

The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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March 2018

Women's Philanthropy: How We Connect. How We Give. How We Make a Difference

Women philanthropists are the change-makers and community-shapers of the world. We are sisters and daughters, mothers and friends, compassionate and committed women at every stage of life and career.

Federation's Women's Philanthropy engages Jewish women in the fulfilling work of making the world a better place. We are building and supporting Jewish life for today and for generations to come.

The Power of Women: Philanthropy and Tzedakah

Thursday, March 8, doors open at 7 PM; program starts at 7:30 PM; Ballantyne Resort; Lavish Dessert Reception

We invite you to join us for our inaugural Women's Philanthropy Spring Event, the Power of Women: Philanthropy, and Tzedakah. The event celebrates the power of women philanthropists and their impact on the world. Co-Chaired by Jill Halvestam and Debbie Porter, the event features Laura Schroff, former media executive and international and #1 New York Times bestselling author. Laura is a passionate and compelling voice on the power of small acts of kindness. In her book, *An Invisible Thread*, Laura recounts the inspiring true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and their unlikely meeting in 1986, and how both of their lives were



Laura Schroff

changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness.

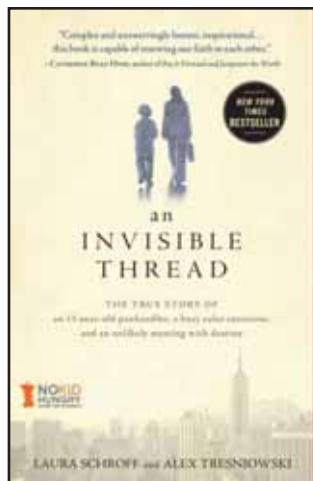
After its launch in November 2011, *An Invisible Thread* was on the New York Times bestseller list for over 38 weeks and was the recipient of many awards. Schroff, who has spoken at over 100 events, encourages her audiences to look for their own "invisible thread" connections and highlights the importance of opening up themselves to opportunities where they can make a difference in the lives of others.

We encourage you to get to know our community a bit better and help make a difference getting more involved with our Women's Philanthropy initiative.

A \$180 minimum women's gift to the Federation's annual campaign is required to attend this event.

Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased online at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

For more information contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704- 944-6759.



The Power of Women: Literacy and Tikkun Olam

On Tuesday, January 30 the Jewish Federation held its first women's philanthropy social action program. The program was co-chaired by Lisa Straus Levinson and Marisa Zeibert and focused on promoting literacy and addressing the reading crisis in our schools.

Lisa Straus Levinson is a native Charlottean and has been an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years. Lisa has witnessed the evolution of our city and the Jewish community. "I recently returned to Charlotte after living in Columbia for seven years," said Straus Levinson. "I was looking to reconnect with the community I so dearly love and I knew this was a perfect fit - Women and Philanthropy. It is a great way for us as women leaders to make decisions and have an im-



act on our Jewish community and greater Charlotte community."

Regarding her personal connection to the program, Zeibert added: "I became involved in the Federation's Women's Philanthropy because I appreciate both the opportunity and the challenge to make an impact beyond my dollars, on behalf of an organization that reminds me not only who I am, but motivates me to take strides towards who I want to become."

Zeibert continued to reflect when she said, "While we all align with the same chief fundamental goals that define Federation - let's face it - everyone may have a slightly different Federation chemistry or algorithm as it relates to engaging authentically with some events over others. That is why our Women's Philanthropy initiative is presenting women with multiple opportunities to connect, make a difference, and give. Our fall kickoff event was a huge success and allowed us to connect and be inspired by stories of women empowerment and entrepreneurship in Israel."

This past January was our opportunity to make a difference, but also bring attention to an educational crisis right here in our beloved Queen City, and also across the state and throughout the country. Today, only 39% of Charlotte's 3rd graders are reading at grade level. Thirty-nine percent! Third grade reading proficiency is a super strong indicator of high school graduation rates, with a staggering 96% graduating on



Donated PJ Library books and bags for Sterling and Huntingtowne.

time if they are reading proficiently at 3rd grade.

After hearing from representatives from Read Charlotte, a community initiative charged with doubling reading proficiency in Charlotte, the group divided into two groups to visit Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary schools. The women had a chance to hear from the assistant principal in the schools and then visit each of the 2nd grade classrooms. The women then read to the students and handed each student a book bag, donated by PJ Library, a national program which aims to promote Jewish literacy by sending free Jewish books to Jewish families across the world every month. PJ Library in Charlotte is funded by Liz and Brad Winer and the Jewish Federation. The day turned into an inspirational event felt by both the women and students involved. We hope you will join us at our next event on March 8 and continue to be inspired. ☆

**Want to learn more about the Jewish Federation, who we are and what we do?
See the insert inside this issue.
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JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Be the Start of
Something Powerful

Thank you, Charlotte, for answering the call on Super Sunday. More than 100 volunteers representing the Jewish Federation's network of community agencies joined forces on Sunday, January 21 to make calls on Super Sunday. Thanks to their efforts, and the community members who answered their phones and generously contributed to the Jewish Federation 2018 Annual Campaign, the day was a Super Success.

The day's unofficial total, \$85,968, far exceeded expectations and the \$60,000 goal. A big shout out to our Super Sunday Chair, Jason Tanenbaum, for all his work planning the event. A special thanks also goes out to all the dedicated callers who hit the phones and put "Tzedakah" on the speed dial.

Super Sunday, Federation's largest annual community-wide

fundraising phone-a-thon, helps support the Jewish Federation's annual campaign, which touches more Jewish lives than any other organization in the world.

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

If we somehow missed you on Super Sunday, there is still time to donate to the 2018 Annual Campaign. Visit our website today at www.jewishcharlotte.org. Please join us, and be the start of something powerful.

Want to learn more about the Jewish Federation, who we are and what we do? See the insert inside this issue. DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ☆

CAMPAIGN 2018: AT A GLANCE

Goal: \$4,000,000



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Hadassah's Defining Zionism
Discussion
March 18, 4 PM Temple Israel

We welcome author Francine Klagsbrun, author of *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*; and Ambassador Judith Varnai Shorer the Consul General of Israel from Atlanta. This program will highlight Zionism at the time of the creation of the state of Israel pre-1948, in addition to Golda Meir's role in Zionism. The Consul General will highlight Zionism today. A discussion and book signing will follow this event. This program is free and all are welcome. ☆





Judith Varnai Shorer

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR MARCH 2018

Friday, March 2, 6:02 PM

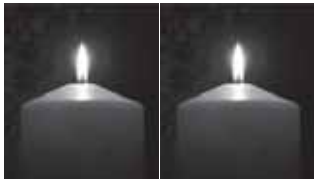
Friday, March 9, 6:08 PM

Friday, March 16, 7:13 PM

Friday, March 23, 7:19 PM

Friday, March 30, Erev Pesach, 7:25 PM

Saturday, March 31, 2nd night Pesach, after 8:22 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



Several of the books I've been highlighting in this column have raised questions in my mind. Are there a finite number of themes to choose from when writing a book? Why does it seem that a new book seems to have the same theme as another book you've read? The author Mary Glickman who spoke to our community in December answered this question for me when she described the arduous path to getting her first book published. After many, many attempts, she feels *Home in the Morning* was accepted for publication primarily because it followed on the heels of the hugely successful book *The Help*. This certainly could explain the publication of the following books I am recommending this month.

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

A moving novel about three people who find their way back from loss and loneliness to a different kind of happiness. Arthur, a

widow, meets Maddy, a troubled teenage girl who is avoiding school by hiding out at the cemetery where Arthur goes every day to have imaginary conversations with his late wife. The two strike up a friendship that draws them out of isolation. Maddy gives Arthur the name Truluv, for his loving and positive responses to every outrageous thing she says or does. With Arthur's nosy neighbor Lucille, they create a loving and unconventional family, proving that life's most precious moments are sweeter when shared. (Goodreads)

Like the novel *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* is about the intergenerational pairings of unlikely souls. I loved Arthur Truluv, Maddy, and Lucille and the beautiful improbable family they created. I felt absolutely paralyzed to move on after I finished the last page of this sweet, emotionally satisfying novel that takes us on a journey

from loneliness, to discovery, compassion, unlikely friendship, and fulfillment.

Millard Salter's Last Day by Jacob M. Appel

In the spirit of the New York Times bestselling *A Man Called Ove*, *Millard Salter's Last Day* is an extremely well written, thought provoking book about a complicated man who decides to end his life before he's too old; and during the single day he considers his last, confronts a lifetime of challenges.

After reading this book, I was very curious about its author. Jacob M. Appel is an American author, bioethicist, physician, lawyer, and social critic. He is best known for his writing in the fields of reproductive ethics, organ donation, neuro-ethics, and euthanasia. Jacob M. Appel is 43 years old. I wonder if he were to write this book later in life, would it be different?

This book would be a great selection for a Book Club – in fact, it includes an excellent Book Club Guide.

CJE Book Club News

The CJE Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM–12 noon in the Center for Jewish Education.

March 21 - *Millard Salter's Last Day*, Jacob M. Appel

April 18 - *All the Rivers*, Dorit Rabinyan

May 16 - *Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo*, Boris Fishman ☆



Check out what's happening this month at the CJE ?

CJE CALENDAR: MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning, and creates pathways to Jewish identity. LIBRARY HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; and Sunday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm				1	2 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
4	5	6	7 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	8	9 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
11 PJ Library & CJDS Matzah Factory 10:00 AM Charlotte Jewish Day School	12	13 Hebrew Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	14 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	15	16 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
18	19	20	21 CJE Book Club 10:30AM Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	22	23 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
25	26	27	28 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library		

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Youth Visions

Hebrew High 8th and 9th Grade Retreat: The Force Was With Us

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away lived Joe. He was the last Jew-Di on earth and wanted to do whatever he could to rebuild his Jewish community. Padawan's at the Hebrew High 8th and 9th Grade Retreat helped Joe by using "The Force" to help him rebuild his Jewish community.

Hebrew High 8th and 9th grade students honed their Jew-Di force through a spiritual meditation led by Rabbi Dusty Klass. Then they broke into three groups where they wrote letters to Samy Cohen, the last Jewish member in his small town of Asmara, Eritrea, in eastern Africa, discussed Jewish life in the south, explored Jewish values and ranked them according to importance, and then came together as a class to see why some

values ranked higher than others.

Next they learned to build their own Jewish community through various activities highlighting what it takes to make a community, who you need to have in your community, and how to work together to sustain that community. They learned you need a rabbi, a butcher, a teacher, and more. Their communities were unique and named to reflect what was important to them as a group.

The whole group played a game on Kahoot to see who could distinguish who said it, Yoda or a Jewish sage. We had a dance contest to Cantina, a Star Wars instrumental hit, and had judges pick the winning dance team.

No Hebrew High retreat would be complete without snack time.

The students made light sabers out of pretzels dipped in colorful frosting and Princess Leia cookies out of brownies, Oreos, and lots of icing.

The retreat came to a close with Rabbi Dusty Klass coming back to make chocolate, banana, and plain pancakes for everyone.

Had by all, a good time we had. Yeesssssss. ☆



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Student Noah Goldman Issues an Interfaith Challenge

By Tommy Bobbitt in Campus News

Noah Goldman believes interfaith connections can strengthen the Queens University of Charlotte community. "Universities are about challenging any preconceived notions, and if you explore things you don't know, it challenges you while giving you the ability to make connections and meet other people," said Goldman.

Noah has definitely accepted this challenge and philosophy in many different ways at Queens. He has been a part of three different rugby teams within the past five years — East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte Barbarians, and now the Queens men's rugby team, founded last summer. He's also a part of the mentorship program Project LEAD, a residence advisor in Belk Hall, and president of the Jewish campus life organization Hillel.

It is fair to say Noah has connected with a lot of different people at Queens, and he believes interfaith connection is a key component to that. "Religions have differences, but there are plenty of similarities," said the junior political science major. "For instance, people who follow different religions still pray for world hunger to end, poverty to be solved, and just the common good in general."

Noah has had many experiences studying different religions. He went on a trip to Guatemala with a Christian group to further his understanding of Christianity and is good friends with Muslims and Buddhists. On top of that, Hillel does joint programs usually involving an activity and film or articles with many different cultures or religions. These activities, films and articles often contain similarities between the two religions or cultures. For example, last year Hillel teamed up with the Black Student Union to eat soul food and watch documentaries on the Holocaust and Jim Crow laws. "I heard a quote once that said if you only understand your religion then you don't understand any," said Goldman.

