

The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 40, No. 10

Cheshvan-Kislev 5779

November 2018

Fourth Annual Global Day of Jewish Learning Set for Sunday, November 11

Charlotte's fourth Global Day of Jewish Learning will continue this year on Sunday, November 11. Organized by the Aleph Society and Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, the Global Day of Jewish Learning is an annual event where Jewish communities across the globe study a shared theme from a variety of perspectives rooted in Jewish texts. This year's theme is: Extraordinary Passages – Texts and Travels.

This year's Global Day of Jewish Learning will feature two Israeli authors who will share their journeys with our community.

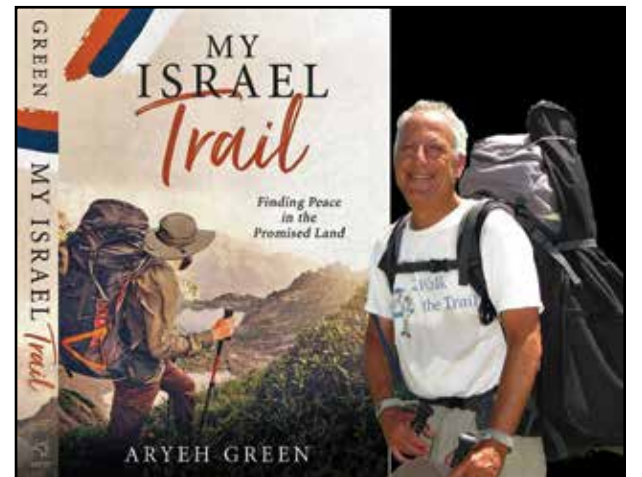
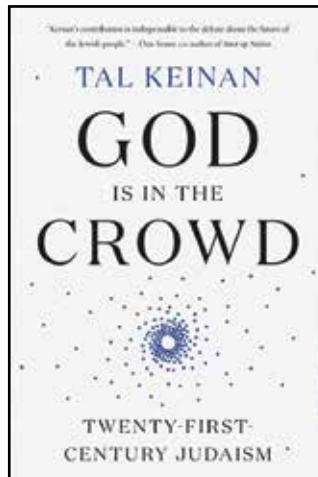
Aryeh Green, author of *My Israel Trail: Finding Peace in the Promised Land* will talk about his fascinating journey walking the land of Israel, his love for the land and the people, and his spiritual

transformation after this 42-day hike.

In his book, *God Is in the Crowd*, financier and former Israeli combat pilot Tal Keinan reflects on a lifetime of varied experiences with his Jewish identity, providing a heartfelt, well-reasoned reflection on the Jewish people.

Participants will also have the option to choose from a variety of workshops on extraordinary passages with local rabbis. Families with young children could embark on their own journey with PJ Library's "Dinosaur's Journey to Israel."

This year's Global Day of Jewish Learning is spearheaded by



the Center for Jewish Education. This program is supported by a Jewish Federation's Impact and Innovation Grant and is in collaboration with multiple local Jewish Synagogues and organizations.

For more information and reg-

istration visit: www.jewishcharlotte.org/gdjl. ☆



SAVE THE DATE

**80th ANNIVERSARY of
KRISTALLNACHT**
NIGHT of the BROKEN GLASS
COMMEMORATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018

7 P.M.

Temple Israel



Kristallnacht: 80th Anniversary Commemoration

November 7, 7 PM at Temple Israel

Eighty years ago, overnight November 9/10, 1938, Hitler's war against the Jewish People began. That night, Nazi brown-shirted storm troopers, supported by local citizens rioted through the city streets of Germany and Austria. Their rampage damaged or destroyed Jewish homes, schools, businesses and synagogues. The broken glass strewn across Germany and Austria provided the appellation that has remained connected to that date - Kristallnacht - Night of Broken Glass. The destruction on that November night included 7,500 Jewish homes and businesses, 267 synagogues, 100 Jews had been murdered, and 30,000 men arrested and sent to concentration camps previously used for crimi-

nals who had broken the law.

The night of violence and destruction marked the beginning of the Holocaust, Hitler's plan to systematically eliminate the Jewish people. Suly Chenkin, survivor, educator, and member of Temple Israel, explains: "When the glass broke, shards blew everywhere and blinded people" She adds: "Our role is to bring the shards together again, *l'taken et ha'olam*, to repair the world and make it whole again."

Every five years, we gather to remember the fear and terror that afflicted the Jewish people until the end of the Nazis' rule over Europe and Germany.

The hatred which condemned our people under the Hitler regime still echoes throughout our

world and in the streets of our United States of America. The White Supremacists' march on Charlottesville, VA, the recent desecration of App State's Sukkah, the anti-semitic graffiti in the university's tunnel, and the desecration of the JCC in Virginia prove that the hatred behind Kristallnacht still exists to threaten us and others who are the targets of blind, baseless hatred.

The Kristallnacht Commemoration Committee and Temple Israel wish to thank Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte, the Butterfly Project, and the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social justice for their collaboration and partnership. ☆

Public Menorah Lightings for Chanukah

SouthPark Mall – December 2 at 6 PM. See page 22.

StoneCrest – December 3 at 5:30 PM. See page 19.

Downtown Waxhaw – December 4 at 5:30 PM. See page 19.

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Dear Readers,

It seems like our Jewish community in the Charlotte area continues to grow with more Jewish organizations and more people moving here daily. As *The Charlotte Jewish News* expands to include all the new agencies and increases print production to include new subscribers, cost increases inevitably follow.

To offset some costs, we've enlarged our online presence. Every edition can be accessed at our website, charlottejewishnews.org or issuu.com. Upcoming events are announced on our Facebook page (please follow us on Facebook!). But our core remains the readers of the hard copy, mailed monthly (except July) to any local Jewish person who wants it.

There are many ways you can help *The Charlotte Jewish News* meet its needs. Our primary source of revenue is advertising. Please patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw their ad in *The Charlotte Jewish News*. Recommend advertising to your favorite retail and service establishments.

Please also consider supporting us with a donation. Use the form below and return it to us in the return envelope conveniently included in this month's edition.

Please remember that there are agencies that would not be able to get their message to you without *The Charlotte Jewish News*. Anything you do to help is greatly appreciated by all.

Todah Rabah!

Shabbat Candle Lighting for November 2018

Friday, November 2, 6:10 PM
Friday, November 9, 5:03 PM
Friday, November 16, 4:59 PM
Friday, November 23, 4:55 PM
Friday, November 30, 4:53 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

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Published monthly except July
An affiliate of:



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Correction to Donor Listing. We apologize for the errors or omissions in the October CJN

Men
Theodore Herzl Society \$5,000 - \$9,999
Sandler, Bernie

Additional Donors to the Jewish Federation 2018 Annual Campaign as of October 8, 2018

Men
Shomrim (Guardians) \$100 - \$364
Safran, Joel

Chaverim (Friends) \$1 - \$99
Shporer, Alexander

Women
Ruby Lion of Judah \$10,000 - \$17,999
Zulman, Rosemary \$10,000

Lion of Judah \$5,000 - \$9,999
Goodman, Barbara

Pearl Society \$80 - \$1,799
Sandler, Carol

Family
King David Society \$25,000 - \$99,999
Zulman Family \$25,000

Menachem Begin Society \$1,000 - \$1,799
Goodman, David and Barbara

Bonim (Builders) \$365 - \$999
Reider, Scott and Ordan-Reider, Matti

Shomrim (Guardians) \$100 - \$364
Carney, Bill and Rochelle

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made June 30, 2018 through October 8, 2018.

In honor of Nicki Fisher
By: Claire Renaldo

In honor of Jason Pressberg
By: Richard and Paula Klein

In memory of Bruce Feigeles
By: Lauren, Jeremy, and Emma Sussman

In memory of Alfred Lepow
By: Jerry and Carole Sternstein

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

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I would like to make a contribution to demonstrate my support of *The Charlotte Jewish News*.

Name.....Phone

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City.....State.....Zip

Enclosed in my check for \$.....

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..... \$50.00	Patron
..... \$100.00	Grand Patron
.....	Other

Jewish Federation 2019 Campaign Chair Looks Ahead to an Exciting New Year

Risa Miller, 2019 Annual Campaign Chair, talks about her background, her involvement in the Charlotte Jewish community and her hopes for the upcoming year.

CJN: What brought you to Charlotte originally?

RISA MILLER: I had lived in the Northeast until the age of 30. At that time, I was ready to make a change. My husband David had an opportunity here; he's from North Carolina originally and we had family in Charlotte.

CJN: How did you get involved in the Jewish community and the Federation?

RS: Stacy and Todd Gorelick introduced us to Charlotte's Jewish community. They were already involved in Federation. Todd's parents (Bill and Patty, z"l) had been very active and Stacy and Todd followed their example. David had also grown up in a household where Federation was an important of their philanthropic giving. I originally got involved as a leader of Shalom Y'all, an initiative to welcome newcomers to Charlotte by delivering baskets to their homes. We'd also give them tips on Jewish life in Charlotte and living in Charlotte generally. That's how I first connected with the Jewish



Risa Miller

community socially and philanthropically.

CJN: Why are you talking on this role in the campaign?

RS: I don't know! [Laughs.] I feel that this is a great time to be involved with Federation. With our new Chief Development Officer Jason Pressberg, there is new energy around our campaign and the community growing in similar ways to how it did 15 years ago. Strategically, we're finding ways

to utilize and thank our generous and aging donors while bringing in new talent. We're succeeding in reaching millennials and getting younger people involved in our campaign. We need to do better at asking our older generations to pass along their wisdom on how to keep the Jewish community alive and thriving.

CJN: What are you looking forward to in this year's campaign?

RS: Growth, primarily. I think a \$4 million goal was an obvious one for 2018 after we raised \$3.88 million in 2017. We have built momentum around making changes and continuing to grow our campaign to benefit every corner of Jewish Charlotte and allow our programs and partner agencies to continue to achieve even more. I'm excited to work with Federation's new hires and many of the new and veteran volunteers with our campaign, without whom we could not achieve any of our goals. ✧



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

2019 Campaign Leadership Team

Risa Miller	Campaign Chair
Stacy Gorelick	Major Gifts Chair
Alison Lerner	Board of Trustees Chair
Dale Polsky	Women's Philanthropy Chair
Meredith Baumstein and Sara Kulbersh	Lion of Judah Co-Chairs
Melanie Rouso Brown and Debra Van Glish	Pomegranate Society Co-Chairs
Staci Mond and Elizabeth Ren	Pearl Society Co-Chairs
Marisa Zeibert, Jill Halverstam, Lisa Strause Levinson and Debbie Porter	Women's Philanthropy At-Large Committee
George Cronson and Zach Gerger	ASK Team Captain
Gail Baron and Eliza Carney	CONNECT Team Captain
Lisa Strause Levinson	THANK Team Captain
Lisa Blau and Jason Tanenbaum	Super Sunday Co-Chairs
Jill Newman	Create your Jewish Legacy Chair
Angie, Emily, Sam, and Bill Zimmern	Main Event Co-Chairs
Jeff Turk	Immediate Past Chair

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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



During World War II, Nazi Germany led a systematic campaign to loot and plunder art from Jews and others in the occupied countries. Much of the stolen art was recovered by the Allies in the immediate aftermath of the war; however, thousands of valuable art pieces were not returned to their rightful owners or were never relocated. In the decades following the Holocaust, a concerted international effort was undertaken to identify Nazi plunder that still remains unaccounted for with the aim of ultimately returning the items to the rightful owners or their families. (Jewish virtual library)

“Holocaust Restitution: Recovering Stolen Art” is an important theme of both *Stolen Beauty* by Laurie Lico Albanese and *Memento Park* by Mark Sarvas. *Stolen Beauty* tells the story of Adele Bloch-Bauer (better known as the “Lady in Gold” in the paintings by Gustav Klimt), and her beloved

niece Maria Altmann. At first this glamorous, delicious novel which tells the story of Adele, is set in Vienna in the early 1900s; but continues in the voice of Maria during dark pre- and post-World War II. Those familiar with the movie *Woman in Gold* starring Helen Mirren will appreciate the rich history behind the famous painting, which was the center of a Supreme Court battle to return the painting to its rightful owners.

