

The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Vol. 39, No. 8

Elul 5777-Tishrei 5778

September 2017

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Achieves Highest Level of Annual Giving Ever -- \$3,933,117

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Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Turn to page 11 for Jewish Federation's annual listing of donors.



A Surprise Received in the Mail

A Letter of Remorse to a Victim of the Holocaust

By Amy Krakovitz

It wasn't uncommon in Nazi Germany during World War II for Jewish families to be forced from their homes without any compensation, and for "Aryan" families to take possession of these homes. However, it is extremely and uncommon for one of those displaced Jewish families to receive a letter years later from a descendant of the Nazi sympathizers who received their home – a letter full of pain and repentance in acknowledging the past.

Such an experience happened to the family of Charlotte's Judy August. Judy's grandparents, Claire and Julius Hirschmann, built the home at Eichendorfs-trasse 15 in Nuremberg, where Judy's father, Henry (z"l) and her uncle Peter Hirschmann, now age 92, were raised. Recently, Hirschmann was surprised by a letter that came from Germany. The author, Doris Schott-Neuse, wrote about her desire "to contact the family who owned the house ... where my Mum, Karin, and

my aunt, Helen Muhr, grew up and lived." She continued, "I am deeply ashamed for what us [sic] Germans did to yourself [sic], your family, and to your friends and relatives and to the members of the Nuremberg Jewish community. It is hardly bearable to start thinking about the details – what a horror and nightmare it must have been to live through this."

She went on to admit deep remorse at the crimes committed against the Hirschmanns and all Jews. A recent visit to Israel's Yad Vashem and participation in a Bavarian-Israeli initiative inspired her to learn more about her family's history. "There is no way to say 'it is all past,'" she admitted. "[We] Germans need to deal with remembering. I do think that this is the task for my generation,

handed down from the grandparents – 'we did not know' – generation via the parents 'we were not allowed to know' – generation to us ... with this comes the obligation to remember and not stay away any longer from tough questions." She included current pictures of the home, which her family no longer owns, for Hirschmann to see.

Hirschmann's response to Schott-Neuse was equally as moving. "I have lived a long life," he wrote, "and you are one of the finest human beings I have ever encountered. Your letter brought tears to my eyes for many reasons. First, because it called to mind the undeserved suffering of my family and so many families like mine, and the loss of my beloved childhood home. But it saddened me also to think that of you, who are blameless."



Doris Schott-Neuse's letter to Peter Hirschmann.

He expresses appreciation for all of her research and her quest for understanding. "You had the option to ignore it and instead you confronted it. My tears reflect the fervent hope that the humanity,

(Continued on page 19)

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See page 11 for the Jewish Federation's Annual Listing of Donors.

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Applications for the 2018 Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact and Innovation Fund are now available.

The Jewish Federation’s Impact and Innovation Fund distributes grants that are intended to inspire individuals, organizations, synagogues, and agencies to provide innovative and impactful engagement opportunities for the greater Charlotte Jewish community.

For more information or to receive an application, please contact the Federation office, 704.944.6757 www.jewishcharlotte.org



SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

- Friday, September 1, 7:31 PM
- Friday, September 8, 7:22 PM
- Friday, September 15, 7:12 PM
- Wednesday, September 20, Rosh HaShanah Eve, 7:04 PM
- Thursday, September 21, 2nd Night Rosh HaShanah, after 7:58 PM
- Friday, September 22, 7:01 PM
- Friday, September 29, Yom Kippur Eve, 6:51 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

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One Book, One Jewish Community
A New Center for Jewish Education (CJE)
Initiative Inspires the Community to Come Together

A great book fosters conversations and lays the foundation for a memorable community experience. Those are the main objectives driving CJE’s new initiative, “One Book, One Jewish Community.”



Mary Glickman

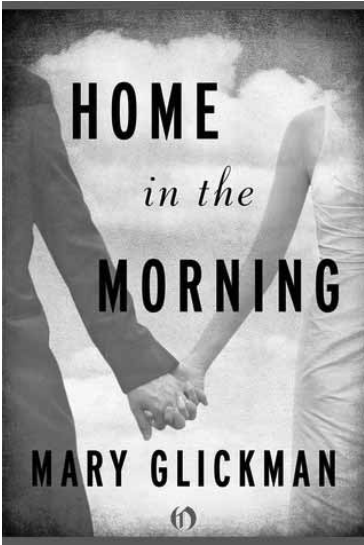
“The idea for the program,” says Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator, “came from a place of wanting to bring the community together around learning.” With its myriad connections to Jewish organizations that include schools and synagogues, CJE is the ideal incubator for “One Book, One Jewish Community.” Initiating both formal and informal book gatherings reflects CJE’s larger strategy of expanding adult learning. “One Book, One Jewish Community” also represents a concerted effort to offer learning opportunities that are more conducive to busy schedules. With “One Book, One Jewish Community,” people can read the book in their homes, with their

friends, online, or even listen to the book on the go.

The program’s inaugural selection is *Home in the Morning* by Mary Glickman. The novel follows a young Jewish man growing up in the south, as he tries to find his place in the Civil Rights Movement while balancing his Jewish family’s imperative to not stand out in the segregated south. The novel is certain to inspire deep and animated discussions about subjects that tackle black-white relationships, Southern Jewish culture, and the Civil Rights Movement.

CJE will offer online resources about the book and events leading up to a culminating program featuring Mary Glickman in Charlotte on Sunday, December 3.

Debby Block anticipates that “One Book, One Jewish Community” will become an annual event. “We’re even open to the possibility of picking more than



one book a year in different genres,” she says. “We’re hoping to increase our outreach through literary conversations and literary events.”

Copies of *Home in the Morning* will be available in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library to borrow and to purchase.☆

CORRECTION

On page 8 of the August issue, the Hebrew Cemetery story’s number of Jews in Charlotte in 1867 should have been “more than 50.”

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JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

L'hitraot, from Inbal Ozeri

"I don't know why you say good bye, I say hello."

Last month I ended my position as Charlotte's Community Shlichah after two full amazing years. I feel like I came to share with the community about Israel and in the end, I also learned so much about what it means to be Jewish outside of Israel. I treasure the connections that I have made here with members of the Jewish community from the youngest children in the preschools to the seniors at Oasis. I would like to share here some of my favorite memories.

During my first year at Chanukah time, Rabbi Judy Schindler and I dressed up as dreidels and performed a skit for the Charlotte Jewish Preschool students explaining the difference between the dreidels that children play with in Israel and the ones from America.

The first time that I joined the CJDS students on the playground for recess, they impressed me that they already knew an Israeli game and they invited me to play. They were eager to learn other games as well. Afterward we went into the cafeteria and I was so impressed with their singing of the Birkat Hamazon that I filmed it and sent it to my family in Israel. I was touched by the fact that they were singing the whole thing in Hebrew.

As the community Shlichah, I

was often asked to represent Israel at the local public schools. One of my favorite parts was meeting the non-Jewish students who were so interested in my background and my tiny country. It was amazing to see that when I did find a Jewish student and they came to speak to me after the presentation, I often realized that I knew someone in their family from some other community connection.

I worked a lot with teenagers at Hebrew High, BBOY, NFTY, Religious Schools, leading the teen trip to Israel, and working with other groups that are part of the Teen Coalition. It is difficult to choose one memory here, but the one that makes me smile is the adventure of taking the students on the Partnership 2Gether Teen Trip to Israel. I enjoyed watching the students experience for the first time so many things that have been part of my life always. The connections that the students made with the Israelis in Hadera and watching them experiment with Hebrew was so much fun.

There were also many opportunities to work with young adults including Moishe house, Hillel, groups from all the Temples, and more. Israeli dancing and food events were my favorite. I really liked teaching people to cook foods that are so delicious and not that hard to make. Watching them learn to cook in Hebrew was also enjoyable.

I will always cherish the connections that I made with my host families and many of you who invited me into your homes and became like family for me here. I feel like we established deep and meaningful relationships and I can't wait to see you again.

With adults, I was privileged to visit with many havurot and to spend time at Oasis and other senior programs around Charlotte. One of my favorite memories from Oasis was sharing my Yemenite heritage with them including a traditional Henna ceremony and Yemenite dances.

As a result of my time in Charlotte, it is especially important to me that we stick together and stay united.

Keep supporting Israel, keep supporting Israeli organizations, continue going to Israel, and staying in touch with Israelis (and me). It is so clear to me now how much we Jews need one another.

Please know that it has been a true pleasure getting to know and work with this amazing community here in Charlotte and the surrounding area. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please (it is an order!) contact me when you are in Israel.

The Federation has all my updated contact info – Email, Facebook, phone number. Please stay in touch. ☆

Since 2005, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has actively participated in The Jewish Agency's Volunteer Shlichut program. The primary goal of the Shlichut program has been to promote a positive image of Israel by infusing Israeli culture, history, politics, and society into Diaspora Jewish communities in the form of a young Israeli.

After 12 years with this initiative, Federation has made the decision to end our participation in the Shlichut program. Thanks to our relationship with this program, our community's connections with Israel have grown and evolved over the last decade, and as such, our needs have also changed.

Federation's commitment to Israel education and engagement remains as strong as ever. We are currently exploring options for what will come next in the realm of Israel Education and Engagement for our community - stay tuned.

For more information, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757.



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As you make your plans and resolutions for the New Year –
don't be afraid to think big. Remember, nothing is impossible.

Happy Rosh Hashanah. We wish you a sweet New Year.



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Women's News

Women Experiencing Israel: Getting in Touch with the Land and People...and Ourselves

By Amy Lamparello and Leah Taylor

For the fourth time in five years, the Charlotte Torah Center sponsored a one of a kind women's trip to Israel. It was part of the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project (JWRP), an international organization dedicated to empowering women in every area of their lives. We left on June 26 and met up with over 400 women from 25 cities throughout North America and South Africa. All of us were a bit nervous about leaving our husbands and children at home. Would they survive without us for nine days? As for us, we were traveling 6,000 miles away to a foreign country that, according to the news and much social media, is a hotbed of peril and unrest. Why were we embarking on this journey? What would we discover about our homeland—and ourselves? The JWRP mission is bold and unambiguous: "To empower women to change the world through Jewish values that transform ourselves, our families, and our communities." We all embraced and ultimately experienced it firsthand.

Although the trip was eight days, it is hard to believe how much we were able to accomplish in that time. In addition to the "must-see" places — the Western Wall, Masada, the Dead Sea, Yad Vashem — we also went to Independence Hall, the place where Israel's Declaration of Independence was signed. Hundreds of women sang *Hatikva*; there was not a dry eye in the group. We met with selfless young men and women about to enter military service in the IDF. We were in awe of the sacrifices they were making to defend their country. It was a particularly emotion moment for some, especially those who had children of the same age as these soon to be soldiers. Their pride for the Jewish homeland was palpable.

"The goal of these trips is to transform Jewish mothers through deepening their connection to Israel and Judaism in general..."

Excellent, thought-provoking presentations, which gave religious and historical context, preceded each location we visited. Although each woman had her own personal experience, we all discovered the incredible inner beauty of Israel and her people. Our tour bus was an amalgama-



In Jerusalem.



Camel riding.

tion of women from various cities as well as accomplished Israeli women who had retired from the IDF. They shared their lives with us and were interested in viewing Israel from our perspective—and we from theirs. Although we were different in country, culture, language, we bonded with them as women and mothers.

The goal of these trips is to transform Jewish mothers through deepening their connection to Israel and Judaism in general; what better place in the world is there to do this than the epicenter of the Jewish people for thousands of years—the Kotel (Western Wall). Two women in our group never had a Bat Mitzvah and this was the time and place to do it. After the ceremony, each of them spoke about their personal connection to being Jewish, the significance of their Hebrew names, and what mitzvah project they took upon themselves. It was a powerful and uniting experience.

The fifth day of the trip was dedicated to an enriching and meaningful experience; we volunteered at Shalva, a free, non-denominational facility that helps 850 special needs people each week. They provide 224,400 hours of therapy annually to infants and adults. Shalva is a leader in nonconventional support of the disabled. They have a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility, featuring butterflies as its theme. They view those entrusted to them as cater-

pillars who enter their cocoon. Professional and compassionate care are the hallmarks that enable their clientele to exit their cocoons, stretch their wings, and become exquisite beings. We had the great pleasure of dancing with the young people at Shalva. The gift they imparted was priceless—they seemed to have a pure love and joy of life; it caused us to think about ours. While there are many remarkable landmarks in Israel, this modern facility testifies to the bright, hopeful, and innovative world which Israel works hard to create. To us Shalva was a microcosm of what Israel stands for - peace, harmony, and innovation through Jewish values in a Jewish state.

We feel privileged to be part of the growing number of Jewish women who have had the opportunity to have this once in a lifetime experience, which celebrates women and focuses on their inner

strength and ability to transform the community in which they live. ☆

(For trip information, please contact sara@charlottetorahcenter.com)

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Rosh Hashanah

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2017-2018 Community Directory

Hadassah Charlotte has lots of exciting news about the 2017-2018 Directory.

Novant Health is the sponsor of the 2017-2018 Charlotte Area Jewish Community Directory. Their generous sponsorship has enabled us to triple the number of books we printed and to distribute the directory free of charge to the Jewish community. This year Hadassah Charlotte went online to

update listings and to better serve our advertisers. Many important changes took place behind the scenes thanks to Novant Health and their emphasis on community involvement and excellence.

Hadassah Charlotte is very proud to partner with Novant Health to improve the accuracy, relevance, and availability of the 2017-2018



directory. The directory will be mailed to all the women who are the generous patrons of the directory. Please watch for emails and the fall issue of the Hadassah Highlights for more information on when and where

you can get your free Hadassah Directory. As always, any member of the Charlotte area Jewish community can be listed in the directory. Please patronize our wonderful advertisers to show our gratitude for their support.

Thanks again to Novant Health, our advertisers, and all the Hadassah Charlotte volunteers who are making this new directory a reality. ☆

Charlotte Hadassah Fall Kick-Off Social at Three Spirits Brewery Booze, Schmooze, and Hadassah News

Please join us for some fun at one of Charlotte's newest breweries. Socialize with friends after the summer and hear about all the exciting events we have planned for the fall.

Three Spirits Brewery is supporting Hadassah by giving back \$1 per pint sold for "Thankful Thursday."

5046 Old Pineville Rd, Charlotte, NC 28217

Thursday, September 7, 6-8 PM

Members and those considering membership are all welcome to attend.

