

# The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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## Federation Workshop Series Empowers Parents to Combat Antisemitism in Schools

By Douglas Greene,  
JFGC Government Relations &  
Public Affairs Associate

As incidents of antisemitism continue to rise locally, it is crucial to equip parents with the tools and knowledge to combat these challenges head-on. Recognizing the need to empower our community's parents in navigating incidents of antisemitism in schools, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, through its Outshine Hate initiative, has created an advocacy workshop series to provide invaluable support, guidance, and education to parents so that they can gain essential skills and knowledge to advocate for their children — fostering resilience and empowerment in the face of adversity.

Antisemitism remains a persistent issue in our communities. Unfortunately, schools are not immune to such bigotry. Jewish students often encounter various forms of antisemitism, ranging from micro-aggressions and stereotypes to overt acts of hatred. Consequently, parents find themselves in a challenging position, often without the tools and confidence to respond.

The Parent Advocacy Workshop Series empowers parents to confront antisemitism in schools and secure a safe and inclusive environment for their children. Parents will learn to recognize antisemitism in both the digital world and the school



Douglas Greene, Government Relations & Public Affairs Associate

environment, develop effective communication strategies with school leadership, build alliances, navigate school policies, and drive meaningful change.

The series of five workshops provides a platform for interactive sessions with local education stakeholders from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Union County Public Schools, covering essential topics, and collectively combating Jew-hatred. The first workshop in the series will be led by Dr. Rachel Fish, co-founder of Boundless, a think tank action organization focused on revitalizing Israel education.

We are grateful to our parent ambassadors, including Raizel Kahn, Sara Kulbersh, Nikki

Sacks, Allen Sherman, and Tal Stein, who are spearheading this effort with Federation. Their support helps garner awareness and create networks of solidarity. Together they will share stories, exchange ideas, and offer mutual support, creating a sense of community that can be instrumental in effectively challenging antisemitism.

The workshop series will launch this September, ahead of the 2023-2024 school year. Stay

tuned to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's website and social media pages for important registration information. For inquiries, please contact Douglas Greene, the government relations and public affairs associate, at the Federation office. (704) 944-6858.

In a time where incidents of antisemitism persist, empowering parents to advocate for their children is paramount. This initiative not only empowers par-

ents, but also paves the way for a more inclusive and tolerant educational environment. Together, we can stand against antisemitism and create a safer future for our children.



## Aleeza Ben Shalom, Host of Netflix Hit Series, "Jewish Matchmaking," To Perform Live in Charlotte

By Rabbi Levi Cohen

The Netflix series "Jewish Matchmaking" is taking the world by storm, headlined by the charismatic matchmaker Aleeza Ben Shalom, who uses her strong Jewish roots, people skills, and just a little old-school intuition to match Jews until they find "the one."

For one sensational evening, Aleeza is bringing her live show to Charlotte on Sept. 6! Prepare to be amazed as Aleeza Ben Shalom shares the ins and outs of the world of Jewish matchmaking; learn how Aleeza makes her magic. She will share some of the foundations that make a good match, and the points of self-reflection every Jew in the dating scene should focus on to help determine their best-suited match.

Aleeza Ben Shalom has garnered praise for her ability to bring Jewish singles together. Aleeza has become a guiding light for those seeking their life partners within the Jewish community. Her expertise and warm-hearted nature have endeared her to audiences globally, making her an influential figure in the world of Jewish matchmaking.

Aleeza has a unique perspective on the age-old art of the *shidduch*, or arranged date, by



taking on clients of all Jewish backgrounds. She firmly believes that this traditional approach is the best and most thought-out method of choosing a soulmate.

Combining her traditional approach with her modern experience, she'll share the inside story of how she got cast as the

"Jewish Matchmaker," and some of the challenges she faces.

In today's fast-paced world, where digital platforms, algorithms, and swipes determine our romantic prospects, Jewish matchmaking still holds a dis-

(Continued on page 3)

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# From the Editor

## The Charlotte Jewish News: Celebrating Jewish Life



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

As I write this, the sun is just rising, casting a warm glow on my desk. It's early morning, and I've already completed my tranquil morning routine – some quiet time, a brisk walk, a few pages of my favorite book — and now

“As a long term member of the Jewish community, I look forward to each month’s edition. Going back many years, great articles have been written about every aspect of Jewish community life and activities. The recent portrayal of Leon Levine was particularly emotional and touching for me. Reading about Jewish Family Services, the Federation and synagogue activities keeps me well informed. There's no better way to gain insight into the community by reading the CJN.”

Stan Greenspon

I'm enjoying my steaming cup of coffee. And though what lies ahead for my day is part of my routine, I am aware that it is not everyone's daily experience. I'm heading to work to do something that has real meaning for hundreds of individuals, if not more — something that has a genuine impact for The Charlotte Jewish News' (CJN) more than 4,500 subscribers.

While countless people may have jobs that impact others, they might not always witness the tangible results or receive the affirmations they deserve. However, as the editor of the CJN, I am incredibly privileged to experience our profound impact firsthand. The regular stream of feedback I receive serves as a powerful reminder of the positive influence our publication has on the lives of our readers. The words on these pages have the ability to represent, inform, and engage our community in ways that reverberate far beyond the printed page.

If you find yourself reading these words, it means that the CJN holds some value for you. Allow me to make a humble request — take a moment to reflect on why you choose to read the CJN and the personal value it brings to your life. Then, let your thoughts expand to consider the

“Jewish Family Services truly values the resource that the CJN provides in connecting our work to the Charlotte Jewish community. Our ability to use the CJN as a voice to create awareness of JFS programs and services as well as a tool to educate our community on the important service needs of community is invaluable. Whether through articles about JFS, commentary about mental health or other social service issues or advertising our programs, the CJN connects JFS to our clients, donors and community. I frequently receive feedback on articles about social service issues and needs, and most importantly, potential clients will reach out to JFS as a result of what they have read in the CJN. The result is the CJN assists in helping JFS to meet the needs of our community.”

Howard Olshansky,  
Executive Director JFS

broader impact this paper has on the dozens of local Jewish organizations and businesses it represents. They rely on the CJN as a vital conduit to reach their constituents and beyond. In fact, the CJN's reach extends far beyond what any individual organization or business could achieve on its own, making it the central communication vehicle for the entire

Charlotte Jewish community.

Here's the thing — the CJN is available to anyone who wishes to subscribe, free of charge. Many other community papers rely on paid subscriptions, but we believe in keeping our publication accessible to all. However, producing the CJN is not without its costs, and over the past year-and-a-half, those costs have continued to rise, outpacing our advertising revenue and individual donations.

For years, we've included envelopes in our paper once a year, kindly requesting your support. Last year, we made the process even more convenient by introducing a quick and easy online option. You might be accustomed to finding those envelopes in our December issue, but this year, we've decided to include them in the current edition. Today, we kindly ask that if you've never returned an envelope or made a donation online to the CJN, you consider doing so now, empowering us to continue serving our community with dedication and excellence. If you regularly support the CJN — we thank you! We request that you consider an increase in the amount of your support in recognition of the rising costs to produce the paper.

We hope you will consider

“The Charlotte Jewish News is an incredible jewel in Charlotte's crown. Without it as a resource, the community would be walking in the dark as far as learning about events, services, organizations, educational opportunities, news of great importance on both the local and international scene, and more through a Jewish lens. I served for several years on the editorial board for the paper and got to see the entity from the inside. It gave me a more in-depth perspective on what the paper does and who it serves. It enhanced my sense of volunteerism within the community beyond my own congregational experience. I raise a glass to many more years of service that CJN provides for us all. Mazel tov on a job well done to everyone associated with CJN both past and present. Your contributions are remarkable and well worth public recognition.”

Elaine “Lainey” Millen

a contribution to the Charlotte Jewish News. Thank you for being loyal readers and actively engaged members of Charlotte's Jewish community, and *Celebrating Jewish Life* with us!

To donate online, visit [www.charlottejewishnews.org](http://www.charlottejewishnews.org).

Shira

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

August 4 — 8:06 p.m.  
August 11 — 7:58 p.m.  
August 18 — 7:50 p.m.  
August 25 — 7:42 p.m.

The Charlotte  
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THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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The Charlotte Jewish News is deeply thankful to those subscribers whose 2023 donation helps us realize the vision for our community's paper. Your support has enabled us to continue serving as the Charlotte Jewish community's central communication vehicle – representing, informing, and engaging our more than 4,500 readers. By investing in the Charlotte Jewish News, you help us all **Celebrate Jewish Life!**

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## Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

# IsraelNow: Inspiring Jewish Connection and Heritage for Charlotte's Eighth Graders

By Shira Firestone

Immersing eighth graders in an unforgettable, hands-on experience, IsraelNow, a program available through the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's (JFGC) Outshine Hate initiative, aims to ignite a deep and lasting connection to Israel and Jewish heritage. By fostering a strong commitment to Jewish life among our community's youth, IsraelNow endeavors to strengthen and nurture the ties that bind us.

As an organization committed to creating, sustaining, and safeguarding a flourishing and vibrant Jewish community, Federation witnesses firsthand how the uptick in antisemitism and anti-Israel bias impacts our community. Through its Outshine Hate initiative, JFGC is determined to combat these negative forces by educating, empowering, and uniting the local community. Strengthening our local relationship with Israel is a vital part of this mission, and JFGC's support in sending teens on this transformative trip is an important part of this commitment.

Chad Schaeffer, JFGC's director of education and engagement, shared his reflections on last year's IsraelNow trip, offering a glimpse into the exciting opportunities awaiting this year's participants. "Our days were packed with visits to sites of immense significance to Jewish history and identity, where we interacted with Israelis of all ages," he said. "We explored Masada, a symbol of Jewish resistance overlooking the Dead Sea, and walked the ancient streets of Jerusalem, Is-



Teens from 2023 IsraelNow trip

rael's capital. In Tel Aviv, we immersed ourselves in the vibrant energy of one of the world's most dynamic cities. But our experience went beyond sightseeing. We engaged with Israeli eighth graders, learning about their lives and perspectives. We met members of the IDF and lone soldiers who shared their motivations for protecting Israel. Each had their unique reasons, but all shared the common goal of safeguarding the Jewish homeland. We also had the privilege of speaking with a Holocaust survivor who fought in Israel's Independence War, leaving a profound impact on students and adults alike."

One of the participating teens recalled, "IsraelNow opened my eyes to the deep connection I have with my Jewish heritage. Meeting Israeli peers, learning from IDF soldiers, and hearing the stories of Holocaust survivors made me realize the importance of cherishing our traditions and

standing up for our community. It was a life-changing experience that I will carry with me forever."

IsraelNow's ultimate goal is to inspire participants to deepen their Jewish involvement within the community, engaging in ongoing Jewish learning experiences and activities. Through the Outshine Hate initiative, JFGC is committed to making this transformative trip accessible to our local teens, fostering a vibrant Jewish future.

Registration for the Feb. 12-20, 2024 IsraelNow trip is now open. For more details, visit [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org) or contact Noah Goldman, Israel & Global Jewry Associate at [noah-goldman@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:noah-goldman@jewishcharlotte.org).

Send your teen on an extraordinary journey that will ignite their Jewish spirit and leave an indelible mark on their connection to Israel and our rich heritage.

## Jewish Matchmaking

(Continued from front page)

tinct allure. In the heart of the Jewish community, the art of Jewish matchmaking continues to thrive, weaving together faith, culture, and human connection. The recent surge of interest in Jewish matchmaking, exemplified by "Jewish Matchmaking," has brought this timeless practice into the spotlight.

Grounded in centuries-old traditions and values, matchmaking offers a unique approach to finding love, blending Jewish heritage, compatibility, and shared values. Matchmakers often work closely with families, engaging in thorough assessments to ensure compatibility based on religious observance, cultural backgrounds, and similar aspirations.

By intertwining faith and culture with the pursuit of love, matchmaking fosters a sense of continuity and connection within the Jewish community.

Join us for this extraordinary event where we will have the opportunity to learn from a renowned matchmaker who has been instrumental in bringing love and happiness to countless Jewish couples. Aleeza's blend of expertise, Jewish values, and personal charisma is sure to leave a lasting impact on our community.

The live event will be at 7 p.m. on Sept. 6 at the Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish Life, 6619 Sardis Road. It is co-sponsored by Chabad of Charlotte, Ballan-

tyne Jewish Center, and Chabad Young Professionals. A choice of tickets is available, including general admission tickets as well as VIP access to a pre-reception, signed book options, and sponsorship opportunities. Learn more or sign up today at [www.chabadnc.org/match](http://www.chabadnc.org/match), or call Chabad of Charlotte at (704) 366-3984.



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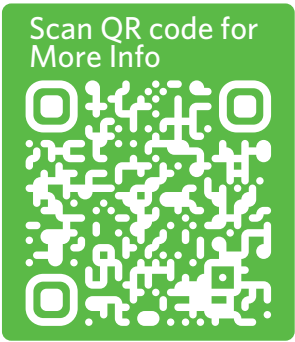
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## Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

## Sue's Bookshelf



By Sue Littauer

Reading "Unnatural History" by prolific author Jonathan Kellerman is like settling down to visit with old friends. Milo Sturgis and Alex Delaware have been solving mysteries together since they first appeared in "When the Bough Breaks," published in 1985.

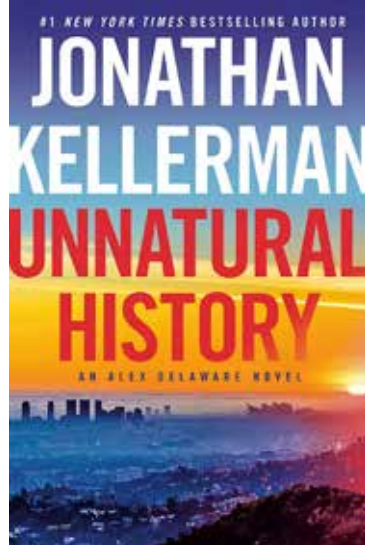
Milo Sturgis is an LAPD detective who dresses sloppily, constantly eats bad food, and is a workaholic who doesn't rest until he solves every heinous crime. Early on, he realizes he needs help — the kind of help only a seasoned insightful psychologist can provide. He calls on Dr. Alex Delaware, who is a working child psychologist living in the hills of Los Angeles. As Delaware lends his perception and experience to assist his best friend, he becomes a fixture in the LAPD.

Delaware is Sturgis' opposite. His healthy lifestyle, conservative dress (unencumbered with crumbs), and stellar reputation in his field make him the perfect accomplice to Sturgis. What they have in common, though, is their ability to communicate openly, brainstorm, listen to each other, and drop everything in an instant to investigate new leads.