Noah thinks these connections are also important to make amongst your own religion or groups. He personally sees this as the most interesting thing about his religious affiliation, Judaism. He referenced the many tragedies Judaism has experienced in its existence, such as the Crusades, the Holocaust, and Exodus. Noah finds it impressive that the religion is still 14 million people strong. "To keep it alive through all that by holding onto an identity and ideology is amazing," Goldman said. "If you can be comfortable with your own identity than there is no reason you can't be



Noah Goldman

comfortable with someone else's."

Understanding others is so important to Noah that he wants to work in the State Department, specifically on foreign policy. "It can only give you an advantage to understand others especially in the globalized world we live in today," Goldman explained. "With any disasters that go on in the world many people turn to religion, and religion also plays a role in many protests such as Dr. King's."

With relief from hurricanes and other catastrophes still going on, both man-made and environmental, people often reference that coming together is a very important part of getting through tragedy or meeting a goal. That is Noah's challenge, and it starts with the Queens community. ☆

About Tommy Bobbitt

Tommy Bobbitt '21 is a journalism and digital media major. A member of the track and field team, Tommy is from Williamstown, WV.

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Better2gether Class Visits Sonia Meyer Handleman

Sonia Meyer Handleman was a documentary photographer with The Photo League in New York City in the 1940s and 1950s until the House Un-American Activities Committee forced their shutdown. In those years, Handleman photographed scenes of the needy and oppressed all over the city, including Harlem, Spanish Harlem,

Manhattan, and the boroughs.

Now the 98-year-old lives in the Atria at Merrywood on Park Road and she hosted Hebrew High's Better2gether students where they learned about her life, documentary photography, and how it intersects with our Jewish values. ☆



The class at Sonia's apartment.



Samantha Weinstein, a student of photography, asks Sonia about a specific photograph.

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SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Youth Building at Chabad of Charlotte

Chabad of Charlotte will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of its new expansion on the Chabad campus on Sardis Road, with the construction of a new Friendship Circle and Youth Center.

The ceremony will be held Sunday, March 11, at 12 noon, at the Chabad Campus, 6619 Sardis Road, in Charlotte.

Rabbi Yossi and Mariashi Groner founded Chabad of Charlotte in 1980, and have been operating on the Sardis Road Campus since the 90s. Increased participation and significant growth in all of Chabad's activities and programs have made it necessary to

expand the facilities to accommodate increased demand.

Phase two of Chabad's expansion is construction of a new building in the front of the property with a beautiful sanctuary, expanded social hall, commercial kitchen, and an inviting chapel.

The Chabad Campus on Sardis Road currently boasts a state of the art facility for the Jewish Preschool on Sardis and recently added a beautiful new women's Mikvah in 2016.

The new Youth Center, will be the home base for Friendship Circle of Charlotte. The new center will also house all of Chabad's youth programming as well as a dedicated space for teen activities. Construction of the Youth building is projected to



begin in the first quarter of 2018.

The groundbreaking ceremony is open to the entire Charlotte Jewish community. A barbecue lunch will be enjoyed by all after the ceremony.

The day's events will be led by Rabbi Bentzion and Rochel Groner, directors of Friendship Circle, and will honor Friendship Circle and Talmud Torah families.

For more information, please visit chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984. ☆

Spiritual and Practical Exploration of Passover Class Offered at Ohr HaTorah

Passover is one of the most well-known Jewish holidays. The Passover Seder is rich with ritual, meaning, and family traditions. In today's times, there is a profound need to take the Seder out of the ordinary routine and lift it to an amazing experience.

Many families introduce new gimmicks every year to keep the Seder exciting and the momentum going. These artificial, added-on tricks have run their course and it is time to delve into the Seder in a deeper and more spiritual way to bring out the hidden gems that are at the core of the Seder event and the Passover holiday.

We are pleased to introduce a two part class taught by Rabbi Yossi Groner on the Spiritual and Practical Exploration of Passover. The inner meaning of Passover, when Israel was freed from bondage, is significant in understanding why Passover still resonates with us over 3300 years later. In addition, the class will seek to comprehend the meaning of the number four, as in the four questions, the four cups of wine, and the four kinds of children who need to be addressed at the Seder.

The class, which is open to the entire Jewish community, will be held on two consecutive Wednesdays, March 14 and March 21, at 7:30 PM at Chabad of Charlotte, 6619 Sardis Road.

Shmurah matza will be available on March 19 at \$22/lb. Please call to reserve yours today.

For more information on any of our events, visit us at chabadnc.org or call us at 704-366-3984. ☆

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What Makes Levine Hearing Different?

By Madison Levine

Since opening in July 2015, Levine Hearing has experienced a warm welcome from South Charlotte. Across the street from the Arboretum Shopping Center, Levine Hearing is owned and operated by Madison Levine, a second generation Hearing Instrument Specialist. Her mother started her clinic nearly 30 years ago in Macon, Georgia, and Madison has modeled her own practice after her mother's, as an independent operation, with the focus on patient care first.

Being independent means that Levine Hearing is not owned by any hearing aid manufacturer, allowing Madison to choose the best treatment plan and hearing devices to fit each patient's individual needs and budget. She has accounts with all major manufacturers, including Starkey, Resound, Phonak, Widex, Oticon, Unitron, Rexton, Siemens and others. This makes it very simple for patients to transition their care to her practice if they are moving to Charlotte from out of town or if they are just looking to switch providers locally. With the newest technology available, any of these brands can be sold through Levine Hearing, but Madison makes selections based on her patient's needs and budget.

Madison says that her goal is to be the most trusted hearing care practice in Charlotte and she believes that starts with straightforward advertising. Madison says, "I am building my practice on happy patients, not on advertising gimmicks or flashy spending." Those savings are then passed on to her patients, who in turn refer others to the practice. Patients are referring their friends because the price, service and outcome have all resulted in that trust that Levine Hearing is working so hard for. She goes on to say, "People tell me all the time that they know someone who isn't happy with their hearing aids and I just say...well, send them to me, because my patients are happy!"

Levine Hearing's online reviews (they are 5 stars across all sites - just google "Levine Hearing") reflect that Madison takes the time to educate the patient on their test results and also on the whole range of treatment options. She says that it is essential to get that transparent advice so that a patient doesn't choose the budget option, only to realize it was a waste, or vice-versa, to overpay when a more affordable solution was within reach. Levine Hearing keeps the focus on good customer service, excellent clinical care, and reasonable pricing, to ensure that they will be around to serve Charlotte for a very long time!



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will enjoy a creative, engaging family- and community-friendly Seder featuring a delicious meal and all the traditional Passover Seder fare. This is a great oppor-

tunity to connect with others and with our tradition. Come and hear the story of our liberation from bondage and celebrate the blessing of freedom. This Seder is open to non-members as well as members of Temple Kol Ami. For more information, please contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com or check our website at www.templekolamisc.org and reserve your spot today. We hope you will join us at our Seder table.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are so

many wonderful advantages to being a member of TKA, not the least of which is being a part of the revitalization of the Jewish community of this area. We hope you will come play and pray with us sometime soon. ☆



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March Events from the Jewish Council of Lake Norman

The Jewish Council of Lake Norman is looking forward to inviting all to attend our March activities.

A Purim Carnival will be Sunday, March 4

Location at: Temple Kol Tikvah

605 South St. in Davidson, NC
Open at 9:30 AM for preschoolers, and then to everyone from 10 AM-12 noon.

Fun-Food-Games-Face Painting-Celebrate and Enjoy

Advanced tickets \$6, at the door \$8 (a bracelet includes all games, activities, bounce house, and cotton candy).

Additional food will be available for purchase, cash only.

An Adult Chocolate Seder will be Sunday, March 25

Location at: Congregation Emanuel

206 Kelly Street in Statesville, NC

Time: 2-4 PM

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“From the Jewish heritage, I have derived by world outlook, a God-centered interpretation of reality in the light of which man the individual is clothed in dignity, and the career of humanity with cosmic meaning and hope; a humane morality, elevated in its aspirations yet sensibly realistic; a system of rituals which interpenetrates my daily routines and invests them with poetry and intimations of the divine.”

--Milton Sternberg,
Basic Judaism

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Temple Solel Supports Israel

By Shelley Pawlyk

Temple Solel recently had a very special visit by Rabbi Miri Gold from Birkat Shalom, Gezer, Israel, who shared updates on the progression of pluralism. This is a hot topic because never before has there been such a large percentage of Reform and Conservative Jewish people in the State of Israel. It left me to reflect about Israel in general and also about past trips.

Who should love Israel? As Jews, we all should. Do we innately love Israel because we are Jewish? Not always. Is it possible we have a cultural, DNA driven spirituality or even a curious heart beat within us towards her? If we as Jewish people don't have a love for Israel, who will?

At age nine I traced maps of Israel and listed where I wanted to

visit someday. The extraordinary thing in my case is I did not have access to Hebrew school in the small town I grew up in in northern California. Recently, in one room of people in Charlotte three chimed in and gave similar accounts. It's as though our love of Israel was a radar beacon installed in our souls. Is it in yours? An older woman once said, "We don't just go to Israel. She calls to you to come home like a mother's heartbeat." Another friend said, "Don't be afraid to travel to Israel. As long as the planes are flying into Ben Gurion Airport, we'll be fine."

Many years passed and my first trip to Israel was in 1997 and since then I have been a total of seven times including taking my parents in 2007. I was blessed to become

an adult Bat Mitzvah at Pastoral Kibbutz Kfar Blum on a Temple Bethel Trip. More baby boomers and empty nesters are having a renewed desire to study for an Anshei Mitzvah who were not a b'nai mitzvah as youths. I will never forget the experience of studying, creating, writing, and leading my outdoor service embedded with poetry and writings from our people. How very special it was to have *The Charlotte Jewish News* editor on the trip who spent the following year writing an article each month describing our journey both logistically and spiritually.

Although it is a hope that all of us can go in person, Israel can be explored virtually online by internet as a start. Ask questions. Develop an understanding of Israel that reaches beyond politics on television. Consider becoming engaged in bi-partisan groups like AIPAC who educate our legislators. Support Israeli Bonds or choose an organization in Israel



Shelley Pawlyk's adult Bat Mitzvah in 2010 at pastoral Kibbutz Kfar Blum with Rabbi Judy Schindler's oversight.

like Rabbi Miri Gold's congregation, Birkat Shalom, or others.

We can familiarize ourselves with the innovation and businesses of Israel, the educational history, the sciences, the arts and the richness of our "family" in the land. Please go and look at the website Israel21C <https://www.israel21c.org/>, which is dedicated to uncovering the positive contributions of Israel in the spirit of Tikkun Olam – healing the world.

A final thought from a writing in the Tanakh explains that our prosperity is a result of that love: "We will prosper as Israel prospers." (Tehillim) Psalm 122:6-9 from the JPS Tanakh

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls, And prosperity within your palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, (all of you!)

I will now say: "Peace be within thee."

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God

I will seek Jerusalem's good.

Please join us in Fort Mill, SC on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 7 PM each month for Shabbat services and fellowship. For more information, visit our website at: www.templesolelsc.org, find us on Facebook or call 803-619-9707. ☆

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

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For more information about Israel subsidies, please contact the Federation at 704.944.6757 or info@jewishcharlotte.org.

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

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Rabbinical Intern Returns for Pre-Pesach Shabbaton

Havurat Tikvah will welcome Student Rabbi Stephanie Crawley for her return visit to the congregation for a Shabbaton on March 10 where she will lead a warm and enlightening Shabbat service and adult education program that evening.

Student Rabbi Crawley will lead services at 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, 2821 Park Rd., followed by a Kosher potluck veggie/dairy/parve/nut-free luncheon.

That evening at 7:30 PM, she will lead an adult education session at a member's home. The topic will be "Personalizing the Haggadah." Check the website for the exact location.

Attendees are welcome to bring Kosher desserts and snacks to share.

Originally from St. Louis, MO, Student Rabbi Crawley is a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion at the New York, NY campus with projected ordination to take place in May 2018. And she received her undergraduate degree



Rabbinical Intern Stephanie Crawley

in political science and international studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, and her Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature in May 2017 from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

The Bonnie and Daniel Tisch Rabbinic Fellowship, Rodei Tzedek Social Justice Fellowship, Kevah Teaching Fellowship, and Encounter Davar Acher Leadership Program are among her leadership development awards.

Student Rabbi Crawley has spent time expanding her rabbinical skills at Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport, CT, as a summer rabbinic resident and intern; Center for Worship and Synagogue Renewal, New York, NY, as a research assistant to Rabbi Larry Hoffman; Congregation Emanuel of the City of New York, New York, NY, as a rabbinic intern, conversion coordinator and religious school tefillah coordinator; Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, as a High Holiday student rabbi; Brandeis Collegiate Institute, Los Angeles, CA, as a rabbinic education fellow; NFTY in Israel, Jerusalem, Israel, as a *mechanechet*/tour educator and *rosh tefilah*; Temple Micah, Washington, DC, as a Machon Micah Fellow, outreach fellow; and URJ Camp Kalsman, Arlington, WA, as a music director and head song leader.

