

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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February 2023

JuJu Chang Shares Inspiring Message at Main Event as Federation Launches Annual Campaign

By Ken Garfield

With faith and determination, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte launched its annual campaign to raise money for righteous causes, and raise voices against prejudice.

The 2023 Main Event on Jan. 19, the first in-person celebration in three years, brought this year's theme to life – "Now We Go Forward." Almost 600 people came together at Temple Israel to pledge financial support for 70-plus agencies at home and beyond. That includes Israel and our global family. Our community raised \$5 million last year.

This year, while continuing to support vital agencies and causes, additional support is welcome for four pillars of ac-

tion: Outshine Hate, Safety & Security, Jewish Identity, and Jewish Education. Outshine Hate responds to the rise in anti-Semitic and other acts of prejudice with community workshops and training. Safety & Security provides training, tools and resources to give us peace of mind and body in the greater Charlotte Jewish community. Jewish Identity seeks to provide a range of Jewish experiences to strengthen ties to the faith from childhood on. Jewish education focuses on capital improvements to the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library located in the Blumenthal Center for Jewish Education Building at Shalom Park.

Packets at the Main Event shared details of how your pledge

further these and other causes. Information, and the opportunity to support the campaign, is at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

Main Event co-chairs Julie and David Sheffer opened the celebration by affirming the importance of sharing our gratitude and triumphs. With their three sons, they led the congregation in the Shehecheyanu, blessing the one "who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion." Then Julie Sheffer shared a memory to illustrate the importance of standing up to prejudice. Her grandfather, Stan Fox, lived in Oxford, N.C., in a place and time (the 1950s) not always welcoming to Jews. Faced one evening with spending the night at a golf club that barred Jews, his buddies urged him not raise a stink. What did Stan do? This proud man who owned a department store signed the guest register "Rabbi Stan Fox."

Julie's story segued into the highlight of the Main Event: Reflections from ABC News' JuJu Chang entitled "Fifty Percent Korean. One-Hundred Percent Jewish." Chang's challenge to all of us? Stand up to the ignorance and hate that threaten us all.

An Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of "ABC News Nightline," Chang has reported on the darkest moments. The 2018 mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh that killed 11 and wounded six. The 2022 mass shooting at the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, N.Y., that killed 20 African-Americans and injured three. The 2022 mass shooting at a gay nightclub, Club



JuJu Chang guest speaker at Federation's Main Event

Q, in Colorado Springs, Colo., that killed five and injured 25 others.

These acts of hate make the news. But there are others. Antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high in the United States in 2021, with 2,717 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism reported to the Anti-Defamation League. Incidents of antisemitism reported to our Federation in 2021 more than tripled from prior years.

Chang's own journey, stained at times by anti-Asian and antisemitic bias, resonates.

Born in Seoul, South Korea,

she was four when her family moved to northern California. Such was the immigrant experience, at an early age she wanted to be like everyone else, with blond hair and blue eyes. When she and Neal Shapiro (head of The WNET Group of public TV stations in New York) were married and had the first of their three sons, she recalls sitting at breakfast and telling him, "I think I'm going to convert." She embraced the fellowship that enriches Judaism. The invitation to ask questions. To serve.

(Continued on page 2)



JuJu Chang with Main Event co-chairs David and Julie Sheffer

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From the Editor

Better Together



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

On my recent vacation to see my children for the first time in three years (thanks COVID), we did something none of us had ever tried before: we went to an escape room. If you're not familiar with escape rooms, they are a kind of game that involves a team of usually two to ten players in a room that is elaborately designed with themes to resemble a fictional space, such as a prison cell, space station, or ruins deep in the jungle. The team works cooperatively to discover clues and solve puzzles to "escape" the

room in a set amount of time.

There were five of us working together toward one goal. We had one hour to solve puzzles that would allow us to escape a genie's bottle. Having no prior knowledge of the room and having never worked together, there was no way for us to plan our approach. We were ushered in to surprisingly realistic cave, the door closed behind us, and the clock began to count down.

Being new to escape rooms, unfamiliar with this scenario in particular, and having never worked together on something like this before, there was no way for us to plan our approach in advance. We had to figure it out as we went along. What immediately struck me was how naturally and quickly everyone fell into roles that were perfectly suited to their skill set and way of seeing the world — different, but none more important than the other. I immediately gravitated toward a mirror in a basket that, when you pointed it at particu-

lar rays of light, would open a treasure chest. My son, meanwhile, had figured out where the jewels from the chest fit to open the door that gave us access to the genie's bottle. While some of us were good at unraveling tactile and visual clues, others could pick locks, and still others could crunch numbers. Some of us were drawn to details, others could see the big picture and put those details together. Leaders and followers emerged without prior planning.

We worked together, each with our unique strengths and perspectives, and I'm happy to report that we escaped the genie's lamp with seven minutes to spare.

Reflecting on the experience since then, I can't help but consider the parallels between our little community of five and the larger Charlotte Jewish community of which I'm a part. We may not be trying to escape a genie's bottle, but we are working together, in our own ways and in our own spaces, for the common benefit of Jewish life in Charlotte — furthering and supporting Jewish identity and celebrating Jewish life. Some individuals and organizations do it by working with children, others by working with seniors. Some focus on physical health, others on mental health. Some provide education-

al opportunities and others create and support spaces to worship. And let's not forget those who provide generous financial support to make this all happen.

Sometimes we can be so focused on our part or so siloed in our own work that we don't always see the whole or appreciate our part in it. But occasionally, we get to pull back and get a wide-angle view of our community, and when we do, it can be inspiring.

This was my experience at Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's (JFGC) Main Event on January 19 featuring Emmy-Award winning co-anchor of ABC's "Nightline," Juju Chang. The annual Main Event is the kickoff to JFGC's Annual Campaign, which not only raises funds to allocate to more than 70 agencies, but also to support initiatives and programs it oversees on behalf of the community. While sitting in the balcony at Temple Israel, I had a birds-eye perspective with the most expansive view of the almost 600 people gathered. It was a powerful, visual reminder of both the diversity and strength of our community.

I looked down and saw people representing various demographics and interests, including our schools, social service agencies, synagogues, and more. Seated among them were also some of

our most generous philanthropists. And it wasn't just established leaders who came together for the Main Event. Families new to Charlotte and those unaffiliated with a synagogue or agency were in attendance. Together, we all listened to Juju Chang share her message about the importance of working together not only within our community, but also together with other marginalized communities who are vulnerable to acts of hate and violence. She said, "You understand that you have far more in common and that we are far more powerful together in solidarity fighting for justice and equality and the things that are foundational in American values."

It's cliché to say that the sum of our parts is greater than our whole, but clichés become clichés for a reason. This truism was in full display at the Main Event as our community came together. The night not only generated an excitement to give to JFGC's Annual Campaign, but to move forward working together, with our unique talents and perspectives, for the common goal of celebrating Jewish life within our own community, and for using the strength of our community to work toward the larger goal of a more just and peaceful world.

Shira

Editor's Note: In the article "Foundation of Shalom Park Board of Directors Elected at Annual Meeting" (January 2023, page 11), Annie Lord's name was misspelled as Annie Fold.

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

February 3 — 5:36 p.m.
February 10 — 5:43 p.m.
February 17 — 5:50 p.m.
February 24 — 5:56 p.m.

Main Event

(Continued from front page)

Those qualities shape Chang's life and work. Her heritage and public profile has also led to the threats and hate that come at her on Twitter. Or the guy who rolled down his window at a stoplight and told her to go back to her own country. Or the fan who told her "You speak English pretty well." Chang's comeback? "Thank you. So do you."

Rather than run from all this, Chang told the Main Event audience that she accepts folk singer/icon Joan Baez's counsel that the antidote to despair is action.

So Chang tells stories that humanize us — stories of people victimized because of how they look or what they believe. Stories of people working against hate. And she travels to places like Charlotte to share her story at gatherings like the Main Event.

Whether on TV or in front of audiences, she takes us to a better place — beyond our differences — simply by introducing herself: "I'm a friend. I come into your living room. I'm Jewish."

The Main Event closed with the sweetness of fellowship, desserts and the mission that brings us together.



Annual Campaign chair, Slade Goldstein

"Tonight we celebrated our resilience," said Co-Chair Julie Sheffer. "We leave with a feeling of connectedness, and support for all the work the Federation does."

Ken Garfield, former religion editor of The Charlotte

Observer, is a freelance writer/editor focusing on charitable causes.

The Charlotte
JEWISH NEWS

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Black/Jewish Alliance Seeks To Bring Light and Unity to a Divided World

By Mary Eshet

In 2020, against the backdrop of George Floyd's murder and a rapid rise in antisemitism, Rabbi Judy Schindler was alarmed about the rising hate and division in America. Anyone who knows Schindler knows concern turns quickly to impactful action.

"The divisions and issues in our country are so disturbing, even frightening. I knew personally I was burning to do more and was sure others were looking for ways they could help counter the hate," said Schindler, director of the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center. "We were inspired by Atlanta's Black/Jewish Coalition, founded 40 years ago."

Sherry Frank was among the founders of the Atlanta Coalition in 1982. A lifelong activist and past executive director of the Atlanta office of the American Jewish Committee, Frank suggested the Black and Jewish communities work together for the renewal of the Voting Rights Act. The partnership became a catalyst for a continuing coalition that has provided a consistent way for Black and Jewish leaders to find common ground and work together on issues. Her oft-repeated reminder seems especially relevant today: "If this country is not safe for Jews, it's not safe for Blacks," she said. "And if it's not safe for Blacks, it's not safe for Jews."

In Charlotte, work began in earnest in February 2021 when Schindler and two Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) faculty members began planning the program. In addition to Rabbi Schindler, Dr. Melvin Herring, director of the master of social work program, and Dr. Cindy Kistenberg, professor of theatre and communication, offer their expertise and mentorship to the program.

"Our vision is to immerse in each other's differences and create a safe space for conversation," said Herring. "We all connect to oppression, and the similarities create a bond."

People like Kanye are trying to divide and separate us. We are better together, more powerful together."

The first cohort of the Charlotte Black/Jewish Alliance launched in August 2021 with five Black and five Jewish young professional participants. The group met monthly and focused on a different theme each time. The first sessions provided the opportunity to better understand each other's journeys and today's challenges. For example, the group watched and discussed



The Charlotte Black/Jewish Alliance is a coalition of Jewish and Black young leaders ages 25 to 40, dedicated to cultivating understanding and authentic relationships through honest conversations, deep reflection, and community engagement.

the documentary, "Shared Legacies," which tells the story of Black/Jewish relationships and alliances in the 1960s — a history many in the group learned of for the first time.

"We have experienced difficulty and hardships in both cultures, and persevered through it all," said Terrell Hamlet, an insurance professional, and pastor who joined the first group and is a co-chair for the second. "We want to be the hope and light to any darkness."

Ty Green, social worker, poet, and JCSU graduate agrees. "We learned about the oppression we

both shared, about laws that limited and banned both Jews and African Americans. The alliance creates a safe space, and change happens in a safe space. We can ask questions without worrying, can I say this, is it ignorant, will I be viewed as racist? We may believe different things, but we are united in this cause." Green was in the first cohort and is a co-chair for the second.

The group sessions evolved to cover topics such as learning about each other's customs and culture, defining antisemitism and racism, exploring who has the power, openly discussing

tensions, and learning about community organizing. The program's crescendo was a Deep South pilgrimage to Atlanta, Montgomery, and Birmingham. The group visited the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham where a tragic 1963 bombing killed four little girls, toured the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, and walked across the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s footsteps.

"Spending four days together took the group to a whole new level," said Jordan Bernstein, attorney, and co-chair of the inaugural cohort and program. "We

were able to check in with each other a lot as we all shared such impactful experiences."

Sherry Frank offered this advice for the young Charlotte program: "You've got to make a commitment to be in for the long haul. Change and relationships don't develop overnight."

The first cohort is off to a good start in fulfilling that advice. The original commitment was for nine months, but the group did not want to end their time together. They re-upped for another year and created an alumni network. They have the opportunity to join in special events with the second cohort, which held its first meeting on December 12.

"I never want to see this end," said Hamlet. "I want to see the group continue and for more to get involved. So many want to make a difference, but don't know how to start. This Alliance is a way to start."

