

The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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Adar-Nissan 5777

March 2017

19th Annual Spring Lecture Features Alice Hoffman

The 2017 Annual Spring-Lecture will be held Thursday, April 27, 7:30 PM at Temple Beth El.

The Annual Spring Lecture is the signature event of Women's Philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Best known as our community's most popular "ladies night out," the Spring Lecture attracts over 300 women of all ages for an inspirational evening. Our past speakers have included bestselling author Jennifer Weiner and culinary icon Ruth Reichl.

This year's Spring Lecture will feature prolific author Alice Hoffman, hailed as "America's literary heir to the Brothers Grimm." Hoffman's luminous and remarkable "fables of the everyday" have enchanted readers since the publication of her first novel, *Property Of*, in 1977. More than 30 years later, with numerous acclaimed and bestselling novels, as well as two short story collections and many books for young adults,



Alice Hoffman

Hoffman continues to seduce readers into her vividly imagined world.

Alice Hoffman's ambitious and mesmerizing novel *The Dovekeepers* was a New York Times best-seller, a tour de force of imagination and research set in ancient Israel. In early 2015, CBS aired a four-hour mini-series adaptation of *The Dovekeepers*. Some of Hoffman's other beloved titles include *Here On Earth* — a

modern reworking of Emily Brontë's masterpiece *Wuthering Heights*, which was an Oprah Book Club selection in 1998 — and *Practical Magic*, which was made into a feature film starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman. A sequel, *The Rules of Magic*, is expected this coming year.

At this year's Spring Lecture, Federation will unveil a new direction and vision for Women's Philanthropy designed to engage and inspire women in our community. In that spirit, the 2017 Event will look toward the future while honoring the past, as it pays tribute to all Spring Lecture Co-Chairs. Holly Levinson, the first Spring Lecture co-chair, and Sara Kulbersh, the last co-chair, will join forces to lead this year's event.

As we transition to our new Women's Philanthropy Initiative, we have modified the format for the event. It will begin with Alice Hoffman's lecture in Temple Beth

El's Sanctuary, followed by a lavish dessert reception and book signing. Spring Lecture tickets are \$36. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.jewishcharlotte.org or contact the Federation office 704-944-6757. ☆



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

2017 Spring Lecture Co-Chairs

Sara Kulbersh and Holly Levinson

Steering Committee

Talli Dippold
Karen Franklin
Madison Levine
Debbie Porter
Jenny Rosenthal
Lori Rosenthal
Jen Schwartz
Marisa Zeibert

INTRODUCING



SEE PAGE 2

MS in the Spotlight

Hadassah's Cutting Edge Stem Cell Research



Monday, March 20 at 7 PM at Temple Israel

Are you, or someone you care for, affected by this unpredictable and often disabling auto-immune disease?

Then you won't want to miss this informative evening.

Please join your friends, along with the local experts, for an evening of wine, cheese and education on MS.

Dr. Matthew Carraro of Novant Health Neurology Specialists will be among our speakers as we explore Multiple Sclerosis, the latest research and what life with MS is like for some members of our own community.

This event is free and open to the community.

Please invite your friends and neighbors.

While RSVPs are not necessary, they would be appreciated.

Please refer any questions or RSVP to sharon.goretsky@gmail.com. ☆

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The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

The Jewish Federation Proudly Introduces the Center for Jewish Education

Innovation. Inspiration. Imagination.

For thousands of years, Judaism has survived - and thrived - through the transmission of Torah from generation to generation. We have overcome every obstacle, and against all odds, we continue to pass down our sacred traditions. Today, however, Jewish life, education and experiences are in flux — Jews themselves are in flux — and the very people we want and need to engage no longer experience the world and their Judaism in the same ways as previous generations. The Jewish community of our future will look very different than the Jewish community of our past, and it's incumbent upon us to chart a bold path forward.

In order to build on our strengths and incubate a new Jewish educational landscape, part of the change will involve a shift not in what we do, but in how we do

it. This new landscape seeks to innovate while still supporting the richness that already exists. It presents a new model for our Charlotte community, one of education through engagement.

Guided by this vision, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is excited to introduce the newly created Center for Jewish Education (CJE). The CJE will function as a component of the Jewish Federation's Department of Education and Engagement, and will seek to enhance community engagement, promote lifelong Jewish learning, and create pathways to Jewish identity. Through cutting-edge educational practice and in collaboration with regional agencies, synagogues, schools, and community leaders, the CJE will serve as a community educational resource, and will develop

and implement creative, innovative, and sound educational strategies. Additionally, CJE will plan programs that enhance educational quality, accessibility, and participation in our community's formal and informal Jewish educational systems.

Tair Giudice, the JFGC Director of Education and Engagement, will head the newly formed Center for Jewish Education. "As an organization committed to community engagement, Jewish identity, and lifelong Jewish learning, the Federation looks forward to collaborating with area agencies to help meet their most pressing educational needs," shares Tair. "Ultimately, CJE's focus will be to support teachers with best practices, professional development,

(Continued on next page)

Center for Jewish Education

Family Engagement

Offering families explorations of Jewish life by welcoming newborns, providing creative children's programming, and free Jewish books and music (PJ Library & PJ Our Way)



Adult Learning

Inspiring lifelong Jewish learning and empowering people to make Jewish life meaningful and relevant



Teen Leadership

Connecting teens to Jewish initiatives and experiences promoting exploration of their Jewish heritage



Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

Offering a rich collection of Jewish-content books, publications, movies & music, available to the public at no charge



Israel Education

Strengthening our connection to and our knowledge and understanding of Israel



Blumenthal Educator Resource Center

Supporting our community's schools and educators through professional development and cutting edge resources



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Shalom, Everyone

By Inbal Ozeri,
Community Shlichah
Three Exciting
Opportunities to
Connect with Israel

One: Casual Mondays - I only have few months left before I leave and I feel like there are a lot of people I haven't met in a while if at all, so I decided to announce casual Monday dinners. A casual dinner that could be in your home, if you



Inbal Ozeri

have kids and other commitments. I love kids and I love animals and I am more than happy to prepare the food with you and/or help with the kids or other things you need to do as we have casual dinner. It doesn't have to be different than the routine you already have only we will get to hang out and get to know each other better.

Two: Café Ivrit - I started Hebrew Coffee again. I opened a Facebook group where I will be updating everything about it. The Facebook group is called: Charlotte Lomdim Ivrit - Cafe Ivrit And the link to it is: <https://www.facebook.com/group/s/233354570408080/>

If you would like to join us but are not on Facebook, you can reach me at 704-944-6784.

Please join us, join the group, and let's have some fun learning some casual Hebrew

Three: Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Yes, it's get-

ting closer.

This year it will be Monday, May 1, Yom Hazikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) at 6 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) at 7 PM in Gorelick Hall.

Please come commemorate and celebrate with us the Jewish homeland and its soldiers – Israel and IDF. (See page 13 for more details.) ☆

JCRC Speaker Series Continues on March 23

Please join the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council (JCRC) for the fourth session of our 2017 Speaker Series on Thursday evening, March 23 in Sam Lerner Center for the Arts at 7 PM. We will be joined by Middle East Terrorism Expert, Micah Halpern, who will address the Regional Turmoil Challenge: Influence of ISIS on Palestinian Israeli Conflict and Israeli Arab Minority.

Micah D. Halpern is a columnist and a social and political commentator. Halpern's most recent book, "Thugs," spent time on Amazon's list of bestsellers.

He is also the author of "What You Need To Know About: Ter-

ror." Micah is a frequent analyst on network television and radio. He hosts the weekly feature, "A Safer World," on USA Radio Network and the daily one-minute feature "I've Been Thinking" on Town Square Media Network. As well as being a syndicated columnist and well-known commentator, Micah is an educator and historian. He lectures frequently, both in the United States and Israel, on issues relating to terror, foreign affairs, and Israel and the Middle East. An expert on terrorism, Halpern has been invited for consultations in the White House with terror analysts and has addressed conferences sponsored by the Justice Department.



Micah Halpern

For more information or to RSVP please contact the Jewish Federation office at 704-944-6757 or ellie.kunkes@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

CAMPAIGN 2017: AT A GLANCE

Goal: \$3,750,000

932
Donors

43.7%
Complete

\$ Raised
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as of 2-14-17

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THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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Introducing the Center for Jewish Education

(Continued from previous page)

and cutting-edge Jewish curriculum and classroom resources. There are so many new resources available to today's teachers, but many of them simply don't have the time to discover or access what is current in Jewish education. The Center's role will be to bring new ideas to the conversation, catalyzing new opportunities, and capturing projects and best practices from the field of education and engagement. The Center's tagline says it all – innovation, inspiration, and imagination."

Establishing excellence in Jewish Education begins with knowledgeable and passionate educators. This commitment to educational excellence is the inspiration behind one of the pillars of the CJE, The Blumenthal Educator Resource Center. "Throughout the years the Blumenthal family and Foundation have

always supported and believed in the importance of Jewish education for children and adults in our community," says Philip Blumenthal. "The Blumenthal family is greatly honored to have our name associated with the newly constituted Educator Resource Center. We truly believe that combining all these various educational efforts under the umbrella of the Center for Jewish Education makes tremendous sense for the community."

Susan Jacobs, Director of Education for Temple Beth El, enthusiastically endorses the new Center, "We couldn't be more thrilled with this development. The Center for Jewish Education will go far beyond simple materials; it will also provide knowledge and support for teachers with a diverse set of needs. I am grateful to the Federation and its donors for helping to reenergize our commu-

nity's efforts around Jewish education."

The CJE will also offer a host of family engagement and adult learning programs, along with strong Israel educational opportunities. The Levine Sklut Judaic Library will continue to operate under the CJE umbrella, with Debby Block at the helm of its most popular programmatic offerings.

Sue Worrel, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation, concludes, "One of Federation's strategic priorities is to have Jewish educational opportunities available to all. It's a powerful vision, one of a community that is motivated by Jewish knowledge. Together, we'll enrich our present and invent our future."

Join us on the path to Innovation, Inspiration, and Imagination! ☆

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- Multiple children attending camps and/or Jewish programs
- Extenuating chronic family circumstances (ie: special needs children; disability, etc.)

For more information, please contact Jewish Family Services. 704.364.6594.

Gorelick Teens to Israel Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish teens ages 13 - 19 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program

Gloria & Harry Lerner Family Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish young adults between the ages of 21-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program

For more information, please contact Tal Stein, Director of Israel Affairs and Community Relations, 704.944.6751 | tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org

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



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Society Luncheon



Lion of Judah Co-chairs Stephanie Gitlin and Gail Baron with speaker Lisa Friedman Clark (center)



Judie Van Glish, Lisa Strause Levinson, Nicki Fisher, Barbara Levin, and Carol Gorelick



Nancy Tarbis, Joan Kirschner, Amy Augustine, and Jenny Rosenthal, Pomegranate Co-chair



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Lee Blumenthal, Jane Marcus Schorr, and Bonnie Tangalos, Pomegranate Co-chair



Rachel Spector, Debbie Porter, Kim Levy, and Dana Ditesheim



Bette Schwartz, Lynne Sheffer, Arlene Berkman, and Arlene Davis

Over 85 women attended the Jewish Federation's Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Society Luncheon on Thursday, January 19. Gail Baron, co-chair of the Lion of Judah campaign, introduced the program by saying, "We dedicate today's program and our 2017 Lion of Judah Campaign in remembrance of two beloved Lions of Judah: Patty Gorelick and Rose Luski. May their memories be a blessing to us all." Sandra Levine and Sue Worrel were called upon to pay tribute to their friends Patty and Rose, and their heartfelt words touched everyone in the room.

