

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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Tishrei-Cheshvan 5779

October 2018

A Taste of Israel: A Special Event with Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy

Thursday, October 18 at 7 PM in The Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park

2017 James Beard Foundation "Outstanding Chef" Michael Solomonov and James Beard award winning restaurateur Steve Cook put Israeli food on the American culinary map. As they launch their brand-new cookbook, *Israeli Soul*, they'll join us for a savory conversation about their path to success, how they choose to give back, and, of course, how they landed on the perfect hummus recipe.



Enjoy wine and light hors d'oeuvres from their latest cookbook, which will be available for sale that evening, while learning more about the impact of Women's Philanthropy in Charlotte.

Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased online at www.jewishcharlotte.org. To learn more please contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, at tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759. ✧



Michael Solomonov and Steve Cook.



Inspired by our tradition of tzedakah (righteousness/charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world), the Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity, and thriving future of our Charlotte Jewish community, Israel, and the Jewish people.

Ten Years of Soaring to New Heights

As the Levine JCC Butterfly Project reaches its 10th anniversary milestone year, its achievements and goals for the future continue to soar higher. We will celebrate our success on Sunday, October 14 and will feature Charlotte Ballet choreographer Jeanene R. Perry's ballet, "Goodnight Day," which was inspired by our workshop. We hope that you will be able to join us, enjoy the performance, and hear Jeanene's story of how her son's profound reaction to the workshop he attended through school motivated their family to learn more about the Holocaust and ultimately inspired Jeanene to choreograph the ballet - performed by dancers who subsequently participated

in a Butterfly Project workshop themselves. Note that seating will be limited, so we strongly encourage you to register early for this free event.

During the 2017-18 school year, we celebrated the completion of the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial with an inspiring film event, initiated a multi-year effort to create a streaming, virtual workshop offering for schools too far from Shalom Park to attend a traditional on-site workshop, and continued to provide impactful educational workshops to almost 6,000 participants annually. Over the past ten years, we have educated just under 35,000 participants - 17% of the world-

wide project's total.

However, statistics only scratch the surface of our story. The Butterfly Project's real success is in the depth of the important lessons we provide and the heartfelt, insightful reflection cards that our participants write. Reflections such as from 14-year-old Sasha, who wrote, "Through this trip, I have learned to open up more to acceptance, because even though I am different, I sometimes can discriminate. I will, from now on, never discriminate on another solely on who they are. This experience has changed me greatly. Thank you." And, from 13-year-old Josh, who wrote, "I think that even though we live in a world full of hate, evil, and violence, somewhere in the eye of this great hurricane, there is hope, joy, and love for everyone. The problem is getting there. And the Butterfly Project is bringing us a step closer."

The Levine JCC Butterfly Project began in 2008 with a small group of dedicated and passionate volunteers who had learned about the worldwide project begun by the San Diego Jewish Academy. The project's goal is to paint 1.5 million ceramic butterflies worldwide in memory of the 1.5 million children who were killed during the Holocaust. During the next few years, our volunteers took butterflies and some short lessons into Charlotte area classrooms and other community organizations. In May of 2011, the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial, containing approximately 2,800 ceramic butterflies, was dedicated on Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In November of 2011, the greatly enhanced Levine JCC



Butterfly Project Workshop was brought home to Shalom Park. Multiple days a week, busloads of students from public and private schools in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties attend a two and one-half hour field trip. During that time, the students hear the experiences of Holocaust survivor Suly Chenkin or Irving Bienstock, participate in an interactive, multimedia exercise using the Anti-Defamation League's Pyramid of Hate, paint a ceramic butterfly memorializing a specific child who perished in the Holocaust, and visit the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial.

Our effectiveness has not gone unnoticed. Teachers have been re-enrolling their schools for the coming year at an unprecedented rate, and we have received ex-

tremely positive teacher feedback and touching student reflections. The Butterfly Project has also been fortunate to receive grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the United Way of Central Carolinas.

The Levine JCC Butterfly Project is so very grateful to all who make this effort possible. These include the teachers who bring their students to us, our approximately 50 active, dedicated volunteers and staff who work countless hours to produce the workshops, and our wonderful donors without whom we could not achieve these outstanding results, all of whom should feel tremendous pride in what we are accomplishing together.

To ensure your spot at our free 10-year anniversary celebration on October 14, please register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007. For more information about the workshops or to volunteer, please contact Lori Semel, Butterfly Project Supervisor, at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org. ✧

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

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Innovation.
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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



Shortly before the publication of his second novel *Saving Sophie*, Ron Balson visited Charlotte as a guest of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. A Chicago attorney, Ron explained that his first novel – international bestseller *Once We Were Brothers* – was rejected by all publishers. After self-publishing the book and distributing copies to family and friends, *Once We Were Brothers* sold over 100,000 copies by word of mouth before St. Martin's Press acquired the rights. Now Ron's highly anticipated fifth novel *The Girl From Berlin* is scheduled for publication later this month.

Catherine Lockhart, a Chicago attorney, and Liam Taggart, a top-notch investigator, team up in each of Balson's novels to untangle the mysteries surrounding their clients' cases. In *The Girl From Berlin*, we find Liam and Catherine in Tuscany after agreeing to help an old friend whose elderly aunt is being evicted from her property. The only clues to this case are lodged in an old manuscript handwritten in German about the life of an extraordinary young female violin-

ist during World War II. How are the lives of "the girl from Berlin" and the elderly Italian landowner connected?

The Girl From Berlin is a fast-paced novel that will keep you reading into the wee hours. If you haven't read Ron Balson's previous books, you're in for a treat! The first four bestsellers - *Once We Were Brothers*, *Saving Sophie*, *Karolina's Twins* and *The Trust* – can all be found at the Center for Jewish Education.

Talented novelist Jenna Blum, author of *Those Who Save Us*, will speak in Charlotte on Sunday, October 21 at 7 PM in the Lerner Center. She was the guest speaker at the Jewish Federation's Spring Lecture in 2008, and returns on behalf of the CJE to talk about her new novel *The Lost Family*.

The Lost Family is the story of chef and restaurateur Peter Rashkin whose first wife and twin daughters perished in the Holocaust. Peter's current family – his much younger wife, troubled daughter and well-meaning elderly relatives - form the backdrop of this new novel.

These two novels of historical fiction have a common theme –



"survivor syndrome." In *The Girl From Berlin*, Ron Balson writes about "survivor syndrome" when he says, "Often, people who have endured...horrors suppress the memories and push them to the back of their consciousness. They have to get on with their lives, so they do not allow those painful memories to the surface. Children of survivors often talk about a psychological disconnect. Their parents don't discuss those years with the family. It's the elephant in the room, but the door stays closed." In our two novels, Peter Rashkin's inability to talk about his "lost family" negatively influenced all those around him. And as we read about the lives of Ava Baumgarten and her family in Berlin, who are maneuvering through the horrors of Nazi Europe, we learn of selfless sacrifices that had far reaching effects on the next generation.

Survivor syndrome isn't limited to those who survived the Holocaust. Be on hand for our CJE Book Club on Wednesday, November 14th when we discuss *Faithful* by Alice Hoffman about a teenaged driver who survived a horrific accident only to experience years of psychological trauma. ☆

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

CJE CALENDAR: OCTOBER 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 Library Closed Today!	2 Library Closed Today!	3 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	4	5 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
7	8	9	10 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	11	12 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
14 PJ Library at the Farm 10:00 AM Darby Acres Farm	15	16	17 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	18	19 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library
21 On the Same Page, Chapter 1 Jenna Blum 7:00 pm Sam Lerner Center	22	23	24 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library	25	26 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

Join the Bubbie Brigade!



Interested in keeping active and helping children and their families? PJ Library has the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. We need help at our monthly PJ Library family events.

Bubbies may be asked to help with arts and crafts, registration, set up and even some organization. Our flexible schedule meets your availability. Please say you'll join our Bubbie Brigade.

For more information call Debby Block 704-944-6780. ☆



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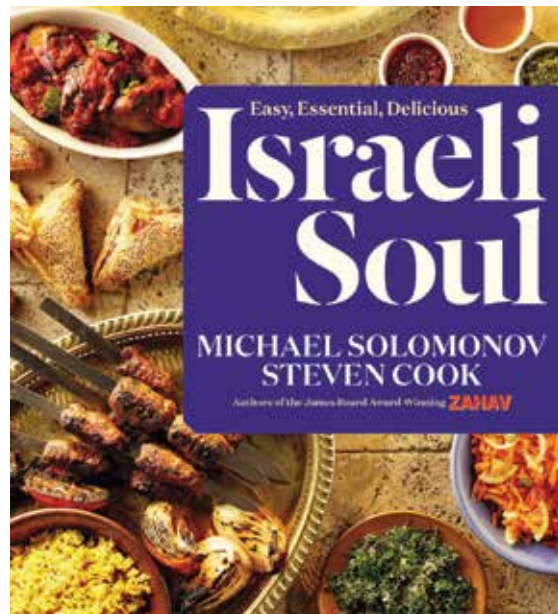
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OCTOBER 18 | 7:00 PM
SAM LERNER CENTER FOR CULTURAL ARTS



Meet Chef Michael Solomonov & Steven Cook

*Light Hors D'oeuvres and wine will be served.
Book Sale and signing following the program.*

Tickets: \$36 per person

To learn more and to RSVP visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Dancing with the STARS on Simchat Torah

Join us for a grand Torah celebration for kids and adults. Enjoy a delicious dinner in the Sukkah followed by dancing with the Torah and a special program for the kids. Simchat Torah is all about unbridled joy, which surpasses even the joy of Sukkot. The joy reaches its climax on Simchat Torah, when we celebrate the

conclusion – and restart – of the annual Torah-reading cycle.

Monday, October 1, 6:30 PM
At the Ballantyne Jewish Center, 8632 Bryant Farms Rd.

Open to the community; free.
RSVP appreciated - Leah@JewishBallantyne.com, 704-408-1116. ☆



Temple Kol Ami Starting Youth Group

Many of us have fond memories of going to Kadima, United Synagogue Youth, or B'nai Brith Youth Organization meetings as kids. We met lifelong friends, had sleepovers, performed mitzvah projects, and attended services together. For some of us, Jewish classmates were the norm, not the exception. In York County, SC, although the Jewish population is growing, our Jewish youth are often the only Jewish students in their classes or schools. Developing Jewish friendships can be difficult. At Temple Kol Ami, we feel it is important for our kids to develop a strong Jewish identity, and fostering Jewish friendships is key to this. We have decided to address this problem by starting our own youth group. The TKA Youth Group will give our kids the opportunity to socialize and have fun outside of the Temple/Religious School environment. TKA is so committed to making sure our children know that they are not “alone” in York County that we have decided to subsidize all events — all Youth Group outings will be fee for TKA members.

The Youth Group is open to kids in 5th through 8th grades and will be led by our coordinator Erin Roseman. The first event (details TBA) is scheduled for October 14. Future tentative dates are December 16, February 24, and April 28. At least one of the activities will include a mitzvah project. Keep an eye on the Temple Kol Ami calendar at www.templekolamisc.org for details, and feel free to contact Erin at rosemanerin@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP for an event.

Looking ahead to November, please mark your calendars to join us when Rabbi Bruce Aft will return to Fort Mill to lead us in both Kabbalat and Shacharit Shabbat services as well as Torah study the weekend of November 2-3. Rabbi Aft comes to us from Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield, VA and has been with us four times previously in the

last few years. He has a devotion to Jewish learning and leads stimulating Torah study. He has been well-received on all of his previous visits to Temple Kol Ami, and we are incredibly excited to welcome him back. For more information, please check the Temple Kol Ami website. All events are free and open to the public.

Temple Kol Ami is a diverse and welcoming Reform Jewish congregation. We hold Friday night Shabbat services the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month in the beautiful sanctuary of Philadelphia United Church, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill, SC. We would love to have you visit our congregation and find out about our warm, family-oriented environment. ☆



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Snacks will be served.

This event is free with your registration. To register visit www.JewishBallantyne.com/HomeDepot.

Please note, there is limited space available.

Questions? Email Leah@JewishBallantyne.com.

Sponsored by The Home Depot and The Ballantyne Jewish Center. ☆



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Temple Beth El Follows Path of Three Centuries of Southern Jews

By Rabbi Judy Schindler

August 5 marked twenty years since I arrived in Charlotte. By sheer coincidence, I spent my twentieth anniversary of becoming a Southerner immersed in a Hebrew Union College intensive graduate course on Southern Jewry. I spent the week learning from scholars in Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Savannah about the critical role Southern Jews played in the development of America since Colonial times.

Though it took me many years to embrace my new identity as a Southern Jew, I recommend that those of you who are transplants embrace that identity far sooner — for there is much of which to be proud.

From the time of landing on Southern ports, Jews contributed medically. Dr. Samuel Nunez was the first practicing physician in Georgia, having arrived to Savannah in 1733, just in time to stop a violent epidemic of dysentery. Virtually every Atlanta hospital had Jews involved in its creation.

Jews contributed economically. While at first, James Oglethorpe, the founder of the Georgia colony, was instructed by the British Trustees not to deed any land to Jews, their success in farming, trade, wine-making, and as soldiers convinced him to grant them property.

