

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

Vol. 45, No. 1

Tevet-Shevat, 5783

January 2023

Federation Launches 2023 Annual Campaign: “Now We Go Forward”

Three years ago, a careful and thorough analysis of growing agency and community needs clarified the need to grow Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s (JFGC) Annual Campaign to \$5 million. Last fall, our community celebrated the triumphant achievement of this record-breaking milestone and all of the donors who made it possible.

The launch of the 2023 Annual Campaign, with its theme of “Now We Go Forward,” keeps the momentum going, building on past success with our community’s future in mind. As we go forward, the focus will be a dual one that continues to raise funds to support the vital work of our more than 70 beneficiary agencies and secures additional funding for new community initiatives, whose success is equally vital for our community’s safety, well-being, and growth in the 21st century.

The for focus areas for additional funding are:

Outshine Hate: Combatting 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 the greater Charlotte Jewish community with all of the necessary training, tools, and resources required to safeguard our community.

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

Center for Jewish Education Capital Improvements: Modernizing our users’ experience in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library with enhanced technology, community gathering spaces, and an



Slade Goldstein, 2023 Annual Campaign chair

updated Children’s Room that better reflects today’s hands-on learning styles.

Sam Bernstein, JFGC chief development and marketing officer says, “The growth of our Annual Campaign is a testament to our donors who continue to ensure that we remain a vibrant, thriving Jewish community. Our 2023 ‘Now We Go Forward’ Campaign theme creates a platform for us to build upon our success and respond to the pressing and relevant communi-

ty needs confronting our Jewish community in today’s times.”

The 2023 Annual Campaign kicks off on January 19 at Federation’s Main Event featuring Emmy Award winning and ABC News 20/20 co-anchor Juju Chang. (See page back page for details.)

The Annual Campaign is instrumental to Federation’s fulfillment of its mission as a community builder and convenor, fundraiser and grantor, and sustainer of Jewish life and Jewish identity for greater Charlotte and beyond. Slade Goldstein, 2023 Annual Campaign chair, remarks, “My own experience with JFGC has given me the opportunity to understand, at a community-wide level, the impact of the generosity of our donors. I witnessed firsthand, as the Charlotte Jewish population began to expand in the Lake Norman region, the ways in which JFGC recognized, supported and

invested in this growth. With the benevolence of our donors, JFGC continues to ensure that Jewish identity can and will thrive in every corner of our community.”

To donate to Federation’s 2023 Annual Campaign or register for the Main Event, please visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.

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



Fun Zone Grand Opening: A New Era of Friendship and Inclusion

After years of planning, developing, and constructing, Friendship Circle is excited to announce and invite the community to the Grand Opening of its Inclusive Fun Zone. This 6,000 sq. ft. indoor play space, the first one of its kind the area, offers

fun, recreational, therapeutic, educational, and social opportunities for children, teens, and young adults with special needs to enjoy alongside their typically developing friends.

Boasting a music and movement studio, art and creativity spot, multi-sensory dream room,

indoor sensory-friendly park, “Please Touch” hallway, parent lounge, and teen leadership hub, this adventurous place has come to life thanks to the partnership of many generous supporters in the community who will be celebrated at the Grand Opening. Among those supporters, we are grateful to the Selkin family for making the first major funding commitment in 2018, which kicked off the vision for this project and the Sklut family, who dedicated the Friendship Loft and Play Space in honor of their children, Bashia and Mason Sklut.

(Continued on page 3)



A rendering of Friendship Circle’s new Inclusive Friend Zone

2023 Main Event



Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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From the Editor

Turning the Page



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

My job description as the editor of The Charlotte Jewish News extends beyond wielding my red pen. I am something of a Jill of all trades. Part of my job is the actual design and layout of the paper. I get to let my creative side play once a month. But it would be unmanageable to begin the layout of a 36-48 page paper from scratch each month. So my process involves taking the paper from the previous month, purging it of all old content — wiping the slate clean, so to speak — until I am left with mostly blank pages, retaining what is still relevant while filing away that which is now out of date.

As I looked at this month's issue, with its blank pages wait-

ing to be filled, not yet knowing what would go on them, I reflected that this process is not unlike that of entering a new year. The pages of our days to come are empty. I am curious what will be written on them.

We, of course, bear some responsibility for what will go on those pages, which is why so many people make resolutions at this time of year. But I stopped setting resolutions years ago. Not because I couldn't keep them, though that is certainly why many abandon the process altogether. Some research suggests that the success rate for actualizing resolutions is 9%! In fact, Strava, an internet service for tracking physical exercise, documented more than 800 million user-logged activities in 2019 and found that most people toss in the towel on January 19, a day they've dubbed "Quitters Day."

No, the reason I don't make resolutions is probably the same reason so many fail at their resolutions — it's not keeping the resolutions that's the problem, but it's the way we choose those resolutions in the first place. Most of us make resolutions based on what we think we want

to have or be. We have our idea of what will make us happy. But I realized a few years ago that my ideas about what would make me happy are just a subset of all the possibilities that I'm not even aware of.

My rabbi, Rabbi Ted Falcon, taught me a different tool for preparing for a new year that honors and opens the door for all those possibilities. Instead of focusing on what we wanted to have or be, he taught us to focus on how we wanted to feel and what we wanted to experience, then to pay attention! Is it really that job that I want? Is it really that goal weight that I want? Is it really that boy I have a crush on that I want? Or is it financial security, health, and love? If I focus on the former list, I risk being desperately disappointed when things don't turn out the way I'd hoped they would. In fact, I risk being disappointed if they do, because my idea of what will bring me financial security, health, and love is limited. It must be, because my imagination is limited. But if I focus on the latter, I open the door for all the other surprising ways that experiencing them might show up.

If you'd asked me to design my perfect year for 2022, it would not have been the one I ended up living. I would have sold myself short. My actual year was so much more. People came

Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing. Believe in yourself. And believe that there is a loving Source - a Sower of Dreams - just waiting to be asked to help you make your dreams come true.

— Sarah Ban Breathnach

into my life who I didn't know existed. Opportunities presented themselves that have enriched my life in ways beyond what I could have dreamed. 2022 was an amazing year for me, one that taught me not to try to design 2023 from my own imagination. If 2022 taught me anything, it's that God's imagination is infinitely larger than my own.

The other thing I learned from Rabbi Ted is to be cautious about the energy with which we envision that future, or make those resolutions if that is still our practice. It's a fine line to walk between envisioning a future we want and rejecting a present we have. At this time of year, I try to wrap my arms around the present with gratitude and envision how I can add to the good that I already have and already am.

With January's paper put to bed, it's time to clear the pages and make way for whatever February's news will be. Like

my own year about to be — I don't yet know what will be on those pages. Sometimes I think I know; I keep notes on potential articles to expect. Invariably, however, I am surprised by something unexpected that has happened in the community and that comes my way, sometimes at the last minute after I've already put the paper together. I suppose that's what makes a community paper relevant. It's the very fact that those pages get filled up with that which didn't already know or expect that gives it its value. I do know that whatever goes on those pages will be beyond what I anticipated because I have learned that our community can achieve more than my limited imagination can anticipate.

As a writer, the blank page used to fill me with anxiety. It's vast, open, and endless. Today that very same vast, open, endlessness that fills me with curiosity and hope instead. I'm curious what this year will bring for me, personally, and for us as a community. And I have hope, and faith, that it will be beyond what we imagine.

Shira

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

January 6 — 5:08 p.m.
January 13 — 5:14 p.m.
January 20 — 5:21 p.m.
January 27 — 5:28 p.m.

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Shira Firestone, Editor

5007 Providence Road,
Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226
(704) 944-6765

www.charlottejewishnews.org
charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

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Fun Zone



Friendship Circle dance class in the new Music and Movement Room

(Continued from front page)

This Inclusive Fun Zone is a game-changer for our community. For most children and teens with special needs, friendships with peers who don't have special needs is not just uncommon, it's almost unheard of, but this type of friendship and inclusion builds confidence and offers the opportunity to interact and become a valued member of the community. For the typically developing teen, the opportunity to develop authentic friendships that are not based on social media presence or a "coolness" factor can be just as elusive. However, these kinds of authentic friendships give them the confidence to stand up to peer pressure, recognize their own value, and see beyond fads to build meaningful and healthy relationships.

Friendship Circle brings together these two groups of teens, referred to as Special Friends and Teen Friends, with the Friends Together program. Through one-on-one weekly playdates, these friendships are formed and nurtured. The Inclusive Fun Zone will not only host these playdates but it will enable Friendship Circle to expand programming to include after-school clubs and other weekly group activities.

Please join us at the ribbon cutting to celebrate the highly-anticipated Grand Opening of the Fun Zone on January 8 at the entrance



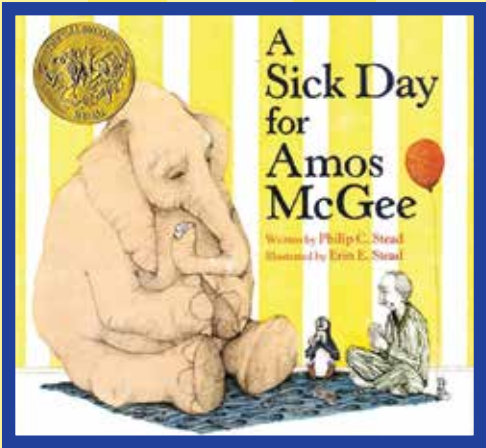
Volunteers Amy Marx and Michelle Yoder proudly display the "Please Touch" Wall.

of the Selkin Family Friendship Circle Center, 6619 Sardis Road. To learn more and to RSVP visit FriendshipCircleNC.org/New-Center

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



Join us for a
Children's Theatre
of Charlotte production of



A Sick Day for
Amos McGee

Kindly zookeeper Amos McGee gets sick and is visited by all the animals in the zoo. See this beloved PJ Library book brought to life by the amazing Children's Theatre of Charlotte.

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Sue's Bookshelf



By Sue Littauer

January is the time when many of us resolve to make changes and/or improvements to our lifestyles in the coming year. The top resolutions usually include going to the gym, losing weight, being nicer to people, etc. How about resolving to read more, join a book club, or expand our knowledge of our Jewish culture?

Look no further than The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) - a real gem among the many institutions and organizations in our Jewish community. For those of you who love to read, I hope that you are taking advantage of this resource that is available to you. Personally, I primarily read on the Kindle app on my iPad.

I reserve and check out books through the Libby App, and I am signed into both the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and the Center for Jewish Education sites. One advantage of getting your books from CJE over Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is that they can be checked out for three rather than two weeks.

Just glancing at the currently available eBooks on CJE's site, I can recommend several books:

"Mr. Perfect on Paper" by Jean Meltzer
"The Gown" by Jennifer Robson
"Girls with Bright Futures" by Tracy Dobmeier and Wendy Katzman
"The Matzah Ball" by Jean Meltzer
"Our Darkest Night" by Jennifer Robson
"The Yellow Bird Sings" by Jennifer Rosner
"The Grace Kelly Dress" by Brenda Janowitz
"Not Our Kind" by Kitty Zeldis
"The Takeaway Men" by Meryl Ain
"The Book of Separation" by Tova Mirvis

"Ahava" by Dr. Tarece Johnson

If you're familiar with the Libby App, you know you can reserve books, too, by "placing a hold." Bestsellers such as "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan, "Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin, "The Latecomer" by Jean Hanff Korelitz, "The German Wife" by Kelly Rimmer, "Signal Fires" by Dani Shapiro, "The Matchmaker's Gift" by Lynda Cohen Loigman, "The Most Likely Club" by Elyssa Friedland, and "People Love Dead Jews" by Dara Horn are among the 160 eBooks which can be reserved.

So, if you're making your 2023 Resolutions, why not add checking out the Center for Jewish Education and all it has to offer for community readers? You'll be glad you did!

If you need technical assistance, please contact lisa.garfinkle@jewishcharlotte.org

For more information about the CJE Book Club, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.



Center for Jewish Education Book Club Schedule

January 11:	An Affair of Spies	Ron Balson
February 8:	The Matchmaker's Gift	Lynda Cohen Loigman
March 8:	The Thread Collectors	Alyson Richman
May 10:	The Latecomer	Jean Hanff Korelitz
June 14:	He Gets That From Me	Jacqueline Friedland
July 1:	Our Darkest Night	Jennifer Robson
August 9:	Metropolis	B. A. Shapiro
September 13:	The German Wife	Kelly Rimmer
October 11:	The Last Rose of Shanghai	Weina Del Randel
November 8:	The Paris Daughter	Kristen Harmel
December 13:	The Most Likely Club	Elyssa Friedland

Center for Jewish Education Book Club

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
All community members are welcome to attend.

For more information about the CJE Book Club,
please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.



Jewish BookFESTIVAL 2023

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SAVE THE DATE!