For more information contact Amy Rosewater, VP of Membership, at amyrosewater@gmail.com or 980-395-7537. ☆

The Events of Celebrate The Tatas 2017

Painting Days

Sunday, September 17,
10 AM-6 PM
Monday, September 18,
10 AM-8 PM
McDowell Art Center,
123 McDowell St., Matthews

Soccer Tournament of Champions

Saturday and Sunday, October 7
and 8
Hine Park, Winston-Salem

Novant Mammovan

Monday, October 16,
9 AM-3:30 PM
Shalom Park

Raise a Glass

Wednesday, October 25, 6 PM
With Hadassah National VP
Carol Ann Schwartz
3214 Gray Moss Rd.

Little Reveal

Thursday, October 26,
11:30 AM-2:30 PM
Maggiano's: dedication, lunch,
live auction, and more

For more info, visit celebrate-thetatas.com. ☆



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Youth Visions

Hebrew High's Intergenerational Program, Better2Gether, Seeks Active Adults

The focus of Better Together™: An Intergenerational Program is to expand the experience of both students and adults through discussion and participation in a project. The Better Together™ program includes the opportunity to teach students Jewish traditions and ethics that they can incorporate in their daily lives.

Goals and Expectations

Students are expected to develop a relationship with a senior.

Students will be imbued with a concrete understanding of Judaism's ethics and expectations regarding multiple generations.

Students will learn that they have as much to gain from the adults as they have to give.

Students will gain confidence and acquire skills through their experiences and interactions with the people of different age groups.

The adults will be engaged and active in meaningful interactions with



Llani Gomez-Goldberg, Janice Berstein, and Shelly Saffan.

students and have the opportunity to share their lives, experiences and wisdom with the students.

In addition, the Black Ink Monks from Johnson C. Smith University, will be involved in



Samantha Weinstein, Helene Josephson, Milt Poler, Ben Goldman, and Violet Kelly.

helping the class and sub-groups develop the skills of expressing their Judaism through spoken word and performance. These poets have been involved in many projects with Hebrew High and we have created a lasting relationship with these talented young adults, all of whom relate to both the teens and the adults in the class.

If you are an empty nester, retired, or just an active older adult in the Charlotte Jewish community, please join us.

Classes Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM at Shalom Park. Transportation is available for adults who do not drive at night.

It's not too late for teens to register for Hebrew High. Don't be left out. Hebrew High is the place to be on Wednesday nights.

Contact mgoldberg@shalom-charlotte.org for details or call 704-944-6788. ☆



BBYO is Back!

Summer is winding down which means school is in session, the Panthers are playing and BBYO is back. Our teens are ready for an exciting year after attending a variety of summer programs, camps and more. Chapter leaders and advisors from across North Carolina recently attended a weekend of training and planning for the upcoming year. These teens cannot wait to share their ideas and enthusiasm with our current members and to welcome new members into BBYO.

This enthusiasm showed at our Charlotte kick-off event. 100 teens spent the evening at a Knights game making new friends and catching up with old ones. For 94 years, BBYO has offered so much to Jewish teens- leadership opportunities, friendships, a connection to Judaism, an opportunity to improve the world, travel and a place to just have fun. Charlotte BBYO has over 200 members in four chapters - two for boys and two for girls. The chapters meet on Tuesday nights at the Levine

JCC from 7-8:30 along with some weekend programming (conventions and sleepovers). With the guidance of their chapter advisors, BBYO teens plan and implement all of their programming.

All new and prospective members should mark their calendar for MIT/AIT our new member convention, October 20-22. This convention is an event you do not want to miss.

It's never too late to join BBYO. If you're interested in finding out more information about BBYO or visiting a chapter program on a Tuesday night, please contact Jaime Bryan or Sara Abadi, Charlotte BBYO City Directors charlotte@bbyo.org.

Young Professionals - Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Charlotte BBYO is in need of a male and female chapter advisor. If you are Jewish and over 21 and interested in serving as a mentor to teens, please contact Jaime or Sara. ☆



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Join us on Sunday, November 19 at 2 PM at Freedom Park where we will Walk 4 Friendship. Yep, over 500 of us will walk 2k to benefit friendships for children and teens with special needs.

Plenty of family and children's activities will be available too; including Jeremy's Jump Bounce

Houses.

Here's how to join: Sign up at Walk4FriendshipCLT.com. Create your own page or join a team.

Let your friends know that you're making a difference as a friendship ambassador.

All funds raised will benefit the Friendship Circle and ZABS Place.

The Friendship Circle pairs teen friends with children who have special needs for range of social and educational opportunities including its flagship home visitation program called Friends @ Home.

ZABS Place is a thrift boutique and employment training center for young adults with special talents.

The Friendship Circle and



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Friendship Circle's Mitzvah Volunteer Program for pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah Kids

Our Mitzvah Volunteer Program (MVP) is designed for pre-teens entering into adulthood. The purpose is to provide the teens with a meaningful way to empower themselves as they give to others. Boys and girls, ages 12-13, will meet twice a week for a three-week series. Each session will build upon the previous lessons, helping them reach a point of confidence in spending time with a special friend. During their training, they will be paired with current Friendship Circle volunteers and participate in actual programs for children with special needs. At the completion of the program, each attendee will receive a certificate documenting his/her involvement in the program.

Week 1:
Wednesday, October 18 from 5:30-6:30 PM – "Intro To Special Needs: Understanding the Challenges"
Hands-On Activity Sunday, October 22 from 3:30-4:30 PM – "Life Skills Program"

Week 2:
Wednesday, October 25 from 5:30-6:30 PM – "Engaging People with Special Needs and Making Friends"
Hands-On Activity Sunday, October 29 from 3:30-4:30 PM –



Some of our MVPs.

"Life Skills Program"

Week 3:
Wednesday, November 1 from 5:30-6:30 PM – "Bridging the Gap – What We Can Do About It"
Hands-On Activity, November 12 from 3:30-4:30 PM – "Life Skills Program"
Graduation:
Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30 PM

All training programs are held at Lubavitch Educational Center, 6619 Sarids Road. Friendship Circle's "MVP" qualifies for six hours of community service. After completing the Mitzvah Volunteer Program, participants may schedule a meeting to register as Friendship Circle group program volunteers. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sophie at 704-366-5983 or sophie@friendshipcircles.org. ☆



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CTeen Jr. is developed specifically for students entering grades 7 and 8. Our goal is to inspire the young teens of today to become the leaders of tomorrow. CTeen Jr. will meet every Sunday at 7:30 PM.

Run by Sophie Molinari, CTeen Jr. will harness the incred-

ible potential of these boys and girls through awesome programs that will include:

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- *Kosher Cooking
- *Social and humanitarian experiences

*Shabbatons and much more

This is a great opportunity to have a blast with local Jewish teens while making a difference in your community. This club is open to the entire local Jewish community. CTeen Jr. is the Jewish place to be, for boys and girls in 7th and 8th grade.

To learn more, text Sophie at 484-477-3457 or visit ChabadNC.org/CTeenJr. ☆



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SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Havurat Tikvah Set for High Holidays

Havurat Tikvah will be observing the High Holidays with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services during September at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, 2821 Park Rd.

On September 21, Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 10 AM, followed by a potluck kosher/veggie/dairy/parve luncheon. Afterward congregants will gather for Tashlich at 3:30 PM at the Bridge at Sugar Creek Greenway between Tranquil Ave. and Plantation Pl. Services will continue on September 22 at 10 AM, also followed by a luncheon.

Kol Nidre services will be held on September 29 at 7:30 PM. Attendees must be seated by 7:15 PM.

On September 30, Yom Kippur services will continue at 10 AM, with the Yizkor/Healing service at approximately 12:30 PM. Services will continue at 5:50 PM after an afternoon break for a Minchah book discussion of "My Jewish Year," by Abigail Pogrebin. Services conclude with Ne'ilah beginning at 6:50 PM followed by a break-the-fast potluck supper.

Members and guests are encouraged to bring tallit and kippah if available, however there is a limited quantity of both on hand. Attendees can bring their own shofar to participate in the shofar services on Rosh Hashanah and the concluding service on Yom Kippur.

Childcare is available if requested in advance.

There is no charge for first-time guests, college students, and members of Havurat Tikvah. All others are asked to pay a nominal

fee (\$54 for individuals, \$90 for families). Mail checks to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220.

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with Shabbat services and a full spectrum 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/. ☆



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
In Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College



TOTAL ANNUAL GIVING = \$3,933,117*

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*as of August 14, 2017

The **JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE** and its beneficiary agencies would like to thank you, our compassionate and loyal donors, who gave so generously to the 2017 Annual Campaign. Together we raised **\$3,933,117*** for our community!

We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that needs are met to create a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community and to foster and strengthen our connection with Jews here in Charlotte, Israel and around the world. On behalf of the people we help and the community we serve, thank you.

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*In addition, we thank the following donors who augmented our campaign
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The Leon Levine Foundation
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Feeling Out of Shape? Get in (Spiritual) Shape for the Holidays at OHT

The High Holidays are the most intense days on the Jewish calendar. Days that are filled with ritual, obligation, good wishes, and lots of praying. Rosh Hashanah is transformative as it transport us from the mundane in to a realm of holiness and spirituality.

Every experience in life needs planning and proper preparation. The entire month of Elul serves as the winding up of the current year and a preparation for the coming year. That is why we have special Elul rituals that we practice during this month, including the Selichot

service and sounding the Shofar on weekdays.

Ohr HaTorah is offering two intense spiritual workout sessions that will get your soul pumping and your spirit soaring. Warm up with the basics of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, explore the mystical side of the holy days.

The sessions will be held on two consecutive Wednesdays, September 6, and September 13, at 7:30 PM at Ohr HaTorah at 6619 Sardis Road.

Selected texts that enlighten and give meaning to these special days will be studied and will



allow participants to perceive these days in a completely new light that will help them immerse in the deep mystical character of the holy days.

To reserve space at these sessions please email brenda@chabadnc.net or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

High Holidays at Ohr HaTorah Spotlight the Mystical Quality of the World

High Holiday services at Ohr HaTorah are an expedition of the inner dimension of the Jewish experience. For people who are searching to delve into the deeper meaning of the High Holidays and seek to touch the Divine, they will find the Ohr HaTorah experience truly rewarding.

Rosh Hashanah falls this year on September 20-22, and Yom Kippur falls on September 30, with the eve of Yom Kippur on the 29.

The High Holiday service at OHT is a learning activity as Rabbi Yossi Groner provides short and succinct commentaries on the liturgy and expounds on the mystical significance of many of the rituals observed on Rosh Hashanah.

The mood at the synagogue reflects the spirituality of the Holy Days and it helps shape the total experience. A major component of the High Holiday experience is the melodious and emotion filled voice of Rabbi Binyomin Weiss who leads the services with pas-

sion and feeling.

A most moving scene during Rosh Hashanah is the moment of sounding the Shofar. The Bimah is surrounded with children of all ages. The Torahs are held firmly and the worshippers are focused on the significance of the event. It is at this time that people sense the meaning of the day and it is a sense that they are surging upwards towards the heavens and enter the inner domain of God. The Shofar service envelops young and old as their voices penetrate the heavens and together with the delicate sound of the Shofar they are face to face with God.

Yom Kippur at Ohr HaTorah one can sense the holiness of the day as the entire synagogue is keenly aware of the seriousness and reverence of this special day. On Yom Kippur we are compared to angels as we come clean pure before God. The melodious songs that we sing at Ohr HaTorah emanate from the heart and touch the soul. At the conclusion of Yom



Kippur we experience a total transformation from solemnity to joy and happiness, the congregation breaks in to a joyous song and we blow the Shofar with confidence that God indeed has sealed our fate with the blessings for a sweet, happy, healthy, and prosperous year.

The service schedule at Congregation Ohr HaTorah is as follows: Evening services at 7 PM and morning services at 9 AM. Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei service begins at 6:30 and morning service is at 9. Neilah service begins at 5 PM. Tickets are not required to attend services. For more information please call our office at 704-366-3984 or visit our website www.chabadnc.org. ☆

High Holiday Services - for the Whole Family

Once again, the Ballantyne Jewish Center will be hosting Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in the Ballantyne area. Join us this year and feel right at home. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at the Ballantyne Jewish Center - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, connected, uplifted, and inspired.

Everyone is welcome free of charge and reservations are not required.

Rosh Hashanah services will be held at the South Charlotte Banquet Center, 9009 Bryant Farms Road on Thursday, September 21. Morning service at 9:30 AM, Shofar blowing at 12:15 PM. Services followed by a Kiddush lunch at 1:30 PM. Rosh Hashanah Family Service and Carnival - Thursday, September 21 5-6 PM.

Friday, September 22, morning service at 9:30 AM, Shofar blowing at 12:15 PM. Services followed by a Kiddush lunch at 1:30 PM.

Yom Kippur services will be held at The Springhill Suites in Ballantyne, 12325 Johnston Road. Friday, September 29, Kol Nidrei at 6:30 PM. Shabbat, September 30, morning services at 9:30 AM. Neilah at 6:30 PM.

Our Fantastic Children's Program

At the Ballantyne Jewish Center we are committed to making the High Holidays a meaningful and enjoyable experience for the entire family. Therefore, we are very excited that once again we will have a fantastic, exciting, and interactive children's program during services for all ages. Parents can enjoy services while their

children have a blast. Program highlights include games, songs, activities, food crafts, stories, refreshments, and prizes. Kids love this program and learn so much in the process.

The children are divided into age appropriate groups to ensure that everyone will enjoy.

For more information please contact Rabbi Yisrael and Leah Levin, 704-246-8881 or Leah@JewishBallantyne.com or visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com. ☆



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Camp Gan Israel Reflections from a Parent

By Holly Goldstein

I would like to give a "shout out" to CGI Ballantyne and their summer camp program. My eight-year-old son, Tyler, was a camper there this summer. We live in Waxhaw so we're not too far from Elon Recreation center which is the site of the camp. We've known Rabbi Levin and his wife Leah for many years and they are known for the wonderful programs they put on for the community.

So, about their camp ... a hot lunch, drinks, and healthy snacks are provided daily, field trips are taken throughout the week, photos are sent to parents, and communication is stellar. Leah handpicks her counselors from all over to make sure she has the most outgoing, friendly, smiley, kid-friendly, bubbly, perfect people to help run the show. A few weeks before camp starts, she sends out staff bios with pictures and then hosts a meet and greet where parents and kids can go meet the counselors.