Memento Park, a contemporary novel set in the United States, delves into the unsettling relationship between Matt Santos, a Hollywood actor, and his father, a Holocaust survivor living in New York. When Matt receives a call from the Australian consulate about a painting allegedly looted by Nazis from his father’s family in 1944 Budapest, his world is turned upside down. The discovery sends Matt on a journey of exploration of his previous unknown family history,



the meaning of art, Judaism, and his relationships with the women in his life. What intrigues and inflames Matt is the burning question “Why does his opportunist father want nothing to do with the return of this very valuable painting?” *Memento Park*, a well-written novel, is best appreciated for the psychological study of the complicated father and son relationship.

The search for rightful ownership of art stolen by the Nazis continues today. The painting “Deux Femmes Dans Un Jardin” painted in 1919 by Renoir was stolen by the Nazis in 1941 from the bank vault of Alfred Weinberger, a prominent art collector in pre-war Paris. On Wednesday, September 12, 2018, it was re-

turned to Weinberger’s last remaining heir, his granddaughter Sylvie Sultizer, at a ceremony at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

CJE Book Club News:

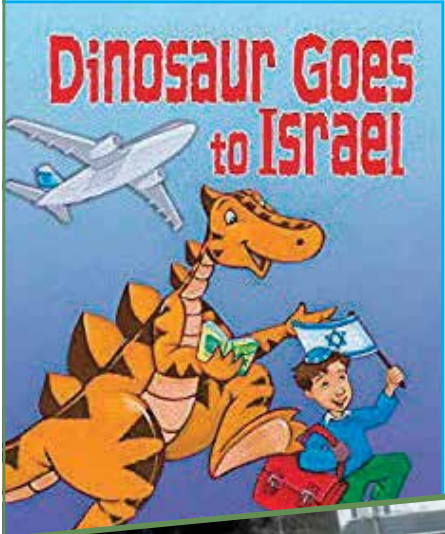
Stolen Beauty was the October selection for the CJE Book Club which meets the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 AM–12 noon. Please note; however, that the book club will meet on the second Wednesday of November when we will discuss *Faithful* by Alice Hoffman. *The Book of Separation* by Tova Mirvis is the selection for our meeting on December 19. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CJE: NOVEMBER 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 - 2:00 pm				1	2
					PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
4	5	6	7	8	9
			Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library		PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
11	12	13	14	15	16
Global Day of Jewish Learning			Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library CJE Book Club 10:30 am - 12:00 pm		PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
18	19	20	21	22	23
			No Storytime Today!	Library Closed Today!	Library Closed Today!
25	26	27	28	29	30
					PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library



SPECIAL EVENT!



Calling all families with children ages 2–8

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF FUN!

- Mr. Ed from “Dakota and Friends” will bring his large, walking dinosaur puppets. Witness a baby T-Rex hatch from his egg!
- Storywalk: *Dinosaur Goes to Israel*
- Snack

Sunday, November 11
10:45-11:30am
Poliakoff Pavilion
at Camp Mindy at Shalom Park

FREE – Limited Space
Registration Required:www.jewishcharlotte.org/gdjl

Questions? Debby.Block@jewishcharlotte.org

Women's News

Order Your 2019 Mah Jongg Card Now Through Hadassah and Help Your Friends Do It, Too

Hadassah is once again making so easy to order your 2019 mah jongg card.

1. Include your email with your other personal information (name/address/phone number on a separate piece of paper, please) and you'll receive an email confirmation of your order by February 1, 2019, direct from the National Mah Jongg League.

2. Make your check out to Hadassah. We process your order, but your card and newsletter come directly from the National Mah Jongg League. In return for

our help, the NMJL makes a donation to Hadassah.

3. Want to do something easy to benefit Hadassah? Be a table captain. Collect all the checks and personal info from your games. It's still one envelope, one stamp, but you can insure that every player you know buys their card through Hadassah.

So easy, but it makes such a difference.

4. You can order your card now. No need to wait for the Mah Jongg League paperwork.

Remember: Make your check

out to Hadassah and include name, address, telephone number, email address, card size, and number of cards on a separate piece of paper. Regular Print Card: \$8; Large Print Card: \$9

5. Two ways to order: Mark your order envelope to Madeline Aron and drop off at the JCC front desk, or mail in to Madeline Aron, 4940 Hardison Road, Charlotte 28226.

6. Orders must be received by January 15, 2019.



HADASSAH



SCHOOL NEWS

Thank You for Supporting CJP Through Its Annual Fund

By Melanie Resnick, VP of Development, CJP Board of Directors

As my family starts our final year at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, we cannot help but continue to feel grateful that we are part of this wonderful *kehillah*, community. Four years ago, I walked in the door holding my reserved, quiet, little girl's hand, excited, but not fully realizing how special CJP and this community would become to my family. She excelled in kindergarten, showing the many values that CJP instilled through her education. Now, as our twin girls start their final year in the fours, I know first-hand that they will leave this year with a strong foundation of a Jewish identity and ready to enter kindergarten as engaged, curious, confident, and eager learners. As an educator, I find this extremely important. Our kids received an exceptional and well-rounded education that far exceeds the tuition that families pay.

Jewish Federation, none of this would be possible. Annual Fund is a way for us, as a community, to demonstrate our support for our preschool and community. As a member of our *kehillah*, we ask that you continue to support CJP as they continue to provide a top-notch Jewish education to the youngest in our community. We ask that you make a donation that is meaningful to you, as we set an example for our children and community in the spirit of Jewish generosity and giving. Last year we raised over \$40,000. This year, I am confident we can continue to show our support for our children's exceptional education and our community. Charlotte Jewish Preschool is setting the foundation for our youngest children's future education. You entrusted them to develop knowledgeable, caring, giving, respectful, responsible, and self-confident children. As CJP instills in our children the value of Tikkun Olam, "repair the world," we can help leave this

(Continued on page 8)



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The children have access to an outdoor learning garden and special science curriculum, open ended learning manipulatives, and a beautiful playground with various ways to explore and learn. They have teachers who have opportunities to continue to learn through attending NAEYC and Paradigm conferences, and then come back to share their learning with all staff. Without our Annual Fund dollars and the Greater Charlotte

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Sukkot Brunch at Jewish Preschool on Sardis

Sukkot Brunch and Family Fun Day, hosted by the JPS PTO was a special morning filled with activities and fun for all. Families joined together for brunch in the Sukkah and had the opportunity to shake the lulav and etrog. Afterwards we jumped in the bounce house, got our faces painted, did arts and crafts, and enjoyed more nosh. What better

way to spend a Sunday morning than joining together with school families to enjoy each other's company and participate in the special mitzvot of Sukkot? We'd like to thank our PTO Presidents, Sara Kulbersh and Kendall Covitz Nicholson for planning this event and making it possible. ☆



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Jewish Day School Is Good for Your Health

By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDS

The data is in. Attending a Jewish Day School can be good for your health.

A new study from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health finds that kids and teens who are raised with religious or spiritual practices tend to have better health and mental health as they age. Interestingly, it wasn't just about how much a person went to services; it was at least as much about how much they prayed or meditated in their own time. Those who prayed or meditated every day had more life satisfaction, were better able to process emotions, and were more forgiving compared to those who never prayed/meditated (Forbes 9/17/18)

At CJDS, we don't have to look too far for religious and spiritual opportunities to provide our children. Judaism and spirituality are infused in each student's day-in the classrooms, the hallways and even the cafeteria. They learn that being Jewish is who they are. They experience it practically and mindfully and are proud of it.

The results of the study come as no surprise to me. I have seen the effect of teaching Judaism to our students. I have seen students turn to their prayer book and prayers in times of discomfort and heartache. I have seen moments of delight when they recognize the chain of which they are a part. And I have experienced

the most beautiful expressions of joy when they appreciate the incredible gift of Judaism.

I won't deny that I sometimes see the opposite when it gets on their nerves, when they claim they don't believe and it's boring and they would rather do anything else. But, that's children. Our job as adults is to steer and guide them towards experiences that will benefit them now and in the future.

A parent told me a story about her son at camp where ten 11-year-old boys crowded around their counselor to play "Agree and Disagree." The counselor would make a statement and the players who disagreed stepped forward.

The counselor said, "I believe in God." Two campers at this Jewish overnight camp stepped forward. Her son was upset and related the experience to his parents. "I feel so bad that they don't believe in God," the boy said. "How can that be? They are missing out on so much and they don't have God to turn to. I tried to help them understand what God means to me. Thank you, for sending me to a Jewish school."

This boy believed in God and was comfortable and confident in expressing it. He valued his beliefs and found comfort in them. That strength of character is fundamental in a Jewish education, and not found elsewhere.

That strength was evident when one of our graduates was begin-

ning a new large middle school. On the second day of school, he came down to the kitchen with a poster. When his mom asked what it was, he replied that he had to create a poster that described him. When he turned it around, she saw his Hebrew name in the middle of the board in large, dark Hebrew letters. She was a little nervous that the students at this school wouldn't understand, wouldn't recognize the language and possibly would result in some negative interactions. She asked him, "Are you sure you want to put that on the board? Maybe, you should make it smaller. Or, put it in the corner." He looked at her in total surprise and said, "Why? That's who I am!"

This is what CJDS tries to accomplish. We want our graduates to understand that being Jewish is more than a birthright or a heritage, it is who they are.

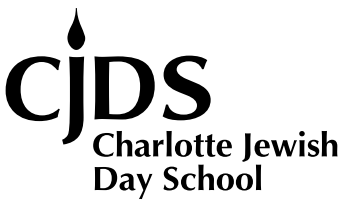
In a recent story, a graduate came running out of his 6th grade orientation and said, "I got assigned locker #613!" His mom didn't understand his excitement until he added "I don't need to write it down because I would never forget that there are 613 mitzvot in the Torah."

While it may seem small and somewhat trivial, it expresses a knowing of his Judaism in a real, internalized, connected way. CJDS students interpret the world around them as Jews, and this guides them in their decision-making, their priorities, and

in sustaining Jewish life in their communities.

The internalization of each students' Jewish identity is the reason I come to work everyday. Hearing our students' thoughts, conclusions, successes, and the impact the school has on them is the most uplifting experience and one of the reasons, I think, I was put on this Earth.

The early years are a defining time for a child, they provide the foundational values for decisions



that are made and goals that are reached. How fortunate are we that a Jewish Day School education has the fringe benefit of improved health. ☆



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Charlotte Jewish Preschool
Annual Fund

(Continued from page 5)

world a better place by raising children with these values. Thank you for helping support what make CJP the marvelous preschool it is. We are excited to work with you to raise the funds that give our children the exceptional education in a secure and loving environment that allows them to learn, grow, and connect. ☆



Building a Foundation to
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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



The JFS Dreidel Drive Brings Bright Light to Eight Festive Nights

Can you believe it's November? It is hard to believe that Chanukah is less than a month away, and that we need to start prepar-

ing for an early holiday. How can it be that this year Chanukah is just the weekend after Thanksgiving? Time to start picking up

those eight presents for the kids, pull out the menorah and make sure you have candles.

While considered a minor holiday in Judaism, Chanukah has become one of our most celebrated family holidays. Filled with family traditions, it has become a time for family get-togethers, celebrations, gift giving, good food, and the famous chocolate "gelt." The traditional lighting of the menorah has come to represent hope for the future, and a time of "miracles."

But for many in our community, just as with other family celebrations, Chanukah is a time of stress and anxiety. For some families, especially those who have more than one child, who can't afford one gift, let alone eight gifts for several children, it becomes a very difficult time of year. Even for some of our seniors who hold fond memories from their younger years, Chanukah has become a difficult time of year. Being away from their family members, having lost spouses or no longer able to provide gifts to grandchildren this time of year brings angst instead of joy. And if they are alone, lighting the Menorah can be sad and depressing.

At JFS we are committed to making every effort to ensure members of our community have the opportunity to experience the festive nature of Chanukah. With



they have not been forgotten and those who don't have a menorah one are provided with one along with candles. For those who benefit from the Dreidel Drive, Chanukah is no longer a holiday filled with stress or loneliness but one of joy and celebration. Last year your contributions to the Dreidel Drive supplied us with over 200 gifts to distribute to our community.

