

# The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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October 2024

## Federation Welcomes New CEO, Adam Kolett

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

After a thorough search that considered over 100 candidates, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is excited to announce the appointment of Adam Kolett as our new chief executive officer. Adam joins us in Charlotte with his wife, Francine Safdeye, and their three children, Matan, Aviva, and Noa.

A proud Jew and Zionist, Adam brings a wealth of experience in resource development, community relations, and Israel engagement. As executive director of the Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach, he successfully expanded student engagement, cultivated major donors, and built strong partnerships with university leaders and local and national Jewish organizations. Prior to that, Adam served as director of



The Kolett family

the North Dade Branch of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where he oversaw cam-

paign divisions, led lay leader recruitment, and created a shared vision among local agencies and

synagogues.

Adam's proven track record in building relationships, engaging donors, and collaborating across the Jewish world will be key to advancing the mission of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. His leadership ensures that we remain the central philanthropic organization community and community convener, supporting Jewish life in Charlotte, Israel, and globally.

Amy Vitner, Federation board president and head of the CEO search shared her excitement about Adam's appointment, "We are thrilled to welcome Adam Kolett to Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte as our next chief executive officer," she said. "Adam's experience and passion for Jewish life make him the perfect fit for our Federation. With

his extensive leadership skills and commitment to community building, we are confident that he will build upon the strong foundation we have here in Charlotte and help guide us forward."

Adam is eager to bring new energy and fresh perspectives to our community as Federation continues work to strengthen Jewish life in Charlotte. "The Queen City is calling," he said. Adam is looking forward to engaging with the diverse voices within our community's schools, synagogues, community centers, and Jewish agencies. He believes that a thriving Jewish community is built on strong relationships and shared values, and he is excited to begin this new chapter with us. Adam's official start date was Sept. 25.



## Community Generosity Fuels \$6.3M Federation Annual Campaign

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

As Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte brings the 2024 Annual Campaign to a close, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the extraordinary generosity of our community. Thanks to more than 1,500 donors, we have raised more than \$6.3 million, making this year's campaign a resounding success. Your contributions will fuel vital initiatives and programs which enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel, and worldwide.

This collective effort ensures that our community remains vibrant, secure, and full of opportunity. From educational programs that inspire the next generation to cultural events that celebrate our shared heritage, your donations are making a difference. Through

your support, we are able to fund more than 70 beneficiary agencies across greater Charlotte and beyond that provide programs, essential services, and resources to those in need.

Two key initiatives, Outshine Hate and LiveSecure, will particularly benefit from those who donated to this year's additional giving opportunities. Outshine Hate is Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council's proactive response to rising antisemitism, fostering understanding, education, and unity through educational programs and learning experiences. LiveSecure, a Jewish Federations of North America initiative that matches our community's donations, enhances the safety of our community by investing in security measures that protect our synagogues, schools, and public

spaces. These two initiatives reflect our Federation's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every member of our Jewish community can live a vibrant, secure Jewish life.

The impact of your generosity extends beyond our local community, touching lives across the globe. Whether providing critical support to Jews in Israel or reaching out to those in need worldwide, your donations to the Annual Campaign allow us to fulfill our mission of caring for our global Jewish family.

As we reflect on this year's achievements, we are reminded that the strength of our community lies in our collective efforts. Each donation, regardless of size, contributes to a future where Jewish values, traditions, and connections are preserved for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for making this year's campaign a success. Donors to the 2024 Annual Campaign will be recognized in the November edition of the Charlotte Jewish News. Your support has truly made a difference, and together, we will continue to build a brighter, more secure future for our community.



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# Editor's Corner

## Embracing the Unexpected Pause



Shira Firestone, Managing Editor CJN

As I write this, I find myself in the quiet of my apartment. My cat, Molly, is curled up asleep on the bed. Our dog, Dudley, peers at me from the couch, his eyes a silent question mark. "What are you doing home?" I imagine him asking, but maybe he's just thinking about a treat. Outside the weather is finally cool enough that the normally noisy air conditioning units are uncharacteristically silent. It's a rare pocket of quiet, like the world holding its breath. I find myself adrift in this sea of stillness, an accidental castaway in my own home.

I wasn't supposed to be here. My day was carefully scheduled: an early appointment, work, and plans thereafter. But at 5 a.m., when I turned the key in my car's ignition, the first of the silence

greeted me — no sound, not even the tell-tale click of a dying battery. My mind began to race, a whirlwind of logistics. Tow truck? Uber? Favors to call in? These questions swirled, underscored by mounting anxiety: Was it just the battery, or something more serious — and expensive?

Then, amid this mental chaos, reality intruded: it was 5 a.m.. The world was still asleep, repair shops closed, and problems unsolvable for hours. What does one do in that situation? Go back to bed, of course.

When I woke again, clarity had replaced chaos. The frantic urge to solve everything immediately had dissipated. My car's recent warning signs suggested this wasn't a quick fix, and I resigned myself to several days without transportation. The solution became obvious: stay put. So here I am, unexpectedly tethered to home, forced to sit still.

While disappointed about cancelled plans, I'm surprisingly grateful for this enforced stillness. Left to my own devices, I would already be on the go with no end in sight, driven by numerous interests rather than a compulsion to be busy. Voluntarily staying home for four days? Unthinkable.

Yet here I am, on an unexpect-

ed staycation, and I'm startled by what I'm discovering. Just as you might suddenly notice hidden gems in your hometown during a staycation, I'm unearthing treasures in my own space. Beyond the obvious overlooked details — a bathroom needing attention, dishes accumulating — I'm noticing around me other forgotten treasures: books I've been meaning to read, a tin of special tea gathering dust, a couch that seems to invite me to enjoy the book and the tea — or maybe just to take more restorative naps.

Most surprising of all is the quiet. In the sudden absence of my usual hustle, I'm hearing the subtle symphony of my home for perhaps the first time. This stillness, I'm realizing, isn't empty at all — it's filled with overlooked details and unexplored thoughts. It's as if the pause button has been pressed on my usually busy mind, allowing me to truly see and hear what's already here, waiting patiently for my attention.

It seems like our community has been in perpetual motion lately. Unexpected events, far more consequential than my car trouble, continually shift our collective course. We're navigating a season dense with holidays, each demanding its own preparations — meals to cook, gatherings to host, commemorations and celebrations to attend — all while juggling the relentless demands of daily life.

As I edit this special High Holiday edition of the Charlotte Jewish News, the sheer volume of activity in our community becomes apparent. These pages burst with life: artists pouring their hearts

into creations honoring those lost in Israel, seasoned leaders passing the torch to new visionaries. They reveal passionate advocates filling our streets — marching for hostages, rallying for those with special needs, and parading in support of the LGBTQ community. They highlight interfaith dialogues buzzing with energy and Shabbat gatherings weaving threads of connection.

The High Holiday section fills page after page, the community calendar overflowing with services and events carefully planned by dedicated staff, volunteers, and clergy, representing hundreds of hours of activity. From cover to cover, our 44 pages can barely contain the vibrancy of Jewish Charlotte. It's a testament to our community's spirit — inspiring, certainly, but potentially overwhelming too. Amidst this whirlwind of activity, we must remember the power of pause.

There is one day this month when we have the opportunity to put the busyness aside and hold the silence. On October 7 we have the opportunity to gather as a community in honor of those who were killed on October 7 and in the war that has followed. We will light candles. We will say prayers. And we will be fully in the moment. We have marched, written letters, and immersed ourselves in the news. But for one evening we can be still. Both to remember the victims and nurture ourselves. We get to look around our own inner landscape in the silence that is offered and give space for our own grief and pain and hope and the array of feelings that may get buried in all

of the activity. Whether we join the community event at Shalom Park, participate elsewhere, or find a quiet moment at home, I encourage us to embrace this opportunity fully.

Rather than viewing it as another item on your calendar, consider it a gift — a chance to remember, grieve, feel, and re-center. It's in these moments of stillness that we often find the strength to move forward with renewed purpose and clarity.

Sometimes, the world conspires to make us pause, be it through a broken-down car or a day of remembrance. These moments — whether personal inconveniences or communal observances — invite us to stop and be still. To take a breath. To pet the cat. Savor the tea. Lose ourselves in the book, and allow ourselves the nap.

In the grand scheme of things, my car trouble is trivial. Yet it reminds me of a larger truth: the importance of embracing stillness, whether it's thrust upon us or we choose it ourselves. As we approach October 7, we can welcome it as a sacred opportunity — to honor, to reflect, and to find renewed strength in the quiet moments. It's in these pauses, both big and small, that we often find the resilience and clarity to move forward, both as individuals and as a community.

*The October 7: Marking One Year commemoration will be at 7 p.m. in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. The event is free, however, registration is required. Space is limited. [www.jewishcharlotte.org](http://www.jewishcharlotte.org)*

Shira

## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

(28226 Zip Code. For other locations, visit [www.charlottejewishnews.org](http://www.charlottejewishnews.org).)

October 4 — 6:44 p.m.

October 11 — 6:35 p.m.

October 18 — 6:26 p.m.

October 25 — 6:18 p.m.

## The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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# Celebrating the Tenure of Sue Worrel, Federation CEO

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

After almost 19 years of dedicated service, Sue Worrel is passing the baton as CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte to incoming CEO, Adam Kolett. Since joining Federation in November 2005, Sue has led with a unique blend of determination, warmth, and an unwavering commitment to the Jewish community. Her impact has been profound, leaving a legacy that will resonate for years to come.

Under Sue's leadership, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has flourished. Over the course of 19 successful Annual Campaigns, tens of millions of dollars have been raised, growing from \$2.8 million in 2006 to more than \$6.3 million in 2024, and directly enhancing the lives of countless individuals within our community. These funds have supported vital initiatives and educational programming, strengthened security efforts, and provided allocations to over 70 beneficiary agencies in our network. With Sue at the helm, Federation's reach and impact



Sue Worrel

have continuously grown. Each year, new elements are introduced, such as the creation of the Center for Jewish Education, the Jewish Community Relations Council's Outshine Hate Initiative, and more. Her efforts have ensured that the Jewish community in greater Charlotte not only survives, but thrives.

Sue has seen Federation through good times and bad. She guided our Jewish community through the 2009 Great Recession, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, and the catastrophic events of October 7, when our community needed a strong, compassionate leader the most. In each of these moments, Sue was a steady hand, offering guidance and reassurance.

What truly sets Sue apart, however, is her hands-on approach to leadership. Whether leading solidarity missions to Israel or engaging in Women's Philanthropy as a proud member of the Lion of Judah Society, Sue leads by example. Her open-door policy makes her a trusted confidante and a source of wisdom for staff and community members alike. She made it her mission to know everyone personally, ensuring that everyone felt valued and heard.

As Sue transitions out of her Federation role, we celebrate the incredible legacy she leaves behind. Her influence will continue to shape our community for generations to come.

A special event, honoring Sue's incredible tenure will be held Nov. 17, 5 p.m., at Temple Beth El. Please join us in send-

ing Sue off into the next chapter of her life!



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# Honoring Sue Worrel



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Please join us as we pay tribute to Sue Worrel for her leadership of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



Jewish Federation  
of Greater Charlotte

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

# Charlotte and Israeli Artists Collaborate for Poignant Exhibition

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

As we near the anniversary of October 7, 2023, and continue to grapple with its effects, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and The Jewish Agency for Israel are partnering together for the “Hinneini” project, a powerful artistic initiative uniting Jewish communities across seas in a shared act of remembrance.

This project, which derives its name from the Hebrew word “Hinneini” (הִנְנִי), meaning “here I am,” is a collaboration between 50 artists from the United States and Israel, each tasked with creating memorial pieces that capture the essence of those who were tragically killed on October 7 or in the resulting war. The aim is not only to honor the fallen, but also to forge a deeper connection between the artists, their subjects, and the broader Jewish community. Two Charlotte-based artists, Mike Wirth and Tara Spil, have been selected to contribute their talents to this significant endeavor.

Mike Wirth created a digital art piece in memory of Bar Schechter z”l, a DJ at the Nova Music Festival who was murdered by Hamas terrorists on October 7. “Bar was a beacon of joy, known for his ability to unite people through dance and celebration. In creating this art-

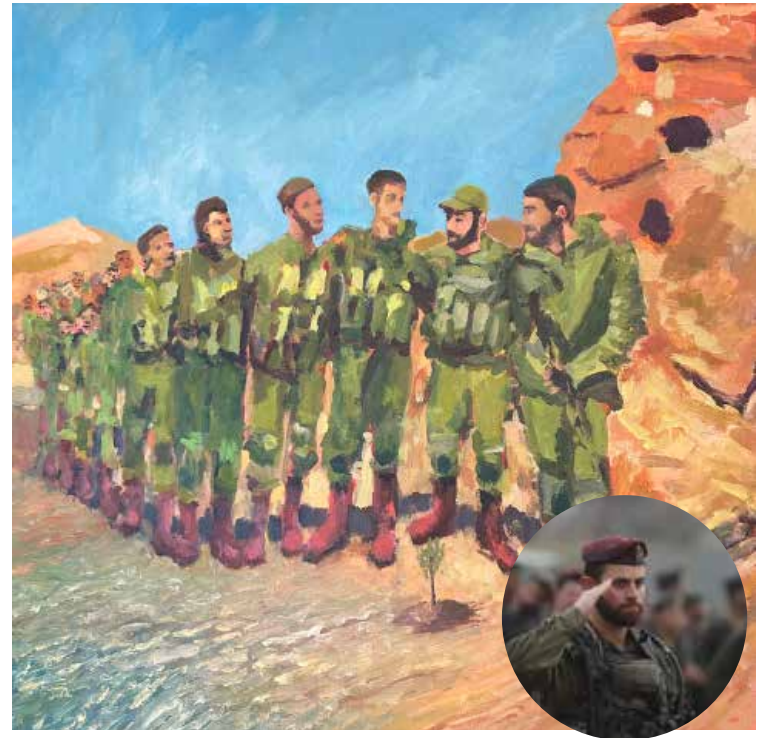


Mike Wirth’s digital art rendition of Bar Schechter z”l

work, my goal is to capture the essence of who Bar was—someone who brought light and life to those around him.” Mike says. “The project took a more meaningful turn after I met with Bar’s wife and friends as well as other artists on the project. It was very special to talk to the people who were impacted by Bar no longer being here. I shared with them my initial sketch and I could see that they understood that the

conversation is a critical part of the project. This has been an incredible opportunity to connect Jews from different communities.” Mike describes his art, “Through the use of bold colors and dynamic compositions, I aim to convey the vibrancy of Bar’s life and the joy he spread ... Hinneni — here I am, ready to remember, celebrate, and create in Bar’s honor.”

Tara Spil’s painting memo-



Tara Spil’s painting of Major Gal Shabat z”l

rializes Major Gal Shabat z”l, a 24-year-old soldier who was killed in action in the Gaza Strip. “In learning about who Gal was from his mother and sister, his love of country was made clear. They described him as a strong and brave leader of his unit. I wanted to create a work of Gal with his unit, to symbolize their closeness, and I used imagery from a video his family sent. Gal’s unit was made up entirely of Orthodox Jews who traveled from around the world to Israel to join the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). They called him ‘Abba Shabat’ and he was their first introduction to life in Israel. So, he was a caretaker, trainer, and educator at age 24.” Tara describes the symbolism in her work, “The tree, the waves, the land, and the line of soldiers coming to speak with him are all metaphors for Gal’s unend-

ing strength. The strength and perseverance he showed are not gone because they will continue to live on through the soldiers he trained, the trees he planted, and the waters he enjoyed.”

The completed works will be displayed in Hadera, Israel, beginning on Nov. 7 at the ART Container in the Menashe Regional Council. This exhibition, titled “Hinneni,” will be broadcast live on The Jewish Agency For Israel’s Partnership2Gether (P2G) Facebook page, allowing communities across the globe to participate in this collective act of remembrance. Additionally, the pieces will be displayed in various P2G communities, including at Shalom Park throughout the month of October, and will also be featured at Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s October 7 commemoration.



## FEDERATION IMPACT: BENEFICIARY AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

### PARTNERSHIP2GETHER

As a means of bettering our greater Charlotte Jewish community, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte allocates donation funds to local Jewish organizations that embody Jewish values and overall better our community. In recognition of their work, we at Federation wish to bring attention to these organizations and the good that they do.

As part of our mission to connect Jews globally and strengthen our community’s ties to Israel, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is a proud participant in The Jewish Agency for Israel initiative “Partnership2Gether,” or P2G for short. The Charlotte and Hadera-Eiron P2G serves as a bridge between the Jewish communities of Charlotte and the Hadera-Eiron region in Israel, fostering deep, meaningful connections that transcend geographical boundaries.

Partnership 2Gether creates life-changing experiences by connecting individuals from both communities through people-to-people exchanges and joint programs. These ini-

tiatives not only build lifelong relationships but also provide opportunities for participants to explore their Jewish identity, volunteer, and bond over shared concerns. Whether it’s through staying in each other’s homes or participating in collaborative projects like the upcoming Hinneni exhibit, the connections forged through P2G have enriched the lives of countless individuals on both sides of the ocean.

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s commitment to the Hadera-Eiron region extends beyond the P2G program. Federation actively supports various organizations operating in the region, further solidifying the bond between the two communities. For over 20 years, this partnership has grown stronger, with Charlotteans embracing Hadera-Eiron as a part of their extended Jewish family.

Located along Israel’s Medi-

terranean Coastal Plain, Hadera is a city steeped in history and modern Zionism. Founded in 1891 by Eastern European immigrants as a farming community, Hadera has grown into the fourth-largest city in Israel. Today, the Hadera-Eiron region is a vibrant and diverse community, home to a mix of Jewish and Arab towns and villages.

The impact of the Charlotte and Hadera-Eiron Partnership 2Gether is far-reaching. It strengthens the ties between the Jewish people in Charlotte and Israel, fostering a sense of Jewish peoplehood that transcends borders. Through the generous support of donors and the Jewish community, the P2G program continues to create opportunities for connection, learning, and shared experiences, ensuring that the bond between Charlotte and Hadera-Eiron remains strong for generations to come.



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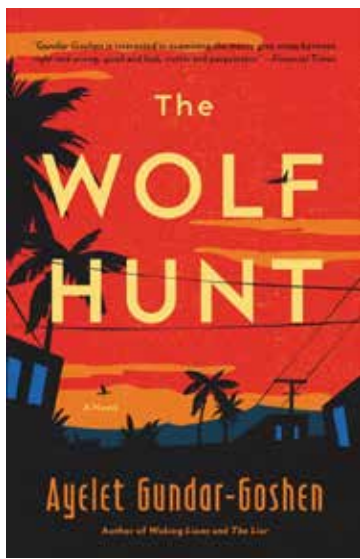
# Sue's Bookshelf



By Sue Littauer

"The greatest mystery in people's lives is their children." — "The Wolf Hunt"

How fortunate we are to have the opportunity to welcome Ayelet Gunder-Goshen to our Oct. 9 Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Book Club on Zoom. Not only is Gunder-Goshen a brilliant writer, but she is also an insightful, thought-provoking, and charming speaker. I recently watched an in-depth interview with her as she discussed her most recent book, "The Wolf Hunt," our book club selection for October. It is a psychological thriller, and its themes are as relevant today as they were when it



was published on Aug. 15, 2023.

According to Hadassah Magazine, "Acclaimed Israeli author and clinical psychologist Ayelet Gunder-Goshen's fifth novel, 'The Wolf Hunt,' is a tense and riveting thriller that centers around one essential question: was the son of an Israeli family living in California involved in the tragic death of his classmate?" The book follows the family as they grapple with racism, antisemitism, and what it means to be foreigners living in the United States. The timely and important novel, which touches

on parenting, motherhood, displacement, and masculinity, also asks a follow-up question: "How well do people know those closest to them?"

If "The Wolf Hunt" is your first Ayelet Gunder-Goshen book, I highly recommend reading "Waking Lions," published in 2017. Without a doubt, "Waking Lions" has been my favorite book read by our CJE Book Club over the past six years. Jonathan Kirsch wrote in the Jewish Journal, "Gunder-Goshen transcends the genre of thriller... 'Waking Lions' is a work of exquisite literary craft, a book that penetrates to the heart and soul of its characters." The book explores moral and ethical dilemmas, how we deal with our own guilt, the issues of the privileged versus the poor, and voiceless segments of society.

Please note the October CJE Book Club meeting will not be in-person. We will join together on Zoom. For more information, please contact [sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org](mailto:sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org).