Kistenberg has no doubt change is happening. "The participants ask questions they would not normally ask. It was a different group from the first meeting, to just before the trip, to after the trip. After being on a bus together, waiting for the bus in the rain, walking across the bridge, there was a real bond," she said. "This is about people finding more common ground and making the world a better place."

To learn more about the Black/Jewish alliance, visit the blog or contact Cindy Kistenberg at ckistenberg@jcsu.edu.

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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Center for Jewish Education Unveils Lineup for 2023 Jewish Book Festival

By Lisa Garfinkle, JFGC Operations and Project Manager

Mark your calendars for Charlotte's second annual Jewish Book Festival, presented by the Center for Jewish Education! The week-long celebration of Jewish literature will take place March 19-26 at Shalom Park and will showcase some of the top names in Jewish literature.

This year's festival will offer a variety of in-person events, providing the perfect opportunity for book lovers of all ages to get up close and personal with their favorite authors. Including author talks and book signings, cartooning with children's author Alan Silberberg, high tea with Shaunna Edwards and Alyson Richman, and a private reception with Dara Horn for library donors and festival pass purchasers, the 2023 Jewish Book Festival offers something for everyone.

Kicking off this year's event on March 19 at 7 p.m. is Dara Horn, author of the provocative and critically acclaimed "People Love Dead Jews." Tablet Magazine says "'People Love Dead

Jews" is, of all things, a deeply entertaining book, from its whopper of a title on ... Horn is a masterful essayist ... She has the instincts of a stand-up comic with something deadly serious on her mind."

Ron Balson will follow on March 21 at 7 p.m. with a discussion of his spy thriller "An Affair of Spies," the story of a mission to rescue a defector for Germany and prevent the Nazis from developing an atomic bomb.

On March 23 at 7 p.m., Lynda Cohen Loigman will present her latest novel, "The Matchmaker's Gift," a heartwarming story of two extraordinary women from two different eras who defy expectations to use their unique gift of seeing soulmates in the most unexpected places.

Alan Silberberg, author of the children's books "Meet the Hamantaschen" and "Meet the Matzah," will also be featured on March 25 at 4 p.m., with a free, fun-filled program geared specifically toward families with children.

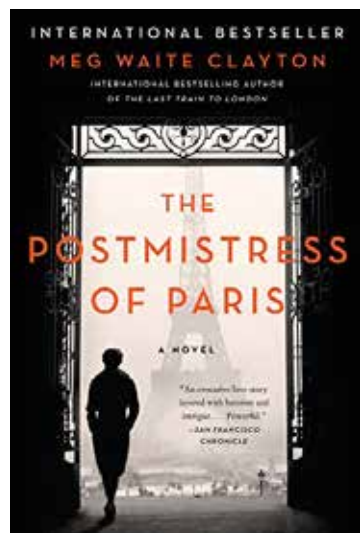


Shaunna Edwards and Alyson Richman will close the festival on March 26 at 1 p.m. with a discussion of their collaborative effort "The Thread Collectors." Their novel tells the compelling Civil War-era story of a black woman in New Orleans and a Jewish woman in New York, whose paths cross as they use their needlework to support the Union cause and the fight against slavery.

All events will be held at the

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. Ticket prices range from \$10-\$18, with a festival pass available for \$180. The festival pass includes access to all events, a signed copy of all books, a private reception with Dara Horn on opening night, and recognition as a festival patron. All ticket purchases will include access to a special virtual preview event with Meg Waite Clayton, author of "The Postmistress of Paris," on March 16 at 7 p.m.

Center for Jewish Education is proud to bring this festival to Charlotte. "We're looking forward to celebrating literature that speaks to the Jewish experience, and we are especially excited to bring people together in person," said Chad Schaeffer, director of education and engagement at the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. "This is an opportunity for readers of all ages to connect with and discuss stories



that resonate with them."

The festival promises to be an enlightening and entertaining event for all. Get your tickets now and don't miss this week of thought-provoking literature and meaningful conversations. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit jewishcharlotte.org.



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* Preview Event: Virtual *
MEG WAITE CLAYTON
The Postmistress of Paris
Saturday, March 16 | 7 PM



LYNDA COHEN LOIGMAN
The Matchmaker's Gift
Thursday, March 23 | 7 PM



DARA HORN
People Love Dead Jews
Sunday, March 19 | 7 PM



ALAN SILBERBERG
Meet the Hamantaschen & Meet the Matzah
Saturday, March 25 | 4 PM



RON BALSON
An Affair of Spies
Tuesday March 21 | 7 PM



SHAUNNA EDWARDS & ALYSON RICHMAN
The Thread Collectors
Sunday, March 26 | 1 PM

Register at www.jewishcharlotte.org



Jewish Book Council



Jewish Federation
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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

“People Love Dead Jews” Author to Speak at Jewish Book Festival

By Noah Goldman, JFGC Israel & Global Jewry Associate

“People Love Dead Jews.” This provocatively titled book by Dara Horn has won the National Jewish Book Award and was one of New York Times’ Notable Books of 2021. As part of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Outshine Hate Initiative, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is working with Center for Jewish Education (CJE) to bring author Dara Horn to speak to the Charlotte community on March 19 as part of this year’s Charlotte Jewish Book Festival.

The author of five highly regarded novels, ranging from the award-winning “In the Image” (2002) to the memorably time-shifting “Eternal Life” (2018), Dara Horn is recognized as an accomplished fiction writer and as a storyteller who draws inspiration from centuries of Jewish history. But Horn is also a scholar of Hebrew and Yiddish literature and a knowledgeable, prolific, and gifted writer of non-fiction.

The attention-grabbing title originated in a piece Horn published in “Smithsonian Magazine” in 2018. “People love dead Jews,” that article began, followed by, “living Jews, not so much.” In her book, Horn gathers 12 essays written over the



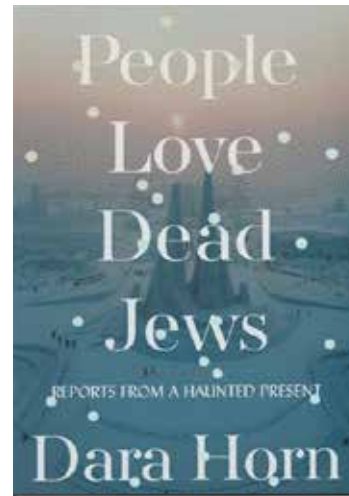
Dara Horn

past decade. Each essay explores the different ways we remember and narrate Jewish history as well as how media presents antisemitic events today. In the introductory essay, Horn declares that she’s not here to entertain us. “This book explores the many strange and sickening ways in which the world’s affection for dead Jews shapes the present

moment. I hope you will find it as disturbing as I do.” From the start, Horn reminds us that outside certain bubbles, much of the world has come to know dead Jews, most often, murdered Jews, better than living ones.

I walked away from reading Dara Horn’s book with the challenge to create a world where not only Jews are loved by others, but where Jews love themselves and their rich heritage. Here at JFGC, we are committed not only to fighting antisemitism and the demonization of Israel but also to creating multiple opportunities for our community to express and celebrate Jewish pride.

This past April, JFGC launched Outshine Hate, an initiative to combat antisemitism and anti-Israel hatred. Underlying this initiative is the core



mission of JFGC to build and sustain flourishing Jewish communities in Charlotte, in Israel, and around the world. Outshine Hate offers opportunities for our Jewish community to learn, en-

gage, and deepen their Jewish knowledge and pride. Speakers’ programs, educators’ workshops, and trips for 8th graders to Israel are among the many ways Federation is working to outshine hate.

We hope you will join us for Dara Horn’s talk on Sunday, March 19 at 7 p.m. and participate in future programs around this important initiative. For more information about Federation’s Outshine Hate initiative or the Jewish Book Festival, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.



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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Sue's Bookshelf



By Sue Littauer

In anticipation of Ron Balson's upcoming visit to Charlotte for Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Center for Jewish Education's Jewish Book Festival on March 21, I picked up his latest book, "An Affair of Spies." Expecting another adventurous journey with Liam Taggart and Catherine Lockhart, I was surprised when this historical novel began with a lot of technical information about splitting atoms, nuclear physics, and the race to build the atomic bomb. Although I considered giving up at that point, I plowed ahead and quickly became hooked - I could barely put this book down!

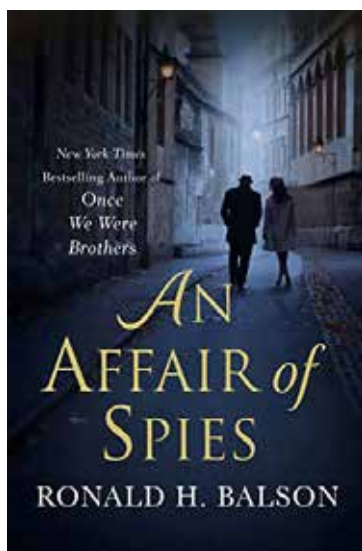
Nathan Silverman, a Jew born in Berlin, immigrates to the Unit-

ed States, joins the U.S. military, and is sent by the General in charge of The Manhattan Project on a spy mission to Germany to rescue a scientist wishing to defect to the United States. He is accompanied on his mission by Dr. Allison Fisher, a brilliant scientist who is tasked with determining the defector's credibility and asked to evaluate the Nazi's progress in building the atomic bomb. Nathan and Allison's spy mission into Nazi Germany is the center of this often terrifying, fast-paced, danger-packed novel.

According to Amazon, "An Affair of Spies" is an action-packed tale of heroism and love in the face of unspeakable evil. Author Ronald H. Balson has applied his unmatched talent for evocative and painstakingly authentic storytelling to the high-stakes world of espionage and created his most thrilling novel yet."

While reading "An Affair of Spies," I quickly connected two other historical novels I had read recently — "Hannah's War" by Jan Eliasberg and "The German Wife" by Kelly Rimmer. All three novels address the race to discover the atomic bomb, but the stories are told from different perspectives.

In "Hannah's War," ground-

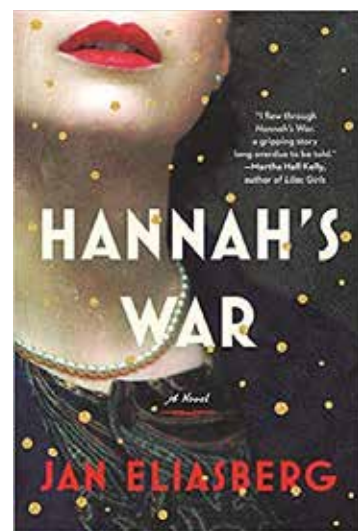


breaking physicist Dr. Hannah Weiss is on the verge of the greatest discovery of the 20th century: splitting the atom, but as a Jewish woman living under the harsh rule of the Third Reich, her research is belittled, overlooked, and eventually stolen by her German colleagues. Faced with an impossible choice, Hannah sacrifices her work in Germany by becoming an exiled physicist, and lends her talent to the team of nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Los Alamos Laboratory designed to build actual bombs. "Hannah's

War" is a thrilling wartime story of loyalty, truth, and the unforeseeable fallout of a single choice.

"The German Wife" by Kelly Rimmer is a gripping novel inspired by the true story of Operation Paperclip: a controversial secret U.S. intelligence program that employed former Nazis after WWII. What's fascinating about "The German Wife" is its point of view of Sofie, the wife of Jurgan, one of the many Nazi German rocket scientists who were offered pardons for their part in the war, and taken to America to work for its fledgling space program in Huntsville, Alabama.

Even though Sofie and Jurgan did not share the social views of Hitler's Germany, they traded their integrity by making moral sacrifices in order to ensure their family's safety. But it catches up with them in Huntsville, when scandalous rumors about the family's affiliation with Hitler's regime spreads, idle gossip turns to bitter rage, and an act of violence tears Sofie's community and her family apart before the truth is finally revealed.



I highly recommend all three novels which can be borrowed in eBook or hardcover form at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Please join us on Wednesday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m. when we will discuss "The Matchmaker's Gift" by Lynda Cohen Loigman.

For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.



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of Greater Charlotte



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Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books

Books on Kindness



By Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator

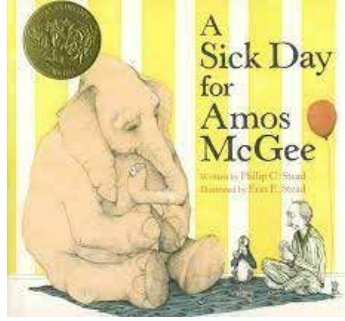
Teaching children of all ages about kindness is important now, more than ever. Happily, there are many wonderful choices of children's books that illustrate the act of being kind.