* 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 OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books

Fantasy for Tweens, Teens & Adults



By Debby Block

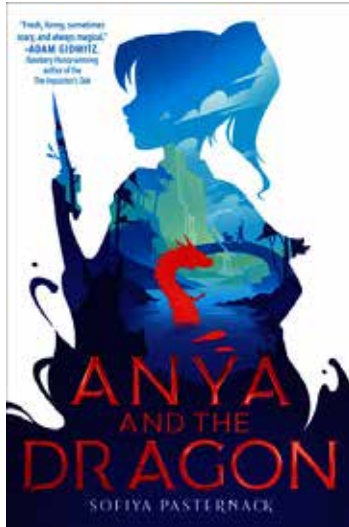
Ever since I finished reading the Harry Potter series, I have been searching for more escapist, fantasy adventure books. I don't think that I am alone in this quest! It just so happens that on my long flight home from Israel, I finished a book and frantically began searching my eBook reader for something else to fill my time. Fortunately, I found the book "Anya and the Dragon," and I just could not put it down!

Set in the 10th century Russia, "Anya and the Dragon," by Sofiya Pasternack, is a story filled with fantasy, magic, and, of course, mythical creatures. Brave Anya is a daughter of the only Jewish family in a small village in Eastern Europe. When her family's farm and home are threatened by an antisemitic government official, Anya tries to find a way to make money and save her family's home.

She meets a friendly family of magical "fools" who promise to pay her in exchange for helping them capture the last dragon in Russia for the Tsar. This seems simple enough, until Anya discovers that the sought-after dragon is actually sentient and friendly. Anya is faced with a difficult choice: save the dragon or save her family. I love the fantasy in this book, but I also loved how the story combines ancient Jewish folklore and familiar Jewish traditions, such as baking challah. Happily, there is a sequel called "Anya and the Nightingale" and I cannot wait to read it as well! Recommend for tweens (10 and up) as well as teens, and even adults who enjoy books like Harry Potter.

Of course, I couldn't stop with just one Jewish fantasy book, so I searched the shelves of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and found more amazing options to recommend. The next book I found was filled with ghosts, golems, Kabbalah, and a mystical maze all set in a modern-day Jewish summer camp. "The Path of Names" by Ari Goelman is a fabulous page-turner!

Socially-awkward Dahlia is not happy to be sent to Jewish camp, but what she finds at Camp Arava captures her interest and soon leads to a supernatural adventure. First Dahlia notices some little girls that walk through walls and she



thinks it is a magic trick. Then, Dahlia begins to have strange dreams about a rabbi who lived more than 72 years ago, and she seems to know things that only this Rabbi David would have known. With the mystical knowledge and the help of a Golem, will Dahlia be able to defeat the evil forces of the Il-

luminated Ones and rescue her fellow campers? Recommended for readers 10 and up.

Finally, I jumped into the book "The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and their Holy Dog" by Adam Gidwitz. This book has won many accolades, including the Sydney Taylor Book Award winner and a Newberry Honor Book Award. Set in 13th century France, this is the story of three very different children and a dog on the run from persecution. Jacob is a Jewish boy with a talent for miraculous healing who is looking for his parents; William is an unbelievably strong, tall, dark-skinned boy who was raised by the monks; and Jeanne is a Christian peasant girl who has been forced to flee her village because her clairvoyant seizures lead to an accusation of witchcraft. Finally there is the white greyhound who has miraculously come back to life. The children meet and quickly

overcome their prejudices to build a friendship. Together they vow to rescue a copy of the Talmud after the King has ordered that all Jewish books be burned. Amidst their fantastical quest, they encounter magic, sword fights, dragons, friends and foes, but through it all, they work together while overcoming the religious, racial, and sexist bigotry of the times. "The Inquisitor's Tale" features many non-Jewish main characters, and the setting is steeped in French Catholicism, nonetheless this book is full of adventure, fantasy, lots of kid-friendly humor and most of all lessons about tolerance and friendship. Recommended for 10 years and up.

These books and many more terrific books are available at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. To reserve a copy, please call or email us today. (704) 944-6783 or library@jewishcharlotte.org.



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2023 Allocations

2023 LOCAL BENEFICIARY AGENCIES \$4,011,166

You Impact All Things Jewish Record Allocations \$5,004,641*

*total amount net of campaign shrinkage and reserves

Anti-Defamation League <i>Our nation's premier civil rights/human relations organization.</i>	\$2,300
BBYO <i>Youth-led, worldwide organization, promoting Jewish identity and personal growth among Jewish teens.</i>	\$16,800
Ballantyne Jewish Center <i>Provides one week of Jewish winter camp and three weeks of Jewish summer camp to children in the greater Ballantyne area.</i>	\$15,750
Birthingright Israel <i>Young adults traveling to Israel.</i>	\$7,500
Butterfly Project <i>Educates the community on the lessons of the Holocaust.</i>	\$10,500
Center for Jewish Education <i>Promotes the advancement of lifelong Jewish education, learning and literacy.</i>	\$211,827
Chabad Lake Norman <i>Create a dynamic family oriented center to enhance the Lake Norman Jewish Community.</i>	\$7,350
Charlotte Community Agencies <i>Crisis Assistance Ministries, Mecklenburg Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, Hospice Charlotte, Safe Alliance, Roof Above, CBI.</i>	\$9,775
Charlotte Jewish Day School <i>Quality Jewish day school serving students from Kindergarten through 6th grade.</i>	\$191,425
Charlotte Jewish Film Festival <i>Illuminates global Jewish experiences through film.</i>	\$8,400
Charlotte Jewish Preschool <i>Quality Jewish preschool educational program and full day childcare facility.</i>	\$66,625
Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies <i>An enriched Judaic program for Charlotte-area teens.</i>	\$30,450
Foundation of Shalom Park <i>Provides rent and security subsidies for Jewish agencies in Shalom Park, helping to keep operational expenses to a minimum.</i>	\$462,608
Friendship Circle <i>Creates lasting friendships between Jewish teens and children with special needs.</i>	\$28,350
Hebrew Cemetery <i>Provides a dignified final resting place for the Charlotte Jewish community.</i>	\$36,250
Hebrew Cemetery Funeral Assistance Fund <i>Provides dignified burials for Jewish families in need.</i>	\$9,900
Israel Action Network <i>Builds a strong base of support for Israel, counters delegitimization, and advocates for a peaceful future with two states for two peoples, by educating, organizing, and mobilizing North American Jewry to address BDS and other forms of anti-Israel delegitimization and antisemitism</i>	\$1,275
Jewish Community Relations Council <i>Promotes the interest of the Charlotte Jewish community by creating working relations with our neighbors and serving as the collective voice of the Jewish community.</i>	\$369,570
Jewish Council for Public Affairs <i>Serves as representative voice of the American Jewish community.</i>	\$1,100
Jewish Council of Lake Norman <i>Community programming to enrich and strengthen Jewish life in the Lake Norman area.</i>	\$16,800
Jewish Educational Loan Fund <i>Provides interest-free loans to college students in the Southeast.</i>	\$3,600
Jewish Experience Fund <i>Subsidies for summer camps and other Jewish youth experience opportunities</i>	\$7,500
Jewish Family Services <i>Professional counseling, family education programs, and social services.</i>	\$314,675
Jewish Family Services Tzedakah Fund <i>Emergency financial assistance and loans to assist local Jewish families in need.</i>	\$12,000

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte <i>Development</i> <i>Administration, Operations, Finance, and Marketing</i> <i>Education and Engagement</i>	\$597,375 \$403,481 \$151,946
Jewish Preschool on Sardis <i>Quality Jewish preschool educational program.</i>	\$31,500
Moishe House <i>Provides meaningful Jewish experiences for young adults in their 20's as they create a vibrant home-based Jewish community.</i>	\$24,150
North Carolina Council on the Holocaust <i>Holocaust educational workshops and displays for public and private school teachers.</i>	\$29,400
North Carolina Hillel <i>Promotes Jewish life on college campuses across North Carolina.</i>	\$64,575
PJ Library <i>Strengthen the identities of Jewish families and their relationships to the Jewish community by offering free, high quality Jewish books and music to families raising Jewish children ages six months through eight years.</i>	\$26,728
Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center <i>Enriches Jewish lives through cultural, educational and athletic programming.</i>	\$328,000
Shalom Green <i>Shalom Park Environmental Initiative promoting Jewish values through sustainable living, a community garden, and educational programming.</i>	\$7,350
Shalom Park Freedom School <i>Embraces Jewish values and builds Jewish Identity by providing a summer enrichment program for children of poverty in CMS schools.</i>	\$17,850
Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice <i>Provides educational programs based on lessons of the Holocaust as well as current events with a focus on antisemitism.</i>	\$28,875
Supplemental Gifts and Special Distributions <i>Provides customized giving opportunities over and above Annual Campaign gifts, enabling donors to maximize their giving potential and fulfill their philanthropic goals. Includes American Jewish World Service, Birthingright Israel, Blumenthal Educator Resource Center, CJE Campaign, Gorelick Teens to Israel, Women's Philanthropy Event Sponsorships, Community Building Initiative, PJ Library, Speaker Sponsorships, CJE Book Festival Sponsors, Outshine Hate Sponsors, Mission subsidies and Special Fund.</i>	\$371,706
Temple Beth El <i>Provides Jewish Identity and engagement opportunities for the baby boomer and empty-nester populations.</i>	\$12,600
Temple Kol Ami <i>Strives to be a voice for the diverse Jewish community of the greater York County, SC area.</i>	\$7,350
Temple Kol Tikvah <i>Provide a spiritual home to strengthen the Jewish community in the Lake Norman area.</i>	\$7,875
Temple Solel <i>Sustains future generations of the South Carolina Jewish community with expanded programming for adults and children.</i>	\$7,875
The Ruach <i>Through Jewish musical experiences, helps inspire positive connections with Judaism.</i>	\$4,200
Tikvah Charlotte <i>Jewish education for children with special needs.</i>	\$7,875
Uptown Chabad <i>Provides networking and Jewish connections for Jewish young adults.</i>	\$18,375
ZAB'S Place <i>Provides workplace training and experience for Jewish young adults with special needs.</i>	\$19,750

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- * Hadera Young Adult Center

- * Hand in Hand: Jewish-Arab Education
- * HIAS
- * Israel Religious Expression Platform
- * Jewish Federations of North America

- * Jewish Agency: Aliyah Services
- * Jewish Agency: JReady
- * JDC: FSU Welfare
- * Krembo Wings
- * Moishe House
- * Partnership2Gether - Hadera Eiron
- * TALMA
- * Talpiot: Community For Its Children
- * Technoda
- * Yerucham Association

2023 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival Exciting Lineup and Two New Locations

By Susan Cherin

The Levine Jewish Community Center's popular Charlotte Jewish Film Festival (CJFF) is back for its 19th year from February 4 to 26, 2023. The All Festival Pass will be available for \$154 through January 15 and \$192 January 16-February 4. All Festival passes, as well as tickets to individual films (\$15), can be purchased online at www.charlottejewishfilm.com. If you need assistance, there will be many choices available to you once you get to the site.

We could not provide this cultural opportunity to our community without the generous and loyal support from The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Our corporate partners, especially Truist, Hearst Service Center, Hearst Entertainment & Syndication, and Pinnacle Financial Partners, and our individual patrons and community partners have remained steadfast. A big thank you to our screening committee members: Jeff Turk (chair), Lisa Davidson, Bob Ecker, Bob Kipnis, Ross Levin, Michael Lieberman, Ina Lubin, Gary Maniloff, Candace Nal-



Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte sponsors "Exodus 91" on February 15.

iboff, Brenda Patten, Melissa Raphael, Marcia Stern, David Thalberg, and Laura Zagoria for their tireless dedication. We are excited to announce a diverse slate of 14 films and two bonus events for a grand total of 16 events for our 19th season!

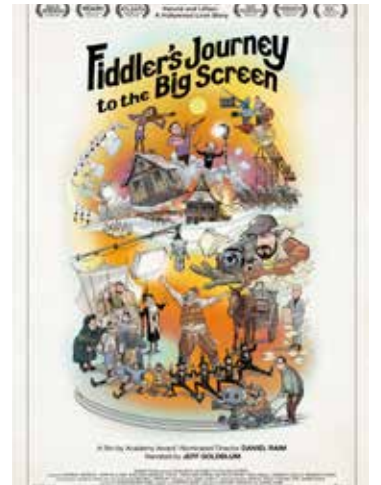
This year, we will host a pre-festival film, "Reckonings," on Wednesday January 18 in The Sam Lerner Center for the Cultural Arts at Shalom Park, free to all. Roberta Grossman's fascinating post-Holocaust documen-

tary asks the difficult questions: Could the perpetrators face their crimes? Could any compensation deliver justice to the survivors? Under the threat of violence, six years after the Holocaust, a group of German and Jewish leaders pushed for reparations as a step towards healing.

The festival will take place at multiple venues. We kick things off at Temple Israel and will view some films in The Sam Lerner Center for the Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. With the sudden

closing of Regal Phillips Place, where we have shown films in past years, we were fortunate to have two new venue hosts, The Gorelick Theater at Charlotte Country Day School and Temple Beth El, come to the rescue for our two closing films. Q & As with special guests will add a layer of understanding and bring our community together. Here are a few highlights of our exciting 19th season:

Hadassah of Greater Charlotte will sponsor our opening Night (February 4) film "Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen," in which 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 to show us how the experience of making the film deepened Jewison as an artist and revived his soul. We are very excited to welcome special guest Neva Small, who played Tevye's daughter Chava in the film, to Charlotte to celebrate Opening Night with us, with selections of her show "Becoming Chava." A



Hadassah of Greater Charlotte will sponsor opening night's film, "Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen" on February 4.

reception will follow the film and special guest presentation.