She has also gained experience in professional, spiritual, and community leadership development in such endeavors

including, but not limited to: SVARA Queer Talmud Camp, Hava Nashira Jewish Professional Musicians Conference, J Street National Conference, HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen sous chef and volunteer, Keshet Taglit-Birthright Israel student rabbi, HUC-JIR Former Soviet Union Pesach Project leader, Cleveland Catholic Charities refugee mentor, and Case Western varsity softball team.

The congregation continues its monthly third Wednesday minyanim on March 21 at the Saxe residence.

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 Reconstructing Judaism movement. This new name was adopted and announced to the worldwide membership during January.

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/. ☆



Temple Kol Tikvah's Israel Trip

Part 2

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Center, was a must-visit. We were greeted by a guide who took us to a section of the museum dedicated to the memory of the family of Dr. Felix Zandman, a Holocaust survivor who went on the found Vishay Inc., a world-class Israeli hi-tech manufacturing company based in Israel with plants in many countries. As a young boy, Dr. Zandman with his uncle and several other Jews hid for seventeen months in a hole in the ground below the basement of a building. During these long months, the uncle taught him physics, mathematics, and chemistry. After the war, Dr. Zandman earned his doctoral degree, made several inventions, and founded Vishay Inc. We then proceeded to stroll through this powerful museum reviewing the events that led to the murder of the six million and the brutal destruction of practically the entire Jewish world in Europe. Especially poignant was standing inside the dark Children Remembrance Hall with the star-like lights all around us symbolizing the one and a half million children who were brutally murdered. We ended our Yad Vashem visit by assembling in their beau-

tiful chapel and reciting the Kaddish together.

At the request of one of our group, who is the chair of our local Hadassah chapter, we visited the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. The Hadassah Hospital is an amazingly spacious world-class, modern facility providing medical services to all those in need regardless of nationality or religion. In fact, we saw many Arab patients and families among those served by the facility. Of course we made sure not to miss the synagogue, which contains the famous Chagall windows, a collection of beautiful and impressive 12 stained glass windows illuminated by the sun.

One day we headed deep into the southern Negev and stopped overnight in Kibbutz Yahel. This is one of only two or three Reform Kibbutzim in Israel. Located in the Arava section of the desert it is just 60 km north of Eilat, the southernmost city in Israel, and very close to the Jordanian border. After settling down, we joined outdoors for a memorable Havdalah service. Later on, we were greeted by one of the Kibbutz members, who gave us an overview of the Kibbutz, its his-

tory, membership, and economy. The Kibbutz offers guest accommodations, which were quite comfortable, even by American standards. They have greenhouses in which they grow various fruits and vegetables. They grow dates and pomelos, a citrus fruit about the size of a grapefruit and a unique taste. It is truly amazing how green and lush the surroundings are, especially considering the stark desert all around us for miles and miles. And the sunrise over the Jordanian mountains was a site not easily forgotten.

On the Golan Heights, we traveled in jeeps very close to the Syrian and Lebanese borders. These were ferocious battlefields during the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars. The bumpy ride in the jeeps passed by still active mine fields marked by orange warning signs and bunkers that had been used to attack Israeli settlements.

At Rosh Hanikrah, we took the cable car high over the cliffs by the Mediterranean while watching the magnificent view of the blue sea and an Israeli Navy ship patrolling the border with Lebanon. Rosh Hanikrah grottoes are cavernous tunnels formed by the sea over thousands of years. We

stood high up right on the border with Lebanon kibitzing with the young, personable, and somewhat shy Israeli soldiers guarding the border in full battle gear.

Other experiences that will stay with us: The ever-present mezuzahs on every single door in Israeli hotels. Also, the glorious sunsets over the Mediterranean. And, last but not least, the blue skies and the ubiquitous beautiful Israeli flags, white and blue with the Jewish Star, waving in the breeze, reminding us of the miracle that is Israel. And bringing to mind Ben Gurion's famous saying: "If you don't believe in miracles, you are not a realist."

Finally, the following poem comes close to expressing

our feelings about Israel. It's by Yehudah Halevi, a Spanish Jewish physician, poet, and philosopher. Born in Spain in 1075 or 1086; died in Jerusalem in 1141. Author of "The Kuzari."

My heart is in the east, and I in the uttermost west—

How can I find savor in food? How shall it be sweet to me?

How shall I render my vows and my bonds, while yet

Zion lies beneath the fetter of Edom, and I in Arab chains?

A light thing would it seem to me to leave all the good things of Spain—

Seeing how precious in mine eyes to behold the dust of the desolate sanctuary.

Translated by Nina Salaman ☆



A panoramic view of the Golan Heights.



Ancient Roman ruins.



The Chagall stained glass windows.



Floating in the Dead Sea.

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Elements of Judaism: Walking Jewishly Through Life

By Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

Being a Jewish clergy person is a pretty fantastic job. On almost any given day, I will encounter lots of different people, each experiencing a variety of different things, some of them incredibly happy and others tragically sad, some of them unique and exciting

and others still, rather mundane. While it is difficult sometimes to walk with people through their hard times, it is also an incredible privilege to share in the sanctity of life. The difficulties are usually in balance with the great joys. In between, there is an entire world of walking with people through everyday life.

One of the “walks” that I frequently accompany as a cantor is the journey from considering joining the Jewish people to conversion and beyond. Working with adults actively choosing to join the Jewish people can be one of the most beautiful and rewarding elements of what we do as clergy. At Temple Beth El, the path to



Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas



portunity to really get to know people on an individual and group basis. We explore some of the most interesting parts of Jewish life and belief: What do we think about God? What does thinking and acting Jewish look like for each of us as individuals and as people living in contemporary society? How does one begin to take the Jewish story on as their own when, perhaps they’ve had another story their whole lives? How does that story mesh and meld with the idea of Jewish peoplehood? What does it mean to be responsible for one another and for our world? What does it mean to navigate Jewish community and responsibility? There is a great joy working with curious and engaged adults through these questions and others.

The truth is that we learn beautiful things about Judaism from those who choose it for themselves. We are reminded that Judaism can be embracing and welcoming and a home. We are reminded that it is more than acceptable to ask questions and to challenge, it is our imperative. We are reminded that there are rich and varied and complex layers of history and story and song and food and art and beauty. We are reminded that each of us in our infinite variety are made *B’tzelem Elohim*, in the image of our Creator. We are reminded that love can be boundless and that we are all the more rich for sharing that love with open arms.

I am privileged to serve a movement and a synagogue community where our tent-flaps are wide open and our arms ever-ready to embrace a new member of the tribe.

Registration for the spring session Elements of Judaism is open on the Temple Beth El website until March 5. The class is open to all - whether you were born Jewish, are interested in learning more about Judaism, or are considering a path to conversion. ☆

conversion begins with taking the course Elements of Judaism. Elements is taught by talented teachers from our community and meets on seven Tuesday evenings in the spring or in the late summer each year. The teachers walk students through a broad overview of Jewish history, belief, and practice. Elements is open to anyone who is interested in this 50,000 foot view of Judaism. Our students are usually a mix of people who were born Jewish but want to take a refresher course or engage in study as an adult, individuals from surrounding houses of faith who want to learn more about Judaism, and those who think they might be on a path to conversion. The open nature of this class allows our future conversion candidates to have a low-pressure entry point where they can best evaluate their interest and desires around conversion.

While a student is enrolled in Elements, someone who would like to convert is scheduled to meet with me or one of our rabbis. During this meeting, we learn more about one another - the person’s background as well as a bit about Judaism, the Reform Movement, and TBE and our process. If the candidate and the clergy are comfortable moving forward, that student is given information to register for our Choosing Judaism course.

Choosing Judaism is taught by the TBE clergy, each of us typically teaching several of the classes. During this time, the rabbis and I have an incredible op-

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--Albert Einstein, *The World As I See It*

School

Kehilla (Community): Transitional Kindergarten at Charlotte Jewish Preschool

By Emily Snyder

Transitional Kindergarten at Charlotte Jewish Preschool nurtures the whole child through an explorative learning philosophy. Children engage in learning through new facets- multi-sensory exploration and hands-on projects inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. Children will draw connections, and create new. Each month our *Kehillah* (community in Hebrew) creates/participates in two community projects. One project focuses on our “small” community (our class or school) and one on our “large” community (Charlotte, JCC, JFS, etc.). During these projects children get their hands dirty with every area of our early childhood foundation skills. They will strengthen their early literacy skills including letter recognition, writing, and beginning reading. Children continue exploring number sense and problem solving skills. They will also be exploring the world around them both culturally and

scientifically. All of these skills come together while children engage in Judaic learning.

Transitional Kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten for children who have completed a 4s program. Transitional Kindergarten a balanced program that includes academics, social, and emotional learning, and inquiry based projects. TK is a mix of children who have missed the cut off for Kindergarten and those who need or would simply benefit from the program. There is a wide range of ages from 4-6.

Research states that TK has significant benefits. The American Institute for Research states that children who attend TK have better phonological awareness in Kindergarten than those who did not attend a TK program. TK graduates also have an improved knowledge of basic math skills and problem solving skills such as counting, solving word problems, and identifying symbols. TK also

supports greater emphasis on social and emotional learning. Students who attend TK are more likely to be able to regulate their

behavior, remember rules, and think flexibly (*The Impact of Transitional Kindergarten on Kindergarten Readiness* ((Decem-

ber 2015)) American Institute for Research.) ☆



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Contact: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator
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RSVP by March 8 at www.nextgencharlotte.org

From the CJDS Student Council President

Lael Rivas-Zucker, president of CJDS student council, greeted the visitors on Grand Friends Day.

Hello our fellow guests. Thank you for coming to Grand Friends Day. You know just six years ago, when I was in Kindergarten, I was a shy girl who didn't like to talk too much at school and I didn't have a lot of social activities. When I stepped into CJDS I didn't know what to expect or if I was going to fit in. But as soon as I entered my classroom, I was comforted by my teachers, Ms. Schultz and Morah Rochel, with a warm welcome. I even recognized a few of my friends and soon new ones. I remember the first week of school, I already made some long-term friends and I always came home with a grin on my face. A year later my parents had already seen the huge growth mentally and physically. I was learning so many different methods and I had a huge confidence boost. I knew then that I never wanted to graduate. The teachers are always so kind and helping and the awareness was always there. If it was bullying there was no tolerance and even technology, the Gamlin Police, and taught us things that most schools won't. Over the years I've grown massively but it's not only me who has grown, so have my friends, to become the better people we are today. Personally, one of my favorite les-

sons this school has taught me is to be proud of who you are and stand up for your religion like I'm proud to be Jewish and Spanish. When I go to a new school next year I won't be afraid or scared, I'm prepared for all obstacles that come my way. Thanks to you CJDS. I'm actually excited for what will come my way but sad at the same time that I will be leaving the place where it all began. So, before I leave I want to thank all the teachers and staff for making my elementary experience the best time. You know things come and go but memories are forever and I'll never forget the journey that CJDS has given me and I'm very thankful. ☆



Lael Rivas-Zucker, CJDS student council president, with Mariashi Groner, CJDS director.

CJDS Special Friend's Day

We celebrated grandparents and special friends by saluting Israel in the 70th year of its independence. What a weekend! Students serenaded their guests with an inspiring and moving Israeli musical performance that brought tears to many. After the performance, participants were amazed by the total transformation of Lerner Hall as it felt like they stepped off an El Al plane onto a bustling street in Israel. There were opportunities to sample food from Israel, play games from or about Israel, and experience Israel. The excitement was palpable.

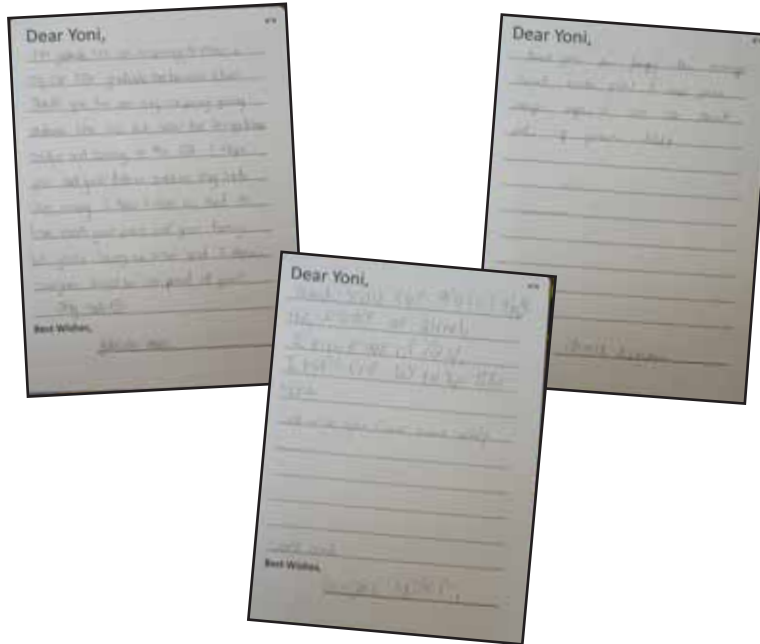
The most heartwarming booth was about Yoni. Yoni Raffler is a CJDS graduate. In fact, he is a Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School graduate too. Yoni joined the IDF in a specialized unit and is one of the many lone soldiers who voluntarily leave the comforts of their home to protect our people. The booth provided opportunities for all to thank Yoni for his service. After reading some of the letters, I

was reassured that our goals are being reached as we teach the significance of being Jewish, our love for Israel, and our connection to the Jewish people. To see the children able to recognize that heroes are more than Sports Superstars was reassuring.