New Lions Amy Vitner and Judy Raghaven were recognized and welcomed into the Lions' Den; while new Pomegranates Melanie Brown, Joan Kirschner, Lynne Sheffer, and Lyba Rousso were presented with their Pomegranate Society Pins.

Guest speaker Lisa Friedman Clark, introduced by Lion of Judah Co-Chair Stephanie Gitlin, shared her poignant story of how she "danced through raindrops" while walking the fragile line that separates us as Federation donors and Federation recipients.

Pomegranate Co-Chairs Jenny Rosenthal and Bonnie Tangalos updated the group on Lion-Pom activities - the Lion-Pom Book Club and the upcoming Mini-Mission to Birmingham, AL. Bonnie articulated their experience as leaders of the Pomegranate Society by saying, "We couldn't be more thrilled with the fantastic response we are having to our Lion-Pom Events. Jenny and I both know from personal experience that Federation is not just about raising money; it's also about building community. The more we have participated in Federation events, the more we feel connected to different members of the community. Jenny grew up in Charlotte and I am new to the community, and this has added a new dimension to our lives and it can for you, too."

Arlene D. Schiff, National Director of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life and Legacy program, thanked those women who have created legacy gifts to benefit the Jewish Federation, and encouraged all in attendance to consider creating their own gifts to benefit the Jewish Federation after their lifetime.

To find out more about becoming a Lion of Judah or a member the Pomegranate Society, or creating a legacy gift for Federation, please contact Sue Littauer at sue.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.

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It's Always Something. That's Why There's Federation.

Thank you, Charlotte, for Answering the Call on Super Sunday!

This year's Super Sunday was huge success. Thank you to our heroic volunteers, campaigners, donors, board members and staff for answering the call. Because of everyone's efforts, we were able to continue touching Jewish lives locally, nationally, in Israel, and around the world.

The day's unofficial total, \$85,950, far exceeded expectations and the \$60,000 goal. A big

shout out to our Super Sunday co-chairs, Marcie Jacobs and Jason Tanenbaum, for all their work planning the event. A special thanks also goes out to all the dedicated callers who hit the phones and put "Tzedakah" on the speed dial.

Super Sunday, Federation's largest annual community-wide fundraising phone-a-thon, helps support the Jewish Federation's

annual campaign, which touches more Jewish lives than any other organization in the world.

Through your support, you care for Jews everywhere, connect people to their Jewish communities, and respond to crises close to home and around the globe. Together, our impact stretches from Charlotte to Israel to 70 countries around the world.

If we somehow missed you on

Super Sunday, there is still time to donate to the 2017 Annual Campaign. Visit our website today at

www.jewishcharlotte.org. It's always something. That's why there's Federation. ☆

Thank you to all of our Superhero's who stepped out on Super Sunday to show they were #FedProud



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Youth Visions

Hebrew Highlights

As our country, and the world, adjust to a set of new realities, Hebrew High continues to be a place where Charlotte's Jewish teens

can come to process their feelings, concerns, and hopes in a nonjudgmental setting. We look at world events through the lens of Jewish



The bulletin board outside the Hebrew High office.



The 9th grade art class.

values and guide our students to draw conclusions based on the wisdom of our tradition.

With the turmoil in the world in mind, our eighth, ninth, and tenth grade art students (ably led by their teacher, Marci Goldberg) created a beautiful statement piece that points to the interconnected-

ness of all people. This work can be seen on the bulletin board outside of the Hebrew High offices. The sentiment attached (in both Hebrew and English) says "We are many shapes, sizes, and colors, but we all fit together like a puzzle." If only the leaders of the world would listen to our teens.

Important conversations, collaborations and learning take place every week at Hebrew High. That's why it is still the place for our teens to be on Wednesday nights! ☆

Hebrew High Is Desperately Seeking Bubbies

Calling all Bubbies, Zaydes, Grandmas, and Grandpas. Hebrew High is looking for eight volunteer grandparents to teach our newest cooking elective, "In the Kitchen with Bubbie and Zayde."

We are hoping to have a guest grandparent share a favorite recipe (Jewish origin preferred) with our eager 9th grade chefs. The com-

mitment only is for one Wednesday night from 7-8 PM.

Your recipes should be dairy (or Pareve), easy, and delicious. If you have a family story that goes along with the recipe, that would be great, too. We will provide the ingredients and a teacher to make sure that the class runs smoothly.

This is an excellent opportunity

to get to know some awesome teens, share your expertise, and transmit our heritage *l'dor va dor* (from one generation to another).

For more information, call Roz at 704-944-6782 or email rcooper@shalomcharlotte.org. ☆

BBYO Chapters Honor Their Annual Sweethearts and Beaux

On Saturday night, January 29 Jewish teens from all around Eastern Region BBYO came together to enjoy a "Winter Wonderland" at Charlotte's annual Sweetheart



Ben Rubinstein, Sydney Morgan, Eliza Weidner, and Jacob Baumstein

joined BBYO, in January. We are excited to welcome them to BBYO a place where teens have fun, stay connected to their Judaism, and make friends that will last a lifetime. It was great to see so many of our new members at the dance and we know they are excited to attend their first convention, NC Spring Cultural, later this month.

Charlotte BBYO members meet most Tuesday nights and any Jewish teen, 8th-12th grade, is welcome to participate. For questions about BBYO, please contact

Jamie Bryan and Sara Abadi, Charlotte BBYO City Directors charlotte@bbyo.org. ☆

Beau Dance. The dance was coordinated by Bryce Frankel, Maddy Starr, Sophie Debaise Harris, and Jacob Dillyhon – and about 200 people attended. Late in the evening there was a special ceremony to honor the graduating seniors and then the new chapter Sweethearts and Beaux were crowned. Congratulations to Sydney Morgan, Eliza Weidner, Jacob Baumstein, and Ben Rubinstein on being crowned.

The four Charlotte BBYO Chapters – Chai Chaverim BBG, Ohavim BBG, Hank Greenberg AZA, and Mickey Barak Aberman AZA – welcome forty 8th graders that



The Eastern Region advisors and staff also enjoyed the dance.

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SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Purim in Italy

Join us for a Purim Celebration in Italy right here in town. Our annual Purim parties are famous for being fabulous, delicious, and a great time for all ages. It will be an unforgettable evening of fun and great food at an experience you won't want to miss. Listen to the traditional reading of the Megillah scroll of Esther, which

depicts the age old story of Purim. Enjoy an entertaining slideshow illustrating the historical events, a bingo game to keep you guessing, and your kids will each receive an activity bag to engage them during the reading.

Dress up Italian style and take part in a delicious Italian buffet dinner and Hamentashen. Don't

forget to enjoy all the activities like crafts, taking awesome pics in the photo booth, and making your own Purim Basket to give to a friend. Adults will enjoy Purim Drinks while everyone has a fantastic time. Don't miss out on this great

event and celebrate Purim with friends and family.

Sunday, March 12
5 PM-Megillah Reading
5:30 PM-Dinner and Party
Brookhaven Clubhouse, 3001 Stanbury Dr., Matthews, NC 28105

\$15 per person or \$45 per family

For more info or to RSVP contact Rabbi Yisrael and Leah Levin, 704-246-8881 or info@JewishBallantyne.com or visit our website www.Jewish-Ballantyne.com.

There will also be a megillah reading Saturday night, March 11, at 7:30 PM at the Ballantyne Jewish Center: 8632 Bryant Farms Rd. Free of charge. ☆



Pre-Pesach Food Demonstration and Tasting

Join us for a pre-passover cooking demo and tasting, with chef par excellence and magazine editor, Shifra Klein.

Shifra uses the finest ingredients to prepare healthy, fresh, gourmet meals, quickly and efficiently.

Watch as she prepares the entire meal in front of you and taste the incredible results.

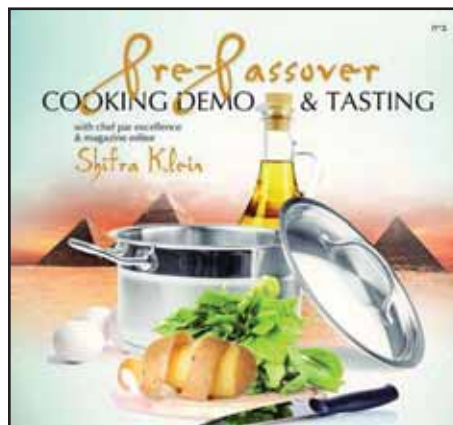
Shifra is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of the Joy of Kosher, a gourmet kosher cooking magazine, which celebrates Kosher in a modern, revolutionary way. A self-taught cook, Shifra is all

about having fun in the kitchen and cooking flavorful and mouthwatering food in a simple and approachable way.

Wednesday, March 15
7 PM at the home of Margie Bower, 1049 Bromley Dr., Weddington, NC 28104

Couvert: \$36

Limited space available. To RSVP email Leah@JewishBallantyne.com, call 704-246-8881, or visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com. ☆



Temple Kol Ami Member Rebecca Adams Brings Home the Gold

Rebecca Adams may seem like a sweet, quiet 13-year old, but you wouldn't want to get in the taekwondo sparring ring with her. Rebecca, daughter of Chris and Adena Adams of Lake Wylie, SC, is a second degree black-belt in taekwondo and has won numerous regional competitions. On January 31, she captured her first international gold medal at the US Open in Las Vegas. Rebecca has her sights set on the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, but before then she will be traveling the world to compete in qualifying matches including the Canada Open and the Israel Open.



Rebecca competing.

Rebecca and her family are very active members of Temple Kol Ami. Mom, Adena, has served as president in the past and is currently one of the co-directors of the TKA Religious School.

Rebecca recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah and is now a madricha at TKARS. Temple Kol Ami is so proud of Rebecca's accomplishment as well as her commitment to Judaism. Mazal Tov, Rebecca. ☆



Rebecca showing off her medal.



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Photo by Yonatan Sindel

Join Temple Kol Ami for Purim Celebration and Adult Education

For the second year in a row, Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC was awarded a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Impact and Innovation Fund. With this grant money, Temple Kol Ami will continue to host quarterly Shabbatons for the York County and South Charlotte Jewish communities. TKA is pleased to invite you to attend our

first Shabbaton of 2017 the weekend of March 17-18. Rabbi Ana Bonnheim will be with us on March 17 for Friday night Shabbat service, and on the evening of March 18, TKA will host a Purim dinner costume party/Havdalah. The theme for the evening will be Purim Wars: The Jews Awaken, and there will be prizes for best Star Wars costume as well as tra-

ditional Purim costume. Also that weekend, Camryn Elder will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on the morning of March 18. For more information, please consult the Temple Kol Ami website at www.templekolamisc.org. All events related to the Shabbaton are always free and open to the public thanks to the generosity of the Federation.

Temple Kol Ami is also pleased to be offering an Adult Education class called Synagogue 101. The first class met in February to discuss the tallit. The March class will meet on March 11 at 10 AM at Temple Kol Ami, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC. Refreshments will be served. The third and last class will be held on the second Saturday in April. For more information, check the TKA website or e-mail us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com. Once again, this is free and open to the public.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you.



