may not otherwise know about them. If the idea makes you nervous, however, take a deep breath, relax, and get ready to have some fun, because the Center for Jewish Education and PJ Library Charlotte have your back!

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education on Shalom Park has Chanukah Toolkits available to check out, containing everything you need to teach about Chanukah in a preschool or elementary classroom. Filled with dreidels,

gelt, a menorah, candles, Chanukah storybooks, and fun activities, these kits have everything a Chanukah parent needs for a fun time in the classroom. This year, they even include a classroom set of dreidels and gelt, so that each child can go home with a treat!

The PJ Library website is another great source of Chanukah information, book recommendations, and activities. It has a great blog post about sharing Hanukkah at school as well as "The Ultimate List of Books About Hanukkah," kid-friendly recipes, craft projects, and more. Visit pjlibrary.org/Hanukkah for a wealth of helpful resources.

And finally, here are a few tips from experienced Chanukah parents:

- Find out from the teacher how long your visit will be and how many children will be there – there's nothing worse than planning for a class of 20 and showing up to find the whole grade waiting for you!
- Get the teacher's approval



for your plans, particularly if they involve food or lighting candles.

- Latkes are always a hit, and you can get them pre-made from a local restaurant or caterer or buy them frozen at Trader Joe's and heat them up before you go to the school.

- Donut holes are an easier alternative to latkes.

- To play the dreidel game (also always a hit), divide the class into groups of four or five and bring dried beans or pony beads for the kids to play with. A dreidel with the letters in Hebrew and English and a set

of instructions for each group makes things much easier. And if there's somebody in each group who already knows how to play, you're golden.

- Make sure you've read through any book you plan to share several times before you read it to the class.

- Ask your child what they want their classmates to know and let them help you share the holiday, if they're comfortable doing so.

- Especially in public schools, parents may be uncomfortable bringing the religious aspects of Chanukah into the classroom. If

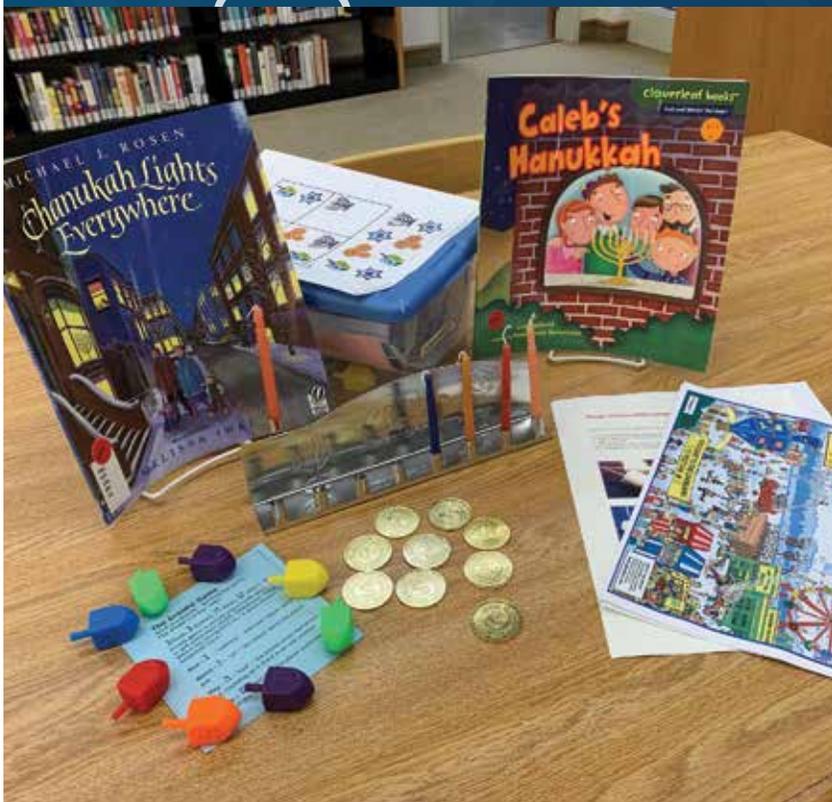
that's the case, show a menorah and talk about how you light it, but don't light the candles or say the blessings; choose a book without religious references – or skip over them; focus on religious freedom, light in the dark days of winter, food and games – rather than particular religious beliefs and practices.

- You may be invited to come in at a time that is before or after Chanukah, depending on where the holiday falls in relation to Christmas. That's fine, but don't let them think Chanukah is Jewish Christmas!

Check out the PJ Library website, reserve your Hanukkah Toolkit at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library (quantities are limited) and enjoy your time as the Chanukah parent!



HANUKKAH TOOLKITS FOR "HANUKKAH PARENTS"



Teaching about Hanukkah at your child's school? Don't fear! The Center for Jewish Education and PJ Library have you covered!

Free kits for sharing Hanukkah are available for checkout at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library.

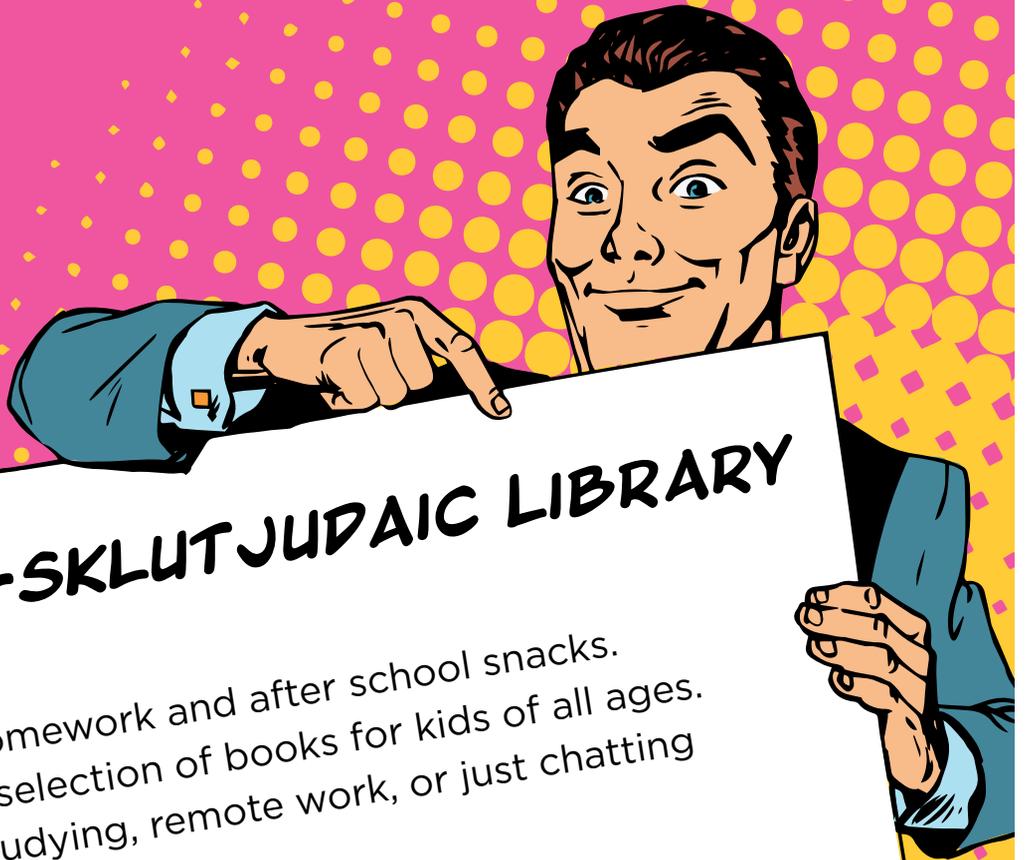
Kits Include:

- Explanation of the holiday of Hanukkah
- Appropriate story book
- Hanukkah menorah and candles
- Dreidels and directions for playing
- Craft Ideas
- Hanukkah worksheets/coloring pages (We can make copies for you in the Library.)
- Classroom set of dreidels and gelt to leave as a treat for students

Please call or email the Library to reserve your kit today—quantities are limited.

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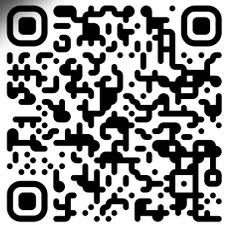
10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR LEVINE-SKLUTJUDAIC LIBRARY

1. Located on Shalom Park.
2. The Library is a great place for homework and after school snacks.
3. Our Children's Room has a huge selection of books for kids of all ages.
4. We have the perfect space for studying, remote work, or just chatting with friends.
5. Library cards are free, and we don't charge overdue fees!
6. We have many new bestsellers available for check out without a wait.
7. Our collection of Ebooks and Audiobooks is constantly updated and available 24/7.
8. Take a walk down memory lane by paging through our collection of historical Jewish publications.
9. Make us your one-stop shop for Jewish holidays with our fun-filled activity kits.
10. Our Blumenthal Educator Resource Center is a top of the line teacher resource for schools and educators.

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Sam Bernstein at
sam.bernstein@jewishcharlotte.org




rootone

The Future is Teens

What is RootOne?

RootOne LLC is an ambitious new initiative that provides financial vouchers to bring tens of thousands of American and Canadian Jewish teens to Israel on immersive summer teen trips.

The RootOne Difference

RootOne's Trip Provider Partners offer experiences that stand out from other Israel experiences. RootOne trips provide:

- Opportunities to learn more before stepping on to the plane.
- Meaningful interactions with Israeli peers, many of whom are fully integrated into many RootOne trips.
- High level educational content that focuses on all sides of Israel, from the familiar to the more nuanced and complex.

Why RootOne?

As teens embark on a complex journey of enrolling in college and entering adulthood, solidifying their Jewish identity is critical. The value and impact of Israel summer programs on Jewish teens has been proven to better connect them to their identity and community, as well as increase their confidence and empower them.

Learn More

646.472.5339

rootone.org

info@rootone.org

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www.RootOne.org

LIGHT UP THE SUMMER



The Jewish Federation provides scholarships and special grants for Jewish summer camps as well as qualified Israel experience programs.

JEWISH EXPERIENCE FUND: Need based subsidies are available to local Jewish youth attending camp and/or Jewish programs.

GORELICK TEENS TO ISRAEL FUND: Subsidies for local Jewish teens ages 13 - 19 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

GLORIA AND HARRY LERNER FAMILY FUND: Subsidies for local Jewish young adults between the ages of 21-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

Special thanks to Bill and Patty Gorelick and Harry and Gloria Lerner for their ongoing support and generosity.

For more information and applications, contact Noah Goldman, Israel & Global Jewry Associate, at noah.goldman@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6784.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Celebrating Chanukah in Charlotte



Ballantyne Jewish Center

Stonecrest at Piper Glen Fountains Plaza Menorah Lighting
December 19, 5:30 PM-6:30 PM
7832 Rea Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28277

Waxhaw Menorah Lighting
December 21
5:30-6:30 PM
Downtown Waxhaw at the overhead bridge
116 East South Main St.
Waxhaw, NC 28173

Join us for annual menorah lighting in Downtown Waxhaw. donuts, latkes, hot drinks and crafts!

Sun City Chanukah Party
December 22
6:30-8 PM
The Lodge
2955 Sun City Blvd
Indian Land, SC 29707

Annual Sun City Chanukah party, menorah lighting, delicious dinner and great music!
\$15.00

Contact: Leah Levin
704-408-1116
leah@jewishballantyne.com
www.Jewishballantyne.com



Chabad of Charlotte

Chanukah Festival at SouthPark - Symphony Park
December 18, 4:30-7 PM
Symphony Park
4400 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28270-6049

Join us for Chabad of Charlotte's annual Chanukah Celebration at SouthPark. Outside at Symphony Park, there will be something for

(Chabad continued)

everyone! Featuring a fire show, a grand giant menorah lighting, children's activities, music, Chanukah store, donuts, latkes and much more!

Yoel Sharabi Chanukah Concert at Chabad
December 24, 8-9:30 PM
Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish Life
6619 Sardis Road
Charlotte, NC 28270

Join us at Chabad for a special live Chanukah concert featuring veteran Israeli singer Yoel Sharabi.

Contact: Shlomo Cohen
704-790-5016
rabbicohen@chabadnc.org



Chabad Young Professionals

Drinks & Dreidels Young Professionals Chanukah Party
December 21, 6:30-9:30 PM
Location TBA

Contact Motti Groner
motti@theuptownchabad.com
http://theuptownchabad.com



Jewish Council of Lake Norman & Temple Kol Tikvah Youth

First Night of Chanukah Candle Lighting Celebration
December 18, 5-8 PM
Davidson Village Green
119 S. Main Street
Davidson, NC 28036

Everyone's welcome! Donut truck, Jewish dancing, music, crafts and games, and candle lighting.

Contact: Allie Redder
704-221-4245
principal@templekoltikvah.org



Levine Jewish Community Center

5007 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28226

JCC Pottery Sale
LJCC Main Street
December 4, 10 AM-2 PM

LJCC pottery students will be selling their works. Great way to purchase holiday gifts.

Family Chanukah Breakfast with Clifford
December 18, 9:30-11 AM
LJCC Lerner Hall

Celebrate Chanukah with a morning of music, stories, and fun with Clifford the Big Red Dog. Recommended for ages 6 and under.