Jews contributed religiously. Among the houses of worship in Savannah, Mickve Israel stands as a historic and impressive



building. Having just celebrated its 285th anniversary, the congregation is valued. Throughout nearly three centuries, they have stood not alone but worked collaboratively with interfaith partners. Similarly, The Temple in Atlanta in its 158 year history and

“From the time of landing on Southern ports, Jews contributed medically ... economically ... religiously.”

our Temple Beth El in its 75 years have become known as beacons of interfaith partnership.

Jews of the South have provided moral leadership. Dr. Gary

Zola, Executive Director of the American Jewish Archives (the largest free standing archives documenting the American Jewish experience in the world) shared recordings of Southern Rabbis' clear words of courage.

“While some of our predecessors stood on the wrong side of history, far more contributed to creating a more just South as we continue to do today.”

In response to the 1958 bombing of Nashville's JCC, Rabbi William Silverman spoke strongly against violence aimed at intimidation: “I believe that any spiritual leader who does not speak forth and lead his congregation on moral issues is not worthy of being the Rabbi of this or any other congregation, — and I speak clearly and without equivocation that all may understand: together with the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, I favor integration -- not only because I am a Jew, not only because my religious faith teaches that God is our universal Father, that all men are brothers, created in the divine image; that

all men regardless of their faith or their race are endowed by God with equal rights.”

Just four days after the 16th Street Church bombing in Birmingham, AL, in 1963, Rabbi Milton Grafman included the four girls killed and others into his Kaddish recitation at Rosh Hashanah services, “Let us bow our heads in silence. In memory of Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, James Robinson, Virgil Ware wantonly killed, insanely slain, brutally murdered, whose deaths we mourn, whose families we would comfort and the shame of whose murders we would and we must have our city [Birmingham] atone.”

As Southern Jews, we contributed civically, socially, politically, and morally. We helped build cemeteries and benevolent societies, and the field of social work. We built social clubs and became freemasons, mayors, and state legislators.

Most of all, as Southern Jews, we were crafters of American Judaism. Of the first six Colonial Jewish congregations (in Providence, New York City, Philadelphia, Richmond, Savannah and Charleston), the Northern remained Sephardic and traditional and the Southern became Reform. Our predecessors saw a need for innovation and modernization of worship and religious practice and thrived as a result. We supported American-trained rabbis



who would become leaders of our anciently rooted people adapting to realities in new land.

There are parts of our Southern Jewish past which cause us shame. There were Jews who were slave owners. There were Jews who supported segregation. Jews have always been part of the fabric of American society - for good and for bad. While some of our predecessors stood on the wrong side of history, far more contributed to creating a more just South as we continue to do today. Our Reform predecessors were partners in strengthening our country every step of the way.

Whether we have lived in Charlotte one year or our family has been here one hundred years, we should be proud of the community roles we have played and contribute strongly to our community as proud Jews and as proud Americans.☆

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New JLI Course Addresses Dissonance Between Religion and Western Values

This November, Chabad of Charlotte will offer Wrestling with Faith, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), that openly addresses common challenges people have in their relationship with God.

Beginning Tuesday, October 23, at 7:30 PM for the evening class and Wednesday, October 24, 11 AM for the morning class, participants in the course will grapple with issues that many struggle with, including beliefs in Judaism that seem primitive or outdated, reconciling scientific findings with ideas that cannot be proven in a lab, and the role of religion regarding gender roles, relationship choices, and other such controversial issues.

"We recognize that almost everyone has some degree of skepticism when it comes to religion," says Rabbi Yossi Groner of Congregation Ohr HaTorah, the evening JLI Instructor. "We've created this course for participants to think critically about these challenges - to approach them with an array of insightful perspectives - so we can articulate our beliefs to ourselves and to the next generation with clarity and conviction."

"I like to think of this course as more of a journey, because, intellectual questions aside, it's mostly the deep emotional blockages that seem to hinder our relationship with God. It's not a polem-

ics course, but one that speaks to the inner struggles we experience and to the heart of the issues that concern us deeply," said Rabbi Groner.

Wrestling with Faith explores questions such as: Why do I need God if I can live perfectly well without Him? Does God really care about the nuances of Jewish practice? Doesn't the concept of "Jewish chosenness" seem racist? How can we relate to a loving and caring God amid the experience of tragedy and suffering? How do we reconcile compelling evidence for evolution and the age of the universe with a Bible that tells a different story? And: Is it even possible to develop a relationship with a God I cannot perceive with my five senses?

"People often deal with such issues by going on the defense," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's New York headquarters. "In this course we stay away from that. Instead, we embrace the challenges wholeheartedly and seek a broader context through which to understand the issues."

Jennifer Wiseman, an astrophysicist at NASA and the director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion, commented about the course: "At a time when science and technology dominate the mechanics and framing of our

modern lives, it is more important than ever to ask the bigger questions of life's purpose and values. This course enables the seeker to embrace the achievements of modern science while seeking the higher gifts of wisdom, meaning, and a personal relationship with God."

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any pri-



or experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the wider Charlotte community.

The JLI has raised the bar of Jewish erudition in Charlotte by examining important issues of Judaism in a deep yet comprehensive way. It has succeeded in demystifying the complex and opening the doors to Jewish knowledge to the greater Charlotte community.

Rabbi Yossi Groner will lead the evening JLI classes, morning classes will be led by Rabbi Shlomo Cohen. Each student will be provided with a textbook as well as online resources through the myJLI.com website. Fee for the course is \$99 per single and \$180 per couple.

Interested in taking the course? Please call 704-366-3984 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Charlotte as part of Chabad's effort to raise the level of Jewish knowledge within our community. ☆

Temple Solel Embraces the New Year Ahead

Just a short time ago it was the beginning of our year. Hopefully we haven't already veered off the path and are staying the course. Being able to recount and recalibrate our current course is such an opportunity. We don't have to be like those who wait until later in life and realize they haven't accomplished all they dreamt of. To modernize a Yiddish Proverb, "A person is not old until their regrets take the place of their dreams." At any age, we can embrace our most Holy Days all year long as a time we redefined a new vision for our lives. It is a time to forgive. It is a time to dream. It is a time for tikvah or hope.

A motivational business con-

sultant once asked, "Are you with people who will support your vision or goals? Do you have the right friends? Are you connected with the colleagues who will take you to the next level?" He proceeded to discuss that in most cases, we need to be prepared and willing to completely change in order to embrace new paths. Our Temple chose the name "Solel" because it means "pathfinder" and "trailblazer." It describes the pioneering spirit of our congregants who are full of life, ideas, and goals.

Recently a new Presidents' Council was hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and led by Alison Lerner. The first

meeting was held and this group of local leaders described their organizations, what was working well, and potentially what areas they needed help or insight to improve. It is an example how finding opportunities to consult with like-minded people can be like an icebreaking vessel to provide safe passageways for other boats to follow. There will always be people who know more than we do. There will always be people who we can help. This year make a goal to find one new person or a group of people who you can relate to and join together with and support each other.

(Continued on page 19)

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Rabbi Journal II

Now, How Do I Answer That?

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim,
Charlotte Torah Center

This subject might make some people uncomfortable but it is a question I am often asked. When someone in the Jewish community asks, it's usually in response to a question asked by a non-Jewish person at the office (and the Jewish person didn't have an answer). When a non-Jewish person asks me the question, it's usually out of curiosity about something that seems so obvious that they can't understand how someone could disagree. The question: Why don't the Jews accept Jesus as the Messiah? Although people get fidgety and try to slip away from the situation, the answer, like all others in the Torah and our heritage, is something for which we neither apologize nor evade. That being said, we are not here to disparage the beliefs of other people, especially those who do so much social welfare for the world, rather we just want to speak rationally and provide a safe space for the person's question. Here goes.

Judaism has three fundamental issues with Christian theology.

1. Trinity. Jewish belief has never, will never, and does not believe that God has a human form. God is beyond space and time; God not taking a physical form is one of the central ideas in Judaism. Making a corporealization of the Deity is a violation of

a basic Jewish tenet.

2. Classical Jewish literature does not accept the notion of a second coming. Once messiah reveals himself, he will accomplish a designated mission of getting the Jews back to Israel and rebuilding the Temple and establishing world peace. Jesus was crucified before he completed any of these things and therefore we cannot accept him as the Messiah. The way Christianity got around this was to develop the concept of a second coming in which he will complete his mission. Our version is that when the messiah comes, he is going to get the job done and that he is not coming back.

3. Judaism is based on mitzvot, i.e. proper conduct and good deeds (action). Christian theology (i.e. either Jesus, the apostles, or architects of the early Church) states that God abrogated and replaced His covenant. A major ramification of this is Paul's innovation that one gets redemption not by actions but by faith. That is a theological postulate that is inconsistent with Judaism. One might argue that this is Paul's innovation not Jesus', but the main point is that it is diametrically opposed to Judaism.

There is nothing negative above these three points, they are merely meant to articulate why Jews have not historically accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

At this point, one question is usually asked: Doesn't the Old Testament predict the events of the New Testament? No, not if you read them in the original Hebrew or in accurate translations such as Artscroll's Stone Edition or the Jewish Publication Society's Eitz Chaim. (This subject is too broad to discuss in the limited space of this article.)

So where does this leave us? What do Jews actually believe concerning the Messiah? Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Britain's former chief Rabbi, closed one of his talks on the subject with these words.

"Our task – to repeat – is to be true to ourselves and to be a blessing to others; to bring forward the Messianic Age, the narrative of redemption, to do so by the example of our lives and, through our lives, to reduce that dissonance ... We bring Moshiach – we bring redemption – one day at a time, one act at a time, one life at a time – respecting the faiths of others because we are confident in our own; inviting others to join with us in building a world worthy of being a home for the Divine Presence. I have to tell you that although that is a lofty goal, ... there is not one member of the Jewish world today that does not have an important and unique task in that process ... And we are part of a people that we can be proud. That is what is bringing

the Messianic moment closer, one day at a time.

"The Jewish Messiah does not come to atone for our sins, he instructs us how to live without them and usher in an age of peace, something humanity with its own devices has failed to accomplish. At that time, ... they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into prun-

ing hooks- Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." ☆



Women's News

Temple Kol Tikvah Sisterhood

On Monday, August 27, the Sisterhood of Temple Kol Tikvah sponsored a talk on "Human Trafficking In Our Community."

Bo Quickel, founder of Vigilante Truckers, spoke to our congregation and members of our community about human trafficking and sex slavery.

It was a revealing talk of the hideous crimes that plague our community and society. We were also privileged to have a new member of our congregation, Mindy Sanchez, who added to this conversation. Mindy is an Attorney and was a Professor of Criminal Procedure.

If you would like more information regarding this topic, please visit VigilanteTruth.com.☆



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SCHOOL NEWS

Empathy is the Superpower at CJDS

CJDS is starting out the new school year on a high, with increased enrollment, strong ERB/CTP4 test results, often outperforming the independent schools, a strong kindergarten class of 21 sweet children, and devoted, loving, and skilled teachers. One would think that we would be satisfied and bask in the good feel-

ing. We don't rest on our laurels, because we know that educating children, especially Jewish children carries a greater obligation. While we are mandated to teach reading, writing and arithmetic and more and to provide enjoyable experiences in a safe environment, we must and cannot forget that we are charged with the responsibility to shape, feed,

school year ends, every child from kindergarten on, can explain and demonstrate what the motto means to them.

"Empathy is our Superpower" is the motto that is guiding us this year. Although it is a concept that might be a bit deep for children, we have already seen results in the short time we have been at school.

from the door because people are often coming in and out and do not realize you might be standing right near it. Be Purposeful (in the bathroom) might mean do what you have to do in the bathroom and leave. It is not a place to stand around doing nothing because it typically will lead to trouble. Be Empathetic (in the lunchroom) might mean don't save seats because it might make someone feel unwanted. These were ideas that the children generated and illustrated on their posters showing that they understood what it would take to build a respectful, caring, and loving community.

We have introduced a song about empathy that we sing and could be heard playing in the morning. These are the lyrics that the kids sing and hear each day.

I don't know what it's like to be you.

I don't know what you have to go through.

But I can try to see the world through your eyes.

Put myself in your shoes and empathize.

Emphasize? No no no no Empathize. Not emphasize. But empathize.

Entropy? No no no no Empathy Not entropy. But empathy.

Every story has more than one side.

It's not about what's wrong or right.

Who's to judge what's good or bad?

What makes me laugh might make you mad.

Let's try to make a deal.

We'll listen to each other and see how the other feels.

With empathy we can understand.

We can solve our problems and make amends.

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Visitors to CJDS are greeted by this poster near the front door.

and nurture their souls. We can impact their emotional and social skills that make them who they are, that effect how they interact with others and that ultimately predict their future satisfaction and happiness.

CJDS approaches this task with a plan of action that you might call CJDS Strategic Plan 2.0. Each year a motto or theme is planned so that all the activities, songs, and stories include this message. It starts out with a banner, a tag line, bulletin board, signs all over the school, and a song written specifically for the motto. Lessons on the motto take place through games and activities, so that by the time the

In addition, we have adopted the Responsive Classroom approach to classroom management by setting class rules where the students' are the ones providing clarification to the rules. Be Responsible, Be Empathetic, Be Purposeful, Be Safe. What does that mean? Too often, we adults think that our words are understood by children and possible even adults. But, they're not, and it is up to us to make meanings together with the person receiving our words. So, we asked the children what do these rules look like? What do they feel like? What do they sound like? Posters were designed and created by the students for all of the different spaces in the school such as the cafeteria, the hallways, the bathroom, and the playground, so all

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Students make their own posters with rules for being responsible, purposeful, safe, and empathetic.

the children in the school could be reminded of the rules and guidelines and understand what they really mean.