Now, a few words about other books on my radar:

I loved "The Lost English Girl" by Julia Kelly, a work of

historical fiction based on the evacuation of city children to the English countryside during World War II.

I highly recommend "Long Island" by Colm Tóibín, the sequel to his prize-winning, bestselling novel, "Brooklyn." Katie Jarvis, from Pan Macmillan Publishing, calls it an "exquisite, exhilarating novel that asks whether it is possible to truly return to the past and renew the great love that seemed to have been gone forever."



Finally, the highly anticipated "Long Island Compromise" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner is the follow-up to her best-selling and widely acclaimed novel "Fleishman Is in Trouble." "Long Island Compromise" is a fictionalized true story that begins in 1980 when Carl Fletcher, a prominent businessman, is kidnapped in his driveway, taken to a mysterious destination, and tortured by unknown assailants. The implications have a deep and lasting impact on his vastly wealthy and highly dysfunctional family.

To the faithful readers of my monthly Charlotte Jewish News column, I wish each of you and your families a happy and healthy new year. May it be a year that brings peace to Israel and the world, healing to our politically divided country, and a cessation of the rising tide of antisemitism affecting our college campuses.



## Federation Welcomes New Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is excited to introduce Sara Solar as the new Center for Jewish Education's youth and family engagement coordinator.

In this role, Sara will spearhead the creation and implementation of a variety of programs aimed at fostering connections within the community, particularly among children, teens, and families. Her responsibilities will include organizing engaging story times, after-school activities, and summer programs that encourage a love of literature and learning among young participants.

Sara, a Charlotte native, brings with her a wealth of experience in both education and literature. She earned her degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and has dedicated several years to serving the community through her work at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Her passion for books and education continued as she transitioned to an elementary school librarian within Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, where she has spent the past eight years inspiring young



students to explore the world of reading.

Sara, who describes herself first and foremost as a librarian and storyteller, is eager to bring her enthusiasm for literature to the Jewish community. "I am so excited to share my love of books and reading with a new audience," she shared.

Sara will report to Megan Harkavy, director of education and engagement. She looks forward to creating meaningful experiences that will engage and connect children and families throughout Jewish Charlotte.

ב"ה

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# Organization Changes and a Bright Future for the Stan Greenspon Center

By Mary Eshet

The Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center at Queens University of Charlotte is pleased to announce organizational changes which position the center for greater impact and reach as it continues its work to combat hate, expand Holocaust education, and advocate for social justice.

“The center has achieved more than I dreamed when we founded it eight years ago,” said Stan Greenspon, visionary and founding philanthropist. “Rabbi Judy Schindler, Judy LaPietra, and the team are incredibly dedicated to this work, and they have created programs and events that make a huge positive difference in our community and beyond. As we enter this next phase, we have tremendous aspirations, and the evolution in our structure and staff will enable us to reach the next level.”

Effective immediately, Judy LaPietra is director of the Greenspon Center. Rabbi Judy Schindler, who has served as director



From left to right: Mary Eshet, Katie Cunningham, Stan Greenspon, Judy LaPietra, Terri Eberle Katz, Rabbi Judy Schindler

since the center’s inception, will continue to be on staff as Jewish scholar-in-residence and leader for the social justice branch. Rabbi Schindler will also continue to serve as Sklut professor of Jewish studies at Queens University.

“I knew when we hired Judy LaPietra almost two years ago that we had found the perfect match for the Stan Greenspon Center,” said Rabbi Schindler. “She has deep experience in edu-

cation, a burning passion to combat hate and antisemitism, and an amazing talent for thinking of big ideas and making them happen – like bringing the ‘Seeing Auschwitz’ exhibit to Charlotte and taking the graduates of the Holocaust Pedagogy Certification Program to Poland to enrich their experience. She has secured significant grants for Holocaust education, such as funding from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

We built this center from scratch, and Judy is absolutely the right person to lead it forward. I look forward to continuing to work with her and the team! I also look forward to devoting more time to interfaith relations, an area that is crucially important to healthy communities.”

## About Judy LaPietra

LaPietra brings over 30 years of impassioned experience in Holocaust education to the director position. She has participated in an exemplary list of worldwide programs, including The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights seminar (NY), the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers’ Program (Poland), the Bearing Witness Advanced Program (Israel), and many more. She has presented at numerous Holocaust education seminars across the nation.

LaPietra’s dedication led her to volunteer at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland and the Nea Kavala refugee camp in Greece. She also traveled to the border of Ukraine

at the onset of the war to help those fleeing Ukraine. She has been selected by the most esteemed Holocaust educational organizations, including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Anti-Defamation League, and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, to facilitate teacher training and youth leadership programs.

LaPietra served as adjunct professor at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte from 2010–2022, developing and teaching courses in genocide and human rights studies. She has extensive experience as a history classroom educator in New York City and North Carolina. She received an MA in Holocaust genocide studies from Gratz College, an MS in secondary education and history, and a BA in political science from Queens College, City University of New York. She is currently working on her dissertation in post-genocidal reconciliation.

(Continued on page 7)

# Spiritual Life Welcomes a New Director of Hillel & Jewish Life at Queens University

By Adrian Bird, University Chaplain

The Spiritual Life Team is delighted to welcome the new director of Hillel & Jewish life, Andy Harkavy, to Queens University. Andy will work within the Office of the Chaplain, building on the strong foundations of Jewish life at Queens to support and grow Jewish life on campus. Andy’s first day on campus was August 12, and we look forward to utilizing Andy’s depth of gifts,

knowledge, and experiences as we continue to build a diverse and engaging interfaith community at Queens.

Andy Harkavy most recently served as the director of congregational engagement and communications for Temple Beth El in Charlotte, NC where he played a creative and key role in reimagining and deepening individual, small group, and cohort engagement. He partnered with congregants and staff to

challenge current assumptions, break out of silos, synergize, and create a relational culture. He also oversaw and managed the strategy and vision for the congregation’s communications. Andy received a double Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Spanish at the University of Georgia and a Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service from the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University.

Among his many roles

in engagement over the years, Andy has excelled in dynamic teen and young adult education and engagement, serving as the Jewish campus service corps fellow at Ohio State Hillel, the director of youth engagement at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, director of BEIT-RJ (post B’nei Mitzvah education and engagement program for the Baltimore Reform Jewish community), and the regional director of youth engagement for NFTY Ohio Valley



Andy Harkavy

and Cincinnati youth engagement and advisor.

Andy also has a passion and love for camp and has served on staff/faculty at numerous URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) Summer Camps: 6 Points Sports Academy, Camp Coleman, Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI), Henry S. Jacobs Camp, and Kutz Camp.

Andy was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and is an avid sports fan, always supporting any University of Georgia team as well as all his Atlanta sports teams. Andy resides in Charlotte with his wife, Megan, and their two children, Eli Micah and Abby Rose.

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# Greenspon Center

(Continued from page 6)

## Greenspon Center Team

Katie Cunningham, who has served as the center's Holocaust education and outreach specialist, has been named assistant director. She brings 13 years of experience in education to the role, including nine years with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and leads the Certification in Holocaust Pedagogy course and Student to Student program. Cunningham also worked in partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction during the writing of the new Holocaust Elective objectives and has written an entire Holocaust Elective curriculum framework for the Center. She holds a BA in English secondary education from Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania and an MA in educational leadership from Queens University of Charlotte. She is currently in her second year of doctoral classes in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program at Gratz College and plans to focus her research on Holocaust education in the United States and its impacts on antisemitic beliefs.

Terri Eberle Katz joined the center in 2024 as development coordinator. She brings 30 years of experience in grant writing, fundraising, and government and community relations to the team. She has secured millions

of dollars in government, corporate, and foundation funds for a variety of nonprofit organizations across various disciplines. Throughout her career and her volunteer work, Katz has been committed to the advancement of human rights and social justice. She received her BA from State University of New York at Albany and her JD from The George Washington University Law School. She recently relocated from New York to Davidson and has a passion for the mission of the Greenspon Center.

Rabbi Judy Schindler will continue to work actively with the Greenspon Center as Jewish scholar-in-residence and leader for the social justice branch. Rabbi Schindler is Sklut professor of Jewish studies at Queens University and rabbi emerita of Temple Beth El, after serving as senior rabbi from 2003–2016 and associate rabbi from 1998–2003. She has a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology from Tufts University, a master's degree from the Hebrew Union College in L.A., a rabbinic ordination at the Hebrew Union College in New York, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Hebrew letters from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Her academic focus is

interfaith relations.

Continuing in their current roles are James Lee, social justice outreach coordinator; Holly Roach, scholar activist; Mary Eshet, communications consultant; and Mike Wirth, volunteer artist-in-residence.

The Greenspon Center will partner closely with the new director of Hillel & Jewish life for Queens University, Andy Harkavy. Harkavy joined Queens' Spiritual Life team in August and will work within the Office of the Chaplain, building on the strong foundations of Jewish life at Queens to support and grow Jewish life on campus.

"We are thrilled that our work at the Stan Greenspon Center led to establishing a full-time director of Jewish life," said Rabbi Schindler. "We are fortunate to have Andy on board as we work together to grow and nurture the Jewish community at Queens."

"We are proud of what we've accomplished, but this work is never done, and we have exciting plans for the future," said LaPietra. "We envision a permanent exhibition space in Charlotte to further understanding of the Holocaust and the importance of combating hate, and we want to expand our certification programs to prepare more people to create change and educate others. I am honored to lead this organization and this team as we embark on our next chapter."

**Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center October Events | [www.stangreensponcenter.org](http://www.stangreensponcenter.org)**

## Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024

College Connection/Queens Hillel: Rosh HaShanah Worship Experience & Dinner  
Queens Hillel loves to welcome and celebrate the Jewish New Year with a Rosh Hashanah worship experience and festive holiday meal. College-age students from across the region are welcome to attend. Contact Andy Harkavy at [harkavya@queens.edu](mailto:harkavya@queens.edu) for more information.

## Friday, OCT. 11, 2024

College Connection/Queens Hillel: Yom Kippur Worship Experience & Dinner  
This year Yom Kippur coincides with Fall Break so many of our students will be heading home for the holiday. For those remaining in town, our Queens Hillel family will be invited to attend services at one of Charlotte's synagogues for Kol Nidrei.

## Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024

Yom Kippur Yoga  
Join Rabbi Schindler and Shelly Bear (certified yoga instructor) for a special Yom Kippur-themed yoga experience.  
To register: Contact Judy Schindler, [schindlerj@queens.edu](mailto:schindlerj@queens.edu).

## Tuesday Oct. 15 and TUESDAY OCT. 29 2024


Greenspon Book Club Fall Read: "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Jew," by Emmanuel Acho and Noa Tishby – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Chapel Rotunda, Queens University  
Two New York Times best-selling authors crafted this most important read connecting the dots between the tropes of antisemitism of the past and their expression today. This discussion will be facilitated by leaders of our Charlotte Black/Jewish Alliance: Noah Goldman, Queens Alum '19 and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Israel & Global Jewry Associate, and Terrell Hamlet, co-chair of our Charlotte/Black Jewish Alliance from 2022 to present. Register on the Stan Greenspon Center website or email [schindlerj@queens.edu](mailto:schindlerj@queens.edu).

## Oct. TBD, 2024

College Connection/Queens Hillel: Sukkot Dinner (Jewish Fall Harvest Festival)  
We invite college-age Charlotteans to join us for our Sushi in the Sukkah dinner. For more information on the date and time, contact Andy Harkavy at [harkavya@queens.edu](mailto:harkavya@queens.edu).



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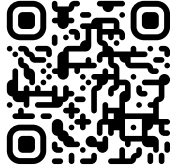
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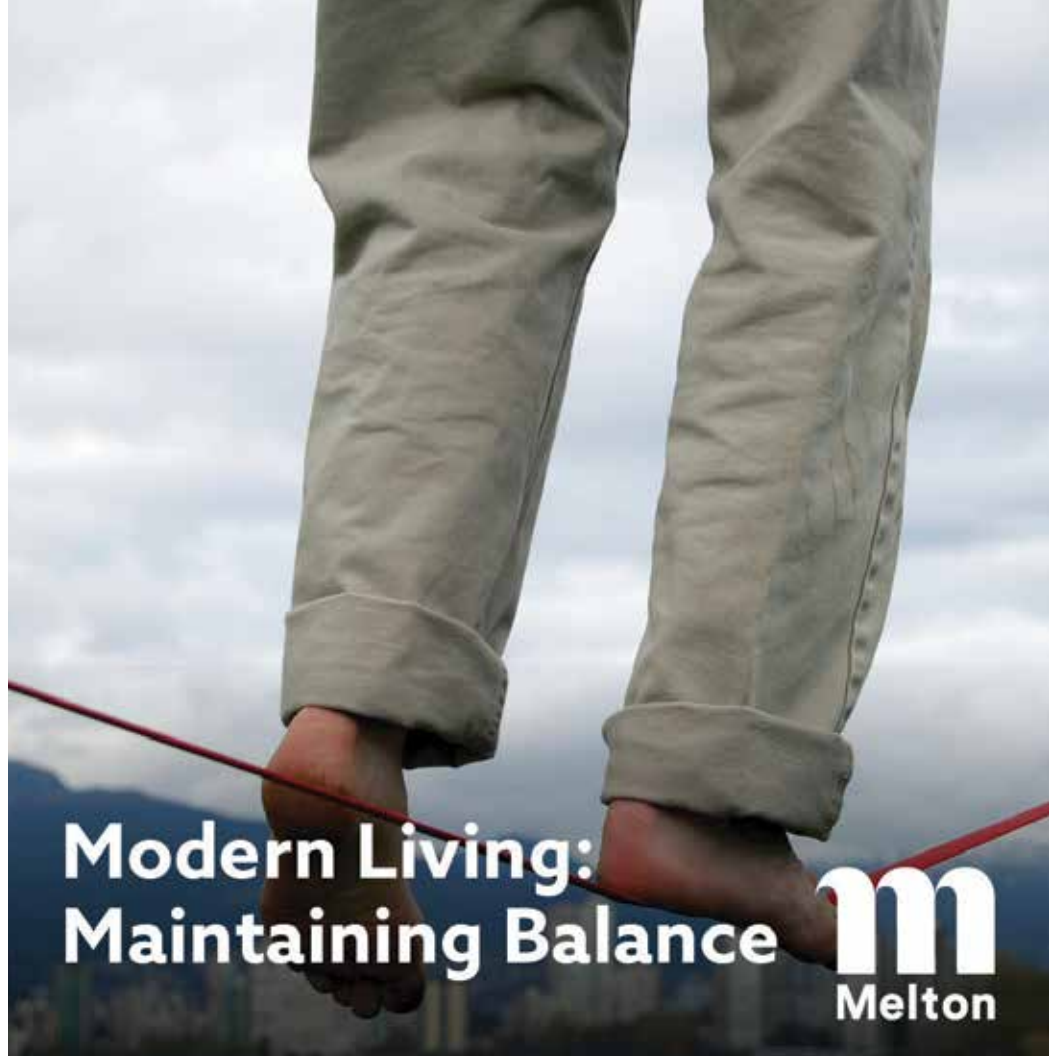
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Modern Living:  
Maintaining Balance





# Run for Their Lives: A Community's Walk for Hostages' Freedom

By Chris Guidice

After hearing the chant of "Bring Him Home" reverberate throughout the venue at the Democratic National Convention, Rachel Goldberg-Polin spoke eloquently to her son, Hersh, then held in captivity in Gaza, and the rest of the 109 hostages when she said, "The time is now! Hersh, if you can hear us, we love you. Stay strong. Survive!" A soft touch. A warm embrace. A comforting message of hope. A brief smile of reassurance. For more than eleven months, the remaining hostages in Gaza have had no access to such sensations.

An unending hope remains, though it is now mixed with profound grief. Hersh Goldberg-Polin and five other hostages were found murdered in Gaza after nearly a year of captivity. Rachel's plea for her son at the DNC now stands as a tragic reminder of the urgency that came too late for him and others. At his funeral, she tearfully said, "My sweet boy, finally, finally, finally you are free." Hersh's death, along with the others, is a devastating loss, but the hope persists for the 101 hostages still being held — We won't give up.

To reinforce that message of hope and ensure that those still held captive are not forgotten, members of the Charlotte Jewish community walk each Sunday to keep the spirit of the hostages alive. The walk is part of a Run For Their Lives initiative that began in Palo Alto, CA. The participants wave U.S. and Israeli flags and display posters of hostages to pledge their support.

"There are a lot of ways to show your support for the hostages," said Rachel Berendt, who has three sons currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). "This is one of the most simple and hopeful ways to do it. I light a candle every Friday and wear a bracelet, but for one hour, I am focused on this walk."

The walk, which starts at the Dunkin Donuts in Strawberry Hill every Sunday at 9 a.m., has witnessed a constant stream of supporters that has included friends, entire families, and even IDF soldiers. One can find beauty in a small gesture, strength in resilience, and when it comes to the group's identity, Berendt sees the diversity of the group as a unifying force.

"It reminds people that this is



Charlotte residents gather for community walk in support of hostages

not a political issue, that this is a humanitarian issue," she said. "And that no matter if you are a baby in a stroller or an elder being pushed in a wheelchair, we are all coming together for one cause, which is to bring the hostages home right away."

The Run For Their Lives initiative stipulates that members walk or run for at least 18 minutes and wear the color red. The number 18 represents the Hebrew word

"chai" or life, while the color red symbolizes the "bleeding hearts of loved ones still held captive." Both aspects of the initiative represent something very powerful.

"It's nice to see families doing this together. We've met a lot of new people. It's a group of Jews, and not everyone is even Jewish," said Richard Goldsmith, a member of the group who regularly joins with his wife, Lynne. "It's important that even the young

kids are out here. It's an education. It's something... we're trying to get a message out."

That "message" is clear: "We won't stop walking until every single hostage is back home." Even though the group only meets once a week, the influx of new members combined with a host of regular supporters provides a nice balance as they work together to keep the focus on the hostages. The group will not waver in its commitment to keeping the hostages' memories alive and never backing down. Educating others, however, is never easy. Not everyone grasps the magnitude of the hostage situation so walkers are urged to explain the group's mission.

When addressing the group's impact, Galia Lapidot, who regularly comes to the walk with her husband, Tomer, and daughter, Daria, accentuates its strengths: "It's great, especially when people honk their horns, because people leave with a sense of community -- we are a group," she said. "It shows them that we did something small for today. It makes them feel better for the

(Continued on page 9)

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# Walk for Hostages

(Continued from page 8)



Walking as part of the Run for Their Lives walk

averages 30 walkers, one day in June helped remind everyone how devoted and united the Charlotte Jewish community truly is. More than a hundred community members participated in a Worldwide March for the Hostages that coincided with similar walks around the country. Members walked side by side in solidarity – it was an unforgettable moment that encapsulated the devotion to helping the cause in any way possible.

“This is just a basic reminder that this is happening,” said Berendt. “Unless you are in the mainstream media, it’s very easy to forget about our hostages.”

Judging by the unity and strength of this Charlotte group, they will not forget anytime soon.

rest of the week, showing that there are people willing to do something if we need them to. Hopefully, we will have more.”

For some, the hostage situation hits close to home. Some members either know a hostage or are connected in some way. In fact, one of the remaining hostages, Keith Siegel, is from North Carolina.

Although the group typically



**Run for Their Lives**  
Global run/walk events calling for the immediate release of the hostages held by Hamas

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The 17th Annual Sam Strause LJCC Invitational Golf Tournament benefitting the Levine JCC Oasis Senior Enrichment Program was held at Raintree Country Club on Monday, August 12th. This tournament is played in honor of Sam Strause ז"ל, a founder of the tournament and a passionate advocate for senior programming to ensure that our community members age with dignity while actively engaged. Proceeds from the tournament help to build the Alene and Sam Strause Family Endowment for the Levine JCC, which benefits the LJCC Oasis program for generations to come.

The LJCC Board of Directors and Staff, along with our Oasis Program Members deeply appreciate all sponsors, players, committee members and volunteers who support this annual special event!



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*A special thanks to our Golf Committee - David Eslinkie, Josh Lowenstein, Jeff Goldsmith, Andrew Rosen - for their devoted efforts, and to the Volunteers for all their hard work and dedication.*

**2025 Save the Date!**  
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Women's News

# Hadassah Hosts Empowering Painting Days and Plans to Reveal Masterpieces



By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

If you were looking for artists to paint women's tatas, where would you start? When a woman at the craft store said she was an artist and offered to help two Hadassah women pick the right body paint, they asked her to volunteer for Painting Days. One Hadassah member went to get a tattoo and recruited two artists from the studio. Other members recruited three artists at an art fair, and another when they shared a table while painting calaniot (red anemone) at the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC).