Here's how it works:

Life size menorahs are located at Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, and there is a menorah on the wall in the JCC. These Menorah's host dreidels or stars, with the names and ages of members in our community who are in need of presents. To participate, all you have to do is:

1. Select 1, 2, or 3 dreidels or stars
2. Purchase the item/s listed
3. Bring the unwrapped gift to Jewish Family Services by November 26.

We handle the rest. This year through a collaboration with Hebrew High School we've got the tape, wrapping paper, and ribbon covered, too. The JFS Dreidel Drive is just one more example of the wonderful generosity of our community. It's Tzedakah at its finest. Pick a dreidel, purchase the item and give the gift of Jewish holiday memories to others.

For more information about the Dreidel Drive or if you know of someone in need contact Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594. ☆

your support, our Pantry provides holiday treats, over annual Chanukah luncheon provides a festive celebration to 120 seniors in our community who otherwise would go without 120 and special menorah lightings take place throughout many of our community's senior facilities.

Probably most significant is our Jewish Family Services annual Dreidel Drive. The Dreidel Drive mobilizes our community to purchase gifts and ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity for a celebratory holiday. Parents already struggling to make ends meet will not have to experience the stress of Chanukah gift giving, seniors without family are heartened that

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Jewish Family SERVICES
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JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors September 2018

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Youth Visions

Local Jewish Teen Sells School Supplies to Fight Gun Violence

Jules Oringel is a junior at Providence High School who has made it her mission to end gun violence in America after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This summer, she founded Return Home Supplies, a school supply brand that donates the majority of its profits to organizations such as March For Our Lives and Everytown For Gun Safety who are leading the



These Return Home Supplies are available at www.returnhomesupplies.com.

fight for a safer America and for common sense gun legislation. The brand's mission is to ensure every student and teacher "return home" from school each day.

Many of Oringel's closest friends from URJ Camp Coleman were inside the school building during the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting in Parkland, FL. During the massacre she and her camp friends were texting back



Jules Oringel, 3rd from left, and her friends sell Return Home Supplies to support gun control initiatives.

gan to take action in hopes of making positive change. Oringel planned and led the walkout at Providence High School, marched on Washington, and continues to stay involved in the upcoming midterm elections by registering voters and working on political campaigns. But it still wasn't enough for this local teen.

Over the summer, Oringel decided to start her own social enterprise, Return Home Supplies. The company currently sells water bottles, pencil pouches, folders, and stickers with various messages that spark conversations surrounding gun violence prevention. The brand is planning to launch an additional product line in the coming months.

Return Home Supplies sells online and at a number of events, both locally and nationally. The organization has partnered with March For Our Lives at various rallies to speak out, sell their school supplies, and connect with the leaders of the movement. Student leaders from across the country have been inspired by Return Home Supplies' mission and are using their school products, including the student founders of March For Our Lives in Parkland. Oringel says her organization is planning to attend many more events in North Carolina and beyond.

Please consider following Return Home Supplies on social media – Instagram and Facebook are @returnhomesupplies. Twitter is @rths_org. To learn more

about the many ways you can support Return Home Supplies and its mission, visit www.returnhomesupplies.com and help Oringel ensure that every teacher and student is able to RETURN HOME. ☆



Jules, right, with fellow BBGer selling Return Home Supplies.

and forth with concerns, words of encouragement, updates, and loving messages. The next morning, she learned that not all members of the Camp Coleman community had survived. Alyssa Alhadeff, a fellow camper, had been shot and killed in her English class along with 16 other innocent victims.

Following this tragedy, Oringel struggled to overcome the trauma and anxiety she felt as a result of the massacre. Over time, she be-

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What Is Happening on a Wednesday Night at Hebrew High?





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Have you ever wondered what exactly happens on any given Wednesday at Hebrew High? Below is a sampling of some of the amazing electives that our 8th – 10th graders get to choose. The first trimester (September – November) theme is “Through a Jewish Lens”:

Shiru Ladonai Shir Chadash: Sing Unto God a New Song

In this elective, students explore music through a Jewish lens. Each class will have a different focus including music in prayer (and how that can be controversial), discussions of music in our texts, Jewish music and its pop culture importance, and secular Jewish musicians. This class is a great choice if you are an aspiring song leader, love music, or are curious about how music plays into some of our shared history.

Madrichim Workshop: Becoming a Jewish Classroom Leader

The Madrichim Workshop introduces first-year madrichim to classroom management, lesson planning, age appropriate activ-

ities, learning styles, and most importantly: how to be a good role model using a Jewish lens to discuss character traits and behaviors. The class culminates in a “make your own lesson plan” project that is always fun and educational.

A Jewish Charlotte

We live in Charlotte, we worship in Charlotte. But do we know all there is to know about Judaism in the Queen City? This class will explore the Queen City’s Jewish history and how it evolved into our Jewish present. We will explore all of the city’s synagogues, the Hebrew Cemetery, and the hidden Jewish treasures of our fine city.

Cooking Through a Jewish Lens

Come and learn how make traditional Jewish recipes that have been passed on L’Dor V’ Dor throughout the centuries from our Jewish ancestors. We will learn the basics of Kashrut while learning how to make traditional Ashkenazi Jewish foods such as challah, babka, bagels, mandelbrot,

technique used where small dots of color are used to create an image. Each student will create their own piece of dotted art using different sizes and various tools to dot their way through their individual creation. We will be reproducing an original piece of art by Wassily Kandinsky, known for his abstract art which the Nazi’s confiscated during the war. The finished project will unveil a mural created from each student’s artwork, bringing together each student’s unique perspective into one piece of art.

Science and Torah

From Ancient through Medieval to Modern Times, Jews have been on the forefront of Science; questioning, analyzing, and discovering the physical laws that shape the fabric of our world. From the brilliant to the bizarre, we will use discussion, hands on activities, and experiments



This year’s Hebrew High students, from 8th to 12th grade.

ities, learning styles, and most importantly: how to be a good role model using a Jewish lens to discuss character traits and behaviors. The class culminates in a “make your own lesson plan” project that is always fun and educational.

The Torah Mad Science Experiment

You never knew science and Judaism go together, did you? Come and explore the ideas be-

rugelach, blintzes, apple cake and more. This class is sure to be an eye opener as well as a tummy pleaser.

LOL: The Culture of Jewish Humor

What do Jon Stewart, the Three Stooges, Joan Rivers, and Jerry Seinfeld have in common? They are all Jewish comedians. Jewish humor has a flavor all its own and is deeply rooted in Jewish culture. In LOL, we will explore what it is that makes Jewish humor funny, where it comes from, and how it developed from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to making all Americans laugh today.

Mural of Dots

Pointillism, or dotted art, is a

to explore the evolution of such scientific fields as medicine and psychology.

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- Yitzchak Rabin in a 1995 interview while visiting New York City.

Community News

Cemetery President's Annual Message

By Mike Littauer, president,
Hebrew Cemetery Association

If the old adage that "hell have no fury like a woman" is true, then Florence did not disappoint. Fortunately and due to good planning, we did not incur any damage to the Cemetery. It was a difficult decision to cancel the Annual Memorial Service, however the safety of our family and friends always takes precedence over an event, even one as important and meaningful as our Annual Memorial Service. Due to scheduling difficulties we will not be able to conduct that service this year and look forward to seeing you all in 2019. What follows is the President's message I was to give at that service edited to comply with the space requirements of the CJN:

2018 has been a busy and productive year for the Hebrew Cemetery Association. With your support we have been able to begin to position ourselves for the future by bringing our back office operations into the 21st century.

We continually look for ways to make our Cemetery more effi-

cient and to take advantage of the talent and passion of those I am proud to serve with on the Cemetery Board of Directors. To that end we reorganized our Board of Directors in to four working committees that are focused on four key areas of our Cemetery business, each with their own chair - Building and Grounds, Robert Valenstein; Finance and Technology, Barry Blau; Outreach and Events, Brian Yesowitch; and Executive Committee and Ritual, Mike Littauer. This has given us both the focus and productivity we needed to manage the Cemetery and stay productive 365 days a year.

In January, we contracted to move our manual systems to a cloud based system that will make our operations more efficient and provide our community with an electronic interface that will access to plot locations, family histories, community history, personal accounts, and other essential information. On the business side it will give us better control over many aspects of our grounds management, our

membership lists, management reporting, and accounting. We have been working closely with our partner CIMS since January and will begin moving to this system in the 4th quarter of this year. This is and continues to be a monumental effort and task and I want to take a moment to thank Barry Blau and our entire Finance and Technology committee for their extraordinary work on this project.

We have initiated a "redo" of the HCA website. Long overdue, we are in the process of finalizing our wish list and working with a new website design company to make our site user friendly, relevant, and a "go to" for current Cemetery information and events. Again, many thanks to our Finance and Technology committee for their hard work on this much needed project.

Since the completion of our memorial building many in our community have preferred to have their funeral service at the Cemetery. The Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel was designed to seat 50 people comfortably and

we have had situations where the congregation has exceeded the capacity of the room. In September, we completed the installation of a closed circuit TV and sound system in the adjoining Gorelick Gathering room so up to 125 congregants may be seated and participate in the service comfortably.

I want to take a moment to thank our Legacy Members. Your gift and commitment to our Cemetery is greatly appreciated and helps ensure we will be there for our community in perpetuity. I also want to thank our Board of Directors and volunteers whose dedication and passion inspire me every day. And thank you to Sandra Goldman, our Director, Robert Taylor our Groundskeeper, and Arlene Lott our Administra-



tive Assistant for their dedication and commitment to our Jewish Community 24/7, 365 days a year.

Mark Twain once said that "the secret of getting ahead is getting started." I think that sums up 2018 for our Cemetery team pretty well.

May the new year bring you, your families, and your friends good health, happiness, and peace.☆

The Ruach Keeps Spreading the Joy of Judaism

The Ruach, Charlotte's only band playing modern Jewish music, continues its mission of spreading the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. After hosting The Rosh Hashanah Experience on September 10, the Ruach travelled to Raleigh on Friday, September 28 to provide Temple Beth Shalom with The Ruach Shabbat Experience. The congregation sang, clapped, and let the spirit move them. Lisa Turkel of Raleigh had this to say about The Experience, "If Fleetwood Mac were to lead a Shabbat service, this is what it would be like; it was amazing and uplifting." Her friend, Linda Green Bradley from Durham, chimed in, "It made my heart sing."

Temple Beth Shalom's Director of Religious School, Lynn Calnek, beamed, "I'm over the moon about having had The Ruach here at our Temple tonight for Shabbat. Everyone was saying that they didn't want The Experience to end. The energy of the evening was phenomenal. We will definitely have The Ruach back soon."

On October 21, The Ruach was the headliner at the Greensboro Jewish Festival at Temple Emanuel. The band played two half-hour sets, each set containing music from both their first CD - *The Ruach: Real. Jewish. Rock*, as well as from their untitled, upcoming CD. One of the new songs, "Adonai S'fatai" ("Open Up My Mouth") really got the crowd up and out of their seats. Here's how Dan Ruda, The Ruach's bassist



Joe Buchanan

and backup vocalist describes the song, "It takes the Hebrew words of the original liturgy, adds in some English translation and interpretation, and puts all of that to music that is a cross between funk, rap, and classic rock. It really is a great groove with a lot of spirituality! If it doesn't get you going, nothing will."

Back again in Charlotte, on October 26 the band took The Ruach Shabbat Experience to a new venue: Heist Brewery in NoDa. Franklin Kaunitz, the band's regular violin player was unavailable to play for The Experience so the band invited professional fiddler, Tom Eure, to sit in. His bluegrass style added an country flavor to The Ruach's music. Tom plays guitar, as well, and during the time of personal reflection played the very moving song "How Did We Use Our Time," from his album, *With Grateful Heart*.