Contact Patty Torcellini
704-944-6891
patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org
http://www.charlottejcc.org



PJ Library and Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Chanukah Mitzvah & Miracles Scavenger Hunt
December 4, 3 PM
Grocery store location to be announced

Join us for a fun afternoon of service, helping the lights of Chanukah shine brighter for those in need. Families will follow the clues and purchase food to fill the shelves of the Jewish Family Services' food pantry. A special snack will be provided for participants.

Contact Debby Block
Debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org
(704) 944-6780



The Ruach

Light up the Night Chanukah Concert
December 17, 7:15-8:15 PM
Presented by Temple Solel
Grace Presbyterian Church
2955 W. Hwy 160
Fort Mill, SC, 29708

Put on your yarmulke, it's time for Chanukah. Join The Ruach for an evening dedicated to the Festival of Lights. This will be a concert filled with joyous new Jewish music. Free and open to all. This ain't your Bubbe and Zayde's Chanukah concert!

Don't just celebrate Chanukah... EXPERIENCE IT!

For more information, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com.



Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El
5101 Providence Rd
Charlotte, NC 28226
www.templebethel.org

Chanukah Open House at the Gift Shop
December 4, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Join us for a morning of mingling with friends, sipping hot chocolate, and shopping in the gift shop. Our complete line of Chanukah items will be available. Each person will receive 1 complimentary ticket for a special giveaway. Must be present to win. We kindly ask that you register, but walk-ins are welcome.

Tot Shabbat Chanukah
December 10, 9:30-10:30 AM
Sing, dance, and pray with the Rabbi Nichols and Ms. Patty during a special musical, high energy Chanukah Shabbat designed for tots, preschoolers and their grownups! Please note this service will be indoors.

(Temple Beth El continued)

Porch Southern Fried Chanukah
December 18, 5-7 PM

The Porch invites young adults, young couples, and families with young children to our annual Southern Fried Chanukah! There will be fun for all ages as we celebrate with lots of latkes, fried chicken, candle lighting, and singing. Our aim is to have plenty of indoor and outdoor spaces to accommodate everyone's comfort level (weather pending).

We will be having the ugly Chanukah sweater contest again! Wear your best and brightest Chanukah outfit and we will give out prizes for the best. You can also participate in our "get lit" table. Deliver some cans of your favorite beverage (e.g. beer, cider, margarita, virgin piña colada) to the "get lit" table and take what looks good to you that others have contributed. 50/50 raffle tickets will be on sale for a chance to win half the proceeds! The other half will be donated to a worthy organization.

Enjoy the holiday together with your TBE Family! We are excited to see you!
Register by Monday, December 12.

Questions? Contact The Porch. The Porch
704-366-1948
porch@templebethel.org

TBE Chanukah Candle Lighting on Facebook Live
December 18-December 25, 6 PM every evening
Join us on Facebook Live - facebook.com/TBECLT

TBE Brotherhood Chanukah Dinner and Candle Lighting Ceremony
December 20, 6:30-8 PM

TBE Brotherhood is hosting a special Chanukah Dinner and Candle Lighting with blessings by Rabbi Asher Knight. Adult attendees are encouraged to bring their own chanukiyot (menorahs), candles, and appetites. The good cheer, good food, and fun will be in ample supply for this live, in-person event at Temple



Celebrating Chanukah in Charlotte

(Temple Beth El continued)

Beth El. The cost per person is \$18. Please register by Wednesday, December 14.

Contact: Brotherhood
704-366-1948
brotherhood@templebethel.org

Temple Beth El Congregational Chanukah Dinner
December 23, 7:15-8:30 PM

Join us immediately following the 6 PM Chanukah Shabbat evening service for a congregation-wide Chanukah celebration! This is a great night to celebrate Chanukah as a community. Dinner will be baked chicken, veggies, latkes and doughnuts. Register by Monday, December 19.



Temple Israel
4901 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
www.templeisraelnc.org

Temple Israel Youth: Mahar Pizza, Games, and Chanukah Crafts
December 4, 12:30-2:30 PM

Join your Mahar friends for a fun afternoon of pizza, games, and Chanukah-themed crafts after TIRS! Drop-off and Pick-up at TIRS Building.
Cost: Free/TI-Y Members; \$5/ Non-Members. RSVP on the TI calendar date by 3 PM on Saturday, December 3.
(3rd-5th grades)
Contact: Alan Johnathan
(704) 362-2796
ajohnathan@templeisraelnc.org

Temple Israel Youth: Secret Chanukah Harry
December 15, 6-8 PM

Join your fellow Kadimniks and USYers for Chanukah games, snacks, and a white elephant-style gift exchange! To participate in the gift exchange,

bring a wrapped or bagged gift worth \$5-15. Drop-off and Pick-up at the TIRS Building.
Cost: Free/TI-Y members; \$5/ non-members. RSVP on the TI calendar date by 9 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14.
(6th-12th grades)

Contact Alan Johnathan
(704) 362-2796
ajohnathan@templeisraelnc.org
www.templeisraelnc.org

Temple Israel Social Club Annual Chanukah Luncheon
December 19, 12-2 PM

Cantor Shira Lissek will join Gene and Ali Kavadlo in leading us in a special Chanukah musical program. A delicious holiday lunch will be served, which will include "Lots of Latkes." To register, visit the upcoming programs page at templeisraelnc.org.

Temple Israel Torah Tots Chanukah Event
December 21, 5-6 PM

Join Rabbi and Heidi Wolk, along with Alan Johnathan and Michelle Rusgo for a fun Torah Tots around the (pretend) campfire, where we'll have s'mores, Chanukah menorah lighting, story time, and sufganiyot (jelly donuts). RSVP by December 15 on the upcoming programs page at templeisraelnc.org.

Temple Israel Chanukah Pub Trivia Night & Kids Bingo
December 22, 7:30-9:30 PM

Adults 21+ Gather your friends and come out to compete in a four-round trivia match led by Michelle Rusgo. Prizes awarded to the winning team. Snack on Latkes, applesauce, pub snacks, soda, beer, and wine!
Cost: Adults (ages 21+)/\$18 member; \$25 non-member

Kids (Grades 3-6) Gather with your friends and Alan Johnathan for Chanukah Bingo, with prizes, in the Chapel. Snack on Chanu-tots and Applesauce.
Cost: Kids/\$10 each (member/non-member)

(Temple Israel continued)

Menorah Lighting & Shabbat Dinner

December 23, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
5:00 PM - Menorah Lighting
5:15 PM - Shabbat Dinner
6:30 PM - Shabbat Services
Menu: chicken, green beans, latkes, applesauce, dessert, and lemonade. Gluten-free and vegetarian options available.
Deadline to register: Thursday, Dec. 15.
Cost: Adult (age 13+)/\$25; Child/\$
No refunds after 12/15

Chanukah Under the Stars
December 25

Join us for a special Chanukah celebration featuring a family program, with menorah lighting, dinner (registration required), and more!



Temple Kol Ami
Philadelphia United Methodist Church
1691 SC-160 West
Fort Mill, SC 29708
www.templekolamisc.org

Temple Kol Ami Chanukah Shabbat
December 16, 7-8:30 PM

Please join us for a special Chanukah Shabbat led by Rabbi Ana Bonnheim. There will be a yummy Chanukah-themed oneg to follow. Always a fun Shabbat for kids of all ages!



2955 W. Hwy 160
Fort Mill, SC 29708

Annual Ruach Chanukah Concert
December 17, 7:15-8:15 PM

Come join us for our Annual Chanukah concert featuring The Ruach Band.

Contact: Steve Yaffe
(803) 610-1707
info@templesolelsc.org
http://www.templesolelsc.org



Women of Wisdom (W.O.W.)

W.O.W. Annual Chanukah Party

December 20, 7-8:30 PM
5337 Providence Rd
Charlotte, NC 28226

Join us dreidels, drinks, donuts & Gift exchange after we light our own Chanukah menorah. Spin the dreidel and learn some Chanukah wisdom with Sara O., and have a fun gift exchange. Wear your favorite Chanukah sweater.

Chanukah gift exchange: Please buy and bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$18 for the gift exchange.

Menorah lighting: Please bring your own Menorah and candles so we can light candles together for the second night.

Cost is an \$18.00 donation (not including gift).

Register at www.charlottewomenofwisdom.com

Contact: Sara Oppenheim
704-367-1225
WOW@CharlotteTorahCenter.com



ZABS Place

Matthews Public Menorah Lighting
December 20, 5:30-6:30 PM

Sponsored by the Town of Matthews at Matthews Town Hall
232 Matthews Station St
Matthews, NC 28105

Join us in front of our new outdoor menorah on Tuesday, December 20 for a special lighting ceremony. We'll also have kids activities like Chanukah Sand Art, photo op with Judah the Maccabee, and chocolate Chanukah gelt. This is a free event and everyone is welcome!

Contact: Bentzion Groner
bentzion@zabsplace.org



Happy
Chanukah
from

The Charlotte
JEWISH NEWS

Religious Life

Temple Beth El Enters 80th Anniversary Year

By Eden Gobuty, Director of Development and Member Services

2023 marks 80 years since the founding of Temple Beth El. For the last year, we have been thinking about how we want to honor this occasion. Digging through the congregation's archives has been one source of information and ideas.

In the archives, I've found an incredible collection of memories, pictures, stories, brochures, and letters, outlining the rich and vibrant history of this congregation. It is humbling to serve as one of the stewards for the future of a community that has been in existence for so long. I find inspiration in the ways our predecessors expressed their hopes for the years to come — the years in which we are now living.

One of the first archival items I uncovered was a program honoring Temple Beth El's 40th anniversary in 1983, which included a weekend filled with activities, including an art exhibition, special Shabbat service, and a "dinner-dance" with a champagne reception the following evening.

The program opens with a letter from then-President Mark Perlin, who writes, "It is a pleasure to welcome one and all to

our celebration of 40 years of life. Temple Beth El has become a strong, vibrant congregation dedicated to the service of Charlotte's Jewish community and to the general community. In the parlance of show biz, however, 'You ain't seen nothing yet.' The next forty years promise to be an exciting period of growth, with the development of the campus project [Shalom Park], a new sanctuary and fellowship hall, and much, much more. We are entering a stimulating era in the history of Temple Beth El... May we all return in good health for the 50th, 60th, and on and on."

I caught up with Mark to ask him about his reflections on the past forty years. Mark shared, "The most wonderful thing that has occurred is the size - the growth. When Rabbi Jim Bennett arrived [1993], the congregation just took off, as well as the city of Charlotte as a whole. We were lucky enough to take part in all that growth. When you think about the past 40 years, an awful lot has happened. When I was president, we had a split, and the temple shrunk and then recovered within a couple of years. Thank you to everyone who has participated in bringing about all this



Temple Beth El Building under construction in 1992.

growth. I would think that Charlotte in general, and our community along with it, will see the same exponential growth in the next forty years. I would love to be around to see it all because I think what's going to happen in this area is going to be very exciting. I wish I could stick around to see it all."

We also have a program in the archives from the 50th anniversary in 1994. The photo on the cover of the program, entitled "L'Dor Va'Dor," shows a picture of a Temple Beth El that looks strikingly different from what we have today, after the expansion that took place a few years later (2011). Inside are truly amazing member family photos (the hair! the clothes!) and a membership

phone directory. In their opening letter, Rabbi Jim Bennett and then President Mickey Gold share their hopes for the future: "Our first 50 years as Temple Beth El have allowed us to become a congregation befitting our name, 'a house of God.' May the years to come continue to provide us with the spiritual nourishment, education and knowledge, dedication to deeds of loving kindness, and sense of community we seek, and may we continue to find blessing."

Our final stop on this historical tour is the 70th anniversary celebration in 2013. The commemorative directory includes more wonderful family photos, as well as letters congratulating the congregation on 70 years,

from luminaries including then-US President Barack Obama, then-NC Governor Pat McCrory, and Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Rick Jacobs. The welcoming letter from then-President Rick Glaser ends with this dedication: "This directory and our celebration of our 70th are for all who came before, all who are with us today, and all who are part of generations to follow."

As we light our Chanukah candles and as we turn the page into 2023, I am so proud to be part of the 80-year tradition of Temple Beth El. Our congregation sparks so much joy, friendship, spiritual growth, and learning for Reform Jews of all ages, and as this brief trip through time has shown, we have a proud history of doing so. All members are invited to join us at our 80s Dance Party on Saturday, March 11, our first celebration for the anniversary year, and we look forward to many opportunities to hear your stories, see your photos, and share our collective love for this community over the next year and beyond.