Yoni's booth was also a celebration of all who served in the IDF. An email went out requesting that family members of CJDS students who served in the IDF should send in pictures. These pictures were posted so visitors could honor and understand that we are all part of one family.

Yoni's parents visited the fair on Sunday and are collecting the thank you notes to take to Israel this month. They will be able to show Yoni a video and pictures of the booth so he will be able to see how proud we all are of him.

Here are some samples of the thank you notes that our children wrote.



On Sunday, February 4, CJDS extended an invitation to all the religious and Hebrew schools in the Charlotte metropolitan area to enjoy the fair. Over 300 children attend Sunday morning while CJDS alumni and staff volunteered and manned the booths. It was a wonderful opportunity for all to enjoy and experience together. ☆

cjds
Charlotte Jewish
Day School



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Why We Love JPS

By Jen Schwartz, mom of Mason Schwartz, JPS 4s class

Four years ago, I walked in to the Jewish Preschool on Sardis and I knew immediately that it was the right school for our family. A small, boutique-feeling, warm environment filled with smiles, hellos, and friendly faces of both teachers and staff who really know each child. Cut to today, and this incredible preschool has developed and nurtured a caring, compassionate, inquisitive, social, intelligent little boy who has a deep appetite for learning, love of Judaism, and curiosity about the world around him. I attribute so much of that to the four years he has spent at JPS.

When Mason was two-and-a-half, we went to visit family up

asking to help and constantly thinks and talks about the friends he has made in his class. JPS has raised a true mensch in Mason.

I don't worry anymore about my son making friends or playing with other kids because JPS has coached him to solve problems, take turns, share, and ask a group of kids, "Can I play with you?" when he wants to join a group. And now, when he sees his friends first thing in the morning or runs into them at a birthday party, there is the excited yelling of names followed by group hugs and holding hands. It melts my heart every single time.

I also want to mention just how on top of their game the teachers are at this school. Mason has been going to an occupational therapist for the past year and a half and it was one of his teachers who picked up on his fine-motor delays and brought them to our attention at a parent conference. These teachers know what they are doing, they know your child, and they want them to be successful, not just academically but socially and emotionally. They never let Mason slip through the cracks and always knew just what to do to help him remain confident when a



Jen and Mason

North for Passover. My mother-in-law gifted him a toy Passover set, which he reached into, pulled something out and said, "Kiddush cup." My husband and I were floored. We had no idea he could identify what a Kiddush cup looked like at such a young age. That moment just reaffirmed our love and gratitude for his preschool.

task might have been more difficult for him than other kids in the class.

I'm confident that wherever Mason ends up next on his education journey, he has been given the foundation, tools, confidence and social skills to continue to grow and be successful.

And now at year four, while

The following year at Passover, just after turning three, he entertained the entire Seder table by singing most of the Four Questions and re-telling the story of how Pharaoh sent our people out of Egypt and Hashem parted the Red Sea for them to escape. And of course, he accompanied his stories with song, singing "No, no, no. I will not let you go," and "Who let the Jews out? Mo Moshe! (to be sung to the tune of *Who Let the Dogs Out*)."

In those moments and there are so many more (but I have been given a word limit), I feel so proud to be a JPS parent and so thankful for what the school and its teachers have instilled in my son, who I can't believe will be graduating this year.

During year one, I was that anxious mommy worrying about whether my son would make friends or be "good" at playing with the other kids in his class. I just wanted him to always wake up wanting to go to school because he loved learning and looked forward to seeing his teachers and his "buddies" (as he calls them) every day. Not only can he recognize his letters, numbers, shapes, and colors, but more importantly, he is kind, says please and thank you, is always



Mason is ready for school.



SouthPark at Phillips Place

Where Families Come Together

- ◆ Featuring 124 beautifully decorated guest rooms and suites conveniently located in Phillips Place
- ◆ Complimentary amenities include: Hot breakfast, internet access, transportation to Shalom Park
- ◆ Hospitality Suite
- ◆ Great Room: Special rates available for Friday night dinner



Photo courtesy of ArtShots Photography

For more information, contact:
Erin.Dennis@hilton.com

Hampton Inn & Suites SouthPark at Phillips Place,
Charlotte, NC 28210 704-319-5700
www.hamptonsouthpark.com



jpsonsardis.org ★★★★★ 5-Star Preschool
Early Childhood Development & Jewish Discovery

Shalom Park Freedom School Needs Your to Support

"He, who opens a school door, closes a prison." (Victor Hugo)

It is estimated that over 80% of incarcerated persons are high school dropouts (www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=425). Which raises the question, how did these souls become high school dropouts in the first place?

Children growing up in high poverty homes typically enter kindergarten with a 30-million-word deficit compared to peers from higher income homes (www.freedom-schoolpartners.org), starting off their educational career at a disadvantage. The discrepancies seem to grow at an exponential rate as the children from socioeconomically challenged backgrounds age. When students are entering third grade, children from lower income homes are often two years behind in reading, with almost three quarters of students who are not on the targeted reading level by third grade, never catching up (freedom-schoolpartners.org/our-programs/whats-at-stake/). By the time children from high poverty



Harambee!

potential to help change the trajectory of these children's lives.

The SPFS is a success because of the strong and long standing support of members of our community who give their time and donations to this collaborative, Shalom Park-wide, social justice program. Through our Freedom School, we are supporting a larger movement for social equity and justice in education.

Some of the ways you can help may be easier than you think.

Attend

Attend the SPFS Movie Night (annual fundraiser) on Tuesday,

May 1, a screening of the insightful and engaging documentary: *Teach Us All*. Save the date, details coming soon.

June 18 - July 27 Welcome our Shalom Park scholars – they are our guests.

Our scholars are excited, and it is summer. Smile and wave when walking by.

Yes, it can be that simple to show a scholar that they matter, that they are seen. The universal saying "it takes a village" to raise a child rings true. This summer please welcome "our" scholars to our village when you see them on

the Shalom Park campus.

Please Consider Donating Your Time.

Adults

For adults 18+, there will be morning, afternoon, and evening spots to volunteer, opportunities to fit into most everyone's schedules. For those that like direct interactions, there are opportunities to read with scholars, help them pick out a new book each week, assist during art electives to name a few opportunities. For those that prefer to work behind the scenes, please be on the lookout for opportunities such as helping to run the front desk or help prepare and set-up for the parent information dinners. For questions about volunteering, please contact Kathy Warshaw at kewarshaw@yahoo.com or Hilary Rosenbaum at dhrose4@gmail.com.

Teens

Rising 10th-12th graders can apply to the Shalom Park Freedom School Teen Board. The application is now live, and is due by March 3. Any questions, please contact: Camille Kanofsky at

camille@rsdiv.com or Betsy Olinger at olingers@aol.com or go to spfreedom-school.org/get-involved/.

Young Teens

Rising 7th, 8th, or 9th graders may volunteer with a parent or other adult. For additional details please see: spfreedom-school.org/get-involved/.

Snacks

Daily snacks and drinks are also provided by donations from our community. There is a need for drink boxes and individually wrapped snacks which should be nut free. Cash and gift cards are also appreciated cash or gift card donations from the following: Harris Teeter, Costco, Food Lion, Publix, Trader Joe's, etc. Please contact Judy Kaufmann for details of how to help at steveka@att.net. ☆



Freedom School scholars

homes reach high school age, the drop-out rate is five times that of their middle or high class peers (www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/indicator/2013/05/poverty-dropouts.aspx).

In an effort to help break the cycle of poverty, the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) has helped address issues impacting educational differences for the past seven summers, and will continue to do so in the summer of 2018. Supported by our Shalom Park community, the SPFS location is one of 16 in the Charlotte Metro area, and is the first Jewish-run Freedom School site in the country. The Shalom Park site welcomes 80 scholars each summer. Our students come from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary Schools, Title I Schools where 97% of children that participate in SPFS qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Current research suggests meaningful and measureable gains from this program. Without intervention, 75% of students from low income homes are estimated to lose 2-3 months of learning over the summer. Research conducted with Freedom School participants suggests that 90% of scholars gained or maintained their reading ability. These results help reduce the chances of the students falling and staying behind expected benchmarks in elementary school, providing powerful

LEVINE JCC Cultural Arts

JSTAGE PRESENTS

Holding out for a HERO!

A Kids Musical Revue

Artwork by Hadley Lord age 9

March 3 & 4 @ 2pm

Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

For more info or to buy tickets:

charlottejcc.org/culturalarts

LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

PlayPlay!

Theatre for the Very Young

Best for birth – 3 years old

Friday, Mar 23 • 2pm

Saturday, Mar 24 • 1pm or 3pm

Sunday, Mar 25 • 10am or 12pm

All performances at Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

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

March 2018

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



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.

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

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



May 22, 2018

at The Golf Club at Ballantyne

This event benefits LJCC Oasis Senior Enrichment Program
704-944-6724 • geneva.boxer@charlottejcc.org



Join Adam

1st Thursday each month

6:15-7pm Boot Camp

7-7:30pm Brews

Brews provided courtesy of New Belgium Brewing

BOOT CAMP not your thing?

Take ANY LJCC Group Ex Class

(we offer 90+) & join us for a free Brew!

Sign Up at LJCC Customer Service
Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

Focusing on strength, cardio & agility. Designed for all levels.

Mon & Wed

6:15-7:00pm

March 5-28



Sign Up at LJCC Customer Service
Q? catherine.bennett@charlottejcc.org

SMALL GROUP TRAINING

with Renaldo

TENNIS CAMPS



Ages 6-16

Weekly, throughout SUMMER!

June 12 – Aug 11

Junior Tennis Camp will focus on tennis basics, fundamentals, and an enjoyable introduction to tennis. Teen Tennis Camp will focus on stroke production, conditioning, rally skills and match play.

Options / Price per Week

	M	NM
Full Day: Mon-Fri • 9am-4pm	\$295	\$345
Half Day: Mon-Fri • 9am-1pm	\$200	\$255
Daily Rate Option	\$80/day	\$80/day

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

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

K-5th

Taekwondo Classes

Teaches blocks, hand strikes, kicking, forms, self-defense, sparring combos, footwork and board breaking thru fitness drills, fun games and team activities. Students are required to purchase a uniform. Uniform and belt testing fee are separate.

Ongoing. Choose on or two days per week:

A) Monday 5:45–6:30pm

B) Tuesday 3:15–4:00pm

C) Tuesday 5:00–5:45pm

Price per month: 1 class per week

M/\$70 B/\$42 NM/\$80

Price per month: 2 classes per week

M/\$130 B/\$78 NM/\$150

Teens

Volunteer at our Community Purim Carnival

6th–12th Grade

Teens fulfill your Community Service requirement

here at the LJCC at this great family fun event!

Adults we would love your help, too! Two shift options to choose from. You must sign up ahead of time.

Sunday, February 25

11:30am–1:30pm OR 1:30–3:30pm

Free

Adults

Men's Night Out: March Madness

Men 21yrs and Older

Join us for a night of basketball, brews and buds.

Watch the first round games of the NCAA Tournament on the big screen (and two smaller screens). We will provide the snacks and you BYOB.

Thursday, March 15 • 7–10pm

Camp Mindy Rec Hall

Free

Ladies Night Out: Dinner and Broadway

BEAUTIFUL, the Carole King musical

Tuesday, April 17

Meet at 5:45pm @ Fresh Chef (corner of Sharon Amity and Providence Rd)

8pm Show at Ovens Auditorium

M/\$80 NM/\$90 (Does not include cost of dinner)

Register at the JCC Customer Service Desk,

704-366-5007

704-944-6737 or robin.stier@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.

March: What Judaism Says About Carrying

Someone's Burden

Monday, March 5 • 1pm

FSP Boardroom

FREE

For information contact Sharri Benjamin

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

Symphony 101

Enjoy this special series designed to be light, engaging insights into the world of orchestras and classical music of upcoming performances of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra this season.