In addition to playing for The Ruach Shabbat Experience itself, the band has a goal of bringing other Jewish artists to Charlotte a few times a year. Said Peter Levinson, lead guitarist and spokesperson for The Ruach, "There is a lot of new Jewish music out there and we want people here in Charlotte to have an opportunity to experience it." With this in mind, on November 9, The Ruach will be hosting Joe Buchanan at The Rabbit Hole in Plaza Midwood in what will be an unforgettable evening.

Joe is one of the biggest names in new Jewish music today and calls his music, "Jewish Americana." He is a Jew by choice and weaves the story of his spiritual journey to Judaism into his music. He will be leading a Shabbat Experience that he designed and with music he wrote. Through his music he will share his very moving and compelling story.

Admission to The Shabbat Experience featuring Joe Buchanan is free but due to the size of The Rabbit Hole only 150 tickets will be available.

To keep up with The Ruach, like them on Facebook /theruachband, and follow the band on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.

And, if you'd like to get on their email distribution list, send an email to the.ruach.band@gmail.com.☆

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JCRI's Refugee Dinner

When the Stranger Becomes Your Neighbor, Fellow Citizen, Friend

The Jewish Community Refugee Initiative (JCRI) held its Welcoming the Stranger to the Table kick-off dinner for National Refugee Shabbat 2018 on October 7 at Temple Israel. The dinner, made possible by an Impact and Innovation grant of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, was sold out with nearly 140 people in attendance.

Temple Israel's sukkah had been disassembled the morning of October 7. Yet that evening, Rabbi Murray Ezring, standing in front of a packed Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall, used his invocation to explain to the audience of refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, seated beside members of the Jewish community, that Sukkot is a joyous holiday where, under temporary fragile dwellings, we remember that we are the children and descendants of refugees, and that makes us love each other and all people and be aware of our sacred obligations towards the stranger.

Before the serving of a Middle-Eastern dinner, Amy Lefkof, Co-Chair of JCRI, introduced two refugee couples: a Jewish couple from the former Soviet Union who were resettled in the United States in 1991 by HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), and a young Kurdish couple from Northern Iraq, resettled in 2014 in Charlotte by HIAS's local affiliate Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency. The audience was told HIAS asks us to join them in helping today's refugees, not because the refugees are Jewish, but because we are. To help those ref-



Peter Hindel, member of Temple Beth El, and Syrian refugee Basher Mansour and his mother Ezhour Al Sokkari

ugees in attendance, JCRI member David Cohen explained how net proceeds from the evening would help these refugees pay down their relocation expenses.

Keynote speaker, Merrill Zack,



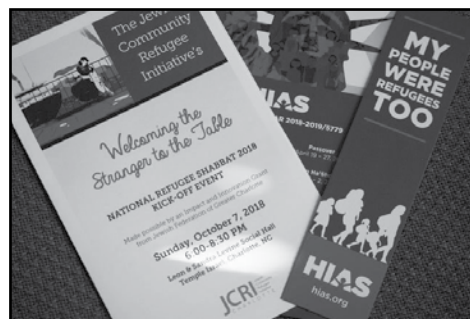
Fruitful Friend Zanib Rashid, a Kurdish refugee from Iraq, with Amy Lefkof, co-chair of JCRI.

HIAS Senior Director of Community Engagement, explained how current United States immigration and refugee policies are causing pain to refugees overseas and asylees at our southern border. Despite the fact that current refugee numbers surpass even those of post WWII, Zack announced that for fiscal year 2019, President Trump set the refugee admissions goal at an all-time low of 30,000 refugees. She noted that this number is just a ceiling; the goal in FY 2018 was 45,000, but less than half that number was admitted. Zack explained

how consistent low ceiling numbers erode the U.S. infrastructure for refugee resettlement.

Rabbi Judy Schindler, Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice, whose family was assisted by HIAS when they arrived at Ellis Island in 1938, appealed to the Jewish community's collective conscience by recalling how Jews on board the St. Louis, filled with Holocaust refugees, were turned away, and 254 of those passengers were murdered on their return to Europe. She warned: "Xenophobia is dangerous and will impact not only our foreign neighbors, but all of us."

Citing the book she co-authored with Judy Seldin-Cohen, *Recharging Judaism*, Rabbi Schindler laid out a ladder of civic engagement for helping refugees, encouraging members



Jewish Community Refugee Initiative program for Welcoming the Stranger to the Table dinner.

of the audience to step up somewhere on the ladder: volunteering with local refugee organizations, educating themselves by reading articles on immigration policy, donating to help with resettlement costs, advocating by calling elected officials or a letter to the editor, organizing by working with agencies trying to raise the refugee admissions ceiling, and joining a national movement

working towards immigration reform.

Theresa Matheny, from Refugee Support Services (RSS), explained RSS's Fruitful Friend program which pairs local refugees with American families. At almost every table that evening, a Jewish Fruitful Friend family sat next to their refugee family. Peter Hindel, a member of Temple Beth El, and Basher Mansour, a Syrian refugee whose torture left him wheelchair-bound, were one pair who came to the stage. Mansour explained his arduous journey from Syria to a Jordanian refugee camp to the U.S. He said he loves Peter and Linda Hindel like family and credited Peter with getting him needed physical therapy.

Marsha Hirsh, Director of Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRRA), HIAS's local affiliate, spoke how refugees become contributors to our community. Since 1996, Charlotte has welcomed over 10,000 refugees through the assistance of CRRRA and Catholic Charities. Hirsch pointed out how refugee resettlement is a public-private partnership that requires hours of volunteerism and local donations of clothes and household items. The end result: "That stranger becomes your neighbor and eventually your fellow citizen" and "they also become your friend."

The evening concluded with Temple Beth El's Rabbi Asher Knight explaining why the Torah portion Lech L'cha "Go, move from here" was chosen for National Refugee Shabbat. Not only did Abraham and Sarah "set out on a journey that took them from the land that they had known to an unfamiliar land and a new future," but one midrash explains

If you were unable to attend the refugee dinner, but would like more information about refugee issues, or would like to volunteer or make a donation to one of the organizations that were represented at the dinner, here is the contact info:
Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice:
www.stangreenspon-center.org
Refugee Support Services:
www.refugeesupportservices.org
Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency:
www.carolinarefugee.org
HIAS: www.hias.org/getinvolved
Jewish Community Refugee Initiative:
www.charlottejcri.org
aflefkof@carolina.rr.com

that the reason Abraham left his father's home was because "he was dissatisfied with the world he saw around him." Employing Rabbi Jonathan Sack's phrase "sacred discontent" to describe the impetus for Abraham's journey "a protest that the world is not as it ought to be," Rabbi Knight urged the audience to "Go, move from here; being complacent is not an option."

Together, former refugees and members of the Jewish community left, perhaps walking, as Rabbi Knight urged, "towards the world as it should be, a world of wholeness and holiness, a world of promise and possibility."☆

Photos courtesy of Lawonna Daves.

Moishe House: WE ARE 2018!

By Rachel Southmayd, Moishes House Communications Manager

There are a lot of people out there who like to talk about what millennials don't do. We don't participate in organized Jewish life, we don't take on leadership roles in our communities, we don't give philanthropically of our time or our money.

All due respect to those people, but they've clearly never heard of Moishes House, especially not Moishes House's annual WE ARE campaign.

More than 300 days of the year, Moishes House residents and Moishes House Without Walls (MHWOW) hosts work to create the most interesting and engaging Jewish programming for their peers. Meanwhile, a team of Moishes House staff and lay leaders work to identify and maintain relationships with federations, foundations, and individual donors who believe in the young adults all over the world who are creating their own Jewish communities.

But for six weeks of the year we flip that script. We ask Moishes House residents, community members, and MHWOW hosts to think of all of the time and money that Moishes House has invested in them over the course of the year and make a meaningful gift to the organization. We ask them to support their own houses and MHWOW and show that they believe in the mission and vision of Moishes House - Jewish young adults taking charge and leading the way in developing incredible, rich, unique communities - just as much as any other donor.

WE ARE matters not because of the dollars raised, although we have a goal of \$110,000 in 2018, but because of the number of peo-

ple who come together to make it happen. We had more than 1,900 donations last year, from far-flung places all over the world. The vast majority of them are 20-somethings, or their friends and family members. The people who run and attend Moishes House programs are the same people who are donating.

We believe in these people and every year during WE ARE, they show that they believe in us. And we couldn't be more grateful.

The 2018 WE ARE campaign launched on October 3. Be part of Moishes House's largest single fundraising campaign yet by visiting www.moisheshouse.org/weare.☆

WE ARE
2018



When hurricane Florence hit the coast of North Carolina, many people were left without resources. In order to get kosher food to the Jewish community, Bentzion Groner enlisted the help of a helicopter pilot he knew and had food delivered to the Chabad. Here he is seen packing some of the boxes before the flight took off. Photo courtesy Rabbi Yossi Groner.

Security Is Everyone's Job

There are over 1,100 different events on Shalom Park each year. Foundation of Shalom Park security officers and Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) officers are the first responders on Shalom Park. At least one officer is at every single event held at Shalom Park. Security is there when the fire alarm goes off, when EMS is called, when you drop or pick-up your children from school or camp, when motion alarms ring at 3 AM in the morning, when our seniors need a ride from their car to the Jewish Community Center, when we ask for help when our car does not start, and when Shalom Park employees receive active shooter training. They open Shalom Park gates before the sun rises and close them long after sun has set; 365 days a year.

Everyone wants more security and safety. They want their families safe at work, school, play, and Temple. The need to protect individuals and property has always existed, but has become more relevant and ever more expensive as the threat level in the country continues to climb.

Following a detailed analysis of our needs, in 2017 security officer presence was increased by 68%, and significant additional technology was added to our overall security presence. This investment, combined with a 10% increase in CMPD pay in 2018 has resulted in an 80% increase in our overall security costs over the past two years.

Ensuring we have the right amount of security and CMPD presence on Shalom Park is the responsibility of the Foundation of Shalom Park, which funds its budget primarily through the rent charged to the Levine JCC, Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, and all of the other Shalom Park tenants. The increasing levels of security we need to keep the park adequately protected have not been fully covered by increasing rents. We estimate that we must raise at least \$160,000 in 2019 to maintain our current level of security.

As in prior years, to help defray the increased costs, in November the Foundation will be approaching the broader Charlotte Jewish community with a personal appeal on behalf of all of the park tenants. In 2017, this appeal raised \$83,000, a significant increase from prior years. Unfortunately, even at this level we were forced to reach into our security reserve funds, which are now nearly gone. To avoid push-



ing the additional costs onto the Shalom Park tenants, whose budgets are already strained, we will again be asking you to contribute directly to our security budget.

Security at Shalom Park is essential to keeping our community safe and vibrant. All community stakeholders have an important role in ensuring the continued

safety of Shalom Park. Security is everyone's job. We are urgently asking for your support of a generous donation to the Shalom

Park Security Fund.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages

the properties and facilities for the organizations located on the central campus of Shalom Park.✱

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Support a Security Vehicle Lease

- * Demonstrate your company's security commitment to Shalom Park
- * Sponsor a three-year lease for a security vehicle
- * Contact Terri Beattie, 704-944-6840

How You Can Keep Shalom Park Safe – Donate to the Security Fund

- * Automatic monthly donation (one year) -\$83.33/month
- *Contact: Karen Roode at 704-944-6841
- *Email Karen: Kroode@shalomcharlotte.org
- * Mail a check – Security Fund, Foundation of Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Rd., Suite 120, Charlotte, NC 28226
- * Donate online – www.shalomcharlotte.org



Brian Meltsner, David Swimmer, and Craig Katzman

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Call us to talk about it

Swimmer Insurance has been protecting our community with quality and affordable insurance for families and businesses since 1953



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704-333-6694

Security Challenge at Shalom Park

- * Increase in activities at Shalom Park
- * Concerns over safety locally and globally increase
- * Rise in security labor costs by 80% in two years
- * Security Fund campaign has begun to offset the security costs for Shalom Park tenants



Which would you rather use?



Can't tolerate a CPAP?
Want to stop snoring, and sleep and feel better?