One of my favorite books about kindness, as well as the Jewish mitzvah of visiting the sick (bikkur cholim) is the Caldecott Award-winning book "A Sick Day for Amos McGee" written by Philip C. Stead and illustrated by Erin E. Stead. In the story, Amos McGee takes care of the animals at the zoo and shares special moments with them. When Amos McGee does not come to work, the zoo ani-

mals jump on a bus and travel across town to visit and entertain their sick friend.

"A Sick Day for Amos McGee" is one of several plays that the Children's Theatre of Charlotte features to teach about kindness. "The Kindness Project" is an initiative of the Children's Theatre to develop original plays for young audiences that are grounded in actively displaying kindness toward others. PJ Library Charlotte has anxiously been waiting for the traveling production of the Children's Theatre production of "A Sick Day for Amos McGee," which is also a PJ Library book. We are so excited to be hosting a showing for our Jewish community at Shalom Park on Sunday, February 19. (For more information, please contact Debby at debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org.)

What does it mean to be kind, anyway? That question is posed in the insightful children's book "Be Kind" by Pat Zietlow Miller. Kindness is often a big catch-all concept that can be challenging for children to understand and put into practice. The story of "Be Kind" begins with a dilemma of a girl



spilling grape juice all over her new dress while her classmate wonders what she should have done. This book explores the choices in a child-friendly yet gentle manner. "Be Kind" and its sequel "Be Strong" are recommended for children ages 3-6.

Recently, I discovered a book about kindness that actually made me want to cry with joy! "The Big Umbrella" by Amy June Bates tells the story of an umbrella that likes to help everyone. No matter how big or small or hairy — there is always room for everyone under the umbrella! Kirkus Reviews says it is "a subtle, deceptively simple book about inclusion, hospitality, and welcoming the 'other.'" Recommended for ages 2-5, "The Big Umbrella" may be read to

younger children and be used to launch a discussion about inclusion with six to seven-year-old children.

Do you want to teach your child about empathy and compassion? Try "Hey, Little Ant" by Phillip M. and Hannah Hoose. In this Reading Rainbow selection, a child is about to squish an ant, but the insect starts talking back. The ant asks what it would feel like if it were big and almost stepped on the child. "Hey, Little Ant" is funny and thought-provoking. Recommended for children ages 3-7.

"A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love" by Michelle Edwards is a favorite of many librarians in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library! Sophia notices that her neighbor Mrs. Goldman does not have a hat for the winter and Sophia would like to knit a hat so Mrs. Goldman's "keppie" (head) will not get cold. Sophia attempts to knit a hat for Mrs. Goldman, but, sadly, fails. Luckily, Sophia is

skilled at making pom-poms, so she makes lots of red pom-poms to create a hat for Mrs. Goldman. The book presents a truly heartwarming story of doing good for others! "A Hat for Mrs. Goldman" could inspire a wonderful mitzvah project. Recommended for children ages 4-8.

Even the very youngest can participate in acts of kindness. I highly recommend the board book "Baby Be Kind," by Joy Cowen-Fletcher for children ages two years old and younger. This feel-good book will show toddlers how to be kind whether it is giving a hug, petting a dog gently, or sharing a cracker!

All these books and many other wonderful books for children and adults are now available at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Please visit us today to pick out some books to take home or call us if you would like a book put on reserve for curbside pickup. (704) 944-6783. You may also explore our catalog at www.jewishcharlotte.org.



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\$172	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ALL FESTIVAL PASS</p> <p style="margin: 0;">January 16 - February 4</p>	
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Soul Food Shabbat With Scholars on Race and Citizenship in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow US

By Rabbi Judy Schindler

How would you respond to Whoopi Goldberg's erroneous claim that the Holocaust wasn't about race? Through education, Whoopi Goldberg recognized how much she has to learn and apologized.

Everyone has the opportunity to learn more about this topic at a community Shabbat dinner with visiting scholars, Dr. Aya Marczyk, associate research scholar from Yale University, and Dr. O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, assistant professor of history and African American studies from Winthrop University. These academics will help Charlotteans find the words to counter such uninformed assertions.

Using video testimony from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies from the Yale University Library with Leon Bass, a Black World War II liberator in a segregated army, the community will look at the legacy of this difficult history. Through a panel presentation and guided table conversations,



Dr. Aya Marczyk

participants will explore the connections between Jim Crow Laws and the Nazi Nuremberg Laws, the social construct of race, and its historical impact on Blacks and Jews and identify practical responses to combat antisemitism and racism today.

This Shabbat dinner and program is open to the public and will be held on Friday, February 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Queens University (\$23/person). It is sponsored by Queens University's Hillel, Queens' Black Student Union, the Belk Chapel, the Charlotte Black/Jewish Alliance, and the Stan Greenspon

Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center.

If you are a teacher, how might you use this material in your classroom, allowing Holocaust history and American civil rights history to inform one another?

"An Historical Inquiry of Nazism & Jim Crow: Testimony in Dialogue with Primary Sources," a workshop for regional educators, will be held on February 10, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., to provide teachers with skills to address these two disturbing eras in history. Dr. Aya Marczyk will introduce teachers to the Fortunoff Video Archive's testimony-centered curriculum "Race and Citizenship in Nazi Germany and Jim Crow United States." The curriculum is a set of 15 online lessons that engage students in the following questions: How do we listen to testimonies given by Holocaust survivors and witnesses? What skills and attitudes do we need to engage in both empathetic listening and historical inquiry? And what does it take to articulate rigorous comparisons



of race laws in the United States and Nazi Germany in the 1930s?

Teachers will listen to an overview of the curriculum and discuss its underlying pedagogy, which draws on the Fortunoff Archive's interview method and historians' disciplinary practices. Participants will listen to a second-generation Holocaust survivor and apply what they just learned. Additionally, James

Whitman's 2017 book, "Hitler's American Model: The United States and the Making of Nazi Race Law" will be explored.

The educator's workshop will be held at the Queens Athletic Complex and the cost is \$25/per person. To join either or both programs, visit www.stangreensponcenter.org or contact Judy LaPietra, LaPietraj@queens.edu.

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Charlotte Community Secular and Jewish Educators
Sundays, February 26 & April 2, 2023

February 26

April 2



Through a generous grant from the Lenora Stein Community Creative Learning Program, the Stan Greenspon Center at Queens University of Charlotte is able to offer Charlotte community educators the opportunity to participate in a Jacobs-Jaffa Charlotte Jewish Heritage Tour at no cost.



Open Registration Tour
March 26, 2023

Open to anyone interested in learning more about the history of Jewish Charlotte. \$36/person



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For more information and to register:

<https://www.stangreensponcenter.org/jewish-heritage-tours/>



JELF Loans \$48,591 to Charlotte Jewish Teens

In 2022, Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) assisted a total of 396 students with \$1,931,235 in interest-free loans. Of this total, 13 Jewish students from Charlotte were provided \$48,591 toward furthering their degrees.

For the 2023-24 year, applications for JELF's interest-free loans for higher education (college, graduate school, and vocational programs) are open to Jewish students January 3 through April 30, 2023.

JELF is proud to work in partnership with Sara Scheibner at Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte to help local Jewish students reach their academic goals.

All qualifying applicants must be:

- A permanent resident of FL, GA, SC, NC, and VA (excluding metro DC) They can, however, attend any U.S. accredited school.

- Enrolled full-time in a program leading to a degree or certificate

- In good academic standing
- A U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status

- Able to provide a designated co-signer

- Planning to accept federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans (2022 FAFSA application required)

JELF loans are intentionally designed to help cover costs associated with the educational and living expenses that other financial aid often does not cover, such as travel, rent, food, and books. JELF's 0% interest loans help save borrowers thousands of dollars in high interest-bearing debt each year. With 45 million Americans in some form of outstanding interest-bearing student loan debt, these savings are a significant benefit to the Jewish students that JELF serves annually. The strength of the long-

standing "free loan" model is based on funds lent to those in need, and then paid back to serve the next student, and so on. The organization's built-in sustainability allows it to always help future students in need as funds are infinitely recycled. However, just as hundreds of former JELF recipients continue donating to JELF each year after completing repayment, JELF continues to rely on the help of community donors to keep up with tuition increases and inflation.

JELF loans are a gift from the Jewish community, which historically values higher education. While many organizations across the U.S. provide interest-free loans, JELF is distinct in that it is the only Jewish organization exclusively focused on college financial aid. "This is the only type of organization I know of that when I write a check I know exactly where it's going, and it keeps going. My dollars never

die," says Stan Lowenstein, former Board chair and long-time JELF volunteer.

About JELF

Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) provides interest-free last-dollar loans for higher education to Jewish students in need, bridging the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Since 1961, JELF has provided over \$14+ million to 5,000+ students from JELF's 5-state region of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (excluding metro DC). JELF is proud to boast a 99% repayment rate and strongly believes that money should not stand between a student and the education that they need to excel in life. JELF's board and professional team are actively working to support students and their families by attracting the financial resources JELF needs to meet the ever-increasing demand

for loans. For more information about JELF, please visit jelf.org.

About Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte

JFS has been serving the Charlotte area for 40 years. With the support of our community, JFS is providing critical services to those facing daily challenges, life transitions, new hardships, and unexpected crises. Our programs provide education, engagement, counseling, food, care management, financial assistance, resources, and referrals. We are committed to raising awareness around social issues impacting our community as well as celebrating Jewish culture and traditions.

For more information about JELF, visit jelf.org, email info@jelf.org or (770) 396-3080.



Observance of International Holocaust Day by The North Carolina Holocaust Foundation at Sysco Corporation

By Mitch Rifkin

The North Carolina Holocaust Foundation facilitated a panel discussion on the current climate of increased antisemitic incidents for North and South Carolina Sysco Corporation employees on Friday, January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Holocaust survivor Dr. Zohara Boyd was the featured speaker along with Anson County high school teacher Albertia Burgess. Mike Abramson, chairman of the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, moderated the conversation.

The values of Sysco in many ways reflect the mission of the Foundation. Sysco DEI Officer (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Nicole Pfister stated, "At Sysco, we aspire to create a global culture that is decidedly diverse, equitable, and inclusive — one where we foster belonging as we care for one another and connect the world through food and trusted partnerships. We are Better Together."

Dr. Boyd, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, spoke about her wartime experiences and how the Holocaust impacted her life. Dr. Boyd continues to speak to schools and is a part of the Holocaust Council's statewide speaker's bureau. She preaches the values of inclusion and democracy.

Albertia Burgess told the employees how the Holocaust has influenced her life. Albertia came

from a poor African American community. She explained how her study of the Holocaust gave her hope and inspiration to become a contributing member of the community.

Michael Abramson discussed the glaring rise of antisemitism and how the Holocaust Foundation and Holocaust Council educate students and the public on the lessons learned from the Holocaust. Those lessons included the values of plurality and anti-bullying.

ti-bullying.

Approximately 500 employees watched and listened to the 95-minute discussion through Sysco's internal live streaming educational platform.

The Holocaust Council led the statewide effort to pass the Holocaust Education Act in 2021. The Act mandates that Holocaust education be taught in North Carolina public school beginning in seventh grade. As an update, the Holocaust curriculum for North

Carolina public schools, which the Holocaust Council has created, is scheduled to roll out in the 2023-2024 school year. North Carolina is one of only 17 states that has mandated Holocaust education.

For more information regarding the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, contact Mitch Rifkin, Foundation chairman, at rif121@carolina.rr.com.

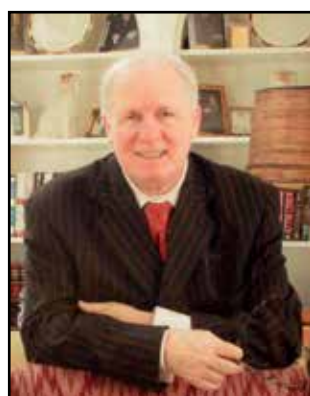


The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



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Around the Table: Rabbi Binyomin Weiss Explains Kosher



By Charlotte Rouchouze

Rabbi Binyomin Weiss, kashrut administrator at Chabad of Charlotte says he can trace his involvement with kosher supervision to his father, Rabbi Kehos Weiss, who often filled the role in their hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Weiss recalls his father attending early morning cow milkings at a particular dairy farm for years so that the Pittsburgh community could have kosher milk and helping a bakery adapt their ingredients and facility in order to make their bread kosher. Rabbi Weiss explains in so many words that being a kosher supervisor is not exactly a dream job for a rabbi.