For example, Be Safe (in the office) could mean stand away

Can you imagine a world where we all see each other through these eyes? I would like to believe it is possible. We will start with the CJDS kids today.☆

CJDS Charlotte Jewish Day School



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- Parashat Behar Bechukotai



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Learning and Reflection for All through the Holiday Season

By Emily Snyder

The Jewish month of Tishrei is traditionally a month of new beginnings. We see it in our neighborhoods, as children gather on the corner and hop on the big yellow school bus. We see it as we drive to work or school, and notice more cars on the road. We see it at home during bedtime and wake up — new routines and new schedules. We see it in our Jewish lives as we get ready to say, L'Shana Tova to our family and friends. We order a round challah and shop for special yummy treats that happen only at the beginning of the year.

As we welcome all our families into the building, we see new beginnings too. We have 64 new families joining our community, we have 13 new staff members, and we even have two additional classrooms. September is special a month where our students get to start fresh and continue their Jewish preschool journey.

At The Charlotte Jewish Preschool, we look at all things through Jewish values. The value of *limud*, learning, is something we focus on all year, especially during the days leading up to the Jewish New Year. It is a time for learning by reflecting on our past year, and making goals for the New Year. Our students, families, and staff focus on *limud* as they too reflect and look forward.



Emily Snyder

Our students are given the opportunity to practice *limud* through provocations set up in the main lobby and in the classrooms. Provocations provoke thoughts, discussions, questions, interests, creativity, and ideas. Over the past year, we have been exploring open ended activities that elicit creativity and individual thought, as well as how to set up intentional provocations. Many of our staff members had the opportunity to attend the Paradigm Project Conference in Pennsylvania last spring, where experts in the field of early childhood education lead workshops that trained our teachers to be fluent in making the classroom environment and center activities as meaningful as possible. If you walk into our main lobby you will see an invitation for our families to learn about themselves and the

coming year as they experience "Rosh Hashanah on a table."

Last month, as we learned about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we asked our students to notice their feelings, say "I'm sorry" when we make mistakes, reflect on the year we've had, and make goals for the year ahead. This year we are asking our staff to do the same. This month at Collaborative Team Planning, a time when age-alike teams of teachers get together with the Curriculum Coordinator to plan for the month of instruction, our staff members took time to reflect on their year, and think about what they would like to change for the year ahead. Using the Hillel International "Ask Big Questions" guide, our staff read a poem by Marge Piercy and were asked to discuss what images the poem conjured, what resonated with them, and most of all, what the world needs from them this year.

At the end of the day, we as adults are no different than children when it comes to identifying our feelings and challenging ourselves to think about the future. It is hard to look inside ourselves and make big changes. While we may be busy running around classrooms setting up centers, typing lesson plans and imputing them into Himama, giving out nutritious snack and making sure they don't interfere with any al-

lergies, and all the countless tasks preschool teachers do throughout the day, it is worth it to stop, think about our personal and professional lives, and make promises to ourselves about the upcoming year. ☆



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A New Year Begins at JPS

Our school year at JPS, which has experienced 35% enrollment growth, started off with a bang, with many new children and staff members to welcome to our ever-growing family. School has been filled with the sounds of children learning and playing and we are so excited for what this year has in store for them. With Rosh HaShanah arriving the same time as the new school year, we spent the first week of school pre-

paring by listening to the shofar, baking sweet round challah, and tasting apples and honey - yum! We just know that this year will be a sweet one.

From the JPS family to yours, we wish you a sweet new year. ☆

**Shout out to Paige
Rabinowitz, JPS alumnus,
who filmed and produced our
Orientation video! Check it
out at jpskids.org.**



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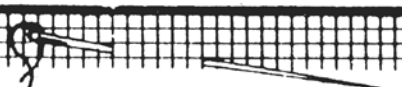
It's a Wrap! Shalom Park Freedom School Summer 2018



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The Shalom Park Freedom School wrapped its 8th summer nurturing up to 80 elementary school aged scholars per day. This six-week literacy, cultural enrichment, and character building program was enhanced with field trips that included: Ray's Splash Planet, Kate's Skating Center, *Shrek* performance at CPCC theater, Morrison Library, Levine Museum of the New South, bowling, Discovery Place, and Field Day at Providence Day School.

On-campus enrichment opportunities included performances and activities such as: the Charlotte Symphony program, Israeli culture, puppetry, chess, gardening, swim lessons, rocketry, Zumba, a magician performance, mindfulness classes, a book fair, and *Pippin* play performance.

A very special thank you to:

*All of our agency partners who provided facilities, staff time, and funding: Levine JCC, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Foundation of Shalom Park, the Center for Jewish Education, Jewish Family Services, and the Charlotte Jewish Day School.

*40 Teen Board members served as volunteers and mentors for our scholars full-time for

a two-week period. In addition to volunteering, the teen board members were in charge of fundraising enough money to support one scholar through the six-week program. Many of these students completed the inaugural leadership program as well which involved nightly "homework" and thoughtful responses to readings and videos that related to their experiences with the scholars.

*175 volunteers from the community helped make SPFS a success — many of these volunteers were weekly reading buddies. Other volunteers served as field trip chaperones, and activity assistants. Our Harambee readers started off each day with great books, engaging our scholars.

*College student Servant Leader Interns and our Site Coordinator (Crystal Edwards) who are instrumental in facilitating excitement with learning and combating summer reading loss in our scholars.

*Izzy's Catering for preparing breakfast and lunch for our scholars to be able to learn with full bellies every day.

*The leadership of the SPFS committee Co-Chairs Margaret Musa and Annie Lord and all of their dedicated committee members.

Would you like to become involved in SPFS? Please contact co-chairs Margaret Musa (mmusa@carolina.rr.com) or Annie Lord (annielord@gmail.com) for information about committee opportunities. Stay connected all year long by following up on Facebook (Shalom Park Freedom School) or visiting our website www.spfreedomsschool.org.

Looking to make a tax deductible donation before the end of 2018?

If you choose to donate online, in the gift information section, please indicate you would like your gift to go towards the Shalom Park Freedom School site: <http://spfreedomsschool.org/donate-now/>.

To donate by mail:

Please make checks payable to Freedom School Partners, Inc. Please note Shalom Park Freedom School in the memo. Then mail to Shalom Park Freedom School, PO Box 2612, Matthews, NC 28106. You may also drop your donation off with the front desk in the Levine Jewish Community Center at 5007 Providence Road in Charlotte. Please write "Attn: Shalom Park Freedom School" on the envelope. ☆



Scholars holding up their favorite books.



Scholars at Field Day 2018



Scholars engaged in horticulture.



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Teen Board members gather before the scholars arrive for breakfast and Harambee.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



Are Jews Really Victims of Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence occurs in millions of households every day, and a huge number of these incidents go unreported. Violence in the home affects everyone within the household, whether or not family members are victims of the abuse themselves, and it extends well beyond the confines of the home, affecting neighbors, family, friends, coworkers, and the community at large. Very often, people in abusive relationships can't or refuse to accept that they are victims of abuse. Particularly in the absence of physical abuse, it may be difficult to identify controlling behaviors, put-downs, and emotional manipulation as the ongoing abuse that it is.

As we try and raise awareness in October, Domestic Violence Awareness month, consider these national statistics:

* A woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds.

* 1 in 3 women — and 1 in 4 men — have been in abusive relationships, and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have faced severe physical violence.

* 20 people are abused by an intimate partner every minute, adding up to 10 million each year.

* More than 200,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines every year.

Many believe that abuse does not happen in the Jewish community, yet according to the largest

OCTOBER IS
NATIONAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH



survey of its kind, The Jewish Women's Aid Study, one in four (26%) of the Jewish women and 17% of the male respondents indicated that they had been abused.

A third of those surveyed admitted that they thought abuse in the Jewish community would not be the same as the rest of society, but actually, the number of Jewish women abused is actually 2% higher than the national average. The study looked at all sects across the religious spectrum, from very liberal to the strict Orthodox.

Emma Bell, executive director of JWA, said: "There is a shocking, unacceptable level of domestic abuse in the Jewish community and this shows that we are not immune. We routinely hear from the community that 'surely we're not the same.'"

The majority of those interviewed by JWA said that the violence had caused them to feel

more distant from their religion. "I just felt cut off from the Jewish community because of all this," one woman said. "And it still hurts."

Domestic violence includes physical, psychological, financial or emotional abuse and can include dictating religious observance, withholding money, threatening to hurt or kill, stalking, threatening messages, or belittling someone so they feel worthless.

It's not easy to know what to do when someone you care about is in an abusive relationship. We must all do our part by abandoning false beliefs, embracing a culture of safety, and supporting the victims we know.

For the Jewish community in Charlotte, Jewish Family Services is a primary resource to reach out for support and assistance. JFS has staff who are licensed therapists, have been trained and certified by the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and are experienced in responding and serving victims who have been abused. Together, we establish a plan that ensures the safety of the adult being abused and the children in the home and connects them with the internal and community resources needed to heal from the trauma they have experienced.

No one should have to suffer

from physical or emotional abuse. If you are interested in learning more about how you can raise awareness about Domestic Violence or you know someone who is being abused, call JFS at 704-364-6594, or contact the 24/7 National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233. ☆

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nnie Bonomo, Miriam Gold, Mr. and Mrs. Herbstman, Lori Jackowitz, Robbie McGinley, Emma Miller, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants, Shalom Park Community Gardens

Special Thanks for Contributions to Rosh Hashanah Holiday Bags: Suzy Catenazzo, Karen Knoble and Janice Shubin for baking rugulah, Charlotte Jewish Day School students for making cards and apple drive, Ron Nadel (Golden Grains Baking Company) for donation of challah. ☆

Youth Visions

Welcome Back to BBYO

We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer. We had many Charlotte teens take part in BBYO summer experiences throughout the summer from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania to Canada and Israel. Two of our young leaders who participated in Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC) were excited to share their experience:

"This past summer I attended



Daniel Pearlman and a new friend.

environment surrounded by so many others who share my passions and goals allowed me to grow so much as an individual and make incredible friends. I'm eager to apply everything I gained from CLTC to my chapter at home and my life this year." – Olivia Potier (10th grade)

We are always welcoming new teens into BBYO. We have our new member weekend coming up October 21-23 in Greensboro, NC.

To sign up visit: <https://tinyurl.com/easternmitait>. This is a great opportunity to meet Jewish teens from all over VA, NC, SC, and GA. Teens will celebrate Shabbat, learn about BBYO and meet friends that will last a lifetime. For more information email levenson@bbyo.org or call 704-944-6734. ☆

CLTC in Wisconsin. During my time there I developed new leadership skills to bring home to my chapter, as well as use outside of BBYO. I also met over 100 new friends that I became super close with and had the best time of my life. CLTC was such an amazing experience and I wouldn't trade the memories that I made for anything." – Daniel Pearlman (10th grade)

"Upon arriving at the airport for CLTC in Wisconsin, I immediately became part of a family of 112 other Jewish teens from all over the world who became my best friends within minutes. In those 12 days, I learned more about my own abilities, my role as a leader and my Jewish identity than I ever imagined I could in such a short amount of time. I was exposed to everything from leadership strategies to cultures in countries where my friends were from Hungary and Russia, and even got to participate in (and win) Macabiah. To be immersed in an



Olivia Potier and a new friend.



Meet Our Hebrew High Teachers

Jennifer Sawyer is from Bedford, VA and loves teaching at Hebrew High because she gets to see so many kids she taught at TBE. This year, she is looking forward to deep, meaningful discussion and fun, hands-on activities. This will be Jenn's second year teaching at Hebrew High.

Sam Swire grew up in Portland, OR and is in his third year teaching at Hebrew High. He loves working at Hebrew High because the content he covers challenges the teens to rethink what they know through a new lens.

Rabbi Helene Kornsgold is originally from Philadelphia and likes being part of the students' continued Jewish journey and is looking forward to connecting with them. She is beginning her third year at Temple Israel as the Director of Congregational Education and second year teaching at Hebrew High.

Betsy Olinger, from Atlanta, is looking forward to her seventh year of teaching at Hebrew High. She loves posing tough questions, entertaining informed and respectful discussion, and laughing and bonding with our emerging adults.

Rob Sisson is originally from

Western NY and has been teaching Hebrew High for nine years. He loves sharing Judaism with the students.

Jake Kalik is so excited to be teaching his first year of Hebrew High. Originally from Los Angeles, Jake is excited to teach because not only is it a continuation of his own Hebrew High journey, but it's also a time for him to move into a new capacity as a future teacher. He is looking forward to developing relationships with students and teachers and learning from everyone how to be the best Jewish professional he can be.

Amy Montoni, originally from Boston, has been teaching at Hebrew High for close to 14 years. She loves teaching because she thinks teenagers are the most interesting and wonderful people. She adores watching them change and grow, think and consider. She hopes to help her students get a clearer understanding of their place in both the Jewish world and the world-at-large.

Marci Goldberg, from East Meadow, NY, has been teaching at Hebrew High for 13 years. She loves all the personalities blending together to make her class interesting. She is excited for chal-

lenging her students to appreciate Judaic art.