We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are so many wonderful advantages to being a member of TKA, not the least of which is being a part of the revitalization of the Jewish community of this area. We hope you will come play and pray with us sometime soon. ☆

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Chabad to Celebrate "Hard Hat" Purim

Purim, the happiest day on the Jewish calendar, comes this year on Sunday, March 12. The festivities at Ohr HaTorah will begin on Saturday evening, March 11, with a Purim and Megillah service at 7:30 PM. The Purim theme this year is "Hard Hat Purim" as Chabad will soon be entering the pre-construction stage of their new center which will be located on their existing property at 6619 Sardis Road. "Hard Hat Purim" will invite everyone to come with a hard hat and dressed as construction workers, as they celebrate the future of Chabad while rejoicing in the festivities of Purim.

Purim celebrates Jewish survival and although it took place in Ancient Persia in the 4th century BCE, it still resonates with us today. There was a reason that Mordechai and Esther established Purim as an eternal holiday to commemorate the amazing events of their time. It was the prophetic vision of Esther who realized that Jews will be languishing in the Diaspora in future generations and that they will face similar challenges as did the Jews in Persia. By recording the story of Purim in the Book of Esther (also known as the Megillah), and enacting special observances on Purim day, she ensured that the lesson she and Mordechai learned would never be forgotten and will be a source of encouragement for thousands of years to come. What better way to celebrate our resilience throughout history than to celebrate the bright future of Chabad in Charlotte with a pre-construction Purim party and feast?

Jews worldwide celebrate Purim on the 14th of Adar, while residents of walled cities – like Shushan or

Jerusalem – celebrate on the 15th of Adar. The five mitzvot of Purim are: 1) Reading or listening to the reading of the Megillah (evening and morning); 2) Reciting prayers of thanksgiving; 3) Sending at least two ready-to-eat food items to a friend; 4) Giving tzedaka to at least two poor people; 5) Rejoicing with a Purim feast at the end of the day.

Purim is a time of joy and fun – costumes, sweets and hamantaschen are very much part of the fabric of this holiday and will be in great abundance at Ohr HaTorah. The celebration will continue with a grand "Hard Hat Purim" feast on Sunday at 6 PM. The dinner will be held at Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park. Call 704-366-3984 for more information. The feast will feature gourmet pizza of various varieties/toppings, music, and a costume contest for the best "Jewish Bob the Builder" award. There will be beer and l'chaim for the adults, and lots of fun for everyone. In addition to the Sunday, 9 AM Megillah reading at the morning service, there will be another Megillah reading at 5 PM for those who prefer a later time. The Purim feast is open to all in the community. The cost is \$18 per adult and \$10 for children under Bar or Bat Mitzvah age. Reservations can be made online at www.chabadnc.org or by sending a check to Chabad of NC, attention - Purim Dinner, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270. ☆



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– Anne Frank

In an Era Where Competition Rules the Day, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Choose Collaboration

By Laura Bernstein, Ed.D, Executive Director, Temple Beth El and Glenda Bernhardt, MSW, Executive Director, Temple Israel

How do we deal with the constant competition for members, programs, and teachers? How do we coordinate worship times at High Holidays? When do we share information about systems, procedures, and operating protocol that can be helpful to each other without revealing proprietary information?

In 2015, we joined the Shalom Park Partner Professional Team within six months of each other. Although our collective tenure is under four years, we both stepped into our roles of Executive Director with an open mind and a broad view of our responsibility to our greater community. We have approached each other from a position of partnership, and we think both of our congregations have benefited.

We have chosen not to view our roles as competitive. Because we are on the same campus together, we have a unique opportunity to share ideas and collaborate on many important matters.

Synagogue collaboration is not necessarily new. Examples of our

synagogues' long-time collaborations are seen in our Charlotte Jewish Preschool and our Consolidated Hebrew High School. Recent efforts have been around issues of security, and programs such as the Global Day of Jewish Learning.

Our synagogues' annual celebrations of our teachers have historically happened in the Spring within weeks of each other. This year we have the opportunity to celebrate together and with the entire community as we honor Roz Cooper for her years of dedication and service as the Director of our Consolidated Hebrew High School program.

We invite the entire community to join us as we recognize our teachers, celebrate Roz Cooper, and welcome Dan Nichols as he joins us for a weekend of celebration together. ☆

Join Us for a Weekend of Collaboration

**Recognizing Our Teachers
Celebrating Roz Cooper
Welcoming Dan Nichols
Friday, March 10** at Temple Beth El

6:15 PM - Preneg

7 PM - Joint Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Service honoring our teachers and Roz Cooper, featuring Dan Nichols and combined synagogue children's choir

Celebratory Oneg immediately following worship

Saturday, March 11 at Temple Beth El

9 AM - Temple Beth El Congregational Shabbat Workshop

10:15 AM - Temple Beth El Congregational Brunch

11 AM - Temple Beth El Congregational Shabbat featuring Dan Nichols with our Teen Vocal Ensemble, Teen Band

Saturday, March 11 at Temple Israel

9:30 AM - Temple Israel Service honoring our teachers and Roz Cooper, followed by special community-wide Kiddush

10 AM - Temple Israel Junior Congregation featuring Dan Nichols (teachers, students, and parents invited to attend)

7 PM - Joint Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Purim Celebration with Havdalah, schpiel, and abbreviated megillah reading, featuring Dan Nichols in concert at Temple Israel



Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman is Traveling to Israel

Congregants of Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson, NC, under the leadership of Rabbi Michael Shields, have banded together to organize the first congregational Israel trip from the Lake Norman area. Plans call for departure to Tel Aviv on October 22, 2017. The trip is open to anyone who wishes to experience Israel first hand. Young or old, Jewish or not, first timer or a repeat traveler, everyone is welcome to join in this unique experience.

The trip itinerary is robust and includes the "essential Israel" stops as well as some unique opportunities sprinkled throughout. We have worked diligently to build a trip that is rich in experiences, but modest in cost. The

final cost per participant depends on the number of participants. The more people we have, the lower the cost for everyone. We expect the cost to range from \$3400-4100 per participant (including airfare). This includes the flights from Charlotte, NC, to Tel Aviv, nine days and eight nights in premium hotels and Kibbutz guesthouses, group travel and sightseeing throughout Israel with a certified tour guide, most meals, and other amenities.

The touring in Israel is operated by Vered HaSharon Travel and Tours (VeredGo.com), an Israeli company with 40 years experience in the travel industry. Stateside arrangements are through the Mann Travel Agency

(MannTravels.com) who is helping with all the organizational and managerial aspects of the trip.

We welcome the Jewish community of greater Charlotte, as well as family and friends, to join us in this amazing life-changing experience.

For more information go to www.TKTIsraelTrip.org where you will find a detailed itinerary, pricing information, a slide show highlighting the sites to be visited, and a host of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. To sign up or request additional information, call the Temple's office at 704-987-9980 or email admin@templekoltikvah.org. ☆



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Jack Brinkley Receives Eagle Scout Award

The Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America presented Jack Brinkley with Scouting's high honor January 27, 2017 at Congregation Emanuel. He is the son of Bill and Jennifer Brinkley of Statesville, NC. Jack is a member of Troop 609 sponsored by First ARP Church lead by Scoutmaster Jim Mixon.

Only 2% of Scouts attain the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America. An Eagle Scout must have completed at least 21 merit badges and organize a service project that benefits his community. For his project, Jack designed

and organized the construction of a tennis hitting wall that was built for the Statesville Recreation Dept. tennis courts.

Jack attends Forsyth Country Day School where is has been active in Youth and Government, Mock Trial, and National Honors Society and will serve as Captain of the 2017 varsity tennis team. While on the varsity team, Jack has been awarded All Conference in 2015 and 2016 along with MVP for the 2016 tennis season. Jack will continue his education at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA after graduation. ✪



Scoutmaster Jim Mixon and Jack Brinkley

Women's News

Your Free Listing in the Charlotte Jewish Community Directory is Only One Click Away

Hadassah Charlotte is rebuilding your Charlotte Jewish Community Directory.

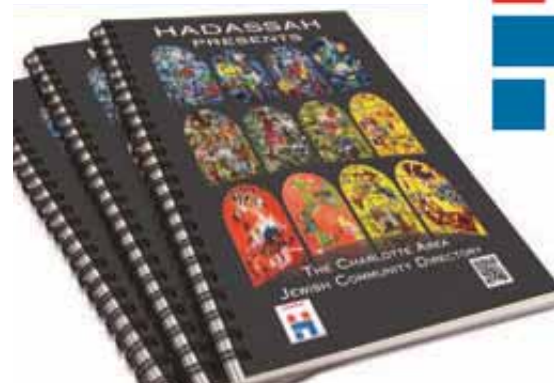
For the past 70 years, we have published your directory for the greater Charlotte Jewish community. We are proud to continue this tradition, with the most complete and accurate information provided by you. The Hadassah directory will continue to be a valuable resource for the entire Jewish community. Your information will be published only in the Jewish Community Directory by Hadassah.

To be included in the 2017 Directory, you must submit your in-

formation by June 1. Please visit our website www.hadassah.org/charlotte and click on the Directory Link. Once you complete this process, your free name/address/phone listing will be added to the Directory. Hadassah will print your information. The 2017 Charlotte Jewish community Directory will be available at no cost to our community.

Become a part of your Charlotte Jewish community today. ✪

HADASSAH



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charlottejewishnews.org

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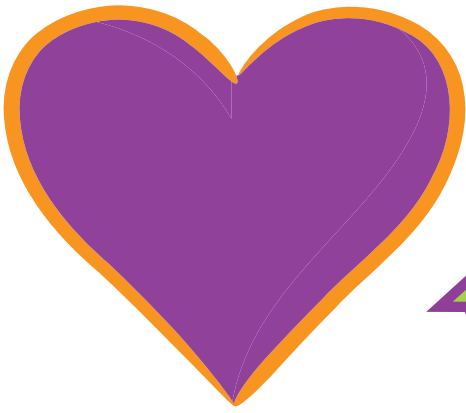



Julie Taché
704.236.7536
Julie@JulieTache.com

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR MARCH 2017

Friday, March 3, 6:03 PM
Friday, March 10, 6:09 PM
Friday, March 17, 7:15 PM
Friday, March 24, 7:20 PM
Friday, March 31, 7:26 PM





PURIM

COMMUNITY-WIDE PURIM CARNIVAL

**March 12, 2017
12:00 - 3:00 PM**

Levine JCC @ Shalom Park

games * inflatables * food * crafts
prizes * vendors * and more.....

Food provided by KosherCharlotte - CJDS Catering

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 704.944.6728

School

Prizmah Conference

Prizmah is the new organization created to support all day schools, including Reform, Conservative, Modern Orthodox, Community, and everything in between. One thousand day school

and federation lay leaders and professionals gathered for three days to network, communicate, learn and inspire in order to strengthen, professionalize and promote a Jewish day school education for every day school child across the world.

Karen Ransenberg, the president of the board of directors of CJDS, Jane Herson, a parent and CJDS board member, Mandy DiFilippo, assistant director, and Mariashi Groner, Director of CJDS attended the conference in Chicago during the week of February 5.

Creative, out-of-the-box tuition models are the latest and one could hear lots of discussion on how to make a Jewish day school education accessible to families with an income that falls through the cracks of those families who qualify for financial aid and those families who can afford a private school tuition. CJDS is deep into this discussion too and is actively involved in meeting the needs of these families.