The death of Donny (short for Adonis) Klement is the crime to be solved in "Unnatural History." Donny is a young and altruistic, son of a billionaire who photographs homeless people after he dresses them up to look like the successes they aspired to be and pays them \$500 each for their time. The project is called "The Wishers." After he is found with three bullet holes in his chest, the wishers become suspects, along with Donny's five estranged half-siblings, all the progeny of an uninvolved father who marries women, impregnates them, and leaves them. The search for the wishers, the father, the half-siblings, and their mothers, becomes the storyline for Kellerman's latest crime novel.

Reading his impressive bio on [www.JonathanKellerman.com](http://www.JonathanKellerman.com), I am struck by his exceptional background. Like his fictional protagonist, Alex Delaware, Jonathan Kellerman received a PhD in psychology at 24, with a specialty in the treatment of children. He served internships in clinical psychology and pediatric psychology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and was a post-doctoral HEW Fellow in Psychology and Human Development at CHLA.

In 1975, Kellerman was asked by the hospital to conduct research into the psychological effects of extreme isolation (plastic bubble units) on children with cancer and to coordinate care for these kids and their families. The success of that venture led to the establishment in 1977 of the Psychosocial Program, Division of Oncology, the first comprehensive approach to the emotional aspects of pediatric cancer anywhere in the world. Kellerman was asked to be the founding director and, along



with his team, published extensively in the area of behavioral medicine. Decades later, the program, under the tutelage of one of his former students, continues to break ground.

In 1985, Jonathan's first novel, "When the Bough Breaks," was published to enormous critical and commercial success and became a "New York Times"



Jonathan Kellerman

bestseller. Since then, Jonathan Kellerman has published a best-selling crime novel every year, and occasionally, two a year. Though no longer active as a psychotherapist, he is a clinical professor of pediatrics and psychology at University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. He is married to best-

selling novelist Faye Kellerman and they have four children.

Jonathan Kellerman's novels can be found at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, in both hardback and e-book formats. For more information about the CJE Book Club, please contact [sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org).



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## Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

# Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books

## Back to School

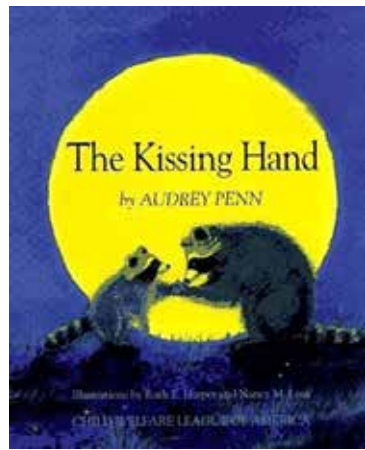


By Debby Block

It is difficult to believe that it's almost time to go back to school! As we enjoy the last month of summer weather, the first day of school is rapidly approaching. Some children are excited to jump into a new adventure and some children are truly anxious about the unknown. Books provide the perfect way to explore the continuum of emotions that accompany a brand new school year. Here are my recommendations to share with your child as your family prepares for a brand new school year.

"The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn is a picture book about separation anxiety. Chester Raccoon wants to stay home rather than go to school. Wise Mrs. Raccoon shares a secret with Chester to help alleviate his fears — the kissing hand. Mom kisses the palm of Chester's left hand and says whenever he feels lonely or needs a little love from home, he should press his hand to his cheek and remember that his mother loves him. Not only is this picture book very sweet, but it also provides a valuable tool that any parent could implement to soothe a nervous child.

Tip from Miss Debby — if the kissing hand does not work, try a handkerchief with your perfume, a drawing with a kiss or even a necklace with a heart. "The Kissing Hand" is recommended for children ages 2-7.



Todd Parr continues to be one of my favorite author/illustrators for young children. "The School Book" is yet another example of Todd Parr at his best. With the bold, colorful illustrations, Parr introduces children to all the wonderful things they can do at school, a place where everyone is welcome. Highly recommended for children ages 1-5.

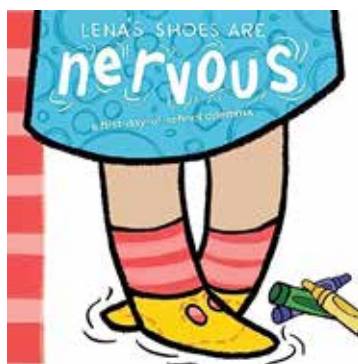
I am a collector Mo Willems' books for children, as I absolutely love his quirky sense of humor. In "The Pigeon Has to Go to School!" the one and only character in the book does not want to go to school and has all sorts of excuses. Pigeon pleads and negotiates with the reader. As a part of the series "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," this book had me giggling and it will have your children laughing too. I recommend this book for



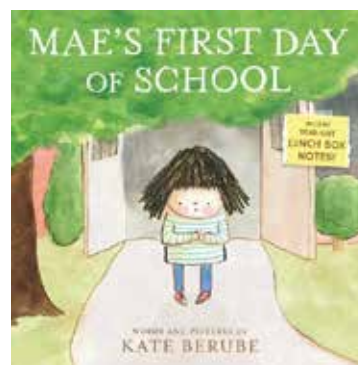
children ages 3-7. Older students will also enjoy this as a read-aloud book.

Jim is worried that he will not have anyone to play with at his new school, but as his first day proceeds through free play, story time, and even nap time, Jim observes lots of silly antics and starts to make friends. As the first in a series, "Will I Have a Friend?" by Miriam Cohen introduces us to lovable characters, including Danny, Paul, Anna-Maria, Margaret and, of course, Jim. Although this picture book was written in 1967, it is still relevant and fresh today for any child entering preschool or even kindergarten.

Lena is excitedly getting ready for her first day of kindergarten in the picture book called "Lena's Shoes are Nervous: A First-Day-of-School

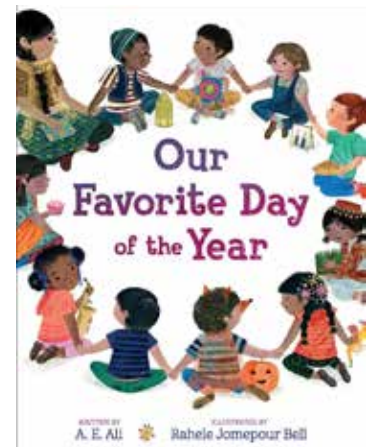


Dilemma" by Keith Calabrese. Unfortunately, Lena's favorite shoes are shy and anxious. The shoes are afraid that the new school may be too big and loud. Finally, Lena finds a way (with the help of her outgoing headband) to convince the shoes to be brave, and Lena wears the shoes to school! This picture book is a new find for me and I love the way Lena is empowered to solve the challenge of her nervous shoes — or perhaps her own feelings personified into clothing! I recommend this book for rising kindergarteners, but it is also appropriate for younger children.



"Mae's First Day of School" is a picture book written and illustrated by Kate Berube.

Mae refuses to go to school, so she climbs a tree outside of school and hides there. While in the tree Mae meets Rosie, who also does not want to go to school. Ms. Pearl, the teacher, climbs the tree and admits that she is nervous about the first day of school too! Mae realizes that they are all afraid of the same things and finally they all go to school together. I recommend this book children ages 3-7.



Looking for a picture book that promotes diversity? "Our Favorite Day of the Year" by A.E. Ali, is one of the best picture books that I have found. On Musa's first day of kindergarten, he meets an eclectic mixture of students. For show-and-tell, each student is encouraged to tell about their favorite day of the year. Throughout the year, the class celebrates each student's favorite day including Rosh Hashanah, Eid Mubarak, Las Posadas, and even Pi day! Recommended for children ages 4-7.

For older students who enjoy chapter books, I recommend the book series "The Wayside School" by Newberry Award-winning, Jewish author Louis Sachar. The first in the series of these outlandish tales is "Wayside School is Falling Down," which is a whole series of wacky adventures of the teachers and students at Wayside School. For example, when the teacher, Mrs. Jewls, wants to teach about gravity, she throws a computer out of the window! This series of books is recommended for children ages 6-9.

If you are an adult or any child nine and up, "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio is a book that I cannot recommend highly enough! Auggie Pullman is different from all the other children entering fifth grade. He has a significant facial deformity and has never attended a mainstream school before. Despite his appearance, can Auggie make friends? Can he fit in? With numerous awards, "Wonder" is a truly uplifting chapter book and perhaps the perfect book to launch your new school year!

The books listed above may be found at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Call or email to reserve your copy today (704) 944-6783 or library@jewish-charlotte.org (Curbside pick up is still available.)

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# Live Laugh Give Comedy Night Raises Over \$200,000 for Jewish Family Services

By Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

On June 11 more than 300 guests “laughed and gave” at Jewish Family Services’ (JFS) Live Laugh Give comedy night fundraising event. This year, honorees Eric and Susan Lerner were recognized for their many contributions to JFS, the Jewish community, and the greater Charlotte community. The event welcomed back headliner, Orny Adams who did not disappoint with his one-liners and jokes.



Honorees Eric and Susan Lerner and comedian, Orny Adams

Howard Olshansky, JFS executive director, shared that JFS has been experiencing a significant increase in the demand for their services. Olshansky remarked, “We are so moved that once again our community opened their hearts and the event raised over \$200,000 to help JFS secure the necessary resources needed to meet the growing needs of our community.”

We are grateful for our co-chairs, Adina Loewensteiner and Andrew Bernstein, and for the generosity of our sponsors, spearheaded by our Entertainment Underwriters, Gary and Jodi Michel. The event was followed by a dessert reception for sponsors, underwritten by Pinnacle Financial Partners, which featured a meet-and-greet with Adams. Funds raised from Live

Laugh Give, the annual Family to Family Campaign starting in September, and generous donations throughout the year help JFS maintain the crucial support our community relies on. Live Laugh Give surpassed expectations, thanks to our supportive community. For more information on donating funds,

contributing to the food pantry, or volunteering, please visit [JFSCharlotte.org](http://JFSCharlotte.org) or call (704) 364-6594.



Co-chairs, Adina Loewensteiner and Andrew Bernstein



Adams performing for attendees at Live Laugh Give 2023



Together Against Antisemitism

## Parent Advocacy Series: Empowering Parents to Combat Antisemitism in Schools



Join us for a five-part workshop series, where we will educate parents about how to recognize and respond to antisemitism in K-12 schools and the digital world. Each individual workshop will offer two sessions to accommodate parents, one in the morning at 9am and one in the evening at 7pm.

**Antisemitism 101:** Wednesday, September 6th  
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

**Navigating Antisemitism in the Digital World:**  
Wednesday, October 11th  
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

**Knowing your Rights:** Wednesday, November 15th  
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

**Schools Respond, Conversations with CMS DEI:**  
Wednesday, December 6th  
Gorelick Hall

**Schools Respond, Conversation with UCPS:**  
Wednesday, January 10th  
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

Register at [jewishcharlotte.org](http://jewishcharlotte.org)

For questions contact Douglas Green,  
Government & Public Affairs Associate at  
704.944.6858 or  
[douglas.greene@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:douglas.greene@jewishcharlotte.org)



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Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:30 am

On September 7, 14, 21, 28



## WELLNESS THROUGH MUSIC

Through singing, song discussions, live music-making and music-assisted relaxation, explore how music can benefit your mood and develop coping strategies. No musical background required.

Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:00 pm

On October 5, 12, 19, 26



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For more information or to register, call **704.364.6594**.

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# Impact of Gun Violence on Students

By Howard Olshansky,  
JFS Executive Director

It's that time of year when we typically talk about the challenges of returning to school for many of our children and youth. The transition in routines, the self-consciousness of how they look, their comfort level in socializing, and their anticipated school performance all can create anxiety for students. And for those who may struggle with mental health issues, the beginning of school most often exacerbates their symptoms.

Today, however, a relatively new, overwhelming issue is impacting our kids' ability to prepare for the new school year: the fear of becoming a victim of gun violence in school. In just the first four months of 2023, there were 20 mass shootings in the United States resulting in over 100 deaths. As of May, according to an analysis of The Associated Press/USA Today data, mass killings were happening at a staggering rate of an average of one per week.

According to an article in the Washington Post, in 2022 there were 46 gun shootings in schools, more than any year since at least 1999. The government does not track school shootings but the Washington Post has tracked the data and reported since 1999 beginning with Columbine that year. According to their data, there have been 346 school shootings and more than 356,000 students have experienced gun violence in their schools.

According to an article by the American Psychiatric Association, "The start of an academic



year can bring fear and uncertainty for many. This year concerns may be compounded by the recent gun violence-linked mass casualties. Incidents of school shootings and gun violence have a devastating impact far beyond those directly affected. We are left with several unanswered questions and the lingering fear of future events. As schools reopen, the questions many families now face are: Is my child safe at school? How can I protect my child from school shootings?"

In an article in the Anxiety & Depression Association of America publication written by Annie R. Newins, PhD and Deborah C. Beidel, PhD, ABPP, they suggest the following ways to help students cope with the fear of gun violence in schools:

**Listen to and validate concerns about school shootings.** Given the number of school shootings and other mass violence events that have occurred, concerns about safety are a nat-

ural reaction. Parents/guardians should respond honestly about any thoughts or fears that children express, keeping in mind the age of the child. Identify social supports the student feels comfortable talking to, i.e. family, friends, school personnel, etc. Recognize that everyone reacts differently and responses can vary from fear, anger, depression or even numbness. It's important to acknowledge and verify their feelings.

**Remember that school shootings are rare.** As often as we seem to hear about gun violence in school, statistically, incidents are rare. The constant attention by the media and their connecting school shootings to each other makes it appear as if these incidents are happening more frequently than they actually are. Be clear, no gun violence in school is acceptable and this is not to minimize your student's concerns, it is only a way to point out the fact that the likelihood of a school shooting

is minimal.

**Model and reinforce continued normal activities.** Your continued involvement in normal day-to-day activities will help your child see that you are continuing to function without fear.

**Limit media exposure.** The media will continue coverage of mass shootings and school gun violence repeatedly and from every angle. There is no value to exposing students to constant reminders of these incidents. Limit the media exposure to your child at home, in the car, etc.

**Learn about the safety measures at your child's school.** You can reduce your child's fear and anxiety if they know what measures are in place to protect their safety.

**Engage in advocacy.** This can be at the school level, especially if you believe there are not enough safety precautions

at your child's school. This could also be advocating for local, state or national legislative changes that could result in a safer school environment. Your child will also feel better that you are working to protect them.