Here's a bit about my family's personal experiences with CGI Ballantyne's summer camp. Tyler, although he's known the Rabbi and Ms. Leah for years, was skep-



Tyler Goldstein and Dylan Sacks.

tical about going to camp. He gets nervous when put in a new situation and was not wanting to go.

Well let me tell ya! When we pulled up, he was greeted by name by a smiling Ms. Leah and led to the smiling counselors by the door. I was a little nervous that he would be grumpy and disengaged but I hoped for the best.

I got there in the afternoon for pick up, and walking to the car is a bright eyed and happy Tyler. He gets in the car and tells me he had a great time and he absolutely loves his counselor.

The next day he jumps out again and that afternoon, same

thing, but this time he knows his counselor's name, wants to bring her presents, is walking around the house singing Hebrew songs, is talking about a new friend, and wants to know how many more weeks of camp he can go. If this doesn't spell success I don't know what does. I think I hit the jackpot here. I have a happy child, I know he's safe, he's busy doing fun things, he's in great hands, eating good food that I don't have to worry about packing, and the list goes on.

There is one bad thing about this camp that I do need to mention ... it lasts only four weeks! ☆



Join Temple Kol Ami for the High Holidays

What are you doing for the High Holidays? Why not spend them with Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC, a warm and friendly congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds? At Temple Kol Ami, we celebrate the High Holidays together through spiritually-uplifting services, led by the beautiful voice of cantorial soloist Sara Sherman and a dynamic group of lay leaders, Michelle Silva, Adena Sherman-Adams, and Jonathan Shaw. TKA is thrilled to welcome back Sara, a professional pianist from New York City who has performed at Lincoln Center and other iconic venues throughout the world. She has been with us for three High Holidays previously, bringing richness and meaning to the Days of Awe. We are also pleased to have Dorothy Cole, former principal cellist of the Charlotte Symphony, join us again for her wonderful rendition of Kol Nidre. In addition to traditional Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services, TKA offers Junior Congregation services as well as baby sitting for our youngest attendees. Tickets to TKA High Holidays are included in membership and are also available for purchase to non-



Cantorial Soloist Sara Sherman.

members. College students and active duty military are invited to worship with us for free. For our full schedule of services and to purchase tickets, please see our website www.templekolamisc.org or give us a call at 803-701-0149. We hope you will join us to welcome 5778 and wish everyone a sweet and healthy New Year! L'shanah tovah tikatevu v'tichatemu.

Temple Kol Ami is excited to see what 5778 brings for our small but growing congregation. We were blessed to welcome our Rabbi, Ana Bonenheim, in 5777 and

to celebrate three Bat Mitzvahs. We watched with wonder as our Religious School grew to almost 50 students, and embraced new traditions such as our Friendsgiving Shabbat. We also brought three amazing Shabbatons to the York County Jewish community thanks to a generous grant of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and look forward to continuing to sponsor these educational and culturally enriching weekends in 5778. What will 5778 bring for you on your Jewish path in life? Perhaps Temple Kol Ami is the place for you to explore or continue to grow in your Judaism. We are conveniently located to the Greater York County/Waxhaw/Ballantyne area. Check out everything going on at TKA in the coming year at www.templekolamisc.org and feel free to pray and play with us at any time. ☆



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Yom Huledet Sameach, Temple Solel

On June 30, members and friends came together in person to celebrate Temple Solel's fifth anniversary held at the Commodore Yacht Club in Tega Cay, SC, with a majority of their members present on this momentous occasion. Past President James Fox was honored for leading the congregation from ideation that took place in the dining room of a member's house to the only URJ Reform Temple in SC over the period of five short years. The Executive Board purchased a special "Tree of Life" Seder sculpture as a gift to compliment James' professional expertise as a chef. Temple Solel congregants are never without delicious meals at events to feast both their eyes and their appetites. A beautifully decorated sheet cake was cut, while children and adults belted out the Hebrew version of Happy Birthday: "Yom Huledet Sameach, Temple Solel."

Not only is the celebration about the forming of a congregation of like-hearted people, it is also cherishing the congregants' accomplishments and relationships to sustain the future. Some of these newest Torah heroes are the youngest members. Ben Lantos is the 7th Bar Mitzvah, with three more young people soon to enter the training program currently led by adult members of the congregation. Previously, there were four young women and three young men who successfully completed their training and led services for the congregation. These remarkable young people continue to support each other and stay engaged in the congregation. Several have led full services and prayers during services well after completing their obligated requirements. It makes a difference when people of any age willingly participate and are a part of something bigger than themselves as individuals. Temple Solel is truly blessed to have such wonderful children and young people as our future leaders.

The following members were elected to serve the coming year as the Temple Officers: Shelley Pawlyk – President, Mara Cobe – Vice President, Jan Rose – Treasurer, Stevie Rivers – Secretary, and Russ Cobe – Ritual Officer. The new officers just held a strategy and planning session to understand the congregation's needs and future focus. They recently participated in a survey conducted by the URJ Carolina's Community Co-chair, Mike Weingarten, of Congregation Beth Yam in Hilton Head, and are eager to gain input from members to determine a fresh direction focused on the strengths in order to continue to grow. There is a new feeling of anticipation and engagement taking place.

Recently, social action has been expanded to include new contacts with Pastor Mallory Forte who leads the Indian Land, SC-based Belair UMC Church and Food Bank and oversees communications for the Lancaster County Back-To-School Bash event which took place in August. Representatives from the incoming Temple Solel Board helped with set up and registration, donated

money to be a sponsor and brought some school supplies for the event that benefits children and youth grades K-12 who will receive shoes, socks, backpacks, and school supplies. For more information visit the website, because it isn't too late to help: [https://www.lancasterback-](https://www.lancasterback-toschoolbash.com/)

[toschoolbash.com/](https://www.lancasterback-toschoolbash.com/).

We are looking forward to welcoming 5778 with our Rosh Hashanah evening services on Wednesday, September 20 at 7 PM, and Rosh Hashanah morning services and Tashlich at 10 AM on Thursday, September 21. Congregant Julia Fox – one of our

7 B'nai Mitzvah – will be blowing the shofar for Rosh Hashanah as well as Yom Kippur. She has performed this ritual beautifully for the past few years. Our Days of Awe will continue with the observance of Shabbat Shuva on Friday, September 22 at 7 PM. Cellist Liz Burns will return for the third



Temple Solel B'nei Mitzvah, from left to right: Ashley Fox, Abby Lantos, Julia Fox, Nicole Bagdasar-ian, Connor Kelly, Michael Eisenberg, and Ben Lantos.



year and be featured during our Kol Nidre service on Friday, September 29 at 7 PM. Our morning Yom Kippur services will begin at 10 AM on Saturday, September 30, and we will continue with our afternoon services, Yizkor, and Ne'ila starting at 3 PM. Our congregational fellowship will extend to our break-the-fast immediately following the conclusion of Ne'ilah prayers.

Membership at Temple Solel is only \$250 per person and includes High Holy Day tickets (or \$50 for just HHD tickets). It's not too early to mark your calendars: All are invited to join Temple Solel for all services and celebrate many more years ahead. For more information visit our website at: www.templesolelsc.org or call 803-619-9707. ☆



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Temple Beth El Congregants Reflect on Kehillah

As part of Temple Beth El's "Elul Experiment," we are deeply engaged in the act of spiritual reflection throughout the month of Elul. We have chosen four themes, one for each week of the month, to reflect on and incorporate into a variety of aspects of Temple Beth El.

The following are excerpts from reflections written by TBE congregants to share the ways in which they have experienced Kehillah/Community. These stories and more will be posted on our temple blog throughout the month.

"Shared Stories Build Community" by Emily Zimmern

On a recent Sunday I experienced a remarkable example of the power of stories to build community. At a learning session hosted by Temple Beth El, we were asked to answer in one minute the following question: Why are you here today? In powerful brief statements, members of our group extemporaneously described pivotal times in their lives that had forever shifted their view of the world. The experiences were marked by pain, fear, concern, and struggles for understanding. From different generations, from different racial backgrounds, from different parts of the country, of different sexual orientations, and shaped by radi-

cally different experiences, each of us had been moved to pursue the work of racial justice. After fifteen minutes of storytelling, we were now more connected, more committed. Community was emerging.

Stories are central to Jewish identity. From generation to generation, we pass along the stories of Torah, of Jewish history, and of our family's lives. Stories create the essential framework of Jewish belonging. At Temple Beth El, we often start meetings with the study of a text led by one of the clergy. This examination of our tradition frequently prompts participants to share their own personal narratives. In this way, we build connection, grapple with the relevance of Jewish values for our lives today, and in the process, shape our 21st century community of faith.

As a member of Temple Beth El for the past 35 years, I've witnessed firsthand how our congregation has stepped up and taken responsibility for one another, for our neighbors in need in the broader Charlotte community, and for Jews here, in Israel, and

(Continued on page 21)



Temple Israel Staff Visits Camp Ramah Darom

By Rabbi Helene Kornsgold, Director of Congregational Education at Temple Israel

For nine months out of the year Temple Israel students attend religious school, Hebrew High, and Jewish youth groups. During this time, I am fortunate to get to know these kids as students and as young adults. Then summer rolls around and they disappear. Where do our students go? Who are they spending their summer with? How are they engaged Jewishly during the summer months? To find out more, both Ariel DiDonato and I went to visit our students who spend part of their summer vacation at Camp Ramah Darom.

It was wonderful to spend Shabbat with our Temple Israel kids. Throughout the year we see them on Shabbat, but the energy and excitement of the campers on this particular Shabbat was palpable. For a few weeks each summer, these kids are given the opportunity to experience the beauty and enjoyment which one feels living as a Conservative Jew. It is this feeling which we strive to recreate for our kids at Temple Israel throughout the year in our school, youth activities, Shabbat services, and more.



Charlotte kids at Camp Ramah (left to right): Elyssa Kaufman, Ariel DiDonato, Isabella DiDonato, Sarah Korczynski, Megan Hochman, Annah Clymer, Rabbi Helene Kornsgold, Jenna Gamlin, Lily Slomka, Maya Lesack, Lilah Peck, Sam Schulman, Emma Nascimento, Brian Sobel

Sending kids to summer camp, especially Ramah Darom, is an investment in their future and in the Conservative movement. Temple Israel kids return home

from camp with a deep sense of pride in being Jewish. These kids are not only the future of Temple Israel, but also the Conservative movement. We are so excited for these kids to return home to Temple Israel and share what they have learned and experienced with the rest of our community.

Stay tuned for when Camp Ramah will visit Charlotte later this year. For more information about our dynamic youth group events contact Ariel DiDonato, adidonato@templeisraelnc.org. ✨



Annah Clymer, Brian Sobel, Lilah Peck, and Sam Schulman



my
inspiring
moment



Building Blocks

"I liked that our team kept creating new designs and persevering when it did fall down."

— Prableen, Class of '25

1st & 4th grade collaborative Tower Project

A Surprise Letter to a Holocaust Survivor

(Continued from page 1)

dignity, and compassion you have shown is shared by others of your generation and the generations to follow. ... I want you to know," he continued, "that you are completely absolved of any responsibility and that you should not let the past haunt you. While I would never disregard the lessons of the past, I have lived my life by looking forward, not backward. I hope you will do likewise."

Although finding the entire

correspondence extremely powerful and profound, Judy August couldn't help focusing on one of Schott-Neuse's perspicacious observations. Scott-Neuse wrote, "I should have realized there was a Nazi past [in our family]. We were all taught at school about Hitler's Germany and the horrific crimes which were committed. But it was lessons filled with numbers, data, and facts of the deeds of 'them' — the Nazis — and we felt that all this

was something which was awful but it happened in a far-away past."

August is encourage by the many efforts to improve Holocaust-centered education. "We are sisters in brothers in arms," she remarked when asked about the

two local initiatives described in the box below). "As organizations, we are clearly more powerful together, each specializing in a unique aspect of educations and promoting each other's programs." She reflected, "Hopefully our efforts will help to prevent

some grandchild of the future from having to cope with the prejudice or atrocities committed by the current generation ... that is our ultimate goal, it's our prayer, in the form of action." ☆

Judy August contributed greatly to this story.

How Local Charlotte and North Carolina Agencies Are Helping

Named for the poem by young Holocaust victim Pavel Friedman, "The Last Butterfly," the worldwide Butterfly Project began in San Diego with the goal of creating 1.5 million ceramic butterflies, each one in memory of a child who perished in the Holocaust. In Charlotte, approximately 6,000 students per year participate in the 2-1/2 hour workshops, coming to the Levine JCC on school field trips. Since its inception 2008, the LJCC Butterfly Project has hosted just under 29,000 students, about 17% of the worldwide total of nearly 168,000 that have attended workshops since 2006.

During these workshops, each student receives a certificate with the name of the child in whose memory they are painting their ceramic butterfly.

"This puts a face to the name," says Lori Semels, LJCC Butterfly Project Supervisor. "This puts a name in the student's head while they are painting; someone to think about, wonder about, and create something for." The Butterfly Project Workshops also include local Holocaust survivors who tell their remarkable stories, show students photos of themselves as children, and interact with the students, helping them to understand that the victims were real people. In addition, students participate in an interactive and thought-provoking lesson based on the

Anti-Defamation League's Pyramid of Hate, which challenges students to identify and better understand the threats of discrimination, bigotry, and racism, while inspiring activism.

While teachers bring their classes to Shalom Park for these personal and meaningful lessons, the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, another Holocaust-centered educational initiative, is creating ways to enhance teachers' knowledge and effectiveness in the classroom by offering their Teacher Workshops.

Teachers across North Carolina are now changing the way they present the message of the Holocaust in their history and literature courses. Through exhibits, plays, survivor testimony, and comparisons to students' own experiences, the NC Council on the Holocaust is changing the way schools present the Shoah, by helping the teachers themselves get a sense of the personal tragedies. "The workshops recount the murders witnessed and the horrors of the death camps," explains Mike Abramson, chair of the NC Council on the Holocaust. "At the end of the workshop, the teachers realize that our Holocaust survivors relive those painful memories because now they understand the importance of sharing them." Teachers are then able to express that pain to their students, who gain a new understanding of the past. ☆



Students from the Exceptional Children's Program at Alexander Graham Middle School attend the Butterfly Project.