"Staring at juice" as he says, is in fact one of the more tedious parts of maintaining a religious Jewish community. But the Chabad Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson is known to have encouraged his schluchim (emissaries) not to neglect this important aspect of life, and thus extra efforts have been made by Chabad rabbis in smaller Jewish communities to do it conscientiously. So when Rabbi Yossi Groner couldn't fulfill the obligations on his own, he called on Rabbi Weiss to help him out.

Those unfamiliar with keeping kosher might be wondering what kosher supervision even means. After listening to Rabbi Weiss talk about his years doing the job, I would say it is a combination of health inspector, lawyer, and IT support staff all rolled into one. The kosher director/supervisor must know the law, have an eye for any violations by companies producing and marketing food products labeled as kosher, and communicate with both producers and kosher consumers about how to fine-tune their kosher observance.

In his inspector role, Rabbi Weiss would drop in on factories

and food production plants to be sure they were following through on their promises, for example, keep pareve (non-dairy/meat) equipment totally clean of dairy, or keep grape juice, which has a separate set of laws attached to it, away from apple juice. When the kosher requirements coincide with best practices, such as in the case of avoiding allergen contamination, he says this oversight tends to be easy; the more unusual the request, the more insistence and supervision required by the rabbi. He told me about one time at a plant when he was helping to bring a vat of water to a boil in order to kasher the vessel for its next use. After a time, some of the plant employees became frustrated with waiting and asked him what, exactly, he was looking for. "Bubbles. I'm looking for bubbles," he said. With that, one of the employees left to fetch a tool and proceeded to blow air into the water, thus creating bubbles. "There! Now you have bubbles."

Rabbi Weiss also fields countless questions from concerned kosher-keepers, wondering if they need to throw out a batch of chicken soup into which a



Rabbi Weiss inspecting food processing plant with his grandchildren

dairy spoon fell, or whether a particular kosher symbol is trustworthy. He tells me that mistakes get more grace than intentional acts. If a dash of dairy spice was accidentally added to a large quantity of soup, tossing out 100 servings of food would not be recommended. Anything up to 1/60th unkosher is generally considered to be acceptable after a mistake has been made. But ask him if you could use that same

dairy spice every time you make soup and that would be a no.

When I asked him what he felt was the biggest misunderstanding about kosher, he replied that it was probably that rabbis have some kind of transformative power to make something kosher. He tells the story of being on a plane several years ago and waiting for the kosher meal he had ordered. The embarrassed flight attendant approached him and admitted that due to a mix-up, he had no meal. A few moments later, she returned with a meal box and a suggestion. Perhaps he could take the unkosher meal of bacon and eggs and simply bless it? "If I could turn that bacon kosher," he said, "I wouldn't be flying economy!" Being kosher also doesn't magically make food healthy, he says. Donuts and cakes can have impeccable kosher credentials, and that does not make them health foods.

The last misunderstanding, he says, is that kosher certification is a flawless process. The more ingredients, he said, the more chances for error. And at

(Continued on page 11)



WELCOME ANNIE KEITH
Our new Levine JCC CEO



Annie grew up in Western NY, the oldest of 5 children. After graduating from UNC Charlotte, Annie eventually found her passion working in the not-for-profit sector through her 15-year career at the YMCA. Annie worked with the YMCA in Tennessee, North Carolina and Connecticut. It was her YMCA position in CT that led her to the JCC as her West Hartford YMCA utilized many of the Mandell JCC's facilities for aquatics and other programming.

Annie and her husband Steve enrolled their two children Patrick and Allie in preschool at a J in Hartford, Connecticut. Through the years they all participated in JCC programs and events, and worked on committees. Patrick and Allie had their first jobs through the JCC and both still work there when not in college. For eighteen years the JCC has been their second home.

For the past fifteen years Annie worked as the Chief Operating Officer of the Mandell JCC. She is an avid group fitness and personal training participant, an occasional lap swimmer and basketball player, loves being a guest reader in the preschool and arts & crafts assistant in the afterschool program, and helps make sure every camper gets on the right bus in the morning!

The Keiths have always considered Charlotte "home" and are thrilled to be back in Charlotte to be near her parents and three of her four siblings.

We are thrilled that Annie made the decision to return to Charlotte and take the reins of our Levine JCC.



Annie Keith

www.charlottejcc.org

Around the Table

(Continued from page 10)

the end of the day, the consumer must accept some responsibility, and only consume products from certifiers they trust. "This food is going to become part of me, so I need to be careful." This rule applies not only to kosher food but to kosher mezuzahs, Torahs, and even money. "There are two people you must trust: your shochet (kosher slaughterer) and your sofer (scroll writer). These are processes you can never entirely oversee."

As far as why kosher is important? Rabbi Weiss explains that in his view, "Each meal is an opportunity to do a mitzvah and to connect with Hashem." Rather than seeing the prohibitions first, he sees food as an opportunity for holiness and connection. He also sees kashrut as a way of imbuing everyday life with spirituality. Rather than seeing religion as something you do occasionally in a church or synagogue and then put away until the next time you enter, Jewish laws integrate religious observance into everyday life. He says that these kosher questions are just one category of the many legal questions that observant Jews face every day, with Shabbat observance being another major area where Orthodox rabbis must be there to provide legal and technical support to their communities.

One thing I learned from talking to Rabbi Weiss is that kosher is not a science. Intentions matter, efforts matter, and different levels of kosher observance might suit different people. For all his conscientious efforts at assuring there is no trace of dairy in kosher pareve bread, (bread may not be milchig or fleishig according to kashrut) I know that as a follower of Chabad practices, he himself would not eat even kosher bread unless it is also Pas Yisroel, a different certification entirely. This is not because other bread is unkosher or "unfit," which is what unkosher means, but because Pas Yisroel reflects an extra level of devotion that is meaningful to the Chabad community. In fact, he explained that even individual families have different observances, with some more or less strict on what can be eaten on Passover, or more or less lenient on dairy certifications. For Orthodox Jews, kashrut is one of the many ways to express religious devotion, define the community, and elevate the human experience.

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.thechildrentable.com. Contact her at charlotte.rouchouze@yahoo.com.



This recipe, given to me by Rabbi Weiss's daughter, Devorah Gorkin, is a favorite of the Weiss family, and is often made by her dad.

Piña Colada Sweet Noodle Kugel

- 1 lb. wide egg noodles (cooked)
- 2 small cans crushed pineapple
- 3/4 brown sugar
- 1 cup piña colada juice mix
- 1/4 cup honey
- 6 eggs
- 1 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup shredded coconut (optional)
- 1 cup oil
- 3 tsp lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all ingredients with cooked noodles in a large bowl. Transfer to a greased 9x13 baking dish and bake for an hour or so, until firm and golden brown.

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Join Us for Our February Programs at Temple Beth El! All are Welcome!

<p>Wednesday, February 1 The Russo-Ukraine Conflict - Origins & Potential Outcomes with Dr. Robert Whelan 11:00am - 1:30pm Clergy Discussion with Rabbi Asher Knight: Judaism & Just War Theory Menu: Brunch for Lunch</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 15 The Future of the Charlotte Public Library with CEO Marcellus Turner 11:00am - 1:30pm Clergy Discussion with Rabbi Beth Nichols: Beyond Reading the Torah - Jewish Textual Tradition Menu: A Greek Lunch</p>	<p>Friday, February 17 SPICE Potluck! 6:00pm - 7:15pm Bring a dish to share, SPICE will provide baked and fried chicken! 7:30pm Shabbat Services</p>
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Celebrating Purim in the Shadow of Rising Antisemitism



By Rabbi Asher Knight

Antisemitism is on the rise in our country, and it is a deeply disturbing and dangerous trend. In recent months, there have been numerous hate crimes targeting Jews in cities across the nation. A former president was seen dining with vocal antisemites after announcing his re-election campaign, and Kanye West (now known as Ye) has spread conspiracy theories about Jews on various media platforms. Here in Charlotte, young people have reported seeing swastikas drawn on school bathroom walls and hearing antisemitic comments made in classrooms and hallways. Even local adults have reported antisemitic experiences in the workplace and in conversations with colleagues.

The psychological impact on the Jewish community is significant, causing fear, anxiety, a sense of vulnerability, as well as feelings of isolation and marginalization. Some have told me that they feel a sense of mistrust and feel unsupported in our country. Through the Chanukah season, I heard members of our

community questioning whether to show or share their Jewish identity publicly. As we prepare for Purim, another holiday celebrating the survival and resilience of our people in the face of great dangers, we should work to recognize what antisemitism is and commit to combatting it.

The rise of antisemitism is not a natural or inevitable occurrence. Rather, it is being exploited by influencers and Christian nationalists for their own political gain and to create fear and division. While antisemitism has always existed in certain circles, what is particularly concerning now is the ease and comfort with which people are openly expressing classic antisemitic tropes like alleging Jewish control of the media or that Jews are global elites manipulating world governments.

At Temple Beth El, we have joined the Jewish community to address this emerging issue. We have and will continue to educate our own members on what antisemitism is and how to speak out about it. We have met with students and spoken with par-

ents who have experienced antisemitism in schools. We have worked with Shalom Park to improve security and have proudly supported the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Outshine Hate initiative. We have engaged with other local organizations to promote education about the dangers of hate based on race, ethnicity, and religion. We hosted a workshop presented by the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, educating the educators as they include Holocaust studies in public middle and high schools across the state. We have met with CMS and Union County School officials and offered support to area private schools, too.

One of the most effective ways to combat antisemitism is by building interfaith relationships among different religious communities. Temple Beth El's clergy have also made a concerted effort to reach out to other faith communities and build relationships with them. We have invited leaders from different religious communities to speak at Temple, and we have partic-

ipated in interfaith dialogues and joint projects with a variety of religious groups, including Mecklenburg Ministries, with whom we have a long-standing relationship and on whose board I serve. I also serve on the CMS Interfaith Advisory Committee. I hope that by building relationships with faith groups and leaders, we can build a more inclusive and understanding society that is better equipped to combat hatred and prejudice, build bridges of shared values, and gain a deeper appreciation of our differences. It may not stop antisemitism, but neither we will stand alone.

It is understandable to feel worried about the threats posed by antisemites, but as a rabbi, my greatest fear is not what the antisemites will do to us, but that Jews may feel pressured to distance themselves from their Judaism. In the shadow of antisemitism, the holiday of Purim reminds us to live proudly as Jews. We turned a difficult experience into a joyous holiday, celebrated with parades, costumes, and festive foods. And

Purim teaches us that we can live proudly as Jews and engage with our community, welcoming each other with kindness and showing that Jews come from a variety of backgrounds. To counter fear, we should anchor ourselves in Jewish practice, sharing our love of Judaism with others and supporting Jewish institutions and organizations that provide guidance and assistance. Now is not the time to sit on the sidelines, but rather to support and strengthen our Jewish community and the Jewish institutions working tirelessly to elevate Jewish pride.

We can stand together as a community and take action to combat antisemitism. I am eternally grateful for the partners we have in our community. We can educate ourselves and others about the dangers of hate and work to create a more inclusive and welcoming society. Most importantly, we can be proud as Jews and continue to build interfaith relationships across lines of difference as we create a brighter future for all.

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Religious Life

Temple Israel Social Club To Offer Program About Its Beautiful Stained Glass Windows

By Gene Kavadlo

The beautiful stained glass windows in Temple Israel tell a story, but there is a story behind the story. Anyone who has admired the windows, which were installed when the temple was built in 1991-1992, will surely be interested in attending the Temple Israel Social

Club (TISC) event on February 21. The event will feature Bill Gorelick, whose vision and generosity made the windows possible, and Leslie Wicker, the artist whose talent brought the vision to fruition. Mr. Wicker worked for the Statesville Stained Glass company when, at the age of 23, he

received the commission for the windows. At that young age, it was the largest commission he had ever received. Needless to say, he gave much thought to the story he wanted to tell and how he would tell it through the medium of stained glass. Mr. Wicker is still employed by the Statesville Stained Glass company and the Temple Israel stained glass windows remain the largest commission he has ever received. He will have many stories about its construction and installation and will be happy to answer all questions. We are fortunate to have him with us for this occasion. This exciting event will take place in the Temple Israel sanctuary on Tuesday, February 21 at 11:15 a.m., a time when the morning sun will brightly dis-

play the beauty of the windows. It is open to all Temple members and the general community, but registration is required. Anyone can register online at www.templeisraelnc.org or by call-

ing the Temple office at (704) 362-2796. A free lunch will be served to TISC members following the presentation. There will be a small charge for lunch for non-members.