Howard Seidler is originally from the Catskill Mountains, and has lived in Charlotte for 24 years and 11 of them at Hebrew High. He loves teaching because he enjoys watching the students grow up and loves the energy the students bring.

Jason Shechter is from CA and is excited to be teaching his first full year at Hebrew High. He likes teaching because it makes him feel connected to the Jewish community in Charlotte. He is looking forward to exploring some big challenges with his students and finding ways to tackle them.

Janice Zacks is from Montreal, and is in her second year at Hebrew High. She enjoys sharing her love for cooking and seeing the teens enjoy learning how to cook and bake. She looks forward to continuing teaching Jewish recipes to the next generation and incorporating more Jewish learning about Kashrut.

Donna DeGroot loves teaching Hebrew for Credit. She is from NC but has spent some time in Israel, perfecting her accent. She has been teaching at Hebrew High for 15 years and has been

teaching the Hebrew class for seven years.

Avital Stone is our newest Hebrew High teacher. She just moved to Charlotte from NY and is very excited to be teaching Hebrew I for in the Hebrew for Credit Class.

Rabbi Murray Ezring is from Rock Island, IL and has been teaching at Hebrew High for the past 25 years. Most recently, he has been focusing his time in the Temple Israel's Confirmation class.

Rabbi Asher Knight is originally from Denver, and has been teaching at Hebrew High for the last three years. He has been very involved in the Temple Beth El 8th/9th Grade core class as well as the Post-Confirmation class.

Rabbi Dusty Klass is from Se-



attle, and has been teaching at Hebrew High for the last three years. She has been an integral thought partner and teacher of the Temple Beth El 8th grade Core and 10th grade Confirmation.

Cantor Mary Thomas is from Bayonne, NJ and has been part of Hebrew High for 11 years in varying capacities. She is thrilled to be back more regularly to help teach the Temple Beth El 9th grade Core class. ☆

The New Year at Temple Solel

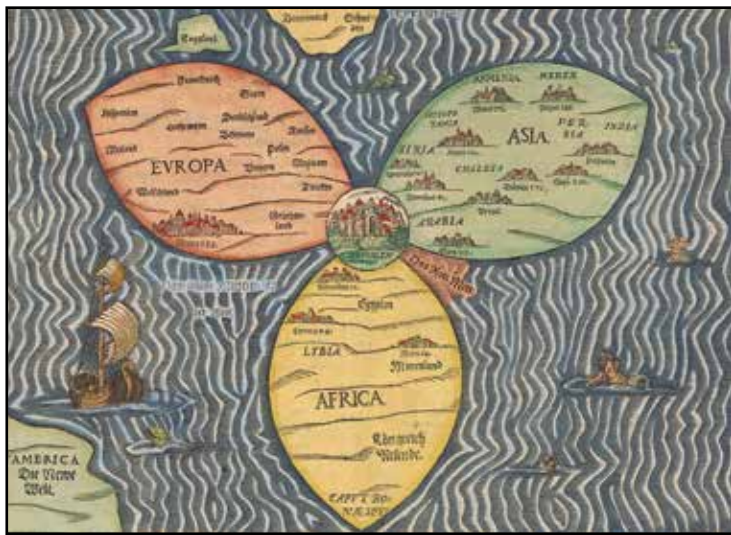
(Continued from page 7)

In 2 Kings 13 in the JPS Tanakh 1917 - "Even while dying, Elisha tried to advise Joash, the king of Israel, and said, 'Put thy hand upon the bow'; and he put his hand upon it." Then it describes how Elisha laid his hands upon the king's hands and told him to:

ty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life." Thomas Edison said it a different way, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Two witty Yiddish Proverbs

to meet you soon in the community room at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill. For details, call 803-619-9707 or visit www.templesolelsc.org or Temple Solel SC on Facebook. ☆



"Open the window eastward," 'Shoot'; and he shot." Elisha tells the king this act was symbolic of the victories he would win against the Arameans. In the end of the account, the king was told to take the arrows and smite the ground with them. He stopped striking the ground at three times instead of smiting the ground more. Elisha explained he would only be victorious three times now instead of five or six times. He was the king of Israel and fell short. We make choices. We all fall short.

It might be good we don't really know how many times we may have stopped right before a potential victory. It might surprise many to hear that Michael Jordan is quoted saying, "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twen-

designed to make us think, but smile at the same time: "If you ever need a helping hand you'll find one at the end of your arm" and "If you have nothing to lose, you can try everything." Elie Wiesel said it best though, "There are victories of the soul and spirit. Sometimes, even if you lose, you win."

Pictured is an ancient map of Israel. It looks like it was created after the path over land and sea were experienced and even imagined. Instead of using someone else's map, let's try making one based on our own unique and special discoveries.

Cross the border and meet up with some of the South Carolina Jewish Community's trailblazers at Temple Solel at Shabbat services 7 PM the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope

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Community News

Travel Fund Established in Stephanie Warshauer's Memory

BBYO proudly announces the establishment of the Stephanie Louise Warshauer Memorial BBYO Travel Fund. The fund will provide scholarships for BBYO members to participate in BBYO travel experiences. The first scholarships will be available for the summer of 2019.

The fund honors and memo-

rializes Stephanie Warshauer, z"l, daughter of Phil and Beth Warshauer and Alisa Ostwalt (of blessed memory). Stephanie was tragically killed on Yom Kippur of last year when her car was struck by another car that was being chased by police. She grew up in Greensboro and was an active member in her local BBYO chap-

ter, Etta Spier BBG. A graduate of Page High School and Western Carolina University, Stephanie had a passion for travel and adventure. She traveled throughout the country and internationally to Israel on Birthright, South Africa, Ireland, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and several times to Montreal.

Through her involvement in BBYO, Stephanie created strong bonds and friendships with her peers in Eastern Region BBYO (North Carolina and Southern Virginia). The Eastern Region BBYO staff remember her affectionately. "Stephanie always had a smile on her face, a passion for being Jewish and loved spending weekends with her community at BBYO conventions," said Ellen Goldstein, her BBYO Regional Director. Ricki Gray, the former Greensboro BBYO City Director feels "Stephanie added her zest for life and to BBYO in everything she participated in. Bonds of friendships made were just a natural for her positive and outgoing personality!"

The fund was established as a result of the outpouring of emotion and generosity by the many people who were touched by Stephanie's life. This included personal friends, family friends and relatives from Greensboro, Charlotte, and beyond.

"We continue to be overwhelmed by the outpouring of

emotion and the number of people who loved Steph" said Phil Warshauer. "It would be very pleasing to Stephanie to know that through this fund others will be able to have the opportunity to establish BBYO friendships and perhaps travel abroad."

For more information on the scholarships, please email eastern@bbyo.org or call the Eastern Region BBYO office - 704-944-6734. Additional donations to the Stephanie Louise Warshauer Memorial BBYO Travel Fund can be made through the Eastern Region BBYO Office, 5007 Providence Road, Suite 106 Charlotte,



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NC 28226 or <https://bbyo.org/donate>.✡



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Stephanie on her Birthright trip.



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Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden
Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

Event is *FREE* but kindly *RSVP*:
704-366-5007

SPACE IS LIMITED:
Please Register Early!

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Charlotte

Pianist Emanuel Ax to Play in Charlotte

October 18, 7:30 PM, Halton Auditorium, CPCC

Born in modern day Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. Ax was the only child of two Holocaust survivors who married after their original spouses had died in concentration camps. "I was their new life," he says. Before the war, Ax's father, Joachim, studied voice in Vienna. Ax himself recalls, "When I was 6, I heard a recording of Rubinstein playing a Chopin concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra. From that moment, I decided that was the greatest thing you could do in life."

His studies at the Juilliard School were supported by the sponsorship of the Epstein Scholarship Program of the Boys Clubs of America, and he subsequently won the Young Concert Artists Award. Additionally, he attended Columbia University where he majored in French. Mr. Ax made his New York debut in the Young Concert Artists Series, and captured public attention in 1974 when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists followed four years later by the coveted Avery Fisher Prize.

Always a committed exponent of contemporary composers, with works written for him by John Adams, Christopher Rouse, Krzysztof Penderecki, Bright Sheng, and Melinda Wagner already in his repertoire, most recently he has added HK Gruber's Piano Concerto and Samuel Adams' "Impromptus."

A Sony Classical exclusive recording artist since 1987, recent releases include Mendelssohn Trios with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman, Strauss's Enoch Arden narrated by Patrick Stewart, and discs of two-piano music by Brahms and Rachmaninoff with Yefim Bronfman. In 2015,

Deutsche Grammophon released a duo recording with Perlman of Sonatas by Faure and Strauss, which the two artists presented on tour during the 2015/2016 season.

Ax has received GRAMMY® Awards for the second and third volumes of his cycle of Haydn's piano sonatas. He has also made a series of Grammy-winning recordings with cellist Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. His other recordings include the concertos of Liszt and Schoenberg, three solo Brahms albums, an album of tangos by Astor Piazzolla, and the premiere recording of John Adams's Century Rolls with the Cleveland Orchestra for Nonesuch. In the 2004/05 season, Ax also contributed to an International EMMY® Award-Winning BBC documentary commemorating the Holocaust that aired on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In 2013, Mr. Ax's recording Variations received the Echo Klassik Award for Solo Recording of the Year (19th century music/Piano).

A frequent and committed partner for chamber music, he has worked regularly with such artists as Young Uck Kim, Cho-Liang Lin, Ma, Edgar Meyer, Peter Serkin, Jaime Laredo, and the late Isaac Stern.

Ax resides in New York City with his wife, pianist Yoko Nozaki. They have two children, Joseph and Sarah. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary doctorates of music from Skidmore College, Yale University, and Columbia University. For more information about Ax's career, please visit www.EmanuelAx.com.

Charlotte Concerts has previously brought Emanuel Ax to Charlotte during the 1997-1998 and 1999-2000 seasons.

Thursday, October 18 7:30 PM
(Concert Preview begins at 6:55

PM), Halton Theater, Central Piedmont Community College
Ticket Link: <https://tickets.vendini.com/>. ☆

Isaac Saul is the 110 Pound Rock Climber!

See his youtube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oYeKKQRT48&t=204s>

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At right, Emanuel Ax.

Below: Emanuel Ax during a performance.



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The Rosh HaShanah Experience Was a Huge Success

All of the 400 seats of the Infinity Ballroom were filled for The Rosh Hashanah Experience, the first ever alternative High Holy Day service led jointly by The Ruach and Rabbi Rachel Smookler. Rabbi Smookler got things started by saying, "Welcome to the most non-traditional, traditional service you've ever attended. It's okay to clap, sing along, enjoy ... and let the spirit move you."

More than half of the roughly 1 hour and 45 minute service was made up of music, most of it modern and much of it written by The Ruach. Nearly all of the words of the songs came from prayers and liturgy found in a traditional Rosh Hashanah morning service. Most of the tunes were easy to pick up and because the words were familiar; people could, and did, sing along with the band.

Joining the band as backup singers for The Rosh Hashanah Experience were acclaimed jazz and gospel singer, Dawn Anthony, and her two daughters, Faith and Christian.

Remarks from those who were there included, "That was the most enjoyable and meaningful High Holy Day service I've ever attended," to, "I didn't expect to be moved like I was," and, "I feel more connected to the Jewish community than I've felt in a while."

These comments mirror the mission and attitude of The Ruach which is to spread the joy of Judaism through Jewish spiritual and cultural musical experiences. Nancy Nagler Good, lead singer, rhythm guitarist and co-founding member of The Ruach, offered this about The Ruach: "We want each of our Experiences to touch peoples' hearts and minds while creating a sense of community. If we can get folks just one step closer to being nicer human beings or feeling better about themselves then that's what we're all about."

In addition to the modern music there were traditional elements including a Torah service, a shofar service where anyone who showed up with a shofar

could participate and, of course, the Rabbi's sermon which was both reflective of the solemnity of the day and relevant for today's world.

"We sensed there might be a need for alternative Jewish worship in Charlotte, but we were amazed at how many people came and the wide range of their ages," said Peter Levinson, lead guitarist and co-founding member of The Ruach.

The Rosh Hashanah Experience was made possible by a generous grant from The Marshall Rauch Foundation.

If you would like to know more about The Ruach and where else they will be playing, like them on Facebook @theruachband, or follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit, or contact them at the.ruach.band@gmail.com. ☆



Photos courtesy of David T. Foster III



On The Table Charlotte is a day when residents from all over Mecklenburg County come together to share meals, ideas and perspectives on the challenges that directly affect our community.

This year we are exploring the history of segregation and how its legacy continues to impact our community.

Join us and bring your friends and family to any of these events as we connect with our neighbors beyond Shalom Park!

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018

Breakfast: 7:45 – 9:30 am
Temple Israel and Myer Park United Methodist Church
Location TBA

Lunch: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Jewish Federation and Simmons YMCA
6824 Democracy Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212

Dinner: 6:30 – 8:15 pm
Temple Beth El and Friendship Missionary Baptist
Location TBA

REGISTER AT WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG

For more information visit <http://www.onthetableclt.org>

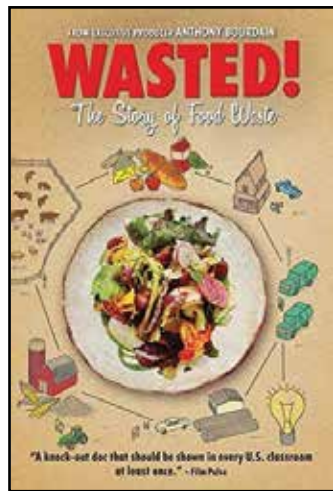
"If a composer does not write from the heart, he simply cannot produce good music. I never had a theory in my life. I get a musical idea for a composition, I try to develop a certain logical and beautiful conception and I try to clothe it in music which exudes from it naturally and inevitably. I write what I feel in my heart and what finally comes on the paper is what first coursed through every fiber of my body."