On Wednesday, February 8, at 7 p.m., Temple Israel will sponsor "The Levys of Monticello" with filmmaker Steven Pressman in attendance for a Q & A following the film. This documentary tells the little-known story of the Levy family, who owned and carefully preserved Thomas Jef-

(Continued on page 9)

J

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The NC Council on the Holocaust Presents “Antisemitism and the Denial & Distortion Movement in the United States” to NC Teachers

By Mike Abramson and Mitch Rifkin

After listening to the late Susan Cernyak-Spatz, a Holocaust survivor and founding member of the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, speak about her experiences in the Holocaust, I asked her what Americans in general, and Jews in particular, should do to respond to her call for action. Without hesitation she replied, “Teach the children!”

In 2007, I was appointed to the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust. And then, in 2012, I was appointed chairman of the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation. The primary mission of both these organizations is the same: “To educate North Carolina citizens, especially North Carolina public school teachers and students, about the facts and lessons learned from the Holocaust and to teach the teachers how to teach the Holocaust to their students.”

The lessons learned from the Holocaust provide the underlying principles that foster the values of tolerance, compassion,

inclusion, and pluralism in our community. Learning about the Holocaust opens a window to Jewish culture in ways that secular studies often do not.

This past November at Charlotte’s Temple Beth El, the Holocaust Council presented a teacher workshop entitled, “Antisemitism and the Denial & the Distortion Movement in the United States.”

Although the Holocaust has the dubious distinction of being the best documented genocide in the world, there are antisemites who deny that it happened. Thus the workshop began with 54 teachers from Charlotte Mecklenburg schools and six surrounding counties teachers learning the history of antisemitism. The Holocaust Council used resources that included the use of recorded Holocaust survivor and US Army liberator testimony, documentaries on the history of the Holocaust, podcasts, and a look at modern antisemitism. In addition, information collected by Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat An-



Rabbi Knight shares Temple Beth El’s Holocaust Torah with North Carolina teachers

tisemitism in the United States, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was disseminated during the workshop.

The teachers in attendance asked many questions and learned how to help their students understand the difference between facts, opinions, and beliefs — opinions and beliefs can be skewed when facts are distorted or manipulated. One teacher from Union County wrote, “I received a great deal of new information, especially regarding

how pervasive antisemitism has been and continues to be.” The teachers will take these effective lessons back to their classrooms so that they can become advocates for the truth.

The topic of the workshop couldn’t be timelier in our public schools as incidents of antisemitism at schools are at an all-time high, according to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The second session of the day provided a lesson on Holo-

caust denial, which is born out of antisemitism and distortions of truth. Teachers studied a film produced by the US Holocaust Museum and Deborah Lipstadt’s website which debunks Holocaust denial arguments. Teachers then explored the topics of propaganda and Holocaust denial through the lens of classroom-ready lessons that they could use immediately. Andrew, a teacher from Salisbury, shared how teachers appreciated these classroom-tested lessons: “This workshop provided phenomenal resources that I can share with my school.”

The teachers learned about how antisemitism and denial can present itself in our classrooms through a story presented in Liza Weimer’s book, *The Assignment*. Based on the true story of an assignment in a Wisconsin classroom where a favorite teacher instructed a group of students to argue for the Final Solution—to defend the indefensible, Weimer joined the workshop via Zoom to

(Continued on page 9)

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of Greater Charlotte

NC Council on the Holocaust

(Continued from page 8)

share how antisemitism and denial are woven into this real-life story and answered teachers' questions.

This session was followed by Rabbi Asher Knight, Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth El, answering teachers' questions about Judaism and showing them a Holocaust Torah that is over three hundred years old. The participants peppered the rabbi with questions about Judaism and the symbols in the synagogue.

The workshop ended with the teachers hearing from Holocaust survivor Margot Lobree, who was put on the Kindertransport as a young girl by her mother, an act that saved her life, even though her mother and other members

of her family perished in the Holocaust. Margot shared her story virtually through Zoom from Winston-Salem and answered questions from the teachers for almost an hour.

Melissa, a teacher from Charlotte, summed up what many of the teachers felt after attending the workshop: "The workshop provided a very good springboard to present to my colleagues and students, from using primary sources, the importance of proving ideas and thinking with credible evidence; how small, negative actions can lead to a more dynamic and harmful situation; [the importance of] being an upstander rather than a bystander [and] treating all people with respect and dignity, and dispelling

hate and misinformation."

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust provides both in-person workshops for teachers in different locations throughout the state as well as webinars that any teacher can access each school year. The main concentration for locations is in the rural counties.

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is the only organization mandated by the state's legislators to teach the lessons of the Holocaust. The Holocaust Council is part of the state's first responders regarding any reported incident of hate or antisemitism that occurs in the public schools.

It has been estimated by the Department of Public Instruc-

tion that the Holocaust Council's programs of exhibits, speakers, plays, and workshops on the Holocaust have impacted over 5 million students and teachers over the past 40 years.

We encourage individuals not to be Bystanders, but to become Upstanders who fight against social injustices and antisemitism wherever possible and safely, intelligently, articulately, and effectively confront hate crimes and hate speech when encountered.

Let us all do our part so that the hope of Holocaust survivors will be realized. We honor them by "teaching the children."

If you'd like to know more about the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, please email

Mitch Rifkin, chairman of the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation: Rif121@carolina.rr.com

We deeply appreciate any donations that you would like to make to support the programs of the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust. Please make your check out to The North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization, and mail to 5704 Crooked Stick Trail, Raleigh, NC 27612. You can also use PayPal, paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1931798.



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

Film Festival

(Continued from page 7)

person's Monticello for nearly a century. The remarkable story of the Levy family also intersects with the rise of antisemitism that runs throughout American history.

On Thursday, February 9, at 7 p.m., the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center will sponsor "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life," which documents Pittsburgh's powerful community response to hate in the aftermath of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history, leading to the formation of the "Not in our Town" movement. Filmmaker Patrice O'Neill will join with members of our community for a panel discussion.

On Saturday, February 11, we move to the Sam Lerner Center for the Cultural Arts at Shalom Park for "Paris Boutique," a crazy Israeli comedy, followed by a matinee on Sunday, February 12, entitled "Rose," a dramedy about a 78-year-old woman who just lost her husband. On Wednesday, February 15, our largest sponsor, The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, will sponsor "Exodus 91." This documentary tells the incredible story of Operation Solomon, Israel's airlift of the Ethiopian Jewish community. This film explores challenging questions about cultural identity, the politics of immigration, and the hardships that remain for these immigrants, and the others that followed.

Beginning on Saturday February 18, we will be hosted by The Gorelick Theater at Charlotte Country Day School, for four films: "Farewell Mr. Haffmann," "Barren," "SHTTL," and "The Man in the Basement." We are very grateful to the Gorelick family and Charlotte Country Day for making this possible!

We are also very grateful to Temple Beth El (TBE) for becoming a new venue for us this



The Gorelick Theater at Charlotte Country Day School will host four films: "Farewell Mr. Haffmann," "Barren," "SHTTL," and "The Man in the Basement."

season. Our closing weekend will be at TBE, beginning with "America," an Israeli romantic drama, on Saturday February 25, at 7 p.m. We will then view "Carol of the Bells," a Ukrainian

film set during pre and post Holocaust, on Sunday, February 26, at 2 p.m. at The Sam Lerner Center for the Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. Our closing film will be "My Neighbor Adolf," a Polish dramedy, on Sunday, February 26, at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth El, followed by a reception.

We are very excited about our 19th CJFF season, and we plan to celebrate being back together in person this year! CJFF is a wonderful community event that is not to be missed. Please think of some new friends or family that you can invite to the film festival. We can't wait to laugh, cry, think, and feel — together again this year!



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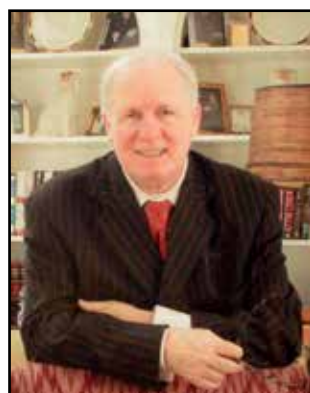
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Greenspon Center Community Event Hosts Stephen Smith From USC Shoah Foundation

By Judy LaPietra

The Greenspon Center will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a community event titled "Combatting Hate: Once Voice at a Time" on January 26 at 7 p.m. at Queens University. The evening will honor Holocaust victims and highlight the innovative trajectory of Holocaust education today.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Stephen Smith, Ph.D., executive director emeritus of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, founded by Steven Spielberg after filming "Schindler's List."

Smith founded the UK Holocaust Centre in England and co-founded the Aegis Trust for the Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide. He was also the first chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, which runs the National Holocaust Memorial Day in the United Kingdom. Smith was the project director responsible for the creation of

the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre in Rwanda and trustee of the South Africa Holocaust and Genocide Foundation.

Smith was an early pioneer in using groundbreaking holographic technology in Holocaust education. When future generations cannot get first-hand narratives from survivors, artificial intelligence technology transforms interviews with Holocaust survivors and witnesses into an interactive experience. AI holographic recreations allow students to have lifelike conversations with survivors that establish an emotional connection and create learning that is meaningful and lasting. While such technology can never replace a live interaction with a Holocaust survivor, it allows students to explore another powerful way to engage with the past.

In addition to the keynote address from Smith, Rabbi Cytron-Walker will receive the 2023 Upstander Award and share words of reflection. Rabbi

Cytron-Walker, of Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem, showed heroism when he and his congregants in Colleyville, Texas, were taken hostage in the midst of Bible study. Ending a standoff of nearly 11 hours, the rabbi acted by throwing a chair at the hostage taker and allowing for a safe escape. Rabbi Cytron-Walker will be celebrated with an original piece of art created by Gwen Orland of Rocky Knob Pottery.

From its inception in 2016, the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center has grown exponentially in its capacity to respond to the ever-increasing threat of prejudice and intolerance. From school programs to DEI training for business and organizations, the Center continues to respond to the growing needs of the community today. The foundational mandate that drives the Center's work is the urgent need to maintain Holocaust memory and promote excellence in Holocaust education.



Stephen D. Smith, PhD

The Greenspon Center has selected International Holocaust Remembrance Day as the annual date on which to share the powerful message of the

Holocaust with the community. In 2005, the United Nations selected January 27, the day on which Auschwitz was liberated, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Their vision included global commemoration ceremonies to promote education to prevent future genocides.

Join the Greenspon Center for this engaging evening to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, consider new directions in Holocaust education, and stand together as a community against hate. The event will be at 7 p.m. in the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for Civic Engagement at Queens University. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required at stangreensponcenter.org or contact Judy LaPietra, Lapietraj@queens.edu.

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Stan Greenspon
Holocaust and Social Justice
Education Center

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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.



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



Foundation of Shalom Park Board of Directors Elected at Annual Meeting

By Terri Beattie, Executive Director FSP

At its annual meeting on December 7, 2022, the Foundation of Shalom Park elected its Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term. Adam Bernstein was elected as the president of the Board of Directors.

Adam is a partner and executive vice president of public relations for Chernoff Newman, a leading integrated marketing communications agency. He has nearly four decades of professional experience and expertise in strategic communications planning, community relations, media relations, crisis communications, and marketing communications. And as an active community leader, he is counted on by diverse organizations for his insight, collaborative leadership, and communications acumen. He is a past president of Temple Beth El and former board chair of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. Adam also served as a board member of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and a member of its allocations committee and Jewish Community Relations Council. Additionally, Adam has helped lead executive searches for several local Jewish organizations and chaired a FSP task force that developed DEI policies, training, and programmatic offerings for Shalom Park and was a member of their Financial Solutions Task Force.

In the broader community, he has served on the boards of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Foundation, Charlotte Symphony, Charlotte Civic Orchestra, and the Wildacres Leadership Initiative. As an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), Adam was past president, a board member and an assembly delegate for the Charlotte chapter. He was the recipient of the 2015 Charlotte PRSA Infinity Award, bestowed by the organization for outstanding contributions and excellence in PR best practices. Adam is also a William C. Friday Fellow in Human Relations and Leadership Charlotte alumnus.

Adam earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and English from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Arts in Communications Studies from Queens University of Charlotte.

Following is the newly elected FSP board leadership:

Executive Committee

President - Adam Bernstein
Vice President - Todd Gorelick
Vice President - Annie Fold
Secretary - Jennifer Collman
Treasurer - A J Secrist
Past President - Richard Glaser

Elected Board of Directors

Rick Abrams
Alan Blumenthal
Jack Levinson
Scott Menaker
Derek Raghavan
Jen Rosen
Tara Spil

The FSP Board of Directors also includes appointed representatives from Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Temple Beth El, and Temple Israel. These representatives vary throughout the year based on the board terms of each agency and Temple. Members of the FSP Board of Directors are elected by the then-current Board of Directors and agency and Temple appointments.

Over the past 2022 board-year, FSP made several by-law changes impacting the term and makeup of the Board of Directors. The board-term changed from July 1-June 30 to a calendar year term, January 1- December 31. This change was made to align the board-term with FSP's fiscal year and enhance the support of FSP's strategic goals.