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Jewish Family Services



JFS Goes Live With New Client Data Base

Jewish Family Services recently implemented a new client data software program, NextGen, to ensure the agency is able to accurately collect and report data about their programs and services. Over a year ago JFS partnered with Aparro, a non-profit organization that assist other non-profits in technology management, to assist JFS in creating a plan that would result in an effective client data management system. Aparro connected JFS with Novant Health's Information Technology Services Project Management Office. According to Howard Olshansky, Executive Director for JFS, "The folks from Novant and Aparro were amazing in their support and guidance as we pursued a new client software program. They spent over a year helping us to investigate different programs and evaluate which program would be most effective in our data and technology goals."

The new system which went "live" at the end of July will allow JFS to effectively capture the data needed for the services provided in all of their programs. "Good data is the key to ensuring we are effectively meeting the needs of our constituents," said Olshansky. "In today's world you have to be

able to demonstrate the effectiveness of your services. Our funders expect it and our customers count on the efficacy of the quality of our services. We can no longer just count of anecdotal stories to justify the support we receive from the community."

The staff of JFS have spent the past six months training on how to use the new system. According to Nicole Levine, Program Manager, "The new system is much more efficient and will reduce the time staff spend on file documentation allowing more direct time with our clients."

According to Olshansky, "It will take some time to fully capture and aggregate our data but eventually the system will enable JFS to truly demonstrate the outcomes of its programs and services and while we always want to personalize our services through individual stories this new system will enable us to statistically prove that JFS is truly the heart of our community." ☆

Donations to JFS in July

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The sister of Tami Bernat from Barnet and Harriet Weinstock

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Julius Goldman to Mae Goldman from Ruth Brandt, Kim Foster

Maxine Silverstein to Kara S. Hoffman, Scott Silverstein, Harriet Kader, Gary Silverstein, and family from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Jonathan and Stephanie Simon, Michael and Judie Van Glish, Jane Vatz Abel, Marion Adams, Melissa Alexander, Christopher Ames, Kirk Anthony and Norwegian Cruise Lines, Ed and Connie Beach, Steve and Jackie Camp, Joel and Paulette Cohen, Cathy Caddy and Commonwealth Business Travel Group, Inc., Robert Davis, Catherine Derr, Ernie and Ruth Dyda, Ellen Falkensammer, Arthur and Lori Fincannon, Beth Folic and Mann Travel Girls at the Arboretum, Carla Gannon, Ed Gillman, Roni Goldberg and Tauck, William Gorelick, William and Gloria

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Leigh Jacobson to Bob Jacobson from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Lawrence and Sheila Margolis, Steven and Susan Meyer, Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Buddy Roberts to Bernice Roberts from Marion and David Kronovet

Bob Yudell to Nina Rose, Sara Schwartz, Wendy Rose, and Anne Yudell from Jonathan and Jennifer Collman, Eric and Susan Lerner, Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Edwin and Jill

Newman, Floyd and Brenda Patten, Lawrence and Sheila Margolis

The grandfather of Kenneth Schwartz from Eric and Susan Lerner

Mike Tunney to Natalie Tunney from Jonathan and Jennifer Collman

The grandmother of Rochelle Wilensky from Monty Bennett

MAZEL TOV ON

Eric and Samantha's marriage to Glenn and Roni Fishkin from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

The birth of Jack Matthew to Jeffrey and Rebecca Stern from Jonathan and Stephanie Simon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Gloria Goldberg from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Marion and David Kronovet, Elise Menaker, Paula S. Musler, Simon and Mary Wojnowich

Alvin Goodman from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Jack Mendel from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, William Gorelick, Norman Levin and Mady Friedman Levin, Peter and Cynthia Levinson, Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Marion and David Kronovet, Paula S. Musler, Edwin and Jill Newman, Floyd and Brenda Patten, Mark and Harriet Perlin, Marvin and Anita Shapiro

Bayla and Scarlett to Andrew and Jen Rosen from Austin and Marissa Karp

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Paul and Claire Putterman from Marc and Cheri Titlebaum ☆

Ready. For. Anything.

Ready to learn. Ready to succeed.
Ready for whatever life has in store for me. Country Day Ready.

Open House Dates:

October 12

(Junior Kindergarten – Kindergarten)

October 24

(Junior Kindergarten – Grade 4)

November 2

(Grades 9 – 12)

November 16

(Grades 5 – 8)



**CHARLOTTE
COUNTRY DAY
SCHOOL**

charlottecountryday.org
(704) 943-4530



JFS Volunteers in July

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, JoAnn Abdo, Abby Adams, Bonnie Berman, Suzy Catenazzo, Jennifer Collman, Shannon Crystal, Sheryl Effern Rob Friedman, Maggie Fogel, Mel Frank, Marc Gentile, Neil Golub, Jennifer Golynsky, Leon Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Bob Jacobson, Brooks Jaffa, Eric Lerner, Gary Lerner, Matt Luftglass, Harriet Meetz, Frada Mozenter, Allan Oxman, Barbara Rein, Dana Rubin, Janice Shubin, Louis Sinkoe, Harry Sparks, Jeff and Stacy Strauch, Sara Stinemetz, Liz Wahls, Amalia Warshenbrot, Mike Weinberg, Jan Weiner, Mary Wennen, Dori Whitman

Food Pantry Donations: Dan Coblenz, Matt Luftglass, Robbie McGinley, Freedom School, Kosher Mart, Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants, Shalom Park Community Gardens

Hadassah Cooks: Barbara Abrams, Phyllis Berlin, Cathy Bogus, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Sara Friedman, June Hirschmann, Sandy Hoagland, Judy Kaufman, Penny Krieger, Andrea McCleary, Harriet Meetz, Fran Schuler, Joyce Stoll

Food Drives: Alyssa and Anik Harrison ☆

TBE Congregants' Reflections

(Continued from page 18)

around the world. In the coming year, how do we strengthen this holy congregation? One easy and enriching way is to reach out to a fellow congregant you don't know well. Get together and share the stories of your Jewish journey with one another. You and the Temple will be better for it.

"You Know the Jews – They All Stick Together" by Harrison Lord

A potential client told me that when I first started practicing law. At the time, it struck me as slightly paranoid (it happened that the business associates on the other side of his dispute were Jewish, though there didn't appear to be any connection), if not vaguely anti-Semitic. Looking at my own life a decade or so later, however, maybe he was not so far off the mark.

Perhaps the more appropriate phrasing would be: "Communities take care of one another." And for my family, the Jews, specifically those at Shalom Park and Temple Beth El, are our community.

This is where my kids feel most at home, where they feel safest, and where they are surrounded by the faces and friends they've known since before conscious memory.

These are the people who have reached out through calls and emails, in person and online, to support me in the past few months as I've launched my own law

firm.

This is where we have celebrated and will continue to celebrate our life cycle events. This is where we celebrate the loved ones who surround us and remember those whom we have lost. This is where my wife became bat mitzvah, and where our children will become b'nei mitzvah. This is the community that supports us through the good and the bad.

Only two generations ago, in reaction to exclusion, Jews were forced to create their own community. When the founders of Temple Beth El, and later Shalom Park, got together to dream up our amazing campus, options were sparse. That's just not the case now.

Now, we have a choice. Now, we have to work hard to create and maintain this precious legacy. And to be sure, this is not the only community to which we, or any of us, belong. But this is the one that is, and always will be, home. Because, you know the Jews – we all stick together. ☆



"You may be free from sin, but if your body is not strong, your soul will be too weak to serve God aright. Maintain your health and preserve your strength."

--Baal Shem Tov, *The Hasidic Anthology*



You know

where her glasses are when she misplaces them, how much she hates taking medicine, and her passion for cookies. We'll know that, too.

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Start home care today.
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704.503.4660

Homewatch
CareGivers

4TH ANNUAL CHARLOTTE KOSHER BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP

SEPT 4 • 11AM–3PM • SHALOM PARK



★ Levine
JCC
Charlotte

**Kosher BBQ Contest • Kids Zone • Celebrity Judges • Live Entertainment
Pickle & Watermelon Eating Contest • Great Food and More!**

Funded by
Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTEKOSHERBBQ.COM

School

GETTING OFF TO A GREAT START: LOOK WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR AT CJP

By Brooke Amo



Teachers participate in Judaica Integration Training with Morah Becca before the school year starts.



We have welcomed a new Curriculum Coordinator Emily Snyder.



Our Full Day Program has already enjoyed an outside Amphitheater Shabbat.



Volunteer Drivers Needed!

Do you regularly visit Shalom Park?
For Shabbat Services? To work out at the J?
To Participate in a Cultural Program?

Jewish Family Services is recruiting volunteers to transport seniors in our community who also like to engage in Shalom Park activities but have no transportation.

Shalom Park is partnering with Centralina Connection to implement the Volunteer Transportation Services Program.

To learn more about volunteering, please contact:
Roberta Rodgers at 704.364.6594 or roberta.rodgers@jfscharlotte.org.

Insurance and mileage reimbursement provided.



Our teachers are utilizing a new software communication tool called "Hi-Mama" to connect with parents in a more meaningful and efficient way.



"The best
security for
old age:
respect your
children."

— Sholom Asch



Shalom Park Freedom School — By the Numbers

Shalom Park Freedom School may be over for the year, but it took a lot of people and resources to make it happen. Here's a look at what it takes to make the program a success:

8 agency partners — Levine JCC, Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Foundation of Shalom Park, Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, Jewish Family Services, and Charlotte Jewish Day School who provide facilities, logistical support, staff time, and funding.

9 college student Servant Leader Interns and one Site Coordinator - who operate the Freedom School site and share their love of learning with our scholars.

18 field trips — to Discovery Place, Blumenthal Theater, Ray's Splash Planet, Scholastic Book Fair, Sky High, bowling, and others.

28 Steering Committee members - who work year round to schedule activities, plan logistics, raise funds, coordinate volunteers, and make the Shalom Park Freedom School an exemplary program.

28 afternoon enrichment activities - such as rocketry, linocuts, chess music, art, drama, storytelling, dancing, Zumba, Community Garden, mindfulness training, and many more.

29 Harambee Readers - who

start our scholars' days off with great books.

33 Teen Board Members - dedicated high school students who volunteer as classroom and administrative assistants full time for two weeks during the summer, a total of 80 hours each.

80 swimsuits and towels - from the LJCC swimsuit and towel drive for scholars' weekly swim lessons.

More than 150 volunteers - serving as reading buddies, photographers, afternoon activity assistants, parent night helpers, field trip chaperones, afternoon activity assistants, volunteer greeters, site set up and break down helpers, and in many other ways too numerous to list.

500 new and gently used books - donated to the Levine-Sklut Library to build scholars' home libraries.

2900 snacks and 2900 drinks - generously donated by members of the Jewish community.

4350 breakfasts and lunches - prepared by Izzy's Catering and fully enjoyed by hungry scholars.

\$95,000 from individual and agency donors - the cost of operating the six-week program.

To learn how you can get involved, contact Co-Chairs Lisa Garfinkle slgarfinkle@windstream.net and Marcia Stern chalyce@aol.com. ☆



Harambee reader Sam Bernstein.



Afternoon activity: recycled art.



Teen board members with advisor Betsy Olinger.



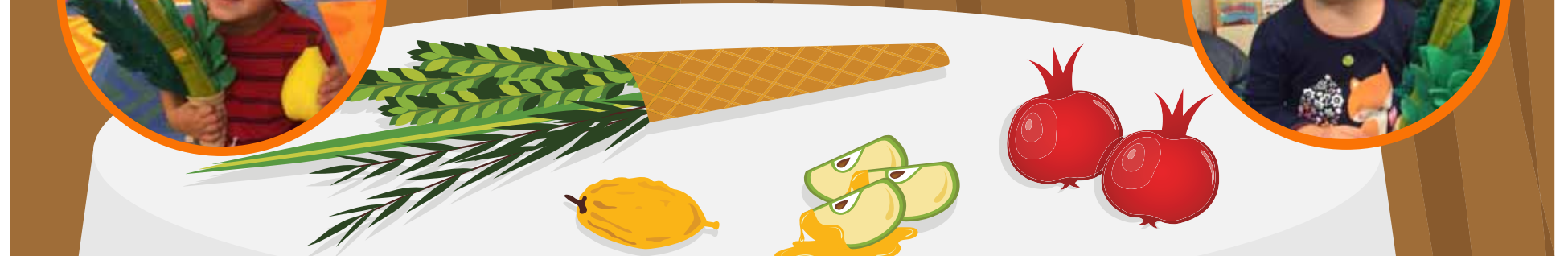
Rabbi Knight visits with some scholars.



jps
The Jewish Preschool on Sardis

JOIN US FOR
BRUNCH
IN THE
SUKKAH!

Sunday, October 8
9:00 - 10:30 am



Shake the etrog and lulav, nosh & enjoy new friends!
All are welcome for family fun.

6619 Sardis Road | Kindly RSVP to info@jpsonsardis.org






Funded by
Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Save The Date

COMMUNITY WIDE FREE EVENT

Global Day of Jewish Learning is a worldwide cultural event to celebrate our shared heritage.

- ▶ Jewish adult educational seminars & workshops
- ▶ Social action programs
- ▶ PJ Library
- ▶ Complimentary food and refreshments
- ▶ Free babysitting (must register in advance)



**Sunday,
November 12
8:30am – 1pm**

Shalom Park

All events are free

More information to follow

This program is supported by a
JFGC Impact & Innovation Grant.

In partnership with
numerous Charlotte
Jewish organizations.



CJDS Awarded \$100,000 Match from Prizmah Governance and Fundraising Academy

Last year, CJDS applied for and was accepted into the second cohort of the Prizmah Governance and Fundraising Academy. The GFA is a program created for day schools in small and medium-sized Jewish communities to help boost a school's financial sustainability by making sure that a solid governance and fundraising program is in place and is built on effective strategies for overall sound governance. There is an emphasis on annual campaign planning, donor rating and assignment, moves management planning and execution, and donor cultivation techniques.

In addition to pairing CJDS up with a seasoned coach in the field of non-profit, governance, fundraising, and especially day schools, multiple opportunities were given for training, network-

ing, and professional development with the goal of taking the fundraising to the next level.

CJDS was given the honor of hosting the first conference last November here in Shalom Park, when representatives from 13 Jewish Day Schools across North America came to Charlotte. The second conference was held in St. Louis this past July.

An especially exciting function of this program was a \$100,000 match funded by the Legacy Heritage Fund for new or recovered contributions, meeting specific criteria, during the eighteen months of the program.

CJDS is proud to announce that not only have we achieved the annual fund goal with its required ten percent increase, we have also raised \$100,000 in new gifts that will be matched by this \$100,000

grant.