Come learn about new Snoring and Sleep Apnea Solutions at the SmileCharlotte CLT Sleep Seminar

November 12, 2018

6:30- 8:00 PM- Program and Q&A

Light Refreshment Served

RSVP Requested- Open to the community

Limited Free Consultations Available to Attendees



"Imagine A Life of Health and Smiles"

704-377-2503
info@smilecharlotte.com

Dr. Scott Menaker, DDS
Dr. Tricia Rodney, DDS

2711 Randolph Rd., Ste 205
Charlotte, NC 28207



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future
looks
bright

CHARLOTTE
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Join Us for an Open House

TK/Kindergarten	Upper School
October 5, 2018	October 12, 2018
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Register at CharlotteLatin.org/admissions

Traditional in design,
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This is the Latin way.

Charlotte Latin School was founded in 1970 to create an inclusive environment where academic excellence is encouraged, leadership is cultivated, liberal arts are valued and phonics-based reading is essential. We have educated thousands of students in the importance of learning, citizenship, service to others, hard work and Honor Above All.

CharlotteLatin.org | 704.846.7207

“Whenever I’m in trouble, I pray. And since I’m always in trouble, there is not a day when I don’t pray. In many cases I get the answer even before I pray. The belief that man can do what he wants, without God, is as far as the North Pole. I don’t think religion should be connected with dogma or revelation. Since He’s a silent God, He talks in deeds, in events, and we have to learn this language. The belief in God is as necessary as [eating]. Whatever you call Him - nature or higher power - doesn’t matter. The power that takes care of you, and the farthest star, all this is God.”

--Isaac Bashevis Singer
in Israel Shenker,
Coat of Many Colors

Simplify Your Giving

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“Our donor advised fund is a convenient and flexible tool to assist us with our charitable giving. We have such confidence in the FCJC team that we moved our fund from a commercial provider.”

-Stacey and Ira Slomka



Call Phil Warshauer or Nancy Kipnis to learn more.
www.charlottejewishfoundation.org | 704.973.4544



Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia?

Join them at the JMemory Café!

Meets twice every month:
2nd & 4th Thursdays
10am–12pm
Weinberg Senior Center

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

To register, or for questions: Contact Jill Lipson,
Director of Senior and Adult Services: 704-944-6792

LIMITED SPACE! Registration is required and begins one week prior to each Café until capacity has been reached. Please be sure to make every effort to attend the JMemory Café once you register, as spots are limited and your absence after reservation prevents another family from attending. Thank you!



charlottejcc.org



The LJCC Member and the family member with dementia attend the Café together.

**Socialize, meet new friends,
engage in activities together,
and just have fun.**

The purpose of JMemory Café is to:

- Provide opportunity for regular social engagement & discussion
- Create an environment that is relaxed, safe, and non-judgmental
- Inspire new friendships and peer support
- Provide a break from normal routines
- Enjoy music, art, and other programming

A light breakfast will be served at each Café, sponsored by:



JMemory Café is funded (in part) with a grant from:



“ENHANCING LIFE FOR JEWISH SENIORS”

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

November Happenings at Temple Kol Ami

Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC is blessed to have rabbinical leadership to help us explore our sacred texts, stimulate our intellect, officiate at life cycles, and educate our youth. Rabbi Ana Bonnheim has been a wonderful spiritual mentor at both our Friday night Shabbat services as well as with our TKA Religious School students on Sundays. Rabbi Bonnheim will next be with us on December 7 to lead us in a special Chanukah Shabbat.

Temple Kol Ami is also very lucky to have another amazing

rabbi who has visited with us in the past, Rabbi Bruce Aft of Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield, VA. Rabbi Aft will return to Temple Kol Ami on November 2 for Kabbalat Shabbat service and will also lead us in Torah study on November 3. Rabbi Aft brings a passion for Jewish learning and is extremely engaging with all demographics. For more information about this special weekend, please check our website at www.templekolamisc.org.

Also in November, Temple Kol Ami looks forward to our 3rd An-

nual Friendsgiving Shabbat. This has become a wonderful tradition at TKA, a time to break bread together as a community and give thanks together for the many blessings we have, both in our secular and religious lives. After a short Shabbat service, we enjoy a delicious potluck meal that rivals any traditional family Thanksgiving dinner. Check our website for more information, and drop us an e-mail at yorksynagogue@gmail.com if you would like to join us—we definitely have room for you at our 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 Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. Feel free to join us at a Shabbat service the first and third Fridays



Rabbi Ana Bonnheim



of each month in the beautiful sanctuary of Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill. ☆

Rabbi Klirs Shares Gratitude

On November 18 from 2:30-4:30 PM, Havurat Tikvah will welcome Rabbi Tracy Klirs who will present a study session on Jewish Approaches to Gratitude at the Brenner home located at 3327 Mountainbrook Rd.

The program comes at a time of appreciation prior to the observance of Thanksgiving and will include ways that Jews display and express gratitude during their lifetime.

Rabbi Klirs served as associate rabbi at Temple Israel from 2016-2018 and as its education director from 2012-2016. She also was a part-time support staff person for the congregation, delivering pastoral care and leading daily minyanim, Shabbat services, and life cycle events as needed.

Kosher snacks will be provided by attendees. All items should carry a hechsher in keeping with chavurah food preparation customs, and in keeping with the Brenners wishes as they observe



Rabbi Tracy Klirs

kashrut.

The community is welcome to attend. Those who wish to join in the study session are required to RSVP to admin@havurattikvah.org with the number of individuals attending. Acknowledgement will be sent to respondents to confirm a seat at the event. Space is limited.

The congregation is in the planning stages of its Chanukah celebration slated for Dec. 9. See next month's Charlotte Jewish News or check out Havurat Tikvah's website for details.

Monthly minyan services continue on the third Wednesday of the month. Information on times and locations are on the congregational website's calendar.

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 Reconstructing Judaism.

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/. ☆



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"I am not a Jew with trembling knees. I am a proud Jew with 3,700 years of civilized history. Nobody came to our aid when we were dying in the gas chambers and ovens.

Nobody came to our aid when we were striving to create our country. We paid for it. We fought for it. We died for it. We will stand by our principles. We will defend them. And, when necessary, we will die for them again, with or without your aid."

— Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Senator Joe Biden, in June 1982, who threatened to cut off US aid to Israel

Temple Solel Reflects on the High Holy Days

Temple Solel, located in Fort Mill, SC is a member of the URJ. Our home is in the Community Room of St. Philip Neri Church; however, Rosh Hashanah began with a Children's Service the morning of September 9 at kid-friendly Blooming Einsteins. The children and parents helped us start the Jewish New Year off by participating in a short lesson taught by Ashley Fox followed by Julia Fox blowing the shofar. With help, the children created paper-plate shofars they could blow themselves and a colorful apple stamp project. It was such a fun, noisy, yet meaningful experience filled with friends and guests.



Yom Kippur Services at Carolina Orchards

This year we held special Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur Day Services and break-the-fast at the magnificent ballroom of the Grove at Carolina Orchards. Below is an excerpt from the special Yom Kippur talk given by Temple Solel member, Wendy Weinberger, who shared a special experience and words of wisdom with us. We think you will enjoy it too.

"When Jimmy Carter left the Presidency in 1981, one of the many things he decided he would get back to was teaching a Bible Study class once a month at the Maranatha Baptist Church in his hometown of Plains, GA," Wendy began.

Statesboro, GA, just a few hours away from Plains. I said to my husband, Roy, 'Jimmy Carter is getting on in years. He is already in his 80s and before he dies I'd like to attend one of his Bible Study classes.'

"It took one month for the FBI to check our applications. We received our tickets and packed for the weekend. The secret service men stood outside the church, with earpieces and a wire down the back of their jackets just like in the movies.

"About 50 of us entered the church and were greeted by daughter Amy's former fourth grade teacher whose job it now was to organize the visitors, seat



Wendy Weinberger

from the Northeast like we were, but some came from as far away as Hawaii. One family was visiting from Australia.

"Then the President got down to business and began his Bible Study class. He said: 'Joseph, Mary, and Jesus lived in Bethlehem, but for some reason when Jesus was twelve, and the age of twelve is stressed in the Bible, the family took a trip to Nazareth. But the Bible doesn't tell us why. Why do you think this was?' the President asked.

"Hands went up in the audience and President Carter gave everyone a chance to answer his question. 'Because Joseph couldn't get work in Bethlehem,'

with the visitor. Several possibilities were suggested. He encouraged everyone by saying there was no right or wrong answer. He ended each short discussion by saying: 'So you can see that might certainly have been a possibility.'

"Then I, yours truly, sitting an arms-length away from President Carter, put up my hand and when asked the question I said: 'Perhaps Mary and Joseph were taking Jesus to Nazareth to prepare him for his Bar Mitzvah.'

"The crowd was silent. No one in this class had ever heard the term Bar Mitzvah before. Smiling while looking directly at me President Carter said, 'That could very well be.' Then turning to the class he continued: 'Let me explain. In the Hebrew faith at the age of 13 a young Jewish boy has his Bar Mitzvah. It is a rite of passage into manhood. He has to study an assigned portion of the Five Books of Moses in order to present it to the congregation at a weekly service. Preparation for this rite of passage can take as long as a year. The Bar Mitzvah boy must be able to answer any questions his elders and the rabbi have for him about his portion.'

"Though President Carter knew what a Bar Mitzvah was, nobody else in the room had



Children with their shofarim

was one answer. 'They might have been visiting family,' was another response. He rushed no one and took each comment very seriously. Often he had a dialogue

ever heard those Hebrew words. Nearly everyone in that room had learned something new that day. The way President Carter smiled at me and nodded his approval,



he made me feel he was surprised to hear this answer 'to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah' from someone in this non-scholarly Bible Study setting.

"By my simply introducing the Hebrew words Bar Mitzvah to some 50 gentiles I had exposed them to something new. Hebrew words, Judaism, the rite of passage, and Bar Mitzvah would get them to connect the fact that there were Jews at the time of Jesus. In fact some might even have realized only then that Jesus himself was a Jew. At the Bible Study class we had done a little in helping to bring strangers together, by passing along a new idea and a little understanding that we have more in common than we realize.

"Today on this Holiest of days, Yom Kippur, we need to remember the importance of keeping our minds open to new thoughts and ideas. Even though we might all come from different backgrounds and religions most of us want similar things - a good life for our children and health and happiness for our loved ones, even for strangers. Judaism instructs us to pursue Tikkun Olam, to repair the world, and here at Temple Solel many of us act towards that worthy goal. In the coming year let us continue, and hopefully expand those efforts, so that we can honestly say we have contributed to peace and harmony in our communities."

Do take a look at our website www.TempleSolelSC.org or call us at 803-619-9707. We hope you'll consider visiting us for our regular services, which meet on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 7 PM at St. Philip Neri Church in Fort Mill. Our next service will be on November 9. We'd love to see you there. ☆

CGI Ballantyne Winter Camp

After our fifth incredible and successful summer with more than 100 campers, CGI Ballantyne is back and offering an amazing Winter Camp experience for your children. With activities, games, exciting Jewish themes, daily trips, crafts, and much more, your children will have a blast every single day. Our handpicked staff are experienced, energetic and fun-loving camp counselors, who love working with children. A special thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for their support.

Monday through Friday, December 24-28
9 AM-3:30 PM; Extended care available upon request.

For children ages 3-11.

Children will be split by age:

Preschool, K - 3rd, 4th - 6th

Pricing per child:

Register for one day or for the entire week.

\$55 a day or \$225 for the week (Includes a hot kosher lunch and snacks.)

To register, or for more information contact Leah Levin, Leah@JewishBallantyne.com or 704-246-8881 or visit our website, www.CGIBallantyne.com. ☆

SAVE THE DATE

Kids Mega Challah Bake

Monday, January 21

Light an Ice Menorah at StoneCrest

Join us for an unbelievable experience and help us light a giant Ice Menorah at StoneCrest. Bring your family and friends for an amazing Chanukah night including games, activities, crafts, hot drinks, doughnuts, and latkes.

Monday, December 3 at 5:30 PM.



The Fountains Plaza at StoneCrest Shopping Center
Children's activities will begin at 5 PM

This event is free.

Visit www.JewishBallantyne.com for more details. ☆



Waxhaw Menorah Lighting

Join us for our fourth annual Menorah Lighting in Waxhaw.