March's topic: Disability and Dynamic Music

This lecture will be centered around Ravel's Piano Concerto for the left hand and a brief history of composers and performers who continued to write and perform with disabilities during their careers.

Friday, March 9 • 1pm

Gorelick Hall

Free

For information contact Sharri Benjamin

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

Walking Tour with Charlotte Historian

Dr. Tom Hanchett

Join Charlotte Historian Dr. Tom Hanchett on a stroll in Charlotte's Elizabeth neighborhood where internationally renowned Jewish author and humorist Harry Golden lived. This 10-block walk will take us past the residences of two of Charlotte's recent mayors, big band star Hal Kemp, and more. Tour will end at Sabor, a popular new eatery featuring Latin American food (dine on your own). Space is limited - RSVP and pay to LJCC Customer Service, 704-366-5007, by Monday, April 16th.

Sunday April 22 • 3:30pm

Tour Time: 1hr 15min (approx.)

Meet at corner of Clement Avenue and E. 9th Street

(Free on-street parking)

M/\$18 B/\$15 NM/\$20

For information contact Sharri Benjamin

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.

Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm (all levels)

Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio

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

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

For information contact Sharri Benjamin

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

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



Healthy Gut, Healthy You,

presented by Dr. Brian Jerby

- board certified colon/rectal surgeon -

Dr. Jerby received the degree of medical doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in 1992 and has completed further training at Carolinas Medical Center, The Cleveland Clinic, Washington University School of Medicine, and The Institute for Functional Medicine.



March 15 @ 7:00pm

Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park

Over the past few years, there has been an explosion of data linking gastrointestinal dysfunction to many disease processes. Learn why so many today have an unhealthy gut, and how you can attain a healthy gut and therefore a healthy you!



Free program
but RSVP to LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007

Questions? Julie Rizzo
julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

Oasis Senior Passover Seder

ALL SENIORS WELCOME!



This Event Made Possible
& Sponsored By
STANLEY P. GREENSPON

A Passover luncheon and a community Seder led by clergy from Temple Beth El and Temple Israel and musical accompaniments by Miss Patty.

Wednesday, March 28 • 12-2pm

Gorelick Hall, Levine JCC

\$5

Space is Limited.

Advance Registration

(w/payment) required by March 22

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



ENRICH
ENLIGHTEN
ENJOY

OASIS

Senior Enrichment

MON-FRI • 9am-5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center

Game Days • Enrichment Activities
Educational Seminars • Lunch
Painting Classes • Monthly Field Trips
Exercise Classes • M/W/F Kosher

.....

Please read our monthly newsletter online
or pick up a hard copy in Weinberg Center.

If you have questions, contact:
Jill Lipson • 704-944-6792
jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org



Jewish Family Services



Jewish Family Services Announces New Programs, Board, and Staff

JFS Receive Grant for Holocaust Survivor Care

JFS is pleased to announce it has received a \$48,545 grant from The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) through the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care. When combined with matching funds, this award will allow for \$64,726 in new programming for survivors.

The grant focuses on three areas: socialization and engagement designed to connect survivors to reduce feelings of isolation, documenting and capturing individual survivor histories, and providing support to caregivers of survivors. The educational, psycho-social, and trauma-based support programs and services that are being designed to meet these goals closely parallel JFS' mission to strengthen

and empower families and individuals.

"We are honored to have been awarded this grant to continue to engage and enhance programs and services to our community's Holocaust survivors. We are thrilled that JFNA has recognized the value of the relationships with our local Federation and partner agencies by providing this significant support to our community," Howard S. Olshansky, Executive Director of JFS, said.

With clarity, care, compassion, and tools people flourish and thrive in their daily lives. Since 1980, JFS has been the primary resource in the Charlotte Jewish community for coming to the aid of those in need. JFS strives to improve the lives of children, teens, adults, families, and seniors through professional counseling,

programs, and services that are inspired by Jewish values.

The Gavel Changes Hands and Five New Directors Are Added to the JFS Board

Veteran Board member Jan Weiner, takes the reigns as President of the 2018 Board of Directors. Joining the returning Board members are Rabbi Ana Bonnheim, Jamie Bryan, Suzy Catenazzo, Harry Rubenstein, and Mason Sklut, our newest board members. They have already rolled up their sleeves and begun working. We look forward to their perspectives, energy, ideas and contributions.

Valorie Bronstone Joins the Clinical Team

Valorie Bronstone, a Licensed Professional Counselor, joined

JFS after being in the private sector for the past several years. She comes to us many years of experience and with two Master's degrees from the University of Florida. Passionate about helping others realize a healthy balance in their lives, Bronstone has a varied skill set and wide range of capabilities. She specializes in individual counseling, family dynamics, parenting, and more. When she is not reading or watching documentaries, she can be found caring for her two horses. For an appointment with Bronstone or to make a referral, please call 704-364-6598.

Make a Statement at Your Next Simcha with a Mitzvah Basket

Perfect for every event, including a Bris, baby naming, anniversary, special birthday, B'nai Mitzvah, or rehearsal dinner,

Mitzvah Baskets are great for all special occasions. Meticulously designed by a volunteer crew, spearheaded by Nancy Bernstein and along with Lori Jackowitz, these customized baskets are created to match your color scheme or party theme and benefit the JFS Food Pantry. For more information contact Roberta Rodgers at roberta.rodgers@jfscharlotte.org. ☆



**Jewish Family
SERVICES**

Donations to Jewish Family Services in January 2018

IN APPRECIATION OF

Barry Bobrow for your presentation at our meeting from Samuel and Linda Levy

IN MEMORY OF

The mother of Matt R. Cogen from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

The mother of James and Sandra Friend from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Lore Schifftan to Peggy Gartner from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Howard Olshansky, Carol Shafranek

Sid Aaron Cohen to Susan and Donald Jacobson, Florence Jaffa, and Jessie and Joni Cohen from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Stuart and Ellen Fligel, Margie Levenson, Edwin and Jill Newman, Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Deanna and Adam Goldsmith

Joseph Vanadia to Howard Olshansky from Marcy Flicker, Nora Wolf

Irwin Batnick to Joel and Carol Prystowsky from Gary Silverstein Janet Rubin to Steve Rubin from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Laura Sebotnick to Allen and Lisa Sebotnick from Burt and Donna Greenspon

Maxine Silverstein to Gary Silverstein from David Hannes

Faye Sinkoe to Louis Sinkoe from David Hannes

Stephanie Warshauer to Phil and Beth Warshauer from Steven and Ellen Engelhardt

Larry Widis to Ashley Widis, Florence Widis, Howard M. Widis, and Robert Widis from Kerin McCarthy, Business Journal Friends: Joy Kulick, Katherine Stein, Ryan Whittington; Ivy Berman, Robert and Barbara Bernhardt, Joan Diehl, Alan and Ruth Goldberg, Eugene and Alice Kavadlo, Mark and Cindy McManus, Gerald and Barbara Schapiro, Phyllis Schultz and Matthew Gromet, Jonathan and Stephanie Simon, Ben Singer-Scott, Barnet and Harriet Wein-

stock, Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Stuart and Ellen Fligel, Melvin and Caren Frank, Douglas and Paula Gentile, Friends at Google, Annette Haynes, Vicki Hopkins, Morry and Ginny Johnston, Linda Lesack, Margie Levenson, Allison Leatherwood, Michael and Wendy Hennes, Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Bruce Schwartz, Carol Shafranek, Gary Silverstein, Kara Silverstein, Todd and Amy Strawser, Harold and Cynthia Turtleaub

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

David Feibus from Carol Shafranek

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Bob Haber from Marcia Lampert

Sandra Levine from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Paul Putterman from David and Muriel Lintz

Daphne Tapper from Barbara Waterman

Eleanor Turk from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Elise Menaker

Andrea Gamlin from Dedee and Irv Cygler

MAZEL TOV ON

Susan Hennes' engagement; to Stuart and Carolyn Hennes from Alvin and Helene Levine ☆

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

January 2018

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, Ana Bonnheim, James Bryan, Suzy Catenazzo, Dan Coblenz, Andrea Cronson, Sheryl Efferen, Rob Friedman, Maggie Fogel, Mel Frank, Neil Golub, Jennifer Golynsky, Bob Jacobson, Brooks Jaffa, Eric Lerner, Gary Lerner, Matt Luftglass, Harriet Meetz, Frada Mozenter, Vlad Plotkin, Barbara Rein, Harry Rubenstein, Cindy Siesel, Louis Sinkoe, Mason Sklut, Harry Sparks, Liz Wahls, Amalia Warshenbrot, Jan Weiner, Dori Whitman, Nancy Wielunski

Food Pantry Donations:

Madeline Aron, Gail Baron, Bonnie Bonomo, Dan Coblenz, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants

Special Recognition: Temple Israel Yom Gemilut Hasadim attendees for making Mishloach Manot bags for JFS clients ☆

Community News

Calling All Camp Judaea Alumni: We Want to Hear From You

Are you one of the thousands of Jewish adults who experienced the magic of Camp Judaea (CJ)? Were you a camper? Did you ever work CJ? Now approaching its 60th anniversary, Camp Judaea, an overnight summer camp in Hendersonville, NC, is calling all alumni (campers and staff) to reconnect.

Do you remember the first time your team won *bikkurim* (color war), or the way the *cheder ochel* (dining hall) shook when your cabin gave it their all during *ruach* (spirit)? What about the feeling of Jewish pride you felt as the entire camp came together for a massive Havdalah dance party as Shabbat ended? If CJ holds a special place in your hearts and memories, we want to hear from you.

Please be in touch so that we can send you exciting news and updates about camp, special events, and invite you to reunions being planned in preparation for CJ's 60th Anniversary. Tell us about your special camp memories, and if you have cherished photos, please share them.

Please email epollack@campjudaea.org today so that you can connect with your old friends and madrichim (counselors).

About Camp Judaea

Located in Hendersonville, NC, Camp Judaea is a little bit of Israel in the Blue Ridge Mountains. While CJ's programs have evolved over the years, its mission

remains the same - to provide a safe, fun, nurturing community where campers and counselors grow as individuals, build lifelong friendships, and develop leadership skills and establish enduring connections with Judaism, Israel, and the natural environment. In addition to creating a strong sense of Jewish identity in its campers, CJ offers a wide variety of activities including horseback riding, swimming, sports, arts and crafts, zip lining and rock-climbing, archery, music, dance, cooking, and more.

And, CJ is growing. Over the past five years, its enrollment has grown by 50% to more than 650 campers. In 2017, campers hailed from 18 states and seven countries. This past summer, the camp community celebrated the opening of a new state-of-the-art *cheder ochel* (dining hall) to accommodate our growing CJ family of campers and staff.

As CJ approaches its sixth decade of providing life-changing camping experiences, please let us hear from you. Email epollack@campjudaea.org today with your contact info, memories, and special camp photos.

For more information about Camp Judaea or if you now have children of your own who may be interested in attending camp this summer, please visit www.campjudaea.org or call 404-634-7883 for more information. ☆

"The commandment to be charitable is in its weight as much as all the rest of the commandments in total. ...Those who give charity in secret are greater than Moses."

—Talmud: Bava Bathra 9b



ZABS Place to Compete in SEED20

Bentzion Groner wears many hats in the Charlotte Jewish community, including his roles at Friendship Circle and Talmud Torah, but it is his role as Director of ZABS Place that earned him a coveted spot in SEED20, a communications training and pitch competition program created by Charlotte's Social Venture Partners.

SEED stands for Social Entrepreneurs Empowered. The "20" represents the twenty organizations or individuals who are selected to participate because of their innovative ideas for tackling pressing social challenges in the Charlotte region. Groner will be one of those 20 this year. Over the course of two months, he will join a class of twenty nonprofit partic-



Ben Tzion Groner

ipants to receive training, coaching, feedback, and mentoring on how to succinctly and powerfully tell his organization's story. These efforts culminate in SEED20 On-

Stage at the Knight Theater on April 16. This is a high-energy event where ten members of the class compete to win cash awards by making three-minute pitches to a panel of judges and a community audience. The audience is treated to a pre- and post-reception and also votes to select the \$20,000 grand prize winner.

Ticket sales are now open at www.seed20.org.

ZABS Place is a non-denominational, nonprofit, upscale thrift boutique and employment training center for young adults with special needs in Matthews, NC. The training and experience serves as a stepping stone to future employment opportunities. "It's the intersection of the for-profit and nonprofit world. It op-

erates like a business, but the business operates for a cause," explains Groner.

He was drawn to apply to SEED20 because he sees a similarity to the ZABS Place model in that the program links entrepreneurship, commonly associated with the for-profit sector, with nonprofits. "This divide should not exist. Nonprofits are funded by donors, but they are entrepreneurs too. Entrepreneurialism is the future of the nonprofit sector."