**Seek mental health treatment if needed.** If your child's fear or anxiety is so great that it is impeding on their ability to perform or even prevent them from attending school, your child may be suffering from a mental health issue that requires specific therapeutic treatment. In this case seek professional mental health assistance.



## Jewish Family Services Tributes May/June 2023

**Happy Anniversary**  
**Anita and Marvin Shapiro**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein

**Happy Birthday**  
**Elaine Schefflin**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein

**In Honor of**  
**Henry H. Benjamin's high school graduation**  
Robyn Benjamin, Ben and Darcie Orr  
**Robyn Benjamin's 3-year work anniversary at the Independent Tribune**  
Lee and Carolyn Benjamin, Fred and Stacy Garsson, Jacob Harmon, Marc and Stephanie Levenson, Ben and Darcie Orr  
**Andrew Bernstein**  
Alan Kronovet and Cary Bernstein

**Brett Goodman**  
Seth Goodman  
**Eric and Susan Lerner**  
Stan Greenspon  
Rabbi Yossi and Mariashi Groner  
Ivan and Carolin Kirsh  
Gary and Karen Maniloff  
Adam and Deena Shiff  
Steve and Beth Stillitano  
Sue and Kim (OBM) Worrel  
**Sean, Carly, and Dani Lerner**  
Barry and Michelle Goodman  
**Hannah K. Levenson's high school graduation**  
Robyn Benjamin, Ben and Darcie Orr  
**Howard Olshansky**  
Michael and Esther Ostroff  
**Sofia Rosenberger's Bat Mitzvah Project**  
The Ackerman Family  
Glen and Lisa Altman  
The Fermaglich Family  
The Wilkins Family

**In Memory of**  
**Roselle Adams**  
Jeffrey and Lee Bierer  
**Ellen Dermack**  
Sema Goldstein  
Leslie and Albert Khafif and Family  
Bruce and Leslie Levy  
Linda Schrager  
**Ron Karmon**  
Steven and Sharon Hockfield  
**Gene Knoble**  
Jeffrey and Lee Bierer  
Adrian and Andrea Mesoznik  
Heidi Rotberg  
**Martin Kogen**  
Mark and Harriet Perlin  
**Leon Levine**  
Joel and Paulette Cohen  
Mark and Harriet Perlin  
Marc and Mattye Silverman  
Melissa Van Glish  
Michael and Judie Van Glish  
**Kendall Ross**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein  
Mark and Harriet Perlin  
**Stephen Schlusel's Mother**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein  
**Adriane Shapiro**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein  
Stan Greenspon  
Allan and Marcelle Oxman  
Mark and Harriet Perlin  
Gary Silverstein  
**Cecelia Spangenthal**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein

**Mazel Tov**  
**On the birth of Maya Ben David**  
Paul and Lynn Edelstein

## Jewish Family Services Volunteers & Donors May/June 2023

**Volunteers:** Jessica Alfandary, Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Daniel Benjamin, Andrew Bernstein, Suzy Catenazzo, Harvey Chesler, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Joni Deutsch, Sheryl Effren, Terri Fishman, Rachel Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Marty Goldfarb, Richard Goldsmith, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Rebecca Hockfield, Oren Hubara, Tara Hubara, Dawn Hubbs, Bob Jacobson, Mike Kaplan, Rikki Kinitsky, Jennifer Koss, Etti Krausse, Elliot and Stephanie Kreitman, Marcia Lampert, Eric Lerner, Kim Levy, Adina Loewensteiner, Matt Luftglass, Gene Marx, Frada Mozentzer, Wendy Petricoff, Barbara Rein, Nina Rose, Marilyn Schuster, Janice Shubin, Louis Sinkoe, Harry Sparks, Lorin Steifel, Steve Teich, David and Beth Thrope, Gail Vogel, Amalia Warshenbrot, Nancy Wielunski, Amanda Zaidman

**Live Laugh Give Committee:** Meredith Baumstein, Andrew Bernstein, Andrea Cronson, Katherine Fainstein, Marlo Fox, Rachel Friedman, Blair Goldsmith, Marcia Lampert, Adina Loewensteiner, Rachel Peterson, Jodi Michel, Karen Ransenberg, Karen Silver

**Live Laugh Give Volunteers:** Bailey Abramowitz, Adam Bolger, Gabriella Catenazzo, Skyler Clark, Jenna Dalli, Brittany Downs, Peyton Edelson, Peg Epstein, Rob Friedman, Josh Gerrard, Noah Goldman, Richard Goldsmith, Stacy Gurewitz, Madison Harr, Eliana Harr, Marcia Lampert, Ashley Liberto, Adennia Malkemus, Steve Meyer, Julie Moradi, Marnie Moskowitz, Sabrina Olshansky, Merril Schenkel, Celia Solomon, Rick Willenzik, Marci Willenzik

**Holocaust Survivor Day Volunteers:** Dan Coblenz, Stuart Gershon, Jodie Joseph, Stefanie

Kreitman, Matt Luftglass, Susie Meier, Beth Rose Oxman, Wendy Petricoff, Barbara Rein, Ramit Spencer

**Food Drives:** Sofia Rosenberger and family

**Shalom Green:** Thank you for providing fresh produce to our pantry clients

**Hadassah Meal Preppies:** June and Paul Hirschmann, Yvette Jacobson, Patricia Johnson, Johnson and Wales, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Andy McCleary, Helene Schil-ian, Roz Snyder, Joyce Stoll, Elissa Vining

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



Religious Life

# Building the Bridges for Student Success: Temple Beth El's Journey With Sterling Elementary School

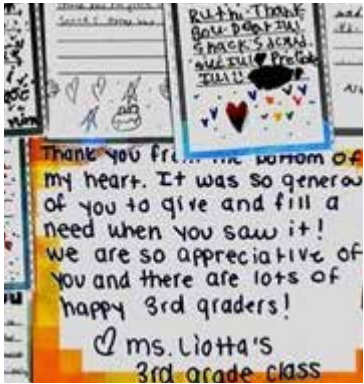
By Ruth Pordes

As part of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools house of faith partnership initiative, Temple Beth El (TBE) began collaborating with Sterling Elementary School, a Title I school, more than ten years ago.

The relationship remains strong, overcoming the hurdles of the pandemic period. Activities include direct student support, helping teachers in their classrooms, tutoring through Heart Math Tutoring, Read Charlotte HELPS Program, and the Augustine Literacy Project. Periodic donations of requested, and desperately needed, resources and services are made possible through funds collected by SPICE, Temple Beth El's group for senior adults, as well as family holiday gift bags through the annual Giving Tree initiative.

Volunteers also help with back-to-school materials, working to get information packets together for families, and supplying teacher appreciation meals and support so teachers can focus on their classrooms and curriculum.

But it is the direct interaction and service to students that brings the most enthusiasm and



satisfaction to our volunteers. "For me, there's never a day that I am in the classroom that I do not learn, not only from the teacher but also from the students," says longtime volunteer Sara Friedman, who volunteers in a third-grade class. "I leave knowing that I both have helped and received."

Volunteering in schools only heightens appreciation of the work and excellence of the teachers. TBE congregant Jenn Sawyer reflected on her time in the classroom, noting that the "teacher is so adept at handling her large brood. Each day, the students rotate through stations practicing decoding, handwriting, rhyming, etc. I leave every day with a smile on my face!"

Volunteers each contribute about an hour a week during school hours and help two to three individual students during that time. For the upcoming school year, Sterling plans to increase their in-class volunteers and Heart Math Tutoring is hoping to add to the number of math tutors as they transition back to

in-school learning.

As our volunteers have shared, the work is fulfilling, bolstering the learning of the students, helping the teachers in an overworked system, and providing volunteers with the opportunity to connect with, and learn from, the students as they work together.

To learn more about volun-

teering at Sterling, please contact Ruth Pordes at [rpordes@icloud.com](mailto:rpordes@icloud.com)

Learn more about Heart Math Tutoring by visiting their website at [www.heartmathtutoring.org](http://www.heartmathtutoring.org) and contact Liz Wahls at [lizwahls11@gmail.com](mailto:lizwahls11@gmail.com) to learn more about volunteering.

## Temple Beth El Brotherhood Holds Annual Meeting, Makes Generous Donation to NC Holocaust Foundation



Fred Valfer and Howard Glazer

By Jonathan Friedman

The Temple Beth El Brotherhood recently celebrated the close of another successful year of friendship and impact at its annual meeting.

Fred Valfer was elected as president for the 2023-2024 year and will be succeeding Howard Glazer, who presided over an outstanding term characterized by growth and unity in the Brotherhood.

Joining Fred in Brotherhood leadership for next year are Vice-President Bishop Cheen, Secretary Jered Mond, Treasurer Kent Novell, Past-President

Howard Glazer, as well as at-large members, Peter Benjamin, Joe Coco, Matt Sadinsky, Jeff Schwartz, and Harry Sparks. This dynamic team is poised to guide the Brotherhood forward with energy and dedication, with plans for an exciting slate of programming in the coming year.

A poignant highlight of the meeting was the Brotherhood's collective effort to support the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, raising over \$2,000. This significant contribution underscores the Brotherhood's com-

(Continued on page 11)

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## Religious Life

## Temple Beth El Awards Prestigious Michelle Miller Award to Lindsay Pfeffer



Dr. Fred Miller (left) and Joy Miller (right) with 2023 Michelle Miller Award recipient, Lindsay Pfeffer (center)

By Jonathan Friedman

Each spring, Temple Beth El celebrates a tradition of commitment and community with the Michelle Miller Award for Jewish Commitment. This award, presented by Dr. Fred and Joy Miller in memory of their daughter, Michelle, acknowledges the exceptional dedication of a Confirmation student.

This year, Temple Beth El is proud to announce Lindsay Pfeffer as the award recipient. Lindsay has shown outstanding leadership through her active participation in Temple Beth El and Shalom Park activities, insightful Confirmation class contributions, and her leadership during a Reform Action Center trip the Confirmation class took to Washington, D.C., earlier in the spring.

Lindsay's commitment extends beyond Confirmation class, as she serves as a fourth-grade madricha and a b'nei mitzvah tutor. Her dedication shines through her involvement with Chai Chaverim, one of Charlotte's BBYO chapters, where she has been elected as president for the upcoming year.

Upon receiving the award, Lindsay reflected, "I was extremely touched by the Millers' story and hope to honor Michelle's legacy. My goal is to one day pay the Millers back for this honor by donating to the endowment so future recipients can feel as special as I did that night."

Jamie Pfeffer, Lindsay's mother, added, "Listening to the Millers' story brought tears to my eyes. And then, as I realized the young lady they were describing

as the award recipient was my daughter, I was touched and so proud."

The Michelle Miller Award continues to inspire commitment in the Temple Beth El community, and this year, the congregation is proud of Lindsay Pfeffer, a young woman whose spirit embodies Michelle's legacy and continues to inspire our congregation.



## A Transformative Trip to Israel



Temple Beth El congregants at the Western Wall Plaza.

By Andy Siegel

I always thought visiting Israel would be a "once" in a lifetime opportunity, but it didn't take long for me to realize that our recent visit was simply the "first" in a lifetime chance to experience the Jewish homeland.

My wife, Michelle, her mom, and our two teenage daughters, along with 14 other Temple Beth El congregants joined Rabbi Asher Knight and J2 guide Uri Feinberg for a 9-day, jam-packed tour of Israel - replete with history, hilarious Dad Jokes, and hummus. Lots and lots of hummus.

Our diverse touring group featured a 70-year spread between our oldest and youngest visitors, serving to deepen the experience we all shared, seeing Israel through a variety of lenses. For our multi-generational Jewish family to be together in Israel was uniquely special and meaningful - though Michelle and I acknowledged that those who were not with us physically were in our hearts daily.

What struck me most during the trip was the impactful inter-

section of culture, religion, and history. A visit to Tzfat brought not only a beautiful array of Jewish art and delicacies — but also the unique experience of singing "L'cha Dodi" in the same place where the prayer was composed. The vibrant scene on Tel Aviv beach would rival any in the world, and its significance is magnified knowing that the state of Israel was founded just a short walk away near Independence Trail.

The breathtaking city of Jerusalem, with its spiritual wonderment and complicated past-present-and-future, brought out a wide range of emotions from our group. So much to see. So much to talk about — truly, a Jewish tourist's dream. We ascended atop Masada, discussed how ancient tropes of antisemitism still manifest today, hiked and experienced fresh waterfalls, floated atop the Dead Sea, witnessed an armed Israeli soldier singing karaoke, shopped for Judaica, and devoured generous portions of falafel. And that was just Thursday.

But a trip to Israel is truly about the people. Like the rabbi who lives in Charlotte but seemingly knows everybody in Israel. Like the small group of congregants who became family after just a few short days. And like the ancestors, in whose footsteps we walked to relive the history where some of the most impactful and important moments in our people's history took place. I can't wait to go back!

## Brotherhood

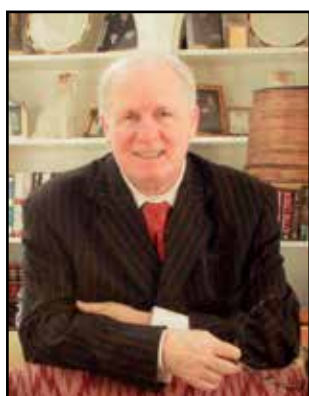
(Continued from page 10)

mitment to supporting meaningful causes and making a positive impact in the community.

As the Brotherhood enters a new year under fresh leadership, it carries forward a deep sense of gratitude for past contributions and an eagerness to build upon them. This vibrant group remains committed to fostering connection, contributing to worthy causes, and promoting growth within the Temple Beth El community.

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Religious Life

# Getting Ready To Welcome a New Year at Temple Kol Ami

By Bonnie Shaw

It seems like we were just welcoming the summer and imagining those lazy days of not having to rush around to all the everyday activities that fill the rest of the year. At Temple Kol Ami we look at the summer as a time to refresh and rebuild. We held our annual picnic on the most perfect date, June 4, the 13th anniversary of when our Temple was born — our actual bar mitzvah!