Additionally, with significant increase in more facility space use and a larger financial impact to Shalom Park operations by unrepresented FSP tenants, the FSP Board of Directors created a bylaw change, creating an appointed director position for Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, and Jewish Family Services. Typically, the agency president will hold the appointed position.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is excited to welcome the new Board of Directors to this important leadership role. It is

critical to ensuring the success of the entire Shalom Park community.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which

includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School,

Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew Cemetery Association, and the Charlotte Jewish News. www.Shalomcharlotte.org



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Religious Life

Temple Beth El Fights for Reproductive Justice

By Rabbi Lexi Erdheim

Following the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court this summer, Temple Beth El's Board of Trustees approved a formal resolution in support of reproductive rights and reproductive justice, the full text of which can be found on our website. This resolution affirms Temple Beth El's unwavering support for the protection, preservation, and restoration of reproductive rights, informed by our Jewish values of pikuach nefesh, the sacred obligation to preserve life and to protect the physical health and well-being of pregnant people. Jewish tradition is clear that the life of the mother must always take precedence over that of the unborn child. The overturning of Roe v. Wade, therefore, also threatens our ability as American Jews to follow the tenets of our faith.

This resolution was an important step for our congregation to declare unequivocally that as Jews we believe in personal autonomy and a woman's right to make informed deci-

sions about her own body and life. However, it was just that – a step. We know that words can be an empty gesture unless accompanied by action. In Pirkei Avot, our rabbis debate which is greater, study or action. Ultimately, they decide that study is greater because it leads to action. And our congregants were ready to act. In August, we held a special Torah study to engage more deeply with our Jewish texts about abortion and reproductive rights. A few days later, about 70 congregants gathered to scaffold a reproductive rights campaign. Out of that meeting, we created three working groups with different focuses: education, advocacy and direct service.

Our advocacy working group organized a postcard writing campaign, in which about 30 congregants, from senior citizens to teenagers, gathered to compose postcards to local elected officials expressing our support for the restoration, preservation and expansion of abortion access in North Caro-



TBE screens "The Janes" on January 29

lina. We mailed more than 150 postcards, with many participants receiving responses from elected officials. I am deeply proud of our community for taking this action, and it was an important reminder that reproductive rights are an issue of health care, an issue relevant to each of us, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, or mari-

tal status. We are just beginning to understand the broad implications of the overturning of Roe v. Wade on this country. It is the responsibility of our entire community to speak out against this injustice and to create change.

Our education working group will be hosting a screening and discussion on January 29th of "The Janes," an HBO documentary about an underground network of women in the South Side of Chicago assisting women seeking safe, affordable, and illegal abortions in the 1970's. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about this chapter of American history. You can register for this program on our website at www.templebethel.org.

Members of our direct service working group have been participating in training sessions facilitated by the Reproductive Rights Coalition to be escorts for any patient arriving at Planned Parenthood, regardless of the reason for their visit, to protect them from harassment from protestors.

Temple Beth El is also proud to be home to "Girls Just Want to Have Choices," a new social justice and action TriBE (small group) dedicated to advocating for reproductive rights. We will be sure to share opportunities for the broader community to engage in their work as they arise.

If you are interested in getting involved in our campaign, please reach out to Nicole Sidman, Associate Director of Social Justice and Outreach at nsidman@templebethel.org. As with any social justice campaign, we know that the work is hard, that it will take time and patience, but that it is our obligation as Jews to fight for bodily autonomy for every human being.



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Religious Life

Antisemitism Hits Close to Home for Local Rabbi

By Rabbi Michael Wolk

At 13 years old, I made the decision that I wanted to wear a kippah all the time. Traditionally, a kippah served to remind the person wearing it that God is always present in their life. While Jewish men and many women traditionally cover their heads when entering a more traditional synagogue or performing a Jewish ritual, I felt, and still feel, that wearing my kippah is important even when I am doing something mundane, like grocery shopping. I wanted to wear something that would identify me as Jewish wherever I am. While Jews of older generations were sometimes fearful to publicly identify themselves as Jewish, I was fortunate to grow up in a time and place where Jewish people felt comfortable and safe.

I wondered if this would change when I moved to Louisville, Kentucky, but during my eight years living there, no one bothered me because of my kippah. Although antisemitism has increased in America over the last few years, I never had had any antisemitic comments directed at me — until this past Thanksgiving. My wife

and I took our children to the Thanksgiving parade in Uptown Charlotte and my children were excited to ride the light rail. The parade was wonderful, but while sitting on the train heading home, a fellow passenger noticed my kippah. He leaned over my three-year-old and said “You people should give Kanye a break.” He was referring to the rapper Kanye West who has promoted many antisemitic conspiracy theories to his social media followers and recently threatened to “go death con 3 ON JEWISH PEOPLE.” My face must have expressed shock because he immediately told me I had nothing to worry about. He had grown up in Newark and had warm feelings for an older Jewish man who owned a deli down the street from him and sold the best pastrami. I would have been content to end the exchange, but he kept talking. He never said the word “Jewish,” but kept returning to “people of your persuasion.” In the few minutes it took to get to our stop, he told me that people of my persuasion should be nicer to the Palestinians and that people of my persuasion have power over Black lives.

Fortunately, we left the train without him following us.

As this encounter was taking place I wondered if I should say anything to disabuse this man of his dangerous ideas, but in the moment the most important considerations were not to provoke him, to make sure that my family walked away unharmed, and that my young children’s only memory of the evening was the fun they had at the parade. So instead of addressing this man on the train, I will share here what I would have told him.

First, I would have told him that social media can be dangerous. Apps like Twitter amplify dangerous ideas. Kanye West has a history of mental illness but has over 32 million Twitter followers who may take his words seriously. To put that into perspective, there are only about 14 million Jewish people in the world, so it is terrifying to think that 32 million people might be inspired by his threats to Jewish people. No, I would have told this man, Kanye does not get a break from me.

Then, I would have explained to him that just because

he remembers one Jewish person fondly, he can still be threatening to many other Jewish people. In fact, by the act of talking to me about Jews while leaning over my child, he was threatening me.

While he did not sound like he was particularly knowledgeable about Middle Eastern politics, I would have addressed his comment that Jews “should be nice to Palestinians.” The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been going on for a long time and is very complicated. I am an enthusiastic Zionist and will advocate for the State of Israel in the United States, but it is wrong to hold American Jews accountable for anything that the government of another country does. This is closely related to his last point. Throughout Jewish history, we have been accused of exerting secret power over individuals, over leaders, and even over entire countries. These conspiracy theories have inspired countless acts of violence against Jewish people. While such comments sound nonsensical to us, many people will see successful Jewish people and believe that they hold unjustified power over world events.

I left this encounter shaken. On Thanksgiving, I am proud to be an American Jew because I am grateful for the freedoms and opportunities that this country gave to my ancestors who fled Europe, but this Thanksgiving I wondered whether it was still safe for me to wear my kippah in public spaces. While I have no intention of changing my religious practice because of one foolish person, I have been surprised by how many people shared similar stories with me. I am also grateful that here in Charlotte, we have Shalom Park, a place where our children can feel comfortable as Jewish people. It is important to have spaces like that because children learn there is nothing wrong with being Jewish and they gain the confidence they will need when they participate in the wider world. Now more than ever we need Jewish people to be proudly Jewish in the United States.



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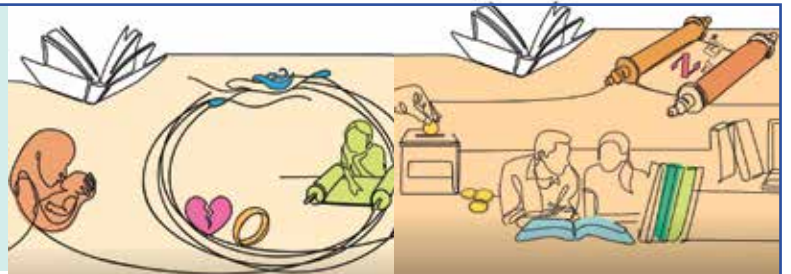



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In-person; Taught by Rabbi Michael Wolk

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January 18, 25

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

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In-person; Taught by Rabbi Alexis Erdheim

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Jan. 19, 26

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

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Ambitious Course to Cover Thirty-Three Centuries of Jewish Literature



Rabbis Yossi Groner and Shlomo Cohen to Explore Eight Genres of Jewish Literature with a Diverse Group of Charlotte's Jewish Community

To study the history of most cultures, you need to learn about wars and empires, warriors and city builders, and great works of art. But the history of Judaism is overwhelmingly a history of books. Books form the core of Judaism's culture. But even if they're known as "the People of the Book," much of Judaism's classic literature remains closed to contemporary Jews.

Rabbis Groner and Cohen, who have each taught well over fifty Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) courses in Charlotte since 2002 to many hundreds of students, will open Jewish literature to a contemporary audience. They're leading a class of Jews of many affiliations and backgrounds as they explore the history, authors, and content of Judaism's most important titles in a new course entitled "Book Smart."

"It's an ambitious undertaking" Rabbi Shlomo Cohen says, "I'm excited because I think the course will give us a richer understanding of what Judaism meant throughout the centuries and what it can mean for us today."

The first ninety-minute sessions of "Book Smart" kick off on Tuesday, January 24 and

Wednesday, January 25 at the Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish Life. Students will begin their six-week survey of traditional Jewish literature, covering Torah, Talmud, Midrash, halacha, ethics, and philosophy, as well as Kabbalah and Chasidic mysticism. "We'll meet the authors behind the big ideas of Jewish history over a period of thirty-three centuries," Rabbi Yossi Groner says.

The history of Jewish literature is a broad subject, but Rabbi Shlomo Cohen says the course will also go deep. "We're not just going to learn why these works were written. We're actually going to get a taste of what it's like to participate in a Talmudic debate, unpack a philosophical conundrum, and decipher a Kabbalistic text from the Zohar."

"Book Smart" was developed by The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, which has

a sterling reputation for producing high-quality and engaging courses. More than 400,000 people have participated in JLI's courses since the organization was founded in 1998.

Rabbis Groner and Cohen say they aren't promising students overnight expertise on the works discussed in the course, but "we can assure it will be an enjoyable and intellectually engaging journey, giving a valuable context for all our future Jewish learning."

"Book Smart" meets on six Tuesdays 7:30-9 p.m. beginning January 24, or six Wednesdays 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. beginning January 25 at the Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish Life. The cost is \$99 per person or \$180 per couple, including the textbook. Register at myJLI.com or call (704) 366-3984.

About JLI
The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) offers programs in eleven languages at more than

1,600 international locations in 41 U.S. states and 28 countries on five continents. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since it was founded in 1998. JLI uses cutting-edge pedagogical techniques to create

content that communicates Jewish teachings, observances, and history to Jewish audiences of all backgrounds and affiliations, across a wide range of formats and media.



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Religious Life

Learning and Making Friends With Temple Solel in Fort Mill

By Steve Yaffe, Temple Solel President

Participation is the focus at Temple Solel. We are a Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) congregation based in Fort Mill near Tega Cay. Involvement is our priority — we even eliminated membership dues.

November was a busy month, full of good news. Our host and partner, Grace Presbyterian Church, has been very welcoming since we first began holding services there in September. They hosted a potluck

on the first Sunday in November, where both congregations met, ate, and enjoyed each other's company. We also assembled sweet potato pie kits from materials contributed by both church and Temple Solel members. The Historic Paradise Foundation will bake them for a fundraiser in Fort Mill.

The Historic Paradise Foundation is one of several joint social action efforts. We bring contributions to be donated to the Fort Mill Care Center food bank when we meet at 7 p.m. on

the second and fourth Fridays. Grace Presbyterian and Temple Solel members are working side-by-side buying holiday gifts for kids. The children are clients of the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Together, we are more effective. Together, we enjoy each other's company while we do good work — more coming in 2023!

As a demonstration of the deep connection between our two congregations, the congregants of Grace Presbyterian made the wonderful gesture to put up a mezuzah on the building prior to Shabbat services on November. A mezuzah donated by our member Al Rogat now is visible on the church door post.

And on Sunday, November 20, we learned about the activities of Rabbi Steve Burnstein's young adult children in Israel. Rabbi Burnstein is the spiritual leader at Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer in Israel. We learned how the talents of people on the autism spectrum are applied in remote sensing and aerial analysis. We learned how at-risk teens from Bedouin,

together. We welcome the presence, enthusiasm, talents, and involvement of all members and guests. We grow through friendship, learning, doing good, and having fun.

As we look to the future, we see more opportunities to work with our new friends on the three pillars of our congregation: prayer, learning, and social action. These pillars are all fulfilled in an atmosphere of mutual respect, with some fun thrown in. We are a welcoming Reform community and a member of the URJ. We have eliminated annual dues for membership because dues should not be a barrier to participation. We accept donations gladly, but are more interested in finding new involved congregants. Please come join us. Call us at (803) 610-1707 or visit www.temple-solelsc.com.



Rabbi Steve Burnstein, the spiritual leader of Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer in Israel



Pastor Joanne Sizoo and our lay leader Russ Cobe standing by the mezuzah hung by congregants from both Temple Solel and Grace Presbyterian Church.

Haredi, and Russian immigrant families blend to learn, become friends, and gain a positive focus. We will be learning more in 2023.