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Chanukah Open House at the Gift Shop

Sunday, December 4 | 9:30am

Porch Southern Fried Chanukah

Sunday, December 18 | 5:00pm

Nightly Candle Lighting

Sunday, December 18 – Sunday, December 25 | 6:00pm

Join us on Facebook Live @TBECLT

TBE Brotherhood Chanukah Dinner & Candle Lighting

Tuesday, December 20 | 6:30pm

Chanukah Shabbat & Congregational Dinner

Friday, December 23 | 6:00pm Service | 7:15pm Dinner

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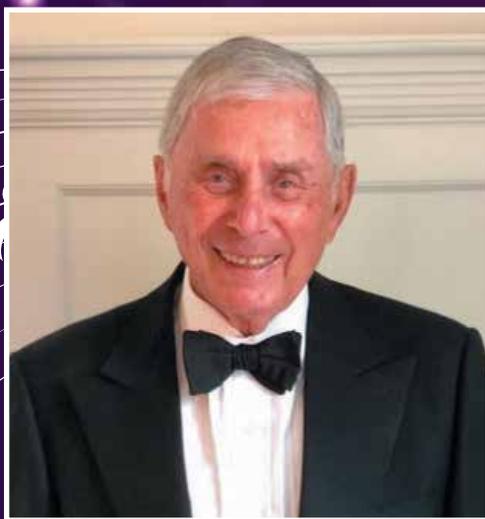
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For tickets and sponsorship opportunities,
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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE EVENTS,
VISIT OUR "UPCOMING PROGRAMS" PAGE AT TEMPLEISRAELNC.ORG

Religious Life

Temple Israel Comes Together To Participate in a Yom Tikkun in Response to Fallen Torah

By Dr. Rachel Seymour, Temple Israel Board of Trustees

Almost one year ago, on Thanksgiving weekend 2021 and the day before Chanukah, the congregation of Temple Israel was enjoying a typical Shabbat service. The Torah reading had just ended, and Rabbi Wolk was sharing his sermon when the unthinkable happened — the Torah fell to the floor from its perch on the Torah stand. Rabbi Wolk heard a crash behind him on the bimah and the collective gasp of the entire congregation. He turned to see the Torah lying face down on the bimah behind him. Seeing the Torah on the floor was an emotional and jarring experience for everyone there, and even people who were not at synagogue to witness the event shared feelings of being stunned and shocked when they heard. The image of a Torah face down on the ground brings so many other images to mind — of desecrated synagogues and of antisemitic attacks going back thousands of years and still happening today. Fortunately, this time it was just an accident, but was still an important moment that could not just go by without pause.

Rabbi Wolk says that he took a few seconds to gather himself as

he struggled with how to proceed. Ultimately, it was still Shabbat, and the service needed to continue. After Shabbat ended, Rabbi Wolk knew that a response was needed that included the entire congregation. He searched to find a definitive answer to the question, “What should we do?” Of course, most Jews have heard the requirement that everyone present fast for 40 days, but this seems to be a myth rather than a requirement. Some believe that witnessing a Torah falling is a sign of bad luck that requires repentance and changing the path one is on. Instead, Rabbi Wolk saw this as an opportunity to inspire and as a call to action. “The Torah is a sacred object, but only as sacred as we make it,” said Rabbi Wolk. He proposed a Yom Tikkun, a day of repair, an opportunity to remind people of how we value the Torah. In an email sent to the entire congregation, he shared several options for participation in Yom Tikkun: 1) fasting - although a minor fast from sunrise to sunset, as one way of showing grief and sadness for what happened to our most sacred and valued object of faith, the Torah; 2) Torah study - the Temple Israel clergy offered classes on Yom Tikkun to come



New Torah stands at Temple Israel

together with other congregants to learn and celebrate Torah; 3) tzedakah – a common method for acknowledging simchas as well as sadness in Judaism. Funds collected went to the purchase of two new and beautiful Torah stands that arrived at Temple Israel in time for the recent High Holidays.

Jennifer Samson, a Temple

Israel congregant, wrote, “My Temple community will observe a day of fasting, prayer, study, and tzedakah (charity) in honor of one of our Torah scrolls which had an accidental fall to the ground last Shabbat. My reflections on receiving news of the accident: I am surprised how deeply I felt the impact, especially considering I

did not witness the event firsthand, and I am simultaneously warmed by how deeply I already feel a connection to this community, as we will come together for ‘repair.’” Jennifer’s words so beautifully capture what many of us felt when we heard the plan for Yom Tikkun. While we all hope that this will be a once in a lifetime occurrence, the opportunity to come together as a community to reflect on the sacredness of the Torah was an unexpected bright spot following a such an unfortunate event.

By sharing the story from Temple Israel as well as our response, we hope this provides an opportunity for everyone in the Charlotte Jewish community to reflect on the words of Rabbi Jordie Gerson: “Sometimes, far too often, we drop not the scroll itself, but its lessons of loving one another, caring for the stranger, and passing Torah on to our children. And so, today, I take it upon myself to redirect my heart, my mind, and my body to your will and your words...”



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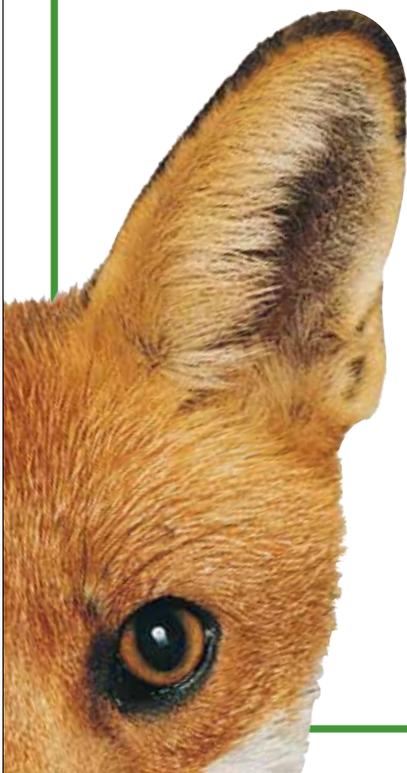
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Religious Life

Working Together and a Historic Gesture of Goodwill

By Dale Rivers

Sometimes things turn out even better than planned. When Temple Solel was looking for a more centrally located home, we chose Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill. They have a wonderful sanctuary for our large services and a great community room for our regular Friday night services. The people were especially friendly and welcoming. At the time, both parties talked about this not being merely a

space leasing agreement, but a true partnership. We would join together to work on social action projects. We would also do fun activities together just for fellowship. This all was music to our ears, but this was just before the High Holy Days, and we thought we would work out the details of how we might work together after that.

Right away, it became clear that they really meant what they said. Their people provided the

technical expertise and actually ran all the systems during our High Holy Day services so we could live stream to our members unable to attend in person. Some of their congregants actually attended a few services just to learn more about us and about Judaism. One of their congregants, a talented musician, was our shofar blower. And the beautiful shofar itself was lent to us by the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, who had recently brought it back from Israel.

We found that there were social outreach projects that were already common to both congregations, so during the High Holy Days, we both collected food and donations for the Fort Mill Care Center. Members of our congregation staffed some of the shifts at Grace's annual pumpkin patch, a huge event that raises money for several charitable projects. As an act of friendship, our entire congregation was invited to join in at Grace's annual turkey feast. While there, everyone worked together to create sweet potato pie baking kits for the Historic Paradise Foundation. In turn, Grace's entire congregation has been invited to our annual Chanukah concert with The Ruach to be held on December 17. We are also looking forward to having a joint Passover Seder. They have never witnessed a real seder, and we have never held one so big. In addition, every month there



A member of the Grace Presbyterian Church blows the Church's Shofar during our Rosh Hashanah services

lieve this to be a historic event. How many churches in our area, or any area for that matter, have placed a mezuzah on their doorpost?

As we at Temple Solel look to the future, we see increased opportunities to work with our new friends on the three pillars of our congregation: worship, learning, and social action — all done in an atmosphere of mutual respect and with some fun thrown in. If this sounds like a congregation of interest to you, we are a welcoming community and a member of the Union for Reform Judaism. We have eliminated annual dues for membership because we see that as a barrier to participation by some. We accept donations gladly but we are more interested in finding new congregants who are interested in getting involved. Please come join us. Call us at (803) 610-1707 or visit www.templesolelsc.com



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Religious Life

Temple Kol Tikvah Teen Shares the Importance of NFTY



By Kenlee Griffin, NFTY-SAR President

When I was invited to write this article, I was given the freedom to choose my topic. I love open-ended questions and prompts because they let me write about something important to me. There are many different topics I could choose to write about. I could tell you my history and why I'm Jewish. I could tell you about why it's important to be Jewish. However, I've chosen to explain the importance of Jewish partnerships and teen programming.

While this may sound like a confusing topic here is what I hope to accomplish in this article. I want to 1) explain the current state of Jewish teen engagement

and 2) explain the role adults play in this.

First I'd like to share a little about my background. I come from an interfaith marriage with my mother being raised as a Conservative Jew in New Jersey and my father raised as a Presbyterian from Ohio. I am the oldest of three children, recently turned 18 years old, and brother to a 15-year-old boy and a 9-year-old girl. I have one set of grandparents who live in Concord. They are the stereotypical Jewish grandparents, and I can never leave their house without eating something. I grew up attending religious school and Sunday school, learning about what Jewish people believe and all the prayers. I often found myself resentful of my parents for trying to force this religion onto me, but now I have realized just how special I am for being Jewish. Since 2017, I have spent six weeks in Israel on two trips, been bar mitzvahed, and am currently working on my confirmation to the Torah at Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson, North Carolina, where

I have gone all my life for Sunday school. I served on our youth group board for three years, including two as the religious and cultural vice president and then a year as president. As of June 1, 2022, I have stepped up and am the current president of the National Federation of Temple Youth Southern Area Region (NFTY-SAR), which covers six states and represents hundreds of Jewish teens.

Recently, I attended a North American NFTY event where teens from all across the country met in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, at the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) Camp OSRUI. The weekend was spent analyzing the past programming and revising it for the future. In this post-COVID world we live in, it is hard to look at anything from the past and try to achieve it, so instead we are going back to square one. We have lost the teens who knew and loved what NFTY was; my year is the last grade to actually attend a high school NFTY event, meaning that the engagement is

(Continued on page 22)

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info@templesolelsc.org | 803.610.1707



Religious Life

Light up the Night With Chabad at Symphony Park on First Night of Chanukah

By Rabbi Shlomo Cohen

Chabad of Charlotte will host a community-wide Chanukah celebration featuring a giant menorah lighting and a fantastic fire show to usher in the eight-day festival. The theme of the celebration is “Light up the night with the joy and lights of Chanukah.”

The event will be held on the first night of Chanukah, Sunday, December 18, 4:30 p.m. at Symphony Park. The Chanukah event is open to the entire Jewish community of the greater Charlotte area and is free of charge.

The original Maccabees directed that the Chanukah menorah should face the street in order to share the miracle of the lights with the outside world. The ultimate purpose of the Chanukah candles is to brighten the world with lights of mitzvah and to illuminate the darkness of the night with light of the G-dly soul that dwells within us.

Today, Chabad brings the lights of Chanukah into the street to share the eternal story of Chanukah with our neighbors — a story of freedom of spirit and



Chabad’s Chanukah celebration is fun for all

determined souls that broke the chains of oppression and darkness despite the mighty odds against them. Chanukah is the classic example of the victory of quality over quantity, light over darkness, and of the righteous over the wicked.

The lights of Chanukah are eternal as is their message which is so needed in our times. The outdoor Chanukah celebration

highlights this message in a powerful way.

The event will have Chanukah holiday music, traditional Chanukah fun activities, and an array of Chanukah delights, including tasty doughnuts, gourmet latkes

and Chanukah gelt, to create a festive, joyous event.

A fire show by Jimmy Pyro of Atlanta will add to the brightness and excitement of the evening as he entertains young and old with his spectacular pyrotechnics

presentation, which has wowed audiences all over the country.

For more information on this event or where to receive Chanukah supplies, please visit our website at chabadnc.org or call our office at (704) 366-3984.

Yoel Sharabi in Concert on 7th Night of Chanukah



Yoel Sharabi in concert, December 24

Celebrate the joy of Chanukah by joining famed Israeli singer, Yoel Sharabi, at a special holiday musical concert at Chabad of Charlotte.

This joyous event will be held on Saturday night, December 24, at 8 p.m. The evening will begin with a musical Havdalah and the lighting of a large indoor menorah.

Sharabi is a master of modern Israeli, classic Yemenite, and popular Chassidic melodies. Yoel, a native of Israel, delivers his songs in a variety of languages and styles. His charisma and enthusiasm brings an exhilaration to his music that is hard to contain.

Yoel has performed in concert halls around the world and enthralled audiences everywhere with his great music.

Chanukah delicacies and treats will be served. The event is free of charge, sponsorships and donations are welcome.

The Chanukah concert will be held at Chabad of Charlotte, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270.

For reservations and information please visit our website at chabadnc.org or call our office at (704) 366-3984.



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Religious Life

Celebrate Chanukah Shabbat With Temple Kol Ami

By Shari Baum

Chanukah, oh Chanukah, Come light the menorah ... The lyrics of this popular holiday song remind us of Chanuka's past with family and friends. Temple Kol Ami will celebrate the Festival of Lights this year at our special Shabbat on Friday, December 16, 7 p.m. at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill, SC. We welcome Rabbi Ana Bonnheim back to lead us in a festive service complete with songs, both old and new, as we commemorate the triumph of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greeks and the rededication of the Temple. Of course, every Chanukah observance requires the oily latkes and sufganiyot to symbolize the miracle of the menorah oil burning for eight days, and we promise to have these yummy foods at our oneg immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to bring their menorahs as we will kindle the Chanukah candles together. For more in-

formation, please contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We are currently having in-person Shabbat services on the first and third Friday nights of each month at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill (please check our calendar at www.templekolamisc.org for any updates). We hope you will join us soon and find your Jewish home in our community.