"All business principals apply to nonprofits, but the business world can learn from nonprofits too. Real success for any business comes when your goals are beyond money. They come from being cause driven. It motivates you as a leader and it motivates people to rally around you. SEED20 shines a spotlight on nonprofit entrepreneurs and connects concepts from the business world to the nonprofit world in order to address social challenges in our community," he continues.

The community component is also very important to Groner,

who grew up in Charlotte.

"There are other national programs for nonprofits, but SEED20 is local. Because it's focused on our community, it gives me an extra boost of inspiration."

While Groner looks forward to the work he will do on fine-tuning the ZABS place story, he feels that has already benefited from the program. He even enjoyed the SEED20 application process. "They zero in on getting to the personality of your organization, forcing you to avoid corporate-speak and clichés and get to the nuts and bolts of your work. Thinking through the different scenario-based questions really forced me to think about my organization in new ways and I enjoyed that."

Groner has had his first opportunity to meet his 19 peer organizations in the program and he is impressed. "I love the idea of SEED20 harnessing the energy of all of the different nonprofits. It was inspiring to get to know their leaders. I want everyone to win." ☆

Resilience – The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope

Do you suffer from high blood pressure, diabetes, or other chronic medical conditions? Did you know that stress related experiences as a child could have significantly impacted your medical conditions as an adult?

A new documentary film, "Resilience," chronicles a 1997 research study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente that looked at

the impact adverse childhood experiences have on medical conditions as an adult. The film explains how a simple questionnaire called ACES in which patients were asked to check whether they experienced certain types of trauma as a child was used to predict the potential for medical conditions as an adult.

To learn more about the study and the implications of how we

respond to managing childhood stress and learning the risk factors as adults, a preview of the film is being hosted by Jewish Family Services and Presbyterian Psychological Services on March 22 from 6-8 PM at the Discovery Place Auditorium. The screening is being sponsored by the Winer Family Foundation. ☆

RESILIENCE

THE BIOLOGY OF STRESS & THE SCIENCE OF HOPE

SAVE THE DATE
Free Public Screening of
RESILIENCE
Thursday, March 22, 2018
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Discovery Place Auditorium
 301 North Tryon Street, Charlotte

RSVP:
<http://RESILIENCE322.rsvpify.com>

Sponsored by
 Presbyterian Psychological Services
 &
 Jewish Family Services

Supported by the generosity of the
 Winer Family Foundation

Mazel Tov and Congratulations

Liza Simon Participates in MLK Day Parade

Liza Simon, a 4th grader at Beverly Woods Elementary, entered a poem in the 2017-2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Art and Writing Contest sponsored by Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. As a result of her participation, she was able to ride on a float in the MLK Jr Parade in downtown Charlotte on Saturday, January 13.

Here is her award winning poem:

Why?

Why do you judge me when you see me walk?

Why do you hate me when you hear me talk?

Why is my life so unfair?

Why do people bomb my house here to there?

Is it because I want to be treated equally, or even because you don't have the same beliefs as me?

Why do you think I am so bad

I am just a man, why does that make you mad?

We are the same inside and out

So why oh why oh why do you shout?

We are the same inside and out

And we blacks should have a peaceful life that's right

So why do you hate me right at sight ☆



Top photo: Liza on the float at the MLK Jr parade; Above: Liza with Mayor Lyles.

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Sunday, June 3, 2018



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S.P.I.C.E. Seder

April 2 at 11:00 am

Our senior adults share a delightful program rooted in tradition and the spirit of Pesach!

Community Second Night Seder

March 31 at 6:00 pm

A multi-generational, traditional Passover Seder filled with wisdom, music, and warmth.

Men's Seder

March 14 at 6:30 pm

TBE's Brotherhood invites men to a remarkable evening of camaraderie, tradition, and a festive Passover meal. All men are invited, regardless of membership or faith.



Sisterhood Chocolate Seder

March 25 at 6:00 pm

TBE's Sisterhood invites its members and guests to a Chocolate Seder, reminding us that freedom is sweet and delicious.

Families with Young Children Seder

March 31 at 5:00 pm

Join The Porch for this Passover meal, geared toward families with infants through second graders. We will sing and laugh our way through a fun and kid-friendly seder.



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*Join us for
Passover*

TO RSVP: WWW.TEMPLEBETHEL.ORG

SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL MORNING SERVICE

March 31 at 11:00 am

FESTIVAL MORNING SERVICE WITH YIZKOR

April 6 at 11:00 am

Visit Discovered Traditions Gift Shop at Temple Beth El for an amazing collection of items for a sensational Passover seder.

**DISCOVERED
TRADITIONS**
The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

Organizational Science Professor Wins International Humboldt Award

UNC Charlotte's Steven Rogelberg is a pioneering researcher in the field of organizational science. In acknowledgement of his profound impact on the discipline, Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has named him a recipient of its prestigious research award.

The Humboldt Prize, also known as the Humboldt Research Award, is given annually to up to 100 internationally renowned scientists and scholars across academic disciplines. Recipients receive a prize currently valued at €60,000 (Euros). The award is named for the late Prussian naturalist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt, and it is considered one of the most esteemed honors presented to a scientist.

Rogelberg said receiving the Humboldt Prize is a great honor and one for which he is profoundly grateful. "My greatest hope is that my scholarship and service to the profession help advance our science and ultimately help people and organizations in meaningful ways. My passion is to try to do things that matter. I am also so fortunate to have done this work in partnership with incredible friends, colleagues, and students."

A professor of organizational science, management, and psychology, as well as director of the interdisciplinary Organizational Science Ph.D. Program, Rogelberg was lauded for his research and its practical application in three phenomena: work meetings, organizational research methods, and the stress/health of employees engaged in "dirty jobs," characterized as vital to society but stigmatized as physically, socially, or morally tainted.

"Steven's work has been transformational, not only at UNC Charlotte, but also within his discipline nationally and internationally," said Nancy A. Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "His innovative research has led to improvements in workplace practices, resulting in better working environments for many people. He has helped nonprofits to understand their strengths and to identify their issues. He has mentored students, nonprofit leaders, schoolteachers, and other University faculty, leveraging his knowledge to help them gain the insights and tools they need to succeed. It is gratifying to know his contributions are being recognized through this significant award."

Rogelberg has authored more

than 100 publications, many in top academic journals, which have been cited frequently by international colleagues. Additionally, he has given numerous invited talks at universities around the world and at professional conferences.

Steven Ott, dean of the Belk College of Business, stated, "Steven has made tremendous contributions to industrial and organizational psychology on an international scale. His leadership of the Organizational Science Program has attracted high-quality graduate students to UNC Charlotte and advanced the scholarship about management, well-being and health issues. His interdisciplinary contributions embody UNC Charlotte's mission as an urban research university and have business and societal impacts."

Considered a leading international authority on meetings in the workplace, Rogelberg elevated

the topic on the academic landscape with a seminal paper in the Journal of Applied Psychology. He and Ph.D. students under his direction continue to study meeting experiences, along with how they affect employees' job satisfaction, leader success, their effectiveness in the workplace, and their cost in time and impact on the culture of an organization. At the same time, he is often asked to speak with and advise a number of Fortune 500 companies on how to improve and better leverage meetings for organizational success.

Nomination materials also described Rogelberg as a primary leader in the robust and reliable science movement focused on improving scientific systems, such as peer review processes to yield the highest quality, most replicable research possible. In addition, the importance of research methods developed by Rogelberg was noted. His development of population profiling enables him to de-

scribe attitudes and personalities to survey non-respondents. Rogelberg also identified novel research methods to increase survey response. His efforts enable scholars across disciplines to better test collected data for representativeness and validity.

Finally, Rogelberg's research with animal shelter employees who engage in euthanasia activities of unhealthy/unwanted animals was noted for its benefit to society. His study of the health and well-being of shelter employees and volunteers is noted for being interdisciplinary and involves veterinary specialists. His efforts have led to an outreach program for shelter workers/volunteers that is being used in more than 400 animal shelters in the United States.

Also, in recognition of humanitarian contributions to the field of industrial-organizational psychology, Rogelberg was named the in-



Professor Steven Rogelberg

augural recipient of the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology Humanitarian Award in spring 2017.

Rogelberg completed a master's degree and Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Connecticut. His undergraduate degree in psychology is from Tufts University.

Rogelberg has served on the board of the Levine Jewish Community Center and is a member of both Temple Israel and Havurat Tikvah. ☆

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OBM - Of Blessed Memory

UNDER THE CHUPAH

Congratulations to **Michael (Cohen) and Dana (Fortson)** who were married on January 7 at Temple Beth El, with a reception immediately following the ceremony at the synagogue. All the Cohen family (**Steve, Kathe, Adam, Chandler, Tara, Ashley, and baby Ava**) join together in their joy and happiness with the newly-wed couple. ☆



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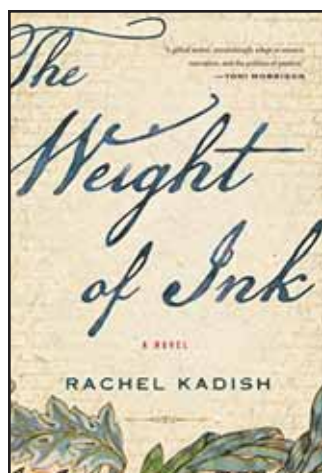
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The Association of Jewish Libraries Announces 2018 Winners of Jewish Fiction Award

Rachel Kadish is the inaugural winner of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) Jewish Fiction Award for her novel *The Weight of Ink*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The award includes a \$1,000 cash prize as well as support to attend the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Boston, MA, June 18-20. Two honor books were also recognized: *Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan* by Ruth Gilligan, published by Tin House Books, and *A Boy in Winter* by Rachel Seiffert, published by Pantheon Books, part of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. The Committee received over 50 works of fiction with significant Jewish thematic content, written in English and available in the United States in 2017, and thanks all those who submitted entries for consideration. The wide array of books published this year is a testament to the vibrant state of contemporary Jewish fiction.

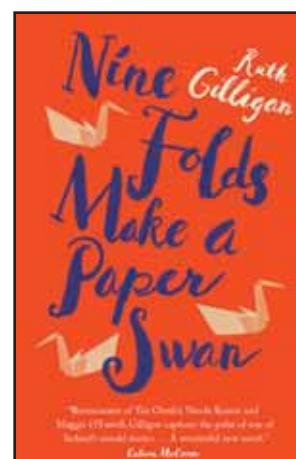


"Rachel Kadish has crafted an extraordinary cast of characters who speak to each other within and across the divides of centuries as well as those of age, religion, and class and come vividly to life under her empathic touch," notes Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, Chairperson of the Award Committee. "This is a book that honors learn-

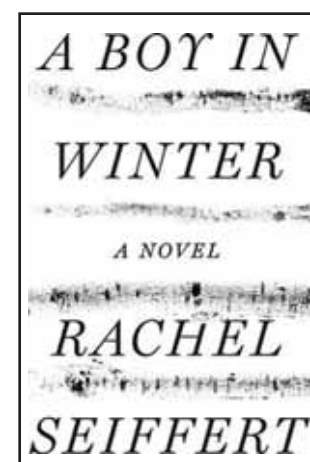
ing, libraries, archivists, and librarians, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award Committee is delighted to present Kadish with the 2018 AJL Jewish Fiction Award."

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan gives serious depth to the little-known story of Jewish life in Ireland. Weaving a complex story, Ruth Gilligan uses the specifics of Irish lore and history woven with the Jewish experience to illuminate the stories of a young girl and her family who emigrate from eastern Europe, a suddenly mute boy incarcerated in a home for the mentally disabled, and a woman who considers the implications of converting to Judaism. According to Taub, "Gilligan's expert twists of plot, exploration of historical themes, and her gift of word play and dark humor" impressed the Committee.

Rachel Seiffert's *A Boy in Winter* works on a small canvas and creates a searing emotional im-



pact. As the Nazis invade a small Ukrainian town, a variety of characters are forced to face the invasion's terrible consequences and quickly make life-altering decisions. Taub comments: "Seiffert writes with sparseness, a plain-hewn power that draws the reader on a journey of suspense in a time and place of limited possibility."



The Association of Jewish Libraries gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Dan Wyman Books for underwriting the Award. Submissions for the 2019 AJL Fiction Award are now being accepted. For more information, please visit www.jewishlibraries.org. ☆

J

KIDS AGES 5-14

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"I knew even as a child that the world which we see is not the whole world. Whether you call them demons or angels or some other name, I knew then, and I know today, that there are entities of whom we have no idea and they do exist. You can call them spirits, ghosts, or imps. After all, let's not fool ourselves, a few hundred years we didn't know about microbes, we didn't know about electrons and all those powers connected with radiation. So who says we have already come to the summit of knowledge?"