Temple Israel sanctuary



(Left to right) Dennis Lackey (owner of Statesville Stained Glass), Leslie Wicker (stained glass artist who created Temple Israel's windows) and Bill Gorelick (who financed the windows).

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TORAH TOTS BIM BAM SHABBAT
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Torah Tots Chanukah Celebration



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Concert Images: INDIGO Photography

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Religious Life

Chabad Lights up the Night at Symphony Park on First Night of Chanukah: More Than One Thousand Attend



Chabad of Charlotte ushered in the first night of Chanukah with a successful community Chanukah celebration. The fantastic event created a Chanukah village with Chanukah-themed enclaves, which included Chanukah caves, latke and donut booths, and many fun activities for all to enjoy.

The highlight of the celebration was the lighting of a giant menorah and a fantastic fire show led by Jimmy Pyro.

The event, which attracted more than one thousand participants, was held on the first night

of Chanukah, Sunday, December 18, at Symphony Park. The celebration attracted people from all over Charlotte and was well-covered by local TV news stations.

Judah the Maccabee welcomed the children and many teens outfitted with ancient Israel garb greeted and engaged visitors from young to old.

Shabbat Shira Shabbaton to be held at Chabad of Charlotte on Friday, February 3.

The famed and exciting Friday night Shabbatons at Chabad are coming back after a long hia-



tus. The next one will be held on Friday, February 3, at 5:30 pm.

There are two significant dates in the coming month. One is well-known, Tu Bishvat, the New Year for trees, which falls on Monday, February 6, and Shabbat Shira, the Shabbat of Song, which falls on Shabbat, February 4.

Each of these dates deserves its own celebration — more so when they come so close together.

Tu Bishvat, is a time to recognize G-d's gifts of supreme fruit trees that produce delicious fruits in the Land of Israel. That is why we celebrate the day with these fruits. Shabbat Shira is when we read the Torah portion that

contains the miracle of Israel crossing the Sea of Reeds, and the subsequent song that they joyously sang after the miracle.

The Friday night Shabbaton

will begin with a candle-lighting ceremony followed by a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat. A Shabbat gourmet meal will be served featuring fruits that Israel was blessed with as well as an array of excellent kosher wines from Israel.

Exciting interactive activities will engage guest participants. There will be story time and games for the children. Reservations are needed and the cost for Shabbaton is \$36.00 per adult (12 years and up) and \$15.00 per child (5-11 years). For reservations, please visit our website chabadnc.org or call our office at (704) 366-3984.

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Religious Life

Uptown Chabad Reflects on a Successful 2022

By Rabbi Motti Groner

It was a busy and successful year for the Uptown Chabad for Young Jewish Professionals, and as we begin the new year, it's time to reflect on all that we've achieved.

In 2022, we've reached 457 unique young adults through our events and programs, and we've had 2,393 attendees. We've offered a range of activities, from Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations to educational workshops and social events, all designed to bring together young Jewish professionals in the uptown area.

One of last year's highlights was our annual Drinks and Dreidels Chanukah party at Ink N Ivy, which drew more than



Uptown Chabad Shabbat 180



Wine and Cheese Learning event discussing relationships

170 attendees and featured donuts, latkes, and a giant menorah lighting. We also hosted a successful Pesach Seder, which brought together more than 100 young adults to observe the holiday and traditions.

For the second time, we hosted High Holiday services with an average of 40 young adults per service and a Rosh Hashanah dinner for more than 100 attendees.

Shabbat dinners have been a

staple of the Uptown Chabad and have been a highlight for many of our community members.

Our Shabbat dinners are hosted at our home and have an average attendance of 40 people per dinner. These events provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for young Jewish professionals to celebrate Shabbat and enjoy each other's company. Shabbat dinners also offer an opportunity for spiritual growth and connection.

In addition to these events, we've also offered a variety of educational programs, including a monthly Wine and Cheese Social Learning, where we discuss Jewish ethics, mysticism, the Jewish approach to relationships, and other contemporary issues.

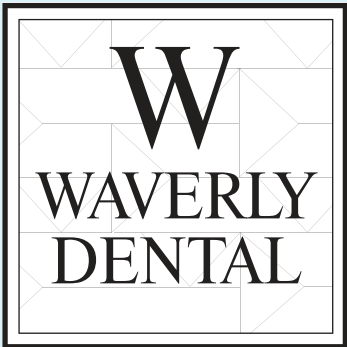
We are grateful to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Charlotte Jewish community, especially Gary and Jodi Michel, for their support of the Uptown Chabad. Their generosity has helped to make our events and programs possible and has allowed us to serve the needs of young Jewish professionals in the uptown area. In addition to the support we receive from these organizations, we are also grateful to our young professional community members who contribute to the funding of our programs.

As we enter the new year, we're excited to continue building on the past year's momentum and to offer even more opportunities for young Jewish professionals to connect, learn, and grow. We look forward to continuing to serve the needs of



Bootlegger-themed Purim party at Prohibition Bar in uptown

young Jewish professionals in the coming year. To learn more about the Uptown Chabad, visit theuptownchabad.com.



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Religious Life

Temple Solel Sisterhood Prepares for a Busy Year

By Dale Rivers, Vice President
Temple Solel

The Sisterhood of Temple Solel has always provided much of the love and effort that has made ours such a caring and nurturing community. Now, with multiple pandemics hopefully winding down and people feeling safer about getting together, our Sisterhood is preparing for a busy year. It's a fun group, joining in activities such as learning how to make yahrzeit candles, afternoon movie trips, and just schmoozing over morning coffee. They have always focused on supporting Temple Solel's worship and outreach programs.

In past years, they put together a demonstration seder with all the fixings so that more than 200 St. Philip Niri Catholic Church 10th graders could experience and more fully appreciate the real meaning of our Passover celebration. This year, now that we have found such a welcoming new home at the Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, our Sisterhood is busy planning a huge Passover



A typical coffee and schmooze

Seder for both congregations. In fact, when Temple Solel was still looking for a new home and we were talking to several possible options, Grace Presbyterian got so excited about a joint seder that they said they wanted to join us, even if our congregation landed somewhere else. That's welcoming!

Passover Seders are not the only events that the Sisterhood supports. Our Sisterhood held a Chanukah latke party right before our annual Temple-spon-

sored Ruach Rockin' Chanukah Concert. Everyone who came to the concert, congregant or not, joined in at the party. We were bursting at the seams, but our Sisterhood pulled it off. Of course, every single latke went.

In March we will hold our annual Purim festival. In the past, this has been a combination of religious service, costume party, and reading of the Megillah. This year, Grace Presbyterian wanted their kids and parents to attend and better understand

the Story of Esther, so we'll be holding a big multi-denominational party for Purim with enough macaroni groggers for all. After the service, the groggers will be donated to the Fort Mill Care Center, since almost everything we do has a social action component. They will also be cooking and serving meals for Grace Presbyterian's Room in the Inn program for homeless men and the Bethel Shelter in Rock Hill. Social action activities like these make Temple Solel a special place.

We are a Reform Jewish congregation that has eliminated the barrier of annual membership dues. While we gladly accept donations, it is much more important to have active participation in our activities. We meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of every month at the Grace Presbyterian Church at 2955 W. Highway 160 in Fort Mill. For more information about our services and other events, please visit <https://templesolelsc.org> or call (803) 610-1707. We'd love to meet you.



Sisterhood Leadership Team Tanya Trachtenberg and Laurabree Monday



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Religious Life

Temple Kol Ami to Celebrate Shabbat Shirah and Shabbat Zachor

By Shari Baum

Shabbat is always a special time each week to let go of the stresses of previous days, rest, and re-energize. However, there are some extra special Shabbatot on which certain events are commemorated. Temple Kol Ami is excited to celebrate two of these unique Shabbatot in February and March.

Shabbat Shirah, or Sabbath of Song, is the name given to the Shabbat that includes Parsha Beshalach, which starts at sundown on February 3. The Torah reading of the week contains the Shirat HaYam, the Song of the Sea sung by the Children of Israel after their safe passage through the Red Sea. This is also the part of the Torah from which the rabbis selected Mi Chamocha to become part of our worship. Traditionally, this Shabbat service has become immersed in music as we commemorate Moses and Miriam leading the Israelites to freedom. Temple Kol Ami is excited to welcome Ann Baumgarten, a seasoned song leader, and wonderful musician, to help lead us in this special musical Shabbat. We also look forward to other musical congregants participating in this service!

In March, we will observe



TKA Ann Baumgarten will lead Shabbat Shirah

Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance, which is on the Sabbath immediately preceding Purim. Deuteronomy 25:17-19, describing the attack by Amalek, is recounted. There is a tradition from the Talmud that Haman, the antagonist of the Purim story, is descended from Amalek. Temple Kol Ami will celebrate Shabbat Zachor on March 3 with a service led by congregant Helene Schilian. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has adopted Shabbat Zachor as Hadassah Shabbat as it was just a week before Purim in 1912 that Hadassah was created, the name taken from the Hebrew name of the heroine of the Purim story, Queen Esther. Helene, who is an

active member of the Charlotte chapter of Hadassah, will combine inspirational readings with a traditional Shabbat service. The service will be completely led by women as we honor the woman, Queen Esther, who literally saved the Jewish nation, as well as all of the women who are so active in Hadassah and other Jewish organizations that help to sustain the Jewish people.

All are invited to join us for these special Shabbatot as well as our regular Kabbalat Shabbat services at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill. We generally meet on the first and third Fridays of each month but it is always best to check the TKA calendar on our website, www.templekolamisc.org, to verify. 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 hope to see you soon!



Better Together in a Successful Intergenerational Program at Temple Kol Tikvah

By Sandy Levitt, Susie King, and Sylvia Gabrieli

Better Together, a grant initiative that began in the fall of 2022 at Temple Kol Tikvah, is a program that enriches the learning experience of the temple teens and the lives of seniors in the temple community while deepening relationships between generations.

It began this past October with a "Getting to Know You" outdoor brunch and mixer. Teens and seniors sat together around picnic tables and answered various questions, such as name all the places you have lived and reason(s) for moving there, describe an event or significant experience that has had a profound effect on you and why, what do you hope to gain from participating in this program?

In November, the group came together for a presentation of Jewish genealogy led by temple member Rhoda Miller. In December, there was an enthusiastic game night along with a buffet of Chinese food. The seniors enjoyed teaching the teens how to play mah jongg, poker, and blackjack. In January, there

will be a special revisiting of genealogy, where participants are asked to bring in a special family treasure. Teens are encouraged to ask their families for the story behind the treasure to share with the group.

According to co-chairs of the senior group, known as HAL (Healthy Active Living), participation at these events has been quite gratifying. More than 10 seniors and 20 teens have attended each event, showing great enthusiasm.



Participants from TKT's first "Better Together" program after some fun and meaningful conversations

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The Importance of Mental Health Care for Seniors

By Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

When we think about the challenges facing our senior community, we think about their health challenges, especially as they are living longer, their financial struggles, especially for the many living on fixed incomes, and the potential for them to become socially isolated, especially as they become less mobile. We don't, however, often think about their mental health.

Did you know people 85 and older have the highest suicide rate of any age group? According to the World Health Organization, the following are key facts related to seniors and mental health:

- At least one in four older adults experience some mental disorder, such as depression, anxiety, or dementia.

- Due to population aging, the number of seniors with mental disorders is expected to double by 2030.

- Depression is the most common mental health problem in older people.

- Two-thirds of seniors with mental health problems do not get the treatment they need (the "treatment gap").

- Mental health services for older adults are extremely limited in most countries in North and South America.

Through a recent data study collected by the CDC, the results of the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System,

implemented in all 50 states, found that in North Carolina close to 15% of adults aged 50 or older experienced frequent mental distress in the past 30 days. Frequent mental distress (FMD) may interfere with major life activities, such as eating well, maintaining a household, working, or sustaining personal relationships. FMD can also affect physical health.