— Arnold Schoenberg in Great Jews in Performing Arts

Bal Tashchit and Beyond

Have you wondered what happens to that bruised peach you just put back in the fruit bin at the grocery store? What is the truth about “sell by” dates on products such as milk, cheese, and packaged cold cuts? In the US, we throw away about 40% of our food every year and 90% of food waste winds up in landfills. There are multiple environmental impacts stemming from food production and subsequent food waste, such as methane gas production and excessive water usage. This global problem exists at all stages of food production and consumption, but there are food suppliers and farmers taking steps to combat this epidemic. Taking small steps to make changes in our lives at home and how we shop is easier than you might think.

To get you started, Shalom Green and Levine JCC Cares are joining forces to bring the film *Wasted! The Story of Food Waste* to the community for viewing and a panel discussion on October 16 from 7–9 PM at the Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. Admission is free, but registration is requested by visiting the LJCC desk or by



calling 704-366-5007. Educational handouts will be available with tips for reducing food waste.

Wasted! aims to change the way people buy, cook, recycle, and eat food. Through the eyes of chef-heroes Anthony Bourdain, Dan Barber, Mario Batali, Massimo Bottura, and Danny Bowien, audiences will see how the most influential chefs make the most of every kind of food, transforming what most people consider scraps into incredible dishes that create a more secure food system. *Wasted!* exposes the criminality of food

waste and how it's contributing to climate change and shows us how each of us can make small changes – all of them delicious – to solve one of the greatest problems of the 21st century.

A panel discussion will follow the film screening. The panel will be moderated by David Rosenthal, current Temple Israel President and Shalom Green Treasurer. Panelists include Cantor Mary Thomas, Temple Beth El, Jerry Lanuzza, Dean of Culinary

Education, Johnson and Wales University and Robert Brenner, Associate Professor, Food and Beverage Consultant also at Johnson and Wales.

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. ☆



Joe Buchanan To Lead Shabbat Experience on November 9

Joe Buchanan, one the hottest names on today's Jewish music scene, is coming to Charlotte, courtesy of The Ruach, Charlotte's only band playing modern Jewish music. He will lead an original Shabbat experience at The Rabbit Hole in the Plaza-Midwood section of Charlotte at 6:30 PM on Friday, November 9. Admission is free.

Texas born Buchanan, a Jew by choice, has been a rising star

When he's not at home writing new music or hosting Jewish Rock Radio's Emerging Artist Showcase (which has included The Ruach), Joe tours around the country playing Shabbat services and concerts. He's been featured at numerous conferences and festivals, including 2017 URJ Biennial and the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival. The goal of his music is to help drive connection to the thing that connects us all and to



within the Jewish music circuit bringing a country twang to Hebrew prayer. His music is a blend of southern soul and country charm that he calls Jewish Americana. His Shabbat services include his original music, as well as personal stories about life and his journey to Judaism.

Joe discovered Judaism seven years ago. He describes the discovery as a homecoming and a personal testament to belief. Joe's debut album, *Unbroken*, features songs in both Hebrew and English. The album is a “story about finding faith and standing tall,” Joe says, “and choosing to be chosen.”

hold the door for other seekers. It's music that highlights humanity and the Holy.

Joe has a unique ability to not only express his own faith through music and storytelling, but to also deeply inspire others. You won't want to miss this unforgettable Shabbat experience.

For more information about this Shabbat Experience email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. Also, to learn more about The Ruach and other Shabbat Experiences, like the band on Facebook, and follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit. ☆



LEARN ABOUT THE MAGIC OF CAMP BARNEY

MJCCA's Jewish Summer Overnight Camp in the North Georgia Mountains for Campers Completing 2nd-10th Grade, Offering 2-Week and 4-Week Sessions.



CHARLOTTE INFO SESSION

Thursday, November 1 • 7:00 pm

Levine JCC of Charlotte • 5007 Providence Road

Prospective and returning families are invited to enjoy a musical media presentation, meet the directors, and learn all about Camp Barney for 2019.

RSVP Requested: campbarney.org/infosessions

Summer Registration Starts Oct. 14





Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta | 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody, GA 30338 | 678.812.3844 | [f/CampBarneyMedintz](https://www.facebook.com/CampBarneyMedintz) | campbarney.org



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Sunday, October 14
10:00 am

Darby Acres Farm
9396 Hutchinson Lane, Charlotte, NC

\$10 per person
(children under 2 are free)

Register online at
www.nextgencharlotte.org

Be kind to animals.
It's a Jewish thing!

Activities will include:

- Tour of the farm
- Feed the animals
- Music
- Craft
- Snack



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Questions??? Contact Debby Block | debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org | 704.944.6780

Two Programs to Celebrate the Second Anniversary of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice

By Talli Dippold

In Hebrew, each letter corresponds to a number. The letter bet represents the number two which is the anniversary the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte is celebrating this fall. The Hebrew letter bet has great symbolism. It is the first letter of the Torah as in the word bereishit meaning "in the beginning." It is the first letter of the word brachah which means "blessing" and opens most words of Hebrew prayer.

One month ago, the Stan Greenspon Center celebrated its second anniversary. We are taking this fall to reflect on our beginnings and to reflect on our blessings. We have learned a lot and grown over the past two years. We are looking forward to an incredible year ahead of touching and transforming thousands of lives as we support teachers and students in expanding their Holocaust and human rights education.

Our anniversary is also time of gratitude as we thank all of those who have supported us during our inaugural years. We could not have achieved such success

without our invaluable sustainers. We are especially grateful to Stan Greenspon and his family for his vision that allowed the Center to flourish over the past two years.

In the spirit of our second anniversary, we would like to highlight two remarkable programs and initiatives that go hand in hand.

On December 13, we will be hosting a reading of an original play written by Charles LaBorde, directed by Dennis Delamar and produced by Three Bone Theater – all luminaries of the Charlotte theater community. The script, adapted from Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz's autobiography *Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042*, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor. The evening will celebrate all of our Charlotte community's more than three dozen Holocaust survivors and the successes of our first two years. Please save the date and plan on joining us for refreshments following the reading. The second anniversary celebration is made possible through the gener-

osity of Pinnacle Financial Partners and the support of Jewish Family Services of Charlotte.

As we know, sadly, we are losing many of our survivors — and with them, we are losing the firsthand recollections of their experiences. It is our responsibility as a community to capture their testimony and become their voice when they are no longer with us. Time and time again we hear from our educators that the most impactful programs involve hearing from a witness. Short of not being able to hear from the survivors themselves, we are creating an opportunity to hear from their descendants, of which I am one. All four of my grandparents are survivors.

The Stan Greenspon Center, in partnership with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, is thrilled to offer their Heritage Testimonies® Program here in Charlotte starting in November. With the trained help of the Greenspon

Center staff, participating second and third generation descendants will create presentations that can be used to help school groups and other audiences connect with the history and messages of the Holocaust. Elie Wiesel said, "When you listen to a witness, you become a witness." The Greenspon Center is honored to be part of keeping the message of the survivors alive for future generations.

For more information on either of our second anniversary programs, or to apply to the Heritage Testimonies® Program for second and third generation descendants, please contact Talia Goldman at goldmant@queens.edu. Space will be limited and there will be an application process.

As we move forward, we invite you to join us for one of our numerous lectures or courses, for a Shabbat dinner, tour, or at one of our many events. To see all that we have to offer, visit StanGreensponCenter.org.☆



Ivan Cooper Represents US in Middle East Diplomacy Program

Upon the recommendation of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Principal Ivan Cooper was invited by the U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem to participate in a public diplomacy program on public-private partnerships (P3s), infrastructure management, and water/wastewater management, distribution, and regulation in the Palestinian Authority (PA) territories regarding the sale and reuse of treated wastewater. Ivan was the sole representative from the U.S. for the program.

The establishment of P3s for wastewater is part of a strategy for supporting the PA in building credible institutions of governance, building confidence in public administration, and being a good neighbor for Israel (note: if the PA was able to properly treat its wastewater instead of sending it to Israel, it would lessen some water-focused tension). This mission was considered a high priority by the White House as it is a major U.S. priority to help move the Palestinian economy from its current state of excessive donor dependence to a model of health and sustainable private sector-led investment, growth, and job creation.

According to a recent study, there are currently a number of wastewater treatment plants in various stages of development in the West Bank, but a regulatory framework for P3s is needed to govern the sale and reuse of the wastewater. The eventual adoption of P3s could benefit the Palestinian people by providing

a more efficient system for water distribution in a region where water scarcity issues are a major health, sanitation, and security issue.

During his stay in the Middle East in July, Ivan worked with the

topics in the West Bank and Gaza. The voyage was a very successful diplomatic effort.

To see Ivan's full presentation to the PA, click <https://www.facebook.com/USConGenJerusalem/videos/10156434079939333/>.☆



Ivan Cooper speaks on wastewater issues in the PA while in Jerusalem.

Office of the Quartet, the Palestinian Water Authority, the World Bank, representatives of both the Dutch and German governments, numerous other Palestinian Ministries, farmers, and business people to share his expertise. In addition, he reviewed a number of wastewater treatment facilities and reuse sites, and made an overview presentation to the PA, various ministers, and other stakeholders. Ivan presented on current conditions, observations, suggestions for improvements, and a possible path forward toward water independence, P3s, waste conservation, organizational structure, funding, and related

More from The Greenspon Center

TGIF Torah Yoga
Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies with Shelley Bear and Aly Faber, RYT Yoga Instructors
Friday mornings, October 26, November 30, December 7, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 12,
10:40-11:40 AM
Location: Queens University Levine Center for Wellness
Free and open to the public

Art of Ethical Speech
Dr. Marcy Goldstein
Option #1 - Four session evening course
Tuesday evenings, October 2, 9, 16, and 30, 7 to 9 PM
Cost: \$125

Option #2 - One-day retreat
Sunday, January 13, 2019
from 10 AM-6 PM Cost: \$125
All classes/lectures/programs will be held at Queens University, 1900 Selwyn Ave, Charlotte, NC 28274.

Your Connection To The Jewish Community

The Ordan-Reider Group

Jeremy Ordan **Matti Ordan-Reider**
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TheOrdanReiderGroup.com

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October 2018

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



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Mon-Thu PM4pm-7:30pm

Saturday 12pm-3pm

Sunday8:30am-2pm

Per Hour: M/\$4.50 NM/ \$5.50

Grades K-5th

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

Sundays, 8:30am-1pm

Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/\$2/hour

NM/\$5.50 per hour

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

LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us you have questions!

Membership

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

Early Childhood

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

K-5th Grade Programs

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

Adults & Seniors/Oasis

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

Sports

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

Aquatics / Swim Team

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

LJCC Tennis / CRUSH

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

Visual/Performing Arts

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

J-Childcare

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

Social Action

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

OCTOBER HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, October 1

1:00pm-6:00pm

Shemini Atzeret

Tuesday, October 2

1:00pm-9:30pm

Simchat Torah

FOR HOLIDAY HOURS + SCHEDULES

please visit our website at
www.charlottejcc.org

REGISTER FOR FALL PROGRAMS

Online at charlottejcc.org OR

Call 704-366-5007 OR

Visit the Levine JCC

Customer Service Desk



The Sandra and Leon Levine
Jewish Community Center

Board of Directors 32nd Annual Meeting

All Are Invited to Join Us!

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

7:00pm

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

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

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

Infant & Toddler SWIM LESSONS

6 months - 2 years (Parent Assisted, Swim diapers required)

Sundays, 9-9:30am / 4:30-5pm

September 16 – December 9 (12 classes)

M/\$174 B/\$109 NM/\$222

JSWIM.

ALL AGES

Ceramic Pottery Sale at Levine JCC!

Take a stroll down Main Street, and find unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list, while supporting our LJCC ceramic students!

**Sunday, October 21
10am-2pm
A FREE EVENT**

imagine experiment with art styles mix it up Adults

art for the soul collage water colors

Discovery Art Series

October 3 - November 7

**Wednesdays,
6:30 – 7:45pm
Weinberg**

Take one class, or take them all! Come learn the healing benefits of art from Artist Eileen Schwartz through a series of six, engaging art experiences. All supplies included.

Register at Customer Service 704-366-5007
Q? Sharri Benjamin 704-944-6753
or sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

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

Early Childhood

Kids' Night In / Parents' Night Out at the J 7 Weeks – 12 Years

Kids enjoy a night in here at the J with pizza, themed crafts and a movie while you enjoy a night out.

Saturday, October 20

5:30-8:30pm

1 child \$25

2 children \$50

3 children \$65

Teens

JForce Youth

Grades 5-10

Designed for the athlete or non-athlete, and consists of an overall fitness program designed to improve body strength and endurance, speed and agility.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

5:30-6:10pm

M/\$140 B/\$110 NM/\$170

Adults

LJCC Wine and Cheese Tasting Night at Seaboard!