On this day we welcomed and announced our new Board of Directors. We are honored to have Kevin Zobel serve as our new president. Kevin follows in

the line of the committed visionaries who have guided Temple Kol Ami through each one of our phases of growth. We also welcome Jon Long as our new vice president. It is wonderful to see new leaders emerge from our congregation. We are also fortunate to have veterans continue to commit to leadership roles in our congregation. Michael Vinnik will serve as secretary and Scott Abrams will continue as treasurer. Rounding out our board are Greg Endy, Vivian Sternweiler, Shari Baum, Ashley Endy, and Jonathan Shaw, who serve as our at-large members



Kevin Zobel

Sara Sherman join us again for High Holidays in September. They bring a wealth of experience and pure joy to our services. Listening to Sara sing and play Kol Nidre is one of the highlights of our year. We welcome all to join us! Tickets to all services are included with your Temple Kol Ami membership and for non-members, please reach out to yorksynagogue@gmail.com for more information.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol

Ami might be the place for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope you will come check us out soon and find your Jewish home in our community.



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and religious school and ritual committee chairs, respectively. We are so grateful for their continued commitment to Temple Kol Ami's success.

Now we approach the fall, which welcomes a new excitement to Temple Kol Ami. On Friday, August 25, we have our welcome back Shabbat, then on Sunday, August 27 at 10 a.m., at Walnut Grove Christian School in Fort Mill, we have our religious school open house, where we will start a new tradition with a pancake breakfast. We are excited to welcome new students to our thriving religious school and welcome back our veteran students. Please come meet our teachers and find out why Temple Kol Ami leads the way in Jewish education. Please check our website for more details on both events. [www.templekolamisc.org](http://www.templekolamisc.org)

We are honored to have Rabbi Bruce Aft and Cantorial soloist

## Havurat Tikvah Begins Plans for Lay-Led High Holiday Services

By Lainey Millen

Havurat Tikvah will again host in-person High Holiday services for the Charlotte community. A Zoom option will also be available.

Services will begin with Rosh Hashanah Day 1 on Saturday, Sept. 16. A brief kiddush will follow.

The High Holidays will continue with Kol Nidre services on Sunday evening, Sept. 24. Yom Kippur services will convene on Monday morning, Sept. 25. Congregants will return after an afternoon break for N'eilah. A

break-fast will follow.

All services, with the exception of Tashlich on Rosh Hashanah afternoon, will be held at Avondale Presbyterian Church on Park Road, in the MacLean Fellowship Hall.

For the latest information on the havurah's High Holidays schedule, email [admin@havurat-tikvah.org](mailto:admin@havurat-tikvah.org) or visit [havurattikvah.org](http://havurattikvah.org) after Sept. 5.

Full details will also be made available in the September Charlotte Jewish News.

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive, and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with religious, cultural, and educational activities for both families and single adults. We are a diverse group of families, singles, and Jewish and interfaith couples who participate in projects that promote social justice.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism.

For more information on upcoming services, programs, membership, or other queries, call (980) 225-5330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220, email [membership@havurattikvah.org](mailto:membership@havurattikvah.org) or visit [havurattikvah.org](http://havurattikvah.org). Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at [facebook.com/groups/havurattikvah/](https://facebook.com/groups/havurattikvah/).



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## HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE 2023/5784

### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service, 6 p.m.

### ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

Family Service, 9 a.m.

Traditional Shacharit Service, 9 a.m.

Main Service, beginning/w Torah Service\*, 10 a.m.

Evening Service, 7 p.m.

### ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

Young Families Pre-School Program, 9 a.m.

Morning Service, 9 a.m.

TI Religious School Program, 10:30 a.m.

Tashlich (Following Services), 1 p.m.

Evening Service, 7 p.m.

### KOL NIDRE

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Kol Nidre Service, 7 p.m.\*

*Please be seated by 6:45 p.m.*

### YOM KIPPUR

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5\***

Family Service, 9 a.m.

Traditional Shacharit Service, 9 a.m.

Main Service, beginning/w Torah Service\*, 10 a.m.

Young Families Pre-School Program\*, 10:45 a.m.

Yizkor\*, 11:30 a.m.

Study Session with Rabbi Wolk, 4 p.m.

Mincha Service, 5 p.m.

Ne'ilah & Shofar Blast, 6:30 p.m.

Break Fast, 8 p.m.

*\*Parking Pass required on Shalom Park*

For additional details and ticket information, call 704-362-2796.

## WELCOME HOME SHABBAT DINNER

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## Religious Life

# The Uptown Chabad: Thriving with Vibrant Events

By Rabbi Motti Groner

In recent months, the Uptown Chabad has become a hub of activity, bringing together young Jewish adults for meaningful and engaging events. From joyous Lag BaOmer celebrations to festive Shavuot gatherings, these events have fostered a strong sense of community, providing opportunities for connection, learning, and spiritual growth.

On May 9, Peter and Samantha Dreyer graciously hosted and sponsored a lively Lag B'Omer BBQ, which drew a vibrant crowd of over 80 people. This event exemplified the warmth and inclusivity of the Uptown Chabad community. Attendees delighted in delicious kosher barbeque while engaging in socializing, networking, and forging new friendships.

Building on this momentum, the Uptown Chabad organized a memorable Shavuot social on May 26. Over 60 individuals came together to observe and celebrate the holiday of receiving the Torah. The highlight of the evening was a captivating Torah reading of the Ten Commandments, serving as a powerful reminder of the timeless significance of these divine principles. The event deepened participants' appreciation for the richness of Jewish tradition.

In addition to these special occasions, the Uptown Chabad continues to host regular events that have become cherished fixtures in the community. These include Wine and Cheese Social Learning, Bagels Lox and Tefillin, Women's Circle Flower Arranging Workshop, and Shabbat dinners. The Shabbat dinners, in particular, provide young professionals with an opportunity to welcome the Sabbath and en-



Women's Circle Flower Arranging Workshop

joy warm, inviting meals. These gatherings facilitate meaningful conversations, spiritual connection, and a sense of belonging.

Mark your calendars for Aug. 18, as the Uptown Chabad will host Shabbat 180 at the SpringHill Suites Uptown Charlotte. This highly anticipated event is expected to bring together over 150 young professionals for an unforgettable Shabbat experience. Attendees will savor a delicious kosher dinner while immersing themselves in the warmth and spirit of Shabbat. Generous support from Platinum sponsors Todd and Stacy Gorelick, Mark Roth, and David Lipsitz, as well as Gold sponsors

David and Karen Ransenberg, has contributed to the success of this event. To become a sponsor, visit [theuptownchabad.com/sponsor](http://theuptownchabad.com/sponsor).

Looking ahead to Sept. 6, the Uptown Chabad, Chabad of Charlotte, and the Ballantyne



Lag B'Omer BBQ

Jewish Center will co-host an exciting event featuring Aleeza Ben Shalom. Aleeza, renowned for her expertise in Jewish matchmaking and her appearances on the "Jewish Matchmaking" Netflix show, promises an engaging experience.

Gold sponsors Gary and Jodi Michel and Bronze Sponsor Lily Angel have generously supported this event. Secure your tickets and explore sponsorship opportunities at [theuptownchabad.com/match](http://theuptownchabad.com/match).

The Uptown Chabad commu-

nity extends its gratitude to dedicated sponsors whose generous contributions bring these events to life. Their support plays a vital role in fostering a vibrant and thriving Jewish community in Charlotte.



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2022's Shabbat 180



Religious Life

# The Ruach: Merging Rhythm, Song, Prayer, Community, and Tzedakah



DRUMSTRONG guided The Ruach Community in meditative, interactive drumming at the June Shabbat for Good.

By Charlotte Rouchouze

The Ruach again brought rhythm, song, prayer, community, and tzedakah together at the Shabbat for Good on June 23. That evening, the Shabbat for Good provided The Ruach Community with awareness of DRUMSTRONG's Rhythm Aid Project in Ukraine. Through rhythm sessions, this project provides psychological and social support for children

in Ukraine battling cancer.

Over the past 18 years, DRUMSTRONG's Charlotte-based parent organization, DrumsForCures (DFC), has facilitated cancer support initiatives in over 80 cities in 29 countries through the DRUMSTRONG interactive rhythm events. While holding events in Ukraine, DRUMSTRONG learned of the good work being done by the Ohmatdyt

Specialized Children's Hospital in Kyiv, the largest hospital in Ukraine and one of the few major hospitals still operating there today. It houses the country's premier pediatric oncology center but now also addresses the needs of a wide array of injured and orphaned children and stressed parents. For the past year, DFC has coordinated uplifting, interactive rhythm events at Ohmatdyt that

provide comfort and healing to kids, young adults, families, and staff. They have witnessed and recognized the immediate and potentially long-term benefits these regular sessions have provided.

During the Shabbat for Good service, in lieu of a silent Amidah, Scott Swimmer, president and founder of DRUMSTRONG and a percussionist himself, guided The Ruach Community in meditative, interactive drumming. Scott brought percussive instruments to distribute and encouraged everyone to participate in this one-of-a-kind Shabbat service.

The drum circle for this Shabbat service exemplified The Ruach's signature blending of traditional and new, as well as their ability to provide worshippers with unexpected and exciting experiences on every occasion. These are truly "modern services built on Jewish tradition™."

Save the date for The Ruach's upcoming Experiences, all of which are free and open to all:

**Shabbat for Good** — July 28 at Trinity Presbyterian Church. At 5:30, free pizza and beverages will be provided to all attendees followed by the Shabbat for Good services at 6:30 p.m. The featured Shabbat for Good organization will be North Carolina Hillel. Jewish students from all backgrounds come to NC Hillel to make friends in a welcoming environment and to discover what it means to be Jewish. For other students, this is their first exposure to a Jewish role model. Others are discovering Judaism for the first time on their own terms. We invite you to

join us as we embrace our students with a pizza pre-neg and uplifting music and prayers to jumpstart their back-to-school experience.

**The High Holy Days Experience:**

*Rosh Hashanah: September 16, 2023, 10 a.m. at the historic Great Aunt Stella Center located at 926 Elizabeth Avenue.*

*Kol Nidre: September 24, 2023, 7 p.m. at The New Theater at the Parr Center on Central Campus at CPCC.*

If you or your nonprofit would be interested in sharing your mission through The Ruach's Shabbat for Good, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com.

The Ruach, an innovative and modern Jewish worship community, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Charlotte, NC, whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through modern services filled with meaningful messages and new, uplifting Jewish music. The Ruach offers the Shabbat for Good, The Shabbat Experience, and the High Holy Days Experience; all are modern services built on Jewish tradition™. To stay updated on the Shabbat Experiences, community projects, and High Holy Day details, please request to be on The Ruach's distribution list by emailing the.ruach.band@gmail.com. Like and follow on Facebook (/theruachband) and Instagram (@the.ruach.new.jewish.music).

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The mission of The Ruach Community is to spread  
the joy of Judaism through modern services filled  
with meaningful messages and new, uplifting music.





# Greenspon Center’s Work Aligns with Landmark White House Plan to Combat Antisemitism

By Mary Eshet

On May 25, the Biden administration announced the first national strategy for combating antisemitism, outlining over 100 steps federal agencies have committed to completing, and more than 100 specific calls to action aimed at Congress, civil society, state and local governments, academic institutions, businesses, and religious communities. The plan is organized around four pillars: raising awareness, improving security, reversing normalization, and building solidarity.

The need for a concerted effort is evident. Anti-Defamation League (ADL) tracked 3,697 incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault in 2022, according to a report released in March, up 36% from the previous year and the third time in five years that the tally has been the highest number ever recorded.

“We are excited about the comprehensiveness and specificity in the plan,” said Rabbi Judy Schindler, director of the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center at Queens University. “We are also amazed at how many of our programs and initiatives con-

nect to it, especially the calls to action in Pillars one, three, and four. We’re energized to offer our resources to help achieve these goals.”

Pillar one of the plan includes goals to increase school-based education about antisemitism, including the Holocaust, and Jewish American heritage. Again, there is no doubt about the need for this effort. The plan includes information about the discouraging current state:

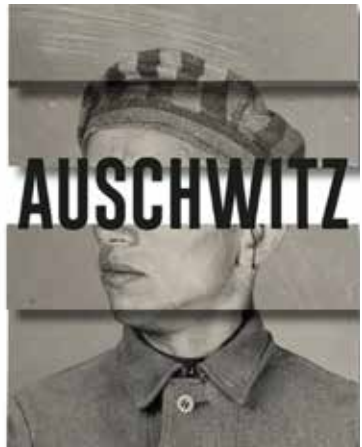
“In 2020, the first 50-state survey on Holocaust knowledge among millennials and Gen Z found that most young Americans lack basic knowledge of the Holocaust. For example, 63% of survey respondents did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, nearly 60% did not know what the concentration camp Auschwitz was, and 11% believed that Jews caused the Holocaust.”

“Through our Certification in Holocaust Pedagogy program and other professional development offerings, we are working to better prepare educators to teach about the Holocaust and educate students about antisemitism,” said Katie Cunningham,

Holocaust curriculum and outreach specialist with the Greenspon Center. Cunningham has also recently produced an 80-lesson Holocaust elective curriculum for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, in response to the new N.C. Holocaust education mandate.

Pillar one also calls for raising awareness about antisemitism and Jewish American heritage outside the classroom. The Greenspon Center sponsors programs such as book discussions, community dinners, and its annual event on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which are designed to increase awareness of antisemitism and Judaic culture. The Greenspon staff also participates in corporate, cultural, faith, and community programs to increase understanding of Judaism and the threats of antisemitism. The staff welcomes requests for presentations, participation, and facilitation.

Pillar three focuses on “reversing the normalization of antisemitism” calling on schools and colleges to be clear in condemning all forms of hate and in enhancing awareness of re-



The Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center at Queens University is proud to host the world-renowned “Seeing Auschwitz” exhibit for its North American debut in Charlotte in 2024.

ligious cultures and practices. The Greenspon Center’s work to support Hillel and Jewish life on the Queens University campus is aligned with this goal. Additionally, the Student to Student program that enables Jewish students to share their culture and traditions with other high school and middle school students helps further awareness and understanding.

Pillar four calls for building coalitions across communities to fight hate. The plan notes:

“A key aim of those who spread hate is to turn individuals against one another based on faith, race, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or other factors. We can counter these efforts by refusing to be divided.”