One of the ongoing problems with diagnosing and treating mental illness in seniors is the fact that older adults are more likely to report physical symptoms than psychiatric complaints. In fact, many seniors may not even recognize their own mental health issues. In addition, according to an article in Health In Aging, "Due to stigma, misinformation, and false beliefs about aging, older adults frequently go without adequate care for depression and other psychiatric illnesses and psychological problems. Too often, doctors offer prescription drugs as a cure-all solution, and fail to address the overall mental health and well-being of the older patient. Research shows that older adults are often less comfortable seeking care from a mental health professional than their younger counterparts due to the historical shame and ignorance surrounding mental illnesses."

According to Daniel D. Sewell, MD of UC San Diego Medical Center, "Addressing mental health issues in older

populations requires paying more attention, not less. Family members should seek professional advice if they believe their elderly loved one may be experiencing mental health problems." Family members, however, should not be the only ones paying attention to seniors' need for mental health support. In fact, family members are often too close to the situation to identify the issue. They are often taking on a caregiver role and become so overwhelmed with managing day-to-day that they don't see the emotional toll being experienced by their loved one. Our seniors, however, are often engaged within the community. They attend events and play Mah Jongg, bingo, and cards. They go to the hairdresser, nail spa, and gym. They attend religious services. Often those around them may comment that so and so seemed off today or hasn't been him or herself lately.

Below are some red flags to pay attention to that might indicate a senior needs mental health support:

- Changes in appearance or dress, or problems maintaining the home or yard

- Confusion, disorientation, or other problems with concentration or decision-making

- Decrease or increase in appetite; changes in weight

- Depressed mood lasting longer than two weeks

- Feelings of worthlessness, inappropriate guilt, helplessness;

thoughts of suicide

- Memory loss, especially recent or short-term memory problems

- Physical problems that can't otherwise be explained: aches, constipation, etc.

- Social withdrawal, or loss of interest in things that used to be enjoyable

- Trouble handling finances or working with numbers

- Unexplained fatigue, energy loss, or sleep changes

These are all signs that might indicate a mental health issue for an individual of any age. However, with seniors we have a tendency to just attribute the behaviors to "old age." As a community, we need to pay attention to these signs and explore

what may be going on. Ask them if they are OK. Talk to their family member and acknowledge what you have been observing. Let them know you're not being nosy, just concerned.

If you know of a senior who is in need of mental health support, Jewish Family Services is ready and available with services. Please reach out to JFS at (704) 364-6594.



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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

By Rachel Green, JFS Director of Programs and Services

Teens face many stressors in their busy lives. Many of us can remember the stress of college application due dates and SAT tests, the excitement of proms and dances, and even the bitter-sweet goodbyes of high school graduation. However, according to loveisrespect.org, a very different kind of stress and fear also exists - "1 in 3 U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from someone they're in a relationship with before they become adults." February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Jewish Family Services (JFS) wants to make sure parents and community members are aware of this serious problem and to provide resources and support to address it.

Shalom Bayit is an organization that aims to end domestic violence in Jewish homes. Their website, shalom-bayit.org offers many resources for parents and teens and defines teen dating violence as "... one where there is a pattern of power and control in which one person tries to gain power by taking someone else's power away. The key

here is a pattern of controlling behaviors, not just one isolated incident, although any incident of physical violence crosses the line to abuse. Dating violence is a dynamic where one person is in control and the other is in fear. The pattern often escalates in severity and frequency of incidents. Dating violence can happen to any teen of any race, whether rich or poor, gay or straight, Jewish or not." Like any form of domestic violence, the key component is power and control. These elements of power and control can take the form of a range of types of abuse.

Teen dating violence can include emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. According to shalom-bayit.org, more than one in four teenage girls in a relationship report repeated verbal abuse. Statistics reflect the seriousness of the dating violence issue with 60% of acquaintance rapes on college campuses occurring in a dating relationship.

Knowing the signs of teen dating violence is important, as many teens may not realize that power and control dynamics are occurring. It is totally normal and healthy in teen development for teens to shift focus and at-



tention from family relationships to relationships with friends and romantic partners. An increased need for privacy is also a healthy element of adolescent development. However, in a teen dating relationship, if friends, parents, or other loved ones notice any of the following warning signs, it's important to take action. According to shalom-bayit.org, "The presence of any one of these behaviors does not definitively signal abuse, but rather should signal concern and be a catalyst for a conversation with your child."

- Becomes secretive about his/her relationship
- Has unexplained bruises or

other injuries, or explanations for injuries don't make sense

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or moods
 - Apologizes for partner's behavior and makes excuses for him/her
 - Gives up treasured hobbies and interests
 - Stops spending time with friends and family and becomes isolated
 - Mentions physically abusive or violent behavior, but then tries to minimize it or laugh it off
 - Makes drastic changes in style of clothing, makeup, or weight
 - Loses self-confidence and has unusual difficulty making decisions
 - Begins to receive failing grades or quit school activities
 - Begins using alcohol or drugs
- Though it's clear the stakes are high for teens facing these challenges, it can feel overwhelming to know where to start the conversation. Future-withoutviolence.org created a tool kit for parents to get the conversation started and to address common concerns found in teen dating violence relationships, especially centered on technolo-

gy. Most teens have phones, and these phones can act as "power and control" devices and give the abusive partner 24/7 access to the teen. If you're struggling with how to talk about texting or other warning signs, try some of these conversation points:

- It's not okay for someone to send you messages that interrupt your life. If you can't study or sleep well because of texts coming in all night, that's not okay.
- It's never okay for someone to try to control what you do. If someone texts you asking who - you're with, what you're wearing, or demanding that you respond ASAP, that's not okay.
- Even when dating, it's important to have your own personal time with friends and family. If someone you're seeing sends controlling messages that cut into your private time, that's not okay. Let him or her know you need some space.
- It can be hard to tell someone to stop texting you, but it's really important to be clear about how you feel. Let the person know when it is okay to text you, how often, and what types of messages make you upset,

(Continued on page 21)



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Teen Dating

(Continued from page 20)

overwhelmed, or uncomfortable.

- Remember to be self-aware! If you think you might be over-texting someone else, give yourself some space. Ask the person directly how they feel about how often and what you text. Treat others online and by cell phone the way you would treat them in person, with respect.

- Have you heard kids at school talking about sharing nude or private pictures? How do you feel about sexting? What would you do if you received one of these pictures?

- Why do you think people might send or ask for these pictures? Do you think people might

feel pressured to send a nude picture, maybe to their boyfriend, for instance? How would you handle the situation if someone asked you for a nude or private picture?

If you would like to learn more about the prevention and treatment of teen dating violence or have concerns about a teen in your life, please reach out to JFS at (704) 364-6594.



Jewish Family Services Tributes, December 2022

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Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

Elise Menaker

Happy Birthday to Andrew Bodenheimer

David and Rebecca Burack

Happy Birthday to Fred Kraus

The Leckers

Happy Birthday to Kim Levy

Larry and Dale Polsky

In appreciation of Irving Bienstock

Michael and Denise Abadi

In Honor of Gabriel Yehuda Putterman

Barry and Maddy Gallant

In Honor of Sue Worrel being awarded the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award

Howard Olshansky

In Memory of Ann Schorr

Allen Saxe and Jessica Schorr Saxe

In Memory of Baila Pransky

Shelton and Ellen Goldstein

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In Memory of Fred Shporer

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Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Memory of Marvin Mathews

Stanley Greenspon

In Memory of Mollie Roseman

Rose Atkinson

In Memory of Sam Kaplan

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Judi Strause

In Memory of Tim Martin

Stuart and Jodi Cohen

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Stanley Greenspon

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Special Thanks: PJ Library for "scavenger hunt" for pantry, Hebrew High and CJDS for making Chanukah cards for Senior Chanukah party

Hadassah Meal Preppies:

Sara Friedman, Karen Futersak, June Hirschmann, Yvette Jacobson, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Andi McCleary Harriet Meetz, Helene Schilian, Amy Strasser, Elissa Vining, CCDS 6th Grade class

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

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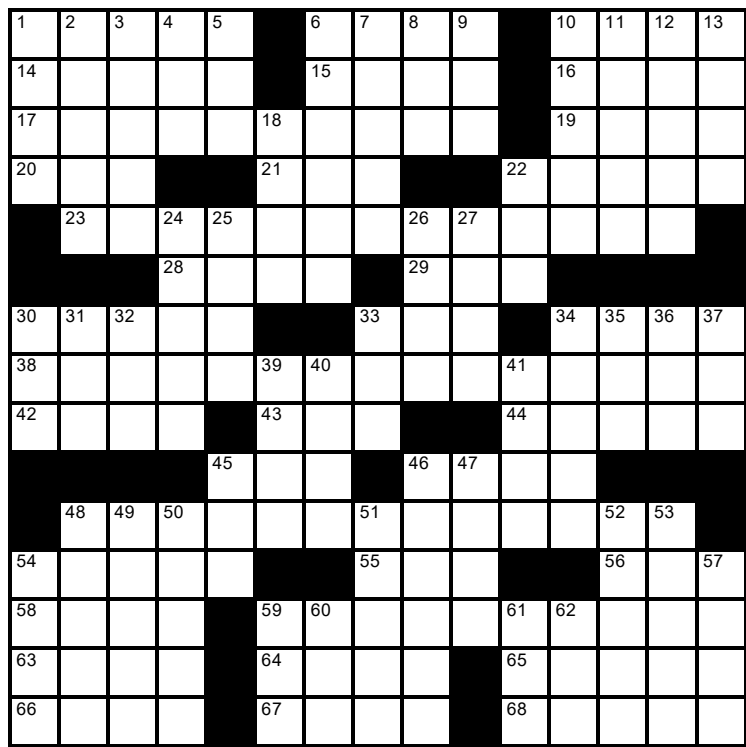
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February Crossword: Game Shows

(Answers on page 34)



Across

- 1. Geller of note
- 6. Some TV's and VCR's
- 10. NCAA part: Abbr.
- 14. Dodge or duck
- 15. Idina's role in "Frozen"
- 16. 2002 Idan Raichel hit
- 17. Yaakov vs. Laban, e.g.
- 19. "Golden Fleece" ship
- 20. Kind of tree
- 21. Belonging to us
- 22. #1 overall pick in the 2018 NBA Draft Deandre
- 23. What 34-Across effectively said when trading his birthright
- 28. Baruch follower
- 29. Jar top
- 30. Shemer of note
- 33. Beverage brand named for the fruit it contains
- 34. See 23-Across
- 38. What Ephron said to Abraham when offered 400 Shekels for his land?
- 42. Lashon or Yetzer
- 43. "Hee ____"
- 44. Loosen bonds
- 45. Raptors, on scoreboards
- 46. Pasadena bowl game
- 48. Elisha to Elijah
- 54. Like many a Tishrei challah
- 55. Blood typing abbr.
- 56. "____ scale from..."
- 58. Italian coin
- 59. Eliab, to Jesse's other

Down

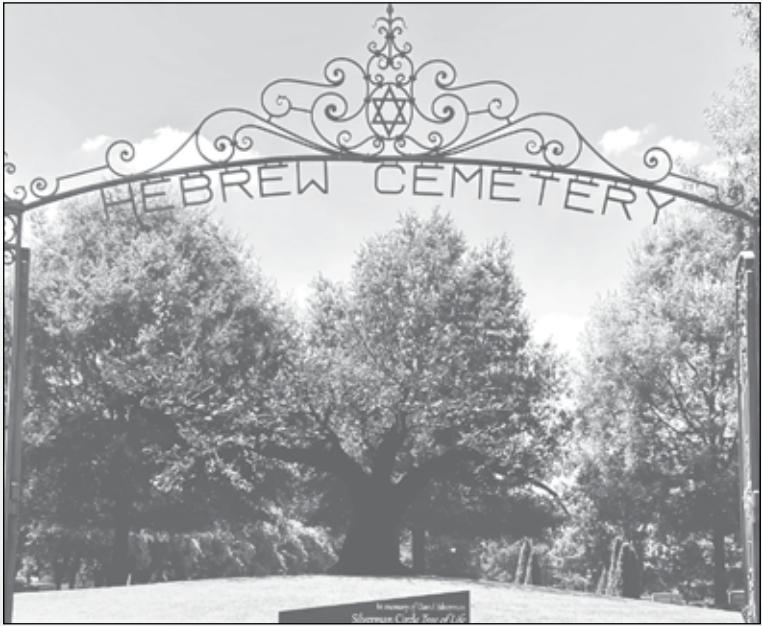
- 1. "Hallelujah" singer Buckley
- 2. Prove helpful
- 3. Alonei ____ (site near Hebron)
- 4. First name in Ugandan despotism
- 5. Crosswords most common treif fish
- 6. What the sick daven for
- 7. Store worker
- 8. Sparky the Sun Devil's sch.
- 9. Like Eicha
- 10. Talmudic great without a "Rav" title
- 11. Kind of
- 12. Dotted vowel
- 13. Bright gas
- 18. Tishrei-centered tractate
- 22. Plus
- 24. Brady's town
- 25. Do some mixing
- 26. Race in an H.G. Wells

Across

- 27. Plans
- 30. High degree
- 31. "I got it!"
- 32. "____ the ramparts we..."
- 33. Synagogue seat
- 34. Esa follower
- 35. Mil. title in a Beatles song
- 36. Crosswords' most common kosher fish
- 37. Beehive State native
- 39. "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery
- 40. Gefilte fish fish
- 41. Oxidization
- 45. Smidgeon
- 46. Yosef Yitzchak or Menachem Mendel
- 47. Words before "about"
- 48. Historic Newport synagogue
- 49. Inflicts pain
- 50. Son of Shet
- 51. Goes berserk
- 52. "Hallelujah" writer Leonard
- 53. Nasser, to Israel
- 54. Raise children
- 57. Room size calculation
- 59. "Dynamite" K-pop band
- 60. Levin or Gershwin
- 61. Giants Hall of Famer Mel
- 62. Article in some hip-hop titles

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 December.