When you see the level of excellence set forth in the workshops, plenary speeches, and exhibits, you know that you are in the presence of something great. Truly progressive, state of the art, and forward thinking models and methods of education were there for us to learn from and experience. But, it is an even more gratifying, heartwarming, and validating to see how sophisticated and advanced we are at CJDS

both at the board and school level. We are determined, however, to reach even higher, never being satisfied with "good enough." Our students depend on that and we will not let them down. ☆



Jane Herson, Mariashi Groner, Karen Ransenberg, and Mandy DiFilippo at the Prizmah Conference.

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Save the Date

Shalom Park Freedom School's Spring Movie Fundraiser

Thursday, May 4, 7-9 PM
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

Join us for a movie and refreshments and learn more about Freedom School's six-week inspiring summer program at Shalom Park. For more information, email freedomschools@gmail.com.



**Freedom
School
Partners**

Shalom Park Freedom School

Commemorate and Celebrate

Monday, May 1

YOM HAZIKARON

Israel Memorial Day
Sam Lerner Center
for Cultural Arts
6:00 pm
Memorial Ceremony



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Israel Independence Day
Gorelick Hall
7:00 pm
Special Performance by



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Wed: 1:30–7:30pm • Thu: 1:30–6:30pm
- **B** Monday 5/15/17 – Thursday 5/18/17
4:30–9pm
- **C** Monday 6/12/17 – Thursday 6/15/17
4:30–9pm

Lifeguard Recertification

- **A** Wednesday 4/26/17 – Thursday 4/27/17
4–9pm
- **B** Wednesday 5/24/17 – Thursday 5/25/17
4–9pm

Certification M/\$179 B/\$99 NM/\$199
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Community-Wide PURIM CARNIVAL

March 12, 2017
12:00 - 3:00 PM
Levine JCC @ Shalom Park

GAMES • INFLATABLES
FOOD • CRAFTS
PRIZES • VENDORS

Food provided by
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Teens fulfill your Community Service requirement
here at the LJCC at this great family fun event! Adults
we would love your help, too! Two shift options to
choose from. You must sign up ahead of time.

March 12

11:30am–1:30pm or 1:30–3:30pm

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Questions? Greg O'Connor • 704-944-6748
gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 23
10am – 2pm

Levine JCC at Shalom Park

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Adults

Ladies' Night Out

Belk Theater Event – *The Bodyguard*

Smash musical hit based on the movie! Must register by Friday, March 3.

Thursday, March 9

Meet for dinner at 6:15pm (Restaurant TBD)

Ticket \$65 (dinner not included)

704-944-6737 • robin.stier@charlottejcc.org

Writing Class: Tales to Treasure - How to Discover and Write Compelling Family Stories

Adults 21+

Tuesdays, 7–8pm • March 7 – 28 (4 classes)

Room A110 • Instructor: Dana Kumerow

M/\$54 B/\$48 NM/\$60

Register with LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

by Thursday, March 2. 704-944-6753 or

sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Canine Good Citizen & Puppy Training

Adults 18+ with dog/puppy at least 10 weeks old

Session I: Mondays, March 20 – May 1 (6 weeks)

Session II: Mondays, May 15 – June 26 (6 weeks)

6-7pm (Canine Good Citizen)

7:15 – 8:15pm (Puppy Training)

704-944-6739 • jessie.cohen@charlottejcc.org

Let's Dance!

Don't be left off the dance floor at weddings and B'nai Mitzvah parties. Come learn the latest dances and impress your family and friends!

Thursday, March 30

Cupid Shuffle, Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)

7-8pm

Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio

(Two more classes on 4/27 and 5/25)

Instructor: Jessica Weill

M/\$10 B/\$8 NM/\$12 per class

704-944-6753 • sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Masters Swim Program

Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays • 6–7am

2 classes per week: M/\$40 NM/\$55

Unlimited classes per week: M/\$60 NM/\$75

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3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:30am • Free

For more information or location, contact the

Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at (704) 944-6780

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Beginner Level • Ongoing

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Drop-in fee: M/B/\$12 per class NM/\$14 per class

Painting & Beyond Art Class

Adults 50+

1st, 2nd & 3rd Mondays of the month

10-11:30am • Room A110

Oasis/M/ \$5 per class NM/ \$10 per class

Register with LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

Speak Up!

Learn how to protect yourself from financial scams, Medicare fraud, and domestic abuse!

Friday, March 24
12-1:30pm

The Sam Lerner Center
at Shalom Park

RSVP to Jill Lipson
704-944-6792

jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us you have questions!

Membership

Susan Lerner 704-944-6741
susan.lerner@charlottejcc.org

Early Childhood

Patty Torcellini 704-944-6891
patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org

K-5th Grade Programs

Mitch Ormand 704-944-6733
mitch.ormand@charlottejcc.org

Teen Programs

Jessie Cohen 704-944-6739
jessie.cohen@charlottejcc.org

Adults & Seniors/Oasis

Jill Lipson 704-944-6792
jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Sports

Stephanie Garner 704-944-6743
stephanie.garner@charlottejcc.org

Aquatics / Swim Team

Joshua Steinberger 704-944-6746
joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org

LJCC Tennis / CRUSH

Greg O'Connor 704-944-6748
gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

Visual/Performing Arts

Susan Gundersheim 704-944-6778
susan.gundersheim@charlottejcc.org

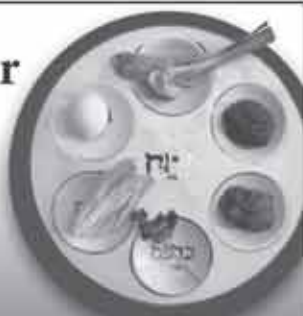
J-Childcare

Amie Gray 704-944-6726
amie.gray@charlottejcc.org

Social Action

Julie Rizzo 704-944-6730
julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

Oasis Senior Passover Seder



ALL SENIORS WELCOME!



This Event Made Possible
& Sponsored By
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A Passover luncheon and a community Seder led by clergy from Temple Beth El and Temple Israel and musical accompaniments by Miss Patty.

Wednesday, April 5 • 12-2pm
Gorelick Hall, Levine JCC

\$5

Space is Limited.

Advance Registration

(w/payment) required by March 30

704-944-6735

sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Exploring Meditation

Adults 21+

Come learn how to calm your mind, cultivate greater presence and compassion, and focus in your daily life. Each hour-long class will focus on a different type of meditation practice technique. Take one class, or take them all, to discover what practice resonates with you.

Tuesdays, 6–7pm

March 7 – Yoga Nidra

Guided body scan meditation practice

April 4 – Metta Meditation

Loving-Kindness meditation practice

M/\$12 B/\$10 NM/\$15 per class

Register online, at the LJCC Customer Service Desk or call 704-366-5007

704-944-6753 or
sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

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* An annual administration fee of \$20 per individual or \$35 per family is required for non-member participation in programs and services.

Reflections on My Child's Year at JPS

By Olga Klibanov

It's hard to believe that in only a few months Leah will be graduating from preschool. As I reflect on her last three years at the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, I am amazed at how much she's grown.

From the first time we walked into JPS for a morning of Mommy and Me, we knew this was the right place for Leah. She was a 14-month-old toddler at the time, shy and full of stranger anxiety. Yet, from the moment we walked into the Mommy and Me classroom, she toddled towards the fun toys, participated in circle time, and danced with the plush Torah. To me, that day, and every day thereafter, JPS felt like home.

When it was time to enroll Leah in a preschool, I scheduled a tour of the school with Dedee Goldsmith, the Director. I don't remember much of what was explained to me that day. One memory, however, stands out. Upon entering the four-year-old classroom, Dedee noticed a child building a structure out of blocks, stating that it was similar to where

his father works. Immediately, Dedee urged the teachers to take a photo of that moment and email it to the boy's parents. That individualized approach to the children is what impressed me the most that day. And it wasn't for "show." There were several times in the last few years that Leah's separa-

tion anxiety resulted in tears at drop off. On those few occasions, Dedee always sensed my anxiety, as I left my child behind. But whereas I would be close to tears for the entire drive to work, Leah's tears never lasted more than a moment. And as soon as I got to work, I'd open an email

from Dedee with a picture of Leah's smiling face, engaged in something fun at school.

When Leah turned 18 months, she officially started at JPS, in the toddler classroom, with Ms. Ellen and Ms. Galia. Right away, big changes could be seen in my little girl. She seemed to become more mature, verbal, and independent every single day.

As she progressed through the 2s with Ms. Jen and Ms. Jennifer, the teachers worked tirelessly with her to transform her into a kind, gentle, and more socially-aware toddler.

The year of the 3s with Ms. Wanda and Ms. Kate instilled a great amount of knowledge in Leah, and she would always tell me something new that she learned at school each day. From making the dinosaur diorama, to learning the Pledge of Allegiance,



Olga and Leah



Learning to write.

Leah soaked up every ounce of information being taught to her at school. Her confidence level grew significantly that year, but there was still some work to be done.

This last year of 4s preschool with Ms. Beverly and Ms. Elizabeth has been an amazing time of growth and development for Leah, to prepare her for Kindergarten and what lies ahead. Recognizing confidence as an area for improvement, Leah's teachers have worked with her each day to make her more comfortable speaking in front of a group and making her opinions heard, if she has something on her mind. At home, she shows off her letter- and number-writing skills, teaches me the names of the 50 U.S. states, and tells amusing stories about her friends at school.

The story of the JPS experience wouldn't be complete without discussing the incredible experience that the children get in their Judaica classes with Morah Jayme. Not only do the children learn about the different Jewish holidays, but a true sense of Jewish pride and identity is instilled in them. Leah's excitement about Judaism and the happiness she feels when she talks about Shabbat and the holidays is infectious. She randomly starts singing Jewish songs in public, and teaches store clerks how to count to 10 in Hebrew. Her love for Judaism has resulted in us making our own new traditions at home, from lighting Shabbat candles on Friday nights, to making challah together, to celebrating the Jewish holidays in our own special ways.

I'm filled with excitement and pride of how far Leah has come. The little toddler that used to cling tightly to my hand at every step is now slowly but surely letting go, in preparation of new and exciting adventures that lie ahead. I'm so thankful and grateful to the teachers and staff at JPS for providing the most nurturing, loving, and happy environment for my child and setting her up for nothing but success in her future endeavors. ☆

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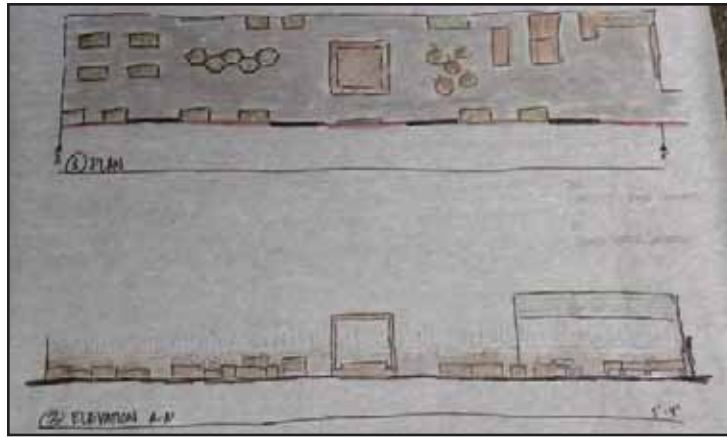
Outdoor Learning Space at CJP

By Brooke Amo

At The Charlotte Jewish Preschool we are working to continually strengthen our religious connections, improve on our practice and explore learning opportunities that are best practice for our children. It is essential to always keep in mind our mission and teach Judaism as the foundation for all of our learning, and not as a special, simply a holiday, or in isolated context. As we make sure that we are teaching through "Jewish lens" we have to challenge ourselves, and look for even more opportunities to organically evolve a Jewish identity within our children.