On December 17 we rocked with The Ruach at our Annual Chanukah Concert. Good to change the pace!

Temple Solel offers the opportunity to Pray Together, Learn Together, and Do To-





Join Temple Solel

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Worship. Learning. Social Action.

Historic Event

Grace Presbyterian Church has placed a **Mezuzah** on their **doorpost** as a demonstration of their commitment to our new partnership.




2nd & 4th Fridays | 7 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
2955 Highway 160 W, Fort Mill, SC

templesolelsc.org

info@templesolelsc.org
803.610.1710

Avoiding Caregiver Burnout

By Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

Many of us assist older, sick, or disabled family members and friends every day. We know we are helping, but we don't think of ourselves as caregivers. We are glad to do this and feel rewarded by it, but if the demands are heavy, over time we can also become exhausted and stressed. What is a caregiver, and how do you know if you identify as one?

You might be a caregiver if you do any of the following for a friend or loved one...

- Buy groceries, cook, clean the house
- Help them get dressed, take a shower, or take their medication properly.
- Schedule their medical appointments, provide transportation to those appointments, or communicate with their doctors
- Spend time while you're at work handling a crisis or making plans for them
- Act as the designated "on call" contact for any problems
- Communicate regularly with care staff and medical personnel if they live in assisted living

Worry and become emotionally drained about your loved one and their situation

Manage care from another city or state for your loved ones, (long-distance caregiving), which carries its own set of complications

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), estimate that more than 65.7 million Americans serve as informal caregivers either to a child with special needs or an adult who needs help. These statistics suggest that you most likely are already or will be a caregiver for a loved one.

Being a caregiver is not easy. Most people don't recognize the significant impact it has on their own lives. Caregivers often report a lack of self-care including sleep deprivation, poor eating habits, failure to exercise, failure to stay in bed when ill, and postponement of or failure to make medical appointments for themselves. According to caregiver.org, "Family caregivers of any age are less likely than non-caregivers to practice preventive healthcare and self-care behavior. Regardless of age, sex, race, and ethnicity, caregivers report problems attending to their own health and wellbeing while managing caregiving responsibilities ... Caregiving can

be an emotional roller coaster. On the one hand, caring for your family member demonstrates love and commitment and can be a very rewarding personal experience. The flip side is exhaustion, worry, inadequate resources, and continuous care demands that are enormously stressful. Caregivers are more likely to have a chronic illness, namely high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and a tendency to be overweight. Studies show that an estimated 46 % to 59 % of caregivers are clinically depressed."

Over time, caregiver burnout happens when caregivers have reached a state of such exhaustion that it becomes difficult to carry on with a caring attitude. Body, mind, and spirit are so worn out that the caregiver becomes negative though they used to be upbeat and uncaring though they used to have concern. They're squeezed dry and perhaps unable to experience positive emotions. An afternoon off or a massage isn't enough to provide relief from this kind of burnout. It can take years for full recovery even after the person is no longer in the caregiver role. There are aspects of caregiver burnout that are similar to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,

which also takes time and attention to go into remission, much less resolve. If you're not there yet, then it's vital you prevent caregiver burnout.

For caregivers, self-care is a must, not a luxury. Here a few things they can do for themselves and their own well-being:

- Accept that you have limits, and be realistic about what you can accomplish within those limits.
 - Accept that you need help from others, and then secure that support.
 - Confide in trusted friends, family, or helping professionals.
 - Seek out and work with a coach or therapist to learn and regularly use tools for self-care.
 - Join a caregiver support group, especially if it has a skill-building component.
 - Get enough exercise, rest, sleep, and eat healthy food.
 - Keep up with your own medical care, especially when you're sick.
 - Set aside time for yourself.
 - Find ways to laugh, keeping your sense of humor. Accept that finding it hard to provide care is normal, and not a character flaw.
- To truly access the support you need you must first actually recognize and identify yourself

as a "caregiver." Jewish Family Services (JFS) offers many services and resources to support you on your caregiver journey, including experienced, caring, master's level professionals, and connections to community resources.

JFS offers a Caregiver Support Group. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The next group is January 19. The group meets in-person quarterly. Whether you are a long-distance or local caregiver, our welcoming support group can provide a safe space for you to speak with others about your situation. Contact JFS for the Zoom link, to learn about resources or find ways to reduce your stress level and get the compassionate support of others who understand your circumstances. Call (704) 364-6594 or email info@jfscharlotte.org for more information.



**Jewish Family
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Dear Friends,

It is with a deep sense of disappointment and sadness, both professionally and personally, that Aldersgate Life Plan Services announces the cessation of plans to develop Generations at Shalom Park, a planned Senior Living Community within the Shalom Park campus.

Our work to develop this community has been ongoing for several years and a great deal has been accomplished. Unfortunately, the global pandemic, a downturn in economic indicators, historic inflation, and an uncertain economic landscape has forced a reassessment of the feasibility of the project. More specifically, the escalation in construction costs and the rise in interest rates have a significantly negative impact on this project being successful. While there is no less of a desire to develop the Generations project, the harsh reality is that it is no longer economically viable for Aldersgate Life Plan Services to be the sponsor.

While the Generations development must cease, we remain hopeful and committed to seeking ways to collaborate through other programs and services with the Jewish community moving forward.

Thank you for all the support you have given us during this journey. We are grateful for the relationships we have developed, hopeful for the possibility for future collaboration, and are prayerful for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Suzanne H. Pugh
President and CEO
Aldersgate Lifeplan Services Inc.



Is Increased Violence Really Caused By Mental Illness?

By Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

2022 was a year marked by tragic loss of life due to gun violence and mass shootings. Within a nine-day period 14 people were killed in three mass shooting incidents at the University of Virginia, a nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and a Walmart in Chesapeake, Virginia. Each time I hear about one of these tragedies, I know that rhetoric blaming mental illness will quickly follow. Our collective trauma and fear make us want to find a reason and place the blame somewhere, and mental illness is the easiest target. After all, no one in their “right mind” would walk into a public place and begin randomly killing strangers, we reason. Political leaders, mainstream media, and social media all perpetuate this belief. But studies have proven that the connection quickly drawn between acts of violence and mental illness is not backed up by facts. It’s a misconception that not only doesn’t get us closer to finding the solution — it actually does harm to those suffering from mental illness.

The data show that someone with a mental illness is more likely to be a victim of violence than a perpetrator. According to Mental Health America, the vast majority of people with mental illness are not violent: 95%-97% of homicidal gun violence is not carried out by individuals with a mental illness. When someone commits violence who is from that small percentage that does have a mental illness, society extrapolates that to other people with the same or similar disorders, ignoring the millions of people with a mental health condition who have never been violent, according to Tanesha White in her article “Overcoming the Stigma That Unfairly Links Violence and Mental Illness.” (verywellmind.com)

The media’s distorted depiction of mental illness exacerbates the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Sometimes the connection is not overtly stated and is more subtle, such as a news program in Central Florida that concluded its report of a woman setting her son’s dog on fire with the observation that she had been recently depressed.



Whether the connection between violence and mental health issues is stated or just insinuated, the media often paints a grim and inaccurate picture.

These myths perpetuation by the media are not only inaccurate, but they are also dangerous and harmful to those suffering. Many people get their information about mental illness from mass media and the negative depiction can color their perspective, leading them to fear, avoid, and discriminate against

individuals with mental illness. Fearing stigma or discrimination, individuals avoid seeking important treatment. One study even found that workers would rather say they committed a petty crime and spend time in jail than disclose that they stayed at a psychiatric hospital.

We know that social media can also influence our perceptions of mental health, though here the news is more encouraging. In a recent article for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Margot Harris writes, “While social media is a complex tool that can exacerbate anxiety or promote unhealthy habits, it also contributes significantly to the ongoing dialogue surrounding mental health. An estimated four billion people use some form of social media, and most of these users will see mental health-related content at some point while scrolling through their feeds. Much of the available content takes the form of personal stories, which both destigmatize mental health conditions and offer a fresh perspective of what mental illness really looks like.”

A recent study echoes this

hopeful perspective. In the University of Essex study, hundreds of people were asked to watch videos of a woman discussing her personality order diagnosis as well as common misconceptions about the condition. After just 17 minutes, the prejudice and anxiety of the subjects had decreased, and those lower levels persisted even weeks later. One encouraging finding, in fact, found that 10% of the study subjects had taken action, such as fundraising, to support various mental health causes. (Psychological News, Society & Culture News, November 2022).

We have a long way to go before mental illness is widely understood to be a disease and is treated no differently in public perception than heart disease or diabetes. Understanding and rejecting the false rhetoric about mental health and violence is an important place to start.



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Live Laugh Give Volunteers: Adina Loewensteiner, Andrew Bernstein, Blair Goldsmith, Karen Silver, Karen Ransenberg, Meredith Baumstein, Rachel Friedman
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Hadassah Meal Preppies: Sara Friedman, Karen Futersak, June Hirschmann, Yvette Jacobson, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Andi McCleary, Helene Schillian, Elissa Vining, Lynda White

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

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

Jewish Family Services Tributes Month of November 2022

Happy Birthday to
Betsy Weinstein Fleisig
Sandra Weinstein
Happy Birthday to
Michael Goldberg
Ruth Goldberg
Happy Birthday to Sue Victor
Lawrence and Sheila Margolis
Happy Birthday to
Keren Wilensky
Abigail Gold
Anna Meerovich
In Appreciation of Howard
Olshansky
Sue Worrel
In Honor of Rachel Green
Edwin Green
In Honor of
Harry and Gloria Lerner
Michael and Judie Van Glish
In Honor of
Gabriel Putterman
Adam Bernstein and Tammy Seigel
Samuel and Nancy Bernstein
The Sussman Family
In Memory of
Gerson Asrael
Stanley Greenspon
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Wednesday, January 4
Film "Orchestra of Exiles"
with Allan Margolies
11:00am - 1:30pm
Clergy Discussion with
Rabbi Beth Nichols:
German Village Jews in 1930s
Menu: Baked Potato Bar

Wednesday, January 18
A Klezmer Journey from 1900
to the Present
with Gene Kavadlo
11:00am - 1:30pm
Clergy Discussion with
Rabbi Lexi Erdheim:
Music in Jewish Scripture
Menu: Honey Salmon
Joint Program with Temple Israel

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Around the Table: In Praise of a Beautiful Menorah



By Charlotte Rouchouze

In the last few weeks, I have been completely immersed in a project I took on to honor my grandmother and preserve her legacy. The idea came as I was looking through her belongings and sifting through the boxes of photos and memorabilia she left behind when she died last January. Whenever I visited my grandmother, one of my favorite pastimes was pulling out old boxes of her stuff and hearing her tell me about the people and events they documented. My preference was always for the oldest reaches of the box: the

photos of my great-great-grandparents, the letters they wrote and received, and the prayer books they kept with them. As my family discussed what to do with the smaller sentimental items, I got the idea of making a book that would feature an array of objects, photos, recipes, and newspaper clippings, which she clearly valued and preserved for a lifetime. I would assemble them in a logical way, giving the whole family easy access to highlights of these archives, along with the family stories that went with them. I wanted the book to feel like an afternoon spent going through the attic with my grandma.

The experience of crafting this legacy book got me thinking about how such a project might look two generations from now. We now produce a glut of photos and videos that previous generations could never have imagined and have more stuff than they could have ever dreamed possible. And yet once the computers and iPhones are in a junk heap, what will our great-grandchildren actually have to hold on to?

What material remains will be left when we're no longer here?

It reminded me of an article I read, although I can no longer remember when or where, about the gradual change over time in how families acquire and keep objects. The article talked about how religious holiday objects were once something that involved a good deal of investment, and as such were inherited or purchased at the time of marriage. Shabbat candlesticks, tablecloths, and silver kiddush cups joined flatware, furniture, and other household items as valuable and costly parts of starting a new family. I know that from families also begin collections of very expensive seforim, those gorgeous, leather-bound Torah tomes with lush gold lettering, which feature prominently in the new couple's home. At times of turmoil and persecution, these items may also have been the only things that a fleeing family would bring with them on their uncertain journey to a new home.

Over time, religious and holiday objects (along with pretty



much everything else) became both cheaper and less valuable, thanks in part to the mass production of cheap household goods but also to the decrease in religious observance and the waning interest in formal entertaining. These days, who would even think to invest in an ornate sterling silver serving dish or a set of monogrammed bone china plates? "Impractical!" we say. "Better save that money and buy something useful!" Such objects have lost much of their monetary and sentimental value in our

society, and some of this makes sense. It is understandably more practical to ask for cash that can be used toward a trip or a mortgage on a home.

Yet, is something lost when we ignore the trove of objects families once valued? The article I read was urging people to rethink the importance of lovely Jewish objects in the home. Having a fine set of Shabbat candlesticks or a beautiful menorah not only brings the beauty of these traditions into the home, but they express to those who see them they are valuable to the people who own them. It also makes tangible the very Jewish value of defining times that are separate from the ordinary and imbuing them with special meaning. It gave me pause to consider that investing in fine Judaica was not just a wasteful luxury, but also a way of expressing to my children that these traditions are of great value to us. They are both literally and spiritually what I will pass on to them.