What makes this moment even more impactful, is that we are adding this \$100,000 match to the \$150,000 that we currently have in our endowment (set up by both David and Alene Epstein and Jerry and Barbara Levin.) When we kick off our Tuition Affordability Endowment Campaign this year, this \$250,000 will be our beginning.

Tuition Affordability is the focus of all Jewish day schools across America. Jewish day school education is a vital resource in every Jewish community. It is a foundation for a life grounded in Judaism, the heightened awareness of the importance of the Jewish people and Israel, and ultimately the key to the future of the Jewish people.

In Charlotte, we are fortunate

Thank you for your Leadership and Commitment Donor Matches for the Prizmah \$100,000 Grant

Anonymous

Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Barbara and Jerry Levin

Gwen and Andrew Lindner

Allah and Nathan Lubin

Carrie and Brad Rabinowitz

Karen and David Ransenberg

Steve and Allison Schlusell

Carolyn and Dan Stone

Sivonne and Ryan Stone

Amy and Mark Vitner

to have a school that is welcoming to all of the Jewish families in our community. CJDS provides not only an extraordinary elementary education in general studies, but it is grounded in Jewish beliefs. Additionally, all students are infused with "The Mensch Factor." Our goal is to make it possible for all to attend and take advantage of this dynamic Jewish institution.

We, as a Jewish community, must find a way to make Charlotte

Jewish Day School affordable and accessible for every Jewish child, regardless of financial means and family priorities. Research tells us that one of the most important factors in Jewish continuity is Jewish day school education. CJDS is continuing to work diligently to make sure that every Jewish family in our community has the opportunity to offer this extraordinary gift to their children. ☆

JPS Welcomes Back Former Student

Devorah Gorkin is the New JPS Office Manager

By Dedee Goldsmith, director, Jewish Preschool on Sardis

There are little and big moments that make up the mosaic of JPS' history and today I am sharing some news that made me quite sad and at the same time quite excited.

Lisa Richman, our Office Manager, my right hand woman and dear friend, accepted a new opportunity and moved on from JPS. We miss her infectious laughter, her prompt attention to just about any need, and her ability to multitask beyond what is typically possible.

While Lisa's shoes are hard to fill, the exciting news is that we've found our newest JPS office assistant/manager. Devorah

Gorkin is making her way back from New York to Charlotte and JPS.

Devorah was born and raised in Charlotte and began her education right here in JPS. After attending two years of teaching seminary, both in Jerusalem and in New York, specializing in early childhood education, she graduated with a Bachelors of Science from Excelsior College in NY. Devorah is passionate about Jewish education and has taught and directed youth programs in various Jewish centers in the US. In her spare time, Devorah enjoys baking, reading, and zumba. She is thrilled to be joining the Jewish Preschool on Sardis family once again as Administrative Assistant

to Miss Dedee. She moved from Brooklyn together with her husband Shimon, and their nine month old daughter, Dasya.

Shimon grew up in Crown Heights but his roots are in NC; his grandparents got married and lived in Charlotte, and his mother was born in Greensboro. Shimon studied in Yeshivas around the world, including Chicago, Manchester, and Miami and received Rabbinical Ordination at the Central Chabad Yeshiva in New York. He spent many summers directing summer camps and enjoys singing and reading from the Torah. Shimon is a graphic designer and his work includes logos, book designs, social media campaigns, websites, and apps. He is excited



The Gorkin Family

to join the Jewish community of Charlotte together with his family.

We look forward to new adventures in a new year, as JPS begins the 2017-2018 school year with

lots of new energy and ideas. Wishing all of our families, friends, and supporters L'Shana Tovah. ☆

Community News

Purchase Dictionaries to Help Local Refugees

The Jewish Community Refugee Initiative (JCRI), a lay-driven project supported by several Shalom Park agencies, seeks to facilitate the Jewish community's ability to help refugees - not because they are Jewish but because we are.

To this end, JCRI is working with Refugee Support Services here in Charlotte to provide English-Arabic picture dictionaries to refugees from Arabic speaking nations who are learning English.

The Oxford Picture Dictionaries are on sale for \$30 at the Levine JCC Charlotte reception desk. Donors pay for the book at the desk, fill out a bookplate with their family name or in honor of or in memory of someone, and then JCRI will deliver the dictionaries to Refugee Support Services for distribution to refugees.

For more information on this project or other ways to help refugees here in Charlotte, please visit JCRI's website at charlotte-



jcric.org or contact Amy Lefkof at alefkof@carolina.rr.com. ☆

CUB SCOUTS FOR GRADES K-5 AT LJCC

Cub Scout Pack 163 is a culturally diverse Pack which meets on Sundays twice a month at the JCC at 4:30. This fun-filled, family oriented activity is open to all boys K-5.

We invite you to an Open House on Tuesday, August 29 at 7-8 PM

Please RSVP to 704-451-4411 or dlintz43@gmail.com or contact us for more information.



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 — Unique Gift Ideas —
 New and Old Customers Very Welcome
 Best Selection in Charlotte

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Open Thursdays
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

JTENNIS. JSTEPS. JDAD. JMENSCH. JFIT. JTOTS. JSWIM. JSTAGE. JRUN.

September 2017

Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road | Charlotte, NC 28226
704-366-5007 | charlottejcc.org | facebook.com/levinejcc



NO JOINING FEE

Ends September 30

Tell A Friend!

FOR HOLIDAY HOURS + SCHEDULES

please visit our website at
www.charlottejcc.org

REGISTER FOR FALL PROGRAMS

Online at charlottejcc.org OR

Call 704-366-5007 OR

Visit the Levine JCC

Customer Service Desk

JCHILDCARE*

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

Grades K-5th

A great, supervised space for your elementary age child to have fun and hang out with friends, while you workout!

Sundays, 8:30am-1pm

Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/\$2/hour

NM/\$5.50 per hour

Reservations Required! 704-366-5007, or visit LJCC Customer Service.

Early Childhood

Daddy & Me Soccer

2.5-3 year olds

Introduction of fundamental soccer principles and rules through fun and games!

Sundays

12:30-1pm

September 24 – October 29

M/\$120 B/Free NM/\$170

Spanish for Preschoolers

3.5-5 year olds

Dramatic play, interactive games, and music.

Wednesdays, 1:15-2pm

September 13 – December 6

M/\$180 B/\$96 NM/\$216

K-5th Grade

Floor Hockey

K-5th

Want a fast-paced, action packed sport? Learn basic hockey skills, strategy and game play.

Mondays, 4:30-5:15pm

September 11 – December 4

Alvin E. Levine Gymnasium

M/\$180 B/Free NM/\$240

Exercise Your Values!

Friendship

chaverut חברות

Wellness

bri'ut בריאות

Community

kehilah קהילה

Family

mishpachah משפחה



The Sandra and Leon Levine
Jewish Community Center

Board of Directors 31st Annual Meeting

All Are Invited to Join Us!

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

7:00pm

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

- Election of Officers & Directors
- Awards Recognizing the Contributions of Volunteers

704-944-6724 • geneva.boxer@charlottejcc.org

Puppy and Dog Training Classes at the J!

Canine Good Citizen

Adults 18+ with dog

Mondays, 6-7pm

Puppy Training

Adults 18+ with puppy (at least 10 wks old)

Mondays, 7:15-8:15pm

6-Week Fall Sessions

I: September 11–October 16

II: November 6–December 11

Per 6-week session: M/B/\$150 NM/\$160

Poliakoff Pavilion at Camp Mindy

INSTRUCTOR: Jill Beitel, Courteous Canine Certified professional dog trainer with 20+ years of dog training experience. Learn more about her at www.mycourteouscanine.com

Register at charlottejcc.org, call 704-366-5007, or visit the LJCC Customer Service Desk



Join the Race!

the AMAZING RACE

at Levine JCC

Join us for this exciting family-friendly team race throughout the LJCC in which each team will participate in a series of challenges or drills to see who can get to the finish line first! After-party with food and prizes immediately following the race!

Sunday, September 17
4-6pm
Teams of 2-6 people • \$7/person

REGISTER AT LJCC CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK:
704-366-5007
Questions? 704-944-6874
catherine.bennett@charlottejcc.org

Childcare Available (normal fees apply)

JSOCCER*JPILATES*JCLAY*JHOOPS* JTEAM*JBABY*JMOM*JMASSAGE*

Teens

The J After Dark

6th–8th Grade

Enjoy the JCC after closing hours, we will have the gym to ourselves for basketball and volleyball, we will have ping pong, Xbox games and giant Jenga! Also there will be soda, pizza and snacks for purchase.

Saturday, September 9

7–9pm

M/\$10 (members can bring one guest for free)

B/\$ FREE NM/\$15

Mitzvah Program

6th–8th Grade

Join other teens as we volunteer to do our part in Tikkun Olam, “healing the world.” We will collaborate with community service organizations and other Jewish Agencies to promote community engagement and build partnerships. This is a great way to earn community service hours. Drop-off and pick-up at the teen lounge. Register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk. Pizza lunch included.

Working in the Community Garden

Sunday, September 10

1–3pm

M/\$5 B/Free NM/\$8

Adults

Feeding The Hungry

Join us during **Hunger Action Month** to make bag lunches for the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope (homeless shelter for women and children.)

Sunday, September 10

1:30–3:30pm

Camp Mindy

RSVP to Julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org for the Sign Up Genius link

Sukkot in the Vineyards and Orchards

Adults 21+

Celebrate Sukkot and Fall in the beautiful North Carolina Mountains. Come join the LJCC on our all-day excursion to Burntshirt Vineyards and an Apple Orchard in Hendersonville, NC. Space is limited - RSVP and pay by Monday, October 2.

Sunday, October 8 (Rain or Shine)

Bus Departs from LJCC at 10am, returns by 7pm

M/\$80 B/ \$75 NM/\$90

Includes Transportation/Box Lunch/Private Tour/Private 14-Wine Tasting/Souvenir Glass/No charge for Apple Orchard/Pay for what you pick

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

Judaism for the Curious

Are you curious about Judaism? Throughout the coming year the Oasis Senior Enrichment Program will be offering monthly classes on Judaism designed to educate, motivate, and inspire you to live life with the use of timeless Jewish wisdom. Rabbi Oppenheim will explore a different topic each month.

September topic: What Judaism say about love.

Monday, September 11 • 1-2pm

FSP Board Room

FREE

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

Hindu Center of Charlotte

Thakor Topiwala will present the history, origins, scriptures, yogas, and social and cultural aspects of Hinduism which promote peace and harmony among all peoples.

Friday, September 15 • 1-2pm

Weinberg Senior Center

FREE

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

Tai Chi/Qigong

Adults 50+

Improve your strength, balance and flexibility through this gentle form of fitness.

INTERMEDIATE Level • Ongoing

Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm

BEGINNER Level • Ongoing

Tuesdays, 1–2pm

Oasis/M/\$30 B/\$20 NM/\$42 per month

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

704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Painting & Beyond Art Class

Adults 50+

Ignite your creativity, and learn from an art instructor.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Mondays 10-11:30am • Room A110

Oasis/LJCC Member \$5/class

Non-Associate/Non-Member: \$10/class

Register with LJCC Customer Service at 704-366-5007

SHIIP

Seniors’ Health Insurance

Information Program

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



LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us you have questions!

Membership

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

Early Childhood

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

K-5th Grade Programs

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

Teen Programs

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

Adults & Seniors/Oasis

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

Sports

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

Aquatics / Swim Team

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

LJCC Tennis / CRUSH

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

Visual/Performing Arts

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

J-Childcare

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

Social Action

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

Levine JCC Cultural Arts JSTAGE.
2017-2018 CHARLOTTE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Advertise Your Business in our 2017/2018 Playbill and reach over 6500 audience members!

Learn how you or your business can be a proud sponsor of the **Levine JCC Cultural Arts** program.

LEARN HOW!

charlottejcc.org/culturalarts
charlottejewishfilm.com
cjff@charlottejcc.org

JSTAGE PRESENTS

Cabaret!

An Evening of *Musical Theatre Performances*

With LJCC Performers and Special Guests from the Charlotte Theatre Community

Saturday, September 16th 7pm • Gorelick Hall

Light Refreshments • Beer & Wine

\$12/ticket at charlottejcc.org/jcabaret

like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc

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



EVENTS

BACK TO SHUL SHABBAT FAMILY DINNER & SERVICES

Friday, September 8, 5:30pm
Reconnect with friends and extended family as we celebrate Shabbat together with a special Family Shabbat Dinner and evening service. Welcome/opening by Rabbi Ezring, and service led by Rabbi Kornsgold. Torah Tots service will also take place after dinner. For more information and to RSVP for dinner, visit templeisraelinc.org.

Torah Tots

Friday, September 8, 6:15pm*

Join Rabbi Klirs and Miss Nancy as we kick off a new year of Torah Tots, Temple Israel's high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers! Welcome in Shabbat with songs, prayers and movement.

*Special time, after our Back to Shul Family Dinner.

YOUTH

MAHAR Kickoff- ARE YOU READY TO "DEFY GRAVITY?" (3rd-5th Grades)

Sunday, September 10, 12:15-3:00pm

Are you ready to bounce off the walls? Join BONIM and your friends as we defy gravity for a fun afternoon of jumping, dodgeball and Ultimate Ninja Warrior. Bring a packed dairy lunch. \$15/TI-Y Members; \$20/Non-Members **MUST RSVP by Wednesday, September 6 to adidonato@templeisraelinc.org.**

YOUNG ADULTS

BREAK (THE) FAST- LET'S EAT THE NIGHT AWAY!

Saturday, September 30, 8:00-10:00pm

Location: Brixx Wood Fired Pizza/Foxcroft

You have fasted all day, now join Torah on Tap as we celebrate the end of Yom Kippur and the start to an exciting New Year. We will provide the appetizers to start you off. Feel free to invite your friends, just let us know (torahontapclt@gmail.com)!

SOCIAL CLUB

MISTY MEADOWS FARM

Thursday, September 14, 10:00 am

Enjoy a visit to Harry Swimmer's Misty Meadows Mitey Riders therapeutic horse farm. We will learn about this program for rehabilitating special needs children by putting them on horses. Harry Swimmer was a finalist in CNN's Person of the Year for the wonderful work he does. The farm is located in Waxhaw, and transportation is available (\$15/person). Questions? Contact Ruth Goldberg at 704-366-8903.