As some of you may know in the back of The Don and Bobbi Bernstein Education building where CJP and Temple Beth El's religious school reside, there is a desolate concrete open space. This space was once used as a one's and two's playground before The Sandra and Leon Levine Playground was built. Now that we have a beautiful playground for all aged to go to, it was time to look into other outdoor learning opportunities for our children. This year thanks to our Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Impact and Innovation Grant, along with our Annual Fund dollars we are going to begin to build a CJP learning garden (name not yet determined).

A CJP garden will provide a secure and loving environment for our students to explore God's cre-



Bobbie Mabe's sketch of the upcoming changes in the garden.

ations. Students will not only learn about, but will also be active partners with God in growing fruits and vegetables – with and without soil. They will learn healthy eating habits and have increased opportunities for development of physical and social skills.

Furthermore, childhood memories surrounding contact with nature involve a deep sensory imprint of texture, smell, color, sound, and taste. These spaces in nature imply a sense of freedom and serenity in which the natural elements (including the weather) present both complexity and the unexpected. We began with the garden as a place for wonder and the unexpected. As stewards of the earth, working beside their peers and adults, the children in

the garden construct a sustainable future for themselves and their community.

CJP's overarching goals for the garden:

1. Students will learn about Judaism and the natural world around them – this will be achieved continuously through weekly lessons of formal science and Judaic education and informal exposure in the garden.

2. To create an outdoor student-centered learning environment that is enriching, engaging, and facilitates our mission - this will be overseen by Bobbie Mabe as she works with our designer and constructor in building the garden.

3. Students will learn science concepts - this will be achieved in conjunction with learning about Judaism, as we have intertwined

both concepts in our curriculum.

4. Furthermore, one of our goals is to instill a love for the environment in our students and to encourage their continued participation in other gardens located around Shalom Park. By starting our students early with their love of and participation in nurturing the environment we aim to encourage increased participation in Tikkun Olam and Ba'al Tashcheet at Shalom Park and in any community through the course of their lives.

Bobbie Mabe joined our CJP team of highly-qualified educators as the Science teacher this year. Not only has she demonstrated her love of teaching as well as horticulture, but has developed the vision for this garden. Some of the items you can expect to see in our garden beginning mid-February are: more box gardens, child-size picnic tables, root view gardens, sensory garden, waterfall tables, bean teepee, a learning stage, a storage shed, pollinator gardens and much more. Please see Bobbie's rough sketch herein.

It is through the CJP garden that we will be able to concretize the link between Judaism and science for our students. The garden will act as a spiraling curriculum as students as young as 12 months and all the way through our Pre-K program will be learning something new and more complex each time they attend science class.

Moreover, our Jewish holiday's

observances will be enhanced by a CJP garden – our bean tent will be a perfect sukkah for the students to dwell inside, and students will have an opportunity to pick fruit that they have grown for a *shalach manot* basket at Purim. While working together to learn the joy of these various Jewish traditions, students will connect meaningfully with each other and our Shalom Park community.

As you can see and hear we are very excited to share this news with the community. In the near future we will be looking for ways to get the children, parents, teachers and any community members involved with creating, personalizing, and sustaining this great learning opportunity for our children. ☆



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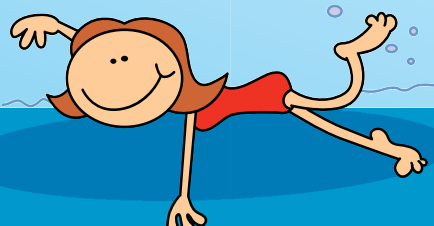
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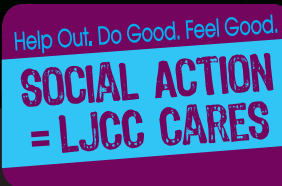
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Jewish Family Services



New Year and a New View from the Board Room Table

Jewish Family Services couldn't do what we do without our donors and volunteers; that is particularly true of our Board of Directors. The JFS Board is comprised of some of our most dedicated volunteers and leaders. We are excited to introduce our three newest Board Members: Maggie Fogel, Brooks Jaffa, and Barbara Rein.

Maggie Fogel is relatively new to Charlotte, arriving to town with her family two years ago. They integrated themselves into Charlotte and the Jewish community so quickly, it's as though they have always belonged on Shalom Park. Along with her enthusiasm, Maggie brings a depth of knowledge to JFS as a professional licensed therapist.

Barbara Rein brings many years of nonprofit experience, both professionally and as a Board member. She comes with a background in fundraising, program management, and community outreach. Barbara is very involved in the community also serving on the Board for the Lakewood Pre-School and Union County Library Council. Barbara also brings representation from Union County to

the JFS Board.

Brooks Jaffa is a Charlotte native and comes from a long lineage of family involvement in the Jewish community. Brooks is an attorney with Cranford, Buckley, Schultze, Tomchin, Allen & Buie, P.A. He previously clerked with District Court Judge, Frank Whitney and currently volunteers with the North Carolina Bar Association. Brooks' father and grandfather have both served on the JFS Board making him a 3rd generation JFS Board member.

Maggie, Barbara, and Brooks join JFS returning Board members:

Harry Sparks, President
Jennifer Collman, Past President
Jan Weiner, Vice President
Gary Lerner, Treasurer
Louis Sinkoe, Secretary
Shannon Crystal, Jennifer Golynsky, Brooks Jaffa, Eric Lerner, Matt Luftglass, Allan Oxman, Sara Stinemetz, Liz Wahls, Dori Whitman

Thank you to all of our Board members for their commitment to ensuring that JFS continues to meet the critical needs of our community.★

Donations to Jewish Family Services in January 2017

Jewish Family Services received the following donations for Tribute Cards in January 2017. Thank you for allowing JFS to honor your friends and loved ones.

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Clara Feldman to Linda F. Bressler from Mark and Harriet Perlin

Florence Wasserman to Ivan Cooper from Bob and Leigh Jacobson

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Golda Schwartz to Eileen Schwartz from Donald and Sheryl Effren

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Murray Stephen Horwitz to Andy and Christy Horwitz from Stephanie and Jon Simon

Patty Gorelick to Bill Gorelick and family from Gerson and Wilma Asrael, Jill Blumenthal, Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Eric and Susan Lerner, Mark and Harriet Perlin, Carl and Marsha Scheer, Jonathan and Stephanie Simon, Michael and Judie Van Glish

Phil Widis to the Widis family from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Eric and Susan Lerner, Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Gary and Maxine Silverstein, Jonathan and Stephanie Simon

Robert Sterling to Ella Sterling from Bob and Leigh Jacobson

Saul Gordon to Bernie and Susan Sandler from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Gary and Maxine Silverstein

Your father to Ira Greenfield from Burt and Donna Greenspon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Carl Scheer from Robert and Linda Isser

Gabriel Gorelick from Carol Gorelick

Lillian Buller from Dorothy K. Schulman

Mike and Judie Van Glish from James Byrne, Eric and Susan Lerner, Mark and Harriet Perlin,

Dale and Larry Polsky, Carl and Marsha Scheer, Leonard and Judi Strause

Toby Spitzer from Lillian Buller

IN HONOR OF

Jennifer Collman's JFS leadership, from Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble

Lynn Edelstein and her "Army of knitting volunteers" from Leonard and Karen Fox

Rabbi Dusty Klass from Sue Stark

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Mike and Judie Van Glish from James Byrne, Eric and Susan Lerner, Mark and Harriet Perlin, Dale and Larry Polsky, Carl and Marsha Scheer, Leonard and Judi Strause

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Sandy Hirschman from Leonard and Karen Fox★

Upcoming Events

Registration is open for our 7th Annual Friends Run on May 14.

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www.FriendsRun.com.



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Community News

Chabad Young Professionals and Chai Expectations Present



Dress to impress as you step into an era of glam and glitz for an unforgettable Roaring 20s Purim party for young Jewish professionals (20s and 30s).

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*Premium Open Bar *Megillah Reading *Chocolate Fountain
*Hamentaschen and Dessert Bar *Photo Booth * Music

Thanks to our hosting committee: Dani Goldberg, Robby Klasfeld, Matt Lepow, Allie Michel, Melissa Reman, Ari Rubin, Alexander Shporer, Erica Soble, Becca Wolchok, Beth Zaleon

Saturday, March 11, 9 PM-midnight, C3 Lab, 2525 Distribution St., Charlotte.

JFS January Volunteers and Donors

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Food Pantry Donations: Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants, Ms. Nadine's CJP Class, CJDS' Second Grade Class, Joan Gordon, David and Myka Cygielman, Gail Baron, Alison Lerner, Dana Ditesheim, Suzy Catenazzo, Temple Israel Sisterhood, Temple Israel YGH day participants, Ron and Melissa Zhiss, and Tov M'od Havurot

Special Recognition: Gary Lerner, Meg Goldstein, Kim Gossage, and Grayson Sheppard

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JCC Charlotte

Paul Jacobs Celebrates 30 Years with Shalom Park

When people drive down Shalom Park Drive and enter the campus, they are always struck by the incredible facilities of Shalom Park. While part of a team, Paul Jacobs, Facility Manager, has been putting his imprint on that first impression for the last 30 years. Paul is admired by campus institutions for his tireless energy, commitment to excellence, maintenance skills, and extensive management experience.

After 30 years on the job, Paul is a veritable fixture at the Park. But it wasn't always that way. Paul was working in facilities maintenance at Jacaranda Country Club in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Over the years, he went to night school to become certified in heating and air (HVAC), and earned his electrical journeyman card. Paul and his wife, Janet, decided they did

not want to raise their family in south Florida. After having spent their honeymoon in the North Carolina mountains, they decided to move to Charlotte to raise their family. Barry Handman, past CEO of both the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Charlotte and Foundation of Shalom Park (FSP), called Paul at 3:30 PM on Christmas Eve to invite him to Shalom Park for an interview. Butch Rosen, then on the FSP Board, and Bill Gorelick interviewed him in person the next month. Paul said, "Give me six months, and I'll have this place in shape." Every few years after that, Paul would call up Butch and just say, "I'm still here ..."

Paul and Janet have three children, Kevin, Brian, and Lorraine. While it was not part of a grand plan, Brian Jacobs is also part of

the Foundation of Shalom Park maintenance team. When Paul and Janet's son, Brian, was in high school, he started working part-time on campus in housekeeping. Brian pursued a degree in horticulture and continued working at Shalom Park under Hoke White in grounds keeping. Brian took a brief hiatus while he worked at an electrical supply company, but after a year or so, Brian was back at Shalom Park, where he now heads the grounds keeping team.

Paul Jacobs is responsible for housekeeping, grounds keeping, and facilities maintenance. "Each day is always different," Paul shares. "I get up early and love coming to work every day."

90% of the Park's repairs are done in-house. "Our approach helps control costs," Paul says. "We have an experienced staff that is very flexible. Our skills complement each other's." With the facilities management software, Facility Dude (purchased in 2014), Shalom Park partner institutions can enter a Work Order anywhere on campus. FSP maintenance can track hours, labor, and parts on orders, schedule work and estimate completion dates. Paul proudly shares, "We complete 77% of our Work Orders in seven days or less, which is above the national peer average."