Adults 50+

Bring a friend; meet a friend! Join members of the LJCC, and enjoy 5 different cheeses paired with 5 different wines. Space is limited, so don't miss out. RSVP with payment online or at the front desk by Sunday, October 28.

Thursday, November 1 • 6-7pm

M/\$35 NM/\$40

Location: Seaboard Brewery, Taproom & Winery

213 North Trade Street, Matthews, NC 28105

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

Tai Chi/Qigong

Adults 50+

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

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

Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio

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

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

Flu Shot Clinic AT THE LJCC

Friday, October 12

14 yrs + older • No Appointment Necessary!

No co-pay for Aetna, BlueCross/BlueShield of NC, Cigna, Medicare Part B & United Health Care - all others \$40.99

NOTE: Regular Dose & High Dose (recommended for 65+)

Weinberg Senior Center

9am-3pm

Also available at the LJCC

MEDICARE PART D COUNSELING

**Prescription Drug Plan
Open Enrollment**

Oct 15 through Dec 7

To make an appointment with
a Volunteer SHIP Counselor:

Jill Lipson: 704-944-6792 or

jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Sharri Benjamin: 704-944-6753 or

sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org



The POWER of Aging

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Meets once per month:
Tuesdays • 9:15-10:15am

OCT topic: "Important Life Conversations"
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A collaborative program between LJCC's Senior & Adult
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OASIS Funded (in part) with a grant from: **BjH FOUNDATION FOR SENIOR SERVICES**

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



Memory Café

Caring for a family
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Come with them to
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Meets twice every month:
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10am-12pm
Weinberg Senior Center

A light breakfast is served at
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704-944-6792 • jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org



OASIS

The Senior Enrichment (OASIS) Program's
mission is to enrich the quality of life for all
seniors, regardless of religious affiliation.
We welcome all adults age 50 and up
from the greater Charlotte area.

HOURS
Monday-Friday • 9am-5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center

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

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

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



HEALING Ourselves HEALING the

Engage in
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**Lomax Incubator Farm
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Bring your family and join us for Tikkun Olam.
Sunday, October 7
10am-1pm
3445 Atando Rd, Concord
Register at LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007 by October 1

Movie Screening: Wasted!
Joining us as we take a look at how we buy, cook,
recycle and eat food in the USA.
Tuesday, October 16
7pm
Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
Register at LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007

Documentary “Angst” Helps Teens Recognize and Deal With Anxiety

Does your teen seem overly stressed? Have you ever thought of them as a “worry wart”? Do they get anxious about situations that you think are really not that important? What you may be observing are symptoms of an anxiety disorder. While it is normal for most of us, including teenagers, to worry, roughly 31% of teens in the US experience extreme symptoms that constitute an anxiety disorder. For these teens, the symptoms go beyond the occasional sleepless night or emotional outburst.

Anxiety disorder is the most common mental health issue in the US. 20% of teens suffer from either depression or anxiety and with today’s world of social media and bullying, teenagers are feeling more vulnerable and more pressure to “fit in” and the prevalence of anxiety disorders continues to rise.

On October 21, as part of the Mental Health Initiative, Jewish Family Services and the Levine Jewish Community Center will host a screening of a new documentary, *Angst*, about teen anxiety. *Angst* is a 56-minute film and virtual reality experience that explores anxiety, its causes, effects, and what we can do about it. *Angst* features candid interviews with kids and young adults who suffer, or have suffered, from



anxiety and what they’ve learned about it. The film includes discussions with mental health experts about the causes of anxiety and its sociological effects, as well as help, resources and tools.

Following the screening of *Angst*, a local panel comprised of professionals along with a parent and teen who have experienced anxiety disorders will share their experiences and impressions of the film. If you are a parent or a professional that works with youth, this is a film that must be seen.

For more information or to reserve your seat, call JFS at 704-364-6594 or go to the JFS website at jfscharlotte.org. ✧

Hey, Charlotte, have you heard of Moishe House?

Moishe House is the place where young adults in their 20s come together to create vibrant communities. We offer three programs each month ranging from Jewish Culture and Holiday, Tikkun Olam, Jewish Learning, and Social Programs. Check us out on Facebook to keep up with our upcoming programs, www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte/.



Comedian Aaron Friedman Returns to Lake Norman Area

The Jewish Council of Lake Norman is excited to welcome back comedian, Aaron Friedman on Saturday, October 13 for another side-splitting performance.

Aaron will take the stage at 7:30 PM at Congregation Emanuel, 206 Kelly Street, Statesville. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. There will be alcoholic and

non-alcoholic beverages for sale in this nightclub-style setting.

For those of you already familiar with Aaron’s comedy, you know it will be an evening

of laughter for teens and adults. If you haven’t heard of Aaron, you will definitely want to hear the Winner of *The Jewish Week’s* “Funniest Jew in NY” contest



(2011). *The Jewish News* said, “Aaron Friedman mines his years as a Hebrew school teacher and b’nai mitzvah tutor for his act.” Aaron is a graduate of JTS/Columbia, has worked at Camp Ramah-Nyack, and performs at shuls and university Hillels across 18 different states.

Aaron has been called “spot-on” with his holiday and Hebrew School reminiscences. Even if you aren’t Jewish, Aaron will still make you laugh; however, if you are Jewish, you are guaranteed great laugh out loud comedy. ✧



For more information, email: the.ruach.band@gmail.com

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Joe Buchanan is forging into the uncharted territory that is Judaic Americana music. Listen to this Jewish convert from Texas and you can hear his soul in every note he sings. Come check out another take on new Jewish music. You will leave inspired.

Friday • November 9 • 6:30 pm

The Rabbit Hole • 1801 Commonwealth Avenue • Charlotte

Community Wide Free Event

GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

For one day, communities around the world will share Jewish dialogue and exploration, celebrating all that unites us.

- ▶ Continental Breakfast
- ▶ Keynote Speakers: Authors Tal Keinan and Aryeh Green
- ▶ PJ Library Activity
- ▶ Jewish Adult Learning Workshops
- ▶ Lunch
- ▶ Free babysitting (*must register in advance*)

For details and registration visit, www.jewishcharlotte.org/GDJL



**Sunday,
November 11
9am – 2pm**

Shalom Park
All events are free

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

In partnership with
numerous Charlotte
Jewish organizations.



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with a Donor Advised Fund



"Opening our donor advised fund at the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community was the first step in bringing clarity to our charitable planning. The ability to give appreciated investments and the ease in making charitable gifts from a donor advised fund drove this decision."

-Barbara and David Goodman



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



"One Simchat Torah evening, the Baal Shem Tov himself danced together with his congregation. He took the scroll of the Torah in his hand and danced with it. At this moment, one of his disciples who was intimately acquainted with his gestures, said to his companions: 'Now our master has laid aside the visible, dimensional teachings, and has taken the spiritual teachings unto himself.'"

— Martin Buber,
Tales of the Hasidim

HADASSAH CHARLOTTE PRESENTS

Celebrate the TaTas



THE BIG REVEAL

Wednesday, October 24th
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
VIP Hour: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Queen Park Social
4125 Yancey Road

To purchase tickets or make a donation, visit www.celebratethetatas.com



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Jewish
Community
Relations
Council

JCRC FALL LECTURE

OCTOBER 4, 2018



DAVID MAKOVSKY*

One of America's leading experts on Israel

7:00 pm

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

*David Makovsky is the Ziegler distinguished fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process. He is also an adjunct professor in Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. In 2013-2014, he worked in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of State, serving as a senior advisor to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations.

Author of numerous Washington Institute monographs and essays on issues related to the Middle East Peace Process and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is also co-author, with Dennis Ross, of the *Washington Post* bestseller *Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East* as well as the soon to be released *Fateful Choices*.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations & Israel Affairs, 704.944.6751 or laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

The role of the JCRC includes promoting and cultivating positive relations between the Jewish community and the Charlotte community at large, participating in the improvement of our local and global communities and encouraging engagement with and fostering a strong relationship between the local Jewish and greater Charlotte communities and Israel.

WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG

Local Organizations Receive Legacy Gifts

Five local Jewish organizations have recently received estate gifts to support the future of Charlotte's Jewish community. Gifts from the estate of Abraham "Abe" and Rose Luski were distributed to support the Foundation of Shalom Park, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the Hebrew Cemetery Association, Temple Israel, and the Levine Jewish Community Center. Rose Luski passed away on September 15, 2016 and Abe, two months later on November 20. They were both 89 years old.

"Mom and Dad loved their family, their yiddishkeit, and their Jewish community," said Rabbi Jacob Luski, on behalf of the Luski family. "It is befitting that on their passing, they support their beloved Charlotte Jewish community as they generously did throughout their lives. They set a beautiful example for their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte also received

a gift from the estate of Mildred "Mickey" Zuckerman, who passed away in York, PA on May 9, 2016 at the age of 99. Mickey was predeceased by her husband, Milton Zuckerman. ☆



Abraham and Rose Luski



*Kristallnacht 80th
Anniversary
Commemoration*

*November 7, 7 PM
Temple Israel*

Making Dreams Come TRUE

11-11-18

PAJAMA

WALK-a-thon & FUN FEST
at Freedom Park

Highlights:

A Chance To Dance Opener	Bouncy Houses
Marching Band	Dream Themed Carnival
Route Entertainment	Kosher Food Trucks
Ability Craft Fair	All Ages & Abilities Welcome

Register at PajamaWalk.com & get all the details

"My parents who came from another country sought to make the Israel of their imagination, drawn from the descriptions in the Bible, their physical homeland. In somewhat the reverse way, I sought to give my real and tangible homeland the added dimension of historical depth, to bring to life the strata of the past which now lay beneath the desolate ruins and archaeological mounds - the Israel of our patriarchs, our judges, our kings, our prophets."

*-- Moshe Dayan,
Living with the Bible*



SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS ARE OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Monday, October 1
Erev Simchat Torah Celebration & Dinner (5 p.m.)

Friday, October 12
Torah Tots Shabbat Service & Oneg (5:45 p.m.)

YOUTH

USY GESHER LOCK-IN
(ALL 8th-12th Grade Teens)
Saturday, October 13 (7:30 p.m.) – Sunday, October 14 (8 a.m.)
Location: Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
The night begins with Havdallah, then on to games, movies, and a nosh. A light breakfast will be served. *Cost: \$20/ TI-USY Members; \$30 Non-Members.*
Register at templeisraelinc.org by Monday, October 8.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

JEWS, BOOS, AND BREWS
Thursday, October 18 (7:30 p.m.)
Location: Catawba Brewing Co (933 Louise Ave #105)
Come join Torah on Tap for some fall-inspired brews and boos at Catawba Brewing Co. Light snacks will be provided.

SOCIAL CLUB

BUTTERFLY PROJECT 10 YEARS CELEBRATION
Sunday, October 14 (3 - 5 p.m.)
Our very own Irving Bienstock will be honored with a special ballet, performed by The Charlotte Ballet, in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park. *There is no charge for this program, but reservations are required. To RSVP, please call the LJCC at 704-366-5007.*

LIFELONG LEARNING

THE ETHICAL LIFE: JEWISH VALUES IN AN AGE OF CHOICE
Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and November 14
7-9 p.m. (with break for Minyan)
Location: Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall
This program (in two parts, to be offered in both the fall and spring 2019) will offer a distinctive approach to Jewish ethics, bringing the wisdom of our classical Jewish texts to bear on the unique challenges of our day. *Cost: \$36/Temple Israel congregants and \$54/general admission. For additional details, visit templeisraelinc.org.*



Temple Israel has received a Legacy Gift from the estate of Abraham "Abe" & Rose Luski. We are grateful to Abe & Rose for their decades of service and dedication to Temple Israel during their lives and we deeply appreciate their continued generosity.

SAVE THE DATE

80th ANNIVERSARY of
KRISTALLNACHT
NIGHT of the BROKEN GLASS
COMMEMORATION



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018
7 P.M.
Temple Israel

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Erev Simchat Torah Celebration

Monday, October 1

5-5:30 p.m. - Torah Tots Simchat Torah
5:30-6:15 p.m. - Spaghetti Dinner (reservations closed)
6:15-7:15 p.m. - Dancing with the Torah Celebration
7:15 p.m. - Ice Cream Dessert Party and Adult Bar
Please join us for music, dancing, and celebrations with the Torah!

Simchat Torah Services

Tuesday, October 2

9:30 a.m. - Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary

**Kiddush Luncheon following services is sponsored by: The Aaron Gleiberman Simchat Torah Celebration Fund*



UPCOMING EVENTS

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB:

Rescheduled Date:

Monday, October 15 (7 p.m.)

Location: TI Boardroom

Dr. Jay Jacoby, distinguished professor of literature and yearly guest at the Temple Israel book club, will lead the club discussion of "A Replacement Life" by Boris Fishman. *For additional information contact Linda Levy (704) 366-6362, levyollie@aol.com or visit templeisraelinc.org.*

TEMPLE ISRAEL CELEBRATES THE INSTALLATION OF

Cantor Shira Lissek
חזן שירה תמר

Sunday, October 28, 2018, 4 p.m.