As another secular year comes to a close, Temple Kol Ami wishes you a happy and healthy new year!



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Religious Life

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Temple Kol Tikvah

(Continued from page 17)

low since the current teens don't understand how special this program is anymore. The current state of Jewish teen involvement is at an all-time low. Teens are flocking away from the temple because it has lost the value to them, but NFTY strives to build relationships and connect teens with like-minded individuals.

It is not only teens who are in charge of these events. In order for me or any of my peers to run a successful event with teen engagement, there is a lot that needs to happen on the front end with adult support. Adult support within the Jewish community is vital to what NFTY is working towards. If you're an adult and want children or grandchildren in the future to have other Jewish teens in their circles, or even be Jewish at all and find value in this community, please give your support. Adults in our life help coordinate all things such as travel, registration, buying supplies, etc. along with providing financial support. NFTY has moved to a new program where there is very little money given directly and regions are to fundraise, which means that for NFTY to survive within our communities and for future generations, we need parents to register their

children for events. Have them go and see just how special it is. We need money to put on these amazing events, and that comes in the registration fee and outside donations. We need parents and adult leadership to buy into the idea that teens need other Jewish teens or else there won't be a program for the next generation.

Thank you for all the time you've spent reading my article and taking in my words on the current state of teens and Judaism and the adult role in all this. Within my time at Temple Kol Tikvah and NFTY-SAR I have made hundreds of genuine connections with adults and teens and I look forward to laying the groundwork for Jewish teen engagement for generations to come. I chose to take on this role because I have little siblings and I know I want them to have the same opportunities to meet Jewish teens and connect with those like-minded individuals. If you have further questions, want to have a conversation about this, or have anything to offer please do not hesitate to reach out to me through Temple Kol Tikvah. Thank you.



LEVINE JCC

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Religious Life

Is It Hanukkah or Chanukah?

By Peter Levinson

With mid-term elections and the political debates almost behind us, there is still one very important debate remaining: How do you spell the name of the festival of lights we celebrate this month? A quick Google search will yield as many as 16 variations! Though Hanukkah and Chanukah are the most common, they are not the only acceptable ways. And because it's really a transliteration (Chanukah being the closest phonetically to the Hebrew), there isn't a "right" or a "wrong" way to spell the Festival of Lights. You can choose the transliteration you prefer. The Ruach is the very manifestation of this idea.

There are many ways to be authentic in your observance of Judaism; one size doesn't necessarily fit all. Judaism and Jewish worship have always evolved to meet the needs of the time, place, and worshippers. What The Ruach is doing is unique and it may feel radical. However, we are doing what has always been done — finding a way to meet Jews where they are and support them in embracing Judaism in a way that makes sense and feels

comfortable to them.

Not having a permanent physical location to hold The Ruach Experiences comes with a few challenges, yet it presents many opportunities. Jewish communities often struggle with ways to have a wider reach with their message. The Ruach's mobility means our community is wherever we are. Whether it is Shabbat services in a park under a shelter by a lake, or High Holy Days services filled with worshippers in a state-of-the-art theater, The Ruach continues to listen and respond to what its growing community of supporters is seeking: an understandable, relatable, and meaningful way to experience and connect with Judaism that meets them where they are.

This marks the fifth year in a row that The Ruach has offered "The High Holy Day Experience: Rosh Hashanah" and "The High Holy Day Experience: Kol Nidre," this year at the new Parr Theater at Central Piedmont Community College. In November, thanks to a generous donation, The Ruach brought its Shabbat Experience to the Lake Norman area in the fellowship hall of Mt. Zion United Method-

ist Church in Cornelius. And on Saturday, December 17, we head south to Fort Mill to provide a Chanukah concert after Havdalah services for the members of Temple Solel. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate the Festival of Lights at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2955 W. Hwy. 160, Fort Mill, South Carolina.

As The Ruach Community, we don't wait and expect people to come to us; effective service in the community is accomplished when we go out and meet the people. We look forward to meeting you. We guarantee you will experience something different. Maybe it is what you are looking for and what you need. You will never know until you give it a try.

Just as how you choose to spell our winter festival is a personal choice — so is how and where you choose to worship. If you are being supported in your experience, our greater Jewish community will be supported. And after all, though we have different ways of gathering, we are all one Jewish people.

We may not agree on how to spell the holiday, but at least it's always the same in Hebrew: חנוכה

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through new Jewish experiences and modern worship services. Follow The Ruach on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. To be on The Ruach's email list, send an email to the.ruach.band@gmail.com.



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Women's News

Shop for Chanukah and Purchase Mah Jongg Cards With Hadassah

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

Recap of the Fall

In September, Hadassah Board members manned a booth at Mona's Deli Fest in downtown Davidson. It was a beautiful day with klezmer music, food, dancing, and conversations with our Hadassah sisters in the Lake Norman area.

Game Day in October was a great success! More than 60 people spent their Sunday afternoon playing Mah Jongg, Scrabble, or another game of their choice. We enjoyed the silent auction, door prizes, delicious snacks, and the fun atmosphere. We're looking forward to Game Day 2023!

Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, come light the menorah!

Buy a new menorah, candles, and other Chanukah gifts for family, friends, or yourself. Come to the "Shop, Sip, & Schmooze" shopping party on Sunday, December 4, from 12-3 p.m. at Discovered Traditions Gift Shop at Temple Beth El, 5101 Providence Road. Enjoy brunch munchies, mimosas, and coffee while you shop. Hadassah members receive a 10% discount on their purchases and 10% of total sales will be donated to Hadassah. The first night of Chanukah is Sunday, December 18.



Mah Jongg Card

It's time to order your 2023 Mah Jongg card! Please order through Hadassah. The National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) donates proceeds from the sale of their official cards to charitable organizations, including Hadassah. It is a big fundraiser for our chapter. You can order cards for multiple people, and you do not have to be a Hadassah member to order your card through Hadassah.

Small cards are \$14 and large cards are \$15. NMJL (not Hadassah) increased the card price because of increased printing/ mailing costs and their increased donations to charity. There are two ways to order: 1) Go to events.hadassah.org/mahjongg-cards. Complete the online form, select Southern Seaboard region and Charlotte Metro chapter, and complete your order. 2) Send a check made out to Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA), and mail to Hadassah, 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226,

Attn: Merrill Schenkel. Write "Hadassah Charlotte Metro" on the note on your check. Order by January 13, 2023.

Monthly Happenings

Reserve the first Tuesday of the month (December 6) for Hadassah Wine & Schmooze at Vintner Wine Market in the Arboretum Shopping Center. Learn about Hadassah, enjoy some wine, meet fabulous women, and enjoy a fun night out.

Beverly's Book Nook meets on Friday, Dec 9 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the witty memoir, "My Jesus Year" by Benjamin Cohen. The son of an Orthodox rabbi spends a year discovering his spirituality by exploring Christian life through visits to a Mormon church, megachurches, and the mosh pit at a Christian concert before learning that Judaism is the path for him. RSVP at jewishcounciloflakennorman.org to receive the zoom link. The Short Story Discussion Group has changed its meeting to the second Friday of the month. Please mark your calendar for meetings on December 9 and January 13. For the next few months, they will enjoy award-winning Israeli author Amos Oz by discussing short stories from his book "Scenes from a Village Life."

Join the discussion with Hadassah BookTalk when we talk about "The Deadly Scrolls" by Ellen Frankel on Tuesday, December 27 at 7 p.m. . Please join us on Zoom.

Helpful Hadassah Info

The next Hadassah Charlotte Metro Board meeting is on Mon-

day, December 12 at 7 p.m. Contact us for the Zoom link.

Interested in joining Hadassah or learning more? Contact Anik Harrison at the phone or email below or come to one of our events. We would love to meet you!

Our website, www.hadassah-clt.org, has details about our events. If you have ques-

tions, email HadassahCLT@gmail.com or call our general phone number, (980) 553-1880. Your message will be forwarded to the correct person.

Follow us on social media: Facebook (Hadassah CLT Metro), Instagram (Hadassah Charlotte Metro) and Twitter (@HadassahCLT).





IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR 2023 MAH JONGG CARD!

GET READY FOR 2023 MAH JONGG

Two ways to order:

- **Online at events.hadassah.org/mahjonggcards**
Type "Charlotte Metro" in Chapter Name box & choose "Southern Seaboard" from Region dropdown.
- **By mail. Send form below and check to:**
Hadassah Charlotte Metro, 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226
Contact Merrill Schenkel at 980-553-1880 or hadassahclt@gmail.com with questions.
Make checks payable to Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Please include the number of cards in your order
 \$14 standard print card* \$15 large print card* *The \$5 increase was issued by the National Mah Jongg League, not by Hadassah

Name _____ Hadassah Member ID (if known) _____
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 If you are ordering card(s) that need to be mailed to other addresses, please include each name and address on a separate piece of paper.

By submitting this form, I hereby grant Hadassah permission to share my personal information (including my name, street address and any other information included above) with the National Mah Jongg League.



Order your cards by January 13, 2023

Spice Up Your Life

Join Us for our December & January Programs at Temple Beth El!

Wednesday, December 7
Pearl Harbor & Events Leading to U.S. Engagement in WWII with Dr. David Goldfield
11:00am - 1:30pm
Clergy Discussion with Rabbi Asher Knight: The Cause of Destruction and the Seeds of Hope
Menu: Israeli Lunch

Wednesday, December 21
Goals for Sterling Elementary in 2023 & How SPICE Can Help with Dr. Emily Miles
11:00am - 1:30pm
Clergy Discussion with Rabbi Asher Knight: Chanukah 2000 Years Ago - How the Early Rabbis Celebrated
Menu: Chanukah Lunch

Wednesday, January 4
Film "Orchestra of Exiles" with Allan Margolies
11:00am - 1:30pm
Clergy Discussion with Rabbi Beth Nichols: German Village Jews in 1930s
Menu: Baked Potato Bar



SPICE is Charlotte's premier community for Jewish people over 50!

Register for Events at www.templebethel.org/calendar

JFS To Honor Eric and Susan Lerner at Live Laugh Give 2023

By Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

Co-chairs, Adina Loewenstein and Andrew Bernstein, are excited to announce the honorees for Live Laugh Give 2023. "This year we are thrilled to recognize Eric and Susan Lerner for their many contributions to Jewish Family Services (JFS), the Jewish community, and the greater Charlotte community."

Eric and Susan have both contributed to the community in different ways and come together with the same core value — the importance of giving back to the community through a series of actions over time. Susan has served in the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) membership office since moving to Charlotte almost 20 years ago. She provides many new members and new Charlotte residents with a first-time experience of the LJCC. She is a valuable source of knowledge and information, referring new members to resources on the Park and in the community-at-large that best fit their needs. Eric's family was instrumental in founding Shalom Park. He carries on his family legacy, having served as



Comedian Orny Adams

vice president of Temple Israel, as well as on the board of directors of Congregation Ohr Ha-Torah, ZABS Place, and Jewish Family Services. Eric and Susan shared, "There is a real sense of belonging and a strong sense of community here in Charlotte. We are flattered to be recognized as honorees at Live Laugh Give 2023, and hope to inspire others to support JFS and the event."

The event will welcome back feature comedian and actor Orny Adams. Adams delivers a powerful, incisive stand-up routine that vacillates between the relevant and the absurd. He attacks what's wrong with the world and some-

times even what's wrong with himself. He's brutally honest, satirical, and his performance is ceaselessly energetic. Adams has had one-hour stand-up specials on Netflix, Comedy Central, and his third special, "More Than Loud," debuts in December on Showtime. He has appeared on television, most notably on "The Tonight Show," "Late Night with David Letterman," and "The Conan O'Brien Show." You might also recognize him as Coach from the TV show "Teen Wolf," which ran for six seasons.

Live Laugh Give comedy night brings together supporters, donors, volunteers, and community members for "a night of laughter, a lifetime of healing." It's no coincidence that JFS chose a comedy night event to raise funds for the organization. "At the time, we were looking to develop an event that would bring people together in a fun, entertaining atmosphere," said Susan Meyer, development manager and co-creator of Live Laugh Give. Studies have proven that laughter has many physical and mental health benefits. According to MayoClinic.org, short-term benefits of laughter



Eric and Susan Lerner

can include stimulating many organs, activating and relieving your stress response, and soothing tension. Long-term, laughter may improve your immune system, relieve pain, increase personal satisfaction, and improve your mood.

All proceeds benefit JFS's programs and services to enhance the quality of life for individuals and families in our community, including therapy, parenting support, financial and food assistance, domestic vio-

lence resources, senior engagement, case management, and Holocaust survivor and family and caregiver support services. With expertise, compassion, and an emphasis on maintaining dignity, JFS's staff is dedicated to working with clients to develop individualized plans. By uplifting, strengthening, and empowering individuals and families, JFS helps those in need when they need it the most.

Save the date for our upcoming Live Laugh Give comedy night on Sunday, June 11, 2023, for "A night of laughter, a lifetime of healing." For sponsorship opportunities and ways to honor Eric and Susan Lerner, please contact Susan Meyer at (704) 364-6594 or Susan.Meyer@jfscharlotte.org. To learn more about Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte, visit jfscharlotte.org, email info@jfscharlotte.org, or call (704) 364-6594.