Sarah Luttinger 1-23-1949 - 12-1-2022
Tim Martin 10/17/1952 - 12/7/2022
Hal Keith 1/24/1934 - 12/28/2022
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Women's News

Tradition, a Seder, and Remembrance

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

Upcoming Events

Tradition! Tradition! Join us as Hadassah hosts "Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen" on Opening Night of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, February 4 at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel. Hadassah co-presidents, Yvette Jacobson and Gina Robins will introduce the film. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim puts us in the director's chair and in Norman Jewison's heart and mind, drawing on behind-the-scenes footage, never-before-seen stills, and interviews with many of the actors. Following the film, Neva Small, who played Tevye's daughter, Chava, will share her presentation "Becoming Chava." \$25 includes Opening Night Reception and Q&A. Please register at www.charlottejcc.org/pages/charlotte-jewish-film-festival/

Passover isn't the only time we have a seder! Experience G-d, Israel, and Our Hearts: A Tu B'Shevat Seder and learn how the Seven Species of Israel can promote a healthy heart. Join us on Sunday, February 5, at 2 p.m. and celebrate Israel, our hearts, and the New Year of the Trees. The cost is \$18. Address shared upon registration.

Hadassah's Shabbat Zachor

On the Sabbath before Purim (March 6-7), we read the Torah portion about the cruel and evil Amalek, whose people attacked Israel in the desert. This day is called Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance. It is a special mitzvah to hear the Torah reading and remember. Hadassah's Shabbat Zachor service will take place on Friday, March 3 at Temple Kol Ami in Fort Mill. Services will be held at Philadelphia United Methodist Church at 7 p.m.

Shabbat Zachor is also the perfect time to honor Hadassah's 111th birthday. In 1912, a week before Purim, Hadassah was created. The name Hadassah was taken from the Hebrew name of Queen Esther, the heroine of the Purim story, who saved the Jewish people from extinction. Our service will combine inspirational readings with the traditional Shabbat service. Contact us if you would like to participate.

Hadassah Helpers

A group of Hadassah women, nicknamed the "Hadassah Preppies," provide 120-160 meals each month for Jewish Family Services clients. Coordinated by Elissa Vining, we donate food and supplies and prepare home-cooked meals for delivery.

In December, students at Charlotte Jewish Day School Middle School helped prepare Chanukah meals. The celebra-



CJDS middle schoolers grate potatoes for latkes to include in the Chanukah meals

tory Chanukah menu included apricot chicken, latkes with applesauce, green beans, and decorated cookies. The students made everything from scratch in the school's kosher kitchen as a part of their cooking elective.

There is a need in our community, and we are trying to help fill it. The clients love getting these homemade meals. If you would like to get involved in this mitzvah, you can help with preparing food and donating supplies (sandwich and gallon-sized bags, meal containers, gift cards to grocery stores, monetary donations, etc.).

Mammogram – Check!

Hadassah Charlotte Metro celebrated another successful Mobile Mammogram event in November. Thank you to participants, volunteers, and to Shalom Park and the Levine Jewish Community Center who assisted with set up and facilities.

Monthly Happenings

Add Hadassah Wine & Schmooze to your calendar for February 7 and March 7 at 7 p.m. Enjoy Girls' Night Out on the first Tuesday of each month at Vintner Wine Market in the Arboretum Shopping Center. It's a great event for prospective/new members.

The Short Story Discussion Group is not a typical book club, but it is perfect for literature lovers. Instead of a book, we discuss short stories, as we have for ten years! We meet on the second Friday of each month.

On February 10 at 11:45 a.m. we will discuss the stories Waiting on page 159 and Strangers on page 189 in the book "Scenes from Village Life," by Amos Oz. The meeting will be on Zoom.

Hadassah BookTalk is reading books by authors who will participate in Federation's Center for Jewish Education Jewish Book Festival in March. Zoom

with us on Tuesday, February 28 at 7 p.m. when we discuss "People Love Dead Jews" by Dara Horn. For your advance planning, our March book is "The Thread Collectors" by Shaunna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman.

Helpful Hadassah Info

The next Hadassah Charlotte Metro Board meeting is Monday, February 20 at 7 p.m. Contact us for the Zoom link.

Membership keeps Hadassah strong. Learn about our chapter. Contact Lori Trapani at the phone or email below or come to one of our events. We would love to meet you!

Our website, www.hadassah-cltevents.org, has details about our events. If you have questions, email HadassahCLT@gmail.com or call our general phone number, (980) 553-1880.



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



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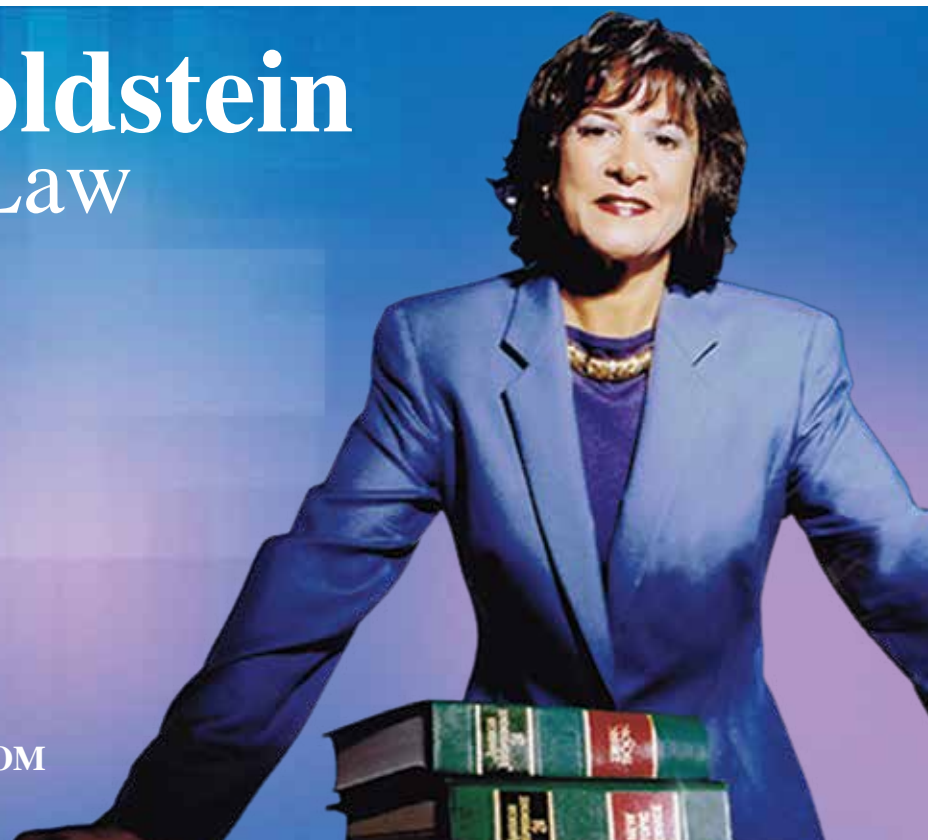
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Women's News

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From Lights to Heights



By Sara Oppenheim

In December and January, most articles are written as a reflection and wrap-up of the past year, its highlights with a peek into the new calendar year. At Women of Wisdom (W.O.W.) our calendar year starts at the onset of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, so instead of doing a year review, let's recap some of W.O.W.'s highlights from Chanukah and share upcoming events.

"What is your favorite part of Chanukah?" was the question asked as everyone introduced themselves at the W.O.W. Chanukah Party. Answers ranged from making potato latkes from a cherished family recipe to lighting the menorah, parties, gifts, family, and more. We then spoke about the miracle of the oil and how it pertains to us today. We spoke about the idea that when all hope seems lost, there's light at the end of the road. When an olive is crushed and what's left is but a small little drop, the oil will rise to the top. How many

times have we given up and felt crushed? No matter how hard you try, oil always stays true to itself. Do we always stay true to ourselves?

We lit the menorah together, sang, schmoozed, and enjoyed five different types of latkes from the latke bar with fun toppings and had a donut decorating competition. Our annual Chanukah gift exchange game always brings a lot of laughs.

Did I mention the W.O.W. Chanukah gift box sale? Our team enjoyed assembling the boxes and after they were distributed, we received wonderful feedback about the boxes and their festive contents. How many Chanukah treat boxes do you think you will order next year?

In January, our quarterly book club discussed the book "What Would You Do If You Weren't Afraid?" by Michal Oshman, head of Culture, TikTok Europe and former leadership expert, Facebook. What would you do

(Continued on page 25)

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.





Showing off our Chanukah gifts and smiles

(Continued from page 24)

if you weren't afraid? It's a great discussion starter. If you make time to think about it, please feel free to email me at wow@charlottetorahcenter.com with your thoughts and I will compile your answers into a follow up article.

Our challah making and braiding event on February 6 will be led by Fran Dordick and co-hosted by myself. While baking, braiding and learning the significance of challah we will share some challah stories. Make sure you join us for a fun night — get your hands dirty, take home delicious challah, and share camaradery.

Stay tuned for our Purim gift box fundraiser sale for W.O.W. programming. The boxes will be Purim themed and contain ha-


mantaschen, candy, chocolates, and more. Don't miss the opportunity to order your box as a gift for all ages. To order your box, see Upcoming Events at www.charlottewomenofwisdom.com

With so much to look forward to with W.O.W., I must confess that our highlight of the year will be the W.O.W. and Momentum partnered trip to Israel this April. Charlotte women who have applied and been chosen for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will spend eight fabulous days in Israel. What greater high could there be than celebrating Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut) in Israel with new friends? To learn more about our Israel trip and local programs please visit Charlottewomenofwisdom.com.



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Education and Youth

Finding Friendships for Those With Special Needs

By Sue Schreiber, Family Coordinator, Friendship Circle

As parents of a child with special needs, finding friendships and play dates for your child can be a challenging but rewarding experience. It's important to remember that a child with special needs is just like any other child and deserves the opportunity to make friends and have fun. With a little effort and support from Friendship Circle, we can help your child build meaningful and lasting friendships.

Here are some tips of what to look for in your community and how Friendship Circle supports this:

- Look for support groups and resources in your community. Friendship Circle is a resource that helps children and teens with special needs create genuine friendships and enjoy inclusive activities and experiences. Our innovative programming is designed to foster enduring and meaningful friendships between those with special needs, "Special Friends", and typically developing teens, "Teen Friends", in the Greater Charlotte Area.
- Consider joining a recreational or sports program.



Enjoying friendship and fun during Friends on the Town where we get together to explore different activities in the community.

Friendship Circle offers weekly group programs that include music and movement, arts and crafts, Birthday Circle and Friends on the Town as inclusive options for children with special needs. These programs provide a structured environment for your child to have fun and make lasting friendships.

- Reach out to other parents. Friendship Circle also has a parent's/mom's group to provide support and friendship to all of the parents whose children participate in Friendship Circle. These groups can provide a sense of community and offer opportunities for your child to socialize with friends, while parents socialize with other parents in our brand new parent lounge.