- Isaac Bashevis Singer,
Conversations

**TORAH TOTS SHABBAT SERVICE****Friday, March 2, 5:45 p.m.**

Please join us for a special Torah Tots Service led by Cantor Jeremy Lipton and Rabbi Helene Kornsgold, as we welcome in Shabbat with Temple Israel's high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers.

Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.

Join Temple Israel Clergy and Miss Nancy for Temple Israel's high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers! Welcome in Shabbat with songs, prayers and movement followed by a healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack.

YOUTH**MAHAR: MOVIE OUTING - A WRINKLE IN TIME (3rd- 5th Grades)****Sunday, March 25 (12:05-3:30 p.m.)**

Join your friends as we go see the new movie, "A Wrinkle in Time." We will kick-off the event with a great discussion centered on the Jewish values of imagination and time. Bring a packed dairy lunch, but leave room for popcorn or candy and a drink. Drop-off and Pick-Up @ TIRS Building.

Cost: \$15/TI-Y members; \$20/nonmembers.

RSVP to Ariel at adidonato@templeisraelinc.org by Wednesday, March 21.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**MARCH MADNESS MITZVAH TOURNAMENT (benefiting Jewish Family Services)****Sunday, March 11 (10 a.m.)**

Join us for our first 3v3 basketball tournament benefiting Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Charlotte. Entry fee is \$5 to play or watch. 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to JFS. Location: Levine JCC Basketball Courts. To register online, visit templeisraelinc.org and click on the event, on the calendar.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE**SHABBAT BLESSINGS****Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m.**

Shabbat Blessings is a new kind of Shabbat morning experience which offers an opportunity for spiritual enrichment and renewal through sharing our own blessings and insights, in the context of relevant prayers, music and texts from our tradition. Each time we meet we will explore one of the major themes or ideas of Jewish prayer through objects, poetry, stories, anecdotes or something else personal that interested participants bring to share. Join Rabbi Klirs as she discusses this month's theme: "Responding to God's love with gratitude and humility."

EVENTS**CANTOR & FRIENDS****Sunday, March 11, 4 p.m. (FREE)**

After 23 years at Temple Israel, and 19 CANTOR & FRIENDS programs, this 20th and final Cantor & Friends concert will be one of summation. Please join us for this very special program featuring songs of farewell, parting, and conclusion (Note: not all farewells are sad – ex. "So Long, Farewell" from the SOUND OF MUSIC!).

The concert will also include songs by Leonard Bernstein, in celebration of the year's centennial of his birth. **Cantor Roachvarg will be joined by his friend & colleague, Cantor Mary Thomas (Temple Beth El) and accompanied on piano by Monty Bennett.**

**THE ROSE ROOM - WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP****Gift Shop Hours****Sunday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.****Tuesday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.****Friday: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.****COME VISIT OUR NEWLY DESIGNED GIFT SHOP!**

Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please call Tess Berger at 704-488-3842 or Cindy Jennes at 704-443-7643.

Proceeds support Temple Israel, Women of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.

PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE 2018/5778**THURSDAY, MARCH 29**

Search for the Hametz

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Fast of the First Born (Office Closes, 1 p.m.)

Siyyum Bekhorim (study session), followed by breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

Candle Lighting, 7:25 p.m.

No Evening Service

First Seder

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

1st Day Pesach

Shabbat/Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.

Pesach Evening Service, 5:30 p.m.

Temple Israel Community Cooperative Seder, 6 p.m.

(by reservation only)

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

2nd Day Pesach

Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.

Minyan, 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

Hol Ha'Mo-ed Pesach

Minyan, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

Hol Ha'Mo-ed Pesach

Minyan, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

Hol Ha'Mo-ed Pesach

Minyan, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Hol Ha'Mo-ed Pesach

Minyan, 7:30 a.m.

Pesach Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

7th Day Pesach

(Office closed)

Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.

Shabbat/Pesach Evening Service, 6:15 p.m.

Candle Lighting, 7:31 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

8th Day Pesach

Shabbat/Pesach Morning Service (Yizkor), 9:30 a.m.

Minyan, 5:30 p.m.

Passover ends/Havdallah, 8:40 p.m.

**All Candle Lighting Times are based on GPS location for Temple Israel and are taken from Hebcal.com.*

**MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT**

Saturday, March 24: 9:30 a.m. – Services, followed by Kiddush

Sunday, March 25: 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast

Football, Food, Family and Faith is the theme of Men's Club Shabbat this year at Temple Israel. Join us for services on Saturday morning where our guest speaker is former NFL Offensive Lineman Geoff Schwartz, and co-author of the popular book, "Eat my Schwartz." Geoff returns to Temple Israel on Sunday morning for a special breakfast hosted by the Men's Club, and will answer questions on life as an elite Jewish athlete, world-class latke maven, and what it was like playing in the first game in NFL history where two Jewish brothers were on opposing teams. *Questions? Please contact Mike Eisner (704) 779-0768 or eisner@outlook.com.*

**TEMPLE ISRAEL COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY SEDER Saturday, March 31, 6 p.m.**

We are pleased to announce that our 5th Annual Cooperative Community Seder will take place on Saturday evening, March 31. Izzy's Catering will provide most courses and, as this is a Cooperative Seder, each attendee is expected to contribute in some way to the preparation, service, organization or clean up. If you are interested in participating in this special Seder, please register on the event calendar at templeisraelinc.org.

JOIN US

When you join the Temple Israel family, you become linked to a community and traditions that are more than 120 years old and you also become part of the story of a strong and vibrant congregation that will be a pillar of the Charlotte Jewish community for generations to come. Temple Israel is on the cutting edge of Conservative Judaism, balancing both traditional and innovative expressions of Judaism in a progressive, inclusive community.

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 26**Israeli Art Show & Gala**

Ticket information and show hours to be available shortly on templeisraelinc.org



NASCAR's First Israeli Driver is an Unlikely Success Story

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — Israeli race car driver Alon Day's rise to the highest ranks of NASCAR has been an unexpected one for a variety of reasons.

Here's one of them: The 25-year-old has done the bulk of his training on computer-screen simulators. That's because Israel didn't have a motor sport track until this year.

In June, he became the first Israeli to compete in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series — the sport's highest league of competition — when he raced the No. 23 car for the BK Racing team at the Sonoma Raceway in Southern California. Though Day finished 32nd among the 38 drivers after being involved in a collision, his participation in the race was still significant.

While NASCAR has made efforts to diversify its pool of athletes, the sport's fans and drivers remain mostly white and Christian — at times to a controversial extent.

Day, by contrast, wears his Israeli and Jewish identities proudly. His car for Sunday's race sported a few Israeli flag stickers, and he also had Stars of David on the left arm of his racing suit and on his belt. He has previously driven a car featuring an Anti-Defamation League sticker (even if the ADL was not an official sponsor of the vehicle).

It's pretty remarkable, given

that it is unknown if a Jewish driver has ever made it to the top tier of NASCAR.

Day, speaking to JTA from a taxi following his flight to California on Thursday, is well aware of the unlikeliness of his story — one that involves Israeli go-karts, plenty of computer games and a Florida attorney eager to get a Jewish driver into the NASCAR mainstream.

"I'm going to make history for myself and for my country, Israel," the Tel Aviv resident said.

Day grew up in Ashdod, where he learned about NASCAR from playing video games such as Grand Prix Legends. Motor sports have never been popular in Israel, in part because an old British Mandate law (dating to the days when the British ruled Palestine) that banned any cars that could be used for more than commuting was only recently scrapped.

In his early teens, Day became champion of the country's only semi-professional motor sport league: go-karting. His father, realizing his son's potential, sent him to compete in Europe. He began racing in Formula Three and was on a trajectory toward Formula One, among the top racing leagues in the world.

But a couple of years ago, Day decided to switch gears (pun intended). He shifted from driving the Formula One open cockpit style of car to stock cars, the ordinary cars that have been modified

to be raced in NASCAR.

It was mostly a business decision, because the world of motor racing is driven by sponsorships. Since Israel's business ties with the U.S. are much stronger than those with Europe, Day recognized he had a greater likelihood of being sponsored to drive for NASCAR.

"It's definitely much easier for me to get sponsorship here in the states than in Europe," he said.

Based on his strong start in Europe and the U.S. — he raced a full season in a sub-league of the Indy 500, the U.S. version of Formula One — Day was selected early last year to be a part of the 2016-17 NASCAR Next program, which highlights young, up-and-coming racers.

That happened to be right around the time that Phil Robertson, the controversial member of the "Duck Dynasty" clan, delivered an eyebrow-raising speech before a NASCAR race in Forth Worth, TX.

"All right Texas, we got here via Bibles and guns, I'm fixin' to pray to the one who made that possible," Robertson said. "I pray Father that we put a Jesus-man in the White House."

Robertson's pre-race prayer didn't sit well with David Levin, a Jewish lawyer from Florida and longtime NASCAR fan. Levin had just waded into the world of NASCAR sponsoring, and the reality star's rhetoric gave him extra

motivation to do something he had long wished for: He would find and help promote a Jewish driver into NASCAR's top circuit.

Day called it perfect timing. "It's just kind of karma," he said.

Since then, Levin has raised significant sums of money to support Day — he's even enlisted a former NFL player as a backer. Drivers need sponsors to cover the costs of fuel, a pit crew and its tools, as well as salaries for the driver and his or her manager. In return, sponsors get stickers of their brand logo on their drivers' car. Over the course of a full season, one sticker can cost over \$1 million.

"I don't really know how he does it, he makes magic," Day said. "And somehow I'm driving in the car."

Depending on the results of the Sonoma race — and if Levin can continue to work his "magic" — Day said his goal is to race in the next Cup Series race at Watkins Glen in western New York in August.

Meanwhile, Day is gaining recognition in Israel, where he was named Athlete of the Year in 2016 by the Sports and Culture Ministry. He points to the newly opened race track in Arad and an article about him in Yediot Acharanot, one of Israel's biggest newspapers, as signs that motor sports are on the rise in the Jewish state.

Day himself is contributing to car racing's increased visibility in Israel. Alongside his fledgling celebrity, he opened a racing "gym" in Tel Aviv with an old go-karting buddy. The gym houses several driving simulators, which are basically higher-tech versions of arcade games. The building has turned into an all-ages school where Day teaches pupils about racing, as well as about difficult situations a driver encounters on normal roads.

When he's not abroad racing, Day typically spends three to four hours a day practicing on the race track simulations.

"I'm 25 now, but I still use simulators like I'm 10 years old," he said with a laugh.

Day says he celebrates Jewish holidays, recites the Kiddush blessing over the wine on Friday nights and is proud to talk about his service in the Israeli army. Although he is an anomaly in the white Christian world of NASCAR, he points out that many stock car racing fans — some of whom are evangelical Christians — are big supporters of Israel, which has helped make him feel comfortable in the United States.

"I think they like seeing someone without that Southern accent, does not have the American flag [on a car] ... does not believe in Jesus," he said. "I've gotten tons of media because I'm different." ☆



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Why Passover Is About a Lot More Than Good Food

By Joshua Ratner

(My Jewish Learning via JTA)
- What is the essence of Passover? On the one hand, it seems obvious: Passover is about gathering together with loved ones to recall, through sumptuous home rituals, the exodus from Egypt. We gather round our Seder tables and quickly become engulfed in the warmth of family and friends, the culinary delights of a delicious meal, and the comforting, vaguely familiar words and songs we recite year after year.

Passover is, indeed, a beautiful opportunity for rejoicing and celebrating. But it also can be much more.

When looking closely at the Passover Haggadah, we can see that the rabbis who crafted it did not choose to make Passover a holiday solely focused on celebrating the past. Like the Fourth of July (or Hanukkah), Passover could have been a day to recall passively our independence from an oppressive regime as a historical remembrance; to commemorate the past and salute our Founding Fathers (or Maccabees). Instead, Moses (as Founding Father of the Israelites) is largely shut out of the story — he appears but once.

While remembrance of the Exodus — from the enslavement of the Israelites to the Ten Plagues to the crossing of the Red Sea — forms a major portion of the content of the “Maggid” (retelling) section of the Haggadah, that re-

membrance is but a means to a larger end. The end of the Maggid section reveals why. It says:

“In each and every generation people must regard themselves as though they personally left Egypt, as it says, ‘Tell your child on that very day: “This is what God did for me when I left Egypt.”’ The Holy One of Blessing did not redeem only our ancestors, but God even redeemed us with them, as it says, ‘God brought us out of there in order to bring us to and gave us the land that God swore to our ancestors.’”

The Seder specifically and Passover more broadly are about remembering God’s deliverance of the Israelites not as a one-time, historical event but as something that is perpetually happening in the present. Redemption from slavery to freedom is intended to be an experience that we, too, can and should have during our Seders. But why?