LADIES NIGHT OUT:

A NEW YEAR'S WINE & CHOCOLATE PAIRING

Tuesday, September 12, 7:30pm

Chocolate and Wine are a match made in heaven, especially with your girlfriends! Join experts from Vin Master to learn all about wine and chocolate and how/why they pair. Learn, laugh and enjoy a variety of wines and chocolates to celebrate the Jewish New Year. \$18/pp. Space is Limited. Reserve Your Spot Today! Register at templeisraelinc.org under "Register for an Event."

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 3, 7:30pm

Inspired by historical events, Lauren Belfer's, *And After the Fire* is "a powerful and passionate novel" about two women - one European and one American - and the mysterious choral masterpiece by Johann Sebastian Bach that changes both their lives. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you haven't read the book. Questions? Please contact Linda Levy, 704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com.

HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

5778/2017

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) During High Holy Days Temple Israel offers its congregants & visitors: • Children for Ages 1-5 • Preschool Services • Family Services For more details, please visit our website at: templeisraelinc.org WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) Live Streamed Service 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T)	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T)	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T)	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T)	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T) SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 31 SEVY KIPUR KASHANAN SERVICE 8:15pm, Priests & Sphyr Spectator Sanctuary (T)



Proceeds support Temple Israel, Sisterhood, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives

SEPTEMBER GIFT SHOP HOURS:

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Sunday, October 8,

11:30am-2:30pm

Temple Israel and Temple Beth El will host a special

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ISRAEL LIVE:

featuring members of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, October 29,

3:30pm - followed by

dessert reception

Celebrate Israel's 70th birthday with a once-in-a-lifetime cultural event featuring members of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, as they perform music by famous Israeli composers. Tickets available for sale online at templeisraelinc.org beginning October 1.

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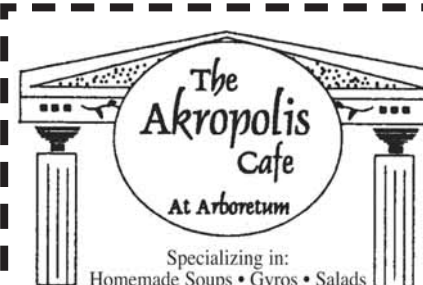
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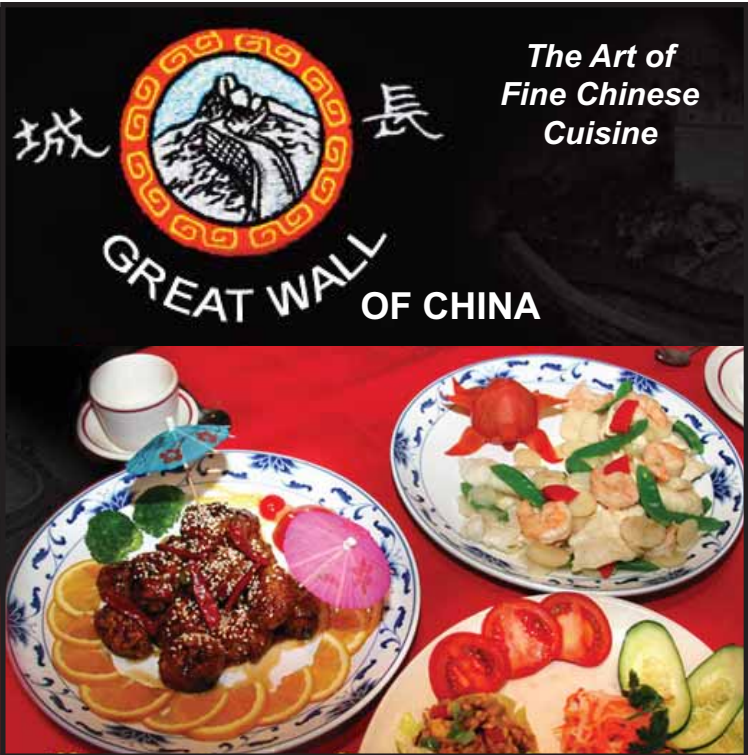
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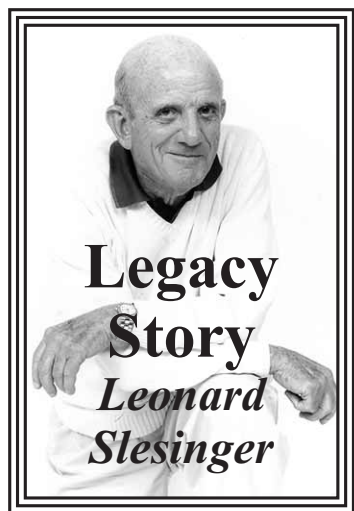
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Temple Israel has received a legacy gift from the estate of Leonard Slesinger, a long-time temple member, who passed away at the age of 96 on September 26, 2016. The gift was added to the Leonard and Ann Slesinger Education Endowment Fund, established by Leonard in 1995, to honor his wife Ann who passed away in 1983. The gift is a tribute to Leonard's strong feelings toward Temple Israel and the welcoming nature of Charlotte's Jewish community.

"All of us feel strong connections to the synagogue," said Leonard's oldest daughter, Cathy Slesinger. "We grew up there and have never felt as strong a religious connection anywhere else. Temple Israel is such an important fabric in our lives."

"The Endowment fund is a living legacy to our parents which supports an important part of our

lives," added Joel, Leonard and Ann's son. "It is one of the many spokes in the wheel that connects us to Dad and Mom."

The Leonard and Ann Slesinger Education Endowment Fund is one of 24 Temple Israel endowment funds managed by the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. Since 2000, the fund has provided over \$27,000 to support Temple Israel Religious School.

"Temple Israel enhanced our lives by providing a solid foundation of community, education and generational friendships," said Leonard's youngest daughter, Meg Slesinger. "The legacy of the endowment fund is a wonderful way to continue enriching the lives of others."

"Annual support from the Leonard and Ann Slesinger Education Endowment Fund enables us to provide scholarships and financial assistance for the Temple Israel Religious School," stated Glenda Bernhardt, Temple Israel Executive Director. "This ensures that all of our families have access to a quality Jewish education and have the opportunity to lay the foundation for a meaningful Jewish life."

A beloved member of Temple Israel, Leonard is one of several Jewish community members who will be featured in the upcoming documentary *Jewish American Soldiers: Stories from WWII*. The documentary will premiere on November 11, Veterans Day, as part of this year's Charlotte Jewish Film Festival. ☆

Local Agencies Receive Incentive Grants

The Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) has distributed \$40,500 to nine community organizations as part of its Create Your Jewish Legacy (CJL) program. This marks the fourth consecutive year that FCJC has made incentive grant distributions in recognition of their successful efforts in meeting annual CJL goals as established by FCJC. These goals included obtaining legacy gift commitments, engaging prospective legacy donors in legacy conversations, and continuing their stewardship and recognition efforts of existing donors. The organizations receiving this year's grants of \$4,500 were:

Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Congregation Ohr HaTorah, Hebrew Cemetery Association, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Levine Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, and Temple Israel.

"We're very excited to be able to provide our participating CJL partner organizations with unrestricted gifts in appreciation of their commitment to building their own legacy programs," said Phil Warshawer, FCJC Executive Director. "The annual grants are a reminder that legacy giving is not just about the future. In collaboration with our community partners, we have received legacy commit-



Phil Warshawer, Nancy Kipnis, Harold Grinspoon and Arlene Schiff, National Director of the HGF Life and Legacy Initiative at 2016 Grinspoon Life & Legacy Conference

ments in excess of \$26 million from over 360 individuals and families. In 2016, our community realized \$180,000 of legacy commitments that were added to existing endowments and used to support their operations."

Over the past four years, FCJC has distributed \$234,000 of unrestricted grants to the ten local Jewish organizations participating in Create Your Jewish Legacy. These grants were made possible by FCJC's partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life and Legacy initiative. Through this affiliation with the Grinspoon Foundation, FCJC has received over \$349,000 in support of Charlotte's legacy effort with 67% returned to the participating organizations as unrestricted in-

centive grant rewards. The remaining grant distributions were used by FCJC to assist in offsetting the administrative expenses of the CJL initiative associated with staffing, marketing, and educational programming.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the success of Charlotte's legacy efforts," said Arlene D. Schiff, National Director of the Harold Grinspoon's Life and Legacy initiative. "As a successful businessman and philanthropist, Harold Grinspoon knows that there are many different ways to evaluate returns on investment. The Charlotte community has not only secured legacy commitments from current members of the community who want to insure a strong and vibrant Jewish community exists in Charlotte for many years to come, but it has incorporated legacy giving into its community culture. We couldn't be more proud of your accomplishments to date and look forward to monitoring your continued success."

"We all know that CJL is much more than meeting annual goals for the purpose of receiving incentive grants," added Nancy Kipnis, FCJC Assistant Vice President and Coordinator of the Create Your Jewish Legacy initiative. "We are very thankful to the Grinspoon's Life and Legacy program, and we are committed to continuing our efforts with the support of the community." ☆

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Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

From Refugees to Racial Justice

The Stan Greenspon Center and a New Year of Advocacy

By Rabbi Judy Schindler

This month, as a Jewish world, we will welcome the new Jewish year of 5778. This month, at the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice, we will launch a new year of education and advocacy.

In our inaugural year of 2016-2017, we addressed the struggles of refugees both in our community and globally. We learned from refugees themselves and from professors and professionals. We debated the best path to support them as we established our advocacy agenda. Among our initiatives, we committed to working on a national level to try and expand the number of refugees our President admits (President Trump will set those numbers this month).

We are facing the greatest refugee crisis in history. Members of our advocacy network feel that America has a global responsibility. We seek to both ensure that all refugees are thoroughly vetted while fulfilling our Jewish and interfaith values of welcoming the stranger and saving lives. On a local level, we committed to getting engaged with our immigration courts to work to improve outcomes. The Greenspon Center supports a Court Witness program ensuring that those fleeing persecution and seeking asylum here are treated justly and given fair trials.

As we begin our second year, we are adding racial justice to our Greenspon Center's work.

September 20, the eve of Rosh Hashanah, marks the first anniversary of the death of Keith Lamont Scott. One year ago, the protests uptown made it clear that we have disparities regarding race that our city needs to address and that Charlotte possesses diverse narratives that need to be better understood and reconciled.

We invite you to be a part of an eight-week racial justice advocacy program to explore our community and region's history and present struggles with race and racism. In our final week, we will define the goals and outcomes that will guide our racial justice advocacy at the local, state, and national levels going forward. Throughout the year, we will maintain our connections as a network while we advocate for change. Queens University, UNC Charlotte, and Johnson C. Smith University have joined together as a Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation – Charlotte Consortium to engage in this most important work. This program is open to the entire community.

Session One – “A Change is Gonna Come”: From Civil Rights to Black Power

Sunday, September 10, 6:30-8 PM at Queens University

Dr. Waldo E. Martin, Jr., Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Pro-

fessor of American History and Citizenship, University of California-Berkeley

Session Two – Race is Nothing, Race is Everything: Understanding the Inclusion Process

Thursday, September 28, 6:30-8 PM at Johnson C. Smith University

Dr. Melvin Herring, Director of the Masters in Social Work Program, Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. James Freeman, Assistant Professor in the Masters of Social Work Program, Johnson C. Smith University

Session Three – How We Got Where We Are with Race – Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and the Queen City

Thursday, October 5, 6:30-8 PM at Queens University of Charlotte

Dr. Sarah Griffith, Professor of History, Queens University, Dr. Mark Kelso, Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Queens University, Dr. Brenda Tindal, Staff Historian, Levine Museum of the New South

Session Four – An Examination of Race, Ethnicity and “Othering” in American Religious Traditions

Thursday, October 19, 7-8:30 PM at UNC Charlotte

Dr. Rodney Sadler, Associate Professor of Bible, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Dr. Julia Robinson Moore, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, UNC Charlotte

Session Five – Media and the Portrayal of Race

Thursday, October 26, 7-8:30 PM at UNC Charlotte

Session Six – Policing and Personal Pain

Thursday, November 2, 6:30-8 PM at Johnson C. Smith University

Robert Dawkins, State organizer for SAFE (Safety Accountability Fairness Equity), will moderate a panel of parents whose children have died at the hands of police.

Session Seven – Where We are and Where We Are Going

Thursday, November 9, 6:30-8 PM at Queens University

Brian Collier, Foundation For

The Carolinas, Dr. Susan McCarter, Associate Professor of Social Work, UNC Charlotte

Session Eight – Setting our Advocacy Agenda

Thursday, November 16, 6:30-8 PM at Queens University of Charlotte

The Greenspon Center is grateful to David Cohen for supporting both last year and this year's series. For more information, or to register, please contact Louise Clark, clarkl2@queens.edu, or call 704-688-2775. There is a \$25 suggested registration fee for the series. Students are free. ✧

Preserving Memory in a Digital Age: Charlotte Eastern Europe Cemetery Experience

Many Jewish cemeteries throughout Eastern Europe remain under constant threat due to neglect and lack of awareness about their presence and condition.

Working collaboratively with existing organizations, students from UNC Charlotte and Queens University will be involved in stabilization, preservation, and interpretative work at cemetery sites in Poland and the Baltics during the summers 2018-2020.

The project integrates community-based historical research into the humanities curriculum and provides students an opportunity to explore global connections in their work and course of study.

The Blumenthal Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte are supporting this project with grants that provide start-up funds for this initiative but we are looking for support

(Continued on page 33)

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ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, September 24

10:30am

-rain or shine-

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Following the service,
the community is invited to the
Dedication of the Silverman Circle
featuring the new Tree of Life
sculpture. Cemetery history
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For questions, please contact:
Director Sandra Goldman
director@hebrewcemetery.org | 704.576.1859



Moishe House September Events

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

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

Event 1: MoHommus Among Us Tasting + 4th Anniversary Party - Wednesday, September 6 at 7 PM at Moishe House

Come taste the wonderful hummus flavors as Sarah Freeman of Hummus Among Us showcases her different types of hummus in a chill setting at the Moishe House. Drinks, veggies, and good company will be available and of course hummus. Moishe House Charlotte also turned four years old in September, so we will be celebrating.

Event 2: Panthers Season Kick-Off - Sunday, September 10 at 4:25 PM at a Bar TBD

Are you ready for some football? A Sunday afternoon showdown between your Carolina Panthers and those pesky San Francisco 49ers is sure to be a doozy. We'll be posting up somewhere to watch. Keep an eye out

for updates on our facebook page, Moishe House Charlotte, for the location.