Join Cantor Lissek as she celebrates with a Concert Extraordinaire with her mentors and friends.:

Cantor Azi Schwartz, Park Avenue Synagogue, NYC
Cantor Alisa Pomerantz, President of the Cantors Assembly
Cantor Leon Lissek, Cantor Emeritus, B'nai Amoona, St. Louis
Beth Styles, Producer/Composer/Artist
Cantor Laurie Akers, Congregation Or Shalom, Vernon Hills
Monty Bennett, Music Director, Temple Israel, Charlotte

Open to the public and free of charge.
Join us for a champagne reception immediately following the concert.

**Babysitting is available with RSVP for children 7 weeks through 8 years old (limited space).*



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

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



The City Without a Jewish Cemetery

By Brian Yesowitch, Hilbert Fuerstman Historical Chair

I would first like to ask everyone who is reading this to go immediately to www.hebrew-cemetery.org and sign up to be a member of the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association. Don't ask questions. Don't ponder if you'll be buried in Charlotte. Don't worry if you don't belong to a synagogue or temple in Charlotte. Consider it your "goal of the day." It's \$72 annually and you will receive some benefits and discounts I'll cover later in this article.

In August, my family observed a Jewish ritual that is unique to Jewish religious practice. We held an "unveiling ceremony" for my aunt's cemetery headstone. My aunt, Janice Newman, lost a nine-month bout with stage four lung cancer that had metastasized to her bones. It was a difficult situation for all of us as she was much loved by her family and friends. The funeral last September was heartbreaking and now we were to return to the cemetery to unveil the stone and prepare for the first *yahrzeit*, which her immediate family will observe in September on the one-year anniversary of her death.

Lexington, KY is a wonderful college town that has a Jewish Federation, two synagogues, as well as a Chabad organization affiliated with the University of KY, a Jewish summer camp, and a Jewish food festival. However there is no Jewish cemetery. The historic Lexington Cemetery,



Rabbi David Wirtschafter leads the family of Janice Newman in prayer at the unveiling of her headstone on August 19.

near Rupp Arena, home of the Kentucky Wildcat men's basketball team, is the final resting place of many notable Kentuckians. Mary Todd Lincoln, the KY

born wife of our 16th President is buried there. Statesman Henry Clay, legendary basketball coach Adolph Rupp, and even actor Jim Varney (most famous for the

"Ernest" movies) as well as a who's who of thoroughbred horse breeders, owners, trainers, as well as other politicians, actors, businessmen, and women are also buried in the Lexington Cemetery. Imagine my interest and enthusiasm when I learned that there were two Jewish sections in this historic cemetery.

The Jewish people of Lexington and their temples



The headstone of Brian Yesowitch's aunt, Janice Newman, is in the newer Jewish section of the Lexington Cemetery in KY.

(if they are affiliated) as well as the funeral homes make arrangements with the Cemetery directly. Other than their Rabbi (if they are affiliated), there are no Jewish professionals involved with the process. The Lexington Cemetery also doesn't take into consideration families with a financial need. These are just a few of the reasons I feel we in Charlotte are fortunate to have our Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery. In 1867, a dozen or so Jewish families decided they wanted to be a community and create the first Jewish community institution in Charlotte. They created a cemetery to inter Jewish people from Charlotte, Gaston County, Iredell County, Statesville, Mocksville, and many communities in neighboring South Carolina as well. It was their intent to have a place for every Jew in town to be buried.

Our Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association follows their same model today. We have a modest annual dues payment of \$72. Our cemetery is member based – and we don't dictate which synagogue or temple the member should belong to. It may be that you have connections to synagogues in other cities. We don't discriminate in that manner. Nor do we discriminate based on finances. In 2012, with cooperation from Jewish Family Services and the Charlotte area synagogues and clergy, we petitioned the Jewish Federation to create the Jewish Funeral Assistance Fund. Along with our Norman Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund, we now have a robust sup-



port structure that uses the professional services and experiences of Charlotte Jewish Family Services to direct Federation funds designated specifically for financial aid for funerals as well as contributions from area clergy to provide the same standard of dignified care and comfort to families in their time of loss – regardless of their ability to pay "full price" for a funeral. Our "assisted" funerals are undistinguishable from our other funerals. We don't have a "paupers' section" as the other cemeteries have. We work with the families and provide support and guidance because our community is blessed to have a Jewish funeral support system that our Director Sandra Goldman leads with compassion and *yiddishkeit*.

Please contact Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org for more information about being a member, funeral pre-planning, financial aid for funerals, volunteering at the cemetery, or designating the Hebrew Cemetery as a beneficiary of your will or estate. Please join us and help us accomplish our mission of providing respectful and dignified Jewish funerals for all Charlotte area Jewish people. ☆



Charlotte
concerts

EMANUEL AX

world-renowned pianist

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018
7:30 PM
CONCERT PREVIEW: 6:55 PM

HALTON THEATER
CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE (CPCC)
1206 ELIZABETH AVENUE, CHARLOTTE, NC

For tickets, visit charlotteconcerts.org or call 704.330.6534.





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WORSHIP

Celebrating Shabbat

First Fridays

5:30 pm SongFest
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

Simchat Torah Festival Service with Yizkor

11:00 am Monday, Oct. 1

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



Join our vibrant Jewish community today.

Contact Candace Naliboff, Director of Member Services at 704.749.3068 or cnaliboff@templebethel.org.



Drop by to see our unique merchandise by new designers and artisans arriving daily.

Discovered Traditions is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday–Wednesday and Friday, before and after Friday night services, and on Religious School Sundays. Proceeds support the Temple Beth El Religious School.

LEARNING

Temple Beth El offers unique educational opportunities for the lover of learning in your family. Find out more about our adult education programs and register at www.templebethel.org.

October 2018 Adult Learning Events

The Art of Chanting the Torah with Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

4 Saturday mornings starting Oct. 6

Learn Torah trope, a system of musical grammar that brings meaning, structure, and beauty to the way that we read and chant from our Torah each week.

Elements of Judaism with Betsy Olinger and Sara Bryan

7 Tuesday evenings, starting Oct. 9

An introductory course to Jewish thought, belief, and practice designed for anyone who wants to reinforce or establish a foundation in understanding Judaism.

The Many Meanings of Israel with Temple Beth El's Rabbi Emerita, Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies

3 Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 17

The term "Israel" has many meanings. Join Rabbi Judy Schindler as we explore the meaning of the people, land, and dream of Israel, 70 years after the founding of the modern state.

Sage: Seeking Jewish Wisdom with Rabbi Asher Knight

7 Daytime Sessions Starting Monday, Oct. 22

This year's Sage will explore the ideas of Jewish identity that have shaped our people and we will consider how our ideas of Jewish identity will affect our people's future.

More Programs in October

Same Stories, Different Texts: The Hebrew Bible and the New Testament

8 Wednesday afternoons starting Oct. 3

TBE Bends Toward Justice (#TBERaceandJustice Learning Series)

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Torah Study meets weekly

Uptown Study, SouthPark Study, TBE Book Club,
SPICE Programs all meet monthly

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



5101 Providence Road | Charlotte, NC 28226 | 704.366.1948 | templebethel.org



**UNION for
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Simchat Torah Doesn't Have to be a "Men's Holiday"

By Sarah Rudolph

(Kveller via JTA) - There seems to be a widespread misconception in the Orthodox world that the upcoming holiday of Simchat Torah is a "men's holiday."

I can understand the confusion, stemming from what we celebrate and how we celebrate it.

Simchat Torah has evolved as a celebration of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings — readings that in Orthodox shuls occur purely on the men's side of the *mechitza*, or divider. And we celebrate it by taking all the Torah scrolls out of the ark — also on the men's side — and dancing seven circuits, or *hakafot*, with them. There is much joyful singing, generally in a masculine timbre, and the dancing men take turns holding the heavy scrolls.

With so much action naturally taking place on the other side, I can understand — sort of — why things tend to be much less lively on my side of the *mechitza*. Depending on the community, the women might dance, but it is rarely as exuberant, as populated or as sustained as the men's dancing. My childhood memories of the holiday involve a core group of women who enjoyed dancing and would try to get things going, while most of the women might join for a few minutes in between their primary activities of chatting, chasing sugared-up children (did I mention excessive candy often plays a role in the celebrations?) and watching the men.



Photo courtesy of Kveller.com.

From what I have experienced and heard since, my shul was fairly typical, though in many places the women don't dance at all — or even show up.

My husband likes to tell of the girl he once dated who was surprised at the suggestion that she might go to shul on Simchat Torah.

"Why would I go?" she asked. "I have no one to watch."

For her, I think, it was accepted as a matter of course that dancing on Simchat Torah is what men do, and she wouldn't have ever imagined that she could — or should — have a part in it.

For others, the questions around women and Simchat Torah are more fraught — and many focus on the Torah scrolls themselves, arguing that if the women can't dance with a Torah, then they feel excluded, like their dancing is pointless. Indeed, in more recent years, as this sort of discomfort with gender disparities has increased, many rabbis have concluded that there is no real *halachic* problem with a woman carrying a Torah scroll, and in some shuls a scroll or two will be passed to the women's side for the dancing.

This is the part where I have a

harder time understanding.

So often I hear some version of either, "My rabbi lets the women have a Torah, so the women's dancing is nice," or "The women in my shul don't have a Torah, so it's lame; they just stand around talking and watching the men dance."

It is really easy to blame the men and the rabbis. It is really easy to say, "If only we were granted equal rights and could dance with a Torah scroll, we would dance and celebrate, too." It is really easy to say, "I'm not going to shul if the women are just going to sit around schmoozing and watching the men. It's a men's holiday; I don't feel a part of it."

It's really easy to say those things, but if I may be frank, I think it's all baloney. We have an equal right to Torah. I'm not talking about holding the scroll; that, to my mind, is secondary. The real point is that we have an equal right to rejoice in our sacred heritage. Nobody is making us chat; ultimately, no one is stopping us from dancing. If it's a men's holiday, that is because we let it be. We can unite and take back Simchat Torah. We can choose to dance.

And we don't need a scroll to do it.

What are we dancing for, after all?

On Simchat Torah, I dance for the concept of Torah, not the object. I dance for myself and my

love of Torah study. I dance for the joy of the completed cycle of reading, and I dance for the joy of beginning all over again. I dance because I will shortly have tears in my eyes, like I do every year, as I listen to the account of Moses' death in the last few verses of the Torah. I dance because I will shortly be awed, as I am every year, when we begin again and read, "And it was evening, and it was morning, one day." The very beginning of everything; something, where there had been nothing.

I, too, can make something from nothing, in my own little way. I can walk into a women's section full of schmoozing women and wild kids, grab some hands and create a circle of joy. I can rejoice in Torah, and nothing — no object or lack of it, no *mechitza*, no rows of chairs presenting a logistical challenge — will stop me.

I only hope, this year, the other women on my side get up and dance, too. ☆

(Sarah Rudolph lives in Cleveland with her family. She has been teaching Jewish text studies for over 10 years to students ranging from elementary school to retirement age.)

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LEARN – Professional development for our staff & special programs for our children.

GROW – Infrastructure and technology improvements for our school.

CONNECT – Stronger relationships with our families, staff & community members.



Charlotte Jewish Preschool
LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

CJP is a partnership of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel & LJCC

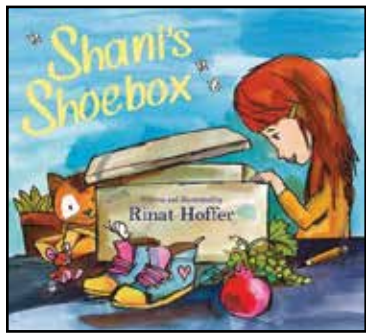
New Children's Books: A Magical Shoebox and Animals from Everywhere

By Penny Schwartz

Boston (JTA) – From an African warthog to swinging orangutans, animals from all corners of the planet are featured in two stories among a new crop of children's books at the Jewish New Year that also includes a lyrical poem of the biblical story of creation and a magical story about an ordinary shoebox.

And a bonus: An illustrated picture book tells the story of Regina Jonas, the German Jewish girl who followed her dream to become the first woman ordained as a rabbi.

Young ones can get a jump start on the new year by turning the pages on these entertaining and informative reads.



Shani's Shoebox

Written and illustrated by Rinat Hoffer; translated (from Hebrew) by Noga Applebaum
Green Bean Books; ages 4-8

Prepare to be enchanted. *Shani's Shoebox*, a gently rhyming poem-story for Rosh Hashanah by the award-winning Israeli illustrator and children's author Rinat Hoffer, will kick off the Jewish New Year on the right foot.

Shani's "abba," the Hebrew word for dad, surprises her with a pair of shiny new red shoes for Rosh Hashanah. Naturally she tosses aside the ordinary looking shoebox.

"It was only a box after all, nothing more," she says.

But on Yom Kippur, Shani finds the box hidden behind stuffed animals and the next day crafts it into a sukkah. During Chanukah, a cat discovers the discarded box and uses it to stay warm in the winter. Season to season, the box takes on a magical quality, turning up in new guises and with new uses throughout a year's worth of Jewish holidays.

The next Rosh Hashanah, when Shani's father fills the box with a new pair of shoes — this time they are blue — Shani is reminded of the year's adventures.

Hoffer's colorful, animated illustrations draw in readers with vibrant energy. In one scene, as the family prepares the house for Passover, Shani is on a stool cleaning a mirror and her dad is sweeping. It's refreshing to have a children's story that depicts a father in everyday roles more commonly associated with moms, like buying shoes for his kids and cleaning the house.