“The Charlotte Black/Jewish Alliance is a wonderful example of refusing to be divided,” said Schindler. The Alliance, sponsored by the Greenspon Center and Johnson C. Smith Univer-

(Continued on page 19)

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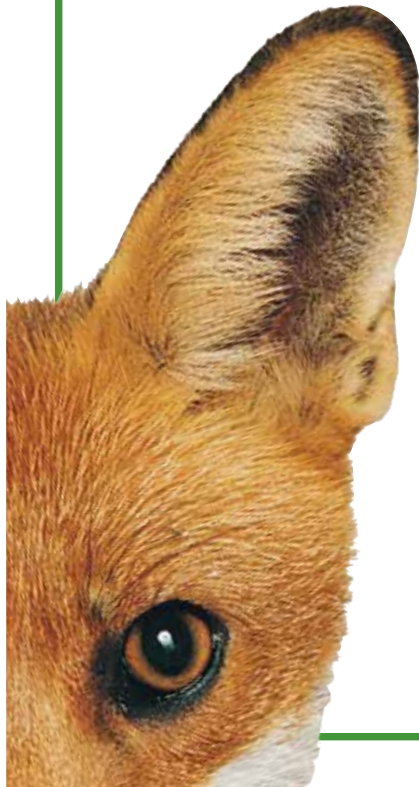
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# Holocaust Curriculum in the Public Schools

By Mitch Rifkin

On November 17, 2021, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act, which mandates the teaching of the Holocaust in grades six through 12. North Carolina is one of 17 states which has such a mandate. The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust (Holocaust Council) wrote the legislation and lobbied for the bill's passage.

I am proud to report the Holocaust Council is in the final stages of editing the English and social studies Holocaust curriculum for its implementation into North Carolina public schools in August (of 2023).

Of particular interest to families with children in school, the coursework will cover all public schools from grades six through 12. The Holocaust Council realizes each school system will make changes to the Holocaust curriculum to fit local preferences. The Holocaust Council is working with teachers and principals as well as school system superintendents and school board chairs to ensure the integrity of the curriculum.

The Holocaust Council aligned the new Holocaust curriculum with state guidelines established by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Board of Education. We looked at:

- standards and objectives of English and social studies in each grade,
- grade level appropriateness for the subject matter,

- subject matter skills and ideas teachers could develop in their classrooms

- engaging students to investigate themes and issues with values and choices and

- appropriate behaviors associated with American citizenship.

The choices for the texts recommended by the Holocaust Council and approved by the Department of Public Instruction for use by teachers in the classroom were based on the following concepts:

- factual evidence to support the text

- appropriate themes of a text and how it is conveyed

- comparison of how two texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics and the approaches the authors take.

**The approved texts are** (*The first text listed for each grade is the recommended text*):

## Grade 6

"The Devil's Arithmetic"

"The Boy on the Wooden Box"

Overarching essential question: What is the importance of memory and remembering people and events from the past?

## Grade 7

"Salvaged Pages: Klaus Langer"

"Parallel Journeys"

Overarching essential question: What conditions, ideas, and ideologies led to the Holocaust?

## Grade 8

"Anne Frank's Diary"

"I Have Lived a Thousand Years"

How did individuals remain hopeful during the Holocaust? Overarching essential question: How did individuals remain

hopeful during the Holocaust?

## Grade 9

"The Hangman"

"The Pianist"

Overarching essential question: What factors influenced individuals in the roles that they played in the Holocaust?

## Grade 10

"Night"

"Rena's Promise"

Overarching essential question: How did individuals resist during the Holocaust?

## Grade 11

"Franz Goldberger Letters"

"All But My Life"

Overarching essential question: What lessons can be learned from the choices that individuals and governments made during the Holocaust?

## Grade 12

"Babi Yar"

"The Sunflower"

Overarching essential question: How did individuals respond to dilemmas they faced during and after the Holocaust?

We thank the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation for their support of programming provided by the Holocaust Council and the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act.

Please contact Mike Abramson, chairman of the Holocaust Council, for further elaboration on how the Holocaust Act will impact a specific grade. You can contact him at mabramson919@gmail.com.

Please consider a financial gift to assist the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation. The Foundation adds to services and programs of the Holocaust Council. You can contact Mitch Rifkin, chairman, at rif121@carolina.rr.com or send the gift through PayPal at paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1931798.



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



## Greenspon Center

QUEENS  
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Stan Greenspon  
Holocaust and Social Justice  
Education Center

(Continued from page 18)

sity, and made possible by seed funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, brings together Blacks and Jews to provide a safe place for conversation and a way to unite against hate.

Perhaps among the Greenspon Center's most ambitious efforts is hosting the internationally acclaimed photographic exhibit "Seeing Auschwitz" at the VAPA Center in Charlotte in 2024. Conceived and produced by Musealia, in partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and in collaboration with the UN and UNESCO, "Seeing Auschwitz" comprises 100 photographs of this universal symbol of the Holocaust with an audio guide including testimonies from survivors.

"This powerful exhibit will increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust and antisemitism in a personal and powerful way," said Judy La Pietra, associate director of the Greenspon Center. "We are proud to bring this opportunity to the Charlotte community."

"This White House plan and its recognition that antisemitism is a grave danger not only for Jews, but for society as a whole, could not be more aligned with

our mission," said Schindler. "The words in the plan are powerful, but for it to really make a difference, we must all work hard and contribute, and we are redoubling our efforts for even greater impact."

To learn more about the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center's work or support the effort to bring "Seeing Auschwitz" to Charlotte, contact Rabbi Judy Schindler at schindlerj@queens.edu or Judy La Pietra at lapietraj@queens.edu.



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# Hadassah's Connection to Jewish Art and Saving the TaTas

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

Hadassah has not only been a strong supporter of healthcare and women's empowerment but has also played a significant role in promoting Jewish art and culture. Among its many contributions, the magnificent Marc Chagall windows adorning the Abbell synagogue at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem stand as a testament to Hadassah's commitment to preserving Jewish heritage and the arts. Hadassah's Painting Days, part of our Celebrate the TaTas fundraiser, also serve as a vibrant platform that celebrates Jewish art while honoring breast cancer survivors and raising funds for cancer research.

Marc Chagall, was a prominent Jewish artist known for his whimsical, dreamlike interpretations, created with his signature style. He created works in a wide range of artistic formats, including paintings, stained glass, stage sets, and ceramics.

Chagall was born on July 7, 1887, to a Hasidic Jewish family in a shtetl in Russia. In his autobiography, *My Life*, Chagall de-

scribes the major influence that his family background and Jewish folklore had on his life as an artist. Many of Chagall's works also were inspired by themes from the Bible.

Miriam Freund, then national president of Hadassah, and other Hadassah representatives met with Chagall in Paris in the late 1950s. The women were well-prepared to request one or two stained glass windows for the synagogue at the hospital. Legend says that Chagall asked, "What took you so long? I've been waiting my whole life to serve the Jewish people." He offered to create an entire series of windows if he had free rein on their style, subject, and placement.

In 1960, Chagall began creating twelve stained glass windows for the synagogue and devoted the next two years to the task. Dedicated on February 6, 1962, as part of Hadassah's Golden Anniversary celebration, the windows have now been in place for 61 years. The 8-foot by 11-foot-arched windows depict the twelve sons of Jacob, leaders of



One of Marc Chagall's stained glass windows donated to Hadassah for the Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem

the twelve Tribes of Israel. The intense colors and symbolic imagery of each panel reflects Chagall's deep connection to Jewish life, tradition, and spirituality.

Hadassah's connection to the Marc Chagall windows at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, and the Celebrate the TaTas Painting Days, serve as inspiring testaments to Hadassah's commitment to preserving Jewish heritage, fostering creativity, and honoring and empowering women.

Painting Days, Monday, Aug. 28, 9am-5pm and Tuesday, Aug. 29, noon-9 p.m. at Temple Beth

El, are the heart and soul of Celebrate the TaTas. Painting Days bring together artists, breast cancer survivors, and supporters to create stunning works of art. Women ages 21-121 are invited to have their TaTas painted by female artists. The artists paint original designs on human canvasses. Models will then be photographed by female photographers. The artists and photographers disguise breasts and protect identities of women painted.

Painting days support the fight against breast cancer and highlight the transformative power of art in empowering individuals,

spreading awareness, and fostering a sense of community. If you would like to be a model, artist, photographer, or volunteer, contact Cindy at [celebratethetatas.hadassah@gmail.com](mailto:celebratethetatas.hadassah@gmail.com) or (980) 553-1880.

The TaTas pictures will be unveiled as a photo collage at The Reveal — a luncheon at Maggiano's on October 26, which includes a live auction and wine pull. Sign up on our website.

## Get Ready for Rosh Hashanah

Order a sweet New Year's gift of honey for friends and family. Each 8-ounce jar of kosher honey is \$14. Order online by August 1 for free shipping. The last day to order is Aug. 25 for delivery by Rosh Hashanah (+\$7 shipping fee).

Send beautiful Hadassah Rosh Hashanah cards to your loved ones. There is a variety of holiday art and messages. \$3 each. Contact Laurie at the email or phone number above.

## Hadassah Happenings

Join us for our monthly Hadassah Wine & Schmooze at 7

(Continued on page 23)

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## Women's News

# My W.O.W. Momentum Israel Trip

By Lena Lumelsky

This spring, I joined a Momentum trip to Israel. This trip has been coined "Birthright for Jewish Moms." It's a trip for Jewish mothers with children under 18.

I heard about it for many years and encouraged several friends to go, but I could just never find the time to detach from my responsibilities, both personal and work. But, with the encouragement of my husband, daughters, and employees, I finally made the commitment to detach and just allow these 10 days to be about being Jewish and connecting to Israel in a deeper way.

I've been to Israel before, and I am very immersed in everything related to Israel and being Jewish. Up to the moment of the trip, I was questioning my decision to go. I feared I would not get as much out of the trip compared to people who had been there only once or not at all. I wasn't sure why I prioritized an organized trip over a trip with my family.

All the worries were for nothing. This was an entirely different experience from anything I've experienced before. I was seeing Israel — and being Jewish

— through an entirely different lens.

I saw a lot of inspiring places and learned and experienced many meaningful things — things like a deep, spiritual connection to the Western Wall (where I had my first ever bat mitzvah), the beauty of Jerusalem — Old City and new, religious and secular. I heard truly inspiring speakers on important and relevant topics every day. I traveled with some of my dearest friends, including my sister-in-law. I experienced the mysticism and beauty of Tzfat and the heroism of Masada with its breathtaking views. I saw with my own eyes as everything just stopped and stood still when the siren sounded on Israel Memorial Day. I stood in front of the house in Tel Aviv where Israel's Declaration of Independence was signed on its 75th birthday.

I felt the deep sorrow of Yad Vashem hearing from baby-faced soldiers, who stand between the Jewish people and another catastrophe. I experienced the beauty of a traditional Jewish family and mesmerizing harmony singing at a Shabbat table. I took in Israel's history on Har Hertzl and Ammunition Hill. I



Charlotte W.O.W. group on the Momentum trip

visited Shalva Center, the state-of-the-art facility for special needs children and their mothers. I participated in a Havdallah ceremony on a beautiful, flower-adorned terrace overlooking the old city. I took on a Hebrew name in the Judean Hills, planted a tree in a restored ecological preserve, swam in the Dead Sea, and much, much more.

It all came together for me in an unexpected place, on Har Hertzl, where Israel's heroes are buried. We stood by the grave of a beautiful young female poet named Hannah Szenes (1921-

1944). Hannah was a brave, determined, fiercely intelligent, and independent young woman. Having left Budapest for Palestine in 1939, she joined a rescue mission in 1943 as a paratrooper in order to rescue Hungarian Jews from being deported to the death camps by the Nazis. She was captured, tortured, and executed without revealing information that would lead to the capture of other paratroopers from her mission.

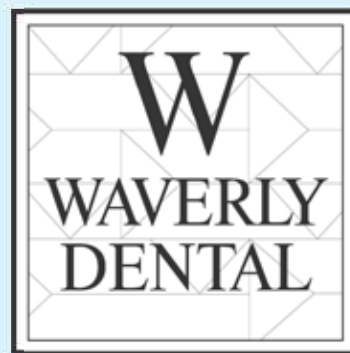
I never heard Hannah's story before, but I heard her most famous poem, "Eli Eli," written

while she lived in Israel, set to music. As I was walking back to my bus, I listened to the song again and was left breathless. Here is the translation of the song:

*"My G-d, My G-d,  
I pray that these things  
never end,  
The sand and the sea,  
The rustle of the waters,  
Lightning of the Heavens,  
The prayer of Man."*

May Hannah's memory be a blessing among the righteous and may the miracle of a Jewish Nation thrive and prosper for eternity.

Momentum partners locally with W.O.W. (Women of Wisdom) and Charlotte Torah Center. Sara Oppenheim, founder and director of W.O.W. was a wonderful leader of our group, which included ten women, more than half of whom have never been to Israel before. To learn more about the Israel trip or W.O.W. please go to [charlottewomenofwisdom.com](http://charlottewomenofwisdom.com).



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# Water is Life: Bal Tashchit, Tashlich and a Call to Conservation Action

By David H. Rosenthal

In many cultures, water is considered the essence of life. Water is central to Judaism with many metaphors flowing throughout our texts. We use the ritual of tashlich, the ceremonial casting of our “sins” into the water on Rosh Hashanah as a starting place for considering the transformative, cleansing, and sustaining power of water

in Jewish tradition.

In March, the United Nations convened the 2023 Water Conference, a once-in-a-generation opportunity to accelerate progress toward universal access to safe water and sanitation by 2030. The last conference was held in 1977, 46 years ago, in Argentina.

Water is at the core of sustainable development and supports

all aspects of life on Earth. Decades of mismanagement and misuse have intensified water stress, threatening the many aspects of life depending on this crucial resource.

Five things you should be aware of:

1. We are facing a global water crisis and many U.S. cities are contending with water stress.

Water is essential for human well-being, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems, gender equality, poverty reduction, and more. Billions of people around the world lack access to water. More than 800,000 people are estimated to die each year from diseases directly attributed to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices.

Demands for this precious resource continue to rise. Approximately four billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month of the year. With water being so crucial to many aspects of life, it is important to ensure its protection and proper management.

2. Water and climate are inextricably linked.

From increasing floods, unpredictable rainfall, and droughts, the impacts of climate change on water can be seen and felt at an accelerating rate. These impacts threaten sustainable development, biodiversity, and people’s access to water and sanitation.



According to the latest State of the Climate Services on Water report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), water-related hazards have increased at an alarming rate. Since 2000, floods have increased by 134% with the duration of droughts by 29%.

Water can also be a key solution to climate change. Carbon storage can be improved by protecting environments like peatlands and wetlands, adopting sustainable agricultural practices, reducing stress on freshwater supplies, and improving water supply and sanitation infrastructures, ensuring everyone has access to vital resources in the future.

Water must be at the center of climate policies and action. Sustainable water management builds resilience, mitigates the effects of climate change, and protects societies and ecosystems. Sustainable, affordable, and scalable water solutions must become a priority.

