

The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Vol. 39, No. 5

Iyar-Sivan 5777

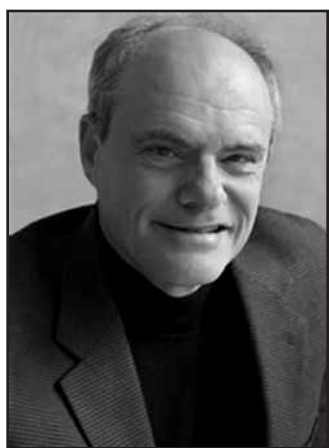
May 2017

Jewish Federation Annual Meeting Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Six-Day War

The Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte will take place on Monday, May 22 at 7:00 pm in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. During the Annual Meeting, the 2017-2018 slate of officers and Board of Trustees will be presented, and an election will be held. Anyone contributing at least \$36 to the Annual Campaign is considered a voting member.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the historic Six-Day War, a watershed moment in the history of modern Israel. In recognition of the anniversary, please join Emory Professor Kenneth W. Stein as he speaks about the 1967 Six-Day War: How it Changed Israeli, Jewish, and Middle East History.

Kenneth W. Stein, Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern



Kenneth W. Stein

History, Political Science and Israeli Studies, has taught at Emory University since 1977. He holds a joint appointment in the History and Political Science Departments. Stein's scholarship focuses on the modern Arab world, Israel,

and American foreign policy toward the region. For a decade, with innovative curriculum, webinars, workshops, and a robust website, his Atlanta based Center for Israel Education has equipped students, clergy, teachers, and the general public with reliable and timely Israel learning. www.is-raeled.org

We look forward to seeing you on May 22. For more information, please call the Federation office at 704-944-6757. ☆



Also Inside...

Local Residents Produce Documentary about Charlotte's Jewish World War II Veterans, see page 9

Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community: Farewell from Judy August; greeting from Mark Vitner, see page 10

SLATE OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES AS NOMINATED BY THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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Jenny Rosenthal and David Van Glish

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

Through our Annual Campaign, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte joins with 153 Federations across North America to answer the needs of the Jewish world.

When a child needs a Jewish education, a subsidy to participate in a Jewish experience like Jewish summer camp or a BBYO leadership conference, Federation is there. When a family loses its income or an entire community is devastated by a disaster, Federation is there. It's a pledge we live by.

We are there to help a distressed family regain its footing; to rescue and rebuild after a catastrophe. We make sure a Holocaust survivor isn't deserted, and that no one who is disabled is without assistance. Federation holds out a safety net. And we'll

never let it fall.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has been supporting, sustaining and revitalizing Jewish life for more than 75

years. Today our work is far from finished – and we need your support to meet our 2017 Campaign Goal of \$3,750,000....much

(Continued on page 2)



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JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS



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(Continued from page 1)

needed dollars to help us meet the needs of our entire Jewish community. Your contribution enables us to use your gift wherever it's needed most. 70% of our Annual Campaign is allocated to nearly 50 local agencies and programs in Charlotte; while 30% of the campaign is allocated to our partner agencies in Israel, and in 70 countries around the world.

Help us answer the needs of the Jewish world by making YOUR PLEDGE to Federation today. We pledge to answer the needs but we can only do that with your help. If you have already pledged to the 2017 Annual Campaign, we thank you. If not, please consider a meaningful pledge today. For a complete list of our 2017 allocations, or to donate online, please visit www.jewishcharlotte.org. All pledges are payable and due December 31, 2017. Remember ... It's Always Something. That's Why There's Federation. ✡

We are #FedProud that we live in a community that cares about sustaining and growing Jewish life. Tell us how you are #FedProud. www.facebook.com/jewishcharlotte.

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR MAY 2017

- Friday, May 5, 7:54 PM
- Friday, May 12, 8:00 PM
- Friday, May 19, 8:05 PM
- Friday, May 26, 8:10 PM
- Tuesday, May 30, Shavuot Eve, 8:13 PM
- Wednesday, May 31, 2nd night of Shavuot, after 9:16 PM



CAMPAIGN 2017: AT A GLANCE

Goal: \$3,750,000



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The Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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Psalm Beyond Boundaries Art Exhibit to open on May 7 at Shalom Park

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte invites the Charlotte community to view the exhibit "Psalms beyond Boundaries" May 3 through May 30

with an opening reception on Sunday, May 7 from 5-6:30 PM on Main Street at Shalom Park.

The exhibit is based on themes from Psalms and includes 50

works of art from artists from the Hadera-Eiron P2G* Partnership region and six Southeast Consortium communities including Charlotte. Twenty-five pairs of

artists studied the themes from Psalms for six months and created works that relate to each other but remain distinct.

Four of the participating artists are from Charlotte: Gwen Orland, Marilyn Mildren, Sharon Hockfield, and Betsy Klein.

For more information about the exhibit please contact Marnie Moskowitz, at the Jewish Federation, at 704-944-6764 or info@jewishcharlotte.org.

*P2G stands for Partnership-2Gether Peoplehood Platform. It has become the paradigm for successfully partnering Jewish communities around the world with

Israeli communities. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is one of 10 Federations that participate in our P2G Southeast Consortium through a variety of mediums including teacher and pupil exchanges, cultural exchanges, and youth summer experiences.☆



Artworks by local Charlotte artists. From left to right: Gwen Orland, Sharon Hockfield, Marilyn Mildren, Betsy Klein



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Nevertheless, She Persisted: The Story of Avital Sharansky

By Inbal Ozeri, Israeli Shlichah

This month I would like to share some bio of a very special person, she is very humble and you may have not heard of her. When she needed to, she was the biggest shout-out and the bravest person who fought without shyness or shame in order to talk to the most important people in the world and to ask of them what she needed.

Thanks to her we have had a lot of things happening and moving, but the latest thanks I have for her is – without you, Avital, I would not have been here.

A Shlichah that got here thanks to the Jewish Agency and its executive chairman, Natan Sharansky, who would not be there today if not for his amazing wife – Avital.

Avital Sharansky was born with the name Natalya Shteiglitz in 1950, in the Ukraine.

In the early 1970s, Avital's brother applied for a visa to leave for Israel, where he settled in Jerusalem, but her parents would not allow her to follow him. She met Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky at

a demonstration near the Moscow synagogue in autumn 1973 (during the Yom Kippur War) and became active in the refusenik movement, of which Anatoly was an active member. The term means that one was refused a Soviet emigration visa to Israel, which happened in 1973.

The couple were married on July 4, 1974, in a Jewish religious ceremony, under a chuppah – without the required Soviet civil ceremony – but the exit visa to emigrate to Israel arrived for her alone, and she was obliged to leave her refusenik husband, who was also a human rights activist in Sakharov and Orlov's Moscow Helsinki group. Natasha settled in Jerusalem, where she took the Hebrew name Avital; after a while, she studied Judaism and became religiously observant.

Throughout Anatoly's period of activism, Avital campaigned for his right to immigrate to Israel, and – after his arrest and exile to Siberia – for his freedom. Natan was arrested on March 15, 1977 and charged; he was convicted in 1978 on multiple crimes (including

treason, which carried the death penalty). From the Lefortovo Prison in Moscow, Anatoly was sentenced to hard labor and sent to a prison camp or gulag in Siberia (Schistopol), where for part of the time he was placed in solitary confinement. His health deteriorated, to the point of endangering his life.

For a total of 13 years, Avital left no stone unturned in her campaign from Israel: meeting world leaders, diplomats, politicians, and speaking in front of Jewish audiences worldwide. Avital campaigned successive US Presidents, Congress, British and European political parties, Jewish lobbies, every major Jewish convention in Israel or worldwide, the UN in New York and Geneva (under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act). Anatoly's mother, the late Ida Milgrom, campaigned within the USSR.

Anatoly was finally released in exchange for a Soviet spy on February 11, 1986, and transported the following day to what was then East Germany (Berlin), where Avital met him as he came

across the bridge. They both flew home to Israel and thousands of waiting welcomers.

Ida Milgrom and her other son, Leonid, subsequently received visas to join her son and daughter-in-law in Israel, where she lived in Jerusalem, until her death at age 94 (May 2002).

So that's a short version of her amazing story.

Source for info: jewishagency.org.☆



Inbal Ozeri

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made November 5, 2016 through March 13, 2017.

In honor of the baby naming of Caroline Brown
By: Philip and Renee Schreiber

In honor of the birth of Romy Olivia Kunkes
By: Bob and Leigh Jacobson

In honor of Charlotte Margolis
By: Lisa Brachman

In honor of Inbal Ozeri
By: Franklin and Hannah Kaunitz

In honor of Eric and Lori Sklut
By: Glenn Davis

In memory of Mickey Dunst, father of Ira Dunst
By: Mike and Sue Littauer

In memory of Patty Gorelick
By: Mr. and Mrs. Alan Blumenthal and Family, Irving and Irene Cohen, Stephanie Haynes, Ira and Stacey Slomka

In memory of Nancy Hodes
By: Scott and Marnie Moskowitz

In memory of Melvin Kobre
By: Victor and Rose Ackermann and Family, Debbie Davis on behalf of BB&T Carriage Club and Michael Scharf on behalf of Scharf Pera & Co., PLLC,

In memory of Abe Luski
By: Ira, Stacey, Brenden, Mylie and Lily Slomka

In memory of Roni Pordy
By: Lana Sidoti

In memory of Lucetta Praver
By: David and Janni Slotkis

In memory of Rabbi Robert A. Seigel
By: Norma Pepper and Howard Andell

In memory of Harriette Silver
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If you would like to make a Tribute to the Jewish Federation, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6761.☆

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The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning and creates pathways to Jewish identity. Through cutting-edge educational practice and in collaboration with regional agencies, synagogues and schools, CJE serves as a community edu-

cational resource, and develops and implements creative, innovation, and sound educational strategies.

Please check our new and ongoing spring programs below:

Children's Programs:

PJ Storytime: Wednesdays,

1:15 PM (drop-in/free).

PJ Playdate (Toddlers): Thursdays 9:30 AM (drop-in/free).

PJ Playdate (Babies): Fridays 11 AM; new (beginning April 21-drop-in/free).

PJ Birthday Bash: Sunday, May 7, 10 AM; Celebrate Israel's birthday and PJ Library's birthday, with a dance-a-thon, crafts, birthday cake, and lots of fun. Free but pre-registration required: www.NEXTGENCharlotte.org.

Shavuot Family Celebration:

Saturday, June 3, 4-7 PM. Join Temple Beth El and PJ Library for family fun at Wise Acres Organic Farm. Hayrides, Havdalah, s'mores and more. Registration required at www.NEXTGENCharlotte.org. Cost per family TBA.

Book Sale:

May 7: 10 AM-12 noon, A110 and A111

Summer Reading Book Sale - Stop by and stock up on books for the beach and the pool. Hardbacks \$1.00; paperbacks 3/\$1.

Levine-Sklut Library Hours and Holiday Closings:

Regular Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9 AM-4 PM
Saturday Closed

Sunday, 9 AM-1 PM

Holiday Hours:

Sunday, May 28 and Monday, May 29: Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30, Open 9 AM-1 PM

Wednesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 1: Closed for Shavuot ☆



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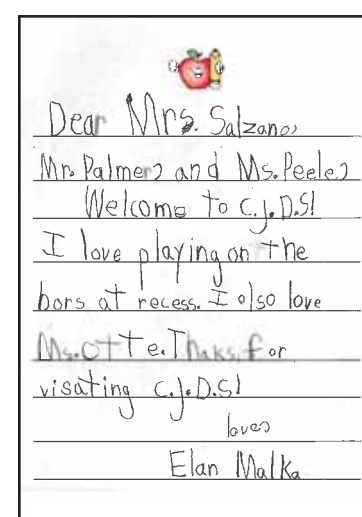
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SAIS Accreditation Visit at CJDS

A visiting team from Southern Association of Independent Schools spent two and a half days at Charlotte Jewish Day School to confirm and validate the standards compliance, as well as the year-long self-study and strategic plan. The team is made up of educators from private schools across the southeast region. Our team came from Ravenscroft in Raleigh, Forsyth Country Day School in Lewisville, and Fletcher Academy in Raleigh.

team with letters describing how much and why they love CJDS. A dinner with board members and the school's accreditation team was held the first evening. Meetings were held with various stakeholders and the team expressed how impressed they were with the observations they made walking through the classrooms, speaking to the parents, board members, faculty, and alumni. In fact, in the draft report we received, all of the recommendations mirrored our



This is a welcome letter from kindergarten Elan Malka to the accreditation team.

have our finger on the pulse of our strengths and areas where we still can and should grow.