Tuesday, December 4 at 5:30 PM.

Downtown Waxhaw, E. North Main St. at the Overhead Bridge.
5:30 PM Menorah Lighting

This event is open to the community free of charge.

For more info, visit www.JewishBallantyne.com ☆



Correct logo? I have another Ballantyne logo.

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

November 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.

November Holiday Hours

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving 7am-1pm

Friday, November 23 – Day after Thanksgiving 5:30am-5pm

**For Holiday Hours & Schedules
please visit our website at charlottejcc.org**

THANKSGIVING TURKEY

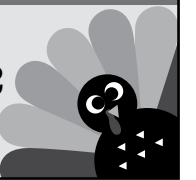
JTROT.

5K or 1.5 Mile • Family Event

**Thursday,
November 22**

8:15 am

M/Free NM/\$10



32nd LEVINE JCC ANNUAL MEETING

at the The Sandra and Leon Levine
Jewish Community Center

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

7:00pm

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

All Are Invited to Join Us!

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

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



LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us you have questions!

Membership

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

Early Childhood

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

K-5th Grade Programs

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

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



2019 MACCABI GAMES & ARTSFEST

Detroit, MI • August 4 – 9

Your chance to

represent your family,
your JCC and our local

culture. Compete in

Basketball • Golf • Flag Football

Soccer • Swimming • Dance • Volleyball •

Tennis Track & Field • Softball • Table Tennis &

more...

For more information visit

www.charlottejcc.org/teamcarolina

or reach out to Team Carolina Delegation Contact

Stephanie Garner • 704-944-6743

Stephanie.Garner@charlottejcc.org



Obstacle Course • Fall Refreshments • Fun!

AGES 7 & UP

**Sunday, November 18th
1-3pm • Outdoor Pavillion**

**Teams of 4-6 people (age 7+)
One adult (18+) required per team
\$40 per Team**

**A Fun Afternoon for
the Entire Family!**

A family-friendly obstacle course
will be set up to create a challenging
yet fun experience for the whole family!

**1:00pm Opening Ceremony
1:15pm Race promptly starts**

Post-race Fall treats and beverages will follow, along with awards and prizes for the winning team, best teamwork, and best team name!

REGISTER AT THE FRONT DESK • 704-366-5007

Questions? 704-944-6870 • jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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

Early Childhood

PlayPlay! Theatre: wee

Ages birth - 3 years old

Life's greatest gifts can come in the smallest packages. Take time to enjoy a moment with your smallest, and, together, experience a story about being little. What does a "wee" one have to give?

Even newborns are welcome at PlayPlay! Theatre productions.

Thursday, Nov 29 • 10am

Friday, Nov 30 • 10am

Saturday, Dec 1 • 4pm

Sunday, Dec 2 • 10am

Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

\$10 per ticket - Purchase tickets at charlottejcc.org/culturalarts or call 704-366-5007

Teens

Teen Community Service Program

Grades 6-8

Looking to do something meaningful this Veterans Day? Write personal letters of appreciation to U.S. Troops. Listen to NC Senator Jeff Jackson talk about the impact such letters have on troops serving away from their families or Make fleece tie blankets for patients on the rehabilitation unit at Levine Children's Hospital. Register at LJCC Customer Service Desk 704-366-5007.

Monday, November 12 • 10am-12:30pm

Levine JCC, Room A111

M/\$7 NM/\$12

julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org or

michelle.rusgo@charlottejcc.org

Adults

Discovery Art Series

Come learn the healing benefits of art from Artist Eileen Schwartz through engaging art experiences. Bring your enthusiasm and desire to explore your unique imagination and creativity. All supplies included. Register by November 2nd at 12pm.

Wednesday, November 7 – Art for the Soul

6:30-7:45pm

Weinberg Senior Center

M/\$25 NM/\$30

shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

The Power of Aging

Discover and uncover the basic physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs which the aging experience challenges you with on a daily basis. Life can be exciting, purposeful and meaningful! Meets once per month on Tuesdays.

Tuesday, November 13 – Making the Most of Every Day

9:15-10:15am

FSP Board Room

shari.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



JSTAGE PRESENTS WINNER 2018 JEWISH PLAYWRITING CONTEST

תגרט ריתקוס שמוח רבא

Summer Night, With Unicorn

By David Rush
Directed by Mark Sutton

Saturday, NOV 3
2pm & 7pm

Sunday, NOV 4
2pm

TICKETS \$15 CHARLOTTEJCC.ORG/CULTURALARTS

Levine JCC Jewish Plays Project AGES 13+ GORELICK HALL

Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia? Come with them to the JMemory Café. Socialize and meet new friends!

- social engagement & discussion
- a safe environment that is relaxed and non-judgmental
- enjoy music, art, and more

The LJCC Member and the family member with dementia attend the Café together.

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Weinberg Senior Center

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In this program, exercises are largely adapted from boxing drills. Boxers condition for optimal agility, speed, muscular endurance, accuracy, hand-eye coordination, footwork and overall strength to defend against and overcome opponents. In Rock Steady Boxing, Parkinson's disease is the opponent. An assessment is required to start the program. Contact Jenny to schedule your assessment.

Next session begins November 20th.

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jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org • 704-944-6870

REGISTER FOR WINTER & SPRING CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

Members: Nov 12
Non-members: Nov 19

charlottejcc.org

Levine JCC Charlotte

50+ Car Menorah Parade to Kickoff Chanukah Celebrations

There will be a 50+ Car Menorah Parade on the first night of Chanukah, Sunday, December 2, leaving from Chabad's campus on Sardis Road around 4 PM. Giant orange menorahs will be mounted on top of cars. Music drones will play Chanukah music hovering above the parade. Our parade will also feature a Friendship Circle limousine.

The parade will con-



clude at Southpark Mall for the giant menorah lighting.

This is an incredible opportunity for your children to display their Jewish pride with exciting, fun-filled activities. Light up the Charlotte night with the spirit of Chanukah.

For more info and to rent a car menorah visit www.ChabadNC.org/Parade. ☆

Giant Menorah Lighting and Contest at SouthPark Mall

This Chanukah, Chabad of Charlotte invites the entire Jewish community, once again, to usher in the Chanukah holiday with a spectacular menorah lighting at SouthPark Mall. This exciting event will take place on Sunday, December 2, which is the first night of Chanukah.

The Chanukah festivities begin at 5:30 PM and will feature entertaining activities for the children. Traditional Chanukah treats will be served free of charge, along with lively Jewish music. The giant menorah will be lit at 6 PM and there will be lots of fanfare. The blessings and other traditional Chanukah songs will be sung.

This year's event will feature an exciting menorah/dreidel contest. Both adults and children are invited to participate and create your own menorah and/or dreidel which will be displayed at the event. Please note that the eight candles of the menorah should be arranged in a straight line, not set in a semicircle, and of equal height (not some randomly higher than others). Please bring your entries to Chabad (6619 Sardis Road) before November 30. The entries will be put on display at SouthPark Mall. Judges will se-



lect the winners and prizes will be awarded for several different categories.

The public venue for the menorah lighting is considered an important aspect of Chanukah. One of the primary reasons for lighting the menorah is to publicize the miracles of Chanukah - the miracle of the limited supply of olive oil which lasted for eight days in the Holy Temple and the miracle of the great victory of the Maccabees over their oppressors.

For more information, please contact Chabad of Charlotte at 704-366-3984, visit chabadnc.org, or e-mail: info@chabadnc.org. ☆

Live from Chabad, It's Saturday Night!

Rabbi Binyomin Weiss at Chabad is known for many qualities. His melodious moving voice has been a staple at citywide Chanukah celebrations, High Holidays at Ohr HaTorah, community rallies, weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, and unfortunately even funerals.

Many kosher symbols on food products produced in the Carolinas are thanks to his careful supervision.

But his captivating storytelling is what we all love most. Just ask any CJDS student or bar mitzvah boy who studied under his care.

Well, now it's your turn to be inspired. Tune in every Saturday night to Chabad of Charlotte's Facebook page ([Facebook.com/OhrHaTorah](https://www.facebook.com/OhrHaTorah)) shortly after Shabbat and enjoy a five minute story that will change your perspective on just about everything.

See ya there! ☆



Rabbi Binyomin Weiss



Meditation's Surprising Ties to Our Religious Practice

By Adam Bernstein

In an attempt to divine some order from mid-life chaos, I recently turned to meditation.

The loss of my parents, a health scare, and other issues were catalysts, and a supportive sibling facilitated with the gift of a subscription for an iPhone app called "Ananda."

Most mornings I'll drag myself out of bed, don headphones, and listen in the pre-dawn darkness to a 15-minute guided meditation led by Deepak Chopra, prolific adherent of New Age thought and practice, over a music track of soothing guitar, nature sounds, or other-worldly electronic music and/or singing.

Meditation takes practice. Sadly, I remain a rank amateur. With concentration and luck, there might be 30 seconds of each session when the outside world is pushed aside and I am alone, free floating between conscious and unconscious realms, unburdened by monkey-brained thinking about daily life or broader existential concerns.

A brief period of mindfulness may be as much as I can achieve in any given day, but even a few seconds are worth the effort.

During a recent session and while failing to reach a mindful state, it occurred to me how similar meditation is to prayer. Indeed, one could argue that meditation is a form of prayer, and vice versa.

It turns out there is a long-standing, natural connection between meditation and Jewish religious practice. References to meditative practice are common in texts throughout Jewish histo-



Adam Bernstein

ry. The Talmud describes a group of pious men in ancient times who would meditate for an hour before and after prayer, as a way to elevate their spiritual experience.

In "The Meditation Mitzvah" on tricycle.com, a website dedicated to exploring Buddhism and its broader cultural ties, writer Jon Shorr examines this relationship and its modern resurgence in the Reform movement.

Until relatively recently, cultural influences obscured the relevance of meditation in their faith from Reform Jews, according to Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. "The Reform movement rebelled against the trappings and practices of traditional eastern European Judaism when it took hold in the United States in the 19th century," she tells Shorr. "(T)he German formality and intellectualism

of early Reform Judaism rejected more soulful practices. And ... because so many Orthodox rabbis who taught meditative practices died in the Holocaust, those more soulful aspects of Judaism were lost and are only now being rediscovered."

Today, incorporating meditation and mindfulness into religious practice is "becoming commonplace" among American Jewish congregations, to positive effect, Shorr writes.

At Temple Beth El, you may witness this phenomenon up close. The temple provided a meditation room and special readings during the interlude between morning and afternoon services on Yom Kippur. On Friday nights, our clergy often leads congregants in preparing for Shabbat worship using meditative techniques such as closing eyes, taking deep, cleansing breaths, and visualizing peaceful settings.

The idea of Shabbat epitomizes the inherent connections between Jewish religious and meditative practice.

"People feel like they can't keep up. Trying to do everything faster is not the answer; it just exhausts," Rabbi Dana Saroken of Congregation Beth El in Baltimore tells Shorr. "Meditation... and other mindful practices are ways for people to create space in their lives in order to be present. God gave us Shabbat to provide, at least for one day, the opportunity to be a human being and not a human doing."

Achieving mindfulness for me is marked by feeling physically lighter, almost weightless. This is

no coincidence. Shedding worldly concerns lightens the spiritual load and brings about a sense of peace, itself a sacred ideal in Judaic thought and liturgy. The Yom Kippur special readings included this teaching from Rabbi Joshua ben Levi:

Great is peace; peace is to the world as leaven is to dough.

And thus we learn: peace is not passivity; a state of restful inertia.

Peace is the fermenting energy, the source of creative and expansive growth.

When there is peace in the world, human talents may blossom and all are enriched.

When there is peace in a family, all members may grow to fulfill their potential.

When there is peace in our soul, we are free to express all the gifts within us.

These lines speak to the enabling power of peace for Jews. The peace achieved through mindfulness yields clarity to make important decisions, set priorities, maximize personal potential and build community.

On my continuing spiritual journey, trying meditation somehow landed me on an ancient road back to Judaism. ☆

Adam Bernstein is a past board president and life-long congregant at Temple Beth El.