3. Four decades on, bold new commitments are on the table.

The UN 2023 Water Conference marks a crucial moment in a concerted effort to “take action and address the broad challenges surrounding water,” in the words of Li Junhua, UN under-secretary-general for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the secretary-general of the event.

- Internationally agreed goals, including Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for a fairer future, ensuring access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for all.

- A Water Action Agenda capturing all water-related voluntary commitments and tracking their progress. The Agenda aims to encourage member states, stakeholders, and the private sector to commit to urgent actions addressing today’s water challenges.

4. Focus on five key areas.

- Water for health: Access to safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation.

- Water for sustainable development: Valuing water, water-energy-food nexus, and

sustainable economic and urban development.

- Water for climate, resilience, and environment: Source to sea, biodiversity, climate, resilience, and disaster risk reduction.

- Water for cooperation: Transboundary and international water cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation, and water across the 2030 Agenda.

- Water action decade: Accelerating the implementation of the objectives of the decade, including through the UN Secretary-General’s Action Plan.

5. How can you get involved?

Take the water footprint calculator: <https://www.watercalculator.org/> to assess your water usage.

Some simple actions you can incorporate into daily routines:

- Take shorter showers and reduce your water waste in your home. With 44% of household wastewater not being safely treated, taking shorter showers is a terrific way to save this precious resource. Google “Lazy Person’s Guide to Saving Water”.

- Participate in clean-ups of local rivers, lakes, or wetlands. Plant a tree or create your own water garden. These actions help protect water ecosystems from pollution, reduce the risk of flooding, and store water efficiently.

- Raise awareness of the critical connection between toilets, sanitation, and menstruation. Break taboos by starting conversations in your local community, school, or workplace.

Jewish tradition teaches and commands responsibility, and the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in supporting Shalom Green, by volunteering your time or providing financial support, please visit our website at [www.shalomgreenCLT.org](http://www.shalomgreenCLT.org) or email us at [info@shalomgreen-CLT.org](mailto:info@shalomgreen-CLT.org). Connect with us on Facebook at Shalom Green: Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Instagram and Twitter @shalomgreen\_CLT.

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# Hadassah

(Continued from page 20)

p.m. on Aug. 1 at Vintner Wine Market in Arboretum.

Beverly's Book Nook will meet via Zoom on Friday, Aug. 18 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss David Baddiel's book, "Jews Don't Count."

Hadassah BookTalk is reading Kantika by Elizabeth Graver. Our meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Short Story Discussion Group meets at 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 11. We will discuss the story In Every Girl's Heart by Myla Goldberg, in the book "Frankly Feminist: Short Stories by Jewish Women," edited by Susan Weidman-Schneider and Yona Zeldis McDonough. Call or email to see if the meeting is in person or Zoom.



The next Hadassah Charlotte Metro Board meeting is Monday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

For information about Hadassah Charlotte Metro, membership, or our events, check our website, [www.hadassah-cltevents.org](http://www.hadassah-cltevents.org), email [Hadassah-CLT@gmail.com](mailto:Hadassah-CLT@gmail.com) or call (980) 553-1880.

Follow us on Facebook (Hadassah CLT Metro) and Instagram (Hadassah Charlotte Metro).



HADASSAH



## Celebrate the TaTas Painting Days

Monday, August 28th from 9-5  
Tuesday, August 29th from noon-8  
Temple Beth El



### Calling all Artists and Models

- Women 21-121 are invited to have their TaTas painted by female artists.
- Artists will paint original designs on human canvasses.
- Models will be photographed by female photographers (breasts disguised and identities protected).
- TaTa pictures will be unveiled as a photo collage at The Reveal, featuring guest speaker Rabbi Judith Schindler. Join us for lunch and live auction on Thursday, October 26th at Maggiano's SouthPark.



Artist Signup



Model Signup



The Reveal Tickets

[www.hadassahcltevents.org/tatas](http://www.hadassahcltevents.org/tatas) to signup or  
[celebratethetatas.Hadassah@gmail.com](mailto:celebratethetatas.Hadassah@gmail.com) for questions



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# Large Crowd Turns Out for Mishpacha Memories

In June the Hebrew Cemetery joined forces with the Levine JCC's Art and Culture Department and together they stepped back in time to conduct the inaugural Mishpacha Memories Tours.

And what an unforgettable journey through time it was! A total of 200 people immersed themselves in the captivating stories of beloved and influential figures who shaped our community.

During the two mesmerizing tours, Brian Yesowitch, the cemetery's Hilbert Fuerstman historical chair, led the groups from reenactment to reenactment. The talented actors and actresses, dressed in period costumes, traveled back in time to unravel, and witness the unique history of our Charlotte Jewish community.

In front of everybody's eyes

Harry Golden, Gladys Lavitan, Al Rouso, Anita Blumenthal, Alfred Smith, Lena Lebowitz, Louis Leon, Bessie and Jacob Rintels, Georgeanna Rippner, as well as Moses Richter came back to life and casually spoke about their remarkable lives and the times they lived in.

Douglas Greene who played the Charlotte Israelite editor, Harry Golden, and who works at the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte as its government relations and public affairs associate spoke about his experience: "It was amazing to research and to be able to actually see the life of Harry Golden before I took on the task of 'becoming' Harry in the tour. I felt very connected to the life and work of Harry because I have a lot of the same passions for social justice. I am very honored to have been able

to provide a glimpse into such a complex man."

Jeffrey Poelvoorde who attended one of the tours thought that Mishpachah Memories was a creative and beautifully crafted reenactment. Poelvoorde, a political science professor, said, "Structured as a leisurely walk through the cemetery, pausing to visit their graves, the tour was fascinating, informative fun and occasionally provocative. It served to remind us that a cemetery, while a place of sacred personal and collective memory, is also a history book, an unfolding panoply of Jewish life in the Carolinas."

The event was the brainchild of the cemetery's director, Sandra Goldman, who believes that cemeteries are for the living. "Programs like these ease the stigma that is attached to grave-



McEwen Funeral Service-Pineville Chapel provided the horse-drawn hearse for Mishpacha Memories.

yards and prove that things connected to them don't always have to be somber." Sandra especially enjoyed working with another Shalom Park agency. "I could not have done it without the spirit of the actors who volunteered their time and the support of the LJCC. It just shows that when we work together, we can achieve amazing results!"

Michelle Rusgo, director of art and culture at the Levine JCC could not agree more. "Collaborating with the Hebrew Cemetery for a historical tour

with actor portrayals provided a unique and engaging way to learn about the cemetery's history and the people buried there. The actors did a wonderful job bringing the stories of the deceased to life, making the tour more immersive and memorable. Sandra poured her heart and soul into this project. To see her idea literally brought to life helped engage the community to understand the journey that brought us where we are today."

(Continued on page 25)



The Hebrew Cemetery joins with the community in remembering the names of those who have been buried at the Hebrew Cemetery in the months of May and June.

Emiliya Shapiro	6-27-1925	-	4-19-2023
Jane Kosofsky	9-30-1944	-	5-11-2023
Eliezer Yuli Klebanov	9-12-1984	-	5-19-2023
Cecilia Spangenthal	4-12-1921	-	6-16-2023
David Waldinger	12-19-1957	-	6-15-2023
Leonid Yenovskiy	4-13-1937	-	6-21-2023

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# Mishpacha Memories

(Continued from page 24)



Actors portrayed some of the most beloved figures in Charlotte’s Jewish history.



Close to 200 people attended the tours.

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# Around the Table with Local Artist Sally Gehl



By Charlotte Rouchouze

This month, in honor of the completion of a retrospective book we worked on together, I'd like to introduce you to someone close to my heart, my mother, artist Sally Gehl. I have talked before about my mom's southern Jewish family, most of whom came from Russia and Lithuania in the 1890s and settled in Atlanta. After years in Atlanta and then New Jersey, her family slowly began relocating back to the South, and now North Carolina is the new family hub. Today I want to tell you a bit about her journey, with a special focus on the impact being a Southern Jew has had on her life and her art.

When I was in third grade, my mom decided to go to Carnegie Mellon University to study fine art, something she had always wanted to do. She spent the next 30 years diligently producing as well as teaching art in her studio on Beverly Road in Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania, creating an impressive body of work that I recently had the chance to revisit with her as we worked together on a retrospective book entitled "Rethinking the Ordinary." "I knew I wanted to be an artist and be able to make something beautiful with a piece of charcoal. But you need something to say when you make art. I didn't just want to make sweet pictures. I wanted

to tell my story through art, and hopefully let other people connect to that story and find resonance in it." In addition to developing astonishing drawing skills, growing a large repertoire of figurative paintings and landscapes, she also had a desire to comment on the intellectual questions that most preoccupied her, primarily the changing expectations on women in American society over her lifetime, and her increasing curiosity about being an American Jew.

It was around the time that we moved to Pittsburgh from New Jersey, when I was about four years old, that she began more earnestly exploring her Jewish identity and wondering why her parents had decided to let their Jewish identity and traditions disappear. But let's back up to the 1950s, to a story that is likely a common one in the Jewish community. Sally was born in 1950 to two Atlanta natives. According to her, Atlanta felt more like a small town at that time, and her classmates were all native Southerners, many recent transplants from the surrounding rural areas. So when the family moved from Atlanta to New Jersey when she



Sally Gehl

was in third grade, it was a shock to the system, almost like being in a foreign country. She suddenly found herself immersed in a culture of fancy b'nei mitzvah and summers in the Catskills. "It was like being in Sunday School! There were all these Jewish kids who moved through the world with great confidence and I was a southern yokel whose accent everyone found hilarious." Indeed, in 1950s New Jersey and New York, Eastern European Jewish culture was in the air and water. At the same time, she says, there was a strange sense of familiarity with this culture. It was like "finding a relative that you never met."

Over the years, her family acclimated but remained mostly secular, with none of the children having b'nei mitzvah. She does, however, remind me that she insisted on being married by a rabbi, specifically the well-known Reform Rabbi Ely Pilchik of Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, New Jersey, who happened to be a close friend of my grandfather's brother.

Fast forward to the beginning of her married life in Pittsburgh with my dad, Leonard, a New Jersey native. They decided to settle in Pittsburgh, where my dad had family and an opportunity to serve as a cardiologist in

a community that needed one. As my brother and I went off to school, she became committed to her art, and this allowed her both to develop her technical skills but also to look at her life and the world around her with a new perspective. It became her habit to process her life through art, and everything around her became subject matter of her art.

It was around this time that Sally became more interested in Jewish studies and the rich ideas she found buried in Jewish thought. She attended the Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and Rabbi Mark Mahler's Tuesday night Torah and Tangents at Temple Emanuel in Pittsburgh. When she began studying Judaism, she says she felt it deep in her DNA. "I hadn't realized just how profound the Jewish message of ethical living was. Judaism set expectations for how we should act and treat each other. I was also attracted to the idea of *tikkun olam*, that we are all required to leave the world a little better than we found it, and that everyone is made in the image of God. For the first time, when Christian friends would ask questions about Judaism, I had meaningful answers."

Jewish imagery began popping up in her art, not as Judaica, but as a way of asking questions, one of which was, "Why had no one talked to me about this beautiful heritage?" She knew that her parents' and grandparents' experiences of being Jewish in the deeply Christian South held a large part of the answer. "I could finally see how out of place I felt, and antisemitism became personal to me." As she read further about antisemitism, that too became a subject of her art. With her own family, she also decided to stop putting up a Christmas tree, instead observing Jewish holidays, and taking fam-

ily trips to Israel. "The State of Israel was established during my lifetime and my parents didn't even seem to care!" All of this searching didn't turn her into an Orthodox Jew by any means. "That didn't feel authentic to me. I had to come to it authentically. But I dug out a part of myself that has been very valuable."

Over the years, she has made a series of self-portraits that incorporate Jewish imagery, collages using photo transfers of old family photos, paintings that explore feminist themes in relation to Judaism, and more recently a haunting series of drawings of real children who were murdered in the Holocaust. Making art about it allowed her to start claiming Jewishness for herself.

I asked her how it has been to come back to the South after all these years. "It has been interesting. This is not the same South as the 1950s. But there is a cultural temperament in the South that feels familiar. COVID-19 has made our part-time move here a bit more difficult, but I like it."

Check out Sally Gehl's book "Rethinking the Ordinary," available on [www.bookbaby.com](http://www.bookbaby.com) to learn more about her life and art. Here is a painting by Sally Gehl and one of her favorite recipes, a simple plum cake that is perfect for dessert or with coffee in the afternoon.



Painting by Sally Gehl

## Plum Cake

¼ lb butter  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1 cup flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1 lb plums (canned or fresh)

Preheat oven to 300 F. Grease a square pan well. Cut plums in half and remove pits. Blend all the other ingredients in a bowl and pour this mixture into the prepared pan. Arrange the plums on top of the batter, skin side down. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Dot each plum with butter. Bake for 90 min.

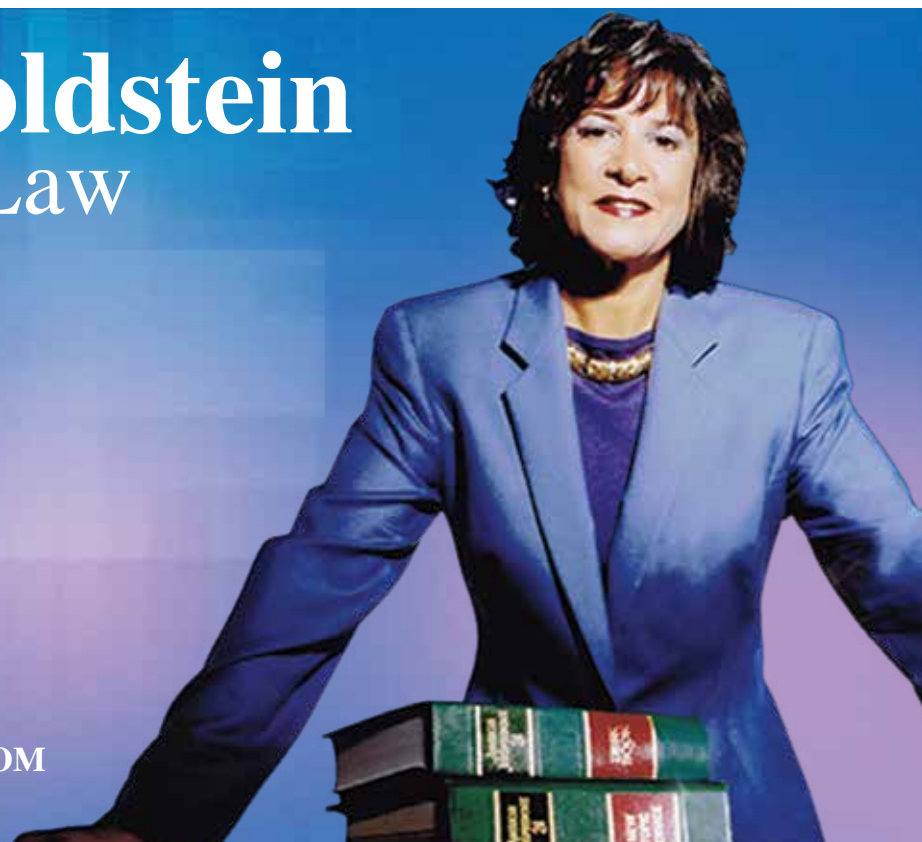
Charlotte Rouchouze, PhD is a local French teacher, food blogger, and beaded jewelry designer. Her blog about food traditions from around the world can be found at [www.thechildrenstable.com](http://www.thechildrenstable.com). Contact her at [charlotte.rouchouze@yahoo.com](mailto:charlotte.rouchouze@yahoo.com).