Jewish Family SERVICES

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Join us for an evening of comedy and philanthropy
Sunday, June 11, 2023

Honoring Eric and Susan Lerner

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Featuring Comedian, Orny Adams

Jewish Family SERVICES

For more information visit jfscharlotte.org

Reducing Your Children's Stress This Season

By Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

Can you believe it is December? Thanksgiving is over and the December holidays, parties, and celebrations are right around the corner. As we enter into the holiday season, it is important to consider the emotional impact of the holidays on our children. First, it is critical to understand that the emotional health of our country's children and youth is fragile. Since 2020 and the beginning of the pandemic, there has been an increase in youth anxiety and depression. Suicide rates have risen to a level in which suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15-24-year-olds and the third leading cause of death for our youth ages 10-14. Recognizing that our kids are already feeling "stressed out," we want to make sure that the holidays don't cause additional stress and anxiety.

You may be asking, why would the holidays be so stressful for our kids? After all, you're talking about fun things in their lives — parties, family gatherings, gifts, special foods, vacation from school, and more. Though these sound like great things, they also may cause stress. Factors that may contribute to stress include:

Changes in routine: Once you change a routine, you don't necessarily know what to expect, which can cause a great deal of anxiety in children and teens. The predictable is safe. This is especially true for kids with special needs.

Social anxiety: Many children and teens struggle in social situations. They are uncomfortable with people they don't know well and worry that they won't know what to say or will say the wrong thing.

Personal or family conflicts: Family events often result in arguments. If this is the case, children will be anxious about upcoming family gatherings where they think conflicts may arise. There also may be situations where your child has had a previous conflict with a family member or was uncomfortable with them. Knowing they may see them will elicit resistance to attending the family event.

Self-esteem issues: Holiday events will be super stressors for kids with low self-esteem. They may worry about how they look, what to wear, or being social.

Here are some suggestions for reducing stress and enjoying a truly happy holiday season with your children:

Manage your own stress: What raises our kids' stress levels more than anything is living in a stressful environment. If you are stressed about the holidays, your kids are going to pick up on it

and it will immediately increase their anxiety. Don't overcommit, overspend, or overindulge!

Talk to your kids: Tell them about the plans you are making and ask them if there is anything about the plans that would make them uncomfortable or anxious. Also, include them in your planning. Find out what kinds of activities they would like to do.

Create and post a calendar: The more definite your plans are, the more your kids can anticipate and plan. That being said, for younger children, do not talk about activities too far in advance. Younger children have less ability to project time and will become excited and anxious about events if they don't happen within a few days.

Less is better: Overscheduling can also be overwhelming. Prioritize the activities that will be the most memorable.

Be prepared and plan to encourage good behavior: You know the conditions that cause your child to act out, so plan to deter these behaviors. Don't plan activities during nap time; make sure you have snacks when you know they will be hungry; plan for breaks if you are going to be walking where they will become tired.

Ensure your children have healthy foods and adequate sleep: Poor physical health contributes to poor mental health. Treats are fun during the holidays but don't overdo them. A lack of adequate sleep is a sure way to interfere with a well-planned, fun time.

Follow these pointers and you're more likely to enjoy a relaxed, happy holiday season and new year!

Jewish Family Services Tributes Month of October 2022

For a Speedy Recovery of Maureen O'Keefe Greenspon
Stanley Greenspon

Happy Birthday to Brian Emery

Howard and Merridith Glazer
Don Martell

Fred and Joy Miller

Happy Birthday to Scott Goodman

Steven Dickens

Happy Birthday to Jerry Levin
Stanley Greenspon

Happy Birthday to Anita Shapiro

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Happy New Year to Berta Straz
Michael and Judie Van Glish

In Appreciation of Howard Olshansky

Scot Rittenbaum

In Appreciation of Kevin Levine and Louis Sinkoe

Chip Wallach and Rabbi Judy Schindler

In Honor of Ben Bernanke being awarded the Nobel Prize

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In Honor of Kathleen Purvis
Temple Israel Social Club

In Memory of Harry Cronson
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Shel and Ellen Goldstein

Stanley Greenspon

The Simon Family

Mazel Tov to Elise Menaker on

the birth of her granddaughter

Paul and Lynn Edelstein



Jewish Family SERVICES
Engaging • Connecting • Healing

Jewish Family Services Acknowledgements Month of October 2022

Volunteers: Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Amy Baden, Andrew Bernstein, Suzy Catenazzo, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Joni Deutsch, Sheryl Effren, Terri Fishman, Rachel Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Marty Goldfarb, Richard Goldsmith, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Rebecca Hockfield, Oren Hubara, Tara Hubara, Dawn Hubbs, Bob Jacobson, Jennifer Koss, Rikki Kinitsky, Etti Krause, Elliot and Stephanie Krietman, Marcia

Lampert, Adina Loewensteiner, Matt Luftglass, Gene Marx, Frada Mozenter, Wendy Petricoff, Barbara Rein, Steven Rogelberg, Nina Rose, Marilyn Schuster, Lynne Sheffer, Cindy Siesel, Louis Sinkoe, Harry Sparks, Lorin Stiefel, Steve Teich, Beth and David Thrope, Amalia Warshenbrot, Nancy Wielunski, Amanda Zaidman

Food Drives: Hebrew High, Charlotte Jewish Day School

Hadassah Meal Preppies: Sara Friedman, June Hirschmann,

Yvette Jacobson, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Andi McCleary, E-lissa Vining, Kyle Vining

Shalom Green: Thank you to your volunteers for harvesting fresh produce for the JFS pantry.

Food Pantry Donations: Thank you to our generous community for continuing to donate to the food pantry. We continue to collect donations every other Wednesday at the portico entrance to the Blumenthal Center for Jewish Education Building on Shalom Park.

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Robert Taylor Recognized for 10 Years of Service to the Hebrew Cemetery



By Brian Yesowitch, Hilbert Fuerstman Historical Chair

Many times he is clad in all tan. You see him working on his hands and knees. He is an unassuming, quiet figure surrounded by nature and stone. But I think we can all agree, his smile is warm, honest, and sometimes contagious.

I'm describing Robert Taylor, the groundskeeper at the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte. On Sunday, October 2, while our community prayed together at our virtual Memorial Service, Robert was recognized for 10 years of service to our Hebrew Cemetery Association and the Jewish community. Many of you know and appreciate him

for his gentle ways and attention to detail. I was fortunate to meet him in 2012 while I was association president and hired him part-time in April of that year. He was recommended to us by one of our gravediggers because he had been working for nine years at another cemetery.

Here was a groundskeeper with experience, who was sensitive to Jewish tradition, and recognized the differences between a Jewish and non-Jewish cemetery. He instantly "clicked" with our director and board and soon was made a full-time employee. Today, you can even see him recite the Kaddish prayer during funerals.

Robert learned early on to



Robert Taylor, Hebrew Cemetery groundskeeper

tend to the land. He grew up in Gaston County, but when he was only a young boy of 14 years, his grandfather fell ill and Robert was sent to Tennessee, where he helped take care of his grandfather's farm for the next four years.

Robert's favorite season to work at the cemetery is spring, which may seem unusual considering fall is when we hold our Annual Memorial Service and when our gardens and landscaping are sculpted and freshened up to create a lush ambiance for our holiest week in Judaism. Robert says the spring is his favorite because the work he does

on our grounds six months before the service, helps the cemetery flourish over the summer, creating that grand presentation in the fall. "I enjoy working at the Hebrew Cemetery. I was never allowed to have any personal contact wherever I worked before." Here, on the other hand, he enjoys meeting everybody who walks through the gates, conversing with cemetery supporters, guests, or family members. He feels pride when they visit the cemetery, even for a short while, and leave the grounds with "peace and joy in their hearts." He beams when he hears that visitors tell us that the site around their loved one's grave is well-kept and taken care of.

I asked Robert how it felt to be recognized at our Memorial Service. He said he was already happy to be at our cemetery, but it made him even more joyful because people appreciate what he does for them. Among the many gifts he received that week, the new work boots from Lebo's feel

great. "I get great back support wearing them and they are really comfortable," he said.

The Hebrew Cemetery is grateful to have an employee like Robert Taylor. He is disciplined, self-motivated, responsible, kind, and respectful to all of the visitors at our cemetery. We invite you to take a moment to thank and congratulate Robert for his years of service to our Jewish community.

The Hebrew Cemetery Association is Charlotte's oldest Jewish agency. We are a Jewish Federation beneficiary agency and have served the Jewish community in Charlotte and the surrounding region for 155 years. For more information on joining the Hebrew Cemetery Association, pre-planning funerals, or general questions about Jewish burials in Charlotte, please contact our association director, Sandra Goldman at director@hebrewcemetery.org or at (704) 576-1859.

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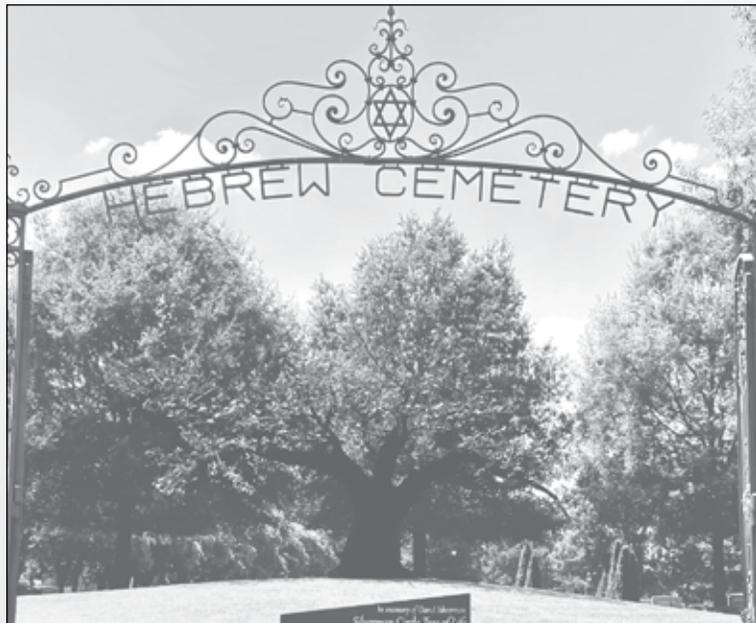
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The Hebrew Cemetery joins with the community in remembering the names of those who have been buried at the Hebrew Cemetery in the month of October.

Jack Mendel 7/4/1937 — 10/15/2022



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The Mission and Mobilization of the Greenspon Center in Responding to Hate

By Judy LaPietra

The old adage, "History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme," is still relevant to us today. One look at today's headlines reveals that this rhyme is becoming harder to ignore, with local and national antisemitic incidents at an all-time high. Such overt derogatory comments as those recently spewed by Ye (formerly Kanye West) and many other public figures, political personalities, and candidates, echo a time in history when rhetoric gave way to genocide. A banner that hung over a busy Los Angeles freeway and a projection at the Florida-Georgia football game saying "Kanye is right about the Jews," leave no doubt that the sentiments of these public figures are widely and dangerously acceptable to too many.

It is the memory of those who perished at the hands of discrimination in the distant and not-so-distant past that inspires the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center to mobilize with alacrity in response to today's antisemitism. Using education as the bedrock, the Center responds to the challenging

landscape of today's world with continued determination.

The Greenspon Center team has been increasingly called to action by the community. Parent phone calls about bias in the classroom, teacher referrals seeking curricular responses to incidents involving discrimination, and calls from houses of worship to learn about how to recognize, respond to, and combat antisemitism have become routine.

In response to the genocidal outcomes of historical antisemitism, the UN General Assembly in 2005 adopted a resolution to designate January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day around the world in honor of the liberation of the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In addition to remembering the victims of Nazism, the UN resolution also calls for member states to create Holocaust education programs for the prevention of future acts of genocide, reject any forms of Holocaust denial, and condemn all forms of intolerance.

The mandate of the Greenspon Center directly aligns with



A butterfly painted at a Levine JCC Butterfly Project workshop rests on a rail car at Auschwitz

the UN mandate. As such, the Greenspon Center will be hosting its first community commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January 2023, titled "Combatting Hate: One Person at a Time." The evening will include a keynote speaker as well as reflection, music, and the presentation of a Charlotte Community Upstander Award.

The Center and the UN recognize that one day of commemoration a year is not meant to stand alone — it is meant to inspire other days of education and action. The Greenspon Center works year-round to expand individual and educators' capacities to respond to prejudice and discrimination in families, schools, workplaces, and faith institutions.

Esteemed Queens University professor emeritus of history, Dr. Bob Whalen, will be offering a monthly Lunch and Learn titled "A History of the Future." Each session will focus on a book by a present-day thought leader who helps us understand the past and the vulnerability of the present as we work to create a safe future. The hybrid lectures will take place on the first Mondays of the month from December through February.

Combating antisemitism also requires standing proudly as a Jew. In that light, Rabbi Judy Schindler will be offering a Jewish Studies Spring Signature Class on "Jewish Ideas that Changed the World" on Wednesday afternoons from January 25 through March 29 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The course will examine Jewish ideas that have transformed the world, including monotheism, human equality, peace, justice, liberty, the prophets and social reform, labor movements, mysticism, repairing the world and the Promised Land. Through this lens, the

(Continued on page 31)

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Greenspon Center



Dr. Bob Whalen to present Lunch and Learn titled "A History of the Future."