Some excerpts from the draft report:

The team commends the school for the following:

Instilling in every student a strong sense of Jewish identity;

Creating and maintaining a genuinely caring environment where each child is known and supported;

Fostering the values of kindness, joy, and a love of learning in every student;

Embracing timely and helpful educational trends, and supporting the faculty with appropriate professional development to implement those trends. ☆

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Our students welcomed the goals, confirming for us that we

JPS, Forever in Our Hearts

By Karen Barrett

In 2009, my husband and I had begun researching local preschools. Preschool is the foundation for a child's education and there just didn't seem to be the right fit out there for us.

Then, on the recommendation of a colleague and friend whose children had attended the school, we walked through the doors of The Jewish Preschool on Sardis (JPS). There we met the teachers, saw children playing, learning and having fun together and my husband and I just looked at each other and without saying a word, knew that we had found our preschool. It had already checked all of the boxes on paper (5-star rating, teachers with degrees in Early Childhood Education, a low teacher-child ratio) but we both had that feeling when you just know that something is right. We filled out our paperwork to ensure that our daughter could enter the 2s class in the fall of 2010. Almost a year early because we were that sure.

We watched our daughter grow from a timid toddler to a confident little girl, who proudly lit the Menorah, could say all of the blessings, and loved her Friday challah. Her little sister spent her infant years in the Baby Bjorn going into the classroom for drop-off and pickup. Soon, she was joined by a little brother (there was even a sign outside of the classroom saying, "Mazel Tov on becoming a big sister!"). Pick-up time now involved a double stroller, with both younger siblings waiting for it to be their turn.

I laugh when I think of our oldest daughter starting preschool and the tears at drop-off until she got used to the routine of leaving



The Barrett family.

her mom and dad. Fast-forward to the middle sister and little brother who were thrilled when they got to (finally!) join in on the fun. No adjustment time needed there because JPS had become an extension of their home.

We've always had at least one child at JPS since 2010 and this year, 2017, marks our graduation from preschool. Each of our children has had three wonderful years at the school where they developed a love of learning and of Judaism. Our oldest daughter wanted the Rebecca American Girl Doll because "she's Jewish like me." Our kids ask to have Shabbat dinner together. Our son's first word was "challah" and his favorite food is matzah ball soup.

I will always fondly remember walking my children to and from the classroom and seeing the friendly, smiling faces of our JPS family, the parents, the children and the staff. I've felt so connected and passionate about the school that I served on the board for over five years. I'll remember Matzah and Mitzvot with Mom, Dreidels with Dad, Grandparents Day, celebrating Hebrew birthdays and weekly Shabbat sing-a-

longs with Ms. Patty, where families are welcome to join their children. My girls love coming back to JPS on days off, to hug their old teachers, read to the class and go back to the playground.

Being a part of the JPS community over the past seven years, I have seen it evolve and adjust to meet the needs of families. They are the only provider of infant care in a Jewish environment. Children can choose from fall, winter, and spring

after-school enrichment programs, like Soccer Shots, Taekwondo, Cooking, Science, Art, and Zumba. They offer a full day for working parents, weekly summer camps, and a full summer program. It's such a great feeling to know how comfortable and happy your children are at their school and how much they are cared for and loved.

I've met friends through the school that I now consider to be family. My children were more than prepared for the rigors of today's kindergarten. They are proud to be Jewish. And I hope that even next year, when we have moved on to our next chapter, our children will always sing the JPS "theme song" as loud and proud as they do today:

JPS kids say, hooray!

Laugh and play with friends all day.

We can't wait to go to school JPS. Is. Cool.

Thank you, JPS, for such a wonderful preschool experience for our family. Ms. Dedee, Ms. Leah, Ms. Lisa, Ms. Beverly, Ms. Elizabeth, Morah Jayme, Ms.

Wanda, Ms. Kate, Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Ellen, Ms. Angel, and Ms. Patti—the Barrett family loves and appreciates you all. ☆



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Shalom Park Freedom School News

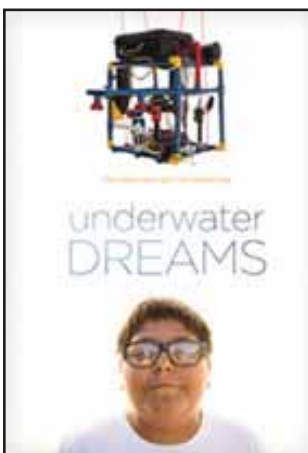
The Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) is gearing up for the summer. The six-week literacy and character-building summer program will run from June 19-July 27. It takes hundreds of volunteers to make it a success and provide enrichment opportunities for 80 economically-disadvantaged children in our community. There are many easy ways to support SPFS, and we need your help

How can you support SPFS, the first Jewish-sponsored Freedom School in the country?

* Attend our movie fundraiser on Thursday, May 4, from 7-9 PM at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. Come watch *Underwater Dreams*, a documentary that chronicles the story of four teenage boys, sons of Mexican immigrants, who entered a sophisticated underwater robotics competition, going up against the likes of engineering powerhouse MIT – and won. Tickets are \$10 in advance and available at the JCC front desk.

* Donate new swimsuits and

(Continued on page 6)



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Jewish Family Services



Caring For Caregivers

By Howard Olshansky, Executive Director, Jewish Family Services

Recently my sister and mother visited from Philadelphia. My mother will be 89 this month and while she often spends time at my sister's she still lives independently. And although she has some short-term memory issues, she is as alert as I am, plays Mah Jongg a couple of times a week, showers

and brushes her teeth every day, frequently walks to the store for groceries, and on all fronts appears to be completely self-sufficient. But as my sister and I were talking, the conversation was around the fact that she is 89. She often loses things like her keys or her wallet. She is at risk for falling (this has already happened). She sometimes forgets to pay a bill or

two and we are never totally sure if she remembers to take all of her medications. We worry about her being alone ... what if something happens? We talked about home-care support but she would never let someone into her home. In her mind, she doesn't need any help. After all she is an adult, not a child. But as her children, how do we balance wanting her to maintain her independence as much as possible and yet ensure she remains safe.

At Jewish Family Services, we hear these issues every day from folks caring for or concerned about their senior parent(s). At two recently held caregiver focus groups, we heard about the diversity of challenges trying to manage the issues of aging parents, spouses, or disabled children

whether living with them, living independently, or in senior facilities. The physical and emotional strain of being a caregiver can be overwhelming. I can't tell you how many times I hear, "I don't have a life anymore. If I only had just one hour to myself."

Some folks don't even realize the stress they are experiencing. They wouldn't identify as a caregiver and if asked they would tell you they are just doing what they need to do for their loved one. However, when looked at closely it becomes easy to see the impact of these responsibilities on them and their families.

If any of this sounds familiar, JFS is available to help. As a component of our Senior Outreach services, we not only reach out and provide support to seniors in

our community but understand the importance of also meeting the needs of the loved ones taking on caregiver responsibilities. After all, healthy, happy caregivers contributes to healthy, happy seniors.

JFS offers both individual and group support, as well as access to community resources through trained professionals that specialize in geriatric care. We want to hear and understand your struggles and work on developing strategies that meet both your needs and those of your loved ones. Currently there is a support group that meets the first Thursday of each month. Contact JFS at 704-364-6594 or go to our website at www.jfscharlotte.org for more information and take that first step towards getting the support you deserve.☆

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Food Pantry Donations:

Sharon School Girl Scout Troop 2216, Charlotte Jewish day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Hebrew High, Robbie McKinley, Gail Baron, Matt Luft-glass, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants, Shalom Park Community Garden, Kosher Mart Customers, Community Wide Purim Carnival

Special Recognition: Liz Wahls and Andrea Cronson for baking Hamantashen for Purim, Charlotte Jewish Day School for decorating Passover bags.☆

Freedom School News

(Continued from page 5)

towels through May 5 for the scholars' bi-weekly swim lessons. Sizes are posted outside the LJCC childcare room along with a sign-up sheet. Swimsuits can be turned in at the LJCC customer service desk.

* Donate new or gently used children's books, especially chapter books. *Captain Underpants*

and *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series are some of the most popular among the scholars. Books may be dropped off at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library or in the library's dropbox.

* Sign up to volunteer this summer. There are volunteer opportunities for people of all ages, ranging from one-on-one involve-

ment with the scholars to shopping for or donating needed supplies. To see the list of ways to participate, visit sffreedom-school.org or email Eileen Davis at fuervis@gmail.com or Elka Bernstein at ebenstein1@carolina.rr.com.☆



Kids at Shalom Park
Freedom School learn
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Community News

Moishe House May Events

Moishe House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community among Jewish young adults in their 20s and early 30s. 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 homebased and external, for other young Jewish adults. There are currently 100 Moishe Houses in 24 countries around the world.

Moishe House Charlotte began in August 2013 and since then has hosted 245+ programs 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 programs for this May:

Event 1: Cinco de Mayo Shabbat Fiesta - Friday, May 5 at 7 PM at Moishe House

There's no better way to celebrate Cinco De Mayo than with a MoHo Shabbat. Please join us for a fiesta with food and friends. Come ready to eat yummy guac and indulge on a taco toppings bar. Feel free to bring your favorite fiesta dish to share. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

Event 2: Jewish Deli Festival - Sunday, May 7 at Temple Kol Tikvah, 605 South St. Davidson, NC

Are you craving that corn beef on rye? Do you miss a good quality pickle? Do you want a great knish? We have the solution to these critical questions - the Lake Norman Jewish Deli Festival. MoHo will be offering a carpool that leaves from the Moishe House at 11:30 AM. For those not

interested in the carpool, you can meet us there around noon.

Event 3: Uptown Scavenger Hunt - Friday, May 12 at 7 PM at an Uptown Location TBD

We'll be channeling Sherlock Holmes for this one, ladies and gents. Grab your comfiest walking shoes and get ready to hit some of uptown's hot (and not-so-hot) spots in search of clues. There will be a ton of fun and maybe a surprise or two along the way. Finding your way to the end? Elementary, my Moishies.

Event 4: Bowling Night - Thursday, May 18 from 6:30 PM-9 PM at AMF Centennial Lanes, 4501 South Blvd., Charlotte

Join us for an awesome night of bowling. We are covering the bowling cost for the first 24 Moishe's that arrive at the alley, but please bring \$5 to cover the shoe rental. The alley also has delish food and a bar. Our two hour bowling time slot starts at 7 PM, so please arrive at least 15 minutes early to get your ball and ultra-stylish shoes all set to go.

Event 5: Game Night at MoHo - Tuesday, May 23 at 7 PM at Moishe House

Let's get a little rowdy on a Tuesday night with games galore. Avalon and Catan will surely break out as well as many more. Bring your favorite game to share or just come to socialize and chill. There will be drinks and snacks provided. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com 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.



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-Bernard M. Baruch

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Annual J Street Conference

J Street's mission is to be "the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans who want Israel to be secure, democratic and the national home of the Jewish people." This year's J Street conference took place in Washington, DC in late February. The six delegates from Charlotte had different reasons for attending and came away with a range of conclusions,

not all in agreement. J Street believes that this robust and honest conversation about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and what it means to be pro-Israel is important.

Shelly Fasciana

I was overwhelmed at the J Street conference by the outpouring of love for Israel as a peaceful, secure, and thriving homeland for

the Jewish people. I was also struck by the deep level of conversation, impressive credentials of the panelists, and diversity in leadership. I left feeling more connected to Israel and more educated on the religious and political complexities. I have gained respect for the passionate leaders of J Street for their tireless efforts advocating for Israel as a secure and



David deGroot, center, with Knesset members Ayman Odeh and Tamar Zandberg.

democratic Jewish homeland.