I believe that the Seder is a literary means of experiential education. The Haggadah wants each of us to recall that we were once estranged, disenfranchised and marginalized, so that each of us will cultivate a sense of empathy for the estranged, the disenfranchised and the marginalized in our society today. We honor our past by acting in our present.

So as we get ready for Passover, cleansing our houses of hametz, preparing our Haggadah selections and invite lists, may we also take action to cleanse our so-

ciety of poverty, bigotry and hatred.

There has been an explosion of new and creative social justice-themed Haggadahs and Seder inserts created in recent years by Jewish organizations. Last year alone, there were new additions about global justice (American Jewish World Service), LGBTQ rights (Keshet), hunger and military families (Mazon), wealth inequality (RRC), racial justice (RAC), mass incarceration

(T’ruah), and refugees (Repair the World/HIAS), to name but a few. So please consider using any of these, tweet at #ActOnPassover or make use of other resources that speak to you and help you concretize our ongoing mandate to seek out freedom and redemption for all of God’s children.

And may each of you be blessed with a happy, fulfilling and meaningful Passover. *Chag sameach* (happy holiday)! ✨
(Rabbi Joshua Ratner is the

rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in Cheshire, Connecticut. He also worked as an attorney for five years prior to entering rabbinical school.)

This piece originally appeared on the *Rabbis Without Borders*, a dynamic forum for exploring contemporary issues in the Jewish world and beyond. Written by rabbis of different denominations, viewpoints and parts of the country, *Rabbis Without Borders* is a project of Clal-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

March is National Nutrition Month; Use These Tips to “Go Further With Food”

By Chantal Otelsberg, MS, RDN, LDN, Levine JCC Nutritionist

March 2018 is National Nutrition Month and the theme this year is “Go Further with Food.” The timing of this theme is of great importance to us as we strive to put our health first. The theme focuses on several key points that I would love for you to challenge yourself to implement this month.

Whether it’s starting the day off right with a healthy breakfast or fueling before an athletic event, the foods you choose can make a real difference. Preparing your foods to go further, by planning meals and snacks in advance can also help to reduce food loss and waste.

This year’s theme for National

Nutrition Month® encourages us to achieve the numerous benefits healthy eating habits offer, but it also urges us to find ways to cut back on food waste. Learning how to manage food resources at home will help you “Go Further with Food”, while saving both nutrients and money.

Key Messages

1. Include a variety of healthful foods from all of the food groups on a regular basis.
2. Consider the foods you have on hand before buying more at the store.
3. Buy only the amount that can be eaten or frozen within a few days and plan ways to use leftovers later in the week.
4. Be mindful of portion sizes. Eat and drink the amount that’s



right for you, as MyPlate encourages us to do.

5. Continue to use good food safety practices.

6. Find activities that you enjoy and be physically active most days of the week.

7. Realize the benefits of healthy eating by consulting with a registered dietitian nutritionist. RDNs can provide sound, easy-to-

(Continued on page 30)

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From a Passover of Alienation to a Passover of Empathy

By Hanan Schlesinger

(My Jewish Learning via JTA)
- One of the most oft-repeated themes of the Torah is that we must remember that we were slaves and strangers in the Land of Egypt, and that God redeemed us with an outstretched hand. Both the experience of slavery and the experience of redemption are meant to radiate one central and fundamental call to action that the Torah comes back to again and again:

Slavery and strangerhood: Love the stranger and care for him, provide for him and show him empathy. Feel his pain and act to alleviate it, deal kindly with him, for you yourself know what it means to be a stranger and a slave.

Redemption: Walk in the footsteps of God, who redeemed us from Egypt, and redeem the slave and the downtrodden. Provide for them as God provided for us. Just as God's mercies are upon all His creatures, so ought our mercies to be upon all His creatures.

The world is divided into us and them. That is the way that it has to be. In order to experience the security and the love of the family, the clan, the nation, there have to be those who are not part of our inner concentric circles.

At the same time, however, one of the most central directives of the Torah is that this division must never be so stark as to alienate the us from the them. Our love and concern must radiate out beyond the us toward the them. Our sense of us must empower our people to

reach out to them.

We recall and relive our experience in Egypt on the holiday of Passover, the centerpiece of the Jewish year and the focal point of the process of handing down the tradition to the next generation. And the focal point of Passover is the seder night with its Haggadah text. The Haggadah tells us: "In every generation one must see himself as if he personally went out of Egypt." We spend the whole night bringing alive the events of slavery and redemption.

Toward what end? What is the takeaway? Clearly the answer ought to be to develop within us the historical memory that will constantly remind us and inspire us to love the stranger and redeem him from his suffering.

Yet this message is completely missing from the Haggadah. It certainly harps on our misery in Egypt, but instead of using that experience to nurture empathy for those who suffer, it sees in it a paradigm for the panorama Jewish history, reminding us "in every generation they rise against us to annihilate us, and the Holy One Blessed be He saves us from them."

The reason for this lacuna – at least one of the reasons – may be that during the 1,000-plus years during which the Haggadah text developed, we Jews were the slaves and the strangers, and the dominant cultures were antagonistic to our way of life and often to our very existence. We were the other and little love was lost on us.

Our forefathers were too busy surviving to find room in our hearts and in our texts to teach ourselves about love of the stranger and empathy for his suffering. The larger message of Passover was postponed for the distant future.

That future may have arrived. Reality today is different, in Israel and to a large degree in many parts of America, from that which our forefathers knew. We are no longer the other that we used to be, and there are other peoples, cultures, and ethnic groups that have taken our place. In Israel we are the dominant culture and in America we are part of the mainstream.

These are the conditions of life that the Torah envisioned, and not the circumstances under which our forbearers have lived for the past 2000 years. As such, it is time for our Haggadahs and our celebration of Passover, as well as our Jewish consciousness and our behavior, to reflect that change and to go back to basics.

Let the Seder be our forum to proclaim and inculcate an ethic of empathy for the other emanating from two intertwined experiences: 1, Never again! Never again shall any people suffer what we suffered in Egypt. And 2, we take it upon ourselves to continually struggle to redeem the other, just as God redeemed us. ☆

(Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger lives in Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion, and serves as the director of international relations for Roots/Judur/Shorashim, the Israeli Palestinian Local Initiative for

Understanding, Nonviolence, and Transformation. He also frequently travels to Dallas, where he serves as the executive director of the Jewish Studies Initiative. His website is www.ravhanan.org.)

This piece appeared originally on *Rabbis Without Borders*, a

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March is Nutrition Month

(Continued from page 29)

follow personalized nutrition advice to meet your lifestyle, preferences and health-related needs.

Cooking for one on a budget? No problem. Here are some tips on how to receive nutrient-dense meals to keep yourself healthy and active.

1. Ask about discounts at your local grocery store, a loyalty card, or if you are eligible for a senior discount. Not only will you get a lower price for your regular items, but you may receive additional store coupons.

2. Use coupons to help you save money. Keep in mind that coupons only help if they are for items that you regularly purchase.

3. Consider store brands because they usually are less expensive. You may have to look for these items on a higher or lower levels of the shelves as large food producing companies pay marketing dollars to place their products eye-level.

4. Be aware that convenience foods cost more. Buying whole chicken and cutting it yourself helps reduce the cost of pre-cut meat. Shredding and grating your

own cheese, purchasing a larger plain yogurt container and adding your honey or frozen berries will reduce additional cost.

5. Make a grocery list and focus on economical fruits and vegetables such as bananas, oranges, sweet potatoes, green leafy vegetables, and regular carrots.

6. Think about the foods that you throw away. Buy or cook only what you need.

7. Resist temptation at the check-out line. These foods and candy are placed in these areas to tempt impulse buying.

8. Make smart choices. Choose less red meat, processed foods, snacks, and baked foods.

See if you are eligible for a meal delivery service in your local area. Meals on Wheels Association of America is one of the leading government funded programs that is here to help! You may contact them at 1-888-998-6325.

For a personalized nutrition plan and one-on-one counselling to help you reach these outlined goals or manage chronic disease with diet, contact your dietitian at the LJCC. ☆

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Nine Things You (Maybe) Didn't Know about Passover

By MJL Staff

(My Jewish Learning via JTA)
— Here are nine things that many likely wouldn't know about the Festival of Freedom:

1. In Gibraltar, there's dust in the charoset.

The traditional charoset is a sweet Passover paste whose texture is meant as a reminder of the mortar the enslaved Jews used to build in ancient Egypt. The name itself is related to the Hebrew word for clay. In Ashkenazi tradition, it is traditionally made from crushed nuts, apples, and sweet red wine, while Sephardic Jews use figs or dates. But the tiny Jewish community of this small British territory at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula takes the brick symbolism to another level, using the dust of actual bricks in their recipe.

2. Abraham Lincoln died during Passover.

The 16th American president was shot at Ford's Theatre on a Friday, April 14, 1865, which coincided with the fourth night of Passover. The next morning, Jews who wouldn't normally have attended services on the holiday were so moved by Lincoln's passing they made their way to synagogues, where the normally celebratory Passover services were instead marked by acts of mourning and the singing of Yom Kippur hymns. American Jews were so affected by the president's death that Congregation Shearith



Photo courtesy of myjewishlearning.com

Israel in New York recited the prayer for the dead — usually said only for Jews — on Lincoln's behalf.

3. Arizona is a hub for matzah wheat.

Hasidic Jews from Brooklyn have been increasingly sourcing wheat for their Passover matzah from farmers in Arizona. Excessive moisture in wheat kernels can result in fermentation, rendering the harvest unsuitable for Passover use. But rain is scarce in Arizona, which allows for a stricter standard of matzah production. Rabbis from New York travel to Arizona in the days leading up to the harvest, where they inspect the grains meticulously to ensure they are cut at the precise moisture levels.

4. At the Seder, Persian Jews whip each other with scallions.

Many of the Passover Seder rit-

uals are intended to re-create the sensory experience of Egyptian slavery, from the eating of bitter herbs and matzah to the dipping of greenery in saltwater, which symbolizes the tears shed by the oppressed Israelites. Some Jews from Iran and Afghanistan have the tradition of whipping each other with green onions before the singing of "Dayenu."

5. Karaite Jews skip the wine.

Karaite Jews reject rabbinic Judaism, observing only laws detailed in the Torah. That's why they don't drink the traditional four cups of wine at the Seder. Wine is fermented, and fermented foods are prohibited on Passover, so instead they drink fruit juice. (Mainstream Jews hold that only fermented grains are prohibited.) The Karaites also eschew other staples of the traditional Seder, including the Seder plate and

charoset. Their maror (bitter herbs) is a mixture of lemon peel, bitter lettuce, and an assortment of other herbs.

6. Israeli Jews have only one Seder.

Israeli Jews observe only one Passover Seder, unlike everywhere else where traditionally two Seders are held, one on each of the first two nights of the holiday. Known as "yom tov sheni shel galuyot" — literally "the second festival day of the Diaspora" — the practice was begun 2,000 years ago when Jews were informed of the start of a new lunar month only after it had been confirmed by witnesses in Jerusalem. Because Jewish communities outside of Israel were often delayed in learning the news, they consequently couldn't be sure precisely which day festivals were meant to be observed. As a result, the practice of observing two Seder days was instituted just to be sure.

7. You're wrong about the orange on the seder plate.

Some progressive Jews have adopted the practice of including an orange on the Seder plate as a symbol of inclusion of gays, lesbians, and other groups marginalized in the Jewish community. The story goes that the practice was instituted by the feminist scholar Susannah Heschel after she was told that a woman belongs on the synagogue bimah, or prayer podium, like an orange belongs on a Seder plate. But ac-

cording to Heschel, that story is false. In that apocryphal version, she said, "a woman's words are attributed to a man, and the affirmation of lesbians and gay men is erased. Isn't that precisely what's happened over the centuries to women's ideas?"

8. "Afikomen" isn't Hebrew.

For many Seder participants, the highlight of the meal is the afikomen — a broken piece of matzah that the Seder leader hides and the children search for; the person who finds the afikomen usually gets a small reward. Most scholars believe the word "afikomen" derives from the Greek word for dessert. Others say it refers to a kind of post-meal revelry common among the Greeks. Either theory would explain why the afikomen is traditionally the last thing eaten at the Seder.

9. For North African Jews, after Passover comes Mimouna.

Most people are eager for a break from holiday meals when the eight-day Passover holiday concludes. But for the Jews of North Africa, the holiday's end is the perfect time for another feast, Mimouna, marking the beginning of spring. Celebrated after nightfall on the last day of Passover, Mimouna is marked by a large spread of foods and the opening of homes to guests. The celebration is often laden with symbolism, including fish for fertility and golden rings for wealth. ✧

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