Friends doing splatter art during Sunday Circle.

Friendship Circle organizes play dates and outings through its two programs. Friends Together, our is our flagship program where we pair a Teen Friend to meet on

a weekly basis at the Friendship Circle Building. Our Friends engage in a variety of activities, based on shared interests, with the intent that over time a true and meaningful friendship will develop. Our weekly programs provide opportunities for Special Friends and Teen Friends to participate in a broad range of weekly group activities.

Remember, finding friendships and play dates for your child with special needs may take extra effort, but it is worth it to see your child thrive and make



Playing games during Friends Together, a weekly meeting between friends.

meaningful connections with others. At Friendship Circle we can help. Our focus is on making friends. We know how impactful the power of true friendship can be. Friends are not a luxury, they're a necessity. We are committed to sparking dreams, building friendships and creating a more inclusive community.

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more, visit friendshipcircclenc.org.





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Education and Youth

Celebrating the Selkin Family Inclusive Fun Zone

By Sue Schreiber, Family Coordinator, Friendship Circle

On January 8, more than 200 Friendship Circle friends and supporters came out to celebrate the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Selkin Family Inclusive Fun Zone. The evening included speeches by donors, Friendship Circle participants, and city council members with delicious food and music by our own Friendship Circle Band. Attendees were also treated to tours of the new Fun Zone where they

had the opportunity to visit Jeremy's Dream Room; a sensory friendly space where quiet and calm is the theme; the Music and Movement Room with a piano, mirrored wall, and a complete drum set; and the Arts and Creativity Studio; where everyone's inner artist can come to life. One of the highlights of the evening was when attendees had the opportunity to try out the musical stairs leading to the indoor tree house, slide down the twisty slide into the play park, and jump

on the trampoline into the foam pit. Charlotte's first Inclusive Fun Zone is a space where individual interests and abilities are honored and lifelong friendships will be created.

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more, visit friendshipcircle.org.



Celebrating our Grand Opening with friends



Rochel Groner, director of Friendship Circle, introducing Jacob, our very own piano man



Friendship Circle over the years.



Friends taking a tour of the Inclusive Fun Zone



Jacob and Chase, two of our Friends, enjoying the opening night festivities

Thank You



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Education and Youth

Charlotte Jewish Day School Special Friends Day 2022

Grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbors, and friends visited Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) students to celebrate Chanukah. A musical performance by all the students from grades TK-6 entertained the guests with traditional, newly composed, and modern Chanukah songs in multiple languages. The children sang songs through the ages in Ladino, Yiddish, Hebrew, and English. Of course, the day would not have been complete without a visit to the Latke

Bar, Sufganiot Decorating Station, Chanukah Brachot Art Station, STEAM Chanukah Light Project, Chanukah Photo Booth, and Theatre. It was a perfect day! CJDS students also made Chanukah cards for our special friends at Oasis and JFS. The third, fifth, and sixth graders visited Wal-tonwood and Carriage Club and the sixth grade students cooked 30 complete Chanukah dinners for Jewish Family Services.



David Waizman, Alexa Geller



Sira Lissek, Maayan Lissek



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CJDS Middle School Sixth Grade delivering chessed meals to JFS



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Education and Youth

More Than Chanukah and Challah: Charlotte Teen Launches Jewish Culture Club

By Carrie Rabinowitz

Like all great Jewish events, Aliya Martin, a junior at Providence High School, started the Jewish Culture Club with food.

More than 50 students ate apples and honey to welcome the Jewish New Year and the school's newest club.

"Our goal is to create a space where Jewish teens feel comfortable with their identity. We also want to encourage non-Jews to participate and show support for the Jewish community as well as learn about different cultures, and just have fun!" the group's webpage states.

The club has taken root and is flourishing, boasting more than 110 members, of which about 60% are Jewish. "There's a very large Jewish population of students at my school, and a lot of them had their non-Jewish friends sign up," Martin said.

Cora Blosser, a sophomore who grew up in a Christian household, joined because a few of her good friends are Jewish. "Through them I learned about the club and I have met a ton of people," Blosser said of her involvement. "This club has



Enjoying homemade latkes while playing dreidel for Chanukah

opened my mind. It's been very interesting to learn about this culture and I wouldn't have been exposed to this at home. Everyone is welcoming and inviting. It's very inclusive and accepting of everyone."

Martin said she tries to base

the monthly meetings around a holiday or a theme. "During Sukkot, we had the sukkah mobile come. And it was amazing because everyone was into it. Even a lot of Jewish kids told me they didn't know what Sukkot was."

More than 50 Providence High School students shook the lulav and the etrog at school this year. And they even made little sukkahs out of graham crackers. "Our kids had never seen anything like it," club advisor and PHS guidance counselor Emily Snyder said, calling the experience a very teachable moment for everyone. "It was a nice way of teaching part of our culture. Judaism is so much more than Chanukah and challah."

The inspiration for the club came during a BBYO gathering last year. "In Charlotte



Aliya Martin

(Continued on page 31)

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Education and Youth

Jewish Culture Club



Shaking the lulav and etrog for sukkot with the mobile sukkah

(Continued from page 29)

BBYO we decided to not only have the four chapters together but to invite ALL (local) Jewish Youth Groups to come together," Martin explained. "When I saw people from so many different groups, I realized just how many Jewish teens there were and I wanted more opportunities to bring everyone together. I saw how happy people were at the event and thought they would enjoy future events similar to it."

The groundwork started last April. Martin had to complete several forms, lay out everything regarding what the club would look like, obtain at least 100 student signatures of those who supported the club, and support her project in interviews.

"It's kind of intimidating to get that many signatures but she didn't have any trouble," Snyder said. "Aliya is a great leader and people like her. She has an infectious personality and there are fun, accessible, kind kids who run it. The club has been popular from the start. As a counselor, but also as a Jewish person, I'm proud of Aliya for doing this."

Besides Martin, who is president, the Jewish Culture Club board includes a vice president, a treasurer, a social media chair, and a non-Jewish representative for reviewing programming.

The club's success has been a bit of a surprise to Martin. "I didn't think it would be anywhere as successful as it is," she said. "My club is double the size I thought it would be, especially for the first year. Everyone has been so positive. I'll get messages from parents about how much

they love the club and I've had a lot of members tell me directly tell me how much they like the club."

Dimitri Ferrell is an 11th grader who, like Blosser, joined hoping to learn more about a culture with which he is unfamiliar. "The energy and the atmosphere is incredible," he said. "They are very engaging in the ways in which they teach us about both the religion and the culture. I've learned the meaning behind some of the holidays, such as Yom Kippur and Chanukah. And I learned that I love latkes."

Martin said she spends about 4 hours a month planning club activities and she hopes to continue leading the club until she graduates in June 2024.

"The club has held it's weight," Snyder said. "Kids keep coming back. It hasn't gotten smaller. I hope that it continues after she graduates."



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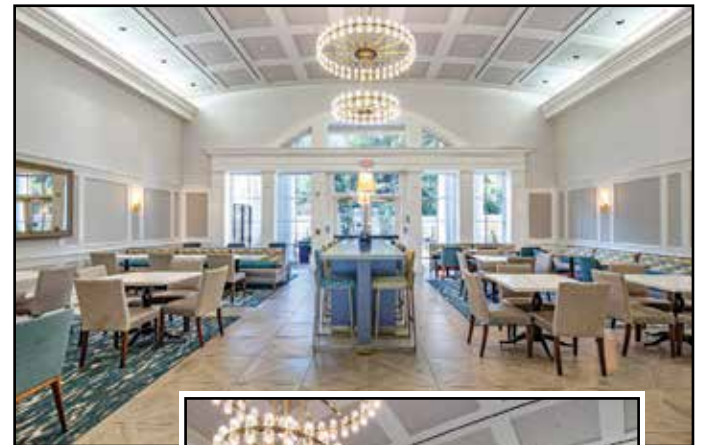
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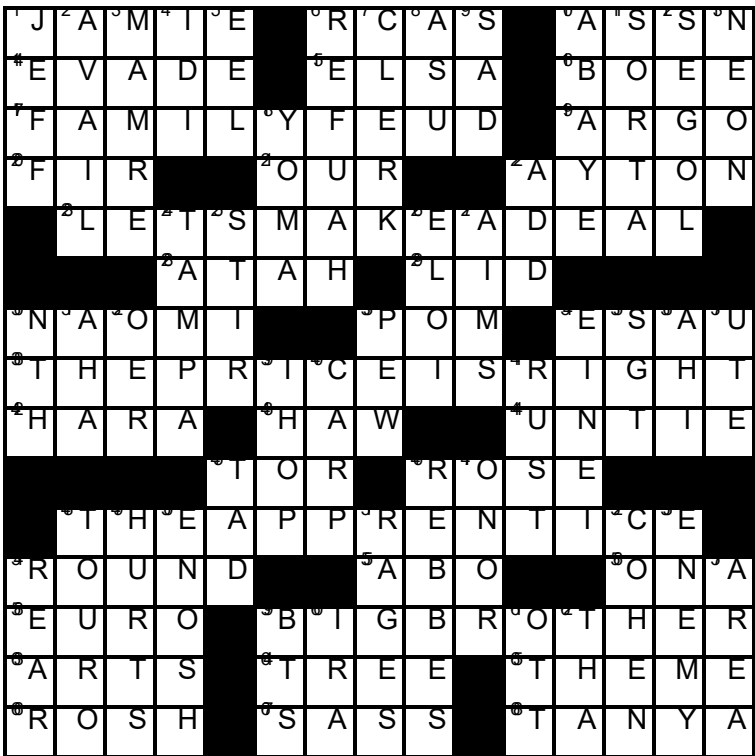
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Thursday 9 AM-5 PM in the home of Lynn Edelstein, 3802 Columbine Dr.
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(Puzzle on page 22)



Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following article is from The Charlotte Jewish News, February, 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

Much excitement was generated as 350 members of the Jewish community attended the Charlotte Jewish Federation Campaign Kick-Off, "Come to the Cabaret," on January 18 at the Two First Union Atrium.

The evening began with a social hour at which beverages and hors d'oeuvres were served. Program highlights included outgoing President Emily Zimmern's remarks and the presentation by Shelton Gorelick of a menorah to her in recognition of her two years of presidency.

Introductions of the officers of the merged Foundation and Federation, incoming President Shelton Gorelick and the Federation's new Executive Director, Daniel Lepow, were made. Shelton Gorelick addressed the 1992 Federation Regular Cam-

paign, reporting that the campaign at present is running at a 12% increase. He stressed the challenge to meet our campaign goal of \$1.25 million as we 'Answer the Challenge Together.'

Special acknowledgment was made to the board members of the recipient agencies who receive funding from the Federation. These agencies are the heart and soul of human service programs offered in Charlotte, Israel and worldwide. A video featuring the miracle of exodus was shown underscoring our efforts in making the current exodus of Soviet and Ethiopian olim a success.

The performer of the evening, Moshe Waldocks, offered a delightful feast of Jewish jokes in a cabaret-styled performance.

After the performance, attendees



(L to R) Nat Roberts, chair of the Hebrew Cemetery Association; Shelton Gorelick, Federation president; Dan Lepow, Federation executive director; Susie Lepow

enjoyed a variety of desserts and coffee.

Thanks go to the Kick-Off co-chairs, Lisa Platock and Jack Levinson and committee members, Adam Bernstein, Cary Bernstein, Peggy

Gartner, Margi Goldstein, Susan Hennes, Hal Levinson, Amy Marx, Gene Marx and Sara Schreiber for their outstanding help and dedication

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Now We Go Forward

Federation's 2023 Annual Campaign continues to raise funds to support the vital work of our more than 70 beneficiary agencies, **and** secures **additional** funding for **new** initiatives, whose success is equally vital for our community.

The focus areas for additional funding are:



Outshine Hate

Combating antisemitism and anti-Israel bias by educating, strengthening, and uniting the local community through education, training, and community partnerships.



Safety & Security

Advancing the safety, security, and resiliency of our community with necessary training, tools, and resources required to safeguard our community.



Jewish Identity

Strengthening Jewish identity and continuity by investing in, and ensuring affordable access to, proven high-impact, high-intensity, immersive Jewish experiences.



CJE Capital Campaign

Modernizing our users' experience in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library with enhanced technology, community gathering spaces, and an updated Children's Room that better reflects today's hands-on learning styles.

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