Painting Days, held on August 19 and 20, could only have happened when Hadassah volunteers who are passionate about what they do found other volunteers to make the magic happen. Painting Days was an emotional, empowering, creative, educational two-day event, part of Hadassah Charlotte Metro's Celebrate the TaTas initiative, our annual fundraiser for cancer research at the Hadassah hospitals in Jerusalem.

This year, there were 66 models, 19 artists, and 20 tables with experts, who support and fundraise for women's health, and vendors, who donated a portion of their sales to Hadassah. But Painting Days was much more than the numbers. Painting Days was a celebration, a triumph over cancer, and a chance to transform your body into a beautiful work of art.

Many women chose the subject or style for their body. Some brought photographs. Others gave their artist carte blanche. Bodies were turned into colorful flower gardens and butterflies, landscapes and seascapes. There were pictures of hamsas, pets, a superhero spider shield, and so



Sam of Haylo Healing Arts Lounge displays mastectomy and other tattoo art.

much more – artwork limited only by the model's and artist's imaginations. Some models were breast cancer survivors, several were there supporting family or friends, and others got painted to support cancer research. Many Hadassah members donated the \$36 Painting Day fee so women who otherwise couldn't afford to be painted, could come and participate in the transformation. Once the painting was complete, a female photographer took pictures of each model.

Debbie Buchman saw a post for Painting Days on a friend's Facebook page. Debbie drove from Atlanta so she and her friend Cheryl Alley could get painted. Debbie shared, "Breast cancer runs in my family. My grandmother had it. So this

seemed like a cool thing to do."

Cheryl added, "When Debbie wanted to do it, I thought I'd give it a try. It was a terrific experience. The event is well-run and everybody's friendly and doing it for a good cause."

Debbie admitted, "I thought I would be more bashful about it, but it was no big deal, the way they did it. The artists made you feel very comfortable."

### The Reveal

After Painting Days, the tata pictures were made into a poster-size photo collage that will be unveiled at The Reveal Gala on Saturday, Nov. 16 at Temple Beth El from 6:30-9:30 p.m. This celebratory fundraising event, with Patti Mercer as emcee, will include dinner and live and silent auctions.

Natalie Robinson, mural artist, will be live painting during the event and we will auction off her original painting. Also being auctioned: a week in Hilton Head, a winter weekend in Banner Elk, and wine tasting for 20 people.

Buy your tickets (\$90/person) on our website. If you would like to be an event sponsor or advertise in our program, are interested in assisting during The Reveal, or have items to donate, contact Cindy at (980) 553-1880 or [celebratethetatas.Hadassah@gmail.com](mailto:celebratethetatas.Hadassah@gmail.com).

### Hadassah Directory

Sign up for the 2025-26 Hadassah Charlotte Metro Area Jewish Community Directory today! There is no charge to include your personal listing. Because of privacy laws, even if you were listed in previous directories, you must sign up again.

To be listed in the Directory, place an ad, or order the online and/or print version, go to our website. If you have questions about your personal listing,

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Proceeds from the Directory go toward funding a pediatric emergency bay at Hadassah's Mt. Scopus Hospital in Jerusalem.

### Monthly Events

The next Hadassah *Wine & Schmooze* is Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at Vintner Wine Market in the Arboretum Shopping Center.

Short Story Discussion Group will not meet in October because of Yom Kippur.

*Hadassah BookTalk* discusses "Uncomfortable Conversations with A Jew" by Emmanuel Acho and Noa Tishby at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22 via Zoom.

The next Hadassah *CLT Metro Board meeting* is Monday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

### Helpful Info

To learn about membership, contact Laurie Sheinhaus at the phone number or email below, or come to one of our events.

Our website, [www.hadassah-cltvents.org](http://www.hadassah-cltvents.org), has details and registration links for our events. If you have questions or need additional information, email [HadassahCLT@gmail.com](mailto:HadassahCLT@gmail.com) or call our general phone number, (980) 553-1880. Follow us on Facebook (Hadassah CLT Metro) and Instagram (Hadassah Charlotte Metro).

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**Don't miss The Reveal on November 16th as we unveil the Painting Days photo collage, enjoy dinner & drinks, live & silent auctions, & celebrate all cancer warriors.**

Tickets are available at [www.hadassahcltvents.org/tatas](http://www.hadassahcltvents.org/tatas)

# Charlotte's Jewish Community Shines at 2024 Pride Parade

By Shira Firestone

For the sixth year in a row, Charlotte's Jewish community came together in August to proudly participate in the 2024 Charlotte Pride Parade. Led by the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) through its JPride initiative, the Jewish community stood in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. The LJCC, in partnership with Shalom Park agencies and local synagogues, ensured that this year's event not only represented Jewish pride but also furthered the center's mission of fostering inclusivity and building connections both within and beyond the Jewish community.

Waving flags and sporting colorful JPride t-shirts, participants joined more than 700

other groups, including corporate sponsors and community organizations, in a parade that saw 11,000 marchers and drew over 250,000 attendees. "It's important for us to stand behind the LGBTQ+ community and let people know that we are here to support them," said Michelle Rusgo, director of art and culture at the LJCC, who coordinated JPride for the second consecutive year. "As Jews, we know what it's like to feel the need to hide parts of who we are. Standing here, together, is a way of saying we believe in the right to be authentically ourselves."

In addition to the parade, the festival featured a wide array of entertainment and activities, including drag performances, DJ sets, and art exhibitions. A



The Levine JCC along with its park partners joined the vibrant Charlotte community to celebrate love, diversity, and inclusion at the Pride Parade. (Photo by Conor Butner)

Youth & Family Zone provided a welcoming space for families, while the Neighborhood Market offered local artisans and craft vendors.

The participation of the Jewish community this year was particularly meaningful. Amid a rise in antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment following the October 7 Hamas attacks, safety was at the forefront of organizers' minds. Cities like New York, Denver, and Vancouver saw disruptions at their Pride parades due to pro-Palestinian protests. In New York, floats were vandalized, and in Vancouver, the parade was cut short due to peaceful demonstrations.

Recognizing these concerns, Michelle Rusgo partnered with

Douglas Greene, director of Jewish community relations Jewish community relations director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, to ensure a thoughtful approach to security. Greene's expertise in responding to incidents of antisemitism helped organizers feel confident about participating in the parade. As Greene explained, "The rise in antisemitism isn't just about safety risks — it's about the larger issue of dehumanization, where hate and prejudice thrive when people are seen as "other." By showing up as a community, Greene emphasized, "we humanize ourselves in such divisive times, making it harder for people to demonize us." This reflects Federation's critical role

in countering the broader impact of antisemitism. Participating in Pride, despite these challenges, sends a clear message of resilience and solidarity.

As Pride coincided with the Jewish holiday of love, Tu B'Shvat, this year's participation was even more poignant. "What better day to celebrate love than at Pride?" Rusgo reflected. The intersection of these values—love, inclusivity, and solidarity—was evident throughout the parade, as the Jewish community once again showed up to affirm their shared commitment to equality and pride for all.





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# The Silent Toll: Understanding Vicarious Trauma in a Media-Driven World

By Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

Recently, I have been exposed to various media — TV, print, and film — that presented atrocities occurring in our world. The topics included severe child abuse, genocide, and, most recently, I participated in the screening of the film “Screams Before Silence” about the sexual assaults that took place on during the Hamas attack on October 7. As a professional with an extensive background in child abuse and domestic violence, I am not unfamiliar with severe trauma. However, it occurred to me, especially with increased media attention, that as a society, we are increasingly exposed to horrible traumatic events. Consider the visuals of children fleeing bullets from school shootings, people dying in collapsed buildings, or graphic scenes from warring countries.

Experiencing others’ trauma, whether through direct observation or mediated forms like movies or the news, can have a

profound psychological impact. When individuals watch films depicting intense traumatic events, they often undergo a process known as vicarious trauma or secondary traumatic stress. This experience is particularly potent because portraying such sensitive issues can evoke strong emotional responses, leading to various psychological, emotional, and even physical effects.

## The Nature of Vicarious Trauma

Vicarious trauma refers to the emotional residue that remains after witnessing someone else’s traumatic experiences. This phenomenon is well-documented among professionals such as therapists, social workers, and emergency responders, who regularly deal with trauma survivors. However, it can also occur in the general population when exposed to distressing media content.

## Psychological Impact

The psychological effects of vicarious trauma can be considerable. Watching a movie depict-

ing significant traumatic events such as child abuse or sexual assault can trigger a range of emotional responses, including anxiety, fear, sadness, and even symptoms akin to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For some individuals, especially those with past trauma or high empathy levels, these films can lead to flashbacks, nightmares, and intrusive thoughts related to the content they viewed.

Moreover, repeated exposure to such content can desensitize individuals over time. While this might sound like a protective mechanism, it often leads to emotional numbness or detachment. This detachment can make it difficult for individuals to connect emotionally with others or to experience joy and contentment in their own lives.

## Emotional and Physical Reactions

The emotional toll of watching traumatic content is not limited to psychological responses; it can also manifest physically. This can lead to increased heart

rate, sweating, and a sense of impending doom. Over time, chronic exposure to traumatic content can contribute to the development of long-term stress-related conditions, such as hypertension, digestive issues, or chronic fatigue.

Furthermore, the emotional distress triggered by such exposure can spill over into other areas of life, affecting personal relationships, work performance, and overall well-being. Individuals may become more irritable, withdrawn, or prone to outbursts of anger or sadness. These changes in behavior can be puzzling to both the individual and those around them, especially if the connection to the traumatic media content is not immediately recognized.

## Social and Cultural Considerations

The impact of witnessing others’ trauma through media is also influenced by social and cultural factors. In societies where discussions of sexual abuse are stigmatized or suppressed, in-

dividuals might feel isolated in their emotional reactions to such content. They may fear that expressing their distress will lead to judgment or misunderstanding, further compounding the emotional burden. On the other hand, media can also serve as powerful tools for raising awareness and fostering empathy for survivors of sexual abuse, helping to break down societal barriers and encouraging dialogue.

However, the benefits of increased awareness must be weighed against the potential harm of re-traumatization, particularly for survivors of previous trauma. For these individuals, watching depictions of trauma can be deeply triggering, bringing up unresolved memories and emotions. This underscores the importance of content warnings and support resources for viewers who may be vulnerable to such triggers.

(Continued on page 15)

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# Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Know What to Say, Know What to Do

By Rachel Green, MSW, LCSW, JFS Director of Programs and Services

Every October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Jewish Family Services (JFS) chooses a theme to shine a spotlight on the critical issue of domestic violence. This year, JFS asks a question to our community: if someone shared with you that they are feeling unsafe in their relationship, controlled by, emotionally hurt, or are physically afraid of their partner, would you know how to help? With this year's campaign, JFS is here to

help us "Know what to say and know what to do."

With the prevalence of domestic violence across all communities, it is likely that many of us will find ourselves needing to know how to react and support a friend, co-worker, or family member over our lifetime. One in four women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence during their lifetime. Domestic violence happens across genders, income levels, religious faiths, and communities. Despite what many may think, domestic violence happens in the Jewish

community. Studies show that domestic abuse occurs in Jewish families, in all streams of Judaism, at about the same rate as it does in families of other religions — between 15% and 25%. (The Jewish Domestic Violence Coalition of Greater Boston)

If someone shares they are experiencing domestic violence, know what to say; know what to do: If someone confides in you about their experience with domestic violence, your response can significantly impact their ability to seek help and find safety. Here are some essential tips for supporting someone in this situation:

**Listen and Believe:** Provide a non-judgmental space for them to share their experience. Believe their account and validate their feelings. Avoid minimizing their experience or suggesting they are overreacting. Domestic violence is often hidden from friends, family, and neighbors. It can feel sad and shocking to learn that someone you know is abusive. But survivors know their story better than anyone. Believe them the first time.

**Show Empathy and Support:** Express concern for their safety and well-being. Use empathetic language such as, "I'm really sorry you're going through this. I want to support you in any way I can."

**Respect Their Choices:** Understand that leaving an abusive relationship can be a complex and dangerous process. Respect their decisions and avoid pressur-

ing them to take immediate action. This can be especially hard when it may seem like an "easy" choice to leave. Don't ask, "Why don't you leave?" On average, it takes a survivor seven attempts before permanently leaving an abusive partner. It's not as easy as just walking away. Encourage them to reach out for professional support.

**Offer Resources:** Provide information about local resources such as shelters, hotlines, and counseling services. For example, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE) offers 24/7 support and can connect individuals with local services. In Charlotte, folks can call the Greater Charlotte Hope Line 24/7 at (980) 771-HOPE (4673).

**Maintain Confidentiality:** Keep their information private unless they give you explicit permission to share it. Respect their privacy and understand that revealing their situation to others could jeopardize their safety.

**Encourage Professional Help:** Suggest seeking professional help from therapists, counselors, or legal advocates who specialize in domestic violence. You can share JFS' contact information -(704) 364-6594.

**Be Patient and Persistent:** They may not be ready to act immediately. Continue to offer support and check in regularly, demonstrating that you care about their well-being.

You are an important support: Most victims of domestic violence tell a friend or family

member about the abuse before reporting it. When we really listen to survivors as they tell their stories, it builds compassion and support.

Jewish Family Services is committed to supporting survivors of domestic violence and fostering a community that stands against abuse. As we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, JFS encourages everyone to participate in the awareness initiatives and learn how to support those affected by domestic violence. One of the key ways to get involved is through education and awareness. Domestic violence thrives in silence, and by learning about the warning signs and how to help, we can all play a role in preventing it. We invite you to join us in showing solidarity with survivors by visiting the table in the front lobby of the Levine Jewish Community Center during the month of October. Whether sharing resources, participating in local events, or showing support, every action counts.

Ending domestic violence requires a collective effort. Together, we can create a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and supported. For more information on how you can get involved or access support, please visit [jfscharlotte.org](http://jfscharlotte.org) or call (704) 364-6594. Let's take action this October and make a lasting impact in the fight against domestic violence.

## Jewish Family Services Volunteers & Donors September 2024

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

**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 at Shalom Park.

## Jewish Family Services Tributes September 2024

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**The Nass Family** moving to Texas  
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**In Memory of Jill Newman**  
Dan and Nancy Coblenz  
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Michael and Denise Abadi  
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Matthew Boxer  
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# October 9 Is Ageism Awareness Day

By Howard Olshansky on behalf of the Shalom Park DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) Committee

One of the most prevalent types of discrimination in our country is ageism. While we often don't want to acknowledge this because we don't want to think that we would be unfair or disrespectful to our elders, the data clearly demonstrates that ageism is a major issue. And the issue isn't just affecting seniors, but ageism has a major financial impact on our society.

Just consider the data:

- In a research study reported by AARP, 93.4% of people ages 50-80 regularly experience some form of ageism in their daily lives.

- A 2021 AARP survey found that 78% of older workers have experienced age discrimination in the workplace, and one in three people aged 50 and older believe they have been turned down for a job because of their age.

- July employment data indicates that 26.6% of job seekers ages 55 and older were long-term unemployed, compared to 19.2% of job seekers ages 16-54.

- AARP estimates an \$850 billion loss in gains to the gross

domestic product due to involuntary retirement, underemployment, and unemployment among older workers.

- It is estimated that ageism caused \$63 billion in healthcare costs in a given year.

You may ask, "How did we get here?" Wasn't there a time when we revered our elders? There are multiple theories around the increase in ageism in our society. Some refer to the elimination of the extended family. There was a time when extended families lived together or at least close to each other. Grandparents were often primary caretakers so parents could work. This stems back to farming communities. As the suburban sprawl evolved, along with the increase in job relocation, so did the closeness of the extended family. Another theory is the obsessive focus that took place in the '80s on youth and anyone over 50 was considered a drain on society. Remember when 50 was the dreaded age? Lastly, the fact that we are living longer has exacerbated the image of a frail, unproductive population.

All that being said, today ageism is showing up in multiple ways within our society:

Media - Movies, TV, ads, music, etc. all present aging as



either a joke or something to dread. The only real positive presentation of aging is when it is the result of a medication, innately creating the premise that something was wrong to begin with.

Elderspeak - This is when we address older adults as if they can't make decisions on their own. It often looks like speaking in a higher pitch or sounding as if they're speaking to a child. This often shows up with the expectation that they are unable to navigate technology.

Medical practices - Physicians and medical professionals often chalk up presenting symptoms of people age 55 and older to their age. This often results in misdiagnosis and the loss of prevention efforts that could have

avoided both costly and psychological harm. This is often when the symptoms include fatigue, depression, and chronic pain.

Employment - Older adults are often overlooked for potential employment and are frequently underutilized in the workplace or overlooked for additional responsibilities or promotions.

Abuse - One in 10 Americans ages 60 and older have experienced some form of abuse but only one in 24 are reported. Sixty % of elder abuse is perpetrated by family members. This is often financial abuse, resulting in costs to older Americans in the range of \$2.9 billion to \$36.5 billion.

October 9 is Ageism Awareness Day

Every year, the American Society on Aging sponsors Ageism Awareness Day to spread the word that Ageism is a thing that needs to end: #EndAgeism.

Here are a few ways we can all help:

- Be a role model for aging by having meaningful conversations about age to help spark change and combat age stereotypes.

- Evaluate your own actions by being conscious of your behaviors.

- Be active on social media and like, comment, and share posts about Ageism Awareness Day.

- Make sure to tag @asaging (American Society of Aging) and use the hashtags: #AgeismAwarenessDay and #Talk-AboutAgeism so others can find you!

The Shalom Park DEI Committee is committed to creating a welcoming environment for all at Shalom Park that recognizes the value of the diversity of our community.



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## Jewish Family Services

(Continued from page 12)

### Coping Strategies and Support

To mitigate the impact of vicarious trauma from movies and other media, individuals can employ several coping strategies. These include limiting exposure to distressing content, engaging in self-care practices such as mindfulness and physical exercise, and seeking social support from friends, family, or mental health professionals. It is also important for viewers to be mindful of their emotional limits and to practice self-compassion if they find themselves struggling with the aftermath of watching such films or regular exposure to traumatic content.

In addition to personal coping strategies, there is a growing need for societal recognition of the effects of vicarious trauma. Media producers and distributors can play a role by providing clear content warnings and access to mental health resources for audiences. Additionally, fostering open conversations about the impact of such content can help normalize the emotional reactions people may experience, reducing stigma and promoting collective healing.

Experiencing others' trauma through media, especially those that depict sensitive and disturbing topics, can have profound and lasting effects. While these films, books, and other media can raise awareness and foster empathy, they can also trigger significant emotional and psychological distress, particularly for vulnerable individuals. By recognizing the potential impact of vicarious trauma and employing effective coping strategies, individuals can better navigate their emotional responses and maintain their well-being in the face of distressing media content. Most importantly, if you are experiencing the impact of vicarious trauma to the extent that it is affecting your functioning, it is a sign that you should seek professional help. Visit [jfscharlotte.org](http://jfscharlotte.org) or call our office at (704) 364-6594.



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# Charlotte's Lacie Saltzmann Honored with 2025 Michael Freedman Outstanding Jewish Female High School Athlete of the Year Award

By Robert Saltzman

Jewish Sports Heritage Association recently announced that Charlotte resident Lacie Saltzmann is the 2025 recipient of the Michael Freedman Outstanding Jewish Female High School Athlete of the Year Award. The award will be presented to Lacie at the April 6, 2025, Jewish Sports Heritage Association Induction Ceremony, to be held at Temple Israel, Lawrence (N.Y.).

Lacie, a junior at The Academy at Laurel Springs (based in California), is a nationally ranked gymnast, having placed third on the balance beam at the 2023 Xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships, second on the beam at the 2023 Core Hydration Classic, seventh on the uneven bars at the 2023 American Classic, and first in the all-around at the 2022 Hopes Classic. She also represented the United States in the 2023 Pan American Maccabi Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she took home three gold and two silver medals for Team USA.

In addition to her outstanding



Lacie Saltzmann (Photo credit John Cheng)

gymnastic accomplishments, Lacie is an honors student, AP scholar, and member of the National Honor Society, as well as an accomplished visual artist and amateur baker. Lacie truly cherishes her Jewish identity. She celebrated her bat mitzvah in Israel on Masada and remains an active participant in her local BBYO chapter.