Steve and Penni Powell

This was our first conference and we were very impressed by its organization, the speakers, and the willingness to address controversial topics head-on. We learned about the historical origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the current political environment and cultural tensions in Israel. We went to express our support for Israel and peace and a two-state solution. It was thrilling for us to see the heartfelt expression of support for Israel and the peace process by thousands of Jewish young adults from colleges and universities all over America. Their enthusiasm was infectious and bolstered our faith in the future of Jews and Judaism.

Denise Finck-Rothman

I am very concerned about human rights abuses by Israel which led to my participation in the national J Street Conference. I was gratified to hear from many of the speakers that they and their organizations are working to expose and publicize those abuses and to develop and mobilize the political strength of moderate Israelis. Those wise Israelis are taking the lead to bring Israel to a two-state solution, to end the occupation and human rights abuses, and to hold the torch for peace and justice in the Middle East.

Zach Gerger

As a long-time passionate supporter of Israel, I search to understand the various perspectives of Israel advocacy organizations in the US. To that end I attended the J Street annual conference. I went with an open mind yet found myself troubled by the profound disconnect between J-Street's stated pro-Israel principles and the rhetoric at the conference. I witnessed little actual support for Israel, while speaker after speaker made accusations against the very country J Street purports to advocate for. In session after session, the context for discussing Israel and the Palestinian peace process was consistently framed through the lens of what Israel is and was doing wrong. Holding Israeli policies and politicians solely respon-

sible for current problems was standard fare with little if any discussion of the Palestinian role in the conflict. Notable exceptions were sessions that recognized security measures are necessary for Israel to successfully endorse a two-state solution. Yet the presenter ultimately concluded that Israel is exclusively to blame for the obstacles preventing implementation of a two-state solution. There's no doubt that the Israel conversation is complex. Creating an open forum for multiple perspectives and opinions is critical to the wellbeing of Israel and a conflicted North American Jewry. Yet despite its stated mission as a pro-Israel organization, my experience left me with the impression that J-Street support is actually, sadly, far more pro-Palestinian.

David de Groot

Isaac Herzog, head of Israel's Zionist Union party, said at the opening of his recorded address that "you are friends of Israel and you support one of the most important interests of the State of Israel, which is to reach peace with the Palestinians."

The unifying theme behind all sessions was support for a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Shimon Peres' granddaughter, Mika Almog, addressed this support from a place of a deep connection to Israel and the Jewish people, while Palestinian ambassador to the UN, Riyad Mansour, spoke of it as the realization of Palestinian national rights. Combining these two approaches shows that being pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian do not have to be mutually exclusive. In his keynote speech, Senator Bernie Sanders claimed, "We can oppose the policies of President Trump without being anti-American. We can oppose the policies of Netanyahu without being anti-Israel." This was a rallying call to those of us concerned about the threat to the values of democracy and social justice in both the US and Israel.

For more information about J Street please contact Hannah Morris, Associate Regional Director for the South - hannahm@jstreet.org.✪

Mother's Day

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J Street

Full Length Documentary Film Features Local World War II Jewish War Veterans

Film Entirely Produced Locally; to Premier in November

By Amy Krakovitz

More than 500,000 Jewish people served in the armed forces in World War II. An estimated 8,000 were killed. The remainder have lived their lives with honor, members of "The Greatest Generation." But soon these voices will be gone. And yet, a small group of Charlotteans was determined not

sak, the current Post Commander.

It was Schwartz's experience in the Jewish community that led her to suggest applying for an Impact Fund grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and when they received the award, they were elated.

Seeking Assistance

With no real video experience

pected taunting. But their commanding officers were never anti-Semitic, giving them leeway to stand up for themselves, or coming to their defense if necessary.

And they were proud of themselves, too, as the consensus among non-Jews was that "Jews don't do that; they don't fight or serve in the military."



to let the voices of our local Jewish War Veterans be lost to the ages. They have joined forces to create a documentary that features the stories of our local Jewish World War II veterans.

It began in November of 2013, when Iraq/Afghanistan war veteran Barry Ross was determined to breathe new life into the local Jewish War Veterans' Post. He sent out notices to local vets to start meeting again and by February 2014 they had their first meeting. "Veterans' Posts are not supposed to be social clubs," Ross said, "so we were looking for a project to benefit the local members." Ross realized what most of us already know about Holocaust survivors, that the voices of the World War II veterans will soon be gone. And he knew that their stories were both fascinating and precious.

So he, Steve Russak, another member of the local JWV post, and Eileen Schwartz, who operates Flags Across the Nation, a non-profit organization that supports the arts for US military veterans, came together to brainstorm.

Their solution was to record the stories of local area Jewish veterans and create a video testimony, similar to what the Library of Congress already has done with many war veterans. "The mission of the project was not simply to document stories, but rather to create an engaging and dynamic video that would especially impact younger viewers," states Rus-

sak, the current Post Commander. It was Schwartz's experience in the Jewish community that led her to suggest applying for an Impact Fund grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and when they received the award, they were elated.

With his expertise, he knew he could deliver a professional and dynamic film. And while the funds received from the Impact Fund were a great start, they needed to raise more money for a full length documentary.

Together they set up a GoFundMe page (www.gofundme.com/jews-ww2-doc) where they have nearly reached their goal. "We are moved and blessed by everyone's donations," Fishkin said, with a special thanks to Barbara and Jerry Levin.

It was Schwartz who managed to locate most of the Jewish WWII vets with initial help from Jewish Family Services. "At first the vets were so humble," she said, "they felt that they didn't deserve this recognition." But their stories were compelling and mesmerizing, not to mention both humorous and poignant. "How could we NOT tell these stories?" Fishkin asked rhetorically.

The interviews revealed a complex situation for the Jewish soldiers in World War II. Their Judaism did indeed play a role in their identities, but it was difficult. Very few comrades were Jewish. They were subjected to the ex-

pected taunting. But their commanding officers were never anti-Semitic, giving them leeway to stand up for themselves, or coming to their defense if necessary.

Since the project began, four of the interviewees have passed away, highlighting the urgency of the project.

Now that Fishkin has the film in the editing stage, Ross, Russak, and Schwartz are thinking about future plans for the completed piece. There will be a red carpet premier on Veterans Day weekend at Ballantyne Theater, with the remaining vets in attendance. Tickets will be free and there will be a dessert reception following the film. The trailer for the film can be seen at the gofundme site: www.gofundme.com/jews-ww2-doc.

But the team also sees more possibilities for the final product: submission to the Library of Congress, entries into Jewish Film Festivals, becoming part of the public school curriculum, being shown nationwide on PBS, and becoming a resource item in libraries. Anything is possible.

The team would like to thank the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and Susan Gundersheim and Jeff Turk of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival for their assistance. ☆

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A Look Back ...

By Judy H. August, FCJC Immediate Past Chair

"What I do matters!"* Our Charlotte Jewish community has exemplified this motto with our generous legacy commitments to Charlotte's Jewish organizations. Four years ago, 10 of our organizations embarked on a major initiative to grow their endowments through legacy giving, to better secure their operations and programming, and promote a vibrant future for the Charlotte Jewish community. The Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) has been leading that charge through our "Create Your Jewish Legacy" initiative, and the Charlotte Jewish community has responded with a resounding "Count me in!"

As of 2016, 358 individuals and families have made legacy commitments totaling a projected \$25.6 million in future gifts. The impact of this initiative is already making a difference. Since 2008, the community has received \$2.5 million in realized legacy gifts, \$180,000 in 2016.

Many of our donors now utilize FCJC's professionals, Phil Warshauer and Nancy

Kipnis, to provide guidance on how to best structure their gifts. Working under the Foundation for the Carolinas umbrella, the sixth largest community foundation in the country with over \$2.1 billion in assets under management, Phil and Nancy provide our individual donors and our organizations with the resources and expertise they need, while also developing strong personal relationships.

In addition to legacy gifts, many donors utilize FCJC Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) as a tax-advantaged and efficient way to manage their annual and long range giving strategies. In fact, an increasing number of donors, including Stan and I, have moved our DAFs to FCJC from a commercial provider and have been so impressed by the services we have received. It is also rewarding to know that we are supporting such a worthwhile community resource as FCJC in the process.

**motto of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in promoting the importance of individual activism ☆*

... And a Look Ahead

By Mark Vitner, FCJC Board Chair

On April 30, I assumed the role of Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) Chair. I would like to thank Judy August for her leadership over the past two years and her role in FCJC's continued growth and evolution into an even stronger organization that is well positioned to help ensure that Charlotte's Jewish community continues to grow and thrive well into the future.

The Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community mission is to promote long-term philanthropy that will support various Jewish organizations throughout the greater Charlotte area for decades to come and link the interests of community donors to the needs of our community. We are blessed that our region is one of the fastest growing areas of the country and Charlotte's Jewish community is growing right along with it. Growth brings both opportunities and challenges.

When you look around Charlotte you see lots of cranes dotting the landscape. Each represents a project that will forever change our city's skyline and culture. The new projects also reflect new friends, col-

leagues, and members to various Jewish organizations. Before these new buildings begin reaching toward the sky, however, considerable work must be done to build a strong foundation. While much of this work is largely unseen, it is essential so that the structure will be strong enough to withstand the inevitable tests the future will bring. FCJC provides our community and its donors with that foundation.

One of FCJC's greatest challenges is to broaden our base of support beyond the generous efforts of previous generations, including those that grew up here or moved here decades ago. The growth of the Create a Jewish Legacy program is a big step in this direction and we will continue to partner with our Jewish agencies and individuals to strengthen and expand this program. Amy and I have utilized FCJC's expertise to assist us with our charitable planning and hope you will consider joining us. It is this opportunity to assist community donors that provides FCJC with the greatest opportunities to grow the financial base of Charlotte's Jewish agencies so that they thrive for generations to come. ☆

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L to R: FCJC Board Chair Mark Vitner, FCJC Immediate Past Chair Judy August, FCJC Executive Director Phil Warshauer. To learn more about FCJC, its Donor Advised Fund program, and the many services that may benefit you, please contact Phil Warshauer at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlotte-jewishfoundation.org



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Fund Raiser to Support Familial Dysautonomia Research

By Natalie Cohen

Many of you know my sister, Frannie Cohen, and for anyone that does not know her: trust me, if you did, you would admire her almost as much as I do. She has a rare genetic condition called Fa-

list is not nearly as important as what people with FD can do. Frannie works hard on a daily basis to overcome any obstacle that comes her way and continues to thrive in her life and be an inspiration to everybody who crosses paths with her.



The Cohen family: Frannie, Jeff, Natalie, and Marsha.

mial Dysautonomia (FD). FD affects her autonomic and sensory nervous system, impacting practically every major system within her body. I could go on and give a long list of what people with FD cannot do and everything that is impacted by the condition, but that

FD used to be categorized as a fatal disease, but advances in treatment have dramatically extended the lives of people with FD, giving them more and more opportunities to thrive. Nonetheless, there are still many symptoms that prevent my sister and her friends from living normal lives and every day is a new challenge; against all odds, they always overcome these challenges and prove to be stronger than they are accredited.

This year I am holding my fourth annual fundraising event in honor of my sister. I have raised

(Continued on page 17)

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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May 2017

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New Zero Entry Pool Opens May 27

NO JOINING FEE Thru 5/31

MAY HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, May 29 7am-7pm
Tuesday, May 30 5:30am-6pm
Wednesday, May 31 1-9:30pm
Thursday, June 1 1-9:30pm

Early Childhood

7 weeks – 7 years old

Children will enjoy a nurturing environment to explore and have fun with crafts and activities, while parents workout.

Mon-Fri AM..... 8am-1pm
Mon-Thu PM 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday 12pm-3pm
Sunday 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/\$4.50 NM/ \$5.50

Reservations Required!

704-366-5007, or visit LJCC's customer service desk.

K-5th

Fencing Class

Students will be introduced to learning the skills of attacking and defending with the foil, epee or sabre. Fencers will develop coordination, balance and flexibility. Our training progression starts with teaching the student footwork and basic fencing moments. All equipment will be provided and included in the class fee. Equipment is available for purchase.

Wednesdays, 6-7pm

May 31 – August 16

Saturdays, 3:30-4:30pm

June 3 – August 19

Instructor Julia Tikhonova, 2-time Israeli National Champion, 3-time Div. 1 All-American & NCAA Champion
M/\$220 B/\$132 NM/\$275 (11 weeks, Wed OR Sat option)

Teens & Adults

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Price per month: M/\$60 NM/\$70

**Sundays, 5:30-7pm
Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm
Thursday, 8-9:30pm**

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Adults

Dance, Have Fun & Get Fit!