(Continued on page 21)



Jewish

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The Postmistress of Paris
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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



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Around the Table

(Continued from page 20)

This Chanukah, I will continue a tradition I began a few years ago, which is to display all my menorahs together on a table in front of the window. There is a big menorah we inherited from my husband's (non-Jewish) uncle who mysteriously owned a lovely brass menorah, another traditional Ashkenazi brass one we inherited from my other grandmother, Gita; there are a few we made at various crafting events, a couple more that we received as gifts along the way, and one electric one I love displaying throughout the Chanukah season. Together they cast a magnificent glow onto both the street and my dining room table, setting the mood for a special and uplifting holiday meal.

Whether it's a special tablecloth, menorah, or dreidel, try integrating special objects into your Chanukah celebration this year and giving them the attention and care they deserve.

Here is a super simple idea to fancy up your Chanukah table. It's a fun way to turn a simple bag of chocolate chips into a sparkling treat for your guests. You will need a mini muffin tin, a bag of your favorite chocolate chips or equal weight of any chocolate bar you like, a microwave-safe dish, and gold or silver decorating sugar (this can be found in a lot of stores around the holidays in the Christmas baking section and at Michael's or Party City).



Gold and Silver Chocolate Coins (nonpareils)
Makes about 24 coins

Ingredients:

- 11.5 oz your favorite chocolate, broken into chunks if whole
- ¼ cup of coarse gold or silver decorating sugar or any decorative sprinkles of your choice except for fine sanding sugar

Directions:

Spray the cups of a 24-count mini muffin tin with nonstick spray. In a microwave safe dish, add the chocolate and microwave on high in 20-second bursts, removing the dish each time and slowly stirring for 30 seconds until your chocolate is just-melted and smooth. (The pro way to do this is using a double boiler over low flame, but I find if you

are very careful not to overheat it, this works just fine.) Once melted, add about a tablespoon of melted chocolate to each muffin tin. Tap the pan gently on the counter to get the chocolate to settle smoothly. Next, generously sprinkle the metallic sugar on each one until the top surface is covered. Tap once again to settle the sugar into the chocolate. Refrigerate for 15 to 20 minutes until set. Gently insert a butter knife on one side of each disk and pop the chocolates out.

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

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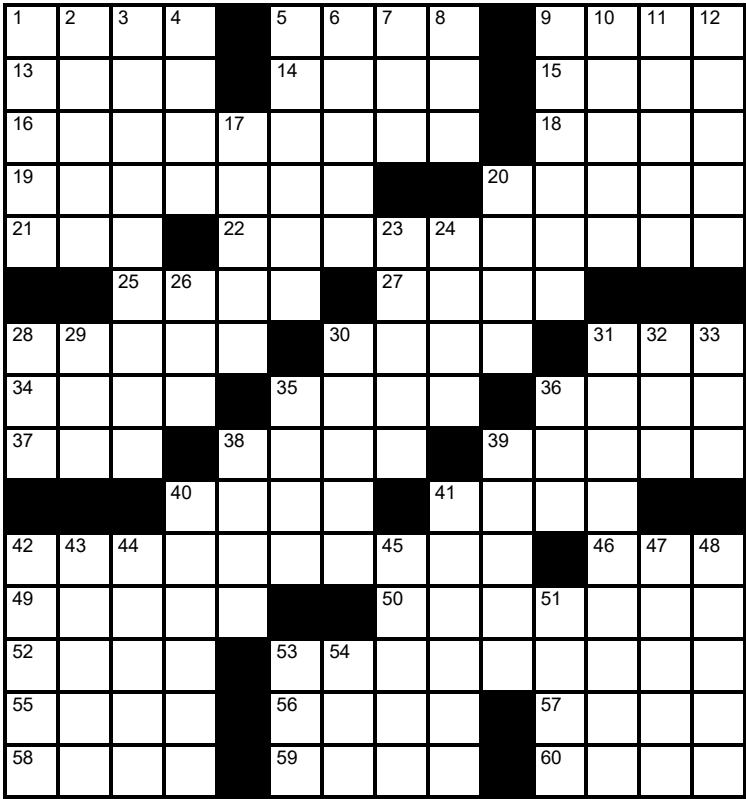
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January Crossword: Automobile Issues

(Answers on page 34)



Across

- 1. Y alternatives?
- 5. Jewish knowledge
- 9. Cowboy Prescott, and others
- 13. Aliyah maker
- 14. Europe’s most popular capital in crosswords
- 15. Genesis victim
- 16. Not having a hot meal?
- 18. Perry of “American Idol”
- 19. Enter uninvited
- 20. King David, e.g.
- 21. Slalom down a slope
- 22. It should certainly work better than one that is over-heated?
- 25. Rabbit, to an eagle
- 27. Recent “Curb Your Enthusiasm” breakout character Kostroski
- 28. Lunch box cookies
- 30. ___ Yisrael
- 31. QBs pass for them
- 34. Godiva for one
- 35. What the start or end of 16, 22, 42, and 53-Across means in Hebrew?
- 36. Unit of measurement
- 37. It can make white into black
- 38. Not his
- 39. High maintenance Muppet
- 40. Prime rating

- 41. Actress Gilpin of “Frasier”
- 42. Phrase from Oprah when giving out viruses?
- 46. Pasture sound
- 49. Had outright
- 50. Pure red ones are holy
- 52. Read Torah (Var.)
- 53. Some winter weather alerts?
- 55. Lacing issue
- 56. Adopted dad of Loki
- 57. Homerun hitter’s gait
- 58. 1040 IDs
- 59. One can be hard to swallow
- 60. Some are corny?

Down

- 1. Picoult and Benson
- 2. Jingling sound
- 3. It may have up to 354 legs
- 4. Hebrew song
- 5. Lumet’s “___ Afternoon”
- 6. Question popper
- 7. “King” or “carte” preceder
- 8. Major Can. city
- 9. North or South place
- 10. Back off
- 11. A Torah or melech might have one
- 12. Cunningly
- 17. Microwaves, in slang
- 20. Code used in web design

- 23. Many are paid online
- 24. City near the Dead Sea
- 26. Half of a big Vegas draw, once
- 28. “... and honour the face of the ___ man” (Lev. 19:32)
- 29. Laser shot
- 30. Pyeongyang’s peninsula
- 31. He said “Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.”
- 32. Retriever, e.g.
- 33. Hog home
- 35. Lincoln is on it
- 36. Plywood source
- 38. Prepared soil for planting
- 39. Risk or danger
- 40. Real estate employees
- 41. Cousins of Psalms
- 42. Mayonnaise ingredients
- 43. Jesse who ran like the wind
- 44. Civil War side
- 45. NBA star Middleton
- 47. Jousting’s outfit
- 48. D.A.’s helpers
- 51. It’s bashert
- 53. Haolam or Yisrael preceder
- 54. Up roar

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 November

- Murray Simon 5/15/1937 - 10/30/2022
- Ann Weinfeld 1/28/1945 - 4/14/2022
- Louise Rose 10/4/1945 - 11/10/2022
- Sam Kaplan 9/22/1931 - 11/14/2022



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Women's News

Bagels and Brisket for New Years

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

I've been writing the Charlotte Metro Hadassah article for CJN since June 2020, and sometimes finding a new topic to write about is challenging. In past January articles I've covered Tu B'Shevat, (on Monday, February 6 this year). I've talked about new beginnings and new leaders of our chapter.

Today, I'm going to write about a quintessential Jewish food – bagels. Why? Maybe because I'm hungry, but most likely because January 15 is National Bagel Day. It's a day that should not pass by unnoticed, especially by Jews.

Bagels link our two New Year holidays together. National Bagel Day is celebrated close to the secular New Year, and bagels are round. We eat round foods on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Coincidence? I don't think so.

Round bagels, like round challahs, have no beginning and no end, symbolizing our wish for a year in which life and blessings continue without end. This is a perfect wish for both 5783 and 2023.

For Jewish cooks, we have as many recipes and flavors for bagels as we do for brisket. We boil and bake bagels, make them in an air fryer (really!), slice them and make bagel chips for snacking. As for brisket, we cook it with Lipton's Onion Soup Mix, potatoes and carrots, or with a sweeter tomato-based sauce, in a smoker, to name a few — some with the same ingredients and spices we use for bagel toppings, such as onion, garlic, salt, raisins, and cinnamon.

So, in the spirit of uniquely Jewish foods, Happy New Year and Happy National Bagel Day! May they both bring you happiness in 2023.

Mah Jongg Card Deadline

Two dot. Six bam. Flower. It's no joke(r)! The last day to order your 2023 Mah Jongg card from Hadassah is Friday, January 13. You can order cards for multiple people, and you do not have to be a Hadassah member to order cards through Hadassah. Small cards are \$14 and large cards are \$15.

To order: Go to events.hadassah.org/mahjonggcards. Complete the online form, select Southern Seaboard region and Charlotte Metro chapter, and complete your order or send a check made out to Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA) and mail to Hadassah, 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226, Attn: Merril Schenkel. Write "Hadassah Charlotte Metro" on your check.

Monthly Happenings

Add Hadassah Wine & Schmooze to your calendar for January 3 and February 7 at 7 p.m. Enjoy a casual girls' night out on the first Tuesday of each month at Vintner Wine Market in the Arboretum Shopping Center. It's a great first event for prospective and new members.

Hadassah BookTalk meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Zoom with us on Tuesday, January 24 at 7 p.m. when we discuss "The Postmistress of Paris" by Meg Waite Clayton.

The bestselling author of "The Last Train to London" revisits the early days of the German occupation in France in this haunting novel — a love story and a tale of high-stakes danger and incomparable courage — about a young American heiress who helps artists hunted by the Nazis escape from war-torn Europe.

Inspired by the real-life Chicago heiress Mary Jayne Gold, who worked with American journalist Varian Fry to smuggle artists and intellectuals out of France, "The Postmistress of Paris" is the story of an indomitable woman whose strength, bravery, and love is a beacon of hope in a time of terror.

Please check our website or jewishcounciloflakenorman.org for the latest information about Beverly's Book Nook.

For the next few months, the Short Story Discussion group will continue to discuss short stories from the book "Scenes from a Village Life" by award-winning Israeli author Amos Oz. Please note: The Short Story Discussion Group has changed its meeting to the second Friday of the month.

Mark your calendar for the next meeting at 11:45 a.m. on January 13.

Helpful Hadassah Info

The next Hadassah Charlotte Metro Board meeting is on Monday, January 16 at 7 p.m. Contact us for the Zoom link.

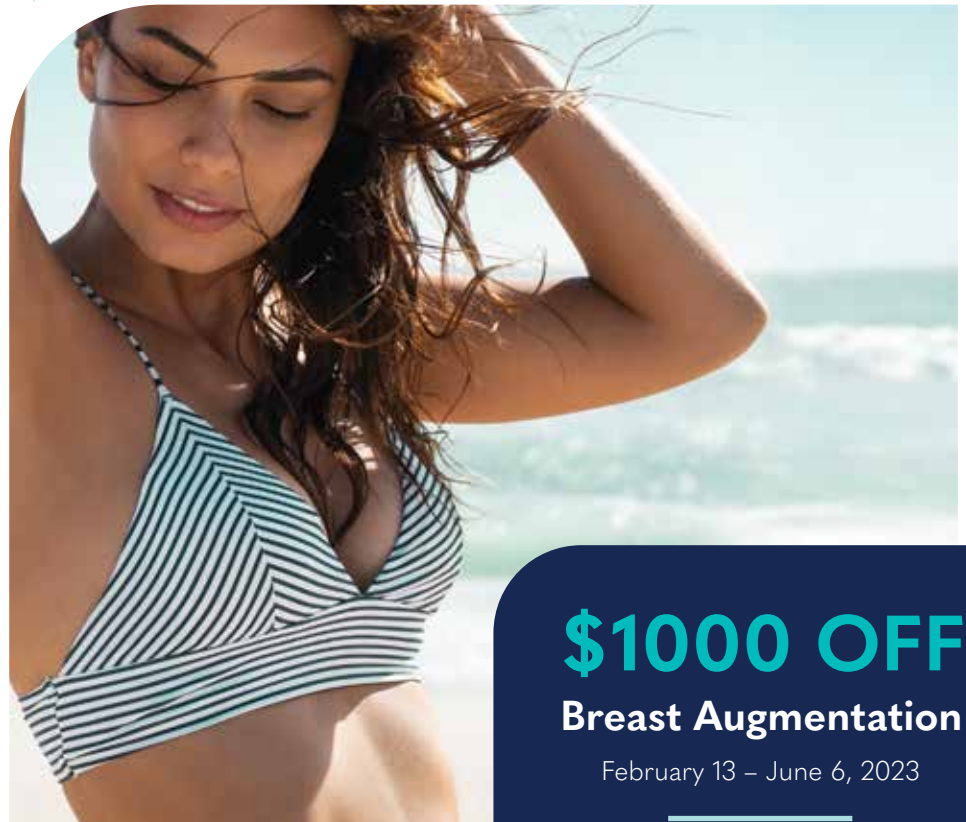
Membership keeps Hadassah strong. To learn about our chapter, what we accomplish in Charlotte and Israel, and how to

become part of a sisterhood of amazing, talented women, 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. Your message will be forward-

ed to the correct person.