Where's the Potty on This Ark?
Kerry Olitzky; illustration by Abigail Tompkins
Kar-Ben; ages 1-4

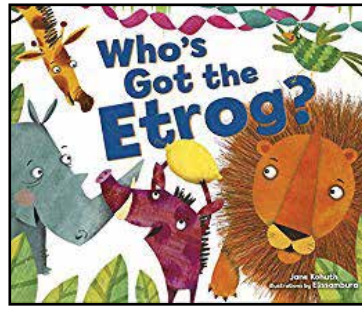
Even on Noah's Ark, the animals need to use the potty. Young

kids will be delightfully surprised with this inventive spin on the biblical story of Noah, from the Book of Genesis. As Noah and his wife, Naamah, greet each of the animals onto the ark, Naamah makes sure they are comfortable.

"Be careful not to hit your head on the ceiling," she warns.

The ark comes well designed, with big potties for the elephants and little ones for smaller friends. When a baby raccoon needs to use the bathroom, Mother Hen patiently guides the young one to learn how. The animals offer an empathetic lesson in taking care of one's body, complete with a prayer. And off they sail on the ark as the rains begin.

Kerry Olitzky's simple, light-hearted prose is paired well with Abigail Tompkins' playful illustrations. The book makes a timely read during the High Holidays because the story of Noah is read in synagogues on the second Shabbat following Simchat Torah, when the cycle of reading the Torah begins anew.

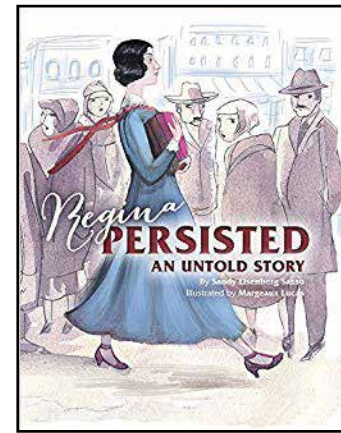


Who's Got the Etrog?
Jane Kohuth; illustrations by Elissambura
Kar-Ben; ages 4-8

In this brightly illustrated story for Sukkot, Jane Kohuth weaves a playful folk-like tale told in simple poetic verse. In her rural village in Uganda, under a bright and full milk-bowl moon, Auntie Sanyu is preparing for the fall harvest holiday when Jews build a hut called a sukkah where they eat, welcome guests, and sometimes even sleep. Kids follow Auntie Sanyu as she decorates her sukkah and places a lulav, the bunch of green palm branches,

and a bright yellow etrog, the lemon-like fruit, on a tray to be used in the holiday rituals by Auntie Sanyu's animal guests. But Wart-hog loves the etrog so much, he doesn't want to hand it over to the lion, parrots, or giraffe. A young girl named Sara intervenes.

The story comes to life in Elissambura's boldly colored, striking collage-style illustrations. The back page explains the history of the Ugandan Jewish community called the Abayudaya,



and a glossary explains about the sukkah and lulav and terms like "Oy,vey!"

Regina Persisted: An Untold Story
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso; illustrated by Margeaux Lucas
Apples & Honey Press; ages 7-12

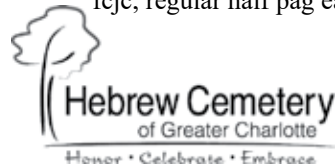
These days, when Jewish-American kids attend synagogue during the High Holidays, it's not that unusual to have a female rabbi leading the congregation. Older kids may be fascinated to learn about Regina Jonas, the German Jew who in 1935, against many odds and strict gender roles, became the first woman ordained as a rabbi.

In this illustrated biography, which garnered a starred review from Kirkus, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso traces how Jonas persisted until religious authorities finally allowed her to take the exam to become a rabbi. Margeaux Lucas' illustrations capture the period, with drawings of Berlin life.

(Continued on page 39)

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I Don't Believe in God — But This Is Why I'm Having an Orthodox Wedding

By Cnaan Liphshiz

Amsterdam (JTA) — My wife and I were married roughly 5,000 diapers ago, and she's still waiting for me to propose.

I know this because she reminds me every anniversary.

To be clear, ours was no shotgun wedding. Iris and I were hitched in a civil marriage in Holland five years ago — a whole-some two years before our first child arrived.

But issues persist with my marriage proposal in 2013. Iris claims that I mumbled, over scrambled eggs, "So, like, do you want to get married or something?" But I think we had pancakes that day.

What she's owed, I guess, is one of those orchestrated productions involving playful deceit, an airplane banner and a seaside kneel to the sounds of saxophone played by a hired musician who pops out of nowhere at exactly the right time along with two cameramen and a boom operator.

But for a fuss-averse pragmatist like me, such affairs feel far too unnatural.

Which is why it may seem a bit strange that I am arranging (if you can call it that: with less than a week to go, I have no ring) a second wedding ceremony. This time it's with a rabbi, *huppah*, *ketubah* — the whole shebang.

And it's all at my insistence.

To be honest, it makes no sense to be doing it now, when we already have our hands full with

two small children. Or at all. While we are both Jewish according to *halachah*, Orthodox law, neither of us observe its laws. We don't even believe in God, let alone what Orthodox Judaism says are God's rules for matrimony.

But after some soul-searching over Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, I realized that my desire for a Jewish wedding is rooted in a growing uncertainty — that of belonging to a persecuted people whose own identity and place in Europe, and Israel, are being redefined rapidly.

Essentially, I want to have an Orthodox wedding and a *ketubah* — a Jewish religious marriage contract — to guarantee our children's eligibility for becoming card-carrying members of any stream of Judaism, and for remaining Israeli citizens.

As things stand today, they already qualify as both even though their parents don't have a *ketubah*, which in Judaism is optional anyway. (In *halachah*, a man and woman technically need neither *ketubah* nor wedding ceremony to be husband and wife — cohabitation is enough to seal a marriage, although the practice was discouraged by the rabbis.)

Our kids can obtain Israeli passports because I am a citizen.

And because my wife is Jewish according to *halachah* (her mother had an Orthodox conver-



Cnaan Liphshiz and wife Iris celebrating their wedding in the Netherlands, July 2, 2013. (Courtesy of Liphshiz)

sion before my wife was born), our son and daughter meet the definition of who is a Jew under a matrilineal standard accepted by all streams.

But amid radicalization in Orthodox circles in Israel and beyond, there seems to be little guarantee that this will be the case 20 years from now. Our *ketubah* may therefore shield our children from scrutiny and complications.

In 2016, for example, an Orthodox rabbinical court in the Israeli city of Petach Tikvah retroactively declared a woman non-Jewish. She had undergone an Orthodox conversion overseen by Haskel Lookstein — one of the most highly regarded Orthodox rabbis in North America. Nevertheless, the Chief Rabbinate has begun to treat all conversions performed in America as suspect, as JTA has reported.

Amid this war among Orthodox rabbis, can anyone guarantee that hardliners won't move to disqualify as Jews those who were born to converts? Or, for that matter, a Dutch Jew whose parents never bothered to get married in a Jewish ceremony?

Consider the case of Yossi Fackenheim, the 39-year-old son of the late Holocaust survivor and Reform rabbi Emil Fackenheim. In 2009, an Orthodox *dayan*, or rabbinic judge, in Jerusalem retroactively declared null and void the younger Fackenheim's Orthodox conversion to Judaism in Canada at the age of 2. The stated reason: The convert did not lead an Orthodox observant lifestyle.

Fearing this radicalization, I want to make sure our son and daughter have documentation to escape such injustice, for example, if and when they choose to marry Jewishly.

Deeper under the surface, though, there are other concerns driving me to retie the knot.

In the eight years that have passed since I moved to the Netherlands, dark clouds have gathered over Western Europe, making it increasingly inhospitable to Jews. Against a backdrop of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and smears, violence against Jews is making a huge comeback in this part of the world.

In Amsterdam, where we live and enrolled our children in a

heavily guarded Jewish kindergarten, a Syrian asylum seeker last year vandalized a kosher restaurant while waving a Palestinian flag to protest President Donald Trump's moving of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

In Antwerp, where I sometimes spend Rosh Hashanah with my relatives, an Arab driver is believed to have tried to run over a Jew and his son while they were walking to synagogue earlier this year. In 2014, an Islamist allegedly murdered four people at the Brussels Jewish museum.

In France, a jihadist killed a rabbi and four children at a Jewish school in 2012. Another Muslim fundamentalist murdered four Jews at a kosher store in 2015. And in 2014, gangs of rioters attacked at least nine synagogues in that country as payback for Israel's war on Hamas.

Even Britain, which many local Jews have long thought of as a safe haven, is seeing the resurgence of anti-Semitism, including inside the Labour Party under its populist far-left leader, Jeremy Corbyn.

A future here is becoming increasingly difficult to imagine for our children, to whom I speak in Hebrew and whom I often sing to sleep by butchering Naomi Shemer's Zionist song about Jerusalem, "Yerushalaim Shel Zahav."

(Continued on page 39)

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Orthodox Wedding

(Continued from page 38)

Israel must remain a fortress that's open to them.

By Israeli law, they are entitled to citizenship as my children even if they weren't Jewish. But laws can be changed — and by the same group of people who are retroactively declaring people non-Jewish.

Granted, these are pretty somber motives for getting hitched. But after studying our *ketubah* with our rabbi, I feel entitled to some pessimism.

"It's basically a prenup," the rabbi told me about the text written on parchment, which states the man is responsible for the woman's well-being and specifies what alimony he'd pay her if he divorces her. "Nobody likes a prenup, so I don't call it that. And it contains some rosy talk about the joys of marriage. But make no mistake, this document is about what happens if it all goes wrong."

Then there's the fact that as Jews, we're told to remember the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem when we wed. That's why, traditionally, Jewish men break a glass under the *huppah*, or canopy.

Living as a Jew in Europe, a graveyard for 6 million Holocaust victims, destruction is never too far from my mind.

Such pessimism also extends to Israel, where despite phenomenal successes and inspiring expressions of unity, polarization in society has joined neighborly

hostility as a major threat to a viable future in a homeland for all Jews.

Still, I think of our Jewish wedding also as acknowledgment and appreciation of the tremendous privileges with which I've been blessed and seek to preserve.

The first is living with the best partner I could've hoped for. The second is our children's place in the world's only Jewish country. In joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, and hopefully long after death does us part. ☆



New Books

(Continued from page 37)

Several scenes convey the young Regina as a kind of Disney-like Belle, greeting peddlers at the market, and clutching a book, daydreaming, as she crosses the street.

The afterword tells of the tragic ending of Jonas' life in 1944, where she was killed in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. It would be nearly 30 years later until another woman, the American Sally Priesand, is ordained, in the Reform movement. Today there are nearly 1,000 women rabbis around the world, among them the book's author, who herself was a trailblazer as the first woman to be ordained as a rabbi in the Reconstructionist movement. Eisenberg Sasso also is the award-winning author of the best-selling children's book "God's Paintbrush."



A Moon for Moe and Mo
Jane Breskin Zalben; illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini
Charlebridge; ages 3-7

In this gloriously illustrated, uplifting story for these times, two boys — one Jewish and one Muslim — from Brooklyn's Flat-

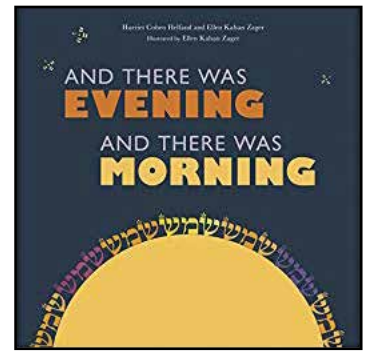
bush Avenue meet at a Middle Eastern grocery shop. It's a rare year when Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan coincide in the fall. As their mothers shop, the boys run through the aisles, overflowing with spices, fruits, olives, and sugar-dusted candies, causing minor mischief and striking up the beginnings of a friendship. As the endearing story unfolds, the friendship blossoms and inspires their families to celebrate together.

Jane Breskin Zalben, an award-winning author, adds to her considerable collection of engaging stories that have enlivened the Jewish holidays for a generation of readers — "Beni's Family Treasury" and "Pearl's Passover," among others. Mehrdokht Amini's colorful collage illustrations burst off the page and bring the bustling neighborhood to life. Back pages explain the holidays and include recipes for each.

And There Was Evening and There Was Morning
Harriet Cohen Helfand and Ellen Kahan Zager; illustrations by Ellen Kahan Zager
Kar-Ben; ages 3-8

The story of Creation unfolds in lyrical rhyming couplets in this day-by-day biblical interpretation that introduces young kids to the Jewish origin story of how the world came to be. On day one, God brought light from darkness: "Our beautiful world was under-way."

In this retelling, God is referred to in gender-neutral language. Older kids will be engrossed with



Kahan Zager's detailed illustrations, which are drawn using Hebrew letters and words. The back page is a simple illustrated dictionary of Hebrew and English words.

The Creation Book
Chani Gansburg; illustrated by Dena Ackerman
Hachai Publishing; ages 2-6

Bold, bright illustrations will dazzle young readers in this story of Creation told in lively rhyming couplets that evoke each day's creation. The double-page spread for day five is a swirl of creatures from the oceans and sky: "Fins and scales. Flapping tails. A school of fish. A pod of whales."

Verse and art are well paired in this story, which is geared to families in the haredi Orthodox community, using the word Hashem, for God, with the He pronoun. ☆

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