The Levine JCC and Hadassah: Charlotte Chapter want to get you moving! Join us for a fun night of dancing and getting fit. Taught by dance instructor Karen W.

Thursday, May 11 • 6:30–8:30pm

6:30–7:30pm: Dance with Karen W.

7:30–8:30pm: Food & Refreshments in Gorelick Hall

Downstairs Aerobics Studio

M/\$10 B/Free NM/\$18 • RSVP at 704.366.5007



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Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program

Free Medicare Counseling Available year round! Please call Senior & Adult Director Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information

Never Forget: A Seniors' Luncheon Honoring Local Holocaust Survivors

Come hear the Charlotte Symphony, a presentation by the LJCC Butterfly Project, and a student from Queens University of Charlotte, as we pay tribute to the Holocaust Survivors living in the Charlotte area. Presented by Jewish Family Services and the LJCC/Oasis Senior Enrichment Program

Friday, May 19 • 12–2:30pm

Sam Lerner Center

Lunch is Free for the first 125 people with advanced reservation by Monday, May 15, to 704-944-6852

704-944-6594 • sheryl.gerrard@jfscharlotte.org

Life Reimagined – A program by AARP

Whether you're in transition or simply assessing how you are spending your time, AARP's Life Reimagined "Check Up Sessions" help people look at their lives in new and creative ways that inspire personal growth.

Tuesday, May 23 • 10–11:30am

Weinberg Senior Center

FREE

704-944-6792 • jill.lipson@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, May 25 • 7-8pm

Dances: Cha-Cha Slide and Ju Ju on the Beat

Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio

Instructor: Jessica Weill

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Adults 50+

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10-11:30am • Room A110

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Adults 21+

Ladies' Night out

This hands-on class, taught by Yoga Guru Daniela Becker, will include a menu of butternut squash lasagna roll-ups with homemade ricotta! We will enjoy it for dinner along with wine pairings following a relaxing yoga stretch!

thursday, MAY 18
6:30pm

Home of Robin Stier
(address provided at registration)
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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
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K-5th Grade Programs

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Aquatics / Swim Team

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LJCC Tennis / CRUSH

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Visual/Performing Arts

Susan Gundersheim 704-944-6778
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J-Childcare

Amie Gray 704-944-6726
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Social Action

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

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- **Summer Services begin for the season** FRIDAY, MAY 26 AT 6:00 PM
An informal, family-friendly worship service, every Friday night through Labor Day.
- **Shavuot Festival Service & Confirmation** TUESDAY, MAY 30 AT 7:00 PM
A celebration of our people receiving the Torah, led by our 10th grade confirmation class.
- **Shavuot Yizkor Service** WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 AT 11:00 AM
A time to honor and remember those who have come before us.
- Visit templebethel.org for service times.

COMMUNITY

Our vibrant Temple Beth El community features something for everyone of any age. Visit templebethel.org to learn more about our community.



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Members of S.P.I.C.E. celebrate at a special Passover Seder.

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MITZVAH DAY May 21, 2017



Mitzvah Day is a day of service for the Temple Beth El community, an opportunity to impact and bring change and healing locally, nationally and globally. Projects benefit the Hebrew Cemetery, Sterling Elementary, Jewish Family Services, Shalom Park Freedom School and many more. Learn more at templebethel.org.

LEARNING

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AIPAC Policy Conference 2017: The View from Participants

Sam Zimmern:

Our group of 17 from Charlotte was diverse with Democrats and Republicans, Jews and Christians, and AIPAC first timers as well as conference veterans. We heard our country's leaders reaffirm their bipartisan support for a strong American-Israeli relationship based on common security issues as well as common values. A wide range of other people addressed the audience and described many of the great things Israel has done including the President of Rwanda, students from Africa, doctors who have treated Syrians injured in their country's civil war, and inventors of products such as one which can provide clean cheap water for countries with contaminated water sources. Still others from a wide range of back grounds including Latinos, African Americans, Christians, college students, and former heads of state told us why they are strong backers of Israel.

The break out group I attended was a history talk about the Sunni-Shi'ite split and another lecture describing the contributions Israel has made to American military effectiveness.

On the last day of the conference about 10,000 people from AIPAC went to Capitol Hill to re-

quest that our elected officials take several actions that are good for America and good for Israel. These include attempting to restrain Iran's malign activities, supporting military aid for Israel, and combatting the campaigns to delegitimize Israel at the United Nations as well as the Boycott, Divest, Sanction movement.

Even though I have been to AIPAC Policy Conference several times before, I still learned a lot this time and feel we delivered important messages to Congress. I was particularly pleased to see the enthusiastic engagement of our first timers.

Alyson Grossman Traw:

19,000 – an amazing number by any measure. That's how many people were in attendance at AIPAC's Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., March 26-28. Having never attended an AIPAC Policy Conference, I was overwhelmed by this number, in a positive way.

Growing up in the quaint bible-belt town of Kingstree, SC, I had never been around so many Jewish people in my entire life. I never experienced anti-Semitism in my home town, but I always knew I was different. Learning about Israel made me feel connected to other Jews, even if they were an ocean away. My parents worked hard to raise us Jewish – schlepping hours in the car each



The Charlotte delegation.

week to and from Religious School, Bat Mitzvah prep classes, and confirmation classes. Growing up Jewish was hard work – but it was worth it. Knowing that Israel was there, meant I was never alone as a Jew in the world.

Because I've never travelled to Israel, Policy Conference is as close as I have gotten to experiencing Israel. I passionately believe that a strong Israel-America partnership is mutually beneficial (and necessary) for both countries to remain strong, safe, and vibrant. During general sessions, we learned about Israeli technological innovations, how Israel provides humanitarian aid in all parts of the world (including to neighboring Syrians and Palestinians), and

how Israel is building alliances with partners like India and Rwanda. I consider myself to be reasonably well-informed about Israel and I felt like I was learning from scratch.

With leadership, direction, and guidance from AIPAC veterans Sam and Emily Zimmern, as well as Sue Worrel, the Charlotte contingent was well-prepared to experience Policy Conference.

Robert Adler:

This was my third consecutive AIPAC convention. This year saw Jews, Christians, blacks, whites, men, women, children, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, all gathering together to support Israel.

On the main stage were key US, Israeli, and other international speakers, and there was a wide array of intimate breakout sessions on topics from Israel and Central Asian relations to LGBT issues.

The clear message throughout the political speeches was that America will always have an unbreakable bond with Israel.

The headline speakers all touched on three main issues: the UN, Iran, and BDS. The consensus message was that the anti-Israel bias at the UN must and will stop and that current administration is taking clear steps to change US direction there. The most focused speech was from former SC Governor, current UN Ambassador Nikki Haley. She outlined and stressed the steps the US has and will take to push back against various UN bodies for the consistent bias and resolutions aimed at Israel.

Iran was a target discussing how the current deal does not stop Iran's path to a nuclear bomb, how US policy must continue to enforce the deal's provisions and implement new sanctions to penalize Iranian transgressions, and take actions to stop their worldwide terror march.

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction (BDS) was the final and most talked about issue, and a topic in a lot of breakout sessions. The toxic issue of BDS was high-

(Continued on page 17)



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Celebrating our Community's 354 Legacy Donors

Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) thanks the 354 individuals and families who have created Jewish legacies to ensure the future of our local Jewish community. These generous donors have collectively committed more than \$25.9 million through future bequests, as well as proceeds from life insurance and retirement plans, without affecting current disposable income or lifestyles. Our legacy initiative is already making an impact: to date, local Jewish organizations

have received at least \$2.5 million in legacy gifts, including \$180,000 in 2016. FCJC established the Book of Life Society to honor and recognize all individuals and families whose legacy gifts will support organizations that are integral to Jewish life and community in Charlotte. If you are interested in learning how to create your own Jewish legacy, please contact your favorite Jewish organization or Phil Warshauer or Nancy Kipnis.

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Women's News

Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah and Sisterhood of Temple Beth El Present Art Interpreting Art

Tuesday, May 2 at 7 PM in the Dumas Activity Center in the Bernstein Education Building

Rabbi Dusty Klass and artist Lorie Arthur look at Israeli poetry and help participants create an artistic piece of their own based on their interpretation of the poetry they learn together.

Those attending will make a watercolor Midrash, based on the Israeli poems that Rabbi Klass selected for her Rabbinic dissertation, with artist Lorie Arthur's instruction.

Meet at the Dumas Activity Center in the Bernstein Education Building

Cost for supplies: \$10

In order to make sure that we provide enough supplies for all attendees, please contact Amalia at amaliaima@att.net to RSVP before April 25. ☆



HADASSAH



Familial Dysautonomia Fund Raiser

(Continued from page 10)

over \$7,000 for the Dysautonomia Foundation and I would like to see that number grow. Please join my family and me at Brooklyn Pizza Parlor located at 7725 Colony Rd, Charlotte, NC (Colony Shopping Center at the corner of Colony & Rea Road) on Thursday, May 11 for the event. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Dysautonomia Foundation. Last year this event was a huge success, but I challenge myself and everybody to make it bigger this year. The more people that go, the more fun it will be so bring your friends and family and eat for a good cause.

What: A Fundraising event for the Dysautonomia Foundation in honor of Frannie Cohen

When: Thursday, May 11 from 4-9 PM

Where: Brooklyn Pizza Parlor (7725 Colony Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226)

For more information or if you would like to make a donation please visit www.famdys.org/eatforfd. ☆

AIPAC Policy Conference 2017

(Continued from page 15)

lighted as infecting many institutions both here and abroad and we must fight it with increasing urgency. At home, we must fight BDS on college campuses where their advocates have made inroads with various groups and faculty under the guise of painting Israel as an "apartheid regime." At one event sponsored by Africans for Israel, a South African black speaker who lived for decades under real apartheid now advocates for the growing partnership between Israel and African nations directly negating the narrative that Israel is an apartheid regime.

The protests outside continued this year with the usual mix of groups voicing opinions against Israel, AIPAC, and the US. A new Jewish group has appeared called If Not Now. They are primarily Jewish millennials protesting AIPAC and the "occupation." If these protestors could have heard many of the non-Jewish the speakers inside perhaps they would see

they are wrong.

One main stage discussion focused on a West Bank Palestinian man and his son who was born with a life-threatening heart defect. Together with the Peres Center for Peace and PA, he received successful life-saving surgery. Another speaker from the IDF discussed how wounded Syrians approached the border fence asking for medical help. The IDF started treating thousands of wounded men, women, and children without any publicity. Unfortunately, many of these stories fall on the deaf ears of the protestors.

Policy conference is a great environment for people of all walks of life, whether Jewish or not, to celebrate Jewish and Israeli culture, history, politics, see the positive impact that Israel has on our world, and to better understand the dangers facing not just Jews but many other minorities worldwide and how to help move past that. ☆



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Charlotte Jewish News**

Renowned Human Rights Activist, Father Patrick Desbois, to Speak at Queens University in September

Celebrating the One-Year Anniversary of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice

Father Patrick Desbois, the Braman Endowed Professor of the Practice of the Forensic Study of the Holocaust at the Center for Jewish Civilization at Georgetown University, will be the guest of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University on September 14, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the newly renovated Belk Chapel on the Queens campus.

Father Desbois, president of Yahad-In Unum, has devoted his life to confronting antisemitism and furthering Catholic-Jewish understanding. In addition, since 2001, he has led an undertaking of identifying and locating undiscovered mass graves of Jews killed during the Holocaust in Eastern Europe. His book, *The Holocaust by Bullets*, documents his findings and won the 2008 National Jewish Book Award.