"They asked Rabbi Levi Yitzchak: 'Why is the first page number missing in all the tractates of the Babylonian Talmud? Why does each begin with the second [the number bet]?' He replied: 'However much a man may learn, he should always remember that he has not even gotten to the first page.'"

--Martin Buber, *Tales of Hasidim*

Bal Tashchit and Beyond Winterizing Your Garden

Now that fall is coming to an end, it's time to start thinking about winterizing your garden. How you achieve this is dependent on the type of garden and the amount of effort you want to devote to it over the winter months. Here are some basic tips for winterizing most ornamental and vegetable gardens.

No matter what type of garden you have, you will want to remove any invasive plants and weeds. Make sure to remove any dead or dying foliage since it will be a winter incubator for garden pests. Add an extra layer of mulch around the base of your shrubs and trees to give the roots an extra layer of warmth and be sure to give them a deep soak before the first freeze. For newly planted shrubs and trees, you may want to think about covering them in the event of snow or ice.

For your veggie garden, you will want to remove all of your summer plants, taking extra care to get as much of any diseased and pest infested plant material as possible. If you choose to, you can simply leave the beds empty until next year's spring planting or you can plant cold weather crops like kale, arugula, snow peas, lettuce, and beets. You can generally grow these through the winter as long as you cover the plants when the temperature falls below freezing. If you have irrigation system, turn off the water

during the winter and water a few times per week by hand.

Remember that every garden is different and this is just a general overview of how to winterize your garden. If you are unsure of how to prepare a particular plant for the winter, it is always a good idea to ask your local nursery or simply research it online. The more you know about the plants in your garden, the better able you will be to love and nurture it.

If you have an idea for an article, please email info@shalomgreenCLT.org

If you are interested in learning more about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram. ✨



"Lest I slight any creature, I must also mention the domestic animals, the beasts, and the birds from whom I have learned. Job said long ago (35:11): 'Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, and makes us wiser than the fowls of heaven?' Some of what I have learned from them I have written in my books, but I fear that I have not learned as much as I should have done, for when I hear a dog bark, or a bird twitter, or a cock crow, I do not know whether they are thanking me for all I have told of them or calling me to account."

--from S. J. Agnon's speech on receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature, in *Judaism and Vegetarianism*, ed. Richard H. Schwartz



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Photo courtesy of ArtShots Photography

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Writer A.J. Jacobs Traveled Thousands of Miles to Thank Everyone Who Had a Hand in His Morning Coffee

By Cindy Sher

(JUF News via JTA) — Author A.J. Jacobs has encouraged his three sons to be grateful for all they have.

He and his wife urge them to write thank-you notes, to thank the bus driver - even thank their household robot Alexa for weather forecasts.

Jacobs, who is Jewish, sometimes says a prayer of thanksgiving with his family at the dinner table in appreciation of those who helped get food to their plates.

But not too long ago, Jacobs' son Zane raised an observation to his dad.

"You know these people can't hear you, right?" he asked.

Zane's remark got Jacobs thinking. Indeed, those people could not hear him.

So the Manhattan-based humorist and writer set out on a quest to thank everyone who plays a role in making his morning coffee possible.

He chose coffee because it was a more manageable undertaking than an entire meal - and he "can't live without" his java.

Jacobs chronicles the journey in his new book, *Thanks A Thousand: A Gratitude Journey* (TED Books), which comes out November 13 in conjunction with a TED Talk that he delivered on the same topic.

During his quest, which took him from a farm in Colombia to a steel plant in Indiana, he discovered how interconnected the world is. So many more people than he could have imagined contribute to his morning cup of coffee. Obviously there are baris-



A.J. Jacobs, right, at the roastery where they roast his local coffee: the Joe Coffee Company in Brooklyn, N.Y. He is pictured with the plant's roaster and taster. (Courtesy of Jacobs)

tas and farmers, but also unsung heroes like artists (think coffee lid and sleeve designer), chemists, biologists, truckers, and miners.

"I went around the world and thanked everyone I could find," he said, "because they reminded me there are so many people who help with every little thing in our lives and we take them for granted."

All told, Jacobs said he thanked 1,000 people for his cup of coffee — and actually could have thanked way more.

Along the way, he learned that gratitude isn't just a nice gesture for the recipient — scientific research show it's healthy for the thinker, too. A study in Scientific American found that gratitude is the single best predictor of well-being and good relationships. Psychological research shows that gratitude can lift depression, improve our diet, help heart patients recover quicker, and lead to overall greater kindness and happiness.

Before the quest, Jacobs said, his default mood was usually grumpiness. The adventure helped him change his mindset.

"I believe that genetically or culturally my default is negative — more a Larry David than Tom Hanks way of looking at the world. It's fun to watch on TV but not necessarily fun to live," he said.

And Jacobs is certainly not alone — people are genetically programmed, evolutionary psychologists say, to focus on what goes wrong in daily life because

it was a matter of survival back in Paleolithic times.

But the result today is modern-day anxiety — a so-called "deficit mindset" — that's no longer helpful, said Jacobs.

To the contrary, "it's inspiring and energizing to focus on the hundreds of things that go right every day instead of the three or four that go wrong," he said.

Jewish teachings can help us move the needle on gratitude. In research for his book — as well as for his past best-seller, *The Year of Living Biblically*, in which Jacobs embarked on a quest to live according to every precept in the Bible for a year — he learned that much wisdom on gratitude comes from Judaism.

"To be Jewish is to be thankful," one rabbi told Jacobs.

In fact, the very word "Jew," derived from the tribe of Judah, means thanksgiving. We as Jews deliver prayers of thanks from the time we wake up to the time we go to bed.

There is a catchphrase in Judaism that Jacobs learned during his research called "creed before deed."

At first, Jacobs said it was hard to feel gratitude, but if he went through the motions of acting with compassion and gratitude, eventually he would feel them.

"One of the best ways to go about life is to 'fake it til you feel it,' and it's an extremely Jewish way to live," he said. "If you act a certain way and follow the mitzvot, your mind will eventually catch up." ☆

"When you need a physician, esteem him a god. When he has brought you out of danger, you consider him a king. When you have been cured, he becomes human like you. When he sends you the bill, you think him a devil."

--Jedediah Ben Abraham Bedersi



TORAH TOTS



Friday, November 9

TORAH TOTS SHABBAT DINNER (5:30 p.m.) & SERVICE (6:15 p.m.)

Sunday, November 18

TORAH TOTS HANUKKAH BAKING CLASS (9:30 a.m.)

To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

YOUTH

MAHAR: CHOCOLATE BAR IN A CAR
(ALL 3rd-5th Grades)

Sunday, November 4 (12:15-2 p.m.)

Learn about where chocolate comes from, how to make it and, most importantly, how to create a delicious treat! Cost: \$12/ TI-Y Members; \$18/ Non-Members. Register at templeisraelnc.org by Tuesday, October 30.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

GIVE BACK AND GIVE THANKS SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, November 11 (10:30 a.m.)

Location: Harris Teeter - Morrocroft

Join us as we "Give Back and Give Thanks" this holiday season by collecting food donations for a local non-profit organization. For more information or to RSVP, email torahontapclt@gmail.com.

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL (WOTI)

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL PRESENT: NOSH, COOK & KIBBITZ

Thursday, November 29 (7 p.m.)

For the second gathering of our Nosh, Cook & Kibbitz holiday series, we will celebrate the cuisine of Hanukkah! To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

SOCIAL CLUB



SOCIAL CLUB: ANNUAL HANUKKAH LUNCHEON
Sunday, December 9 (12:30 p.m.)

Join us for our annual Hanukkah luncheon, where our own Cantor Shira Lissek will entertain us with a special Hanukkah musical program. Deadline to RSVP: November 30. For more information, please call Ruth Goldberg, (704) 366-8903.

SOCIAL ACTION



MEN'S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE
(Statesville Ave.)

Sunday, November 18, 2018
(Sunday before Thanksgiving)

We'll be cooking dinner at Temple Israel then serving dinner at the shelter. To volunteer, please contact Jonathan Berger (jbergertisa@gmail.com or 704-995-1732).



THE ROSE ROOM - WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP

GIFT SHOP HOURS

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Friday - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Tess Berger (704) 488-3842, Shellie Barer (516) 375-4708 or Cindy Jennes (704) 443-7643.



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

KRISTALLNACHT NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS



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NOVEMBER 7, 2018 - 7 P.M.

Temple Israel

The Kristallnacht Commemoration Committee thanks Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte, The Butterfly Project, and the Stan Greenspan Center for Peace and Social Justice for their partnership and collaboration.



EVENTS



HANUKKAH CELEBRATION & DANCE

Friday, December 8 (6:15 p.m.)

Everyone (all ages) is welcome as we celebrate Hanukkah with a delicious dinner & dance! The evening begins with Havdallah and the lighting of the 7th Hanukkah candle. We will enjoy a delectable buffet dinner followed by a DJ'd dance party and dessert. For additional details and/or to RSVP, visit templeisraelnc.org.

Senior Rabbi Search Congregational Forum

**SAVE ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING DATES**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 (11 a.m.)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 (6:15 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 (7:45 p.m.)

Savor the Season with Libyan Jewish Pumpkin Spread

By Emily Paster

(The Nosh via JTA) – Autumn is upon us. I know because my Instagram feed is full of decorative gourds and pumpkin spice lattes.

But as much as Americans truly love pumpkin, we are sometimes guilty of typecasting this nutritious vegetable as sweet and forget that pumpkin has a savory side, too. Happily, Sephardic cuisine abounds with savory pumpkin dishes to remind us of this fall vegetable's versatility. My favorite of these is chershi karaa, a tangy, spicy pumpkin spread created by Libyan Jews and now a favorite among Israelis.

Chershi (sometimes spelled chirshi or tershi) are spicy, highly flavored condiments or dips that are typically served as part of mezze, the spread of hot and cold dishes that precede the main meal in the Middle East and North Africa. Pumpkin chershi is among the most famous.

I first learned about pumpkin chershi when I attended an event hosted by the Israeli Consulate in Chicago. The event featured leading Israeli food personality Gil Hovav making some traditional Sephardic dishes from his childhood, one of which was pumpkin chershi. One taste of Hovav's savory, spicy chershi and I was hooked.

As is often the case in Jewish cuisine, there are many ways to make pumpkin chershi. In his dish, for example, Hovav mixes pumpkin with carrot and potato.



Others use only pumpkin. But everyone seems to agree that chershi karaa should be spicy and tangy, with lots of garlic and lemon juice.

One of the best things about pumpkin chershi is how easy it is to make. Using canned pumpkin puree, this recipe comes together in a few minutes. The only ingredient you might not have on hand is the harissa, but these days it's easy to find at the grocery store. (Hovav argues that powdered caraway seed is essential to chershi, but I have seen plenty of recipes without it, and since few Americans have this spice in their pantries, I omitted it.)

My goal with this pumpkin chershi recipe was to create a nice balance of sweetness, heat and acid. I guarantee that it will change how you think about pumpkin.

How best to eat it?

Chershi makes a fantastic dip alongside some warm pita with

a dollop of cool yogurt on top. But don't stop there. Chershi also works as a sandwich spread, and it has traditionally been eaten as a garnish for couscous.

This fall, take a break from pumpkin bread and pumpkin spice lattes and make something new and especially Jewish with pumpkin.

Note: The spread will keep in the refrigerator for a week.

Ingredients:

2 T. extra-virgin olive oil
7 cloves garlic, minced
1 t. cumin
1/2 t. smoked paprika
Pinch red pepper flakes
2 c. pumpkin puree (canned or homemade)
3 T. harissa
1 T. honey
Juice of one lemon

Directions:

Heat the olive oil in a med. saucepan over med. heat. Add the

garlic, cumin, paprika, and red pepper flakes. Season with salt and stir to combine. Cook just till garlic begins to turn golden. Add pumpkin, harissa, and honey; stir to combine. Cook gently, just till pumpkin is warmed through. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Taste and adjust seasoning. Dip should be tangy and spicy. Serve with Greek yogurt and warmed pita, or as a garnish for couscous. Serves 6-8.★

Emily Paster writes the widely admired blog *West of the Loop*, primarily about food but with forays into parenting and family life. She is the co-founder of the Chicago Food Swap and is a national leader in the growing food swap movement (community get-togethers where handmade foods are bartered and exchanged. She is the author of the book "Food Swap." [Storey 2016].)