Event 3: Rosh Hashanah Party - Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 PM at Good Road Ciderworks, 117 Southside Dr., Charlotte

Ring in 5778 with Moishe House and company. Celebrate the new year with hard cider and a sampling of mead (honey wine). Enjoy delicious appetizers, desserts and a tour of Good Road Ciderworks. It's \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door. Register today: <http://community.jewishfederation.org/site/Calendar?id=106213&view=Detail>

Event 4: Rosh Chodesh - Thursday, September 28, 7 PM at Moishe House

Join MoHo Resident Jessica for an intro to our new Jewish women's group. At this meeting we will take some time to reflect on our year and as we prepare for Yom Kippur. We will discuss how Rosh Chodesh groups are celebrated by Jewish women all over the world and will examine a couple Jewish texts which exalt women in our religion. Finally, we will take some time to brainstorm topics to discuss/activities to do at future Rosh Chodesh group meetings. Please bring a bottle of wine or beverage to share, MoHo will provide the cheese/snacks.

Event 5: Break the Fast with Torah on Tap and MoHo - Saturday, September 30 at Brix Pizza, 7814 Fairview Rd., Charlotte

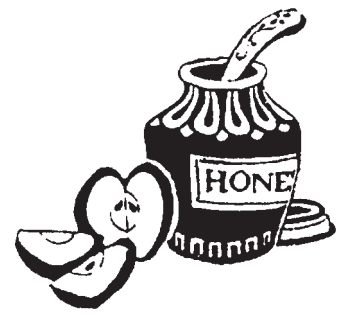
You have fasted all day, now join Torah on Tap, Moishe House, and other young adults as we celebrate the end of Yom Kippur and the start to an exciting New Year. We will provide the appetizers to start you off. Feel free to invite all

your friends, just let us know how many people will be attending so we can save you a seat.

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. ☆

Happy New Year

Anne Yudell



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Preserving Cemeteries in the Digital Age

(Continued from page 31)

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If you have any questions, please contact Talli Dippold 704-847-3427, dippoldt@queens.edu or Aaron Shapiro Aaron-Shapiro@uncc.edu. ☆



Choral Synagogue in Vilnius, the only synagogue that is still in use. The other synagogues were destroyed during World War II.

LET'S RING IN 5778!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Good Road Ciderworks

117 Southside Drive

\$18 advance | \$25 door

Celebrate the new year with hard cider and a sampling of mead (honey wine).
Enjoy delicious appetizers, desserts and a tour of Good Road Ciderworks.

REGISTER AT WWW.NEXTGENCHARLOTTE.ORG



Photos of Rochel Groner Comforting Autistic Boy on Plane Go Viral

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA) — A Jewish woman comforting a distressed child was captured in heartwarming photos that quickly gained traction on social media. The photos show Chabad emissary Rochel Groner holding and comforting the young boy on a flight from Brussels to New York.

About an hour into the flight, the young boy started crying and shrieking loudly, and the atmosphere inside the plane started growing tense.

"His cries were heard throughout the plane and you could feel the tension among the other passengers. No one wanted to say anything but it was getting very uncomfortable," Groner's husband, Rabbi Bentzion Groner, wrote in a Facebook post. The couple, Chabad emissaries in North Carolina, were traveling back from Israel by way of Belgium after

chaperoning a Birthright Israel trip.

"I felt I had to do something because no one was going to do something," Rochel Groner, 33, told JTA. "I didn't know if someone was going to get up and scream at this kid or if they were going to make an emergency landing."

Groner approached the young boy and extended her hand. The

boy looked to be about eight years old and was sitting with his mother, who was wearing a traditional Muslim head covering and spoke little English.

"There were tears streaming down his face," Groner said. Based on the boy's behavior, Groner, who runs two organizations that help special needs children and youth, surmised that he was autistic.

"I put out my hand, and he took my hand. It was such a surreal moment, and he just took it, and he stopped crying," she said. "He kind of just followed me into the aisle. I walked to the bulkhead, and I sat down and I put him in my lap, and I gave him a gentle but firm hug and I just started to rock him. He calmed down."

She got creative, using a pen to trace their hands on unused nausea bags and letting him play with her phone. After about two hours, the boy got up and returned to his mother.

"It was beautiful to see. It was incredible, the transformation.

Whatever had been bothering him wasn't bothering him, he was in a better place," she said.

"While most of the passengers watched in awe little did they know that for Rochel this is her life," her husband wrote in the Facebook post. The couple co-directs Friendship Circle and ZABS Place, two organizations in North Carolina serving young adults

with disabilities. ZABS Place is a thrift store that offers training and employment to young adults with special needs.

Bentzion Groner concludes, "At Friendship Circle, ZABS Place, and Chabad we're taught that if we just offer our hand in love and acceptance, miracles will follow." ☆



Rochel Groner calming down an agitated little boy on a flight from Belgium. The photo went viral after Bentzion Groner's post on Facebook.

Hebrew Cemetery Annual Memorial Service

By Lorrie Klemons, Event Chair

All over the world, community memorial services are held on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Board of Directors of the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association invites you to join us at our Hebrew Cemetery on Sunday, September 24, 1801 Statesville Avenue, for our own community's Annual Memorial Service. The service begins promptly at 10:30 AM, rain or

shine. Each year more than members of the Charlotte Jewish community attend this meaningful service. Come see what all the fuss is all about.

Our Annual Memorial Service is a special time to honor, celebrate, and embrace our loved ones, friends, and members of the community who have departed this earth and lie embraced by mother earth in our hallowed cemetery grounds. Led by our beloved and esteemed Charlotte clergy, we are sure you will find it a meaningful and moving experience. Inspired by the spirit of repentance and renewal during the 5778 High Holiday season, visiting the graves of beloved relatives, friends, or other Tzadikim (righteous people) is a mitzvah that helps us live in accordance with our ancestral ideals and values.

As you enter the cemetery this year, you will be greeted by a new "Silverman Circle," highlighted by a spectacular bronze sculpture of a modernistic interpretation of a "Tree of Life." The Cemetery Association is extremely proud of this magnificent addition to our cemetery, a commissioned work by Greensboro artist, Jim Gallucci. We are deeply grateful for the vision and generosity of Matye and Marc Silverman who made this magnificent sculpture and the new Silverman Circle a reality. Immediately after the service, we will be dedicating this new Silverman Circle and we invite you to participate in this dedication. The new Circle will beautify our cemetery for decades to come, inspiring and welcoming all visitors who enter into our sacred and beautiful space.

After the dedication we invite you to hang out a while, visiting your loved ones' graves, touring our grounds for its historical significance, checking out the Memorial Wall inside the Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel, visiting the Gorelick Gathering room and retreat, and experiencing the serenity of the Ellis and Lena Berlin Family room.

As a dues paying member of the Hebrew Cemetery, the Memorial Building is available for your use at no charge. Contact Cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman, for information on how you can become a member and for any other membership/burial/grave/funeral questions you might have.

Gemar Chatima Tovah.

May we all be sealed in The Book for a happy, healthy, and sweet year. ☆

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-Barbara and David Goodman

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The Ruach Set to Fly

Local Band Ready to Spread the Joy of Judaism

The Ruach, Charlotte's only modern Jewish music band, is now spreading the joy of Judaism to everyone by moving beyond the walls of worship.

The Ruach (which is Hebrew for, "The Spirit") was formed seven years ago to play for Temple Israel's alternative services. "It has been a great ride and partnership, but now with Temple Israel's blessing, we feel it's time to

spread our wings and become independent," said Peter Levinson, The Ruach's leader and lead guitarist. "From the beginning, it has been our goal to engage people spiritually and culturally through our music at different venues around Charlotte, the Carolinas and hopefully the country."

The Ruach will play events at houses of worship of all religions plus non-sectarian venues.

On June 23, The Ruach led the first ever Shabbat on Central. This celebration of Shabbat was held at Midwood Guitar Studio on Central Avenue in Charlotte. Every seat was filled. There were lots of smiles and people sang together. "It was a beautiful, spiritual Shab-



The Ruach band members Dan Ruda, Nancy Good, and Peter Levinson.

bat experience that was engaging for folks of all ages," said Shelly Fasciana. Gloria Reeves added, "The music was wonderful and very uplifting. You left feeling really good."

The Ruach will lead another Shabbat on Central at Midwood Guitar Studio at 7 PM on September 15.

Levinson said, "Though we are now reaching for the heavens, we appreciate the roots that were planted at Temple Israel." The Ruach will lead the musical portion of Temple Israel's alternative Rosh Hashanah service known as Rock Hashanah on Friday, September 22 in the Sam Lerner Cultural Arts Center at Shalom Park

at 10:30 AM.

About The Ruach

Band members are Nancy Good, vocals and guitar, Peter Levinson, lead guitar, Dan Ruda, bass and vocals, David Krusch, drums and vocals, Franklin Kaunitz, violin and vocals, and, Terry Wallach, expressive engagement. Two years ago, The Ruach released its first CD of original songs: *Real Jewish. Rock*. One of the songs, "Shalom Aleichem," was included in a compilation CD of Jewish music recorded by US and Israeli artists. The band plans to release another CD soon. In addition to leading the musical portion of many of the alternative services at Temple Israel, as well as at other synagogues over the past several years, The Ruach has played at various cultural events, including the Tosco Music Holiday Party at the McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square and the Charlotte Kosher BBQ Championship. For additional information and booking, contact Peter Levinson, email: the.ruach.band@gmail.com or 704-905-9386. ☆

Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Gaston County Business Leaders Graduate from First Charlotte Aviation Academy

Lyerly Agency Owners and Temple Emanuel Members Discover Education and Excitement in Inaugural Class

Belmont, NC — For three decades, Lyerly Agency owners have partnered with Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) on a variety of communications projects. But it was not until this year's inaugural class of the Charlotte Aviation Academy that they received such a unique perspective and education.

The Academy — a program of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, supported by CLT and American Airlines — invited participants for a first-hand look at the airport's innermost workings. Cramerton residents, Belmont business owners, and Temple Emanuel members Elaine and Melia Lyerly applied for the new program and were accepted among 15 total students, comprised of some Chamber Aviation Committee members, regional stakeholders, and residential neighbors.

From practical exercises to classroom instruction and field trips, students received in-depth monthly instruction that brought them behind the scenes with a goal of turning aviation interest into effective and qualified advocacy for CLT. They received an overview of CLT from airport



Elaine and Melia Lyerly

leadership; visited the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) Air Traffic Control Tower; explored the airfield to discuss future growth of the terminal; toured nearby Wilson Air Center; learned about American Airline's local operations, training center (including advanced flight simulators), employee training, and maintenance hangar; and heard presentations from the USO, immigration, and security experts who operate at CLT.

"Going into the FAA Air Traffic Control Tower was a phenom-

enal experience," said Melia Lyerly. "This Academy was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We gained an incredible education beyond any layperson's knowledge of the airport and its functions. This new understanding will not only help us professionally in our continued work with CLT, but brings a revitalized excitement for this economic engine and sharing it with others."

The inaugural Charlotte Aviation Academy class graduated on June 21 with an Aviation Symposium following six months of course work.

About Lyerly Agency

Lyerly Agency, founded in 1977, is a Business To Women Communications firm based in Belmont, NC. Clients of the award-winning agency range from local to worldwide brands in a variety of industries. Named "Best in North Carolina" two consecutive years by the Business Marketing Association of the Carolinas, the agency continues to provide superior brand marketing and public relations solutions that attain results and local, national and international accolades. For more information about Lyerly Agency, visit www.lyerly.com. ☆

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שנה טובה שנה טובה שנה טובה

To Err is Human, to Not Forgive is Asinine

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim,
Charlotte Torah Center

This is the time of year that Jews in synagogues throughout the world ask God for forgiveness for actions that were not in consonance with their Jewish identity. We ask (and even expect) God to forgive us but not everyone connects that ask to their daily life as a Jew.

Where does the idea of forgiveness come from? Surprise; it is not the classical literature of Greece or Rome, the Renaissance, or any other era that gave the world a plethora of aesthetic literature. Jews introduced the idea of forgiveness to the world. That bold statement was not made by a Rabbi but by a professor emeritus of Classics at Brown. In *Before Forgiveness: The Origins of a Moral Idea*, Professor David Konstan writes that there was no concept of forgiveness in the literature of the ancient Greeks. There was something else, often mistaken for forgiveness. There is appeasement of anger. Konstan argues forgiveness's first appearance is in the Hebrew Bible and he cites the case of Joseph (forgiving his brothers).

However, he does not address two fundamental questions: Why

did Joseph forgive? Why are the idea and institution of forgiveness born specifically within Judaism?

Lord Jonathan Sacks, former Chief Rabbi of England, answers that within Judaism a new form of morality was born. Most other systems are ethics of shame, which focuses on the person but Judaism is (primarily) not an ethic of focusing on the person and his or her ability to rectify the wrongdoing.

In shame cultures when a person does wrong (s)he is, as it were, stained, marked, or defiled. In Jewish consciousness, what is wrong is not the doer but the deed, not the sinner but the sin. The person retains his or her fundamental worth (as we say the soul you gave me is pure in our morning prayers). The act has to be put right and that is why in Judaism there are processes of repentance, atonement and forgiveness. God believes in us and our ability to right a wrong.

Forgiveness only exists in a culture in which repentance exists. Repentance presupposes that we are free and morally responsible agents who are capable of change, specifically the change that comes about when we recognize that something we have done is wrong and we are responsible for it and we must never do it

again. The possibility of that kind of moral transformation simply did not exist in ancient Greece or any other pagan culture. Greece was a shame-and-honor culture that turned on the twin concepts of character and fate. Judaism was a repentance-and-forgiveness culture whose central concepts are will and choice.

Repentance and forgiveness are not just two ideas among many. They transformed the human situation. For the first time, repentance established the possibility that we are not condemned endlessly to repeat the past; when I repent I show I can change. The future is not predestined. I can

make it different from what it might have been. Forgiveness liberates us from the past. Forgiveness breaks the irreversibility of reaction and revenge. It is the undoing of what has been done.

Joseph found the internal fortitude to forgive his brothers and we can too. When we forgive and are worthy of being forgiven we are no longer prisoners of our past. Alexander Pope famously wrote, "To err is human, to forgive divine" but this is not necessarily in accordance with Judaism. Granted, God forgives but one does not need to be divine to forgive, one needs to understand that it is part of our birthright. In addition,

it simply not wise to keep unresolved pent up anger in your head because it ruins your possibility for happiness.