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## Education and Youth

# Hebrew High — You Don't Want To Miss Out

By Megan Harkavy

As summer comes to a close and the school year approaches, it's time to prepare for another fantastic and thrilling year at Hebrew High. Designed for eighth through 12th graders, Hebrew High offers an opportunity to connect with friends, enjoy shared dinners, explore diverse and engaging classes, and create meaningful Jewish experiences.

Hebrew High's primary program meets every Wednesday evening, beginning with a 7 p.m. dinner. Teens eagerly look forward to this 30-minute segment, where they can enjoy a variety of popular dinner options such as pasta, nachos, kosher chicken nuggets, or pizza while socializing with friends. Following dinner, classes are held from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The academic year is divided into six-week trimesters, with six special programs throughout the year. Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Clergy join our amazing educators to teach classes each trimester.

Some classes that are being offered this year:

- Art of Jewish Photography
- Theology 101: I Don't Believe in THAT God
- Traditional Jewish Cooking and Baking
- Judaism Onscreen: Wait, What Did He Say?
- Surviving the Torah
- Jewish Hot Topics
- Spotify Israel
- Beyond Koufax: Jews and Sports

In addition to our staple Wednesday night program, we offer other opportunities for our students: Hebrew for High School Credit, Rosh Hodesh/Shevet Program, and new this year, a Jewish Heritage Tour of Charlotte.

Hebrew for Credit offers a unique opportunity for teens to strengthen their Jewish identity by immersing themselves in language, culture, land, and peoplehood. This program not only fulfills high school language requirements but also fosters the development of their Jewish identities. The Hebrew for Credit program has been approved by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and Union County Public Schools (UCPS), allowing students to earn one year of foreign language credit for every two years of Hebrew for Credit classes. We also welcome non-CMS or UCPS students who have a genuine interest in learning Hebrew. Our classes take place every Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. and are led by passionate Hebrew education professionals. They incorporate project-based learning with the Ivrit Esrai curriculum, published by the Jewish Agency of Jerusalem for teens living outside of Israel.

Our monthly gender-specific Sunday evening program was a resounding success last year, creating a strong sense of connection among the participating teens. They greatly appreciated the intimate nature of this program, which used the Moving Traditions' curriculum to facilitate the Rosh Hodesh program for girls and the Shevet program for boys. Rosh Hodesh uses Jewish teachings and practices to give girls a place to feel safe, articulate their deepest concerns, consider the impact of gender on their daily lives, have fun, and be "real" with their peers. One ninth-grade student shared her experience: "I used to not know my place in Judaism. I never knew who I was and how I fit in but thanks to the Rosh Hodesh

program I now know who I am. It taught me how women fit in in our society. It teaches me Jewish views on normal everyday activities." Through discussions, arts and crafts, creative rituals, games, and drama, the girls and their leaders use Jewish values to address topics such as body image, friendship, relationships, family, competition, and stress.

In the Shevet program, the boys engage in competitive and collaborative games, discuss pop culture, study significant Jewish texts, share meals, and exchange stories. They also have an opportunity to discuss, in a confidential setting, critical issues they face as teens and young men. Some activities enjoyed by the Shevet boys include bowling and participating in escape rooms. We are

considering adding a few more field trips to enhance this year's program.

We are excited to partner with the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center to take the students on the Jacobs-Jaffa Charlotte Jewish Heritage Tour on a Sunday afternoon this coming fall. This tour promises to be an exceptional experience for teens, combining entertainment, education, and engagement. Participants will embark on a captivating hike through our city's rich history, including a scavenger hunt within the Hebrew Cemetery. They will also visit significant historic sites that showcase the noteworthy contributions of the Jewish community to our county and state. Moreover, we will

delve into the vibrant and diverse Jewish community that flourishes in present-day Charlotte.

Hebrew High is a joint venture between Temple Beth El and Temple Israel and is powered by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. It is open to all Jewish teens in grades 8-12 in the greater Charlotte area. To learn more or to register, please visit [www.hebrewhigh.org](http://www.hebrewhigh.org) or contact Megan Harkavy at [mharkavy@hebrewhigh.org](mailto:mharkavy@hebrewhigh.org).



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Education and Youth

# Another Year in the Books for Jewish Preschool on Sardis



By Amy Schapiro

The Jewish Preschool on Sardis (JPS) had another exciting school year packed full of activities and good times. We started out with a building full of returning families, new faces, excited teachers, and only a few tears (mainly from the parents) on the first day. We had over 80 children and 65 families in total trust us with their most prized possessions.

Our year was filled with many in-person activities with our students and parents. We danced



Apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah

every Friday during Shabbat welcome and became superstars when the Jewish Federation of Northern America requested to film a day at JPS, showing what a thriving Jewish community looks like. Our Shabbaton dinner for the 4s class was a wonderful event and showcased not only how fancy we can dress up, but also our love for tradition and Judaism. It was such a success, that we planned another Shabbaton for our alumni students. It was great to see how much they had grown not only in height, but also in experiences and knowledge.

The holidays this year were filled with sweet honey and apples during Rosh Hashanah, Shakes in the (Sukkah) Shack, spinning dreidels during the Hanukkah party, a fantastic Purim parade, a matzah bakery during Passover, and a very special field trip during Lag BaOmer that included "campfires" and smores! We had a wonderful Grandparent's Day that included handmade soaps and crafts with our special loved ones.

Not only did our students



Evelyn does the shake in the shack with her family

have activities to enjoy, but we also hosted a new event this year for the moms (sorry dads, we will get you next year). Our Mom's Night Off event was filled with handmade cocktails, delicious food, DIY sugar scrubs, and shopping from vendors who are JPS moms as well as creative business superstars! We all had time to sip, schmooze, and shop - who wouldn't love that?

We showered our amazing staff with wonderful gifts during



3s and 4s star in a performance at our Hanukkah party.

teacher appreciation week. We had our very own JPS "baristas" (JPS PTO co-presidents, Amy & Erin) make iced coffees or teas to keep our teachers' energy up on Monday. We then pampered them with manicures and a gift bag filled with beauty samples. On Wednesday the teachers had a special catered lunch with a Mary Kay demonstration from a grandmother of a JPS student. Finally, we bombarded them with love letters from their students and opened a flower shop where each teacher could build

their own bouquet of spring flowers to show how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication!

Lastly, we ended the year not saying goodbye, but saying we will see you again to our graduating class. The graduation theme was "Oh, the Places You'll Go, All the Mitzvot You'll Do" and we can't wait to see how they will grow and build our community! JPS year 2022-23 we sure did love you, and we're looking forward to more in 2023-2024.

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Education and Youth

# Charlotte Jewish Day School Students Place High at National Speech and Debate Tournament

By Mariashi Groner

We are proud! It is heartwarming to see our students take their talents to the next level of world experiences. The following is an example of our students using all they have learned: information, skills, and confidence to put themselves out there and to test their nerves.

Adam Stone (18) and Evie Salam (19), graduates of Charlotte Jewish Day School, showcased their exceptional skills at the National Speech and Debate Tournament held in Phoenix, Arizona in June. We are immensely proud of their outstanding performance in this prestigious competition. Evie, a student at Myers Park High School, and Adam, a student at Charlotte Latin School, participated in the highly competitive Extemporaneous Debate category, which featured a staggering 1,038 competitors, making it the largest event of the tournament. Despite being new to Extemporaneous Debate, Evie secured an impressive eighth place, while Adam secured a commendable

24th place. In this tournament, students are eliminated from the competition after losing two debate rounds.

The National Speech & Debate Association, the largest interscholastic organization of its kind in the U.S., hosts an annual national competition that requires students from across the country to qualify for participation. To earn a spot, students must compete in their state's district competition and secure first or second place in a speech and debate event. Adam successfully qualified in Informational Speaking, while Evie earned her qualification in Congressional Debate.

Last year, during his participation in the competition, Adam fearlessly selected Israel as the topic for his presentation. His exceptional presentation not only showcased his articulateness but also provided a profound and informative exploration of the challenges confronting our homeland, Israel. What made his performance even more remarkable was his courage in choosing a topic that is often surrounded



Adam Stone

by controversy and not universally supported.

In Extemporaneous Debate, students engage in a one-on-one format where they are given 30 minutes to prepare for a specific topic and then one hour to present their arguments and engage in rebuttals. Unlike other typical debate events, students tackle a different resolution in each round.

Here are a few examples of

the resolutions they debated:

Resolved: The Twenty-Sixth Amendment should be amended to raise the voting age from 18 to 25.

Resolved: Homeowners Associations (HOAs) do more harm than good.

Resolved: Social media use is negatively impacting academic achievement.

Resolved: The G7 has become redundant.

Resolved: Rapid re-housing programs ought to be substantially increased.

Resolved: Age requirements for elected offices are unjust.

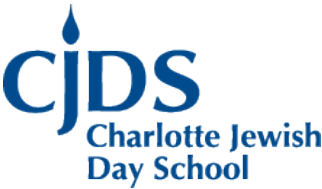
Resolved: It is ethical for individuals to consume the meat of non-human animals.

Resolved: Generative artificial intelligence will accomplish more good than harm.

CJDS was definitely represented at the National Tournament! Adam said, "All of the research I did in fourth and fifth grade to write persuasive papers and the "debates" we had in Judaica studying the Parashiot paid off!"



Evie Salam



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# Is Barbie Jewish? The Complex Jewish History of the Doll, Explained

(JTA) — Long before the craze over the upcoming “Barbie” movie, most people could conjure an image of the doll: She was the beauty standard and the popular girl, a perky, white, ever-smiling brand of Americana.

She was also the child of a hard-nosed Jewish businesswoman, Ruth Handler, whose family fled impoverishment and antisemitism in Poland. And some see the original Barbie as Jewish like Handler, a complex symbol of assimilation in the mid-20th-century United States.

The doll’s latest revival comes in Greta Gerwig’s hotly-anticipated “Barbie” movie, written by Gerwig and Noah Baumbach and featuring a star-studded cast, including Margot Robbie as Barbie, Ryan Gosling as Ken and Will Ferrell as a fictional CEO of Mattel. The expected blockbuster could collect at least \$70-80 million in just its opening weekend of July 21-23, according to The Hollywood Reporter, fueled in part by a relentless marketing machine.

But this in-crowd doll was born from an outsider. Here’s its Jewish history.

The origin story

Ruth Handler was born in 1916 in Denver, Colorado, the youngest of 10 children. Her father, Jacob Moskowitz (later changed to Mosko) had escaped conscription in the Russian army like many Jews at the turn of the century, and landed in the United States in 1907. Her mother Ida, who was illiterate, arrived the next year in the steerage section of a steamboat. Jacob was a blacksmith and moved the family to Denver, where new railroads were being built.

Ida was sickly by the time she gave birth to Ruth, so the baby was sent to live with her older sister Sarah. It was in Sarah’s Jewish community of Denver, when Ruth was 16 years old, that she met Izzy Handler at a Jewish youth dance, according to Robin Gerber, a biographer who wrote “Barbie and Ruth: The Story of the World’s Most Famous Doll and the Woman Who Created Her.” She fell in love immediately with Izzy, a penniless art student wearing a torn t-shirt.

At age 19, Ruth decided to drop out of the University of Denver and move to Los Ange-

les, where she found a job as a secretary at Paramount Studios. Izzy soon followed her.

“As they drove across the country, she asked him to change his name to Elliot,” said Gerber. “She had felt the antisemitism at that time, in the 1930s, and she really felt that they’d be better off with a more Americanized name.”

The couple never renounced their Judaism. On the contrary, they eventually helped found Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles and became longtime contributors to the United Jewish Appeal. But Ruth was pragmatic, and she would not forget how police officers had stopped her car in Denver to make antisemitic remarks.

Against the pleadings of her family, who knew Elliot was poor, Ruth married him in 1938. She continued working at Paramount, while he enrolled at the Art Center College of Design and took a job designing light fixtures — but they quickly became collaborators. Elliot began making pieces from Lucite in their garage, such as bookends and ashtrays, and Ruth was thrilled to sell them. They were comple-



mentary business partners: Elliott was a quiet creative who shied away from ordering in a restaurant, while Ruth was vivacious and unafraid, a risk-taker who said her first sale felt like “taking a drug,” according to Gerber.

World War II challenged their business, as President Franklin Roosevelt restricted plastics to military use. Together with their friend Harold “Matt” Matson, the Handlers pivoted to making wooden picture frames and dollhouse furniture. They found success and named their company Mattel, a combination of Matt and Elliot’s names.

In 1946, Matson sold his share and Ruth Handler became the first president of Mattel. The company soon branched into toys, including a child-sized ukulele called the Uke-A-Doodle, a Jack-in-the-Box and toy guns. Since the design department was entirely male, many of its early toys targeted little boys.

One day, while watching her daughter Barbara — who would become Barbie’s namesake — Ruth had a new idea. She observed that Barbara and her friends were playing with paper dolls and pretending to be adult women. In the 1950s, the only dolls on the market were baby dolls, presuming that girls wanted to play at being mothers. But Barbara and her friends wanted to play being the dolls.

On a family trip to Switzerland in 1956, she spotted a curvaceous adult doll called Bild Lilli. This toy, based on a seductive comic strip character in the German tabloid Bild, was designed as a sexual gag gift for men. Ruth saw her as a blueprint for Barbie.

An adult female doll for children was so novel that Mattel’s designers and even Ruth’s husband dismissed the idea, saying that mothers would never buy their daughters a doll with breasts. Ruth kept pushing until the first Barbie, decked in a black-and-white swimsuit and heels, debuted at New York’s Toy Fair in 1959.