Over the years, Paul has seen a lot of changes. Before Phase II of Shalom Park was built in the early 2000s, Paul's team had to switch out furniture from the religious

school to the preschool three days per week. Camp Mindy was built 17 years ago, then the "new" Howard R. Levine gymnasium and the David Silverman Fitness Center were constructed 15 years ago, followed by the Bubble Pool and the Barbara L. Levine Parking Pavilion. But even now, there's never a shortage of tasks to do. Over the winter months, the Foundation of Shalom Park maintenance team changed out 6000 lightbulbs in exchange for more efficient varieties. With Duke Energy rebates and improved energy efficiency bulbs, the swap will

save the Park over 40% on its lighting costs.

The Foundation of Shalom Park maintenance team has employees that stay over 300% longer than the national average. Housekeepers usually stay at an organization less than five years. Kevin Sobota, a Foundation of Shalom Park steward in housekeeping, has been clocking in at Shalom Park for more than 25 years.

"I continue to be impressed by the loyalty and integrity of the team," says Paul. "It's a trustworthy group that enjoys working together. It's like family." ☆

Need Money for School for the 2017-18 Academic Year?

Apply for a JELF Interest-Free Loan for Higher Education Beginning March 1.

Applications for interest-free loans for higher education (college, graduate school, and vocational programs) are available to Jewish students in your area for the 2017-2018 school year from JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund).

From March 1–April 30 (and from September 1–September 30), the loan application is available on JELF's website at jelf.org.

JELF loans are need-based and offer "last-dollar" financing, meaning that JELF provides the

final dollars that bridge the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school.

To qualify, applicants must be:

- * Enrolled full time in a program leading to a degree or certificate at an accredited U.S. institution

- * A U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status

- * Able to demonstrate financial need (2017 FAFSA application required).

For more information, contact application@jelf.org or visit jelf.org. ☆



Paul Jacobs, 1987



Paul Jacobs, 2017



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Moishe House Events for March

Moishe House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community among Jewish young adults in their twenties and early thirties. Moishe House looks to fill the void that often exists after graduating college and prior to settling down. The organization brings together groups of three to five Jewish adults who live together and plan local programs, both home-based and external, for other young Jewish adults. There are currently 93 Moishe Houses in 22 countries around the world.

Moishe House Charlotte began in August 2013 and since then has hosted 130+ events ranging from service projects to social events to Jewish learning and more. We are always happy to see new and returning faces, so be sure to join us. We are pleased to share with you our exciting events for this March:

Event 1: Family Feud Night! - Thursday, March 2 at 7 PM at Moishe House

Ever wanted to be a contestant on the Family Feud? Now here's your chance! Join Moishe House as we battle it out game show style. Your celebrity guest host for the night will be Ariel "Steve Harvey" Samsell. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com or private message the "Moishe House Charlotte" facebook group for the address.

Event 2: Party of Five with Torah on Tap - Saturday, March 18

Join Torah On Tap and the

Moishe House as we put together groups of five to meet for dinner at various restaurants. It's a fun way to get to know each other. Following dinner, all parties of five will gather for an after-party at Whiskey River. Participants can request to be grouped with friends or to go as a couple, however the goal is to meet new people. Torah On Tap will select the restaurants (located in the EpiCenter and Uptown area). Participants pay for their own meals. RSVP to Jason at jmlecker@aol.com by Wednesday, March 15.

Event 3: Audrey Singer Send-Off Happy Hour - Tuesday, March 21 at 7 PM at Legion Brewing, 1906 Commonwealth Ave.

One of the Moishe House Charlotte co-founders, Audrey Singer, will be moving away from Charlotte sometime in April. To properly send her off to her new city, we will be hosting a happy hour at Legion Brewing. Come enjoy some adult beverages with friends and say thanks to Audrey for all that she has done for the Charlotte Jewish community and Moishe House.

Event 4: Shabbat Potluck - Friday, March 24 at 7 PM at Moishe House

Shabbat is always fun at Moishe House. Come join us for a night of candles, food, and friends as we welcome Shabbat. Please bring yourself as well as a dish to pass. Please

email mohocharlotte@gmail.com or private message the "Moishe House Charlotte" facebook group for the address.

Event 5: 10 Ways to Visit Israel - Monday, March 27 at 7 PM at Moishe House

Do you want to visit Israel? Potentially for free? If so, Inbal Ozeri, the Charlotte Schlicha, will be outlining various opportunities for young adults to visit Israel. If you have already been on Birthright, this event is still for you. Inbal will be reviewing all options for trips to Israel. If you have not been on Birthright, then this event is absolutely for you as the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte will be hosting a Birthright trip in June 2017. Israeli-themed snacks (hummus) and other snacks will be provided. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com or private message the "Moishe House Charlotte" Facebook group for the address.

To learn more about Moishe House Charlotte, visit us at www.moishehousecharlotte.org/houses/charlotte or check us out on facebook: www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte. To contact us, please e-mail mohocharlotte@gmail.com. ✪



Duo Dmitri in Free Concert at Shalom Park

The Network of Independent Communities of The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) will be having their annual leadership conference in Charlotte this year, March 4 (evening) and March 5. The Network, a vital part of JFNA, consists of 300 smaller communities throughout the U.S. and raises millions of dollars each year for needs within those communities and for allocations overseas to The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

A special concert is open to the Jewish community at no charge before the meeting. This wonderful free concert features Duo Dmitri on Saturday evening, March 4, 8PM, at Shalom Park, Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts.

Duo Dmitri has performed in communities throughout the U.S. Some of the Network communities include Greenville (SC), Huntsville, Macon, Lynchburg, Oak Ridge, Athens, Jackson (MS) and Columbus (GA). They have also played to many larger federated communities.

Natives of Moscow (Russia), Luba Agranovsky and Dmiri Kasyuk are graduates of the Gnessin Academy of Music in Moscow and the winners of numerous Russian piano and flute competitions. They moved to Jerusalem in 1990 with their very



Duo Dmitri

young daughter with the assistance of the Jewish Agency.

Since winning both the Israel Broadcast Authority Competition (Jerusalem) and the "Carlo Soliva" International Chamber Music Competition in Casale Monferrato (Italy), their International career took off.

The Duo has made numerous recordings for Israel Radio, Israel TV, and also has made highly successful appearances with Israeli Orchestras as flute and piano soloists. During the last ten years they have been performing regularly as a Duo and Solo performers in music centers throughout Germany, Italy, England, Scotland, Russia, Israel, USA, and Canada.

Ms. Agranovsky and Mr. Kasyuk came to USA in 1997, where they continue their education and musical careers including Ms. Agranovsky's appearances with Philadelphia Orchestra Chamber Music Series (1998-

(Continued on page 22)



J

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Duo Dmitri Concert

(Continued from page 21)

1999, 1999-2000) and Mr. Kasyuk performances as a Principal flutist in Spoleto Festival, Italy (1998, 1999). In addition Duo has given more than 200 recitals throughout the US. Dmitri and Luba tell their poignant and touching story, interwoven with their beautiful music. Their long awaited CD entitled "Timeless Classics" is now available and a must for all music lovers.

Please join us on March 4 at 8 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. ☆

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Send cover letter and resume to:
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The "Godfather" of the Hebrew Cemetery

By Mike Littauer, President, Hebrew Cemetery Association of Greater Charlotte

Hilbert Fuerstman 1921-2016

If James Brown was the "Godfather of Soul," then Hilbert Fuerstman was the "Godfather of the Hebrew Cemetery." Hilbert's famous cemetery tours and interviews led people on historical journeys through Jewish Charlotte by evoking tales of Charlotte's earliest Jews - from civil war veterans, merchants, builders, tailors, peddlers, bankers ... in the way that only he could. Hilbert could look at a headstone and tell you the history of that family, where they came from, what they did, who they married, what business they were in, who their children were, and on and on and on. He could speak of their contributions to Charlotte life and how they lived their lives. The Hebrew Cemetery was his storybook, his diary, his song book. Hilbert was passionate about the cemetery not only because it is hallowed and sacred ground, but because it is where we respect and honor those we've lost.

We lost Hilbert last year but his passion and love for our cemetery and its history lives on. It is my privilege and pleasure to announce the formation of the Hilbert Fuerstman Historical Chair as a permanent seat on our board of directors and past ceme-

tery President Brian Yesowitch has agreed to serve as our first HFHC.

Brian will continue to document the history of the cemetery and the influence and effect those buried there have had on our community. Brian will develop more formal processes that will allow other agencies access to cemetery history and to ensure the cemetery archives will always be available to our community. Our new cemetery management software will allow access to that history online. We're excited to have Brian's focus on this exciting and important process.

I know writing forward can be dangerous but I'm going to take my shot. By the time this issue is published we will have completed our annual Tu BiShvat celebration and tree planting at the cemetery on February 12. At the time of this writing we have a record 90 volunteers helping us partner with TreesCharlotte to plant an additional 45 trees in our cemetery. It's a "win-win" as we continue to enhance the beauty of our grounds and replenish some of Charlotte's tree canopy lost to development. This is always a special event for the cemetery and its volunteers. It is particularly exciting to see the children return to the cemetery and point to the trees they planted with pride. Thank you to all our community volunteers, participat-



Hilbert Fuerstman

ing clergy, TreesCharlotte and our board of directors. A special shout-out to Brian Yesowitch, Sandra Goldman, Robert Taylor, and TreesCharlotte for spearheading this event.

More information coming about the 150 Year celebration of the Hebrew Cemetery of Greater Charlotte. To learn how you can participate call Sandra Goldman at the cemetery office. ☆



Chag Purim Sameach

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- Shalom Park Location



A PURIM CELEBRATION with TEMPLE BETH EL Saturday, March 11, 7:00pm

Location: Temple Israel



Members of both Temple Israel and Temple Beth El are invited to join together for a special "Peace, Love and Rock & Roll" Purim celebration at Temple Israel! Our evening begins with Havdallah, led by **DAN NICHOLS**, one of the leading voices of today's Jewish music scene! The evening continues with a Purim schpiel, and an abbreviated megillah reading, followed by a special concert performance by **DAN NICHOLS**. Afterwards, there will be a dessert reception in the Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall.



ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

JAVA 'N JEANS

Saturday, March 4, 10:00am

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Java 'N Jeans meets on the 1st Shabbat morning of the month, when you can delve into and discuss the true meaning and purpose of prayer over coffee, while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.



TORAH TOTS

Friday, March 10, 5:45pm & Saturday, March 25, 10:00am

Our high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers typically takes place twice a month. Join us as we welcome in Shabbat

with songs, Torah parades, movement, and stories or puppetry. A healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack is served after each program. This month will include Purim and Passover activities.

KAVANAH

Saturday, March 18, 10:00am

Our Kavanah service meets on the 3rd Shabbat of the month, and combines meditation, reflection, joyous chanting and singing accompanied by musical instruments, to renew our spirits and connect us to the deeper spiritual meaning of Shabbat.

YOUTH

MAHAR - CHOCOLATE SEDER!

(All 3rd-5th graders)

Sunday, March 19, 12:15-2:30pm

(Location: TI Religious School)

Back by popular demand! Chocolate, chocolate... EVERYWHERE! Join your friends for an afternoon of retelling the Passover story with a chocolatey twist! Drop-off and pick-up at TIRS. Cost: \$10/ Members; \$15/Non-Members. RSVP to Ariel at adidonato@templeisraelinc.org by Wednesday, March 15.