Lacie was raised here in Charlotte, where she attended Charlotte Country Day School through the fifth grade and was known to dance in the aisles

during Friday night Shabbat services as a little girl at Temple Israel. However, after excelling in the Development (formerly known as Junior Olympic) levels of USA Gymnastics — including all-around North Carolina state titles in levels 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8; Southeast Regional championship titles in the all-around in Level 6, second all-around and first on bars in Level 7, and first on bars in Level 8 — it became clear that Lacie's training path would have to take her away from her roots in the Carolinas

in order to take her skills to the next level.

None other than former Soviet Olympian Svetlana Boginskaya (now a coach and mentor in the U.S.) recognized Lacie's potential and encouraged her to dream big, which not coincidentally is the motto of her new gym, Texas Dreams. The handwritten letter she wrote to Lacie remains affixed to the wall in her Charlotte bedroom. At the age of 11, Lacie made the rather precocious commitment to move away from her parents to Dallas, Texas, where she could immerse herself in a more rigorous training schedule and hone her skills under the tutelage of former 1991 world all-around champion and 1992 Olympic bronze medal winner, Kim Zmeskal.

Kim Zmeskal is one of the most celebrated gymnasts in American history, known for being the first U.S. woman to win the all-around title at a World Gymnastics Championship. She has a deep understanding of what it takes to succeed at the highest levels of gymnastics, and her experience has made her an invaluable mentor for Lacie. Despite not sharing Lacie's Jewish background, Zmeskal has shown unwavering support for her, even traveling to Argentina to be by Lacie's side during the Pan American Maccabi Games. Zmeskal has coached several Jewish gymnasts throughout her career and has seen how their Jewish values contribute to their character and grounding as individuals.

Under Zmeskal's mentorship, Lacie went on to second place all-around finishes in Level 10 for both the state of Texas and its Region, as well as fifth place on the uneven bars at the 2021

National meet, before moving on to the elite level, the highest level of competition in USA Gymnastics. Since attaining elite qualification status in 2022, she has twice appeared on nationally televised events and even had a cameo appearance in the July 22, 2024, edition of People magazine.

Lacie's connection to her Jewish heritage has only deepened through her experiences in gymnastics. Competing in the Maccabi Games was not just another event for her; it was an opportunity to represent something much larger than herself, a chance to embody the spirit and resilience of the Jewish people on an international stage. Lacie proudly embraces her Jewish identity and is motivated by the idea that her success can inspire others in her community. "This experience has really connected me to my Jewish identity at a time like this. It's not just about me, it's about so much more than that. And like I just feel so blessed to have the opportunity to represent not only America but what the people of Israel are fighting for."

Lacie's parents are both professionals who remain wholly dedicated to their respective careers in Charlotte but are equally committed to helping Lacie, their only daughter, pursue her passion. Her mother, Michelle Spak, is VP of Nuclear, EHS, and Litigation Legal Support at Duke Energy. Her father, Dr. Robert Saltzmann, is a busy ophthalmologist and past co-president of Charlotte Eye Ear Nose & Throat Associates, PA. They dotingly commute back and forth, often on a weekly basis, to their second home in Dallas to support Lacie.

The Michael Freedman Outstanding Jewish Female High School Athlete of the Year Award is presented annually in memory of Michael Freedman, an outstanding high school student-athlete who played soccer, wrestled, and excelled at baseball. "The Freedman Family is pleased and honored to recognize the accomplishments of Lacie Saltzmann," said T.J. Freedman, Michael's son. Michael's daughters, Stacy and Anna, say of themselves and their T.J., "We think our dad would be thrilled by the choice of Lacie; she epitomizes a true student-athlete."

The Jewish Sports Heritage Association is a not-for-profit education organization whose mission is to educate the public about the role Jewish men and women have played, and continue to play, in the world of sports, an area of Jewish accomplishment often overlooked. By doing so, Jewish Sports Heritage Association causes us to question the many stereotypes about diverse groups which we carry in our hearts and minds.

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# Charlotte FC Doubles Down on Israeli Talent, Sign Idan Toklomati in August Transfer Window

By Steve Goldberg

Here's a fun fact for you: Two out of three Israeli players in Major League Soccer (MLS) compete for Charlotte FC.

The math is simple. There are only three Israeli athletes in MLS and as of late August, two of them represent the Crown. Liel Abada joined the club in March and has had an immediate impact, scoring four goals with two assists in his first 16 games.

Joining him in Charlotte is Idan Toklomati, also known as Idan Gorno, which is his mother's family name.

Turning 20 last Aug. 9, he was born in Netanya where his father, Tony Toklomati, a former national team player for Benin had played briefly for Maccabi Netanya. He learned the game with Beitar Nes Tubruk, a developmental club in his hometown before moving to the youth side of Maccabi Petah-Tikva in 2021.

Here's another fun fact: All of the Israelis in MLS come from the same club, Maccabi Petah-Tikva. The third is Tai Baribo, a forward for the Philadelphia Union. Baribo has 13 goals in 17 matches across all competitions for the Union this season after barely getting off the bench last year proving that Israeli talent



Liel Abada (left) and Idan Toklomati (right) Photo credit: Credit: Charlotte FC 8267

may be an under-optimized resource for MLS teams.

With Abada translating for him, Toklomati told the Charlotte Jewish News (CJN) that this, as well as other players from the club moving to Europe, is a matter of immense pride at Maccabi as proof of their ability to progress players.

"Idan is a player we've been tracking for some time," said general manager Zoran Krneta when the signing was announced. "He's a versatile forward who possesses a great mix of pace and technical ability. At only 19 years of age, he has al-

ready amassed 70 appearances at the senior level and debuted for the Israeli national team in key European qualifiers."

Abada, who will turn 23 on October 3, told the CJN that Toklomati played with his younger brother at Maccabi but that they did not have time together on the first team. By the time that would have happened, Abada was already playing for Glasgow Rangers in Scotland. They were teammates recently in Paris where Abada was a starter on Israel's Olympic soccer team and Toklomati was an alternate. But they also had previous expe-

rience playing together on Israel's U21 team. Toklomati joined that squad when he was just 18.

By the time they got to Paris, Toklomati's move to Charlotte was already known, which created a stronger bond between the two.

"We spoke a lot about Charlotte, about everything," said Abada. "He asked me questions and I explained about Charlotte and what to expect."

Toklomati said that he wanted to play here "because Charlotte is a big club in MLS, with a really big stadium and good (training) facility, with really good people here." He added that everything Abada had told him about the club on and off the pitch was positive.

"It's not easy for a young player from Israel to move abroad," so Abada's experience in going abroad, first to Scotland and then to Charlotte, was something he could learn from and was influential in his decision to come here.

On the pitch, Abada says they have similar traits. "We're both wingers. We're fast. We like running behind the defense. I can learn from him; he can learn from me a lot and we can do it on the pitch."

Toklomati agreed, saying he looks forward to scoring goals and getting assists for the team.

His first games in Charlotte will actually be for the Crown Legacy, the club's MLS NEXT Pro development team, which plays home matches at the Matthews SportsPlex.

That's because CLTFC has no senior spots open on the first team roster. He will be a U22 initiative player which is designed for attracting and keeping - until the "offer you can't refuse" comes in — emerging young talent from both home and abroad. If no spots open on the first team before Sept. 13, which is the roster freeze date for MLS clubs, his debut for the first team won't come until next season.

It didn't take long for Toklomati to establish his intentions with the Legacy. Just 61 minutes to be exact. In his first match away to New York Red Bulls II on Aug. 25, he scored his first goal in the United States, the second in a 4-1 victory.

Abada said it's mutually beneficial to have Toklomati here. "It's good to have another Israeli. It's good for the language. I'm here to help him with everything and hopefully, he will do good things here."

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# 60 Things To Do When There Is a Death: A Guide from the Hebrew Cemetery

By Sandra Goldman, Director  
When a death occurs, the tasks that follow can be overwhelming, complex, and costly. At The Hebrew Cemetery, we understand these challenges and want to help. Did you know that many of these items could be pre-arranged? By familiarizing

yourself with these 60 tasks, you can give your family the peace of mind they deserve during a difficult time. Remember, The Hebrew Cemetery is here to help and support you through this process.

**Notify immediately:**

1. Doctor(s)
2. Funeral director
3. Cemetery
4. Clergy
5. Relatives and friends
7. Deceased's employer
8. Employers of relatives missing work
9. Insurance agents (life, health, etc.)
10. Attorney and accountant

**Decide and arrange immediately:**

11. Select funeral director
12. Select cemetery
13. Purchase burial property (if not preplanned)
14. Select casket
15. Decide on service location (graveside, chapel, funeral home)
16. Select officiant
17. Provide information for eulogy
18. Arrange type of service (military honors, etc.)
19. Provide obituary to newspaper
20. Answer calls, messages, and letters
21. Get addresses for thank-you cards and emails
22. Meet with funeral director
23. Meet with clergy
24. Check and sign burial permit

25. Check will for special wishes
26. Order death certificates
27. Look after house, children, and pets

**Secure vital statistics (required for death certificate):**

28. Name, home address, and phone numbers
  29. Length of residence in state
  30. Business name, address, and phone numbers
  31. Occupation and title
  32. Social Security number
  33. Veteran's serial number
  34. Date of birth
  35. Date of death
  36. U.S. citizenship status
  37. Father's name
  38. Father's birthplace
  39. Mother's maiden name
  40. Mother's birthplace
  41. Religious name (if any)
- Collect documents (required to establish rights for insurance, pensions, Social Security, etc.):**
42. Funeral certificate
  43. Deed to burial property

44. Will
  45. Legal proof of age or birth certificate
  46. Social Security card or number
  47. Marriage license
  48. Citizenship papers
  49. Insurance policies
  50. Bank books
  51. Deeds to property
  52. Car title(s)
  53. Tax returns, receipts, and checks
  54. Veteran's discharge certificate
  55. Disability and pension claims
- Pay the following:**
56. Funeral home services
  57. Burial plot and cemetery service fees (if not preplanned)
  58. Clergy
  59. Temple
  60. Transportation

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Mary Jean Kushner	8-1-1942 - 8-20-2024
Mark Good	1-19-1963 - 8-22-2024

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# Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Sustainable Living and Zero Waste — Finding Your Balance



By Rochelle Carney

In recent years, terms like “sustainable living” and “zero waste” have gained popularity as more people seek to take action to address the environmental challenges posed by the modern world.

Both approaches aim to reduce our ecological footprint, but they each have their own focus and methods. If you are like me and trying to navigate these concepts, it might be helpful to understand how they differ and how you can incorporate aspects of both into your lifestyle.

Sustainable living is a broad concept that involves making choices that reduce our impact on the environment while promoting the well-being of both people and the planet. It’s about living in a way that meets our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. This approach can encompass a wide range of practices, from using energy-efficient appliances to supporting local businesses.

For instance, sustainable living might involve:

- Energy Efficiency: Using

energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances, and insulating your home to reduce energy consumption.

- Water Conservation: Installing low-flow showerheads, sinks, and toilets and fixing leaks to conserve water.

- Sustainable Transportation: Opting for public transportation, carpooling, or biking instead of driving alone.

- Ethical Consumption: Choosing products that are locally sourced, have minimal packaging, or are made from sustainable materials.

The idea behind sustainable living is that every small change can make a significant difference. It’s about making thoughtful choices that align with environmental and social values, but it doesn’t necessarily require a complete overhaul of your lifestyle.

Zero waste, on the other hand, is a more specific lifestyle with the goal of reducing the amount of waste we produce to as close to zero as possible. This involves not only recycling and composting but also minimizing the waste we generate in the first place. The

zero-waste movement emphasizes a circular economy, where resources are reused, repaired, and recycled instead of discarded.

Key practices of a zero-waste lifestyle include:

- Refusing: Avoiding items that come with excessive packaging or single-use products.

- Reducing: Cutting down on the quantity of items you purchase and use.

- Reusing: Opting for reusable items like cloth bags, bottles, and containers.

- Recycling: Properly sorting recyclable materials and ensuring they are disposed of correctly.

- Composting: Turning food scraps and yard waste into compost to enrich the soil.

Zero waste can sometimes feel like an all-or-nothing approach, which might be intimidating or unrealistic for some people. However, the idea is to reduce waste as much as possible, with the understanding that perfection isn’t the goal.

So, which approach is better, or should you try to blend both? The answer depends on your personal goals and circumstances. Here are some thoughts on how

to balance these approaches:

- Start with Sustainable Living: If you’re new to these concepts, beginning with sustainable living can be a good starting point. Focus on making small, manageable changes that fit into your lifestyle. As you become more comfortable, you can gradually incorporate zero-waste practices.

- Adopt Zero-Waste Principles Gradually: You don’t have to achieve a zero-waste lifestyle overnight. Start with one or two zero-waste practices, like using reusable shopping bags and avoiding single-use plastics. As these practices become habits, you can build on them.

- Set Realistic Goals: Both sustainable living and zero waste can be adapted. It’s important to set goals that are achievable and realistic for your lifestyle. For example, if reducing waste is challenging, focus on improving energy efficiency or water conservation.

- Educate Yourself and Adjust: Both approaches require some education and adjustment. Learn about the impacts of your choices and be prepared to make changes

as needed. It’s okay to adapt and evolve your practices over time.

However you choose to approach environmental responsibility, the journey towards a more sustainable life is a personal one, and every effort counts. This process should be fun and enjoyable, not a burden. I like to think of it as a puzzle to solve, and when I find a new way to recycle or reuse an item, it provides great satisfaction! Remember also that the impact you can make today is enhanced by the example you set for the next generation of caretakers of our planet.

Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you’re interested in volunteering with or donating to Shalom Green, visit our website at [www.shalomgreenCLT.org](http://www.shalomgreenCLT.org) or email [info@shalomgreenCLT.org](mailto:info@shalomgreenCLT.org). Connect with us on Facebook at Shalom Green: Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Instagram @shalomgreen\_CLT.

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Religious Life

# An Invitation to Celebrate and Connect at Temple Emanuel, Gastonia

By Peter Blau

Temple Emanuel, the Reform synagogue in Gaston County, invites unaffiliated Jews and their families to join us this High Holiday season. There is no need to buy tickets or commit to membership — just bring your spirit and, if you wish, a donation as is customary. Services will be conducted by Dr. Charlie Brown, our Spiritual Leader Emeritus, who has been leading the Temple in prayer for the Days of Awe since 2001.

One hundred eleven years ago, in 1913, the Jews of Gaston County, drawn by the burgeoning textile industry, began to gather for prayer in homes, empty storefronts, and hotel ballrooms. After a dozen years of this nomadic worship, they finally raised enough money to commission the building of their own synagogue. By 1929, Temple Emanuel's building was completed, equal in size and stature to the established local churches, and crowned with a Star of David. This was a symbol of Jewish strength and resilience during a time of rampant antisemitism.



Temple Emanuel

However, the joy of completing the synagogue was soon overshadowed by the Great Depression, which struck just as the last nail was hammered into place. The temple faced the very real threat of foreclosure, but thanks to the determination and sacrifices of the Jewish community—who freely volunteered their services and gave what little they could spare—the temple was saved.

These Jewish pioneers were more than just survivors; they were builders of a legacy. Many of them became successful mill owners or merchants catering to the textile families and businesses. Their perseverance and hard work ensured that the temple not only survived but became a cornerstone of Jewish life in Gaston County.

Much of the textile industry has moved overseas, and the

founding families have dispersed. However, the Temple is growing once again, thanks to the Jewish professionals and executives relocating to the Charlotte area and living in the attractive communities to the west of the city.

“Our Jewish community is growing once again, and we welcome prospective members who want to try us out — or any Jewish families or individuals who just want a welcoming place to celebrate the New Year,” says Temple president, Stephanie Rauch. “Our founders—including my own grandparents — persevered to leave us this big, beautiful building, with plenty of room for High Holiday guests.”

Temple Emanuel continues to be a beacon of Jewish life and values in the region. As a Reform synagogue, we are serious about advancing Jewish learning, raising new generations of Jewish children, and helping to repair the world (tikkun olam). We offer an unconditional welcome, regardless of your Jewish experience or level of observance, and our community is proud of

its diversity.

Beyond our walls, Temple Emanuel has a rich history of community outreach and interfaith cooperation. We are a founding member of The Trialogue, a collaboration among the three Abrahamic faiths, working together to foster better community relations. We are also a supporting congregation of the Crisis Assistance Ministry of Christians and Jews, helping families facing economic hardship.

Join us at Temple Emanuel this High Holiday season to connect with a community that values its rich history while embracing the inclusive spirit of today.

Advance registration is required to ensure security. Please call the Temple at (704) 865-1541 or email [templemanuel18@gmail.com](mailto:templemanuel18@gmail.com).



Temple Emanuel

## Join Temple Israel for the High Holidays!

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

WED. OCTOBER 2

4:00 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)

### Rosh Hashanah Day 1

THURS. OCTOBER 3

9:00 AM Traditional Shacharit Service (Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel)  
 9:00 AM Rosh Hashanah Family Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary, geared towards K-5th grade)  
 10:15 AM Main service beginning with Torah Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)  
 8:00 PM Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)

### Rosh Hashanah Day 2

FRI. OCTOBER 4

9:00 AM Young Families Rosh Hashanah Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary, geared towards 0-8 years old)  
 9:00 AM Traditional Shacharit Service (Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel)  
 10:15 AM Main Service beginning with Torah Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)  
 8:45 PM Rosh Hashanah Afternoon Services & Kabbalat Shabbat (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)

### Kol Nidre

FRI. OCTOBER 11

6:15 PM Kol Nidre Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)

### Yom Kippur

SAT. OCTOBER 12

9:00 AM Traditional Shacharit Service (Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel)  
 9:00 AM Yom Kippur Family Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary, geared towards kids of all ages)  
 10:15 AM Main service beginning with Torah Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)  
 11:15 AM Rabbi's Sermon & Yizkor (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)  
 5:00 PM Mincha Service (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman Sanctuary)  
 6:15 PM Maalot (Morris & Sylvia Spitzman)  
 7:30 PM Break the Fast (Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)



For a full schedule of events & programming, please visit [templeisrael.org](http://templeisrael.org)

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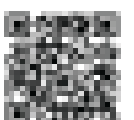
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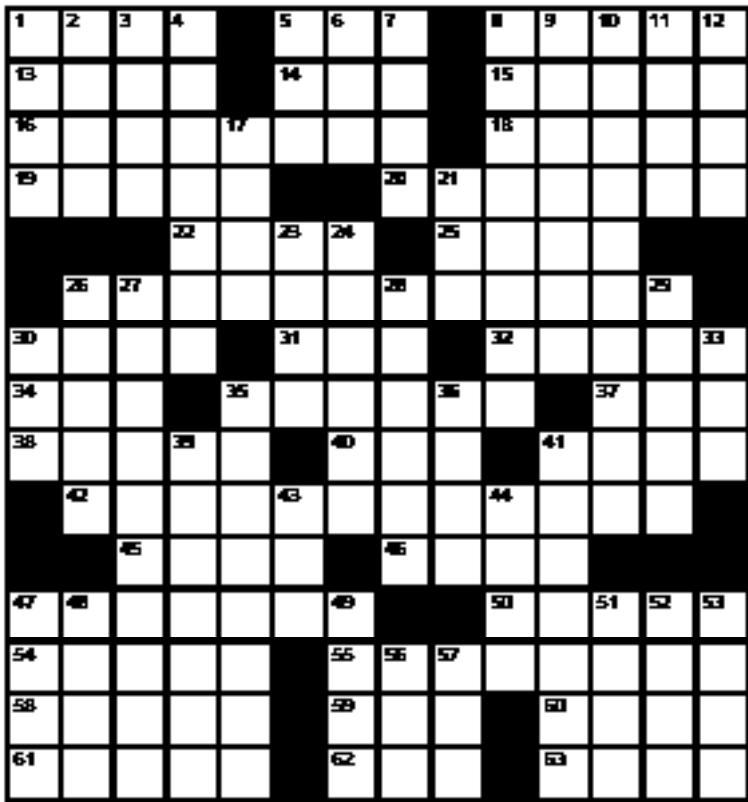
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Religious Life

# Rosh HaShanah Activities



**Across**

- 1. Villain in Samuel
- 5. Former Rams rec. who got hurt in the Super Bowl
- 8. Chef's assistant, at times
- 13. \_\_\_ Jews (Nigerian natives)
- 14. Ewe's "yo"?
- 15. Truly love
- 16. Rosh Hashanah activity for Han Solo?