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



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Bal Tashchit and Beyond: A New Kind of New Year's Resolution

By Summer Minchew
2023 is here and with it comes New Year's resolutions, but keeping those resolutions can be challenging. According to research, only about 16% of people keep their resolutions. Most people blame their failure to fulfill resolutions on a lack of time, resources, or motivation. If your resolutions are to live a healthier lifestyle, travel more, spend less, or reduce stress, here are some ways you can actually fulfill those resolutions that are not only good for you but good for the planet.

Live a Healthier Lifestyle
Want to get healthier in 2023? Eat more plants. Focusing on whole foods from plant sources can reduce body weight; blood pressure; and risk of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. A plant-based diet is also the most environmentally sustainable choice. The meat and dairy industries alone use one-third of the Earth's freshwater, with a single quarter-pound hamburger patty requiring 460 gallons of water — the equivalent of almost 30 showers — to produce.

Reducing your meat and dairy

consumption, even by a little, can make a big difference. If everyone in the U.S. ate no meat or cheese just one day a week, it would have the same environmental impact as taking 7.6 million cars off the road.

So choose the veggie burger, stock up in the produce aisle, shop at a local farmers market, and enjoy the bounty of each season. Another fun way to eat your veggies is to grow your own. It doesn't get more local than harvesting from your own garden. You could double your impact next growing season by donating your extra produce through Shalom Green's Pe'ah Forward program. You can learn more about this opportunity in Shalom Green's article in the May 2022 issue of The Charlotte Jewish News.

Travel More
If traveling more is one of your resolutions, Shalom Green wrote a fantastic article for the September 2021 issue, Six Ways to Make your Next Trip More Sustainable that details easy and convenient ways to reduce your travel footprint. Check out eco-tourism destinations before



you book your flight and come home with something better than a typical souvenir — come home with a new appreciation for the natural environment and the wonders of the planet.

If you want to maximize your impact, consider "regenerative" tourism. This is when visitors travel with a mindset to leave a destination better than it was before they arrived and travel experiences go beyond a traditional vacation. At its best, regenerative travel benefits communities and people who inhabit the land and aims to improve entire ecosystems, putting the destination's needs at the center of tourism's future.

Spend Less

If one of your resolutions is to save money, shopping second-hand is a real buy one get one for you and the environment. Shalom Green wrote a great article for the September 2022 issue, Making a Case for Slow Fashion, that details the negative environmental impact of the fashion industry and several chic and budget-savvy ways we can all make a difference. In 2019, my New Year's resolution was to purchase only 12 new pieces of clothing; the rest of my fashion fix would come secondhand. I fulfilled my resolution and have carried it forward to today. I love browsing the racks and adding to my cart as much as the next person, but making a conscious effort to track my new clothing purchases has made a lasting impact on my personal buying habits.

Stress Less

Is working from home one or more days each week your new jam? According to Forbes, remote work significantly improves mental health and 80% prefer flexible options post-pandemic. Working remotely, even

one day each week, also reduces your carbon footprint by eliminating miles traveled in your daily commute. Whether you work remotely, hybrid, or commute daily to your workplace, spend some time this year understanding how you get from point A to point B and then consider an eco-friendly and stress-reducing alternative. Single-occupant vehicle drivers report the highest level of commute-based stress levels, while those who walk, or bicycle report the least.

Shalom Green wrote an article for the April 2021 issue of CJN, Shabbat Self-Care and Tikkun Olam, that gives readers several great ways to heal the self and heal the world at the same time including getting outside, listening to nature, unplugging, and playing in the dirt. One great way to check off all those boxes is to attend one of Shalom Green's monthly Shalom Park Community Garden Workdays. Beginning in March 2023, join us one Sunday each month from 9-11 a.m. to care for the garden

(Continued on page 25)



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Bal Tashchit and Beyond

(Continued from page 24)

and help grow food for those in need in our community.

Accountability

When it comes to resolutions, the key factor in our ability to fulfill the goals we have set for ourselves is accountability. Our everyday actions impact the planet. At home and at work, we consume energy and produce carbon emissions when driving, flying, and heating and cooling buildings. The average American produces 15 tons of CO₂ per year. That's equivalent to filling your car with 1,633 gallons of gas!

One way to make yourself more accountable for your actions and subsequent environmental impact is to monitor and measure your carbon footprint. There are several free carbon footprint calculators available. We like footprintnetwork.org which allows you to calculate your ecological footprint and personal earth overshoot day. The calculator will ask you questions about your personal habits and lifestyle, like how often you eat meat and how often you fly. The results may surprise you! Data enthusiasts can take it a step further and compare their

personal footprint to that of their fellow Americans and global citizens. Try completing one calculator in early 2023 and one in late 2023 to see how much you have improved.

Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. You can make realistic changes every single day to help make 2023 your greenest year yet!

Connect with us on Facebook at Shalom Green: Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Instagram and Twitter @shalomgreen_CLT. If you are interested in donating your time or dollars to Shalom Green, please visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org and email us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. All articles mentioned are posted on Shalom Green's blog at www.shalomgreenCLT.org.



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Why CJDS Was a Perfect Fit for the Carney Family

By Eliza Carney

When we began looking into the Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) for our daughter Stella, we had no idea what to expect. Every parent wants to make the best decisions possible for their children, and amid the pandemic and after a year of isolation, the decision about where we would send our rising kindergartner was complex. We quickly discovered that CJDS is much more than a school.

We wanted to find a place that would be nurturing and provide a seamless transition from homeschooling, but also one that would meet the individual needs of our daughter. Our experience during the admissions process made our decision an easy one, and although we heard from other parents about how much they love the school, we had no idea what a gift it would be to our family.

The warmth we feel every day is palpable, and the school has given our daughter so much confidence. It's a loving community where everyone knows your child's name. It's a place

our daughter can't wait to go to every morning, that she misses on the weekends and during summer break. Each morning she excitedly jumps out of the car during drop-off, running to hold hands with her friends. She has thrived socially, emotionally, academically, and most importantly in her Judaism.

Growing up Jewish in the South, I did not have confidence in my Judaism or the strong community that I now have as an adult in Charlotte. Now more than ever, a strong Jewish foundation and sense of self are things we prioritize and want our children to possess. There is no doubt in our minds that CJDS is the right environment for our daughter to thrive, not only as a student but as a young Jewish person learning her place in the world.

(See picture of the Carney Family on facing page.)





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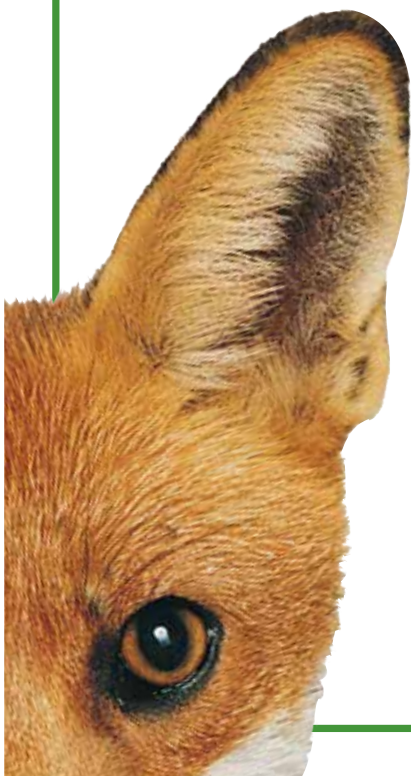
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Brian C. Bernhardt
704.384.2607
bbernhardt@foxrothschild.com



Alexandra J. Hirsch
704.384.2641
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Education and Youth

Youth Spotlight: Josh Freedman



By Abby Sherman

Josh Freedman, a senior at Providence Day, has done some remarkable things in our community. Locally, he's worked with Friendship Circle, a Jewish organization that pairs kids with disabilities (Special Friends) and typically developing Charlotte teens (Teen Friends). The teens lead their Friends in different activities, such as playing sports and doing fun experiments. They also participate in group programs, like cooking circle and music. Josh also went on a trip across the United States over the summer to learn about history and law with other Jewish teens. I got to learn more about these experiences and their impact on him in a recent interview.

Abby Sherman: What made you want to join Friendship Circle?

Josh Freedman: I liked the concept of removing the idea of having "others" from our society and of creating friendships between typically developing teenagers and those with autism and other developmental disabilities.

AS: How does working with the Friendship Circle make you feel?

JF: A lot of happiness comes from it. It's a very fulfilling activity. Yes, some days are hard, especially if your buddy doesn't like the activity or if your buddy isn't communicating well. It can be hard to figure out what your buddy's needs are and how to adapt to them. Once you find that balance and figure out what your buddy enjoys and what things they don't, for example loud noises or how certain objects feel, you can steer away from those and have a good time with your buddy.

AS: Have you made any friends with anyone in the Friendship Circle?

JF: I've made a lot of connections



Josh baking with his buddy with the Friendship Circle

through the Friendship Circle. My biggest connection was through one of their sister organizations, U Matter. I ran U Matter for a few years. During the peak of COVID 19, we launched U Message, which was a texting platform that sent out messages to teenagers all across the country. We sent out messages such as weekend motivation trivia and pieces of advice to show that; you are not alone. A lot of my connections came from that

and proving that you're not alone and there are people there for you when you need them.

AS: Why are you still working with the Friendship Circle today?

JF: The thing that keeps me coming back to it is that every time, every week that you go to a program, there's all these new kids to meet and new experiences to be had. It's not the same thing repeated over and over again. There's always something new to try, something new to explore. A new experience to have, a new friend to meet and hang out with.

AS: How did traveling with Etgar 36 happen and what did you do on the trip?

JF: Etgar 36 is a five week bus trip across the United States. Participants learn all about history, politics, and activism. We started in Atlanta, Georgia, and went all the way to California. Then we flew from California to Chicago and saw all of the northeast region of the United States. On the trip, we talked about issues such as abortion rights, gun rights, marriage equality, and LGBTQIA+ marriage rights. We learn about this by going to museums, but mostly speaking to people from both perspectives of issues. For example, one week we met with the former president of ProLife Texas. Then in D.C., we met with the executive of an abortion clinic. The trip was extremely interesting. Especially since it was with a Jewish group of teens that were all passionate about the same thing, coming



Josh with Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff at the entrance to the US Capital on the Etgar 36 trip

(Continued on page 32)

LIGHT UP THE SUMMER



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

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- 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.



Education and Youth

Exciting Enrichment Opportunities at Jewish Preschool on Sardis

By Devorah Gorkin

JPS has something for every family, including half-day and full-day programs, year-round care, and part-time programming. We also offer an exciting enrichment program which is available for three and four-year-old students three afternoons each week. We offer a variety of activities that rotate each semester, including soccer, tennis, art, cooking, Legos, and more!

One of our new enrichment classes this year was “Masters in the Making,” an art program put together by our four’s teacher, Ms. Jessica. “Masters in the Making” is an art program designed to teach children about the great artists throughout history. Beginning with ancient times, the children were introduced to a series of artists and artistic styles that shaped the history of art. Each class introduced the

children to an artist and featured a project inspired by that artist. From ancient Egypt calligraphy through the contemporary Pop Art of Andy Warhol, “Masters in the Making” exposed the children to artistic movements, styles and the great Master artists that changed the art world.

This semester, we will be launching “Kids in the Kosher Kitchen” with our very own Ms. Ericka. The children will cultivate their culinary skills



The children learned about what goes in chicken soup prior to starting cooking



Sean safely chops celery for his chicken soup



Working on Rousseau jungle pieces

and create traditional Jewish recipes. They will practice measuring, mixing, and exploring cause and effect through the lens of food. Some of the recipes we will work on will be kugel, Israeli salad, chicken soup and, of course, challah! This will give children a positive experience with kosher food preparation while nourishing their minds, bodies, and spirits.

If you don't already, follow us on Instagram (@jps_kids) or Facebook to see photos of our upcoming adventures!



Taylor having a blast creating Van Gogh's "Starry Night"



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Education and Youth

Magical Mitzvah Night at Hebrew High

By: Emily Schenkel and Eliana Spector

On November 16th, a week before Thanksgiving, Hebrew High held a Magical Mitzvah Night to help those in need. This was especially meaningful around Thanksgiving time because it allowed us to reflect and help those in our community. The Magical Mitzvah Night was planned and implemented by a

group of 11th and 12th graders as part of their first trimester class: Think Globally, Act Locally. As a class, we met every Wednesday leading up to November 16th to plan the event. The program was developed with five different organizations in mind: Flo Charlotte, the Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte, the Charlotte Humane Society, the homeless, and Jewish Family Services of

Greater Charlotte. Each of these organizations were selected based on five different Jewish values. To add a little ambiance and fun to the evening, we added a Disney theme which saw participants dress up as their favorite Disney characters and dance the night away to Disney music. Obviously, the most important part of the evening was the projects put together for the students to complete:

FLO Charlotte provides feminine hygiene products to those who otherwise may not be able to afford them. Their focus is on not only providing these products, but they also help families with homelessness, domestic violence, schooling, and the LGBTQ+ community. Students worked to pack sets of pads and tampons in bags to be delivered to FLO Charlotte. These products have been collected by the class and the student body throughout the past month. The Jewish value we decided to focus on for this project was *Lo Levayesh*, which means not



Cabell Philpott and Wyatt Para just finished putting together their blessing bags to be distributed to the homeless in Charlotte.