(Continued from page 30)

evolutions of texts and traditions over the past 2,000 years will be explored. From sacred scripture to ritual to the holy land of Israel, students will evaluate Judaism's successes and struggles and its transformative influence on the world today.

Greenspon Center educators Judy LaPietra and Rabbi Judy Schindler will be leading an extraordinary community study trip to Poland in May 2023. There is perhaps no deeper educational opportunity than to travel and experience a journey through Jewish Poland's complex past and

colorful present. For more than a thousand years, Poland was the cradle of Jewish civilization, and much of world Jewry and world Jewish culture can claim its ancestral roots there. Today, Jewish life and culture are experiencing a remarkable renaissance, a testimony to the resilience of the Jewish people in the face of brutality and devastation.

The trip titled "Bearing Witness to the Past and Present: A Charlotte Community Journey to Poland." will take place May 16-25, 2023. Space is filling up for this unique opportunity to travel with LaPietra, who has more than a decade of experience as professor of Holocaust Studies at UNC Charlotte and Rabbi Schindler, whose academic passion is understanding the religious role in both the devastation, liberation, and restoration of European Jewish life. An information session will be held on November 21 with Taube Jewish Heritage Tours via Zoom.

To support or take part in the Greenspon Center's upcoming programming, contact Judy LaPietra, LaPietraj@queens.edu.



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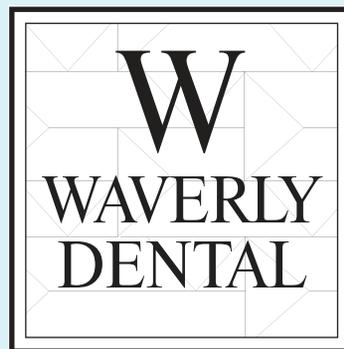
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Welcoming the Stranger Requires Partnerships

By Amy Lefkof

Welcoming the stranger requires partnership. The Jewish Community Refugee Initiative (JCRI) has been partnering with several local agencies over the past six years to welcome refugees to Charlotte.

Third Annual Drive Through Sukkah for Refugees

This past October, more than 20 members of JCRI rolled up their sleeves and opened their wallets to make possible JCRI's Third Annual Drive-Through Sukkah for Refugees. This involved purchasing many food items and household goods for 100 tote bags, which were given to those who have come to Charlotte seeking a safe haven. Stuart Gershon and Kim Wolensky were going to be out of town the day we all gathered at the Poliakoff Pavilion behind the Levine Jewish Community Center to stuff the totes, but that didn't stop them from participating. They shopped, donated, and dropped off ahead of time 400 pounds of sugar and 100 salt and pepper shakers (and a generous Food Lion manager substituted name-brand pepper at no extra cost and helped lug the heavy bags out to their car). Ruth Pordes and Maddy Baer comparison shopped and placed a huge order for produce

at The Chef's Store (and Stephen Pordes, Butch Rosen and Ken Dorros helped lug those 50-pound bags of onions and carrots)! Yossi Shem-Avi donated 13 cases of flour, and Marci Mroz picked up 100 donated recyclable totes from Patty Brown, manager of the Publix-Cotswold. Many other volunteers also generously donated items or joined the assembly line.

Lindsay LaPlante, executive director of Refugee Support Services (RSS), a local post-resettlement agency, gave a big thanks to JCRI for the totes: "All the bags either went home or were sent to the doorsteps of a program participant family today,



Patty Brown, manager of Publix-Cotswold, generously and enthusiastically partnered with JCRI three years in a row to provide Publix reusable totes for the Drive Through Sukkah project.



JCRI volunteers Ken Dorros, Butch Rosen, Elizabeth Weinstein and Maddy Baer delivered the 100 filled totes to Refugee Support Services staff.

which is a reach of somewhere between 500 to 600 refugees, former refugees, asylees, special immigrants, humanitarian parolees, and their families. Most families came through to pick up the bags (along with other produce and food items) but we also sent 20 to the doorsteps of newer arrivals (who don't have consistent access to transportation yet) through a partnership that RSS has made with DoorDash. Thank you so much for working alongside us, allowing us to work alongside you, and supporting more space to create more welcome and belonging for so many in the city of Charlotte!" Consider volunteering next October to help with the Fourth An-

nual Drive-Through Sukkah for Refugees!

As 2023 is almost upon us, below are some ways you can get involved in the new year, either with donations or your gift of time.

RSS Fruitful Friend Program

RSS just started a small recruitment push for new Fruitful Friend volunteers. What's a Fruitful Friend? Think how members of the Jewish community long ago partnered with resettled Soviet Jews to welcome them to this country. RSS Fruitful Friends are single adult volunteers, married couples, and families of all sizes — everyone is welcome to participate. Vol-

unteering as a Fruitful Friend requires a 1-year minimum commitment and a minimum of four cumulative hours per month. A completed Refugee 101 training session (it's brief), a recent background check, and a Fruitful Friends training session (also brief) are all required before you are matched so that you are prepared and ready to go. Go to RSS's website at refugeesupportservices.org to fill out a form to show interest.

CRRA Needs Donations

Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRA) provides resettlement services to refugees and asylees who are escaping violence, persecution, and repression. Refugees are arriving in Charlotte from Myanmar, Congo, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Syria, and Central America, among other countries. In 2021, 105 Afghan parolees were resettled by CRRA and 170 refugees, totaling 275 newcomers. There is an ongoing need for beds, kitchen chairs, coats, and scarves/hats for winter. Contact Annsley Banks, volunteer and donations coordinator, at (704) 535-8803 or Annsley.banks@carolinarefugee.org.

(Continued on page 41)

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The NC Holocaust Foundation and the NC Council on the Holocaust

By Mitch Rifkin

Do you remember that Abbott and Costello routine, “Who’s on first, what’s on second?” Well, I’m going to try “get you home” for the understanding.

I am often asked questions about the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation and the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

Who are you? What is the difference between the Holocaust Foundation and the Council on the Holocaust? The Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) organization that collects and distributes funds received from various resources, such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, individual donors, and private foundations. The Council is a North Carolina public agency organized under the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The Council receives funding from State legislation through the North Carolina General Assembly.

The Foundation annually reviews the proposed budget submitted by the Council and partially funds some of the statewide programs that the Council plans to present.

The Foundation is a private organization that has five board of trustees members. The Foundation has no office or physical location and there is no paid staff.

Passion to teach the Holocaust drives all the volunteers on the Council and the Foundation.

What do you do? The primary mission of the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation and the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is to educate and enlighten North Carolinians about the Holocaust, to teach about the lessons learned from the Holocaust, and to teach the teachers how to teach the Holocaust to their students. Both organizations teach tolerance and inclusion in human relations and an appreciation of and respect for diversity. Both organizations commemorate and honor the lives of the victims, the survivors, and liberators of the Holocaust. The Council hosts a statewide Holocaust Commemoration in Raleigh each year and supports various Holocaust memorial events across the state, including the one held in Charlotte.

What programs does the Council provide? Presently, the Council hosts 16 webinars for North Carolina public school

teachers throughout the state and nine in-person teacher workshops a year. Most of the workshops are held in rural counties. The Council owns 15 traveling exhibits that are available to North Carolina public schools and civic groups. The Council purchases classroom sets of books to schools and has a robust statewide speakers bureau. The Council has a robust statewide speakers bureau that speaks to students in schools and online.

The Foundation financially assists the Council in its efforts and has sponsored four teacher bus trips to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum over the past six years. We have averaged 35 public school teachers each year to visit and study at the Museum for four days.

How long have you been in existence? The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust was established in 1981 by the North Carolina General Assembly. We are considered the First Responders to antisemitic and hate events at North Carolina schools. To learn more about the Council, visit our two websites: ncholoocaustcouncilworkshops.org and www.dpi.nc.gov/holoocaust-council.

The Department of Public Instruction has estimated that our two organizations have impacted close to five million students over the past 41 years!

The North Carolina Foundation and the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust were instrumental in getting The Ginzella Abramson Holocaust Educational Act passed into law in North Carolina in November of 2021. This Act mandates that the Holocaust be taught in every publicly funded middle and high school in North Carolina beginning in the 2023-24 school year. The North Carolina Council is developing the curriculum.

The North Carolina Holocaust Foundation and the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust hold in reverence the pledges made to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust: “Never Again!” “If not we, who?” “If we alone, why?” and “If not now, when?”

If you have questions feel free to contact me: rifi121@carolina.rr.com. Mitch Rifkin is the President and CEO of the North Carolina Foundation on the Holocaust.

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The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust



Around the Table

Book Review: "Honey Cakes and Latkes, Recipes from the Old World by Auschwitz and Birkenau Survivors"



By Charlotte Rouchouze

In January 2020, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation organized a reunion of Holocaust survivors in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In the months following the reunion, Ambassador Ronald Lauder (director of the Foundation and son of Estée Lauder) hosted a number of additional online gatherings for the survivors, allowing them to stay in touch during the difficult time of the COVID pandemic. Like

many of us during that time, thinking about and, if possible, recreating the foods that bring us comfort was an important part of pandemic life. Over the course of these gatherings, recipes began surfacing among the survivors. They were the recipes that stood out for them over the course of a lifetime — many from a time before the war, before the decimation of the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, and before the deaths of so many of their loved ones. They were the recipes that ultimately led to the creation of this stunning cookbook, all the proceeds of which go to the foundation.

A "Holocaust cookbook" might, at first glance, seem in poor taste, or at the very least a mismatch of genres. As Lauder explains in the introduction, "The very word Auschwitz conjures up images of emaciated souls, starved, tortured, and murdered." How could such a book make any sense? But he points out that this book is about the opposite of death and starvation. "One of the most amazing and least talked about stories from

the Holocaust is one that nobody ever mentions: the people who survived, who walked out of that indescribable hell, walked with a rare determination to simply go on living." And of course, food is a key part of living.

We learn that even during the war, the mere memories of these foods provided sustenance for the starving prisoners. The book tells us about one survivor, Rachel Roth, who would lavishly describe Shabbat preparations to other prisoners during freezing cold roll calls in the camps, allowing them, and her, to mentally escape for a few sweet moments. Imaginary immersion into the warmth of the Shabbat kitchen soothed and distracted their weary minds and bodies from their unthinkable struggles. Along with the memory, we get her recipe for Rachel's Fantastic Chicken Soup.

Each recipe is similarly accompanied by a vivid description of its importance to one of the survivors, offering a window into each of their stories — a layered potato casserole that was the last meal one family ate before

deportation, the chocolate sandwich that a survivor remembers being fed by his mother as she tried to fatten him back up after becoming emaciated in the camps and nearly losing his ability to eat. The recipes come from a world destroyed by the war and were preserved by the rare people who can say they remember that world. The stories are poignant and the photography, done with the participation of a select group of the survivors, adds a photojournalism feel that brings to life the people behind the recipes.

Recipes in the book range from kugels to cholent, kasha varnishkes to gefilte fish, as well as Passover recipes, stuffed cabbage, veal paprikash, and chicken schnitzel. On the sweeter side, there is rugelach, plum cake, cheesecake, apple cake, cookies, and more. In fact, this book represents a fine and surprisingly comprehensive overview of traditional Ashkenazi cooking in its own right, something that is not as easy to find as one might think. In recent months, I have been looking for such a book, but

have come up with quite a little. Most authentic Ashkenazi cookbooks are old and out of print, having been replaced by more fashionable, often Mediterranean or Israeli-style cookbooks (which are also wonderful). For someone looking for a balanced collection of authentic Eastern European Jewish dishes, however, this is an excellent choice.

There are other books connecting the Holocaust with food, including "Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival," "In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin," and "Holocaust Survivor Cookbook." Each one has its contribution to make, and I recommend them all to the reader interested in this fascinating topic. Overall, however, "Honey Cakes and Latkes: Recipes from the Old World by Auschwitz and Birkenau Survivors" is the most impressive I've seen, both in terms of the selection of classic recipes, the beautiful, contemporary photography and the linen-wrapped

(Continued on page 35)

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Around the Table

(Continued from page 34)

binding. It is a celebration of life and of the foods that accompany a vibrant life. Sharing these recipes today preserves the presence of grandmothers and mothers who never had the privilege of passing them on to their own children and grandchildren.

The recipe I will share with you was submitted by Elisabeth Citrom, who was born in Romania and survived the children's barracks at Auschwitz, followed by two different labor camps, before being liberated by the Americans. This is a wonderful everyday vegetable soup that she says her children love. I think you could adapt the recipe to use pretty much any vegetables and soup stock you have on hand.

What makes it special is the fluffy dumplings that make the soup a comforting and hearty meal. I have noticed that Ashkenazi cookbooks feature many versions of a simple homemade egg dough that can be used for a variety of purposes. Kichelach (sweet or savory biscuits), mandlen (soup crackers), farfel (tiny, toasted bits of dough), knaidelach (dumplings), matzo balls, and noodles all use a similar simple dough made from flour, egg, oil, and water. Some

are baked, some boiled, some baked, and then boiled. (Osem soup nuts, for example, are a well-known quick substitute for the homemade kind of mandlen). Once you learn to whip up this little dough, there are so many possibilities for enhancing a simple meal. In this case, a thick batter gets dropped into the soup to make fluffy dumplings. Pretty much any thin broth-based soup can get the dumpling treatment and it will be the better for it.