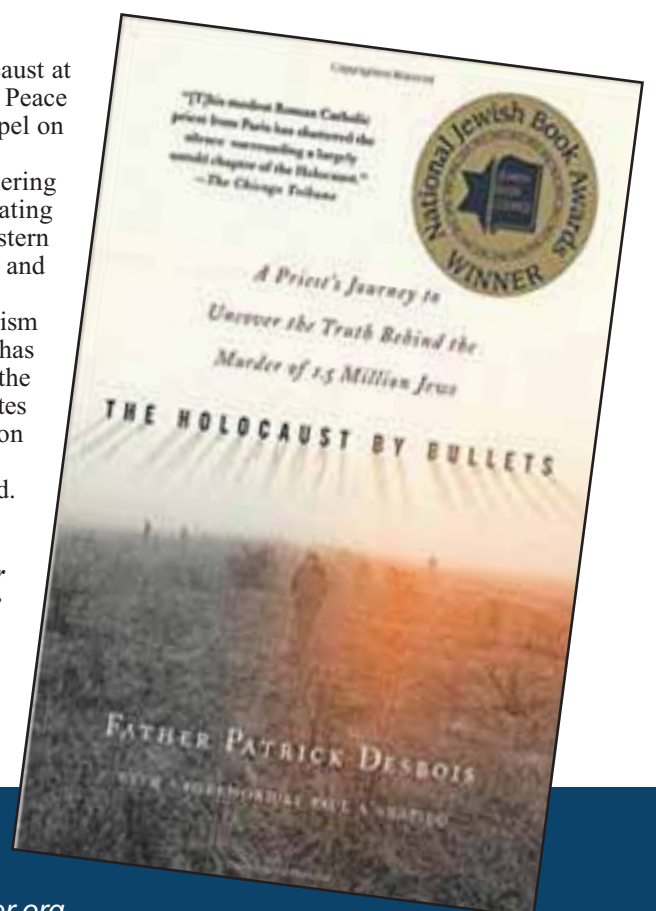
He is the director of the Episcopal Committee for Relations with Judaism and serves as a consultant to the Vatican on relations with Judaism. He has been awarded the Medal of Valor by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Humanitarian Award of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, honorary doctorates from many universities, and Frances' highest honor, The Legion d'Honneur.

Father Desbois' visit and presentation is free but seating is limited. RSVPs can be made at StanGreensponCenter.org.



For the last year, the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice has given voice to the voiceless, and formed community partnerships to create positive change.

The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice
Where Hope Takes Hold



QUEENS
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**Stan Greenspon Center
for Peace and Social Justice**

1900 Selwyn Avenue
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StanGreensponCenter.org

Youth Visions

Hebrew Highlights – Why Hebrew High –Part Two

Below is a brief statement given by a Hebrew High student as part of the Teen Shabbat service at Temple Beth El.

Shabbat shalom. Hello everyone my name is Tyler Lewis and I am a student in the Hebrew for High School credit class offered through Hebrew high.

The class is taught by Morah Donna DeGroot, a teacher at the Charlotte Jewish Day School. I am in my second year of the course, and it has helped me become closer to my faith and closer to prayer itself.

The class builds on the skills learned in Hebrew school when you are younger and develops them into real conversational Hebrew. I particularly look forward to using these while on a Birthright trip to Israel.



The Hebrew for Credit classes visit Morah Donna's sukkah.

Morah Donna has also used the class to further our understanding of modern Israeli culture and lifestyle. As a class we have helped at a Jewish wedding service for a young Orthodox couple and even watched the Hebrew version of Harry Potter. Two of my classmates went on a summer trip to Israel to apply what we have learned to reality.

Over the past two years in the class I have seen in myself and in my classmates, not only the development of our Hebrew skills but also a deepening of our individual connection to prayer and Judaism.



The Hebrew for Credit students use technology in their studies. Tyler Lewis is on the far left.

These heartfelt words form one of

our students, really captures the essence of Hebrew High. Every Wednesday evening our teens are exploring their faith and learning the skills needed to become comfortable, knowledgeable, Jewish adults. Guided by an amazing faculty of dedicated clergy and lay leaders, they embrace their history and look forward to leading our community into the future.

If you have a child or grandchild who is entering 8th-12th grade, please encourage them to enroll. At Hebrew High we continue to give Jewish teens in Charlotte a safe space to explore the world through the lens of Jewish values. That is why Hebrew High is the place to be on Wednesday nights.

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

Spring Cultural, Elections, and More from BBYO

In early April, over 200 teens attended North Carolina's Spring Cultural Convention in Charlotte. The convention theme was Welcome to NCC's State Fair. There were many competitions and foods to go right along with the theme, and as always chapters from around the state competed for the Spirit Cup.

The BBYO chapters competed in traditional competitions such as chapter song, banner, scrapbook, music video, and more. This year the coordinators, Kate Hader of Chai Chaverim BGG and Max Schoenbrun of Hank Greenberg AZA, added some new competitions such as a spelling bee which was lots of fun for the participants and the spirited audience. Another

new addition was the pie baking competition. The judges thoroughly enjoyed sampling each of the pies which ranged from a chocolate cookie combo to apple.

Shabbat was celebrated with services throughout the weekend planned by teens. A beautiful Havdalah service was held under a star-filled sky in the Butterfly Garden. We were so happy have close to 30 eighth graders participate in the convention. Our unique Havdalah service helped them learn first-hand how meaningful convention weekends are. Special programming and time to bond also allowed these new members to connect.

(Continued on page 21)



The newly elected board members of NC Council.



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To schedule your personal tour, contact:
Director, Dedee Goldsmith, M.A. at dedee@jpsonsardis.org

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TEMPLE ISRAEL UNDERGOING RENOVATION PROJECT

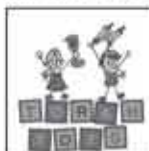
Phase One of Temple Israel's revitalization and reinvestment project has begun, and will continue through the summer. During this time, the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary and Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall will be the only accessible portions of the building. We have already taken steps to relocate any scheduled meetings, classes, events and programs to alternate locations for the duration of construction and connected with leaders of our auxiliary groups, committees and community partners to inform them of new meeting locations.

Over the coming months, please be sure to check the locations of all Temple activities you plan to attend, through our weekly e-blast, Shabbat announcements and online calendar.

The majority of the Temple building will be an active construction zone and it will not be open to visitors. If you have an appointment with a member of the Clergy or professional team, or if you need assistance with any Temple matters in person, please plan to visit the staff in the Gorelick Family Education Building.

Daily minyanim and Shabbat and Yom Tov services will take place in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary, which will only be accessible from the Madans Wing entrance (formerly known as the East Wing) to the building. If you have any questions, please contact our administrative offices at 704-362-2796.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICES



CELEBRATE SHABBAT with TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (TIRS) & TORAH TOTS!

Friday, May 5, 5:30pm

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

All are invited to gather for a special Torah Tots and Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS) All-School Shabbat dinner. After a delicious dinner, ALEPH STUDENTS will assist in leading Shabbat services, which will include Torah Tots tunes, in the Sanctuary. Reservations required - visit templeisraelinc.org, "Register for an Event".

JAVA 'N JEANS

Saturday, May 6, 10:00am

Location: Levinson Family Place, Levine JCC

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. (You are welcome even if you're not wearing jeans.)

SONGS IN THE KEY OF SHABBAT

Friday, May 19, 6:15pm

Location: Sam Lerner Center, Levine JCC

Come check out Temple Israel's Songs in the Key of Shabbat service at Sam Lerner Center for a fast-paced, hour and fifteen-minute service led by The Ruach, Temple Israel's own "house" band.

KAVANAH

Saturday, May 20, 10:00am

Location: Levinson Family Place, Levine JCC

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANTOR & FRIENDS

Sunday, May 14, 4:00pm

Location: Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary

Music Lovers in Europe had a wonderful custom: in France it was called a "Soiree Musicale" and in Germany and Austria, a "Liederabend" (evening of song). Please join us as our series continues on May 14 for SONGS FROM JEWISH LIFE, when Cantor Roachvarg, accompanied by Monty Bennett, will sing songs that reflect all aspects of our lives.



BACCALAUREATE SHABBAT

Friday, May 19, 6:15pm

Location: Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary

Please help us honor our High School Seniors during Shabbat services.

TEMPLE ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 21, 10:45am

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

All are welcome to celebrate a year in the life of our Temple and our community's accomplishments over the past year.



SHAVUOT & CONFIRMATION

Tuesday, May 30, 6:15pm

Location: Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate Confirmation & Shavuot with services and a dairy dinner. A Tikkun Leil Shavuot study session will follow. To RSVP for dinner, visit www.templeisraelinc.org and "Register for an Event".

ATTENTION FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN! SHAVUOT PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 31, 10:00-11:30am

Location: William R. Davie Park

This is a FREE event, but kindly RSVP to Arlene Mayo at amayo@templeisraelinc.org.

YOUTH

TI-Youth End-of-Year Party at Freedom Park! (All Youth Groups)

Sunday, May 7

4:30-6:30pm

Come and join your friends for a special year-end celebration! All members of TI Youth Groups (MAHAR, BONIM & GESHER) are invited to join us for an End-Of-Year party at Freedom Park! We will be recognizing graduating seniors and thanking those who have made our youth groups amazing this year. We will be having a BBQ Cookout for dinner, and there will be fun, games & prizes for ALL! Drop-off and Pick-up at Freedom Park. RSVP by Wednesday, May 3.



Visit us in our temporary location in the Gorelick Education Building.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Sun: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Tues-Thur: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Fri: 11:00am to 1:00pm

Stop by to see 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.



YOUNG ADULTS

Annual Lag B'Omer Backyard Cookout

Saturday, May 13, 7:30pm

Join Torah on Tap at the home of Andrew & Jen Rosen

for a fun evening of music and games, and of course a delicious catered cookout by Serafina Catering! Come and bring a friend. \$15 cover charge - All food included. BYOB. RSVP to Eric Cohen at financemajor2@gmail.com. Address will be given upon RSVP. Pay online at www.templeisraelinc.org ("Register for an Event").

MEN'S CLUB

SOCIAL/BUSINESS NETWORKING NIGHT

Wednesday, May 17, 7:00pm

Location: LICC - A111 Conference Room

All are welcome to this new initiative to encourage effective business networking. Share ideas and gain marketing knowledge from others - all in a social setting. Limited to 25-30 participants. Food and drinks will be served. RSVP by May 7 to Richard Freiberg (hvrprez5@windstream.net)

SOCIAL CLUB

Social Club: Cuban Experience Luncheon

Sunday, May 28, 12:30pm

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

You won't want to miss this "Cuban style" luncheon with photos and stories presented by members and friends who recently visited Cuba. Our speakers will be Marvin Barman, Gail Halverson, Sheila Peltzer, and Sharon Taubman. An informational flyer will be coming soon. Questions? Call Ruth Goldberg (704) 366-8903.

LIFELONG LEARNING

FROM KLEZMER TO "BUBBE MAYSES": Influences And Gems Of Yiddish Music And Culture

Wednesdays May 3, 10 and 17, 7:00 - 8:30

(with break for Minyan)

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

Have you ever wondered or marveled at the oversize impact Yiddish culture and music have had on American popular culture? Do you remember some choice Yiddish words or expressions from your grandparents, and wish you knew more? Is there a connection between Klezmer and cartoon music? Is it true that that every curse and zinger is much juicier in Yiddish? Here's your opportunity to delve into the origins of Yiddish, the wild and unexpected places you'll find Yiddish, and how its influence has infiltrated American syntax, theater, Broadway, literature, movies, music of various genres, and much more.

*Lifelong Learning classes are FREE to all Temple Israel members. Cost for non-members is \$36. To register, contact the Clergy office at 704-362-2796 or by email at clergyoffice@templeisraelinc.org.



NEXT MONTH:

SPLASH INTO SHABBAT with Torah Tots @ the Levine JCC Pool/Splash Park!

Friday, June 9,

4:30-6:30pm. For information, visit www.templeisraelinc.org.



Temple Israel prepares and serves food for the men's shelter. For more information about the Temple's Social Action programs, visit templeisraelinc.org.

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Lag B'omer – Mother's Day Family Fun Day

Sunday May 14 - At William R. Davie Park

Lag B'omer coincides this year with Mother's Day and Chabad of Charlotte is inviting all Jewish families of the Greater Charlotte area to join together for an exciting family fun day at William R. Davie Park in southeast Charlotte.

There will be music, children's activities, arts and crafts, and a delicious kosher barbeque dinner. All moms in attendance will be part of a raffle for a special mother's day prize.

The event starts at 4 PM with a barbeque dinner at 5 PM at Davie Park, 4635 Pineville-Matthews Road in Charlotte. Fee \$18 per person and \$45 per family.