"A woman who eats meat and drinks wine [during pregnancy] will have healthy children. One who eats eggs will have children with large eyes. One who eats fish will have charming children. One who eats parsley will have exceptionally handsome children. One who eats coriander will have fleshy children. One who eats etrog will have fragrant children."

"King Shapur's daughter, whose mother had eaten etrog [while pregnant with her], used to be lifted in front of her father to provide his favorite perfume."

--Chaim Nachman Bialik and Yehoshua Hana Ravnitzky, *Book of Legends*

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- 6:00 pm Family Shabbat Evening Service
- 8:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service

All other Fridays

- 6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays

- 11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Please check www.templebethel.org for weekly service times and details.

Congregational Shabbat Service Saturday, Nov. 17 at 11:00 am

Join us for a lively and warm celebration with active participation from our temple family including teen band and teen vocal ensemble. Service is preceded by featured Questions of Faith study with Rabbi Asher Knight at 9:00 am and brunch at 10:15 am. To learn more or RSVP for brunch, visit www.templebethel.org.

LEARNING

Questions of Faith with Rabbi Asher Knight Monthly on Congregational Shabbat Saturdays at 9:00 am

Join Rabbi Knight in exploring Jewish tradition and contemporary thought on questions raised by the meeting of faith, reason, history, and our lived modern experience.

Learn to Read Hebrew Wednesdays starting Nov. 28 at 7:00 pm

Learning to Read Hebrew is a great way to become more connected to services and prayers. Join us for a thorough beginning Hebrew class that will teach decoding and reading Hebrew. (RSVP)

COMMUNITY



Our youngest Temple Beth El Religious School students learn how to blow a shofar with Rabbi Knight. Photo credit: Jenna Dalli

Join us for these events in November:

Global Day of Jewish Learning – Extraordinary Passages: Texts and Travels

Sunday, Nov. 11 at 8:30 am, Shalom Park (RSVP)

Brotherhood & Sisterhood Brunch

Sunday, Nov. 18 at 10:00 am, Temple Beth El (RSVP)



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Stay up to date with everything at Temple Beth El – follow us on Facebook and visit our website.



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Rapper Drake Has His Own Brand of Jewishness

By Maya Mirsky

San Francisco (J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA) — Drake has held the No. 1 spot on Billboard's Hot 100 chart for most of this year. The Canadian rapper and singer during his career has set or matched records owned by the likes of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Whitney Houston, and Paul McCartney.

In 2014, *Rolling Stone* called Drake "the biggest Jewish rapper since the Beastie Boys." Now he's just one of the biggest rappers of all.

For pop culture watchers, he's a slippery enigma who changes roles and even accents from song to song, all the while keeping his place on top of the charts. And for Jews, he's an anomaly, dominating a genre that isn't exactly known as a Jewish milieu.

"It's still not 'cool' to be a Jewish hip-hop artist," Bay Area DJ Maxwell Alegria said.

Drake, 31, is known for his down-tempo music, at times sensitive lyrics and a mischievous sense of humor. He broke onto the music scene in 2009 with *So Far Gone*, which had a single that peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard chart. His most recent album, *Scorpion*, is an even bigger hit

— all 25 songs appear in the top 100 chart — and has spawned at least one viral meme.

By any measure, Drake is an unusual Jewish celebrity.

He was born Aubrey Drake Graham and grew up in Toronto. His father was African-Ameri-

can, a professional drummer from Tennessee, but Drake was raised primarily by his white Jewish mother, a grade-school teacher. According to earlier interviews, he went to a public high school that was largely Jewish but felt he didn't fit in and was the target of racist remarks, including "shvartze."

"I didn't have the worst time, but I did have a hard time. I was always the last kid to get the invite to the party," he told *Rolling Stone* in 2014.

At 15, however, his life changed when he was cast on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, a Canadian teen TV drama he was on for six years. (He would return to graduate from high school.)

Drake also told the magazine that he's "proud to be Jewish." He occasionally posts Instagram photos of Passover and Chanukah gatherings, and told *Rolling Stone* that "I celebrate holidays with my family."

Still, his Jewishness is not widely known among his many fans, like Leila Pifko.

"They probably — hmm, I'm not sure," mused Pifko, a senior at Jewish Community High School of the Bay. "I'm honestly not sure. I feel like they might? Some people might know."

While public musings over his ethnicity are not uncommon on internet forums, few fans apparently ask Google if he's Jewish — it doesn't even come up as one of the top 10 search results for the query "Is Drake ...?"



Drake at a soccer game at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, July 20, 2017. (Aaron M. Sprecher/AFP/Getty Images)

Some of his fans, though, are definitely in on it.

"Jewish men in particular really know Drake is Jewish — and love that," said Alex Fraknoi, a San Francisco-based Jewish rapper.

It's not that his Jewishness is a secret. Drake played up his Judaism in a 2014 skit on *Saturday Night Live*, doing a satirical re-enactment of his bar mitzvah in a wig and kippah, rapping "I'm black and Jewish/it's a mitzvah" over a klezmer clarinet.

Bar mitzvahs seem to be a theme for Drake. Not only did he have a bar mitzvah himself, but in 2017 he threw a bar mitzvah-themed birthday party. In 2012, he released a music video for his song "HYFR" that purported to be a "re-bar mitzvah"

that showed Drake rapping and praying in a Miami synagogue in front of family friends and music friends. There's also a post-bar mitzvah "party" that gets wild, with guests chugging Manischewitz and rapper Lil Wayne joyfully smashing a skateboard into a table.

That kind of self-referential playfulness makes Drake a hero to a certain crowd.

"I would definitely say that it definitely makes me more proud as a Jew," said Pifko, who like Drake has Canadian roots.

But Drake identifies as black, while the few other Jewish rappers who have found a degree of fame are uniformly white. The Beastie Boys, the multiplatinum trio of Michael Diamond, Adam Yauch, and Adam Horovitz, argu-

ably is the other most famous, topping the charts at the height of their popularity. But there's a major drop after that. The list usually includes Matisyahu, who gained fame for performing in Hasidic garb (he has since shaved his beard).

Asked about Drake in 2012, Matisyahu said, "He's Jewish, but he's not representing Judaism. He happens to be Jewish, just like Bob Dylan happens to be Jewish."

The only other non-white Jewish rapper of note is Shyne, the son of the prime minister of Belize and a former protegee of Sean "Diddy" Combs. Shyne found Judaism while in prison and now lives an Orthodox life as Moses Levi. He has dissed Drake as "an actor from Canada."

Jewish hip-hop has traditionally leaned heavily on parody, according to Judah Cohen, a professor of musicology and Jewish studies at Indiana University who wrote a 2009 academic article on the subject. Lil Dicky is a prime example. Even the Beastie Boys originally posed dripping in gold chains in a satire of bling-focused gangsta rap. According to Cohen, that kind of parody attracts attention by creating a pairing — Jews, or at least the socially prevalent idea of Jews, and rap — that in itself is humorous by virtue of its unlikelihood.

But Drake is not parodying the hip-hop ethos — he is embracing it. His success as a rapper and R&B singer, genres rooted in Af-

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Drake Has His Own Brand of Jewishness

(Continued from page 29)

rican-American culture, is as a black artist. He's a Jew of color, but it's not his primary public image. That brings up some tricky navigating of identity.

"He might have had to code-switch into his blackness instead of away from his blackness because of how he was raised," speculated Satya Sheftel-Gomes, 17, a high school junior in New York City and a longtime camper with San Francisco's *Be'chol Lashon*, an advocacy group for Jews of color.

Sheftel-Gomes is black and Jewish and does not deny that it's nice to have a famous artist out there who is like her in that way.

"It's great for me!" she said, laughing.

For one thing, the teen has a great riposte for those who say they have never heard of anyone else with an identity like hers.

"I'm like, yes you have, you definitely have, because Drake is black and Jewish," she said.

Sheftel-Gomes, however, believes Drake is less a representative of a specific identity and

more someone who uses his Jewishness and blackness as tools to increase his audience. She calls him a "racially ambiguous, religiously atheist rapper who makes good music for everyone."

"He only really identifies parts of himself when it is appropriate to his popularity," she said.

Sheftel-Gomes doesn't judge him for that — after all, fame means appealing to a wide range of people.

"I think the reason he's such a pop star is his ability to do that," she said.

Cohen agreed.

"It's been interesting to see how Drake has been presenting himself," the musicologist said.

Cohen, who sometimes discusses Drake in his classes on Jewish popular music, said successful pop artists are always concerned about maintaining their mass appeal.

"People look to celebrities to reflect who they are," he said, "to realize an idealized version of themselves."

But Cohen said the need for a

superstar to appeal to a wide audience is, for rappers, at odds with the heightened demand to be "authentic."

"That's one of the big debates you'll see in hip-hop," he said.

That means Drake's ability to straddle his identities, from a former bar mitzvah kid to a hard street rapper, doesn't always work.

"Started from the bottom' ... but he's a Jewish kid from the suburbs!" said Fraknoi, referring to one of Drake's biggest hits, in which he raps, "Say I never struggled, wasn't hungry, yeah, I doubt it."

Fraknoi is a 24-year-old white rapper who performs as Frak. He is San Francisco-born, went to the Brandeis School and has been rapping since he was a teen.

"I have a complicated relationship with Drake," Fraknoi said. But "I definitely respect him musically and as a rapper."

Fraknoi, who participates in rap battles in which authenticity is prized and is open about his Jewish background, finds

Drake's eliding of identity a little "cringe-worthy."

"And many times it's inauthentic to his upbringing," he said.

Alegria is Jewish and Filipino and has been working bar and bat mitzvahs in the Bay Area since he was 14 (he's now 31, the same age as Drake). He's familiar with assumptions of what a Jew looks like.

"A lot of people see me and don't necessarily think that I'm Jewish," he said.

Nor does Alegria think most casual hip-hop listeners know that Drake is Jewish.

"He talks about it very rarely, I'd say," Alegria said. "In his music he doesn't go around exactly parading it."

Fraknoi said the same.

"I don't think he's that open about it in his music," Fraknoi said. "And he doesn't do interviews."

(Drake is press shy and does few interviews; J. requested one but was denied.)

The 2012 "HYFR" video could be called Drake's most Jewish statement to date, although it was controversial.

"I'm proud — a proud young

Jewish boy," Drake said in a "making of" video for "HYFR."

"When I had a bar mitzvah back in the day, my mom didn't really have that much money. I told myself that if I ever got rich, I would throw myself a re-bar mitzvah. That's the concept of the video."

Filmed in and outside Miami's Reform Temple Israel, the video, which includes plenty of explicit words, shows Drake at the bimah in a kippah with a rabbi reading the Torah and kissing the fringe of his tallit. The party that follows (not filmed in the sanctuary itself) becomes hilariously raucous. There's a pan shot of iconic Jewish food, and Drake is lifted into the air in a chair while chanting the (also explicit) chorus lyrics. Candles are lit and a cake is shown, and later smashed, in front of a large Star of David.

The synagogue leadership at first defended the decision to let Drake film there, but later tempered their position, telling JTA that the lyrics of the song — which has nothing to do with Judaism but includes stories of Drake's sexual conquests — was not consistent with the temple's values. The director of the video, however, said the shoot was respectful.

Perhaps for his Jewish fans Drake doesn't have to embrace his roots any more than he already does, or talk publicly about his Jewishness to prove himself. Maybe what he's done is enough to be inspiring.

"I'll bet the answer is 'yes' to that," Fraknoi said. "He doesn't even have to do anything. He [just] has to be Jewish and famous."☆

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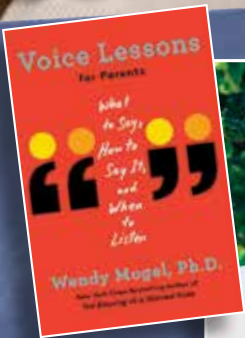
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