- 18. Makes like a cantor
- 19. Feeling
- 20. City near Jaffa
- 22. Problems
- 25. Lot, spot, or or a plot
- 26. Rosh Hashanah activity for Tim Cook?
- 30. Mardi \_\_\_
- 31. Historically unfriendly neighbor to Isr.
- 32. Metrical stress, in poetry
- 34. Paper not exactly

- considered pro-Israel, for short
- 35. Some ties
- 37. UN agency of cross-wordese
- 38. Air once more
- 40. Atty.'s org.
- 41. Baby bronco
- 42. Rosh Hashanah activity for Ralph Kramden?
- 45. Common seltzer flavoring
- 46. Often evil ruler, once
- 47. Birds of prey in the USA
- 50. Tent option
- 54. His belt twinkles in the sky
- 55. Bygone Rosh Hashanah activity for Don Corleone?
- 58. Blues, for one
- 59. Ben-Gurion airport, once
- 60. Root canal, in dentist-speak
- 61. Omens
- 62. Let the ball go through your legs
- 63. College bigshot

**Down**

- 1. "Mine!"
- 2. Look at longingly
- 3. Abba of note
- 4. Says some Lashon Hara
- 5. First half of a Jedi first name
- 6. Not allow
- 7. Hockey great Jaromir
- 8. Colorful African garments
- 9. Simply foolish
- 10. Big industry meet-up, perhaps
- 11. Thus
- 12. What Jews should do on Rosh Hashanah
- 17. It can give you away
- 21. Top left comp. button
- 23. Not as much
- 24. It might keep an eye on the nanny
- 26. Rabbi Kaplan or Adventures
- 27. Making like the Shomrim
- 28. Classic Asimov book

- 29. Soviet work camp
- 30. "November Rain" band, casually
- 33. Fa-la connector
- 35. Flowerlike sea animals
- 36. New Mexico town popular with artists
- 39. It's worth \$1 billion
- 41. Flashy sports-car color
- 43. Urge
- 44. Hawthorne, to pals?
- 47. Gets hazy, with "up"
- 48. "Whose woods these \_\_\_ think I know" (Frost line)
- 49. Foot part
- 51. Chris who plays Kirk
- 52. Never \_\_\_ sentence with...
- 53. Ghostbuster at the heart of "Ghostbusters: Afterlife"
- 56. Pro
- 57. Pres. for 12 years

(Answers on page 42)

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**JEWISH NEWS**  
Celebrating Jewish Life

# Shanukah Teva





CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE

FROM THE BIMAH

# Sacred Time, Healing Hearts



Rabbi Becca Diamond  
Temple Kol Tikvah

This year has been one of communal mourning and anxiety. We have watched in horror as news of terrorism comes out of Israel, and we have experienced a communal trauma like none other in recent memory. Every day, we may go about

our normal activities --- grocery shopping, oil changes, paying bills, walking the dog --- but this sense of loss and fear undergirds everything. I have often found myself overwhelmed by a normal-looking to-do list, unsure why I cannot check off the boxes. The reason is clear: We are not going through life as normal but rather carrying enormous emotional burdens on our backs, even when we are not actively thinking about it.

The High Holidays are, at their essence, about how we spend our time. Have we spent our time doing good things, or have we sinned? What are our goals that we are working toward, and are we using our time to do that? And although God is eternal, our lifespans are limited, and any day they can be cut short, so what are we doing with

the time we have? These questions have become ever more complex in a year when external events are pressing on us. The trauma we are feeling about the war with Hamas and the rise in antisemitism weighs us down and slows us down. It may feel like we're moving through honey instead of air. But this is not an individual shortcoming. This is part of processing the grief we bear. These emotional burdens take our energy, and we need time to process them. The time we take to just be and to sit with this trauma is needed for us to go through our everyday lives.

Sometimes we get so caught up in trying to be efficient that we lose sight of what is important. We read books and articles on productivity with titles like "Getting Things Done," and the goals are to check items off the

checklist ever faster. But as we do that, items seem to pile up. This is especially true when our emotional energy is drained. Perhaps we are too focused on the finish line and not focused enough on the list itself. In Pirkei Avot 1:15, Shammai tells us to make our study of Torah a fixed practice. That is, if there's something important to do that actually fills our soul instead of draining it, make it a regularly scheduled fixed thing, rather than saying, "I'll get to it when I have time." We need to make time for things that will support us through these difficult times. We need to be filling our cups and feeding our souls --- trying to race to the end of a to-do list will do neither of those things.

During the High Holidays, we obsess over time. We pray our names are inscribed in the

Book of Life and that we will continue to enjoy the fruits of life for at least one more year. We acknowledge that we come from dust and to dust we shall return, and what we do in that little time in between is precious. In this time of great difficulty, let us go back to those things that are important and choose to spend our time on that. Let us lighten the load and acknowledge that we are in need of an emotional respite. And above all, let us be kind to ourselves and treat our lives and the lives of those around us as precious. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

Shanah tovah.



# Clarity of Vision in a Time of Confusion

Shifting Perspectives: Navigating the Distorted Lens on Israel



By Rabbi Yossi Groner,  
Congregation Ohr HaTorah

Rosh HaShanah brings new life; it is the time when a new flow of energy descends on the world. On Rosh HaShanah we beseech G-d that the torment

of the previous years should be replaced with kindness and blessings. Indeed, we are confident that G-d will grant us many blessings for the new year, as expressed in the liturgy of the High Holidays.

Looking back on the past year, it has been an exceptionally tough one, starting with the brutal massacre in Southern Israel on the 7th of October, which left us all in shock. The taking of the hostages and the long-suffering of so many families has taken its toll on all of us.

The agonizing impact of October 7 was magnified by a global negative reaction to Israel even

before Israel had a chance to respond. Israel's opponents telegraphed the message that the victims and their defenders were the aggressors, and the attackers were the victims.

This distorted view is circulating on college campuses and playing on the nerves of many good people who feel as if the bottom has fallen out from beneath them. Somehow, we feel as if everything is upside down. It's as if the world has flipped --- what was once on top now lies at the bottom, and vice versa. This topsy-turvy perspective challenges our understanding of right and wrong. How did we ar-

rive at this point, and how can we regain clarity?

As we are seeking light amidst the darkness, we find in the Book of Genesis a powerful comparison that correlates with our dilemma. The Torah writes that on the first day, G-d created light and separated it from darkness. The classic question is asked by Jewish Sages, why the need to separate light from darkness? Simply, they cannot coexist because the very nature of light dispels darkness.

The sages explain that the Torah is alluding to a metaphorical light and darkness. Truth is likened to light, and falsehood is compared to darkness. In the beginning, G-d allowed them to be jumbled together, and then He separated them. There is a tolerance for darkness to be mixed with light, which allows people to be influenced by false impressions. It is our duty to seek out truth and make it prevail. The Talmud predicts that there will be a time when light will be perceived as darkness and darkness will be declared as light. It seems we are living in that prophesied period.

It is imperative for us to seek that separation referred to in Genesis, especially now. When light is separated from darkness, the truth can be distinguished from distortion. This process be-

gins and is accomplished by us, the Jewish people. The Mishna teaches that to move forward, we must know where we came from. When we examine the Torah's view on life and learn our history, we can appreciate our unique culture and the ethos we live by.

It is time for us to look inward and understand who we are as Jews. We need to reacquire ourselves with the timeless Jewish values, which originate in the Torah, and have guided us for thousands of years. This will give us the clarity of vision that is so absent today and infuse us with self-confidence.

Our depth of knowledge about our foundational history, going back to Sinai, instills within us a true sense of pride for our rich legacy. It also gives us a genuine appreciation for heritage that includes the Torah and the Land of Israel, both of which have been bequeathed to us by G-d as an eternal inheritance.

May G-d grant healing to our people, and may this New Year be filled with blessings of peace, health, and happiness.



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## CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE

## FROM THE BIMAH

# Living With Intention in a World of Uncertainty



By Rabbi Asher Knight,  
Temple Beth El

Life is unpredictable, with events that can shift our paths in ways we never anticipate. Every moment carries the potential to change everything, shaping our journey in profound ways. As we approach a new year, this truth feels especially poignant, particularly after the challenges we've faced. Rosh HaShanah, the day tradition marks the creation of the world, symbolizes order emerging from chaos — a time for reflection and renewal.

Yet, this year, that sense of order feels distant as we confront the reality that the ground beneath us can shift without warning, leaving us to navigate an increasingly unpredictable world.

The prayer known as U-Netaneh Tokef, central to our High Holiday liturgy, confronts us with a sobering reality: our lives are finite and their length is unknown. We are reminded that life can change in an instant; that we are here today but might not be tomorrow. This stark truth can be unsettling, but it also offers a powerful opportunity to consider how we want to live each day.

In response to this uncertainty, our tradition offers us three guiding principles: teshuvah (repentance), tefillah (prayer), and tzedakah (righteous giving). These are ways to bring purpose and intention into our lives, to make order from what may feel like chaos.

Teshuvah calls us to take stock of our relationships and our actions. It's about more than just

seeking forgiveness; it's about making amends and restoring connections that may have frayed. Life is too short to let misunderstandings linger or to hold onto grudges. We are urged to repair what is broken, to reach out to those we care about, and to ensure that our relationships are strong and healthy. The time to act is now, before it's too late.

Tefillah, traditionally understood as prayer, is about connecting with something greater than ourselves. It's about asking the big questions: What gives our lives meaning? How do we find purpose in a world that often feels chaotic? Spiritual living helps us navigate uncertainty, grounding us in values and practices that offer stability amid the turmoil. It's a way to remind ourselves that even in a world of disorder, Jewish rituals, prayers, and traditions can help us to create moments of connection, reflection, and meaning.

Tzedakah challenges us to take action when we see injus-

tice or suffering. It's not enough to simply acknowledge the problems around us; we are called to do something about them. This is how we assert our agency in a world that often feels out of control. By giving and by helping others, we make a tangible difference and create a sense of purpose in our lives. We remind ourselves that we have the power to impact the world, even in small ways.

As we enter this new year, the question we must ask ourselves is not just how we will respond to life's uncertainties and how we can live each day with intention. How will we make our relationships stronger, our spiritual lives richer, and our actions more impactful? The unpredictability of life doesn't have to lead to despair; it can be a call to live more fully, to embrace each moment with a sense of purpose.

Rosh HaShanah offers us the chance to start anew, to reflect on the past, and to commit to living with greater meaning in

the future. In a world where the only constant is change, let us focus on what we can control: how we treat others, how we root ourselves deeply in our tradition, and how we contribute to the greater good. Let us cultivate a connected, proud, and meaningful Jewish life that inspires change in our world. We should be deeply rooted, holding a sacred responsibility to one another and to G-d, living with daring hope as we create order out of chaos. By doing so, we can navigate the unpredictability of life with purpose and create lives that are not only meaningful but deeply fulfilling. The time to begin is now.



## Don't Give Up on Yourself



By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim  
Charlotte Torah Center

After WWII, a Holocaust survivor came to visit his one-time Rebbe, the Gerer Rebbe, Rabbi Avraham Mordechai Alter. This broken Jew had been deported to the death camps together with his wife, children, relatives, and entire community. His wife, children, and relatives were gassed, and his entire community was wiped out. He emerged from the ashes a lonely man in a cruel world that had silently swallowed the blood of six million Jews. This Jew lost one more thing in the camps: his G-d. After what he experienced in Nazi death camps, he could

not continue believing in a G-d who allowed Auschwitz.

After the war, he made his way to Israel (then known as Palestine) and although he had completely abandoned Jewish observance, he missed his old Rebbe and went to visit him in Tel Aviv. The Rebbe, who escaped in 1940, had lost many grandchildren and relatives in the Holocaust, in addition to nearly all of his 200,000 followers.

Upon hearing the man's story, the Rebbe broke into tears. After a long period of weeping together, the Rebbe shared the following idea. In Moses' farewell address to his people, he recounted the moment he descended from Mount Sinai and saw the Jews with the Golden Calf.

I grasped the two tablets, threw them down ... and smashed them before your eyes. (Deut. 9:15-17)

Why did Moses find it important to emphasize that the breaking of the tablets occurred "before your eyes?" Suppose Moses had turned around and broken the tablets out of view; would that in any way have lessened the tragedy? Moses imparted a message: The shattering of the

tablets occurred only before their eyes and from their perception. In reality, though, there exists a world in which the tablets have never been broken. The Rebbe explained that what may seem to us as utter destruction and chaos, does not always capture the complete story. "Before your eyes is nothing but devastation but what in our world bespeaks total disaster may, in a different world, be wholesome." The Rebbe continued, "As difficult as it is for you and me to believe, I want you to know that the extermination of our families, our communities, and our people occurred only 'before our eyes.' There remains a world in which the Jewish people are wholesome. Beneath the surface of our perception, there exists a reality in which every single Jew from Abraham till our present day is alive, his or her soul absolutely intact, and the day will come when G-d will mend our broken tablets and broken nation."

These words were said by someone who experienced the suffering of the war on his own flesh. Pain is not intellectual; it is raw and real. The Rebbe spoke with tears and grief, and togeth-

er with this survivor, he walked through his tunnel of darkness. This broken Jew said that these words gave him courage and restored his soul, and his faith.

No amount of personal suffering can compare to the suffering experienced by the Jewish people over the centuries, but at different points in life, when our hopes and dreams come crashing down under the weight of reality, we all experience pain and suffering. Every new year we create imaginary places in our minds — beautiful pictures of who we will become in the upcoming year, but as the year goes on, some of those dreams begin to crumble. But then come the High Holidays, a time at which we are meant to reintroduce ourselves to G-d — and to ourselves. We are back, but sometimes feel, "Here I am again the same person who didn't turn into the person I wanted to be." Some people are ashamed and even depressed, but we must consider the possibility that the broken people we imagine ourselves to be are just what our eyes see. We are broken, but G-d still sees the people we wish to be and doesn't give up on us.

The struggle to become the

person we dreamed of last year — or at any moment when we were inspired — doesn't lie behind us. The picture of who we wanted to be has not been shattered by the mistakes we made or by unforeseen and unwanted circumstances thrust into our lives. It's still here and although it's difficult to envision the pristine beauty of who we can be, G-d sees it and believes in us — after all, he gave us another year of life. We are broken only in our eyes but our loving G-d sees our sincere desire to be better. He sees our potential for greatness as He did before things got messed up; an opportunity has been placed before us specifically during this time. The die is not cast. This year, at this time of year, we decide which version of ourselves we choose to be and understand that if G-d hasn't given up on us, we shouldn't either.



CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE

FROM THE BIMAH

# Be the Author of Your Own Life



By Rabbi Rachel Smookler  
The Ruach Community

Even as a young child, I innately understood why the High Holidays were called The Days of Awe. The conservative shul that I grew up attending in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was absolutely packed on yontif! That in and of itself, marked Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur as days that made me take notice. But it was especially during the U'Netaneh Tokef prayer:

“On Rosh HaShanah, it is written, and on the Fast of the Day of Atonement, it is sealed!

How many will pass on, and how many will be born;

Who will live and who will

die;

Who will live a long life and who will come to an untimely end...”

These words made me start to pay attention to the service. When nearly one thousand congregants would rise all together as the ark was opened to proclaim, “Let us ascribe Holiness to this day.” I couldn’t help but turn my attention away from braiding the tzit-tzit on my father’s tallis, as my ears perked up at the beginning verse: “Who shall live and who shall die?” Yes, it frightened me a little bit, but it also made me pay attention. I noticed how serious the congregation became, as if this prayer held even more power than when the Torah was brought out. As I grew older, and studied in Rabbinic school, I had the opportunity to look more closely at the meaning of this prayer.

Interestingly, it’s not the instilling fear part that has captured my attention, but rather the final verse of the prayer I have begun to focus on of late because, in the past few months, my husband and I have been to four funerals of friends, all in their 50s to early

60s. It has made a huge impact on us, losing those near and dear to us. The fact that the High Holidays are upon us has caused me to look more closely at the end of the U’Netaneh Tokef prayer:

“But teshuvah - repentance, tefillah - prayer, and tzedakah - giving to those in need—change the evil decree.”

As Rabbi Aaron Weinger wrote in his Rosh HaShanah sermon a few years ago:

“If we do those things, then order will be restored. If we practice repentance, commit to prayer, and give to those in need—then we avoid being written into the Book of Death.

Who can allow such a theology to wreak havoc in our sanctuaries? Our experience proves time and again that life is more complicated than being promised that three things change the decree from death to life. That good people suffer and do not get written into the Book of Life. That bad people flourish and are inscribed nonetheless. I cannot believe in a God who sits above judging us as we pass by, inscribing our destiny, locking in our fate as the New Year begins.”

I wholly concur with Rabbi Weinger’s criticism of this prayer.

I have publicly gone up against speakers who proclaim that those who are ill are, in some way, themselves, responsible for their diseases, and I have been kicked out of some lectures and wellness programs for daring to question this “holistic” narishkeit.

That is why as much as I revere this ancient prayer, this year, I strive to find a new interpretation to the last verse. I studied many rabbinic interpretations in preparation for this article. Much of these scholarly analyses are too long and complicated to add here. While doing my research, I had my own inspiration of what the final verse means:

“But teshuvah - repentance, tefillah - prayer, and tzedakah - giving to those in need—change the evil decree.”

None of us may know or have any control about when or how we may pass away. But(!), we do have some control over how we live our lives, how we respond to what life throws at us. Perhaps the final verse about repentance,

prayer, and giving to those in need, simply means that these are the three important actions we can fill our living days with. This New Year, may you fill your days with these three actions. It may not keep you from being inscribed in The Book of Life, but I can assure you it will improve your life.

As one of my mentors, Dr. Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman writes:

“What we have here is an exploration not just of life vs. death, but of quality of life - who will be calm, and who will be tormented? Who will be exalted, and who will be humbled? Who will be rich, and who will be poor?”

I would add: How many mitzvot will you perform? How many people in need will you help? These are the questions we enter into the new year with. Shanah tova!



# Strength in Stillness: Lessons from Loss and Love



By Rabbi Michael Wolk  
Temple Israel

Two of the heroes of the Jewish world from whom so many of us have learned over the past year are Jonathan Polin and Rachel Goldberg-Polin. They are American-born Jews who made Aliyah and built their lives in Jerusalem. Tragically, their son Hersh was taken as a hostage into Gaza on October 7, 2023, and was recently murdered by the terrorists who held him. Rachel and Jonathan spent 11 months keeping Hersh’s name, face, and story in our minds and have shown the

world the kind of strength that the love of family can give us.

They have also been teachers of Torah to the wider world, as their advocacy has been deeply rooted in Jewish teachings. Just a few weeks ago, Jonathan shared with an arena full of Americans, “There is a surplus of agony on all sides of the tragic conflict in the Middle East. In a competition of pain, there are no winners. In our Jewish tradition, we say: Kol adam olam umlo’o; every person is an entire universe. We must save all these universes.” We often tell stories in terms of communities, countries, and other large structures, but Jonathan reminded us that ultimately, what is most important is the experience of each individual person. It is remarkable that someone suffering so much personal pain could share such words. It is also a good teaching to reflect on as we approach Rosh HaShanah.

According to tradition, Rosh HaShanah is celebrated on the first day of the month of Tishrei because this was the day that G-d

created the world, as described in the beginning of the book of Bereishit (Genesis). Despite this traditional idea, on the day of Rosh HaShanah, we do not chant this portion from the Torah. Rather, we turn to the story of the birth of Isaac, the second of the three Jewish patriarchs. Abraham and Sarah had longed for a child for years, and finally, at an advanced age, Sarah gave birth to Isaac. We turn to this story on Rosh HaShanah because it is a human story about people whose deepest prayers were not answered for many years, and it is a story about the potential of one person, Isaac, to change, at the very least, the world of the members of his family.

In her eulogy for Hersh, Rachel Goldberg-Polin shared, “I am honest, and I say, it is not that Hersh was perfect. But he was the perfect son for me. And I am so grateful to G-d, and I want to do hakarat hatov and thank G-d right now for giving me this magnificent present of my Hersh ... For 23 years I was privileged to

have this most stunning treasure, to be Hersh’s Mama. I’ll take it and say thank you. I just wish it had been for longer.”

This Rosh HaShanah, our prayers for a better year are that much more intense and are full of the sadness and pain of the past year. But we turn to our traditional sources and to the people who inspire us today for an important lesson: Each of us represents a

whole world to the people who love us, and they are our world. Let’s commit to loving and caring for them in good times and in dark times.





CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE



*Best Wishes for a  
Happy and Healthy  
New Year*

*Sandra Levine*



SHANA  
TOVAH!

May the New Year 5785  
fill your lives and our  
world with peace and joy!

QUEENS  
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE

Stan Greenspon  
Holocaust and Social Justice  
Education Center



SHANAH TOVAH!