Lag B'omer is a day of bon fires and outdoor fun in Israel as people throughout the country celebrate the life of Rabbi Akiva's students and his prime disciple, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. According to Jewish tradition, Lag B'omer was the day that a major epidemic that afflicted the disciples of Rabbi Akiva in the days of the Talmud ended. The jubilation

carries even today as we reflect the major impact it had on Jewish life in Israel. Lag B'omer also marks the anniversary of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai's ascension to heaven. Rabbi Shimon is most famous and revered in the Talmud as one of the greatest leaders of the Jews in the harsh days of the Roman occupation of Israel.

The Zohar relates that Rabbi Shimon assembled his closest disciples on Lag B'omer and taught them the secrets of Kabbalah. A fiery pillar surrounded him as he uttered the word life and his soul ascended upwards with the fire. It is an ancient tradition to light bon fires all over Israel.

Lag B'omer is the day that breaks the period of mourning between Passover and Shavuot and is a day reserved for fun, games, and barbeque.

For more information on this event please visit our website at: chabadnc.net or call our office at 704-366-3984.★

Shavuot Event at Ohr HaTorah on May 31 Celebrates the Gift of Children

The festival of Shavuot, which falls this year on May 31 and June 1, one of the most significant events in Jewish history. The giving of the Torah by God to the people of Israel at Mount Sinai some 3329 years ago. The event changed the mission statement of the Jewish people and it is created an unbreakable bond between God and the people of Israel. The very existence of Judaism today is directly linked to this landmark event which altered the Jewish people forever.

According to the Midrash and the Talmud the superstars of this amazing event are the children. God asked Moses for trustworthy guarantors for the safe-keeping of the Torah. At first Moses offered the Jewish leaders, patriarchs, and matriarchs as guarantors but they were not accepted. God only accepted the children as guarantors as they will ensure that the Torah will be kept, revered, and observed and most of all transmitted from generation to generation.

Ohr HaTorah will celebrate this Shavuot with the children taking the center stage at the holiday morn-

ing service on Wednesday, May 31. The children will march into the sanctuary at 11 AM to witness the special reading in the Torah scroll in the portion of the Torah that describes the story of the giving of the Torah including the reading of the Ten Commandments.

There will also be a festive dairy Kiddush luncheon after the service. The children will be treated to an assortment of kosher ice cream delights during the Kiddush. One of the remarkable customs which is quite popular is eating dairy foods like cheesecake or cheese blintzes on Shavuot. One of the reasons for this custom is that Jews first began to observe kosher dietary laws with the giving of the Torah and the most readily available foods to them at the time were milk and cheese. Another reason for this custom is that Torah is likened to mother's milk, which nurtures the child.

There is no charge for this event. For more information please visit our website: www.chabadnc.org. Or call our office at 704-366-3984.★



JSTAGE PRESENTS



Corelick Hall at Shalom Park

Wed, May 24 • 7:30pm

A reading of the tribute play presented by *green/hair creative*

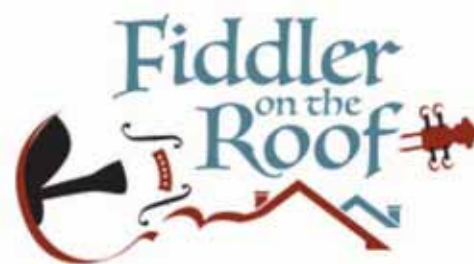
Stories of Harvey Milk - the people he knew, the lives he changed.

Promotional support from Greenspon Center for Peace & Social Justice, Keshet Committee at Temple Beth El.

Free Admission with a pass-the-hat to benefit SAGE Charlotte Chapter (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders)

greenhaircreative.org

Jewish Community Night at



with Susan Cherin Gundersheim as **Golde**

CPCC's Halton Theater

Thu, June 8 • 7:30pm

Ticket Sales for Fiddler begin **May 1st** at <http://tix.cpcc.edu> or call 704-330-6534

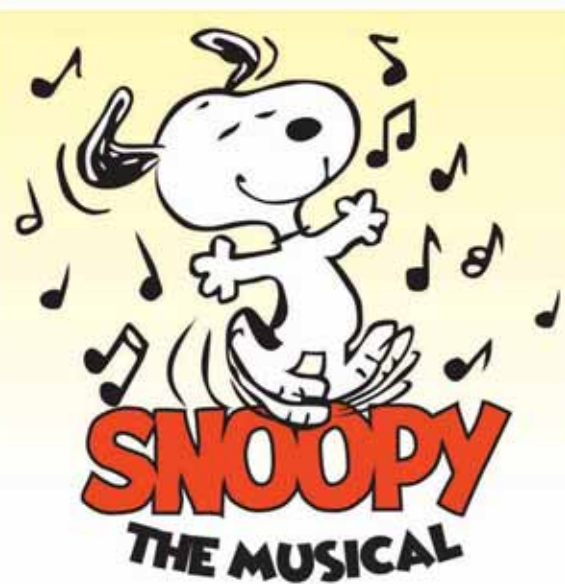
Corelick Hall at Shalom Park

Sat, May 20 @ 2pm & 7pm

Sun, May 21 @ 2pm

Tickets \$10 at

charlottejcc.org/snoopythemusical
704-366-5007 or
LJCC Customer Service



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Temple Kol Ami and Tikkun Olam

At Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, is a very important aspect of our community. TKA has been involved in numerous social action and mitzvah projects in the last year involving many of our congregants. Starting at Rosh Hashanah, TKA sponsored our annual food drive to benefit the Jewish Family Services in Charlotte. We collected hundreds of pounds of canned goods and non-perishables for donation to the food pantry.

Teaching our students about these concepts is a focus of the Temple Kol Ami Religious School. Our kids made travel menorahs and thank you cards to send to Jewish soldiers at Fort Bragg, NC. In addition, they contributed personal hygiene items to make "care kits" for our service members. During Purim, students decorated gift bags and donated candy, mints, and other items to make *mishloach manot* for the senior citizens of Dorchester Retirement Community. The previous Purim, the gift bags were donated to Safe Passages, a Domestic Violence shelter in Rock Hill. Last year during the floods in South Carolina, our kids helped out by do-



Planting trees at the Hebrew Cemetery for Tu BiShevat.

nating items to send in the relief effort. Mitzvah projects for our b'nei mitzvah students are also a point of emphasis at TKARS. TKA member Jaiden Vanden Broecke has been collecting children's books to donate to the Levine Children's Hospital in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah.



Making shalach manot for Purim.

During Tu BiShevat, it is considered a mitzvah to plant a tree. TKA members Andrew and Will Lyons and David and Reece Dobro participated in a tree planting at the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte on February 12 in observance of Tu BiShevat. It was a great way to contribute to the Charlotte community and beautify the cemetery.

As you can see, Temple Kol Ami has been busy doing our part to help the local community as well as others far away. If you live in the York County or South Charlotte area, we would love for you to join our community and contribute to the great work we have started. You can find out about what is going on at TKA at our website www.templekolamisc.org or e-mail us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com for more information. You are always welcome to drop in at one of our Friday night Shabbat services and meet our Rabbi Ana Bonnheim as well as the rest of our welcoming congregation (Rabbi Bonnheim will next be with us on May 19). Our quarterly Shabbatons are free and open to the public so keep an eye on the website for details on that.☆



BBYO News

(Continued from page 18)

On Sunday morning elections were held to elect the 27th NC Council AZA and BBG Boards. Congratulations to Ben Rubenstein, Dylan Selkin, Kate Hader, Sophie Levy, Gabby Catenazzo, Alyssa Bernstein, and Abby Meyer, all local teens serving on the 2017-2018 North Carolina Council state boards.

Now that our final convention of the year has passed we are planning the final events of the year. Local teens will be electing new chapter leaders and a community Havdalah is planned for Saturday, May 13, from 8-10 PM at the Levine JCC. All Charlotte BBYO families past and present are welcome to participate in this event.☆



26th North Carolina council BBG board celebrate hitting their year end membership goal



Kate Hader and Max Schoenbrun.

Help Us Kvell!

Do you know a Jewish teen who has shown Jewish pride through his or her actions? Share your story with us!

The Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award was created in the Spring of 2012 to honor the memory of our beloved alum, Zachary Shporer, who attended the Charlotte Jewish Day School from kindergarten through eighth grade. While Zachary possessed many amazing attributes, the one that sticks out most in many of our minds is his Jewish pride.

Zachary incorporated Jewish values into every aspect of his life. He did not necessarily choose easy mitzvot or popular mitzvot. He didn't call attention to himself. But he carried the Torah in his heart and acted according to its teachings.

At CJDS, we want to continue Zachary's legacy by celebrating and recognizing Jewish students through high school, who, like Zachary, demonstrate their Jewish pride in their everyday lives.

Share your nominations with us! We will be accepting nominations for the award from now until Passover. From all the nominations, a recipient will be selected by our Nominations Committee and will be recognized at the CJDS Graduation Ceremony.

Every day a Jewish teen does something extraordinary to demonstrate their Jewish pride. But we we need your help to know the full story!

A \$250 grant will be awarded towards any enrichment of the recipient's Jewish life (i.e. camp, Hebrew school, Jewish books).



Please write on the back or by email to mgroner@cjdschool.org (in no more than 200 words) why you think the nominee demonstrates Jewish pride. Feel free to attach supporting documentation as a way to illustrate your discussion. Please note, because supporting documentation may not be returned, only copies should be submitted.

Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award* Nomination Form (please print clearly)

*All Charlotte, NC area Jewish teens are eligible. Nominee does not need to be a CJDS student or alumni to participate.

Nominee/Name of Jewish teen being nominated

Nominee's Contact Phone _____

Nominee's Email _____

Nominee's Mailing Address _____

Person submitting the Nomination

Nominator's Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Engaging Baby Boomers

By Rabbi Asher Knight, Temple Beth El

When I first arrived in Charlotte, I met hundreds of congregants through welcome events planned by Temple Beth El's Transition Committee. During these events, I repeatedly heard similar stories from our members, particularly baby boomers and empty nesters. They told me that they felt deeply tied emotionally to our congregation and to Jewish life, but they also felt disconnected from one another and from a sense of community. They wanted cohorts of friends and community with which to connect, grow, learn, and sustain each other's lives. Further, they recognized that they must be stakeholders in building the future of our Jewish community. I quickly realized that our congregation has made huge strides in senior, young adult, and youth engagement but we have a large engagement gap with a significant portion of our members.

In the fall of 2016, Temple Beth El joined several Reform congregations across the nation in a Community of Practice dedicated to engaging baby boomers and empty nesters. Our working group, chaired by Holly Levinson, is a diverse group of more than thirty Temple Beth El members who have met regularly throughout the fall and winter to learn about dynamics facing this age demographic, explore principles



A large crowd of baby boomers attended the event at Temple Beth El.

of engagement, and plan and execute a Listening Campaign. We are thankful to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for funding this initiative through an Impact and Innovation grant. The team's energy and excitement has been palpable as they planned and prepared to listen to our members.

On March 29, Temple Beth El held a Listening Campaign kick-off event with over two hundred people in attendance. The evening was invigorating and included over twenty listening circles, facilitated by members of our Baby Boomers Working Group and Board of Directors. We listened to new members sharing stories with people who grew up at Temple their whole lives and people expressing the blessings and challenges of retiring to a new city. Members who are considering retirement discussed the obstacles,

fears, and excitement in the years ahead. Many people voiced a deep desire for genuine connections to community, Jewish spirituality, and meaningful learning.

The evening was a good reminder that it is in our homes, neighborhoods, and in our synagogues where people form relationships that add substance, support, and meaning to our lives. I am proud that we created an opportunity for conversation and to learn from our members' lived experiences. Most importantly, we have developed a dynamic and dedicated team that will help us to create a new reality through engaging our members. I want to share a brief preview of what we heard:

- Long standing members are proud of raising their children in the congregation and are now looking for their own place of

connection and relationship.

- Baby boomers are looking forward to many years of life and are interested in meaningful learning, developing personal spiritual practices, and strong social networks.

- Jews are following their children to Charlotte. People have articulated that coming into a large congregation, especially without professional networks or connections developed around school age children, can feel intimidating and overwhelming.