SOCIAL CLUB

Theatre Charlotte's "A Raisin in the Sun"

Sunday, March 26, 2:30pm

The Social Club will be going to Theatre Charlotte to see "A Raisin in the Sun". This landmark drama, hailed by the NY Times as "the play that changed American theatre forever," examines African-American life on the cusp of the civil rights era. Our group price will be \$23 each for a minimum of 10 persons. Join us for this matinee show, followed by dinner at Mama Ricotta's. See TI website calendar for more detail. Questions? Contact Ruth Goldberg (704) 366-8903.

SOCIAL ACTION

Room in the Inn - Shalom Park

Each weekend in March

Room in the Inn provides food and shelter to homeless individuals during the winter months. This program, coordinated by the Urban Ministry Center, is a partnership between Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, and the Levine Jewish Community Center, and has been restructured this year to enable individuals from more than one partner to volunteer together. To volunteer, visit <http://bit.ly/2hMDYlc>



OUR UPCOMING SPECIAL SHABBATS EDUCATORS SHABBAT WEEKEND

Friday, March 10, 7:00pm

(Location: Temple Beth El)

Saturday, March 11,

9:30am

(Location: Temple Israel) Please join us on Friday evening (with a 6:15pm preneg) as Temple Israel

and Temple Beth El celebrate together, and with the entire community, to honor Roz Cooper for her years of dedication and service as our Director of our Consolidated Hebrew High School program. The celebration continues on Saturday morning at Temple Israel as we celebrate all our Jewish educators for a very special Shabbat. A delicious Kiddush will follow.

MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT

Saturday, March 25, 9:30am

Members of Men's Club will lead us in morning Shabbat services. A lovely Kiddush will follow.

YOUNG ADULTS

PARTY OF 5! SATURDAY, MARCH 18,

7:30PM - DINNER (Locations: Various)

9:00PM - GROUPS GATHER @ WHISKEY RIVER

New to Charlotte? Looking to make some new friends? Look for something fun and different to do on a Saturday night? Join Torah On Tap on as we put together groups of five to meet for dinner at various restaurants. It's a fun way to get to know each other. Following dinner, all Parties of 5 will gather for an after-party at Whiskey River. Participants can request to be grouped with friends or to go as a couple, however the goal is to meet new people. Torah On Tap will select the restaurants (located in the EpiCenter and Uptown area). Participants pay for their own meals. RSVP to Jason at jmlecker@aol.com by Wednesday, March 15.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CANTOR & FRIENDS

Sunday, March 19, 4:00pm

(Location: Temple Israel)

Music Lovers in Europe had a wonderful custom: in France it was called a "Soiree Musicale" and in Germany & Austria, a "Liederabend" (evening of song). In the spirit of this custom, we hope you will join us on March 19 for a very special program of "GREAT SONGS! ALL KINDS!" when Cantor Roachvarg, accompanied by Monty Bennett, will deliver a smorgasbord of songs for your listening and sing-along pleasure!

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB

Monday, March 27, 7:30pm

(Location: Temple Israel)

Join us as we discuss *The Two Family House* by Lynda Cohen Loigman, which the Associated Press gives 4.5 stars and notes, "It's hard to believe that *The Two Family House* is Lynda Cohen Loigman's debut novel. A richly textured, complex, yet entirely believable story, it draws us inexorably into the lives of two brothers and their families in 1950's Brooklyn, NY.....engrossing from beginning to end." Everyone is welcome to attend - even if you haven't read the book. For additional information contact Linda Levy, 704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com.

SISTERHOOD

TI Sisterhood Presents: BINGO WITH BUNNY

Sunday, April 2, 1:00pm

(Location: Temple Israel)

Don't miss this fun-filled activity for the whole family! Cost: \$5.00/person- cash or check (payable to Temple Israel Sisterhood) AND gift(s) from your re-gift closet. Snacks and Beverage included. RSVP to Bunny Bramson (bunnybramson@carolina.rr.com or 704-341-8322) by Sunday, March 19.



GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Sunday

9:00am - 12:30pm

Tuesday - Thursday

10:00am - 1:00pm

Friday 11:00am to

1:00pm

Stop by to see this our gift selections, including cards, jewelry, and an assortment of fun Judaic gifts - for all ages!

Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Cindy Jennes (704-443-7643) to make an appointment.

SALE - All Passover items* are currently on sale (20% off) until Friday, April 7.

*Excluding Haggadat

Pictured (below) Temple Israel's 120th Finale Celebration Weekend, January 7, 2017: 1) Barbara and Jerry Levin received the Shofar Award for their decades of sustained commitment to Temple Israel (pictured with their children, Binyamin Levin, Susan Schwaber, Nancy Kipnis and Linda Goldsmith); 2) Temple Israel Heroes honored for their Commitment to Education, pictured with Rabbi Ezring, Debby Block, Tracy Brown, Peggy Gartner, and Wendy Petricoff); 3) The Sheffer-Levinson families enjoy dinner together at the 120th Finale; 4) Temple Israel Heroes honored for their commitment to Temple Israel and Broader Community (pictured with Rabbi Ezring, Alan Goldberg, Harry Swimmer and Bill Gorelick, not pictured, Leon Levine.)





Mazel Tov & Congratulations



Barry Bobrow to Be Honored at 40th Annual Financial Industries Dinner *National Jewish Health is Beneficiary*

New York – More than 700 business leaders will gather for the 40th Annual Financial Industries Dinner on Thursday, March 16 in New York. Proceeds from the event will benefit National Jewish Health, the nation's leading respiratory hospital. The dinner will honor Barry L. Bobrow, Managing Director and Head of Loan Sales and Syndications for Wells Fargo Capital Finance, with the institution's Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant civic and charitable contributions and are leaders in their communities and industry.

The dinner is one of the most prestigious philanthropic events for New York's financial industries and raises funds to support the research and treatment of respiratory, cardiac, immune, and related diseases at National Jewish Health. The evening will feature a cocktail reception, dinner and live music. It also offers networking and fellowship opportunities.

Barry was "thrilled to be honored by this prestigious institution and its great cause."

While National Jewish Health is the leading respiratory hospital in the nation, it is not well known



Barry Bobrow

by many outside the health care industry. Those who know it well appear to be those who need its services. In fact, in an unusual coincidence, Barry discovered an old friend who was familiar with National Jewish Health.

"I contacted an old friend from Detroit regarding the Financial Industries Dinner and he remarked that he had been a patient at National Jewish Health," he said. "I was a little surprised as I remembered him as a competitive tennis player. But before he played tennis, he had severe asthma. It was NJH that regulated his respiratory issues so that he could lead an active life."

Other happy connections were discovered when another friend of

Bobrow's mentioned that his grandmother had been a National Trustee of NJH.

Barry and his wife, Karen Knoble, were able to take a tour of the facility in Colorado and were duly impressed with the patient centered holistic care, the research, and the school on site. "There are 70-80 children there at any time. With some children suffering respiratory conditions so severe that they are unable to attend school, the organization has established an on-premises school." Some of the funds raised at the March 16 event will go to maintaining the school.

All told, this event honoring Bobrow has raised over \$600,000 for National Jewish Health.

Founded 118 years ago as a nonprofit hospital, National Jewish Health today is the only facility in the world dedicated exclusively to groundbreaking medical research and treatment of patients with respiratory, cardiac, immune, and related disorders. Patients and families come to National Jewish Health from around the world to receive cutting-edge, comprehensive, coordinated care. To learn more, visit www.njhealth.org. ☆

Laurie Berzack Nominated for "Best Matchmaker"

Miami, FL- Carolinas Matchmaker, and owner of Chai Expectations, Laurie Berzack was among five finalists in the world for Best Matchmaker in the industry at the 47th annual iDate Conference. Berzack joined finalists from Ukraine, Washington, DC, and the world-wide matchmaking site "It's Just Lunch" as top vote getters. The British firm "Drawing Down the Moon" took home the top matchmaker award.

"I'm proud to represent the Carolinas on this international platform," said Berzack. "Being voted one of the top five best by industry experts and clients is beyond expectations when I started this career more than a decade ago."

Leaders also asked Berzack to present during the conference based on her expertise as a "boutique" matchmaking firm which only works with a small number of clients but charges more than most agencies. For more than 11 years, Berzack has operated Chai Expectations, which specializes in Jewish matchmaking services and

Carolinas Matchmaker which works with people of other faiths. "There is always a question of how much to charge for matchmaking and relationship services. The adage 'You can't put a price on love' is true, until you have to put a price on it," Berzack said. "I've built my value through four out of five people I work with finding love. In any business, experience and success correlate with higher fees and value."

Recently, Berzack trademarked Philanthrodating™, a concept pairing young professional mixers with philanthropy. Her last event raised more than \$4,500 for three local charities. Berzack aims to hold more Philanthrodating™ events to benefit other organizations.

About Carolinas Matchmaker

Laurie Berzack, Carolinas Matchmaker, launched her first matchmaking business in 2006 and offers more than just a match-making service. Considered a relationship expert, she is regularly featured in local and national media. ☆



Laurie Berzack

B"H



Joshua Gerrard, Freshman
Berklee College of Music

CJDS pointed me
in the
Right direction!



I attended Charlotte Jewish Day School from kindergarten through the fifth grade and graduated in 2009. On of the things I remember from my earliest years

at CJDS, maybe first or second grade, was when I performed a little violin piece in front of my class. It might have been my first ever performance. I remember how nervous I was, but the positive reaction from my classmates and teacher made me feel like my practice and playing was validated. It inspired me to keep playing and moving forward with music.

After CJDS I attended Northwest School of the Arts for middle and high

school, and became interested in playing violin at an elevated level. For college, I explored and auditioned with the Oberlin Conservatory, Furman University, and most notably, Berklee College of Music in Boston for the jazz violin program. I also had the option to stay on at UNC School of the Arts, where my violin teacher indicated that he would like me to continue studying with him. In addition to violin, I also play mandolin and recently started teaching myself guitar.

In my last year in high school, I became very interested in jazz and folk improvisation, which is somewhat unique for a violinist. While I still love classical music and plan on continuing my traditional violin approach, it is exciting to explore other styles.

At UNCSCA, I've had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who also share my passion for the arts. Coincidentally, my roommate is originally from Israel. One of the things I learned during my years at CJDS was to know myself and be proud of my Jewish identity. For the first time, this year I was away from my family during Hanukkah. I decided to organize a group of friends (some Jewish, some not) to make latkes in our dorm kitchen. It was a really fun way to celebrate the holiday and teach some friends about Hanukkah traditions. As I look forward to the next phase of my life, I realize that CJDS played an important role in defining who I am today.

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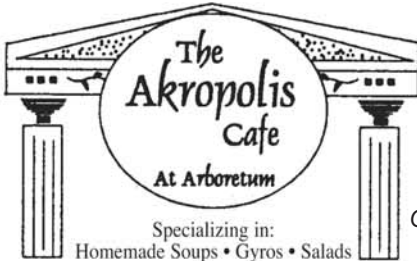
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Purim Invites All Jews to Write Their Own Stories



Arnold M. Eisen

By Arnold M. Eisen and Bradley Shavit Artson

(JTA) - This week's Purim holiday offers a good opportunity to reflect upon the challenges confronting Judaism in North America — a Diaspora, like ancient Shushan, where Jews enjoy enormous influence and achievement in a multicultural society but where Jewish well-being seems far from secure.