*Wishing you a  
sweet new year*

From Your Friends at the  
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte



CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Ballantyne Jewish Center**

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 6:30 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service, 9 a.m.  
Children's Program, 11 a.m.  
Rabbi's Sermon & Shofar Sounding, 11 a.m.  
Kiddush lunch following morning service

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service, 9 a.m.  
Children's Program, 11 a.m.  
Rabbi's Sermon & Shofar Sounding, 11 a.m.  
Kiddush lunch following morning service

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:30 p.m.

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Children's Program, 11 a.m.  
Yizkor Memorial Service, noon  
Ne'ilah Closing Service, 6:15 p.m.  
Break Fast, 7:29 p.m. (following the end of the fast)

**October 20 (Sunday)**  
Sukkot Family Event, 5 p.m.  
Location: Ballantyne Jewish Center Sukkah, 8632 Bryant Farms Rd.

**October 24 (Thursday)**  
Simchat Torah Celebration  
In loving memory of those we lost on Simchat Torah 5784  
Dinner, 6:15 p.m.  
Dessert & Celebration, 7:15 p.m.

*Main Location for Rosh HaShanah: South Charlotte Banquet Center, 9009 Bryant Farms Rd. Main Location for Yom Kippur: Courtyard Waverly, 6319 Providence Farm Ln*

*- There is no charge for High Holiday programs; however, reservations are appreciated.*  
*- Sukkot Family Event: Non-Partners: \$20 per person or \$60 per family; Partners: \$15 per person or \$50 per family. Simchat Torah Celebration is open to the community free of charge.*  
*- To register or learn more: [www.JewishBallantyne.com/HH2024](http://www.JewishBallantyne.com/HH2024) Questions? Visit: [www.JewishBallantyne.com](http://www.JewishBallantyne.com)*



**Chabad Lake Norman**

19701 Bethel Church Rd. #101, Cornelius, NC

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 6:30 p.m.  
Community Holiday Dinner, 7 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Children's Program, 11 a.m.  
Shofar Sounding, 11:30 a.m.  
Shofar in the Park, 5:30 p.m., Walter Henderson Park

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 2 Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Children's Program, 11 a.m.  
Shofar Sounding, 11:30 a.m.

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:30 p.m.  
Candle lighting, 6:30 p.m.

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Children's Program, 11 a.m.  
Yizkor, noon  
Afternoon Service, 5:30 p.m.  
Break Fast, 7:29 p.m.

*Main Location: Chabad Lake Norman (except where noted). No affiliation necessary and services are free of charge. For more information or to RSVP, please contact [Chabad Lake Norman](mailto:Chabad.Lake.Norman).*



**Congregation Emanuel of Statesville**

206 Kelly Street, Statesville, NC

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 7 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Evening Service, 7 p.m.

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Potluck dairy or pareve covered dish, 6 p.m.  
Shabbat Service, 7 p.m.

**October 5 (Saturday)**  
Maariv service, 7:30 p.m., followed by Havdalah and an entertainment program (TBD)

*(Congregation Emanuel of Statesville Continued)*

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:30 p.m. (Please be seated by 6:15 p.m.)

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor Service, 11:45 a.m.  
Yom Kippur Afternoon Mincha Service, 4:45 p.m.  
Blowing of the Shofar, 7:20 p.m.  
Break Fast, 7:40 p.m.  
*Services will also be provided on Zoom. To register or learn more: Contact synagogue president, Beverly Maurice at [h204choc@gmail.com](mailto:h204choc@gmail.com)*



**Congregation Ohr HaTorah, Chabad of Charlotte**

6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC

**September 28 (Saturday)**  
S'lichot Service, 12 a.m. (just after midnight)

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 6:45 p.m. (Candle lighting at 6:47 p.m.)  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Dinner, 7:30 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Morning Service, 9 a.m.  
Children's Program, 10:30 a.m.  
Shofar Service, 11:30 a.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Mincha and Evening Service, 7 p.m. (Candle lighting after 8:07 p.m.)

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 2 Morning Service, 9 a.m.  
Children's Program, 10:30 a.m.  
Shofar Service, 11:30 a.m.  
Candle lighting, 6:44 p.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Day 2 Mincha and Evening Service, 7 p.m.

**October 6 (Sunday)**  
Fast of Gedaliah  
Fast begins at 6:03 a.m.  
Fast ends at 7:25 p.m.

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:45 p.m.  
Candle lighting and beginning of fast at 6:34 p.m.

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 9 a.m.  
Children's Program, 10:30 a.m.  
Yizkor Service, 11:30 a.m.  
Yom Kippur Mincha Service, 5 p.m.  
Ne'ilah Service, 6 p.m.  
Fast ends at 7:29 p.m., followed by communal Break Fast

*(Congregation Ohr HaTorah Continued)*

*To register or learn more: [www.ChabadNC.org](http://www.ChabadNC.org). Questions? Contact: [lcohen@chabadnc.org](mailto:lcohen@chabadnc.org) or (704) 366-3984*



**Havurat Tikvah**

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Morning Services, 10 a.m.  
Tashlich Service, 3 p.m.  
Location: Latta Park (Dilworth), gathering on the east side

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:45 p.m.

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Services, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor, 1 p.m. (approximate)  
Healing Service, 5:45 p.m.  
Ne'ilah/Concluding Service, 6:30 p.m.  
Break Fast, 7:30 p.m.

*Main Location: Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall 2821 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209 - Concurrent Zoom services are available for those unable to attend. Links will be provided in late September. - There is no charge for first-time guests, college students, and active military personnel. Contributions are welcome. - Bring your own shofar for the Yom Kippur concluding service. To learn more: [www.havurattikvah.org](http://www.havurattikvah.org) Questions and to reserve a seat, contact: Lainey Millen, congregational administrative liaison, at [admin@havurattikvah.org](mailto:admin@havurattikvah.org).*



**The Ruach Community**

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Experience, 10 a.m.

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 7 p.m.

*Join The Ruach Community for the Days of Awe Experience, modern High Holidays services build on Jewish tradition. All are welcome and there is no cost to attend. For more information and location, email [the.ruach.band@gmail.com](mailto:the.ruach.band@gmail.com).*



**Temple Beth El**

5101 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC

**September 28 (Saturday)**  
S'lichot Teen Pizza and Paint: Dinner, Havdalah, and Artistic Expression, 6 p.m.  
Together in Faith: A S'lichot study and service  
7:30 p.m. - Dessert & Study Session with Rabbi Wolk & Rabbi Knight  
8 p.m. - Havdalah & S'lichot Service led by Temple Israel & Temple Beth El Clergy

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 7:30 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service for families with young children, 8:30 a.m., Shalom Park main building entrance  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service for families with school-age children, 8:30 a.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service, 11 a.m.  
Tashlich Across Charlotte, 4:30 p.m., Various locations - Arboretum or Freedom Park

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Shabbat Shuvah Evening Service, 6:13 p.m.

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service for families with young children, 8:30 a.m., Shalom Park - Gorelick Hall  
Yom Kippur Morning Service for families with school-age children, 8:30 a.m.  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 11 a.m.  
STUDY. REFLECT. MOVE. MEDITATE., 1:30 p.m.  
Healing, Yizkor, Ne'ilah, and Havdalah, 3:30 p.m.

**October 16 (Wednesday)**  
SPICE Lunch in the Sukkah, noon  
Sukkot Adult Sip and Paint, 6 p.m.

**October 17 (Thursday)**  
Brotherhood in the Sukkah, 6:30 p.m.

**October 18 (Friday)**  
Shabbat Experience and Picnic in the Sukkah, 6 p.m.

**October 19 (Saturday)**  
Shabbat Sukkot Sojourn: In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors, 9 a.m., James Boyce Park  
LIBERTY Fall Fest, 6 p.m.

**October 20 (Sunday)**  
New Member Sukkah Event, 5 p.m.

**October 23 (Wednesday)**  
Simchat Torah Service featuring Recent B'nei Mitzvah, 6:13 p.m.  
Simchat Torah Dinner and Dance Party,

CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

7:15 p.m.  
(Temple Beth El Continued)

**October 24 (Thursday)**  
Tot Simchat Torah, 9:30 a.m.  
Festival Morning Service with Yizkor, 10:30 a.m.

**October 26 (Saturday)**  
TBE Jam Simchat Torah Cookout, 6 p.m., Home of Rabbi Erdheim and Charlie Cox

To register or learn more: [www.templebethel.org/highholidays](http://www.templebethel.org/highholidays)  
Questions? Contact: Temple Beth El's main office at (704) 366-1948 or email [info@templebethel.org](mailto:info@templebethel.org)



Temple Emanuel

**Temple Emanuel**  
320 S South St, Gastonia, NC

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  
**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Service, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.  
**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Study Session, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Afternoon Service, 3:30 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Yizkor, 4 p.m.-4:45 p.m.  
Ne'ilah, 4:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Break Fast, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.  
**October 18 (Friday)**  
Sukkot Services, time TBA  
Location: In the sukkah at a member's house (call for details)

Temple Emanuel, the Reform synagogue in Gaston County, has seats available for unaffiliated Jews and their families — no need to buy tickets or commit to membership. A donation is customary. Services will be conducted by Dr. Charlie Brown, spiritual leader emeritus, who has been leading the Temple in prayer for the Days of Awe since 2001.



**Temple Israel**  
4901 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC

**September 28 (Saturday)**  
Together in Faith: A S'lichot study and service  
7:30 p.m. - Dessert & Study Session with Rabbi Wolk & Rabbi Knight  
8 p.m. - Havdalah & S'lichot Service led by Temple Israel & Temple Beth El Clergy

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 6 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Traditional Shacharit Service, 9 a.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Family Service, 9 a.m. (geared towards K-5th grade)  
Main Service beginning with Torah Service, 10:15 a.m.

Tashlich, 1 p.m., Meet in the Temple Israel courtyard  
Rosh HaShanah Afternoon Service, 6 p.m.

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Young Families Rosh HaShanah Service, 9 a.m. (geared towards 0-6 years old)  
Traditional Shacharit Service, 9 a.m.

Main Service beginning with Torah Service, 10:15 a.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Afternoon Services & Kabbalat Shabbat, 5:45 p.m.

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:15 p.m.  
Please be seated by 6 p.m.

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Traditional Shacharit Service, 9 a.m.  
Yom Kippur Family Service, 9 a.m. (geared towards kids of all ages)  
Main Service beginning with Torah Service, 10:15 a.m.

Rabbi's Sermon & Yizkor, 11:15 a.m.  
Living with a Lev Shalem, 2 p.m.  
Walk and Reflect with Rabbi Wolk, 3:30 p.m.

Mincha Service, 5 p.m.  
Ne'ilah, 6:15 p.m.  
Break Fast, 7:30 p.m.

**October 13 (Sunday)**  
Sukkah decorating and lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**October 16 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Sukkot Service, 6:15 p.m.  
Featuring Guest Speaker and author, Abigail Pogrebin: "My Amazing, Demanding, Indelible Jewish Year" followed by dinner in the sukkah

**October 17 (Thursday)**  
Sukkot Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Kiddush in the Sukkah, noon  
Afternoon Sukkot Service, 7 p.m.

**October 18 (Friday)**  
Sukkot Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Kiddush in the Sukkah, noon  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15 p.m.  
(Temple Israel Continued)

**October 24 (Thursday)**  
Shemini Atzeret Service with Yizkor, 9:30 a.m.  
Kiddush, noon  
Mincha, 5:30 p.m.  
Festive Service & Dancing with the Torahs, 6 p.m.  
Southern Fried Simchat Torah Dinner, 6:45 p.m.

**October 25 (Friday)**  
Simchat Torah Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Simchat Torah Family Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15 p.m.

To purchase High Holiday tickets or for any questions: Please call the Temple Israel office at (704) 362-2796  
Registration: Available on the calendar page of our website at [www.templeisraelnc.org/calendar](http://www.templeisraelnc.org/calendar)



**Temple Kol Ami**  
Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill, SC

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 7 p.m.

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Junior Congregation Service, 9 a.m.  
Rosh HaShanah Morning Service, 10 a.m.

Tashlich, approximately 1 p.m., Pump House at Riverwalk, 575 Herrons Ferry Road, Rock Hill

**October 10 (Thursday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 7 p.m.

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Yom Kippur Junior Congregation Service, 9 a.m.  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor Service immediately following morning service  
Ne'ilah Service, 4 p.m.  
Break Fast, 6 p.m.

To register or learn more: [www.templekolamisc.org](http://www.templekolamisc.org). Questions? Contact: [yorksynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:yorksynagogue@gmail.com)



**Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman**  
605 South St. Davidson, NC 28036  
(Service locations vary)

**October 2 (Wednesday)**  
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 7 p.m., Davidson College

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Children's Program, ages 0-5, 9 a.m., Davidson College  
Rosh HaShanah Service, 10 a.m., Davidson College

Youth Service, grades K-3, 10 a.m., Davidson College  
Tashlich, 12:30 p.m., Roosevelt Wilson Park

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 7 p.m., Davidson College

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Children's Program, ages 0-5, 9 a.m., Davidson College  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m., Davidson College

Youth Service, grades K-3, 10 a.m., Davidson College  
Healing Service, 2 p.m., TKT  
Afternoon Service, 3:30 p.m., TKT  
Yizkor, 4:30 p.m., TKT  
Ne'ilah, 5:30 p.m., TKT

Break Fast, 6 p.m., TKT  
**October 16-22**  
Sukkot Events, various times, TKT  
**October 25 (Friday)**  
Simchat Torah Celebration and Shabbat, 7 p.m., TKT

To register or learn more: <https://www.templekoltikvah.org/highholidays>  
Questions? Contact: [admin@templekoltikvah.org](mailto:admin@templekoltikvah.org) or (704) 987-9980



**Uptown Chabad**  
**October 2 (Wednesday)**

Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 6:45 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charlotte - South End, 1617 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28203

**October 3 (Thursday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Kiddush and Deli Lunch, 1 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charlotte - South End, 1617 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28203

Rosh HaShanah Dinner, 6 p.m.

(Uptown Chabad Continued)

Embassy Suites Uptown Charlotte, 401 E MLK Jr Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28202

**October 4 (Friday)**  
Rosh HaShanah Day 2 Morning Service, 10 a.m.

Kiddush and Deli Lunch, 1 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charlotte - South End, 1617 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28203

**October 11 (Friday)**  
Kol Nidre: Yom Kippur Evening Service, 6:15 p.m.

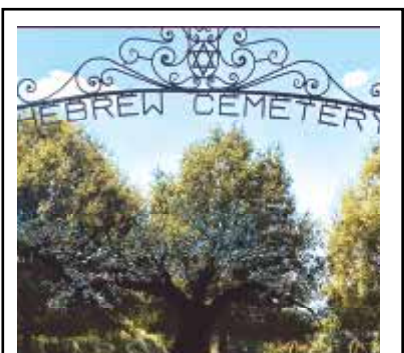
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Charlotte - South End, 1617 S Tryon St, Charlotte, NC 28203

**October 12 (Saturday)**  
Yom Kippur Morning Service, 10 a.m.  
Yizkor, 11:30 a.m.

Yom Kippur Evening Service, 5:30 p.m.  
Break Fast, 7:40 p.m.

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**Community Memorial Service**

**Sunday, October 6, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

Join us as we gather together with the greater Charlotte area clergy for our historic Annual Memorial Service to be held in person at the Cemetery.

1801 Statesville Ave, Charlotte, NC 28206

[www.hebrewcemetery.org](http://www.hebrewcemetery.org)



CELEBRATING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS IN CHARLOTTE

# Around the Table: Kneading Connection These High Holidays



By Charlotte Rouchouze

Sometime around Nov. 2023, a few weeks after the Simchat Torah invasion of Israel, and about as many weeks into the shocking realization that much of the world (or the internet, at least) remains steeped in antisemitic tropes and resentment, my cousin Ben Smolen had an idea. Ben, a native Charlottean (and former Camp Mindy camper) who is now a professional flutist and music professor in Los Angeles, CA, decided to launch a virtual group therapy session on Fridays where a few inclined members of our far-flung family and some of his friends could simultaneously make challah. Since we had all discovered the benefits of therapy-baking during COVID, group challah-baking therapy seemed like

an appropriate response to these difficult times. My other cousin Sarah Smolen, who now lives in Carrboro, NC, jumped on board, and we have since convened about once a month for a cross-country session in which we stir, knead, chat, and unload whatever is on our minds. We talk about our week, our families, our baking mishaps, as well as the latest antisemitic incident in our neighborhood or hateful clip we saw on the feed of a beloved friend or creator.

It just so happens that my cousins are also excellent bakers, always creating ever more beautiful challot, and so an extra bonus of our sessions is that later in the evening, as Shabbat settles in, we all get a thrill seeing photos of each other's stunning final products. Our newest inductee might just be my niece Meris, 11, who I've baked with on many occasions, and who is shaping up to be a fine baker in her own right. An unspoken (and sometimes spoken) presence at all our gatherings is also our Grandma Betty Smolen, who passed away in 2022. She is the one who encouraged all of us to be together whenever possible and also to channel our energies into positive outlets. Every last Smolen has a creative endeavor that they toil at with joy, and it

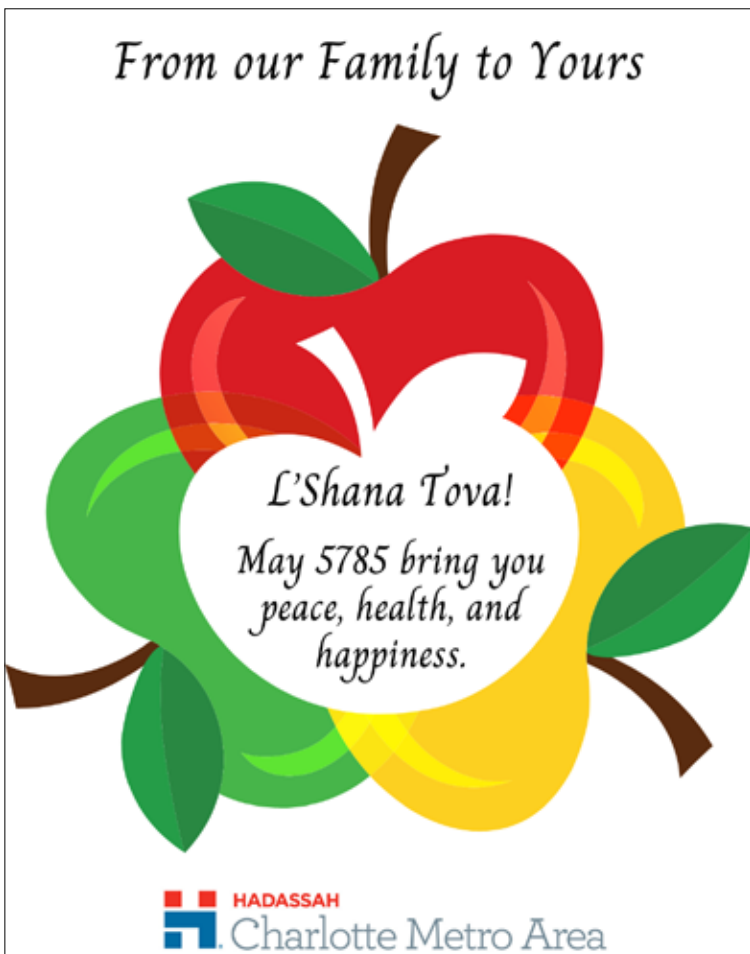
is a marvel to see them all. Embroidery, baking, drawing, photography, music, woodworking, glasswork, collage, design, and writing; we are truly a family that loves to keep our hands busy and create and admire beautiful things. This is undoubtedly the legacy of my grandmother, and surely creative relatives before her too.

There are some aspects of COVID times that have rightly and thankfully been put to bed. One that I hope will stay, however, is the easy shifting of live gatherings into virtual spaces when physical meetings are inconvenient or impossible. Starting a club in which your loved ones all commit to meeting on a certain day is a wonderful way to stay connected, and having a common activity you are engaged in makes the communication even more casual and real. One face disappears to place something in the oven; another drifts out to check on the cat; the conversation waxes and wanes as it does at home. We end up feeling recharged and pleased with our creations.

It has been a year of sadness over the violence and hate in Israel and Gaza; a year of deep worry over the way this conflict reverberates like no other across the entire world; a year of uncertainty about what all of this means for Jews around the world, and for our children at school and college. The only answers I have found are to be judicious about my media diet, to cling to people who remain loving and empathetic, and to keep our traditions strong.