The kick-off event was a giant step in our commitment to leverage the temple's strengths and ex-

pand our current conceptions of what synagogue life in the 21st century can look like, both inside our temple walls and in the broader community. ☆



Sam Zimmern, Steve Menaker, Scott Menaker.

New Zero Entry Pool Opens May 27

NO JOINING FEE

Thru end of May!



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Havurat Tikvah to Host Shabbaton

Havurat Tikvah will welcome as its guest Temple Israel's Cantor Elias Roochvarg for a program on "Songs of the American Jewish Experience" on May 7 at 4 PM at the Langsam/Fischer Residence, 1607 Dilworth Rd. W.

The music in the program will cover the rise and development of Jewish music across a number of centuries. This will also include composers, musicians, performers, etc., whose influence has become recognized throughout the world of Judaism and beyond. There may even be some sing-a-long moments during the afternoon's program. Light kosher snacks will be served.

Visiting clergy member Rabbi Michael Ross will present an educational program, "Re-imagining the Covenant," to commemorate Shavuot (May 30 – June 1) on May 28 at 10 AM at Strawberry Hill Apartments, Club House, 4051 Bannockburn Pl.

Rabbi Ross is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and director of Lifelong Learning at Beth David Synagogue in Greensboro, NC.

Yizkor service follows the pro-



Cantor Elias Roochvarg

gram, as well as a kosher/vegetarian catered luncheon. An RSVP is requested via email to spkugel-mass@gmail.com. Members of the community are welcome to attend.

An alternative community Shabbat service will be held on June 17 at 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, Aitken Classroom, 2821 Park Rd., followed by Kiddush. A D'var Torah discussion on the week's parshat will be included within the service.

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with Shabbat services and a full spec-

trum of holiday observances, as well as religious educational options for both adults and children. We are a diverse group of families, singles, and Jewish and interfaith couples who participate in projects that promote social justice.

We value and depend upon member participation and leadership for our religious services, spiritual growth and governance.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, in association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

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



Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Hilda Laskar Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

By Ellen Orenstein

My mother, Hilda Oksenhandler Laskar, daughter of Moishe and Roza Oksenhandler, was born in Poland on April 10, 1917, and recently celebrated her 100th birthday. As the rise of Hitler took hold in Europe, Hilda's married sister escaped Poland with her husband to try and find a safe haven for the family. After traveling throughout Europe and being expelled from each country, they ended up in Morocco. At the age of 16, Hilda followed the path of her sister, met with an underground group in France, and then continued on her journey to Morocco. It was there, an Arab country with a large Sephardic population, that these escapees of the holocaust were welcomed. This Jewish community of Mo-

rocco were descendants of victims of the Spanish Inquisition. No one else from Hilda's family was able to leave Poland and ended up being victims of WWII. At the age of 17, Hilda married a young Sephardic businessman, Alberto Laskar, and had three children. After the war, Alberto traveled to Europe to try and find survivors. He found only three members of the family of 80. It was shortly after 1948 that Morocco, a colony of France and Spain, gained its independence. Most Spaniards and Frenchmen left, prompting the Jews to leave too. It was then that Alberto, Hilda, and their three children left for New York and more recently to Charlotte, NC. Happy 100th birthday to a survivor and wonderful woman! ☆



Hilda in Morocco with Alberto



Hilda at 99.



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Hats Off!

Congratulations to our Class of 2017 Graduates!



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Erin.Dennis@hilton.com

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www.hamptonsouthpark.com



What Sex in a Traditional Shavuot Reading Can Teach Today's Teens

By Donna Kirshbaum

Omer, Israel (JTA) - As Jews, we tend to pride ourselves on our tradition's values and how we pass them on to future generations; values such as education, tzedakah, loving the stranger, pursuing justice, and tikkun olam, "repair of the world." But if you were to start a conversation today with a teenager, would you be ready to articulate Jewish values related to dating and sexuality?

Several such values can be gleaned straight from the Book of Ruth customarily read during the holiday of Shavuot, which begins this year on the evening of May 30. Best known for its embrace of Ruth as a convert to Judaism and its emphasis on loving-kindness, the Book of Ruth also includes interactions that have a potentially sexual cast to them. It is a text that names what it sees rather than sugarcoats.

For example, here we read about Boaz, a wealthy kinsman of Ruth's destitute, widowed mother-in-law, Naomi. Boaz invites Ruth, along with other young women, to collect unharvested produce in his fields. He tells Ruth that he has instructed his men not to molest her. Naomi, hearing later that day about Ruth's gleaning in Boaz's fields, admits her relief that young men from another field won't be touching her daughter-in-law.

Later Naomi counsels Ruth to make herself as attractive as possible, to seek out Boaz after his dinner, and to "uncover his feet



Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum

and lie down." Boaz was a sexual hero to our ancestors - one who manages to restrain himself for the sake of the dignity and welfare of another. When Ruth identifies herself that night, she calls Boaz her redeemer - someone who can save her, legally, from continued widowhood. But he points out there is an even closer relative in the town, whom he goes to look for as soon as day breaks. We can also infer that nothing of a sexual nature happens between them because of what we know about Boaz from the start: He considers everyone created in the image of God.

This basic Jewish value, in turn, can lead us to Judaism's view of the potential sacredness of all relationships, including sexual ones. As Rabbi Paul Yedwab teaches in "Sex in the Texts," his guide for Jewish teenagers, "In our sexual activities, we need to retain our human character - indeed our divine imprint."

Finding a potential for divine

connection in sexual encounters does not make Jewish tradition averse to sex and sexuality; it encourages sexual pleasure. But the Jewish context is bigger than two consenting adults in a bed. It includes remembering in whose image we are created, that we are God's partners in improving and sanctifying life, and that freedom and responsibility are both essential for authentic relationships that help both partners grow.

Jewish teens, living in a complex world full of competing values, need to hear that the more they are able to connect sex to love and love to respect, the more deeply satisfied and whole both they and their partners will feel. Jewish Women International recently produced "Dating Abuse: Tools for Talking to Teens," an online video course for parents and teens about healthy relationships, prevention of abuse, and proven interventions.

The curriculum notes that teens, especially girls, are "bombed with the glorification of idealized, romantic, obsessive love" and that many boys are "undated with hyper-sexualized messages reducing relationships to degrading sex, glorifying control of women's bodies, and promoting violence." But it also reminds parents and other trusted adults that they can counteract these influences by sharing their own values with their children.

Although the Book of Ruth is an ancient text told in only four

chapters, it can be a source of Jewish values for teens entering the world of dating today. These include the importance of giving actions their right names; for instance, naming any form of coerced or non-consensual sexual activity as abuse. Another is that every human act, even one that seems instinctive and often depicted as a purely physical transaction, deserves the dignity that comes from our being God's partners. A third is that sex is potentially holy and not something innately shameful.

Of course, the story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz has much to teach everyone about healthy relationships. JWI's holiday guide, "Re-

thinking Shavuot: Women, Relationships, and Jewish Texts" (available as a free download), provides excerpts from the Book of Ruth along with contemporary commentaries and conversation starters, especially for college-age students and adults at all stages of life.

As the Jewish world prepares to celebrate revelation at Shavuot, may we all continue to learn and teach enduring Jewish values that continue to be revealed to us through our conversations with and about our texts. ☆

(Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum is a member of JWI's Clergy Task Force on Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community.)

"Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you. And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more."

Ruth 1:16-18

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Gluten-Free Cheese Blintzes for Shavuot: All the Love Without All the Guilt

By Dawn Lerman/JNS.org

Editor's Note: In her recently published memoir, "My Fat Dad: A Memoir of Food, Love, and Family, with Recipes," New York Times wellness blogger and nutritionist Dawn Lerman shares her food journey and that of her father, a copywriter from the "Mad Men" era of advertising.

Dawn spent her childhood constantly hungry. She craved good food as her father, 450 pounds at his heaviest, pursued endless fad diets, from Atkins to Pritikin to all sorts of freeze-dried, saccharin-laced concoctions, and insisted the family do the same—even though no one else was overweight. Dawn's mother, on the other hand, could barely be bothered to eat a can of tuna over the sink. She was too busy ferrying her other daughter to acting auditions and scolding Dawn for cleaning the house.

"My Fat Dad" is as much a coming-of-age memoir as it is a recipe collection from Dawn's upbringing and culinary adventures. The recipes include some of her grandmother's favorite traditional Jewish dishes, but also healthier interpretations of them ranging from gluten-free, to dairy-free, to kosher, to vegan.

Ahead of the dairy-oriented Shavuot holiday, JNS.org presents the following excerpt from "My Fat Dad," in addition to a recipe for gluten-free cheese blintzes.

My ad man dad was never a morning person. He said that when he slept, his best ideas came to him — including his award-winning slogans for "Leggo My Eggo," "Soup is Good Food," and "Coke is It."

On the weekends, my little sister April and I knew the only way to awake my father was to make him a scrumptious breakfast in bed. Figuring out what to prepare depended on the diet du jour and the number on the big chalkboard above the scale in our bathroom that showed his current weight. My dad weighed himself every morning, every night, and after each meal — carefully displaying every victory and every setback in white chalk. He usually weighed around 350 pounds, but would often fluctuate a hundred pounds on either end. We usually knew how our day would be if the numbers were going up or down. If the numbers were going down, it might be a cheat day; but if the numbers were going up, I had to conjure up something tasty, but a little more calorie friendly.

On Shavuot, my dad looked forward to little packages of love — aka cheese blintzes. I had made them from scratch several times with my maternal grandmother Beauty before we moved from Chicago to New York City, but never by myself. When I called my grandmother for guidance, she said that since I was almost 10, which was her age when she started making the blintzes for her family and the boarders who lived in her home, she knew I could do it. But my grandmother always thought I could do everything perfectly, which was not always the

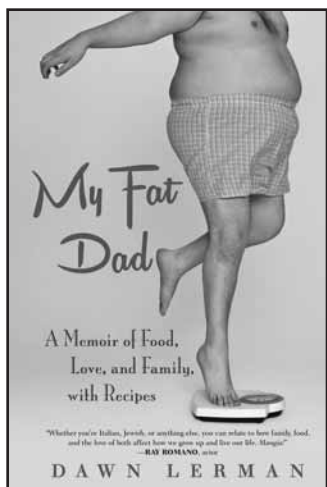


A young Dawn Lerman—ready to cook with her grandmother Beauty. Credit: Courtesy Dawn Lerman.

case — especially when it came to singing and dancing, which were my four-year-old little sister's forte.

"The trick to not being overwhelmed making the blintzes is to do it in two parts," said Beauty. "In the evening, make the crepes for the shell and fill them so they would have time to set overnight and be ready for frying in the morning."

Beauty said the smell of the blintzes frying in butter could arouse even the deepest of sleepers. With my grandmother's encouragement, I began gathering the cheese for the filling, and the yogurt and berries for the topping. I wanted my blintzes to be as delicious as the traditional Jewish ones that my dad loved — but these ones needed to be a little lighter on calories. My dad was now a top creative director at a major ad agency, and appearances were very important to his clients — especially since his clients included many major fast food and beverage products.



The cover of "My Fat Dad," by Dawn Lerman. Credit: Berkley Books.

According to Beauty, the secret to making the perfect blintzes was to get the shell paper-thin. "It's all in all the wrist," she would say. I remember, when I was little, watching her effortlessly tilt the hot pan as she poured in the silky batter. She would carefully swirl the liquid mixture to evenly coat the bottom of the cast-iron skillet. After about 30 seconds, she would run a knife around the edge of the crepe to prevent it from sticking.

I had seen my grandmother prepare the blintzes so many times that I was confident that I could replicate them, even though I was swapping my father's diet protein powder for flour — making sure they met the requirements of his new low-carbohydrate diet.

Wanting to surprise my dad, I waited until he fell asleep to prepare his special breakfast. I carefully made the crepes just the way Beauty showed me. Ever since I was big enough to reach the counter with a step stool, I had helped her mix, fill, and roll.

In the morning, when I began frying the assembled blintzes, my dad flew into the kitchen. "Is that what I think it is?" he asked, delighted as he saw the displayed blintzes that my sister and I arranged on my grandmother's best china.