Note: I found the dumpling dough to be very wet and really more like a batter, but adding too much more flour does not seem to improve the texture. So make a smooth, thick batter and just drop the dough in spoonfuls into the soup. There will be little drips that separate from the dumplings, but, like many homey classics, impeccable presentation is not your goal.

Charlotte Rouchouze, PhD is a local French teacher, food blogger, and beaded jewelry designer. Her blog about food traditions from around the world can be found at www.thechildrenstable.com. Contact her at charlotte.rouchouze@yahoo.com.

Vegetable Soup With Dumplings

Vegetable Soup with Dumplings
Elisabeth Citrom (from Honey Cakes and Latkes)
Serves 6-8

For the soup:

- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- Salt and pepper
- 3 vegetable bouillon cubes
- ½ red pepper
- 5 large carrots, cut into matchsticks
- 2 large potatoes, cubed
- 2 parsnips, cut into matchsticks
- 1 cup frozen green peas

For the dumplings:

- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ cup all-purpose flour, or more if needed

Make the soup: In a large pot, heat the vegetable oil over medium heat. Add the onion and celery and sauté until tender, about 5 minutes. Add 4 cups of water and bring to a boil, then add salt and pepper to taste, followed by the bouillon, red pepper, carrots, potatoes and parsnips. The liquid should cover the vegetables by a few inches; add more water and seasoning as needed. Reduce the heat and simmer until the potatoes are just cooked through about 30 minutes.

Make the dumplings: While the soup simmers, in a medium bowl, beat the eggs with the oil. Whisk in the salt, then gradually beat in the flour, adding more if needed to make a soft dough. Use a tablespoon to shape the dough into small dumplings, then slowly drop them into the simmering soup. Wait a few seconds between additions. Simmer for another 10 minutes or until the dumplings are cooked through. Gently stir in the peas. Discard the red pepper and ladle the soup and dumplings into serving bowls.

From "Honey Cakes and Latkes: Recipes from the Old World by Auschwitz and Birkenau Survivors"



Honey Cakes and Latkes: Recipes from the Old World by Auschwitz and Birkenau Survivors, Published by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation



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Education and Youth

Mommy & Me at Jewish Preschool on Sardis

Hosted at Jewish Preschool on Sardis (JPS) in partnership with Chabad of Charlotte, a Mommy and Me group has formed to address a crucial need for moms: a place to connect with fellow Jewish mothers and share in all the highs and lows of caring for babies and toddlers in a fun, relaxed, and warm environment.

Occurring bi-weekly on Friday mornings with different themes ranging from Sukkot to the creation of world, Moms and their “mini mes” are kept entertained and engaged. “I love Mommy and Me, it gives me a sense of community but is also intimate and small enough to really get beneficial results that help me

throughout the challenges that come with raising young kids”, shares Shira Fairchild, mom to Daniel (2) and Ben (4 months). Open to all Jewish moms and caregivers with babies 5 months - 2 years, RSVP to join by messaging Bluma at (973)558-0403.



Schmoozing and enjoying each other's company



Shira and baby Ben celebrating in the sukkah



Fun for moms and their babies



Education and Youth

Happy Challah-Days!

By Melanie Mason

We're not just making cookies; we're doing so much more! In Hebrew High's Traditional Jewish Cooking and Baking class, we revamped the curriculum to include not only baking but cooking as well. We alternate each week between sweet and savory to give students a well-rounded Jewish culinary education.

For trimester one, the savory dishes we made included bourkas, falafel, hummus, Israeli salad, and shakshuka. The sweet dishes we made included blintzes, rugelach, mandelbread, challah, babka, hamantaschen, and black and white cookies. These recipes have proven to be favorites among the students.

Each class starts with a quick lesson on why a recipe matters to the Jewish world, how it was created, and if it falls along the line of Ashkenazi or Sephardic cuisine. This gives students a background of the food they're about to prepare. Then we dig into the recipe, do a quick review of the ingredients, break off into groups, and begin prep. Students love working in groups

to accomplish a goal, particularly when it involves food. When we make more than one recipe a night, we split up — some groups make one and other groups make another. We only do this because of limited time; we only have an hour for class. Even though not everyone gets to make every recipe, we make sure there's enough for everyone to taste the final product. Luis Yacquín, a 12th grader, says, "I like that this class has good recipes you can reproduce at home. They taste fantastic and we can get them done in class time."

I like to include all aspects of Jewish cuisine in her class, giving students a full education. It's important students understand the differences, similarities, and backgrounds of both Ashkenazi and Sephardic foods. Most of our students haven't been exposed to Sephardic cooking. Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews have the same religious beliefs, but their cooking styles are vastly different. Ashkenazi foods are more like the foods cooked in America (matzo ball soup, bagels, gefilte fish), while Sephardic foods tend to be more exotic (shakshuka).

An easy way to explain these differences to the students is that it comes down to location. Ashkenazi Jews came from colder regions such as Eastern Europe, Germany, and Russia, where they needed to cook foods that were heartier and heavier — think potatoes, meat, and pickled foods. Sephardic Jews came from warmer climates such as Spain and Portugal, where fish and spices were easier to access and therefore used in more cuisine. "This class teaches me more about Jewish culture in terms of food," said 10th grader Simon Schumann.

In addition to food, we're also covering important culinary foundations such as knife skills and culinary math. The students have enjoyed getting to know the proper way to hold knives, the difference between a dice and a chop, and knife safety, of course. Students have learned how to properly dice an onion, how to cut garlic, and the importance of keeping cut foods the same size so they cook evenly. "Cooking also helps me get better at cooking as well," Schumann adds.

Anytime we have a recipe that



involves flour, such as cookies, challah, or blintzes, someone always makes it snow! Or they attempt the LeBron James. Laughter erupts and children are sent home covered in all-purpose flour. In one hour of class, we manage to do a quick dive into the history of a recipe, prepare the ingredients, cook the recipe, clean up, and most importantly, taste the food we eat. Eating is the best way to really learn a rec-

ipe, how it's supposed to taste, its texture, flavors, and appearance. Eating is also the best way to our Jewish roots and hearts.

From our class to your home, we wish you a happy challah-days!







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Education and Youth



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The Power of Pure Friendship

By Jessika Hicks

Friendship may seem common to most, but for those with special needs, it can be uniquely challenging. With the help of Friendship Circle, Erin has developed a beautiful friendship with her Teen Friend Emily. Teen Friends are a part of Friendship Circle's core program, Friends Together. This group pairs teens and individuals who have special needs together once a week to participate in fun activities. More than four years ago, Emily joined Friends Together, excited at the opportunity to meet new people. When speaking about her friends there, she explained, "Sometimes they don't have all the friends in the world because they may be a little different." Emily meets with Erin weekly, describing her as very happy and playful. Emily looks forward to arts and crafts the most because that's when Erin smiles the brightest. No matter what they do, Emily admires how Erin finds a way to make everything fun. Sue Schreiber,



Emily and Erin at Friendship Circle

the parent coordinator at Friendship Circle, expressed how Emily understands what it means to be a true friend. She sees Emily as a problem-solver, very caring, and intuitive. Emily came to Sue with the fear of letting Erin down. Erin had difficulty voicing different activities each week, and Emily wanted to learn how she could help Erin communicate. Emily quickly found a solution by focusing on how Erin could share what she wanted to do. She crafted a board of hobbies she noticed Erin loves. The board has 12 activities, each one with a drawing and label. Emily knew she had to include Erin's favorite game they play



Erin's communication board of her favorite activities

every time they meet, Zingo! Now, Erin points at the board to signal what she wants to do with Emily. Of course, Erin always chooses Zingo first! Erin doesn't say it out loud, but Emily can tell Erin is having fun because she's always smiling. Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more, visit Friendshipcirclesc.org.

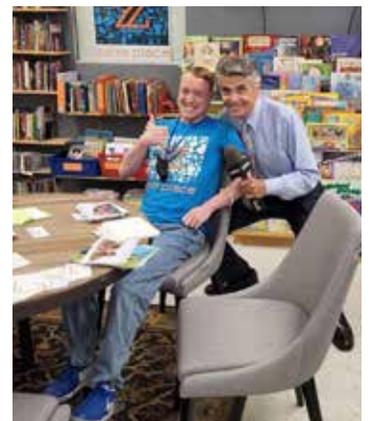
ZABS Place Celebrates 8 Years Recognizing Abilities

On Monday, December 5 ZABS Place marked an important milestone as we celebrated eight years since ZABS Place opened its doors.

Since opening in December of 2014, ZABS Place has empowered more than 228 specially talented young adults to pursue their dream jobs and career paths.

ZABS Place is a thrift boutique in downtown Matthews that provides employment training and opportunities to young adults with special needs, or as we like to say "special talents."

"I get to try new things everyday and learn new skills that will be useful for my employment here or elsewhere." said ZABS talent Carter Hensley to



Larry Sprinkle of WCNC during a TV interview.

Over the last eight years, ZABS Place has received thousands of in-kind donations from the Jewish community and beyond. Hundreds of local avid thrifters have shopped ZABS Place supporting its mission to see potential in everyone and everything.

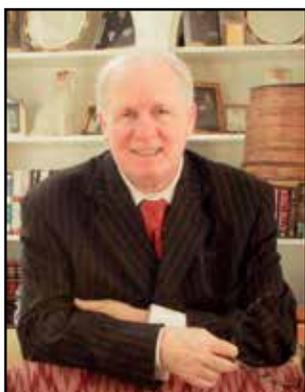
To learn more visit ZABS.org.

ZABS Place is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



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Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Eight Ways to Celebrate a Sustainable Chanukah

By Summer Minchew

Chanukah is a festive celebration in most Jewish households. By the eighth night we've entertained, fried latkes, lit the menorah, and said many blessings, but we are also positively up to our elbows in new stuff — plastic packaging, wrapping paper, ribbon, and gift bags. To paraphrase the famous Andy Williams song, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," but Chanukah is also the most wasteful time of the year. In fact, Americans toss out 25% more trash during the holidays than any other time of year, resulting in about one million extra tons of trash annually. Let's shine a light on eight ways you can make your Chanukah more sustainable — and more meaningful.

Festive Foods

Most latke recipes are inherently vegetarian, and most of us know that eating less meat is better for you and for the planet. This year make your festive meal meat-free. Step away from the brisket and let your latkes be the star of the show. Add a fresh salad or seasonal vegetable sides to round out the meal and save room for sufganiyot!

Stop by your local farmers market and stock up prior to making your Chanukah latkes. Potatoes and other root vegetables are in abundance during the winter. You could even make your own applesauce from locally grown apples. Since Chanukah features oil in some form for every meal, buying organic oil ensures a more sustainable celebration.

Want to take it up a notch? Try making vegan latkes. It is as easy as replacing the egg in your family's favorite recipe by using a plant-based alternative to bind your shredded potatoes together. We recommend the flax egg which is 1 tablespoon of ground flaxseeds mixed with 3 tablespoons of water or milk alternative, left to sit, and thicken for a few minutes.

Get your Gelt On

One of our favorite Chanukah activities is playing dreidel and gathering up gelt. This year, opt for Fair Trade choices. Fair Trade is important because you're helping support companies that practice ethical working conditions and pay fairly. Not only is Fair Trade chocolate good for people, it's also good



for the planet. Equal Exchange, for example, works with farmers on small cocoa farms to develop sustainable harvests that preserve local habitats and increase biodiversity. We recommend Guilt-Free Gelt from Divine Chocolate USA. It's kosher and Fair Trade, available in milk and dark chocolate. Looking for extra credit? Try the dark chocolate; it is certified vegan. Divine Chocolate also sells a very giftable Hannukah Nosh gift basket.

Dreidel

Speaking of playing dreidel, this year try making your own dreidel, dreidel, dreidel out of clay. For a fun and meaningful

family activity, we recommend making your own dreidel, menorah, or other holiday decorations from naturally non-toxic flour-based modeling clay. Innovative Classroom provides instructions for making your own clay and a dreidel template for the Hebrew letters.

If you are buying new dreidels this year, opt for ones made from wood rather than plastic. There are many handcrafted options available from Etsy artists. Or you could buy plain wood dreidels and paint your own. Hand painted wood dreidels would also make a great gift!

Lights

It's not Chanukah without candles. This year, use environmentally sustainable candles. Beeswax, soy, and sustainable palm oil provide more natural alternatives to the traditional paraffin Chanukah candles. Not only are plant-based candles better for the environment, but they're also less toxic than other candles. Extra credit for opting for 100% plant-based candles that keep animals out of the equation. One solid choice is Rite Lite's Chanukah Candles- Pure Vegetable Wax, which are made from organic vegetable waxes. Rite Lite also sells a Make Your Own Beeswax Candle Kit, which is another fun project for all ages and makes lighting the menorah extra special.

That's a Wrap

Did you know that approximately half of our total paper use is single use wrapping paper? This is because most wrapping paper is lined or manufactured with plastic or metal particulates and is not recyclable. Bows and stick-on ribbons are also not recyclable. This year, try sourcing

(Continued on page 40)



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Bal Tashchit and Beyond

(Continued from page 39)

environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional ribbons and wrapping paper.