Miles Humphrey, Benjamin Gran, Sydney Adamo and Jack Foodman posing with Mickey Mouse. The teens wanted to invite Mickey to have a magical night with them!

(Continued on page 31)



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Education and Youth

Hebrew High

(Continued from page 30)

embarrassing. During this station we watched a short video on how lots of women living in India need to use thin cloth for a feminine product and how they had needed to stay home from work while on their periods. The video also showed how they created a machine to produce cheaper period products, while being able to employ women at the factory, giving them stable jobs. Then we packed sets of five pads and tampons in each bag to be sent to Flo Charlotte.

The Ronald McDonald House is an organization that provides a safe, affordable caring home for the families of children being treated in medical facilities. The Jewish value we had associated with the Ronald McDonald House is Somaych Noflim V'Rofay Cholim, which means supporting and healing. During the station we created centerpieces for meals and upcoming events at the Ronald McDonald House.

The Charlotte Humane Society believes in working to improve our community by creating new, loving families, and building a world where there are



Frida Secrist, Eliana Spector and Alan Johnathan putting their final touches on the no-sew blankets

no more homeless and unwanted animals. The Jewish value we associate with the Charlotte Humane Society is Tz'ar Ba'alei Chayim, which means compassion for animals. At this station we worked on making no sew blankets for the dogs that come in and out of the Charlotte Humane Society of Charlotte.

We created blessing bags for the homeless. In these bags we packed up basic human resources including water, socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hairbrushes, non-perishable foods,

and more to provide basic everyday necessities. The Jewish value we had associated with the homeless is Tikkun Olam, repairing the world.

Jewish Family Services is committed to creating a stronger and healthier Charlotte community. The Jewish value we had associated with Jewish Family Services is Kehillah, which means community. Jewish Family Services is an organization that provides services such as therapy and food drives for its members. While at this station we baked cookies and brownies to donate to JFS and all others affiliated.

The teens had a blast giving back to the community the week before Thanksgiving. There was so much energy in the room as all the projects were being completed. This was such a great way to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday and we can't wait to make this an annual program at Hebrew High.



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“An Epidemic of Hate”: Biden Administration Officials Meet With Jewish Leaders To Tackle Rising Antisemitism

WASHINGTON (JTA), December 7, 2022

Top Biden administration officials launched a roundtable on antisemitism on December 7 by describing a “rising tide of antisemitism” and likening the atmosphere in the United States to that of Europe, where Jewish worship is held under lock and key.

“Right now, there is an epidemic of hate facing our country,” said Douglas Emhoff, the Jewish second gentleman, who convened and chaired the 90-minute session.

Jewish officials represented at the meeting were impressed by how comprehensive the meeting was, saying it went beyond the white supremacist threat that the Biden administration has focused on in the past to other sources, among them attackers who target the visibly Orthodox and Jewish students on campuses.

The meeting in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, adjacent to the White House, comes on the heels of weeks of antisemitic invective spewed by rapper Kanye West, who now goes by Ye, and the dinner attended last month by West, Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes and former President Donald Trump at Trump’s Florida residence. The discussion also follows alarming spikes in antisemitic invective on Twitter and other platforms.

“In my experience, there’s nothing more vicious than what we’re seeing today,” said Susan Rice, President Joe Biden’s top domestic policy adviser, who described growing up in a heavily Jewish neighborhood in Washington, D.C.

Ten years ago, Rice said, when she was defending Israel against its many enemies as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, she did not imagine a threat to Jews domestically. Now she says she hears antisemitic expressions coming from elected officials, public figures and entertainers, calling it an “incredible rising tide.”

Deborah Lipstadt, the State Department envoy to monitor antisemitism, said she no longer has the luxury of her predecessors, who traveled abroad to assess antisemitism in foreign countries. Now, she said, she had to treat the problem as a domestic and a foreign one.

“I can’t go to these countries and say ‘You have a problem,’” she said. “Now I have to say ‘We have a serious problem.’”

After multiple attacks on synagogues stateside in recent years, she said, Jewish places of worship were becoming more visibly fortified than they were for years when security, if it existed, was unobtrusive and synagogues were welcoming.

“For decades, when we trav-

eled in Europe, we used to identify synagogues by gendarmes,” she said. “Now we see police cars, now we lock the doors in the United States.”

The Kanye West episodes evidently helped spur the convening of the meeting. George Selim, the Anti-Defamation League senior vice president who was present, said the meeting came together within a week, unlike similar events which can take months to organize.

“The urgency was clear, the meeting needed to be convened, it needed to be in person,” he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview.

Representatives of the dozen or so groups that attended were impressed by the level of attention: in addition to Emhoff, Rice and Lipstadt, there were officials from the National Security Council, the Officer of Public Engagement, and the Office of Faith-based Partnerships.

The representatives were impressed by how personal Emhoff, who is married to Vice President Kamala Harris, made the battle. He described how moved he has been by American Jews who are proud of him — the first Jewish spouse of a president or vice president. “I’m in pain right now, our community is in pain,” he said.

Emhoff’s unabashed identification with the Jewish community helped elevate the issue of combating antisemitism, said Rabbi Levi Shemtov, the executive vice president of American Friends of Lubavitch (Chabad).

“He and I might see Jewish ritual and practice a little differently. But one thing Jewish people will remember forever in our history is that when the time came for him to make his decision, he decided to identify unequivocally as a Jew,” Shemtov said.

Amy Spitalnick, the executive director of Integrity First for America, the group that underwrote successful lawsuits against the neo-Nazis who organized the deadly 2017 march in Charlottesville, Virginia, said the officials closely listened to every presentation. (The media was present for opening remarks by government officials, and was ushered out so the representatives of Jewish groups could speak freely.)

“We were watching them take copious notes, they were genuinely listening,” she told JTA.

The range of invitees and the topics addressed also extended beyond the threat posed to Jews from the extreme right, an area that has until now been the Biden administration’s focus, through a summit on extremism in September and a speech Biden gave in Philadelphia last summer.

Speakers addressed antisemitic attacks on the visibly Orthodox which, particularly in the

New York area, are most often not carried out by white supremacists. And there were officials from at least three groups that represent the visibly Orthodox: The Orthodox Union, which is Modern Orthodox, along with Agudath Israel of America and American Friends of Lubavitch (Chabad), which are haredi Orthodox.

Speakers also were sensitive to the plight of Jewish students on college campuses, who often face hostility from peers whose sharp criticism of Israel can sometimes manifest as antisemitism.

“On college campuses, the supposed bastions of liberal ideas and ideals, many students believe it better to camouflage their Jewish identity,” Lipstadt said. One of the speakers was Julia Jassey, a senior at the University of Chicago who is the CEO of Jewish on Campus, a student group that tracks antisemitism on campuses.

The Jewish participants said they benefited from hearing how others experienced antisemitism. Abba Cohen, Aguda’s Washington director, said he found receptive listeners when he described

an increased effort by local councils to limit the building of Orthodox communities. He and Nathan Diamant, the Washington director of the Orthodox Union, also described the threat to the visibly Orthodox.

Their accounts moved others present who do not live the Orthodox lifestyle. “We all have different experiences with antisemitism and clearly for someone who’s Orthodox, it might feel different than for someone who’s not,” said Sheila Katz, the CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Katz said the meeting was a relief because she often has difficulty explaining to her progressive allies why antisemitism persists as a threat.

“I feel like in the last, you know, year, I’ve been saying over and over again, this is getting worse. This is getting amplified, people are emboldened,” she said. “And there are a lot, particularly in the progressive community that would say, ‘No, no, that’s not what’s happening.’”

Some practical proposals were discussed, including a letter this week from a bipartisan slate of lawmakers advocating for

a cross-agency “whole of government” task force to combat antisemitism, and an expansion of federal funding that currently underwrites security upgrades for Jewish institutions to include paying for extra police patrols.

The meeting did not result in concrete decisions, but participants said they left with the impression that the federal government was ready to dive deep into finding practicable solutions.

“For me, this is not the end. This is just the beginning of this conversation,” Emhoff said.

Other groups represented included the American Jewish Committee, Hillel International, the Jewish Federations of North America, the Reform and Conservative movements, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Secure Community Network, the security consultancy for the Jewish community.

“It sends a very important message that the sort of rampant antisemitism we’re seeing is unacceptable and that the highest office in the country is doing something about it,” Spitalnick said.

Days After Emhoff-led summit, Biden Sets up Task Force to Fight Antisemitism and Islamophobia

Editor’s Note: The following is a follow-up to the lead article on this page.

WASHINGTON (JTA), December 13, 2022

Less than a week after Doug Emhoff, the Jewish second gentleman, chaired a roundtable with Jewish organizational leaders, President Joe Biden has set up an interagency task force to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The group’s first task is coming up with a strategy to tackle the rise in antisemitism.

“This strategy will raise understanding about antisemi-

tism and the threat it poses to the Jewish community and all Americans, address antisemitic harassment and abuse both online and offline, seek to prevent antisemitic attacks and incidents, and encourage whole-of-society efforts to counter antisemitism and build a more inclusive nation,” Karine Jean-Pierre, Biden’s spokeswoman, said in a statement.

Emhoff’s 90-minute meeting last week came on the heels of weeks of antisemitic invective spewed by rapper Kanye West, who now goes by Ye, and the dinner attended last month by West, Holocaust denier Nick

Fuentes and former President Donald Trump at Trump’s Florida residence. The discussion also followed alarming spikes in antisemitic invective on Twitter and other platforms.

A bipartisan slate of lawmakers last week urged Biden to establish a task force on antisemitism.

According to Jean-Pierre’s release, the task force will be led by Domestic Policy Council staff and National Security Council staff. She did not say which other government agencies will be involved.

Youth Spotlight

(Continued from page 28)

from all across the country.

After the interview I felt inspired to make sure that no one feels alone and different from everyone else. Even though people are different from one another, we all share the same planet, so everyone should be treated fairly and with respect. Friendship Circle does this every day by making sure that people who may be seen as “different” have a friend and someone to lean on. Josh Freedman and other teens help do this by becoming friends with kids that have special needs. To

me, the final question is, will you make sure nobody feels alone, or will you stand by, and watch kids wave through a window?

After the interview, I realized that there are a lot of opportunities for teens to learn about present and past issues that matter. Josh learned all about this on the Etgar 36 trip. The trip was very inspiring and eye opening for him. There are also ways for teens to help kids with disabilities. They can join Friendship Circle like Josh, and fight the stereotype of “different”. All

these things and more are ways to get involved and learn with your community. So now, the question is, what will you do?

Abby Sherman is an eighth grader at South Charlotte Middle School. She loves to perform in musicals, especially at the JCC. In her free time she loves to read, paint, and spend time with her friends and family. She enjoys baking and cooking.

This interview was edited lightly for clarity.

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(Puzzle on page 22)

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Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following article is from The Charlotte Jewish News, January, 1986. To read other issues of The CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

Looking Back: Year 1986

Temples “Stretch Out Arms” to Unaffiliates

Charlotte’s three temples, Beth El, Beth Shalom and Israel have jointly agreed by unanimous Board approval to offer six months free membership in the temple of their choice to every unaffiliated member of the Jewish community. These six-month memberships will begin in January and run through June.

“You are personally wanted and very welcome!”

This is the phrase which opens the letters already received by the 800 individuals who are part of the Charlotte Jewish community but not current members in any of the temples.

The letter, sent over the signatures of Sally Schrader, Mike Simon and Bill Ashendorf, goes on to explain the reason for this unusual offer:

“We want the opportunity to show you, up close and person-

ally, how good it will feel to be a part of any one of our ‘extended families.’

“We know we can help you meet others your own age and add to your social opportunities. Each of our temples has planned programs and activities that relate Judaism to our daily concerns and issues. And, if you are among the vast majority of Jews who never received or never retained much basic Jewish knowledge, we have arranged to help fill the gaps without embarrassing either you or ourselves.”

Ruth Goldberg, chair of the Federation Outreach Committee, and Bill Ashendorf, representing the Foundation, agree that this latest effort is extremely worthwhile on many levels.

“In planning outreach for the unaffiliated,” says Goldberg, “The Temples have enhanced their pro-

grams and their outreach among their current members. Our study showed a real need across both member and non-member lines for social opportunities, for feeling welcome and wanted, and for Jewish knowledge. The amount of work which has gone into turning these needs into responsive programs will benefit everyone for years to come.”

Supplemental plans are under way to assist those unaffiliated children who take advantage of this six-month offer and need to be helped with their Jewish education. Because of the costs for teachers and materials, a reasonable charge will be made for these special programs.

The letter concludes, “One very important promise. When the six months are up, no one will twist your arm about joining. If we have lived up to our promises



Charles Goodall (L) presenting the 1985 Charles Goodall Award for innovative and model programming in small cities (our Outreach program) to Ruth Goldberg, Federation Outreach Chair, and Marvin Bienstock, Charlotte Federation Executive Director, at recent CJF-GA in Washington D.C.

we won’t have to. If we haven’t, then we won’t have earned your affiliation.”

All three presidents and the hard working board members agree on one thing beyond the basic offer: they can and will live up to their promises!

For any reader of the Charlotte Jewish News not currently affiliated with one of the three temples and not having received the letter, please call the Federation office at 366-5007 to arrange for your free membership.



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