As I watched my dad enjoy the gluten-free blintzes with no mention of the ingredient swaps, I realized I could help my dad reach his weight loss goals, while still enjoying the foods that conjured fond memories from his childhood.

Beauty's Cheese Blintzes — with a Twist

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

My grandmother used to call these "little packages of love." They consist of thin dough around sweetened cheese, topped with fresh fruit. They're perfect for brunch or anytime you want to make loved ones feel special. What follows is a diet-friendly version of my grandmother's original recipe.

Ingredients:

For the crepe batter:

3 mashed bananas
3 T. milk or skim milk
6 scoops protein powder of your choice
1½ c. egg whites, beaten till stiff
Cooking spray for pan

For the cheese filling:

12 oz. farmer's cheese
4 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/3 c. sugar
1 t. lemon juice
1 t. vanilla extract
1 egg yolk
Pinch of salt

Toppings:

Powdered sugar (optional)
2 c. berries, sliced thin
Dollop of yogurt

Directions:

To make the batter:

Prepare batter. Mash the bananas and add the milk. Then stir in the protein powder and egg whites. Make sure you beat the egg whites separately till stiff, and then fold in. Note: The blintzes have a better texture if the batter rests for half an hour at room temperature. You can also let the filling chill for half an hour in the refrigerator. If the batter gets too thick while it is sitting, you can thin it with a little bit of cold water. Make the filling. Combine all of the filling ingredients in a bowl and mix together till smooth.

To make the crepes:

Grease a 6-7" skillet till it's hot, but not smoking. Put a ladle full



Dawn Lerman

of batter into the skillet. Tilt pan to swirl the batter so it covers the bottom of the skillet. Fry on one side till bubbles form and the top is set. The bottom should be golden brown. Carefully loosen

edges of the crepe and slip it out of the skillet onto a plate. Repeat the above procedure till all the batter is used. Grease skillet each time before pouring batter. After all the crepes are made, begin filling them. The brown side should be facing up. Place 3 T. of filling on one edge. Roll once to cover filling. Fold the sides into the center and continue rolling till completely closed. After all the blintzes are assembled, heat 2 T. of butter in the skillet and place each crepe, seam side down, in the skillet. Fry 2 min. on each side, turning once. Serve with a dollop of yogurt, garnish with fresh berries, and sprinkle with powdered sugar.☆

Dawn Lerman is a board-certified nutrition expert and the author of the best-selling book "My Fat Dad: A Memoir of Food, Love, and Family, With Recipes" (Berkley Books, September 2015).

For Shavuot, Try This Super Easy Strawberry Rhubarb Trifle

By Shannon Sarna

New York (JTA) — Forget fancy pastries, cakes or tarts: Trifles are the best dessert you can make for entertaining. They are delicious and look beautiful and impressive, but are actually one of the easiest desserts you can make.

The first time I made a trifle was actually after a baking mistake. My Bundt cake had fallen apart mere hours before Shabbat dinner, and I was in a pinch to throw together a dessert. I threw the botched cake into a trifle dish, added some fresh fruit and chocolate mousse and voila — I was able to salvage dessert.

Shavuot is traditionally a time when we serve cheesecake, blintzes, and other delicious, but heavy, dairy dishes. This trifle sings of spring flavors while being much lighter than your average cheesecake. And there's no baking required — and only minimal cooking — since I suggest using a store-bought pound cake. Which leaves you more time for your all-night Shavuot studying. Or sitting outside with a glass of iced tea and a bowl full of trifle.

Strawberry Rhubarb Trifle

Ingredients:

2 lbs. rhubarb, chopped into 1" pieces
1 pt. strawberries, cut in half and stems removed
1 c. sugar
Juice of half lemon plus zest
1/2 c. water
2 cups heavy whipping cream
2 T. sugar
1 t. vanilla
Store-bought pound cake
Additional strawberries and mint for garnish (optional)

Preparation:

To make the strawberry rhubarb compote, combine the chopped rhubarb, hulled strawberries, sugar, water, and lemon juice in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and then reduce to simmer for 10-15 min., till pieces of rhubarb have broken down and the mixture is soft.

Place rhubarb mixture into a food processor fitted with blade attachment. Pulse a few times to smooth out mixture or until it has reached your desired consistency.

To make the whipped cream, place the heavy cream in a large chilled bowl and mix on low speed using a hand mixer or stand

mixer for 2 minutes. Increase speed to high and add vanilla.

Add 2 T. sugar and mix until you have stiff peaks.

To assemble, crumble the pound cake on the bottom of a trifle dish or large glass bowl. Add ½ to 1 c. rhubarb compote on top. Cover with whipped cream. Repeat layers until you have reached the top.

Add fresh strawberries and mint on top if desired.☆

(Shannon Sarna is editor of The Nosh blog on MyJewishLearning.com.)



Strawberry rhubarb trifle requires no baking and only minimal cooking. (Shannon Sarna)

Negev-Based Boutique Cheese Maker Offers Travelers a Tasty Shavuot

By Maayan Jaffe/JNS.org

Standing alone against the desert landscape, Kornmehl Goat Cheese Farm and Restaurant is modest, lacking artsy adornments and embellishments that tourists often favor. But situated about 30 miles south of Sde Boker, the



An assortment of cheeses pictured at the Kornmehl farm in the Negev. The Kornmeihls consider themselves cheese artisans. They make specialty cheeses ranging from brie to camembert at their farm. Credit: Provided photo.

home of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, the farm is a striking example of how the once vast desert region that most tourists simply ignored is blooming today.

Owners Anat and Daniel Kornmehl are considered by many chefs to be the finest makers of goat cheese in Israel. People flock from across the Negev, as well as other parts of Israel, to taste the farm's camembert, Tommes de Pyrenees, Edna, and their hard Alpine-like cheese called Adi, named after one of their goats.

Come Shavuot, when families focus on dairy at their festive meals, the establishment becomes even more popular.



Brent Delman, "The Cheese Guy," of Yonkers, NY. Photo from The Cheese Guy website.

The Kornmeihls, both agronomists trained at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, started the farm in 1997, five years after they acquired their first herd of goats. Anat Kornmehl said after she and her husband graduated, they went to Australia and New Zealand to find an idea for something to do in the agriculture arena. When they returned, she started working at the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture guiding farmers on how to raise goats and sheep.

"We started to get more and more into it," Anat Kornmehl recalled. "We started raising our own goats and milking them and then processing the milk into cheese and selling the cheese."

That was 20 years ago in Jerusalem. But the red tape, Anat explained, was frustrating. With limited land, they struggled to let

their goats graze naturally. The Kornmeihls believe that the health of their goats affects the quality of their cheese. The goats are antibiotic and hormone free and the Kornmeihls give constant attention to the goats' living conditions and food. The move to the Negev made their organic dreams possible.

The Kornmehl's land is leased from the government. The couple manages waste carefully to protect the fragile environment and minimize damage to the land caused by the herd.

Daniel and Anat emphasize traditional values of cheese making, while adapting them to the local environment. They create cheeses that are personal interpretations of famous French varieties. Anat Kornmehl said the Negev, with its low humidity, is conducive to raising goats.

It has also been conducive to raising children. A mother of three kids, Anat Kornmehl said the youths help out on the farm and enjoy the animals. They also get



Goats at Kornmehl farm in the Negev. Forty goats live at the farm, providing the milk for its gourmet cheese. Credit: Provided photo.

extra time with their parents that they wouldn't otherwise have.

"They have the quiet and the family things we do together. Because we work on the farm, we are available for the kids all the time," she said. "Some parents, they take their kids to school, go to work, come back at night. It is not that we work less; we work a lot. But we can stop at any time of day to be with the kids, assist them."

The couple's son, Michael, described his life as "nice and sweet," and said the biggest challenge is transportation. No public transit passes the Kornmehl farm and it can be hard to visit friends or participate in weekend activi-



The Kornmehl farm, pictured, is located in southern Israel with magical views of the desert hills. The farm faces the remnants of terraces belonging to an ancient farm from the Middle Bronze period (3000 to 4000 BC). Credit: Provided photo.

ties. But he has gotten used to his role with the dairy.

"Sometimes I walk with them [the goats]. I take them up to the milking shed, close the gate and help feed them," Michael said, noting he also works in the restaurant, usually selling the cheeses or washing dishes.

Does he play with the goats?

"There is not much to play with them," he said with a laugh. "Goats are stubborn."

At one time, the Kornmeihls had more than 100 goats. But last year, they took a sabbatical to Australia and cut their herd to only 47. Each of the 40 female goats that is of age to bear kids produces roughly 700 liters (185



Maayan Jaffe. Photo from American Jewish Press Association.

gallons) of milk per 9- to 10-month season. One liter of milk is equivalent to 1 liter of yogurt; 6 liters of milk makes about 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of brie or other milky cheeses; and eight to 10 liters of milk makes about 1 kilogram of hard cheese.

The Kornmeihls allow their baby goats to nurse directly from their mothers in the first two months. Then they wean them, and the rest of the milk is for the farm. People who visit the restaurant can see the milking process in action. Anat said children visitors love the roaming goats and learn—often for the first time—that milk does not grow on a grocery store shelf.

The restaurant — famous for its pizza, filo dough filled with two types of goat cheese and fresh red pepper, and knafeh made of Kadaif noodles, cheese, and pistachios — uses only local produce and wine. While not kosher certified, all of the Kornmehl farm products are kosher and they do not operate on Shabbat.

Brent Delman of Yonkers, NY, who is known as the "Cheese Guy," said several factors can affect the taste of cheese, from the type and breed of the animal to the land on which they graze and even the air they breathe. He explained that sheep and goats tend to have more fat in their milk and that it is higher in protein.

"It lends itself to a different taste, usually stronger, tangier, maybe even gamey," Delman said.

In the U.S., cow cheese tends to be the most popular, produced predominantly in Wisconsin, California, Vermont, and New York. Cheddar is the most popular American cheese, said Delman, though more mozzarella (because of pizza) is



At its restaurant, the Negev-based Kornmehl farm offers a cheese pizza slathered in its famous mozzarella cheese, among other dishes like those pictured here. Credit: Provided photo.

consumed more than any other type.

For years, salty cheeses such as feta and spreadable cheeses modeled after German quark were available in Israel. But Delman, who visits Israel regularly and has a son in the Israeli army, said Israel is trending now toward specialty cheeses and boutique cheeses, like those produced by

the Kornmeihls.

He said as more kosher artisanal and specialty cheese makers, like the Kornmeihls and him, enter the marketplace, observant Jews will have the opportunity to add new flavor to their meals. On Shavuot, Delman recommends combining honey or date spreads with cheese, recalling the biblical reference to Israel as a land flowing with milk and honey.

The Kornmeihls offered a special Passover menu last month and will likely provide specialty dishes for Shavuot, too. They will not, however, be shipping their cheeses to the States. If you want to taste their delicacies, you'll have to take a trip to southern Israel. ☆

Maayan Jaffe is a freelance writer in Overland Park, Kan. Reach Maayan at maayanjaffe@icloud.com or follow her on Twitter, @MaayanJaffe.

"There is a moment in the tractate Menahot when the Rabbis imagine what takes place when Moses ascends Mount Sinai to receive the Torah. In this account (there are several) Moses ascends to heaven, where he finds God busily adding crownlike ornaments to the letters of the Torah. Moses asks God what He is doing and God explains that in the future there will be a man named Akiva, son of Joseph, who will base a huge mountain of Jewish law on these very orthographic ornaments. Intrigued, Moses asks God to show this man to him. Moses is told to 'go back eighteen rows,' and suddenly, as in a dream, Moses is in a classroom, class is in session and the teacher is none other than Rabbi Akiva. Moses has been told to go to the back of the study house because that is where the youngest and least educated students sit.

"Akiva, the great first-century sage, is explaining Torah to his disciples, but Moses is completely unable to follow the lesson. It is far too complicated for him. He is filled with sadness when, suddenly, one of the disciples asks Akiva how he knows something is true and Akiva answers: 'It is derived from a law given to Moses on Mount Sinai.' Upon hearing this answer, Moses is satisfied - though he can't resist asking why, if such brilliant men as Akiva exist, Moses needs to be the one to deliver the Torah. At this point God loses patience and tells Moses, 'Silence, it's my will.'"

-- Jonathan Rosen, *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey between Worlds*

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