Shanah Tova

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).



## Apples and Honey Bread Pudding with Honey Butter Sauce

This is a take on a bread pudding that uses some of my leftover challah and would be perfect for Rosh HaShanah. You could easily use a raisin challah if you like. It's a flexible recipe that can be adjusted to your tastes. For this sauce, I wanted to highlight the honey flavor and so I recommend you use a high-quality wildflower honey.

For the bread pudding:  
 5 cups challah, cut into 1-inch cubes  
 ½ stick of butter  
 ½ cup sugar  
 3 medium apples, diced

2 eggs  
 2 cups whole milk  
 1 tsp. vanilla  
 2 tbsp. honey, plus extra for drizzling

For the sauce:  
 ½ stick butter  
 1 heaping tbsp. flour  
 ¼ cup fragrant honey  
 1 cup light cream  
 ½ tsp. vanilla

In a large bowl, add sugar, butter, milk, vanilla, and honey and stir well. Add the bread and apple pieces and mix. Set aside while you preheat the oven to

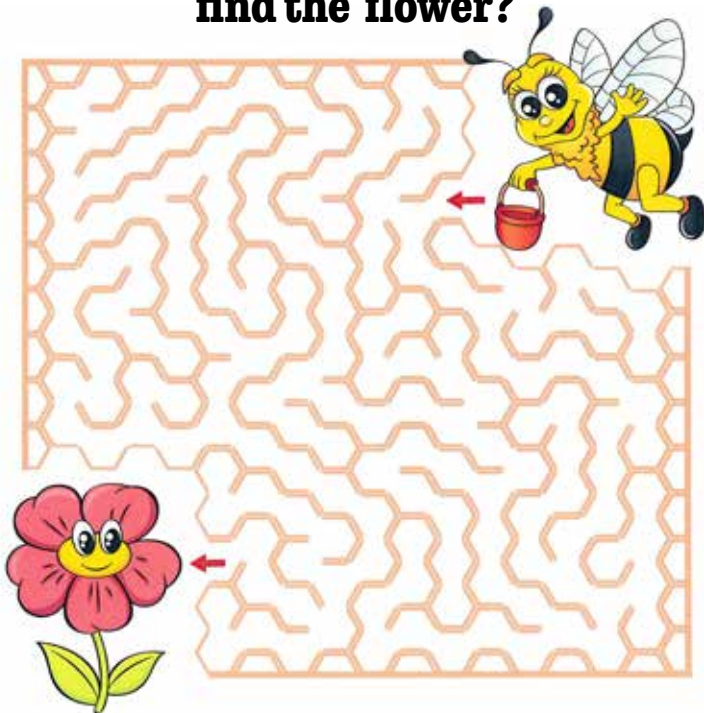
350 ° and prepare a 9 x 13-inch pan by buttering the bottom and sides generously. Pour the mixture into the pan and press the bread down gently. Drizzle the top with more honey and place in the oven. Bake for about 45 minutes until bubbly and golden. Before serving, make the sauce by mixing flour and butter over low heat in a small saucepan. Stir continuously and slowly add the cream, honey, and vanilla. Bring it to a simmer. At this point, the sauce should thicken. Turn off the heat and serve the bread pudding topped with sauce.



**Color the picture**



**Can you help the honeybee find the flower?**



**Shanah Tova!**

This is such a busy time of the year with school starting as well as other extracurricular activities. The High Holidays provide a chance for your family to slow down and come together. It is a great time of the year to go apple picking or bake a round challah as a family. Or maybe you are looking for a new and unique idea this holiday season? Try one of the following suggestions for a sweet new year!

**Make Honey Slime!**

- Ingredients:  
 ¼ c. honey  
 ¾ c. cornstarch  
 1-2 T. vegetable oil (optional)

- Directions:  
 1. To start making your honey slime, you heat the honey in the microwave for 30-45 seconds. CAUTION: IT WILL BE VERY HOT!  
 2. Add the cornstarch 2 Tablespoons at a time until it is completely incorporated into the honey.  
 3. Start kneading the cornstarch in once the mixture gets too thick to stir.  
 4. Continue kneading the slime until it is no longer sticky, and it is well mixed. If the dough is still sticking to your hands, just add a bit more cornstarch. Vegetable oil can be added as needed, until the slime is stretchy and not sticky.  
 5. Have fun!

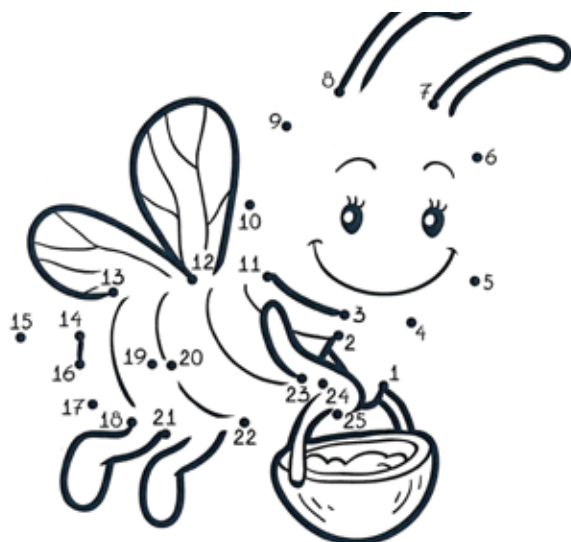
**Or Create a Family Apple Tree!**

On a large piece of paper oriented vertically, trace your child's arm, hand and fingers. Color in the arm "trunk" and finger "branches" with brown paint, markers or crayons. Have your child, or each family member, dip their thumbs or fingers into red, yellow and green paints to represent different kinds of apples, and dab away until your tree is full of fruit. You can add family members' names to the branches to make the tree even more personal, or paint or draw larger apples to represent individual family members. This is a meaningful project to repeat each year as your tree grows along with your child's arm.

We at the Center for Jewish Education and PJ Library wish you a very Happy New Year! Also, save the date for October 13th and be sure to join us for PJ at the Patch!

*Shanah Tova! Miss Sara*

**Connect the dots and color the picture**



P	F	D	D	C	Y	E	C	A	E	P	Y	P	R	Y	C	N	V	P	L
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- |               |             |                       |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| APPLES        | BEE         | BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD |
| CHALLAH       | DAYS OF AWE | ELUL                  |
| FAMILY        | HONEY       | KIDDUSH               |
| MACHZOR       | MITZVOT     | NEW YEAR              |
| PEACE         | POMEGRANATE | RAMS HORN             |
| ROSH HASHANAH | SELICHOT    | SHANA TOVA            |
| SHOFAR        | TASHLICH    | TISHREI               |

Religious Life

# SPICE Up Your Life This Fall



By Madeline White

Temple Beth El's (TBE) SPICE program, an initiative focused on creating enriching experiences for those 55 and older, has launched its Fall 2024 season with a series of events designed to foster learning, connection, and community involvement. Open to all individuals across the Metrolina region, SPICE lectures and social events are the perfect opportunity for newcomers to Charlotte or those recently

retired to mingle with like-minded individuals. Each event features a catered lunch, with a thoughtfully crafted menu that complements the event's theme.

The season kicked off in September with a welcome lunch for Cantor Danielle Rodnizki, who shared insights from her journey in Jewish music. On Oct. 16, SPICE participants will gather in TBE's sukkah to celebrate Sukkot. These informal gatherings offer attendees a chance to

reconnect with friends and make new connections after a summer hiatus, setting the tone for a busy year ahead.

The first major lecture of the fall will take place on Oct. 23, when SPICE hosts a session addressing the global state of antisemitism, led by Temple Beth El's senior rabbi, Rabbi Asher Knight. The event will also feature Douglas Greene, Director of Jewish Community Relations, and Noah Goldman,

Israel and Global Jewry Associate, from Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. They will share valuable perspectives on how antisemitism is affecting communities both locally and globally.

On Nov. 6, Rabbi Lexi Erdheim will present "Beyond Kofax: Judaism and Sports," highlighting how Jewish values have influenced the world of athletics. The event will include a special presentation of Jewish athlete trading cards by Les Gordon. On Dec. 4, SPICE will explore Jewish genealogy with Rabbi Beth Nichols, who will delve into the rebels in her own family tree. Rhoda Miller, Ed.D., CG®, an expert in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust studies, will guide participants to a deeper understanding of what "from generation to generation" truly means.

We'll conclude our fall lectures with two opportunities for in-depth learning. On Nov. 13, Rabbi Stuart Gershon will lead an exploration of the book of Kohelet/Ecclesiastes. Then, on Dec. 11, the first meeting of our yearlong SAGE program will feature Rabbi Knight exploring

the moments that have revolutionized Judaism and redefined our sacred traditions in "Shaping the Sacred: Disruptive Forces in Jewish History."

SPICE also offers opportunities for community service and connection, such as a potluck dinner on Nov. 8 that will honor our veterans while raising funds to benefit Sterling Elementary, a Title I school in Charlotte. The fall season will close on Dec. 18 with a special Chanukah luncheon featuring blintzes, sufganiyot, slaw, cheesecake, and more as we celebrate the holiday with TBE clergy and SPICE.

While there is a cost to register for SPICE events, if you are a member of another temple, we are happy to offer you our member rate. Whether you're new to the area, recently retired, or looking for ways to dive into the Jewish community in Charlotte, SPICE offers a welcoming community and a range of exciting programs.

For more information about these programs and to register, please visit [www.templebethel.org/spice](http://www.templebethel.org/spice).

## TEMPLE SOLEL

### HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Erev Rosh Hashana	Wednesday, Oct. 2	7 PM	Sanctuary
Rosh Hashana Morning	Thursday, Oct. 3	10 AM	Sanctuary
Shabbat Shuvah	Friday, Oct. 4	7 PM	Room 15
Kol Nidre	Friday, Oct. 11	7 PM	Sanctuary
Yom Kippur Morning	Saturday, Oct. 12	10 AM	Sanctuary
Yizkor	Saturday, Oct. 12	3 PM	Sanctuary
Yom Kippur Afternoon & Neilah	Saturday, Oct. 12	4 PM	Sanctuary
Havdalah, then Break the Fast	Saturday, Oct. 12	-5:35 PM	Room 15

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## Temple Kol Ami Launching Teen Leadership Program

By Shari Baum

Helping our youth feel a connection to Judaism and develop a strong Jewish identity has become increasingly more diffi-

cult, especially with the surge in antisemitism worldwide. At Temple Kol Ami (TKA), Jewish education has always been a central pillar and driving force of our congregation. We have done an excellent job of preparing our young congregants for their b'nei mitzvah, but we saw a need for further education and strengthening of Jewish bonds. With this in mind, we are launching Dor Hadash (New Generation), a transformative Jewish teen leadership program designed to empower our post-b'nei mitzvah teens. Temple Kol Ami Religious School director, Ashley Endy, recognized that several large cohorts of students were transitioning out of formal classes. "Historically, our community has focused on preparing students for their b'nei mitzvah, but we lacked programming to engage them afterward. Dor Hadash fills that gap," Endy stated. "We recognize the importance of maintaining strong connections to the Jewish community they've built over the years."

Being a Jewish teen in the

Starting October 2, 2024

## High Holiday Services

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scan to learn more

(Continued on page 35)



Religious Life

# Temple Solel Brings Congregations Together for an Interfaith Night of Service and Learning

By Paula Childs

“A giving vending machine. What a cool idea,” one teen elbowed another. “They sing a prayer. That is great- why don’t we sing our prayers?” another nudged her Mom.

On Aug. 25, Temple Solel hosted the first (but hopefully not the last) Night of Service and Learning (NoSal). Organized by Orchid Childs and Pauline Childs, the event aimed to help religions learn about one another.

Temple Solel invited teens and youth leaders from Grace Presbyterian and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to share a meal, learn about why we each do service, and make mitzvah (manna) bags.

As people brought in supplies, teens and adults were given markers and Ziploc bags to decorate. Participants were encouraged to write something encouraging to someone in need. Some drew flowers, others wrote “someone loves you” or “just keep swimming.”

Before we had dinner, Russ Cobe, Temple Solel’s lay leader led the group in a prayer and song. Jason Davenport, Grace

Presbyterian youth pastor also said a prayer.

The teens and adults ate mac and cheese, pizza, hash brown casserole, salad, and lots of desserts. While everyone was eating, the representatives from each faith gave a presentation. Grace Presbyterian’s Jason Davenport started by explaining the importance of giving from a Presbyterian perspective.

Then, Russ Cobe, lay leader of Temple Solel, explained the importance of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and why Jews do mitzvot.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints teens spoke about service in their faith. One of the teens, Clara Lee, explained “Our church serves so that we can follow the example of Jesus Christ and serve as he did ... One way I serve is by visiting the Giving Machine every Christmas. The Giving Machine is a vending machine run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in which instead of buying candy or a drink, participants can purchase items like clothing, hygiene kits, and meals to donate to families in need. This year, I was able to buy



All three congregations shared a meal



Youth members at an affirmation station

baby supplies for a family living in the Charlotte area.”

After each organization spoke, we broke into religiously diverse groups and did a Kahoot, an online quiz. Some of Kahoot’s questions were a bit humorous, such as, “In the Jewish tradition, tikkun olam means”: a) worries

(like hakuna matata). b) Do unto others what you would like done unto you, c) Repairing the world, or d) God is good

Others required a bit more serious thought, like: “How many mitzvot are there in the Jewish

(Continued on page 35)



HIGH HOLY DAYS | 5784-5785



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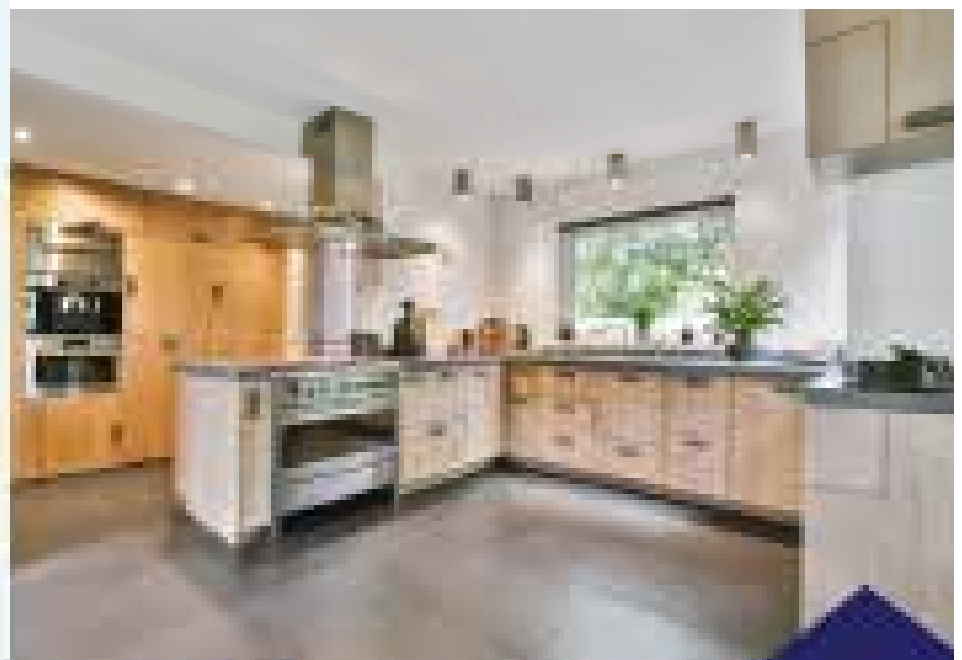
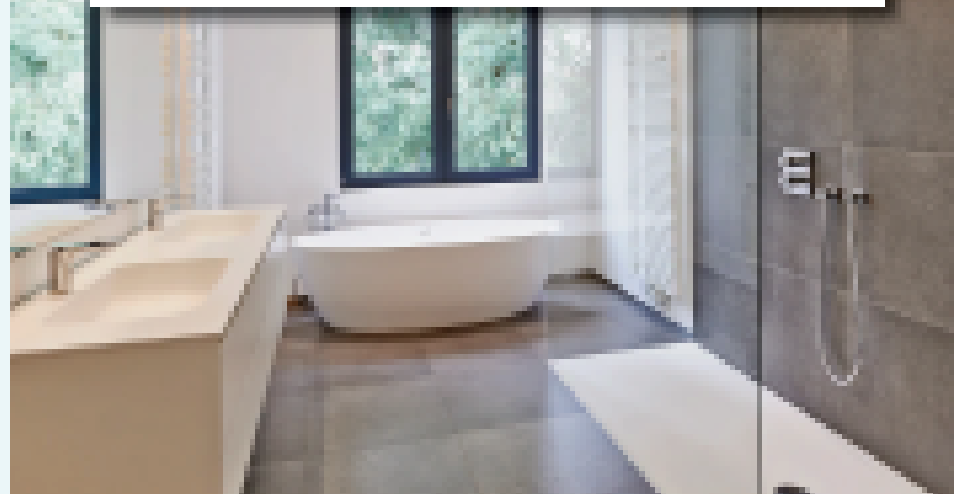


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Religious Life

# Tishrei at Chabad: A Month of Joy, Unity, and Renewal

By Rabbi Levi Cohen

As the month of Tishrei begins, Chabad of Charlotte is preparing for a series of uplifting programs that bring our community together in celebration and unity. This month, we focus on transitioning from the solemn and introspective Days of Awe to joyous celebrations, reflecting our commitment to a year filled with Jewish connection and positivity.

We have a fantastic lineup of children's hands-on programs to engage our younger members. From making their own shofars at the Shofar Factory to partici-

pating in a lively Sukkot Experience and "Sukkah Hopping," kids will have plenty of opportunities to explore and connect with the holidays in a fun, interactive way. These programs are designed to be both educational and engaging, allowing children to experience the traditions and values of Judaism in a memorable way.

For the adults, we offer a variety of meaningful events, including a warm and welcoming Rosh Hashanah Community Dinner to bring in the new year with fellowship and delicious food. There will be multiple

Sukkot gatherings, providing opportunities for connection and celebration in our beautiful and recently expanded sukkah, as well as inspiring High Holiday services that offer a space for reflection, prayer, and renewal.

This year's Simchat Torah celebration carries a special theme of resilience and unity. Marking the one-year Hebrew anniversary of the tragic terrorist attack in Israel, we are choosing to respond with strength, joy, and an even deeper commitment to our faith. Our celebration will honor the heroes of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the



Chabad of Charlotte's annual "Mobile Sukkah" project brings holiday joy to senior homes, schools and families

victims of the attack, with festivities designed to uplift and inspire. We will come together as a community to dance, sing, and celebrate the surety of being sealed for a happy new year, showing that we remain undeterred and filled with hope.

Join us at Chabad this Tishrei for a month filled with joy, unity, and renewal. Let's embrace this opportunity to strengthen our

connections, uplift our spirits, and celebrate the beauty of our Jewish heritage together.

To learn more, visit [www.chabadnc.org](http://www.chabadnc.org)



# Shabbat 180 Hosted by Uptown Chabad a Sold-Out Success

By Rabbi Motti Groner

On Aug. 23, the Uptown Chabad hosted a remarkable Shabbat 180 event, drawing over 180 young Jewish professionals to the SpringHill Suites in Uptown Charlotte. The evening was nothing short of spectacular, with a stunning 16th-floor view of Uptown Charlotte, an open bar, and a delicious kosher dinner catered by Kosher Charlotte.

The atmosphere was filled with warmth and inspiration as attendees enjoyed great company and a meaningful Shabbat together. The success of this event was made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.

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**Gold Sponsors:**

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Nina Cohen & Aaron Goldstein, Miriam Defilipp, Randy & Gary Defilipp, Josh Glynn, Miriam Levenson, Allie Michel, David + Risa Miller, Eli Minsky, Tomer & Rachel Neshet, Dr. Olga Pen, Joan Poltenson, Pessy Raitman, Sarah Rose - RE/MAX Executive, Josh & Carol Savitz, Brian Sher

A special thank you goes out to our table hosts, who played a significant role in making the

evening possible:

Amy Fine, Miriam & Wendy Levenson, Allie Michel, Tomer & Rachel Neshet, Marni Ransenberg, Josh & Carol Savitz

We are excited to announce our upcoming Rosh Hashanah Dinner on October 3 at the Embassy Suites Uptown Charlotte. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the Jewish New Year.

In addition to the dinner, we will also be hosting Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at the Holiday Inn Express Suites in South End. We invite all young Jewish professionals to join us for these meaningful High Holiday experiences.

For more details on the schedule and to RSVP, please visit [theuptownchabad.com/services](http://theuptownchabad.com/services).