This year, before Yom Kippur, take time to apologize to others you may have offended. Forgive others who have offended you. Resentment is a heavy load to bear. Some of those for whom you harbor resentment are dead, have moved away, or simply will never give you the closure you crave. Only you have the ability to take responsibility for your resentments. Let go of them and as you travel through the road of life, your load will be lighter. Now is the time to heal the wounds of the past; when you do, you will have more energy for the future. ☆

Catch Up With Your Soul

By Rabbi Asher Knight, Temple Beth El

There is a legend about a man named Yameel, the swiftest runner and most reliable messenger in all of Africa. One day, a village elder found Yameel standing motionless in the middle of a path. The leader asked, "Why have you stopped in the middle of your mission?" Yameel answered, "I have been



running so fast that I have left my soul behind. I am standing here waiting for my soul to catch up to me."

The Yamim Noraim – the High Holy Days – remind us to consider how we have been running this past year and they provide us time for our souls to "catch-up." Perhaps we have been carried away by conflicting concerns or stretched by the demands on our time, energy, and emotional resources. Maybe, we have committed ourselves to too many worthwhile projects. Or, we consider how we

are spending our time and we realize there isn't enough meaning to make our scrambling worthwhile. We have helped everyone in everything at every time and in so doing have failed to take care of ourselves. We have focused so much on our own needs that we have failed to see the needs of others.

The shofar beckons us to consider our lives and to listen to the brokenness in our own souls. During these High Holy Days, let the sound of the shofar call out to you with the staccato shevarim notes of fragmentation and the tekiah

(Continued on next page)



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שנה טובה שנה טובה שנה טובה

One Good Deed Could Change the World

By Rabbi Yossi Groner, Congregation Ohr HaTorah

Advanced technology is very much part of our life. With all of the criticism of how impersonal it makes us, there is a redeeming element in advanced technology which is unmatched in the history of natural events. That is the ability to communicate positive news globally and instantaneously, which is a welcoming development, especially when it motivates people to do likewise.

The great Jewish Sage Rabbi Moses Maimonides writes in laws of Teshuva: "If a person performs one mitzvah, he tips his balance and that of the entire world to the side of merit and brings deliverance and salvation to himself and others."

In simple words: one mitzvah, one deed of kindness, can tip the balance of the world and bring healing and salvation. Furthermore, it has the ability to create a domino effect in causing people to engage in acts of kindness to others, including strangers.

We recently experienced the effects of a simple deed of kindness done on a transcontinental flight from Europe to the United States. The scene was captured in a photo, posted on Facebook and rest is history as it went "viral" in the vernacular of social media. Estimates are that at least one hundred million people read about it through various media in scores of languages. (Editor's note: See story on page 34.)

What Maimonides wrote was always interpreted on a spiritual plane, that the effect of a good deed in some way shapes the cosmic worlds in a positive way. Nowadays, we still accept the spiritual meaning, yet with the advent of technology, we also can see the effects of good deeds in a corporeal way.

Maimonides writes this statement about the main mitzvah observed on Rosh Hashanah, the sounding of the Shofar. He says that there is a hidden message in the Shofar's call: to wake up from our sleep and be introspective of our deeds and values. Maimonides states that we need to remember that God created us for a reason; we must be conscientious of our mission and not waste energy on vanity and emptiness.

There it is. As much as we celebrate the virtues of advanced technology in disseminating good news instantaneously, we are cautioned not to allow technology to distract us, lest we be drawn to vanity and emptiness.

Technology is but a tool, an instrument for positive if used in a good way or it can be a tool for destruction if used to communicate slander and gossip. The Lubavitcher Rebbe likened it to a kitchen knife. If used properly and carefully it helps us prepare meals

in a tasteful and creative way. If however one is careless, it can cause harm to the user and those around him.

Similarly, technology can be used to create many positive initiatives that improves both spiritual and material aspects of life. Or God forbid it can be used in a destructive way. The Shofar's call is to the spiritual side of our humanity, to use it to improve our lives and the world.

Looking deeper into the words of Maimonides we realize that he is focusing on the power of each individual. What Maimonides means is that every individual human being is extremely powerful as they can affect the entire world. He continues that the coming of Mashiach is depended on the action of one individual person. Every person must consider that he or she might be that person who could bring about the seismic shift that changes the

world.

Today Maimonides' words resonate in a more significant way as every individual has the awesome power of disseminating ideas globally with the push of a key on our computerized devices.

So on Rosh Hashanah when we gather to celebrate the new incoming year, and we pray to God to bless us with all we need, we have a mission as well. We need to realize that we can make a difference in the direction of our own lives and of the world at large. We hear the call of the Shofar and we resolve to act with holiness towards God and kindness to our fellow human being (even if it is not being photographed).

L'shanah Tova to Klal Yisrael, to all here in Charlotte and the world over. ☆



Catch Up With Your Soul

(Continued from previous page)

signifying the possibility of wholeness. The shofar summons us to hear the truths in our lives - the way we chalk-up "busyness" to achievement, ambition, and service. The shofar prompts us to reflect on the ways our spirits have become torn and our souls are shackled. And the shofar also encourages us to contemplate what is yet possible: to connect with our breath, the beauty of nature, to slip the constraints of calendars and clocks, to find strength in community and friendship, and tranquility in connections or needed solitude.

This is my prayer during these High Holy Days. May your dinner

tables at these High Holy Days be filled with love, laughter, and strength. May these days be an opportunity for creative spiritual acts - slowing down, spending time with people you care about, letting go of your need to work or buy, reaching out to God in song and in silence, reflecting on your life, and catching up with your soul. And may we hear the call of the shofar - by considering the ways we can repair the fragmentation and brokenness. May the opportunity for reflection and renewal galvanize us to the sacred work of living life well. Shanah Tovah u-Metukah - May you have a sweet, healthy, and happy New Year. ☆



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שנה טובה שנה טובה שנה טובה

The Power of Prayer

By Rabbi Murray Ezring, Temple Israel

“When you pray with tears, you unlock the Heavenly gates; when you pray with joy, there are no gates.” Rabbi Lazar Brody

From the time I was little boy, my mother and father taught me that as soon as I woke each morning, I should recite *modeh ani lifanecha*, thanking our ever living Ruler for a new day of life. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks reminds us that the reason we do not say God’s name in this important short prayer is that we speak our first words each day before we wash our hands. Until we are cleansed, we are not to pronounce God’s holy name.

Modeh Ani teaches us daily that the beginning of all Jewish prayer is not petition, but gratitude. This is as true on the High Holy Days as it is every day. The Chasidic Rabbi Shalom Ber echoed this sentiment when he said, “Worship begins with the words ‘thank you.’” Many in our generation do not realize the power of the words “thank you” when directed towards our God and Creator. Instead, hoping to receive God’s kindness, we ask God to fulfill our wishes and desires.



Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught: “Prayer must never be a citadel for selfish concerns, but rather a place for deepening concern over other people’s plight.” This concept is clearly emphasized in the central prayer of the High Holy Days’ Musaf, *Unetaneh Tokef*. Our rabbis and teachers remind us of God’s power over life and death. Our focus is taken away from the mirror of our lives and turned instead towards all our people who will appear before God in judgement. After we have been

warned of the reality of God’s judgement, and that we are all subject to the divine will, we hear the words *Uteshuvah, Utefillah, Utzedakah*, but repentance, prayer, and deeds of righteousness can ease the evilness of the decree.

Prayer is the central element used to help us change our vision of reality. One of our ancestors wrote, “Pray as if everything depends on God, but act as if everything depends on you.” Our prayers on the High Holy Days, especially the *Unetaneh Tokef*, help us understand that, not only does prayer teach us to help other people, all people, in need, friend or foe, but prayer and our deeds draw us into a closer relationship

with God, as well as people.

Unetaneh Tokef reminds us that we are all judged by God. The wise are judged; the wealthy are judged; the poor are judged; both the young and the old are judged. We stand as equals with only our deeds to save us and our prayers to act as our defense. The wise will remember the words of Ernest Hemingway: “There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.”

If our prayers on the coming Holy Days are going to help us, as they are meant to, we must use these holy gathering times as an opportunity to more closely identify with each other, strengthen our will to help others, and build a stronger relationship with our creator.

L’shanah Tova Tikateivu v’Teichateimu

May you all be written and sealed for a good and joyful 5778! ☆

Almond and Grape Mini-Crostatas Recipe

By Jennifer Stempel

(The Noshers via JTA) — Apples and honey around the High Holidays are certainly not the only way to ensure a sweet new year. Cuban families, like mine, have long practiced the tradition of eating grapes for good luck. At the stroke of midnight on New Year’s Eve, we enjoy 12 grapes — one for each month.

According to folklore, this practice stems from Cuba’s Spanish roots. Spanish grape growers may have instituted the tradition when they were faced with an overabundance of harvest and needed to offload some grapes. With everyone in the community enjoying grapes, the grape farmers were certainly enjoying a sweet start to the new year.

While most Cubans eat their 12 grapes as they are, I’ve always enjoyed the challenge of incorporating the grapes into a Rosh Hashanah dish. My Mini Almond and Grape Crostatas are the perfect solution to this puzzle, as these single-serving pastries feature 12 whole grapes.

Gluten-free and completely pareve, they are the perfect addition to any Rosh Hashanah table.

MINI ALMOND AND GRAPE CROSTATAS

(Yield: 4 crostatas)



Ingredients:

7 oz. almond paste
1 egg, beaten
48 seedless grapes (any color)
1 T. freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 t. corn starch
½ t. ground cinnamon
4 t. sliced almonds, divided
1 T. Turbinado sugar
1 T. powdered sugar (optional)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 F. Divide almond paste into 4 equal parts, and between 2 sheets of parchment paper, roll out into ¼” thick round discs. Place on parchment lined baking sheet and brush with beaten egg. In a bowl, toss together the grapes, lemon juice, corn starch, and cinnamon till the grapes are coated. Place 12 grapes on each disc, leaving a 1” rim and fold the rim over the grapes, pinching to crimp along the edges.

Brush the top of the almond paste with beaten egg, and add

(Continued on next page)

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How the High Holidays Snapped Me Out of My Mom Boredom

By Dasee Berkowitz

(Kveller via JTA) - A few nights ago, when I was cleaning up the kitchen after supper, it struck me.

I'm really bored as a parent.

I have the efficiency thing down pat. A food schedule for each night of the week. The ease of an afternoon spent with our three kids — snack, followed by craft, followed by dinner, bath, books, and then bed.

Sure, there are outliers: my three-year-old who doesn't conform to my plans, or the erupting feud between my eldest and middle child.

"I'm on it" (or in Hebrew, "katan alai" — this is small stuff), I say to myself, and handle whatever the issue is with aplomb.

But at the end of the day, with a cup of mint tea in hand, I ask myself, "Is this all there is?"

I joked with my son the other night when he inquired, "What awesome thing are we planning to do this afternoon?" I answered, "Nothing special."

His response was, "That's so boring." And then I said to him deadpan, "Let me teach you a little life lesson, son. Most of life is boring, except for occasionally when it's not."

Was this really me talking?

Who have I become?

Manager mom. That's who.

It was bound to happen. Nobody can possibly keep this well-oiled machine called "our family's life" going for eight years without falling into autopilot. It kind of says it all when you find yourself at the gas station, and in the quick business exchange of the attendant asking for your credit card, getting it back and checking a text about the homework for your first-grader, you

think that the gas is already in the car and you start to drive away. But the yank of the gas nozzle, the spurting of gasoline everywhere, and the aforementioned attendant running frantically your way yelling "giveret, giveret!" ("madam, madam!") becomes strong evidence to the contrary.

And for the record, you know you have achieved manager mom status when you are called giveret, as opposed to "miss." Just sayin'.

Thank God the Jewish holidays are upon us and I can receive an enormous shofar blast in my ear to knock me out of my middle management stupor and inject a bit of vitality into me.

Any milestone is an opportunity to take stock. And the Jewish High Holidays put the idea of taking stock on steroids.

Renewal. Judgment day. Life

held in the balance. Starting over. The liturgy, rituals and customs of these days invite the big questions. Who am I? What and to whom am I responsible? How can I mend broken relationships? How will I spend the finite time I have on this earth?

These are the big questions and they are triggered by simple, even childlike metaphors — God writing our deeds in a book of Life or Death, a shofar blast that, beyond all of the layers and layers of prayers uttered on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, brings us back to a primal cry and beckons us to think beyond our day to day.

But in all honesty, after years of observing these holidays, I never feel quite ready. And my cynical side often creeps in and says, "Is anything really going to change? After a couple of inspiring days, I will probably just go back to my old habits and old routines."

There was a moment last year that broke me out of the manager mom malaise. It happened for a few minutes right before the start of Yom Kippur. My husband and I bless our children every Friday night, but last year he reminded me to the free flow blessing that parents traditionally say to their children pre-Day of Atonement. Make it personal; feel free to go off script, he recommended. I placed my hands on their freshly shampooed heads and shared with each child what I hoped and dreamed for them, and a quality or

two that I wanted to work on in myself so I could be a better parent to each of them. More patient with one, less distracted with another, better at following through on plans we agree on with the third. I took a good two to three minutes to clear away the part of me cluttered with extraneous thoughts, to be present for them (or as present as you can be when the 2 1/2-year-old starts to squirm away).

With all the hours logged in synagogue for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it was in that moment that I felt like I was encountering ultimacy. The manager mom who had commanded them just a few moments earlier to get dressed in their new outfits and to put their shoes on gave way to mortal mom, the one who didn't know what the year would bring, who would get sick or hurt, who would succeed, who would have good friends. All that this mortal mom knew for certain was that these relationships in front of me were real, alive, pulsing, and in need of my presence and love.

I want to bring that awareness to my experience of the holidays this year, too. And if I'm lucky, I'll be able to promote manager mom to fully-living-in-the-present-mortal-mom (try fitting that on a name tag). At least for the two to three minutes that it takes me to bless my children. ☆

(Dasee Berkowitz lives in Jerusalem and works as an edu-

cational consultant, writer, and mom of three kids. She also directs Ayeka's *Becoming a Soulful Parent* project. To find out more about *Becoming a Soulful Parent*, contact her at dasee@ayeka.org.il.)

Almond and Grape Mini-Crostatas

(Continued from previous page)

1 t. of sliced almonds to the top of each pastry. Sprinkle with Turbinado sugar and bake for 15-20 min., or till crust is golden brown and sliced almonds have started to brown. Remove from oven and let cool on the baking sheet for 10 min. Carefully transfer to a cooling rack or serving platter and allow to cool completely. ☆

(Jennifer Stempel is a TV development executive who lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son. To read more about her culinary adventures, check out: www.TheCubanReuben.com.)

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

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