In our house, we kick off the gift-giving season by unspooling a big roll of white or brown kraft paper across the floor then letting the kids go to town, drawing and decorating the paper in their own

unique style. It's fun for the kids to see their work on the wrapped gifts and our friends and family enjoy the personal touch. Kraft paper can often be found made from recycled material and can be recycled in turn.

Reusable paper or cloth gift bags are a great way to be envi-

ronmentally conscious because they can be reused again and again. If you find yourself on the receiving end of a glittery package or over-stuffed gift bag, save and reuse the paper, ribbons and bows for next year. Tissue paper can only be reused a few times before it starts looking tattered,

especially if you have enthusiastic gift openers. One option is using tulle instead of tissue paper, which will look fresh and wrinkle free for many years.

Speaking of single use paper, we can't forget greeting cards. I personally love sending and receiving holiday cards (send me all the family portraits and don't skimp on the pet photos)! But there are environmentally friendly options out there. If you must print and mail a card, opt for a card that can be recycled. Greeting cards and envelopes made of paper are usually okay to recycle. If they are covered in glitter or made from photo paper, they cannot be recycled. If you want to up your game, order cards made from recycled paper or order cards from manufacturers that give back. Paper Culture, for example, plants a tree where reforestation is most needed for every purchase. They have planted one million trees and counting. And finally, if you want to be as sustainable as possible, send an e-card. Paperless Post has some beautiful Chanukah designs this year.

Give

The biggest gift-giving season of the year also means considerable amounts of single-use plastic and packaging materials sent to landfills after the unboxing. This year, be more mindful about gift giving. Instead of loading up on plastic toys that come in even more plastic packaging, try replacing even one gift with something more eco-friendly. Consider giving something homemade, a charitable donation, or an experiential or consumable gift. If you want to give a tangible item, try sourcing locally or seek out eco-conscious brands and recycled products.

One of our favorite family tra-

ditions is the fifth night. Instead of gifts on this night, we donate to the charity of each person's choosing, and together, as a family, we make up bags of supplies to distribute to those experiencing homelessness. It's a great opportunity to take a break from the onslaught of stuff and consider the needs of others instead.

Gather

Watch out for waste if you're hosting a Chanukah party or large communal meal. Before your event, determine how much you need to buy and make by using NRDC's (Natural Resources Defense Council) Guest-imator. This dinner party calculator estimates how much food you need to keep your guests full and happy without overdoing it.

During your event, avoid single-use plastic. Instead, use recyclable, reusable, or compostable plates, cups, and flatware, and reusable tablecloths and napkins. Have containers on hand for guests to take home some of their favorite dishes. And make the most of the leftovers you do have. Applesauce becomes apple loaf cake or apple granola. Sauté left-over latkes with eggs and veggies in a breakfast scramble. We also love the ideas on the Food 52 blog; you haven't lived until you've tried a "lagel."

Create Value

The miracle of Chanukah, in which oil meant to last for one day instead lasted eight, serves to remind us about longevity, about the importance of valuing what we have. In valuing what we have, we need to reassess our own consumption habits. This year, shift the focus from the material goods that the holiday often brings to a more meaningful and sustainable celebration.

During Chanukah, we often talk about the value of spreading the light, both literally from the chanukiyot, and metaphorically, in our actions. When lighting the Chanukah menorah each evening, consider what each of us can do to bring light into the world and dedicate ourselves to being more environmentally sustainable.

Connect with us on Facebook at Shalom Green: Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Instagram and Twitter @shalomgreen_CLT. If you are interested in donating your time or dollars to Shalom Green, please visit our website at <https://shalomgreenclt.org/> and email us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation.

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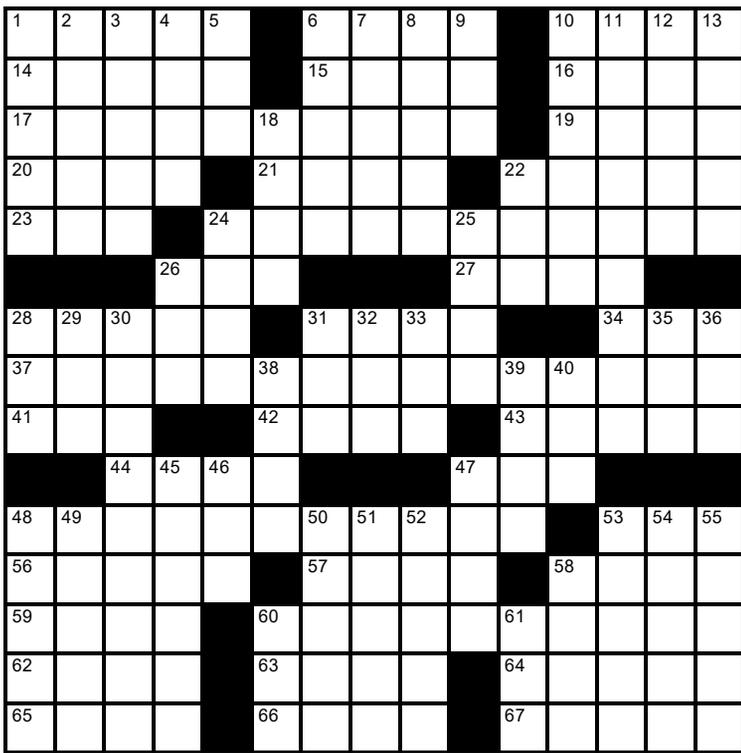
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Animal Expressions

December Crossword sponsored by **Tip Top Garage Doors**. Thank you!



(Answers on page 43)

Across

- 1. Major first name in Jewish/Israeli music
- 6. Blubber
- 10. Where 12-Down is located
- 14. Jerusalem or Rosetta
- 15. "About ___" (2002 movie)
- 16. Desk items
- 17. Judah's portion in Israel?
- 19. Some hockey gear
- 20. "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" singer Paul
- 21. Count's counterpart
- 22. Make another knot
- 23. Isr. bigwigs
- 24. Like the mob during the last hours of Sodom
- 26. Former NBA star Manute or his son
- 27. Like undecorated walls
- 28. Welles of "The War of the Worlds"
- 31. Arthur with a stadium that recently hosted 1-Across
- 34. Alternative to Inc.

- 37. David, when Samuel comes to anoint a son of Jesse
- 41. Blue Jays, on scoreboards
- 42. Blue Jays rivals
- 43. Lippy
- 44. Hocus-pocus opening
- 47. Left leaning news agency
- 48. Words from one who has stolen a Korban Pesach?
- 53. Aviator's org.
- 56. Levi to Ephraim
- 57. Wail
- 58. Perch for a speaker
- 59. Where Samson wielded a jawbone, in Judges
- 60. Those violating interest halachas?
- 62. Port in Yemen
- 63. Sit at a red light, say
- 64. Start
- 65. Horror movie staple
- 66. Former stock regulating org.
- 67. Blood lines

Down

- 1. Religion that restricts non-members from entering its holy city
- 2. Make like a diaper
- 3. Fish catchers
- 4. "Frozen II" princess
- 5. Word before "dear" or "sir"
- 6. Notable Gardens in Haifa
- 7. "Were you raised in ___?"
- 8. Wide opening?
- 9. Drano component
- 10. Materialize suddenly
- 11. Travel restrictions?
- 12. Home of Cochin Jews
- 13. Cash or stock, e.g.
- 18. Cash stock?
- 22. Johannesburg's land: Abbr.
- 24. He plays with an Edge
- 25. "A keeper of sheep" in Genesis
- 26. ___ choy
- 28. Accept, with "in"
- 29. Brazilian metropolis, for short
- 30. Kind of lottery ticket
- 31. Baruch follower
- 32. Hardly gregarious
- 33. Fellows and gentlemen
- 35. Musical Paul
- 36. Weep
- 38. "Haus" wife?
- 39. "___ that special!"
- 40. Temporary beach souvenir
- 45. Print credit
- 46. Big name in the news of late
- 47. Baltimore's Ripkens
- 48. Soviet forced labor camp
- 49. "Which ___ you want?"
- 50. "Mary Tyler Moore" spin-off
- 51. Hat-trick trio
- 52. Had the deed to
- 53. Language of Persian Jews
- 54. "American Idol" alum Clay
- 55. NBA stats
- 58. "Great" growler
- 60. He wrote music about Alexander and Bruno
- 61. Car-pool abbr.

JCRI

(Continued from page 32)

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy's Immigrant Justice Program Advocating for Afghan Parolees

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy's Immigrant Justice Program can use volunteer lawyers and financial donations to assist with its immigrant justice program. One task includes filing applications for asylum for Afghan parolees evacuated from Kabul who are in danger of losing their legal status if Congress does not pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, introduced in Congress this past August. Humanitarian parolees, unlike refugees, are given only two years of legal status in the

United States. Without a clear path to adjust their status (provided under the Afghan Adjustment Act), they must apply either for a Special Immigrant Visa or for asylum; both systems are highly complicated and backlogged. Visit Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy's website to make a donation or volunteer your legal services. <https://charlottelegaladvocacy.org>



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Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following article is from The Charlotte Jewish News, May, 1992. To read other issues of The CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

Looking Back: Year 1992

Temple Beth El Approaches Golden Anniversary

By Adam Bernstein

Temple Beth El is approaching its 50th anniversary with a new name, a new building, and a renewed congregational spirit and dedication to ensure the continuing prosperity of the institution.

"Never before has our Temple undergone so many mitzvahs in one decade, let alone one year," said President Doug Gentile. "Truly, we should all be proud to play a role in such a momentous series of events in the history of not only Temple Beth El, but in the entire Jewish community of Charlotte."

In September, the congregation will move into its new 20,000 square-foot building on the campus of Shalom Park. The facility features a 380-seat synagogue, adjoining social hall that will be used for special events or to enlarge the synagogue as needed, kitchen, administrative offices, and a chapel/library. The Temple will have a 28-foot-high, 65-year old ark made of gray polished marble that was originally built for a synagogue in Passaic, N.J.

The new building replaces the Temple's first building at 1727 Providence Rd., which was dedicated in 1949. At that time, congregants numbered around 100. Today, Temple Beth El has approximately 500 families, representing 1,600 members which includes many of the founding congregants.

In anticipation of moving into the new building, the congregation voted at a membership meeting in February to change the name back to Temple Beth El. The organization had been called Temple Beth El V'Shalom, reflecting the merger with Temple Beth Shalom, another Reform synagogue in Charlotte, in 1986.

After soliciting input from the congregants about their general concerns, the Board of Directors has worked diligently to address key issues facing the organization, including financial planning and management, congregational involvement, fundraising, administration, leadership development, Jewish education, and more. Reflecting this effort, the Temple's admini-



Original caption: The new Temple Beth El under construction. Completion due by Sept. '92

stration is undergoing a major change to address current and future needs. Ethel Gordon was

hired as Administrator; she will oversee all phases of temple activities.

Congregants are coming forward to head up key committees. Chavurot remain active. New board members are being recruited. All are positive signs of growth and enthusiasm in the congregation. "Our hard work and dedication will help keep Temple Beth El viable and strong for future generations," Mickey Gold, first V.P., said. "But equally important, we will do our part to maintain the legacy of Reform Judaism that has been a part of the Charlotte community for four generations."

Temple to Hold Silent Auction

A shopping spectacular of bargains, surprises, and fun in a casual atmosphere will take place at Lucielle's Vogue in Cotswold Mall, Saturday evening June 20, 7:30-10 pm. Proceeds of the event will benefit the dining-kitchen fund of the temple.

It is planned that about \$5,000 worth of goods and ser-

vices will be made available to "shoppers." A numbered entry ticket is \$5; \$3 for seniors or students, fully tax-deductible. The value of the ticket may be used toward a purchase. Light refreshments will be served free of charge.

"See to Believe" silent auction tickets may be obtained at the door the evening of the

event. However, advances purchasers of tickets will receive a bonus, double ticket value toward auction merchandise.

A drawing will be held for two round-trip coach American Airline tickets anywhere in the Continental USA, courtesy Mann Travels and American Airlines



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Thank you!

(Puzzle on page 41)

1	2	S	3	H	4	A	5	Y	6	B	7	A	8	W	9	L	10	A	11	S	12	13	A
14	S	T	O	N	E				15	A	B	O	Y				16	P	E	N	S		
17	L	I	O	N	S	18	S	H	A	R	E					19	P	A	D	S			
20	A	N	K	A		21	E	A	R	L		22	R	E	T	I	E						
23	M	K	S		24	B	L	I	N	D	25	A	S	A	B	A	T						
					26	B	O	L							27	B	A	R	E				
28	O	R	S	O	N				31	A	S	H	E				34	L	L	C			
37	P	I	C	K	O	38	F	T	H	E	L	39	I	T	T	E	R						
41	T	O	R			42	R	A	Y	S		43	S	A	S	S	Y						
					44	A	B	R	A					47	C	N	N						
48	G	O	T	Y	O	50	R	G	O	A	T			53	F	A	A						
56	U	N	C	L	E				57	H	O	W	L		58	D	A	I	S				
59	L	E	H	I		60	L	O	A	N	S	61	S	H	A	R	K	S					
62	A	D	E	N		63	I	D	L	E		64	O	N	S	E	T						
65	G	O	R	E		66	N	A	S	D		67	V	E	I	N	S						



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