The threat in our time comes not from anti-Semitism like that of the wicked Haman, but from assimilation to a society where every door is open to Jews. The best way to meet that challenge lies in engaging the world rather than walling ourselves off from it; stirring heart, mind and spirit with experiences of welcoming community and transcendent meaning. The mix of joy and profundity Jews experience at Purim offers an excellent example of the way to guarantee the Jewish future in an open, diverse culture. The holiday's message is a far cry from the positions taken by some de-

fenders (and opponents) of faith in 21st century America, whose rhetoric of doom, exclusivism, and intolerance must not be permitted to carry the day.

Consider the messages emanating from the extremes. In one corner we hear a loud chorus claiming that fidelity to Judaism (or to whatever religion they espouse) demands unbending opposition to the finest insights and noblest commitments of the contemporary world. They argue that they and only they have true religion; that faith allows no room for scientific inquiry, holds no respect for contemporary culture, grants no acceptance of women's equality, environmental concern, LGBTQ dignity, special needs inclusion, racial justice, or interfaith conversation. The list goes on and on.

At the other extreme, equally strident voices exult in the death of religion, which they claim is just around the corner, and the consequent irrelevance of Judaism. They seize on examples of religious foolishness or barbarity — never hard to find in the long history of faith — to argue that all religion is destructive.

Both extremes do harm to individuals and society alike. They threaten the credibility of religion, long one of humanity's major points of access to wisdom, compassion, and the universal capacity to be self-surpassing. And they arguably risk particular harm to Judaism. The militant atheists and fundamentalists alike reject the path of faithfulness that Jews have walked for over two millennia and



Bradley Shavit Artson

are privileged to walk still. That path is about integration of self and community, about embracing wisdom regardless of its source, about the value of a conversation between skepticism and openness, realism and possibility, the insights of the past and the challenges of now.

Purim falls this year amid a presidential election season that has upended long-held assumptions and shone a spotlight on widespread discontent. This campaign has challenged the durability of the inequities that plague America — a good thing — but unleashed forces of intolerance, vulgarity and hatred that are utterly at odds with Judaism.

Let us all proclaim loud and clear through our actions as well as our speech that religion is not a zero-sum game. No one "winner" possesses a monopoly on truth; that model of faith is abhorrent in today's world. The world's wisdom traditions are not mutually exclusive possessors of meaning and truth, but rather are comple-

mentary chords: sometimes dissonant, sometimes harmonious, each of them contributing to a symphony that is grander than any of its components.

The Purim story is noteworthy among books of the Bible for not once mentioning God explicitly — another way in which it speaks directly to contemporary audiences, many of whom have trouble with traditional theologies. If you do not act to save your people, Mordechai tells Esther, help will come to the Jews from "some other place."

Judaism has long talked about the divine in multiple ways, always emphasizing the One who undergirds the cosmos and invites us into partnership. Human beings are called to be co-creators in the ongoing work of establishing a world of ever-increasing justice, wonder, and compassion.

Our prophets and sages recognized that none of us can claim to fully understand the Holy One.

Our tradition's many names for God (including "The Place") testify that not one of them, not even all of them together, is suffice to describe divinity.

The two of us glory in that plenitude. We are thankful that Judaism has room in it for theological differences and prizes both questioning and quest. Jewish law, or halachah, rightly understood is supple and resilient, weaving new insights or information into a resplendent fabric of sacred deeds across time. Jewish ethics have long confronted issues of the day with confidence that our sacred texts offer guidance to every gen-

eration.

We write as proud Conservative/Masorti Jews, part of a worldwide community — about a million strong — who find succor, courage and inspiration in the path that we have described.

That path, we know from experience, nurtures resilient spirits, and caring communities. It elicits high standards of personal ethics and time and again has sparked a burning passion for social justice. In our day, it has powered the remarkable rebirth of the State of Israel and challenges Israel to live up to its enormous potential. We thank God for this religious tradition that joins a robust call to responsibility and discipline with intellectual curiosity, emotional depth, and engagement with the world.

Judaism reminds us daily that God summons us to seek wholeness in ourselves and our society.

In its name, and particularly in the name of Conservative/Masorti Judaism, we warmly welcome all seekers to join our communities of purpose. Heeding the call of the Purim story, let's work together, share one with another, attend together to the needs of the poor — and so make our world — far more a place of "feast and gladness."

(Arnold M. Eisen is chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary. Bradley Shavit Artson holds the Abner and Roslyn Goldstine Dean's Chair of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University.)

The Masks We Wear on Purim — and on Facebook

By Cindy Sher

Chicago (JUF News via JTA) — Like so many other Jewish little girls on Purim, both my big sister and I would dress up for our annual Purim carnival as Queen Esther. The morning of the carnival, my mom would array us in regal dresses, bright red lipstick and a homemade crown or sparkly tiara bought for this very occasion — and only this occasion — so as to raise grounded daughters the rest of the year.

And in households down the street, the Jewish boys I knew would dress as the male hero of Purim: Mordechai.

Our costumes were a fun way to reinforce the attributes of these Jewish heroes who were brave and stood up for what's right.

But then, after a couple hours at the carnival, we'd reach our Purim fill. The combs at the ends of the tiara would start to scratch the backs of our ears, the lipstick would smear on girls too young to pull off crimson red, our bellies would ache from cotton candy and hamantaschen overload. At that



Cindy Sher

point we'd go home, take off our royal dresses and return to our comfy play clothes — still brave girls, minus the fancy costumes. And being ourselves, it turned out, was pretty nice, too.

Thirty years later, my generation of Queen Esthers and Mordechais are all grown up, but we're still working on taking off our masks.

For most people, learning to be comfortable in our own skin, becoming our authentic selves, is a lifelong work in progress.

In some ways, the media today — particularly social media —

has made it all the easier to don a mask. On Facebook, for instance, we package ourselves exactly the way we want the public to see us — as the shiniest, happiest-looking versions of ourselves. As we scroll through our News

Feeds showing our friends' adorable babies and dogs (or better yet, the baby posed with the family dog), brides and grooms so perfect they might as well perch themselves on top of a wedding cake and pictures of us sipping pina coladas on the beach, things look fantastic.

Yet, that's just the thing — those pictures are fantasy. As someone once told me, "I wish I was having as much fun in real life as I am on Facebook." Because, get real. No one's that happy all the time.

But it's not all fake. Despite the virtual masks we sometimes wear, society can be an easier place to be real and open than it used to be — if we choose to.

As the world grows smaller, we're revealing ourselves and relating to one another in ways that often make us feel less alone. In this age of sharing (and oversharing), some of us are shedding light on the parts of us that aren't so shiny and happy all the time. In the world's biggest group therapy session, we're electronically sharing our emotional, mental and physical struggles with one another. We're bonding over our

shared human experiences of love, loss, failure, success, spiritual growth, and purpose. We're more likely to admit that life isn't just sunshine and rainbows — and that makes us feel less alone in whatever we're going through.

A couple of years ago, I wrote a blog post about my mom's struggle with — and, thank God, her triumph over — bipolar disorder. My post garnered more "likes" and positive responses than any piece I'd written in 15 years. For months, people would approach me with their personal mental health struggles. Before that post, I had rarely spoken or written in a public forum about the previously stigmatized illness.

But then I figured times have changed and her illness is no longer shrouded in darkness — it's something so many people are touched by. Plus I realized that being open could go a long way in helping people face whatever hardships they're dealing with.

It's wonderful to teach our kids to embody the bravery of heroes like Esther and Mordechai, and it's exciting to dress up as someone else every now and then. But when the tiara starts to itch and we grow tired of our disguises, let's remember that the best and bravest face to wear at the end of the day is our own.☆

(Cindy Sher is the executive editor of JUF News.)



"There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink and make his soul enjoy pleasure."

— Ecclesiastes, 2:24

Cannoli Hamantaschen for Purim

By Sheri Silver

(The Noshers via JTA) - My love of Italian cuisine was honed at a very early age - there was no lack of Italian restaurants, pizzerias, and bakeries. If I had to pick my favorite Italian pastry, it would be no contest - I am #teamcannoli all the way.

Something about the sweet, creamy filling, rich chocolate chips, and crunchy shell has always been the trifecta of what a dessert should be. So why not put that delicious filling into an iconic Jewish pastry - hamantaschen?

As it turns out, this is a pretty amazing mash-up, one I'm sure will bring smiles to your friends and family at Purim.

If you've struggled with making hamantaschen in the past, I'm sharing all of my tried-and-true tips gathered over years of trial and error.

Mangia!

Ingredients:

Cannoli Filling:

- 1/4 c. ricotta cheese
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 c. confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 c. mini chocolate chips

Hamantaschen Dough:

- 1 stick (4 oz. or 1/2 c.) unsalted butter or margarine, room temperature

- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 t. vanilla
- 3 c. flour
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 egg white beaten with 1 T. water, for sealing the hamantaschen
- 1/2 c. chocolate chips, for drizzling

- Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Directions:

Make the cannoli filling: In the bowl of a mixer, beat all ingre-



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dients except the chocolate chips till light and fluffy. Fold in the chocolate chips and refrigerate, covered, till needed.

Make the dough: Beat the butter, cream cheese, and sugar till light and fluffy; scrape down the sides. Add the milk and vanilla and beat till incorporated. Scrape down the sides. Add the flour and salt and beat again. Divide the dough into 2 pieces and place each between 2 sheets of parchment paper or plastic wrap. Roll each to a 1/2-inch thickness, stack the doughs on a baking sheet, and refrigerate for at least 1 hour (or up to 3 days).

Preheat oven to 375.

Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Working with one dough at a time, place on your prepared baking sheet and cut out

circles using a drinking glass or cookie cutter (I used a 2-1/2" cutter). Gather trimmings, re-roll and cut. Brush the edges of the circles with a bit of the beaten egg white and place 1/2 t. of cannoli filling in the center. Fold the dough into a triangle shape and pinch the corners and edges firmly together. Brush the dough with more of the egg white. Bake hamantaschen until golden brown, about 15 min. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. When cooled, place on 2 baking sheets lined with parchment paper.

Last, melt the 1/2 c. of chocolate chips in the top half of a double boiler set over barely simmering water. Cool slightly and transfer to a disposable pastry or Ziploc bag. Snip a small opening in the corner and drizzle the chocolate over the hamantaschen. Refrigerate till set. Dust with confectioners' sugar just before serving. ☆

(Sheri Silver writes the blog *Donuts, Dresses and Dirt* (<http://sherisilver.com/>)).

The Noshers food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNoshers.com.



Campowerment Mini-Camp Attracts Women from Across Charlotte

Remember summer camp? Remember how wonderful you could feel after a day of sports, arts & crafts, and spirit building?

Tammi Leader Fuller has taken that feeling of elation and self-worth that only a Jewish summer camp can give someone and turned it into empowerment for women. Her three-day "Campowerment" seminars are sweeping the country.

Here in Charlotte 60 women got a small taste of that weekend at a mini-camp. Jen Schwartz, Melissa Zeibert, and Jennifer Hurvitz Weintraub brought Fuller here after Weintraub spent time at the full three-day Campowerment. "I didn't even know what I actually needed, until I got to camp," she says about the life-changing experience. "And I left with so much more than I could ever imagine...I regained my spirit." For more information, go to www.campowerment.com. ☆



Melissa Zeibert, Jen Schwartz, and Jennifer Hurvitz Weintraub



Tammi Fuller and her daughter Chelsea.

The February 4 Sisterhood/Brotherhood Great Gatsby Casino Night was an evening full of entertainment for all. Guests were decked out in Roaring 20s attire, tried their luck with Black Jack and Roulette, won great prizes through raffles, and purchased exciting items through the silent auction.



60 women attended the mini-camp.

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