Lighting Shabbat candles

## Temple Solel

(Continued from page 33)

tradition?" a) 10, b) 10,000, c) 613, or d) none.

As the interfaith teams answered questions, members of different congregations helped each other and cheered excitedly. Faces lit up with not only the right answer but with the excitement of new knowledge as well.

After the group had learned about the importance of service, the group gathered up the decorated plastic bags and moved on to make manna bags. As teens stuffed the Ziplocs full of bottled water, fruit cups, jerky,

peanut butter crackers, socks, and a list of helpful resources, the adults cleaned up the dinner mess. Members of all three organizations will share bags with congregants to be handed out to people in need. In the end, everyone learned something and helped someone. The organizers couldn't ask for anything more.



## Temple Kol Ami

(Continued from page 32)

South comes with its own unique set of challenges, and we believe Dor Hadash can provide a safe and supportive space for our students to explore these issues, develop strong leadership skills, and cultivate a Jewish identity that will carry them through the next phases of their lives.

This program offers a unique blend of personal growth, Jewish learning, and social action, all rooted in the values and traditions of the Temple Kol Ami community. Through weekly interactive sessions, engaging activities, and a meaningful community mitzvah project, our teens will develop essential leadership skills and deepen their connection to Jewish values. This program is being offered for free to TKA members.

If you live in the Greater York

County or Ballantyne area, TKA might be the place for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are many advantages to being a member of TKA including programs such as Dor Hadash. Additionally, attendance at High Holiday services is included in your membership. It is not too late to join TKA for the High Holidays, whether you are a member or not. Contact us at [yorksynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:yorksynagogue@gmail.com) for more information!





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Education and Youth

# Charlotte Jewish Day School: Nurturing Growth, Independence, and Jewish Values in Middle School

By Donna Lerner and CJDS Staff

Middle school is a big step, and a challenging time for both students and their families. Middle schoolers must adjust to new routines and higher academic expectations. They also receive less guidance from teachers and face new social situations. Fortunately, with our grades 6-8 in place, Charlotte Jewish Day School, (CJDS) provides the scaffold the students require to ease their journey as they mature physically and mentally, encounter more social and academic challenges and engage with them, and begin to question and challenge convention.

The CJDS Middle School is an exceptional environment for students. Like most middle schools, the students have different teachers for each subject. However, CJDS is unique. Our team of teachers is certified in their area of instruction and leads the students in an inquiry-based journey of discovery, providing opportunities to question, challenge, choose, and struggle.

Mrs. Rebecca Westneat, the middle school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and social studies teacher, quotes the famed Ms. Frizzle when referring to what happens in her Spark Lab. “We are ‘taking chances, making mistakes, and getting messy’ — in other words, embracing the ‘productive struggle.’” She believes her job as a teacher is to facilitate the learning process and ease away from spoon-feeding information. As the year progresses, she hopes to nurture creative thinkers and lifelong learners. “We are pushing the bird out of the nest, and teaching them how to fly, but we are there as teachers to teach them the skills necessary to fly and pick them up when they have a crash landing or two.”

Similarly, our English teacher, Ms. Sophie Moss, pushes the students to think independently and take ownership of their learning. Within certain boundaries, the students can choose the novels they read and how they present



what they have learned. She ensures they analyze and interpret complex ideas while also learning about theme, motif, genre, and grammar. Krista Adams, one of our math instructors, is teaching the students to approach problems analytically, preparing them with skills readying them for the advanced math of high school.

Our students continue to build on their knowledge and love of Israel. However, in Judaica,

Morah Chaya also addresses the complex and often controversial political realities by teaching critical thinking skills, weeding through disinformation, and demonstrating both the existence of multiple points of view and the need to understand them.

And our differences go beyond academics. The Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum provides an opportunity and safe place for students to confront difficult social chal-

lenges and develop self-regulation skills. These soft skills are important to students’ development as they influence their ability to communicate and collaborate. The students have increased leadership opportunities. They can play on our basketball team or run for our cross-country team. They also have input on their choices for electives, only possible in a small school environment.

Studies have shown that K-8 schools can often provide a stronger learning environment than a separate 6-8 school for students. Students have stronger test results and perform better in classrooms in K-8 schools than their peers in stand-alone middle schools. CJDS Middle School provides the perfect place for students to learn, grow, and develop the tools necessary for a successful academic career.



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Education and Youth

# 7th Annual Pajama Walk: Strollin' for Friendship and Dreams

By Nick Perez

The 7th Annual Pajama Walk, organized by Friendship Circle and ZABS Place, is returning to McAlpine Park on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024.

The event invites participants of all ages and abilities to join a fun and inclusive walk, celebrating friendship and dreams, all while dressed in their coziest pajamas.

The Pajama Walk raises awareness and funds for Friendship Circle and ZABS Place, two

local nonprofits dedicated to fostering inclusive friendships and providing job training, employment, and placement opportunities for individuals with special needs and abilities.

Participants will enjoy a stroll of just over a half-mile around the McAlpine Park pond. The walk will be followed by the DreamLand Festival, where attendees can enjoy dreamy activities, food, entertainment, and the spirit of community.

Registration begins at noon,



Pajama Walk kick off



Having fun at the Pajama Walk Carnival

with opening ceremonies at 1 p.m., the walk at 1:30 p.m., and the DreamLand Festival from 2-4 p.m.

But why pajamas, you may ask? Pajamas symbolize comfort, dreams, and a judgment-free zone—just like the inclusive community we aim to build through this event. So, make sure

to wear your coziest, dreamiest pajamas.

The Pajama Walk is not just an event; it's a movement towards creating a more inclusive society. Join us on Nov. 17 to walk, dream, and make a difference.

For more information and to register, visit [PajamaWalk.com](http://PajamaWalk.com). Friendship Circle and ZABS

Place are beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

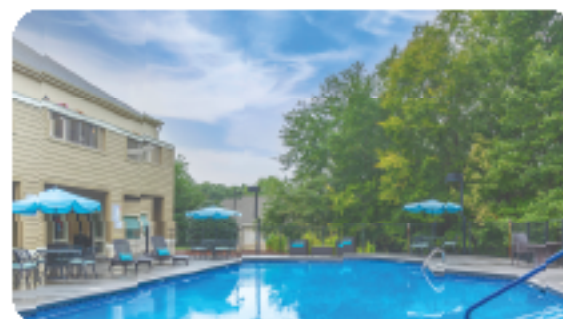


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Education and Youth

# Student Reflections Highlight the Impact of LJCC Butterfly Project Workshops

The Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) Butterfly Project is entering its 14th year of workshops. The project, which commemorates the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust, involves painting ceramic butterflies as symbols of resilience and hope. It has grown from a volunteer-led initiative to a two-and-a-half-hour middle school field trip at Shalom Park, seeing over 5,000 students

a year. After attending, the students are encouraged to reflect on what they will take away from the experience. Here are a few reflections from the past school year, inspiring the LJCC Butterfly Project team to continue this impactful work:

I learned that you can't brush off hateful attitudes. Even when you see bullying or name-calling, it can lead to something larger. In this case, it led to the mass

murder of six million Jewish people. I learned that everyone is equal no matter their religion, race, gender, etc. Everyone will have a bias towards certain people; it's just the way the world is, but I have to stand up for the people around me. - *Parkwood Middle School student*

When we first walked in, the children's names were all different, and we had to paint a butterfly in their memory. This is

heart-touching since these kids didn't live a long life, and for us to do something in honor of them and their name is bittersweet. When we first started the activity, they had us talk about what our names meant, and everyone who spoke said it had something to do with family. It is the same thing for all these children. They didn't live long enough for them to even pass on their name, but they had an impact. - *Charlotte Latin student*

It really stood out to me when discussing the fact that Jewish individuals got their identities stripped away, such as taking their names away and giving them a number to represent them. I personally think the Nazis did this because it's easier to kill a number than it is to kill a human. During the Painting Butterflies activity, it really stood out to me how we said their names out loud. When we painted the butterflies, I think it really sticks out how each butterfly got the name of a child who was killed and we were able to think of them as a child our age and not a Holocaust victim. - *Charlotte Latin student*

I learned so many things about the Holocaust that you just can't get without talking to a person who lived through it firsthand, and it really put it into perspective for me how really awful this event in our history was. - *Charlotte Prep student*

I learned that not all of the survivors of the Holocaust were actually in the concentration camps and some survived by leaving. I also learned that if there is nobody to remember them or say their name, then they will be forgotten for eternity. There are a lot of things I could have taken away, but the one that stuck out was how the survivors stayed so strong even when they were separated from their families. - *Marvin Ridge Middle School student*

Feeling inspired to get involved or learn more? Email butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org to learn more about bringing a group or volunteering in workshops.

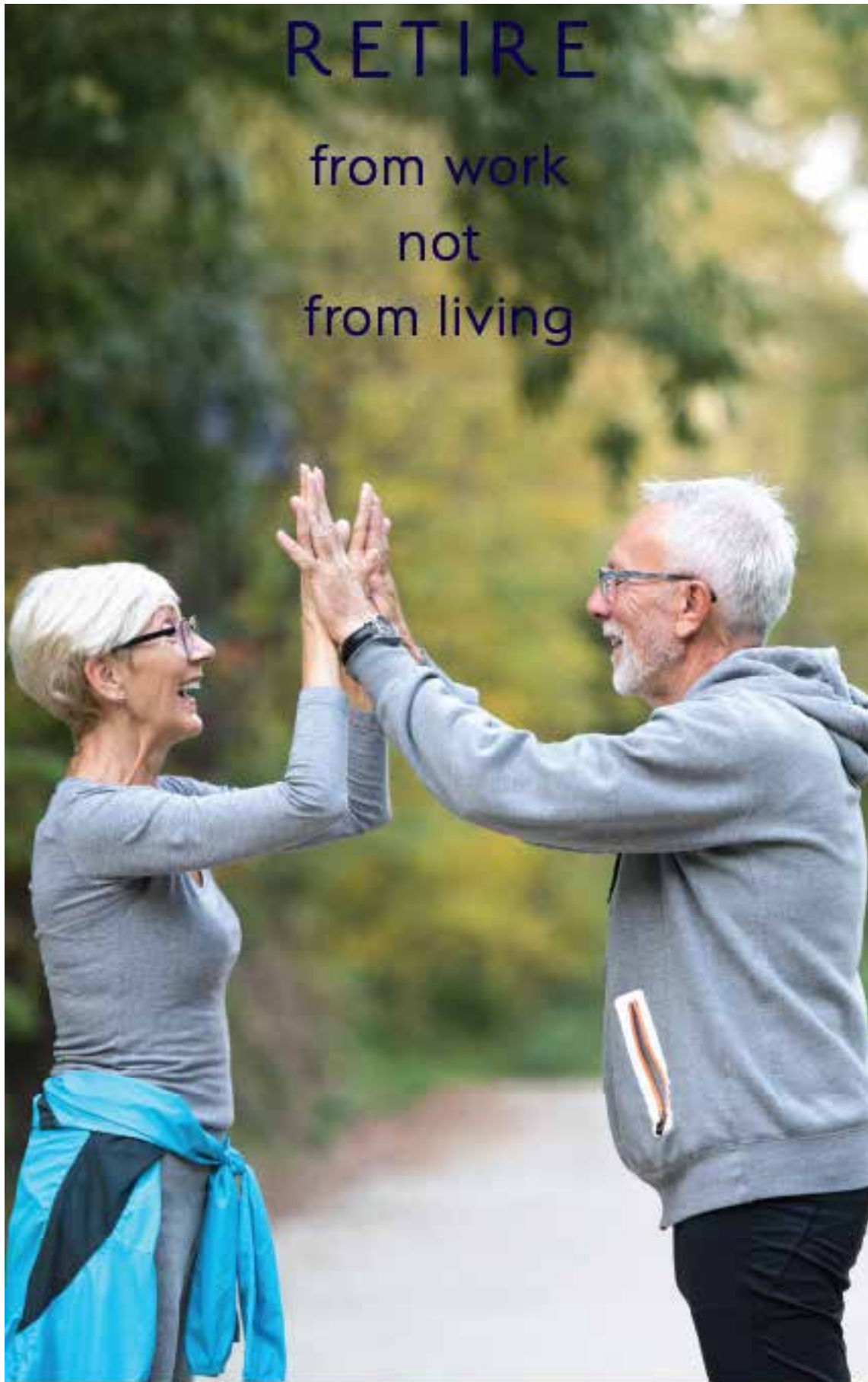


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Education and Youth



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# Defending Israel's Truth: My Path from Club Z to College Activism



By Georgia Engelhardt

Growing up with immense love and support in my local community, I was never fully aware of the hostility directed toward Jewish people. I had learned about the Holocaust and antisemitism throughout history, understanding the importance of Israel as the Jewish homeland and permanent refuge.

However, even after attending Jewish Day School and participating in CTeen and National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY), I didn't realize that antisemitism had reformed into a new, seemingly acceptable form of this enduring hatred: anti-Zionism. Furthermore, I did not yet understand why combatting this newer version of Jew-hatred is so vital.

My perspective changed when I joined Club Z, a Zionist educational program for Jewish teens. Meeting twice monthly for two years, I learned about Jewish indigeneity to Israel, its modern re-establishment, and the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict. Through mock debates, scenarios, and real-world experiences, I recognized how often the truth about Israel and Jewish people is distorted, promoted as a "good and faithful cause" to mask Jewish demonization. This education revealed that knowing facts about the Jewish homeland's history and Israel's current position is critical for survival and defense in the diaspora.

After graduating from Club Z in June 2021, I continued attending annual retreats and conferences. At the 2023 conference in Florida, I discovered Students Supporting Israel (SSI), a student-led pro-Israel organization. Recognizing the need at my university, UNC Charlotte, I established an SSI chapter to cultivate a pro-Israel presence and support our small campus Jewish community.

Following the October 7 massacre, anti-Israel rallies occurred at UNC Charlotte, led by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and other anti-Israel campus organizations. Months later, we faced our biggest challenge: the student government proposed a Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)-like resolution labeling Israel a "genocidal regime" and calling for divestment from organizations supporting Israel.

Drawing from my Club Z training, I spoke at the Student Government Association (SGA) meetings, challenging the resolution. Jewish and Zionist students explained how Israel aids people in Gaza during the ongoing war, emphasizing Israel's desire for peace and safety for all civilians. We clarified that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) goal is to defeat threats while protecting innocent civilians. Thanks to our efforts, the bill was defeated twice!

This experience highlighted the impact of Zionist education for high schoolers and the power of speaking truth in the face of adversity. I'm grateful to have learned that Zionism is intrinsic to Judaism and to have found the courage to advocate for these beliefs.

*We have seen Georgia grow into an incredibly knowledgeable, proud, and courageous advocate for herself, Jewish people, and Israel, and a leader both on campus and in Charlotte. Thank you, Georgia for being such a wonderful role model for teens and adults!*

Marcy Goldstein, Ph.D., Club Z Charlotte Educator



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Education and Youth

# Getting Ready for the New Year at Jewish Preschool on Sardis

By Hiley Davis

With the approach of Rosh HaShanah, JPS is abuzz with excitement! The teachers and staff are working together to immerse the children in the holiday's significance to the Jewish community. Classrooms are transforming to reflect the spirit of Rosh HaShanah, with symbols of the holiday appearing throughout. Children engage with puzzles featuring shofars, round challot, and apples, while artwork depicting holiday themes adorns the walls. One classroom even created a special menu board showcasing traditional Rosh HaShanah foods. Through these hands-on experiences and visual cues, our students are learning about and connecting with the rich traditions of Rosh HaShanah.



Showing off our apple art!



A self-reflection activity as we prepare to start the new year

BH

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(Puzzle on page 22)

1	D	O	E	G		O	B	J		D	I	C	E	R	
2	I	G	B	C		B	A	A		A	D	O	R	E	
3	B	L	A	S	T	I	N	G		U	S	I	N	G	S
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14	G	E	N	R	E		L	O	D		E	N	D	O	
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THANKS TO THE WORK OF VOLUNTEERS  
16,500 blankets have been donated to the Levine Children's Hospital, Hemby Children's Hospital and the Shriners Hospital (Greenville, SC) and 10,000 chemo hats have been donated to facilities for cancer patients around Charlotte.

*Join Us!*

Wednesdays 8-11 AM at the Levine Jewish Community Center  
Thursday 9 AM-5 PM in the home of Lynn Edelstein, 3802 Columbine Dr.  
(704) 366-6765

Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following is an excerpt from the article in The Charlotte Jewish News, September, 2006. To read the rest of the article and other issues of The CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

## Looking Back: Year 2006

### Local Rally Supports Israel, Decries Violence and Prays for Peace

We are a small Jewish community, only 1% of the overall population identify as Jews. But nearly 600 people, both Jews and non-Jews, gathered on the afternoon of Sunday, July 23, to show support of and solidarity with Israel.

Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the rally began with participants receiving free "We Stand with Israel" t-shirts and waving Israeli flags in many sizes. "We're here to express that Israel is not alone," said Sue Worrel, executive director of the local Federation.

"I am so pleased by the turnout and community-wide support," added Bob Abel, the board president of the Federation. "But we're not just here to show our support of Israel. We also want to demonstrate our concern for the people caught in the crossfire on both sides of the conflict and to pray that the conflict will soon be resolved."

For approximately one hour in a stifling heat and oppressive humidity, the crowd joined together in its single goal: con-

veying to the world that they stand together with Israel.

Three rabbis spoke during the program: Jeremy Barras of the Reform synagogue, Temple Beth El, encouraged the crowd to pray as well as speak out to our government and the media; Conservative Rabbi Ari Sunshine of Temple Israel compared the situation to last week's parasha, the story of Pinchas, where a breach to the peace of the Israelites was met with violence; and blessings for both the soldiers and those in captivity was changed by Rabbi Binyomin Weiss of Lubavitch of North Carolina.

The most compelling speaker of the day was Professor Harry Chernotsky, director of international studies at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "This conflict is about more than the kidnapping of soldiers," he said. "It's about the failure to craft a solution, the empowerment of terrorism, the inability to enforce UN resolution 1559, and Syria's leverage over Lebanon. It's about a war in Iraq and a democrati-

zation process that produced premature elections. It's about land for peace vs. land for war." He concluded, "Hezbollah and Hamas cannot be allowed to threaten Israel's core security. [But] this is a time for assertiveness, not arrogance."

Sue Worrel spoke also about her trip to Israel which overlapped with the beginning of the current conflict and how she never felt threatened or unsafe. She continued to describe Federation's efforts to transport children, the elderly, and the infirm out of the northern areas and into central and southern regions for their safety.

The speech-making wrapped up with words from Michal Raanan, Charlotte's community shlichah from Israel. Michal spoke of the toughness and strength of Israelis and expressed appreciation to the community for their support. She concluded with the singing of Hatikvah as the entire crowd joined in.

"This community always impresses me with its heart and compassion," said Phil



The crowd joined together in the singing of "Hatikvah." Photo courtesy of Len Weinstein/Genesis Photo Studios

Berman, executive director of the Levine JCC. "They are passionately showing support of Israel and at the same time praying for injured parties on both sides of the conflict ... We all join together in our hopes for a speedy conclusion to this turn of events."

"The spirit here was amazing," said Jodi Valenstein, who came to the rally with her family. "My love of Israel has been multiplied and my admiration for my fellow Jews has been

increased too. This was a great event for my children as well. Now they see our passion for Israel in action."

"We have two basic messages," Rabbi Sunshine said at the conclusion of the rally. "Israel has a right to defend itself and our ultimate goal is peace."

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# October 7

## Marking One Year

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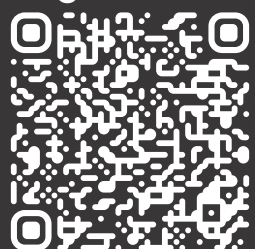
Join the entire Jewish community to commemorate the horrific attacks in Israel on October 7. Let us come together in prayer and solidarity as we mourn the lives we lost, honor the heroes who inspired us, remember the hostages who remain in our hearts, and affirm our communal resilience and hope for the future of the Jewish people.  
Am Yisrael Chai.

This event is free, however, registration is required. Space is limited.

הצטרפו אלינו לטקס זכרון לציון שנה לארועי השבעה באוקטובר שטלטלו את עולמנו. יחד ניתן מקום לכאב, לגעגוע ולצער הגדולים מתמיד. נתאבל, נכאב וגם נשאב השראה וכוח מסיפוריהם האישיים, מסירות נפשם ואומץ לבם של הנופלים והנופלות. עם ישראל חי

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