Sure enough, plenty of mothers said the doll was too sexual — but their daughters loved it. Ruth communicated directly with children by bringing Mattel to television, making it the first toy company to advertise on Disney’s “Mickey Mouse Club.”

“She completely shifted the way we buy toys,” said Gerber. “Up to that point, children only saw toys when their parents handed them a catalog. But when toys came to ads on television, then kids were running to their parents and saying, ‘I want that thing on TV.’”

Mattel sold 350,000 Barbies in its first year. Striving to keep up with demand, the company released her boyfriend in 1961 and named him after the Handlers’ son, Kenneth.

Is Barbie feminist? Sexist? Assimilationist? Jewish?

Barbie’s rail-thin figure sparked backlash from feminists in the 1970s. “I am not a Barbie doll!” became a chant for marchers at the 1970 Women’s Strike for Equality in New York. Advocacy groups such as the South Shore Eating Disorders Collaborative have said that if Barbie were a real woman, her proportions would force her to walk on all fours and she would not have enough body fat to menstruate. In the 2018 film “Tiny Shoulders: Rethinking Barbie,” Gloria Steinem said, “She was everything we didn’t want to be.”

Handler said that Barbie represented possibilities for women. Women could not open a credit card in their own name until 1974, but Barbie could buy any outfit to fit any career. Her fashion represented the future: Astronaut Barbie came out in 1965, four years before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon and 18 years before Sally Ride became the first American woman in space. Ken may be Barbie’s boyfriend, but in more than 60 years, she has not married or had children.

In Ruth’s memoir “Dream

(Continued on page 32)

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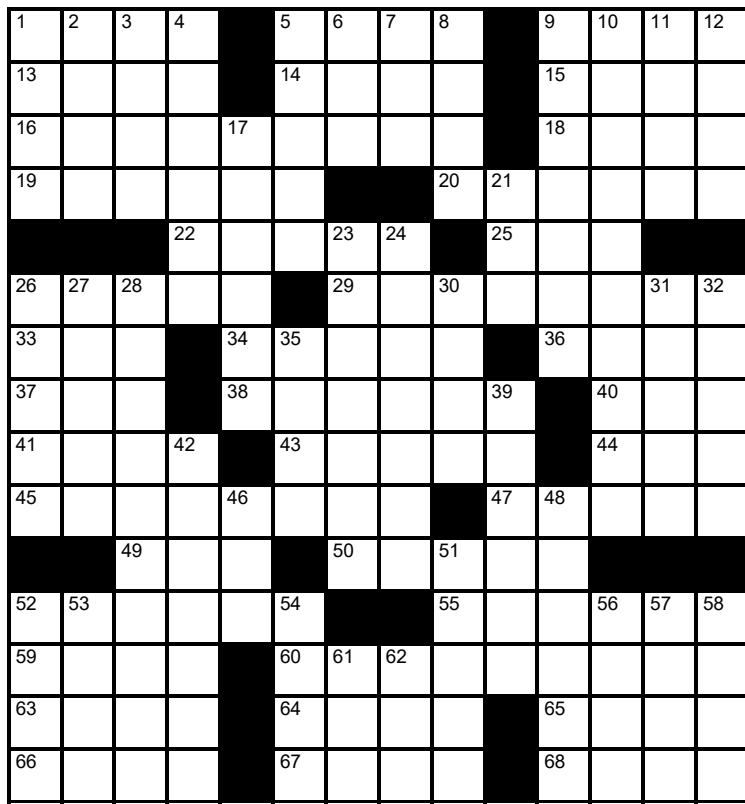
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## August Crossword



68. Mexican dough

Down

1. Rudolph of note
2. Terrorist group, as Obama called it
3. Big name in foam weaponry
4. Broadway Joe of football
5. Eshet \_\_\_\_ (Var.)
6. Ankara title
7. Cheerleader's shout
8. Water, to Joaquin
9. Mask opening
10. Lions and tigers and bears, e.g.
11. Goes for a seat
12. Admin. aide
17. Rabbis Luria and
- 19-Across
21. Sound of frustration
23. Lion-headed monster of myth
24. Military greetings
26. Loosens (up)
27. Mosaic work
28. Roommate, e.g.
30. "But \_\_\_\_ fire to the rain" (Adele lyric)
31. Aristocrat
32. Bana and Clapton
35. "Heavens to Betsy!"
39. Labor class?
42. Aish follower
46. French for "my"
48. One way to see all of Europe?
51. "Some Like \_\_\_\_"
52. It coincides with May
53. Options item
54. Son of 67-Across, in English
56. Some enjoy it on Passover
57. Galley blades
58. Huxtable son, of classic TV
61. Havdallah aspect
62. MLB's former Indians, on scoreboards

Across

1. Twins loc.
5. Kind of lashon
9. Autobiographer who also co-wrote Divrei Hayamim
13. On the Dead or the Red
14. He lost his head to 38-Across
15. Thank-\_\_\_\_ (gift acknowledgments)
16. Autobiographer who also wrote Melachim
18. Ages and ages
19. Last name of The Rif
20. Overcome with shock
22. Rash remedies
25. Howard of Hollywood
26. It was also written by 16-Across
29. Common receding boundary
33. Enero begins it
34. Mattress springs
36. Portion where 47-Across wrote about "an eye for an eye"

37. Lead-in to "mo"

38. Autobiographer who also wrote Shoftim
40. King Hezekiah's mother
41. Individually
43. One named Israeli singer
44. Bus. designation
45. Tree in a "Pocahontas" song
47. Autobiographer who also wrote Iyov
49. Provo native
50. Afghani or Indian, e.g.
52. Levy, as a fine
55. Jewish problems
59. 33-Across in English
60. Autobiographer who also co-wrote Divrei Hayamim
63. Actress Chlumsky
64. Home to Queen Sonja
65. Orchard measurement
66. It was also written by 38-Across
67. Hevel's bro

(Answers on page 34)

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Barbie (Continued from page 30)



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Doll: The Ruth Handler Story,” she wrote, “Barbie has always represented the fact that a woman has choices. Even in her early years Barbie did not have to settle for being only Ken’s girlfriend or an inveterate shopper. She had the clothes, for example, to launch a career as a nurse, a stewardess, a nightclub singer.”

But years before the feminist discussion, the question of how American Jews could or could not relate to Barbie said a lot about their place in the United States at the time. Handler created Barbie in 1959, when many Jews were wrestling with the concept of assimilation. Although they continued to face discrimination in the postwar period, they also had newfound security — a life they had never identified with, according to Emily Tamkin, the author of “Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities.”

Suddenly, like so many others, they were moving to suburban, white-picket fence America — Barbie territory.

So, much like the iconic fashion of Ralph Lauren, a Jewish designer who changed his last name from Lifshitz, or the Christmas Carols of Irving Berlin, a Russian Jewish immigrant born Israel Beilin, Barbie would paradoxically become core to the American ideal that Jews were seen to assimilate into, said Tamkin.

“The thinking goes, if you’re safe and secure and in suburbia, is that really an authentic Jewish life?” Tamkin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “And while they’re having this communal and individual struggle, Ruth Handler really enhances the Americana that they have this ambivalence about.”

But was the original Barbie actually Jewish herself? Susan Shapiro, the best-selling author of “Barbie: 60 Years of Inspiration,” thinks so.

“I think Ruth just assumed that Barbie reflects her, in a certain way,” Shapiro told Kveller in 2019. “Barbie was supposed to be all-American, and I think Ruth really considered herself to be very assimilated in America. But she did face antisemitism at Paramount Pictures, and her family fled Europe because of antisemitism.”

The doll doesn’t fit the rubric of stereotypes about Ashkenazi appearance — after all, her first form copied a German sex doll that “looks very goyische,” said Gerber. (Non-white Barbie ethnicities were not introduced until the 1980s.)

Tiffany Shlain, who made a 2005 short documentary “The Tribe” about the history of Jews and Barbie, is herself a blond, blue-eyed Jewish woman (who wrote the film with her husband, serendipitously named Ken

(Continued on page 34)



# THANK YOU, CJP TEACHERS





Education and Youth

# Friendship Stories

By Lulu Taylor, A Friendship Circle Teen Friend

Meet Maxwell, My Friendship Circle Special Friend.

When Maxwell first started coming to Friendship Circle, he was shy and didn't talk much. But over time, he has blossomed into a happy and confident child. Now, every time he walks into the Selkin Family Friendship Circle's Inclusive Fun Zone, his face lights up!

I'm so glad that I get to be Maxwell's Teen Friend at Friendship Circle. He's taught me so much about patience, under-

standing, and acceptance. He's also shown me that everyone has something special to offer.

We spend our time together playing with Legos, going down the slide, and participating in group activities like art and music circles. We always have so much fun together, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for us.

Friendship Circle has brought immense happiness to both Maxwell and me. It's a place where bonds are formed, barriers are broken, and hearts are filled with joy. I feel incredibly grateful to be a part of this extraordinary journey alongside my Special Friend, Maxwell.

If you're a high school teenager and you're looking for a way to make a difference in the life of a child, I encourage you to get involved with Friendship Circle. You won't regret it!

Friendship Circle is a wonderful organization that provides a safe and supportive environment for children with special needs



Max and Lulu



Lula and Max



and their teen volunteers. To learn more and sign up, visit [FriendshipCircleNC.org/TeenFriends](https://www.FriendshipCircleNC.org/TeenFriends)

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# BRIAR CREEK

## Barbie

(Continued from page 32)

Goldberg). She was often told that she didn't "look Jewish."

"Right now, we're in a real renaissance of seeing all the different ways Jews look, and there's no 'look,' there's no one ideology," Shlain said.

Regardless of what American buyers think, Barbie has been labeled "Jewish" by discriminatory bans. In 2003, she was temporarily outlawed by Saudi Arabia's religious police, who posted the message: "Jewish Barbie dolls, with their revealing clothes and shameful postures, accessories and tools are a symbol of decadence to the perverted West." Iran has also repeatedly cracked down on the sale of Barbies since declaring them un-Islamic in 1996.

Will the new movie address any of this?

It's unclear.

Gerwig's collaborator (and partner) Baumbach is Jewish but doesn't often reference that fact in his movies, which include "The Squid and the Whale" and

"Marriage Story." The film features a few Jewish cast members, including Hari Nef, a trans actress and model who has appeared in shows such as "Transparent," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "The Idol."

Details about the movie's plot have been scarce, but it seems to involve characters leaving a make-believe Barbie world for the real world.

The wide diversity of the cast — which features several different actors playing Barbie and Ken — also seems to be a commentary on Barbie's white, all-American roots.

"We were able to cast people of different shapes, sizes, differently abled, to all participate in this dance — all under this message of: You don't have to be blonde, white, or X, Y, Z in order to embody what it means to be a Barbie or a Ken," said actor Simi Liu, who plays one of the Kens.

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(Puzzle on page 31)

1	M	2	I	3	N	4	N	5	H	6	A	7	R	8	A	9	E	10	Z	11	R	12	A
13	A	S	E	A	14	A	G	A	G	15	Y	O	U	S									
16	Y	I	R	M	17	I	Y	A	H	U	18	E	O	N	S								
19	A	L	F	A	S	I				20	A	21	G	H	A	S	T						
				22	T	A	L	C	S	23	24	S	25	R	O	N							
26	E	I	28	C	H	A		29	H	A	30	I	R	L	I	31	N	32	E				
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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, June/July, 2000. To read other issues of The CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

# Looking Back: Year 2000

## Federation Helps Record Number of Teens Travel to Israel in Summer 2000

Federation’s Teen Israel Experience Supports 20 Charlotte Teens This Year

It’s every Jew’s homeland, no matter where you live,” says Benjamin Kweskin, a rising senior at Providence High School who will be going to Israel, as well as Eastern Europe, with BBYO. Benjamin is just one of the many teenagers scheduled to go to Israel this summer from Charlotte with many different programs and youth groups. His trip, and those of 19 other area teenagers, is being supported by Federation’s annual Teen Israel Experience.

Phillip Brodsky, who will be attending Alexander Muss High School in Israel this summer, sees this trip as fulfillment of a long-held dream. “I attended Camp Judea for four years,” he explains, “and everyone there always said how great it was to visit Israel. Because I’ll be going to school there, I’ll have an opportunity to learn more about the history and get a better understanding of what I see while I’m there.” Students at Alexander Muss High School earn school credits that can be transferred to their regular high school records. Joining Phillip at

Alexander Muss this summer, with the help of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, are Michael Borresent, Sara Bryan, Matthew Gordan, Jordan Klemons, David Krusch, Jessica Levine, and Aaron Weiner.

B’nai B’rith Youth Organization is also sending a large number of teens from Charlotte to Israel. “This is the largest number of kids from Charlotte to go to Israel on BBYO sponsored trips,” says Ellen Goldstein, regional director of BBYO. “They are going on diverse trips, including Eastern Europe, France, adventure trips, and more. I hope they bring back a love for Israel to the rest of the community and instill a desire to see Israel in the people who have not been there.”

In addition to Ben Kweskin, other BBYOers visiting Israel this summer with the support of the Teen Israel Experience include: Scott Friend, Mitchell Gartner, Adam Goldfarb, Rachel Orange, and Michael Osborn.

Another local organization that is



sending a large group of kids is Young Judea, the American Zionist youth group. “This is just a natural progression for me,” says Emily Rotberg, who is president of the local Young Judea chapter. “I hope to meet lots of new people (1200 YJers will be in Israel this summer), get to know Israel, and heighten my leadership skills.” Emily is especially excited about her trip, as she is signed up to go on an archaeological dig while in Israel. Other Charlotte YJers that have benefitted from Federation’s Teen Israel Experience are Daniel Block, Mark Sussman and Aaron Wroblewski.

The National Federation of Temple Youth, the Reform movement’s youth

group, also has a summer trip to Israel. Federation has extended its support to Amanda Raflo to go to Israel this summer. “I hope to learn more about Judaism,” Amanda says. “I want to get more in touch with my Jewish identity. And maybe I can encourage others to go to Israel.”

Natalie Sterling, a rising 9th grader, is going to Israel with “Metrowest Goes Israel.”

It is your campaign contributions to Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte that make these trips possible for all the teenagers. The annual campaign is winding down, but it is still not too late to pledge your support. Every teenager in the Charlotte Jewish community is eligible to apply for a subsidy for a summer trip to Israel through the Teen Israel Experience. “No one has ever gone to Israel and not loved it,” Ellen Goldstein declares. “I hope all these kids come back at the end of the summer and encourage even more kids to go next year.”

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