

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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December 2019

The 2020 Main Event Featuring Mitch Albom, Author, Journalist, Philanthropist Have a Little Faith: How Trusting Others Can Change The World



Co-chairs Holly and Hal Levinson invite you to join them at the Federation's 2020 Main Event on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 7 PM at Temple Israel featuring Mitch Albom. The Main Event is the Jewish Federation's most widely attended event of the campaign season.

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, sportswriter, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster, and musician. His books have collectively sold more than 39 million copies worldwide, have been published in forty-nine territories and in forty-five languages around the world, and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies.

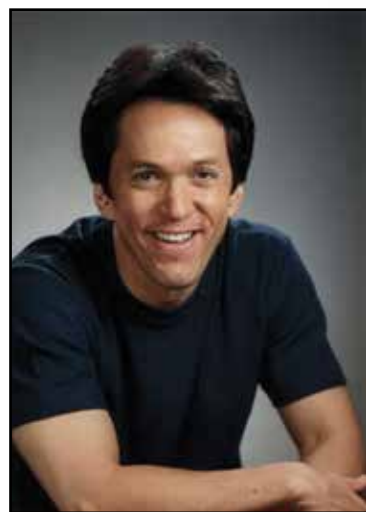
While nationally recognized for his sports writing, Albom

is perhaps best known for the themes of hope and kindness that weave through his books, plays, and films. In his talks and presentations, he brings the same inspiring message of community building, giving, and purpose. Albom shares stories about faith amongst the poor, the well-to-do, the homeless, and those who once felt God did not exist. He addresses questions such as: What do we all have in common in our hearts – no matter what house of worship we attend? How does the belief in something bigger than us give us insight, wisdom, and comfort? How does faith help when bad things happen? And what can we learn from each other's faith that can make the world, the workplace, our neighborhoods, and our daily lives more harmonious? Expanding on themes already developed in his

bestselling books *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Mitch Albom weaves a captivating and uplifting message about the potential in all of us for a giving, meaningful life.

Main Event tickets are \$36 each and are available online at www.jewishcharlotte.org or by phone at 704-944-6757.

Everyday, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, together with you, our donors and partners, enriches lives, builds community and fosters a thriving Jewish future locally, in Israel and around the world. We are always at work powering the community and your Jewish experience in ways you might not think of, in places you would never expect. Right now, thousands of people need us in a multitude of ways. This is your moment to help. Join us at



Mitch Albom

the Main Event, and be the start of something powerful. You will also have the opportunity to make your pledge to the 2020 Annual Campaign.

For more information about the Main Event, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6757 or info@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education, planning and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Congratulations to Gabe Mathless on Becoming a JCPA Frank Family Fellow

The Frank Family Leadership Institute is a unique mentoring opportunity for emerging leaders who want to be active in the Jewish community relations field that focuses on public policy and advocacy, civic engagement, and

intergroup/interfaith relations. Its goal is to build the leaders of tomorrow for the community relations network at the national and local levels.

The Frank Fellows Leadership Institute is a 10-month pro-

gram run by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). The Fellowship program includes educational webinars, a Poland/Israel Mission, and attendance at the JCPA National Conference. As the program selects only 10 emerging Jewish leaders from across the nation, we are thrilled that Gabe Mathless will represent the Charlotte community as part of the 2019-2020 cohort.

Although Gabe and his family moved to the Queen City only a few years ago, he has already established himself as an energetic leader within the Charlotte Jewish community. He is vice-president of Charlotte's Levine Jewish Community Center, serves on multiple committees, and chairs the LJCC's governance committee. In recognition of his contributions to the LJCC, Gabe was awarded the LJCC's President's Cup and Director's Award in 2017 and was selected to represent the LJCC at the biennial JCC Association of North America conference through the Esther Leah Ritz Emerging JCC Leaders Institute in 2018.

As part of the Frank Fellowship, Gabe be working with the Jewish Federation's Director of Community Relations and Israel

Affairs, Laurel Grauer, to coordinate Israel advocacy efforts and re-establish Charlotte's Jewish Community Relations Council.

Gabe Mathless is a corporate restructuring and bankruptcy attorney with the firm Moore and Van Allen PLLC. He received his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School and undergraduate degrees from the University of Michigan. He lives in Charlotte, with his wonderful wife, Stephanie, and their two beautiful sons. ☆



Gabe Mathless

**Thank you to the latest donors to
The Charlotte Jewish News**

**Your generosity helps us fulfill our mission to
continue publishing the latest information about
our community.**

For the list of donors, please turn to page 13.

**December 15, Temple Beth El's Equity in
Education team presents *Resilience*, a documentary
about toxic stress and its effects on children.**

See page 11 for more details.

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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



Two women questioning the teachings of their upbringing are the subjects of this month's column.

The first is Angela Himself who grew up in rural Indiana as a fundamentalist Christian and ended up a practicing Jew in New York. The second is Leah (originally Lola), a California girl and secular Jew who becomes a *baalas teshuva* ("possessor of repentance") in Boro Park, the Orthodox neighborhood in Brooklyn.

Angela Himself is the seventh of eleven children from a fami-

ly that belonged to an evangelical branch of Christianity – the Worldwide Church of God. In her memoir *A River Could Be a Tree*, Angela Himself describes her experience as a college student searching for salvation. She seizes an opportunity to study in Jerusalem. But instead of strengthening her beliefs, the experience opens a new world for Angela; and she begins to question everything she had previously been taught. After much agonizing, she finds her own form of salvation as a practicing Jewish woman.

In Naomi Ragen's new book *An Unorthodox Match*, we meet Leah whose mother rebelled against her Orthodox Jewish upbringing, and adamantly and rigorously discourages her daughter from becoming an observant Jew. If you love reading Naomi Ragen's books, as I do, you will be thoroughly engrossed in Leah's life as she searches to fulfill her dream of becoming an observant Jewish wife and mother. As a newly Orthodox woman, the pitfalls placed in her path by the Orthodox community form the crux

of this novel.

Both Angela and Leah are strong women struggling to pursue their own paths. One is a true story and the other a novel; however, the women in both books find acceptance and a sense of family that is well worth their difficult searches.

The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Book Club will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at 10:30 AM in Room D118 at Shalom Park. The book to be discussed is *The Girl From Berlin* by Ron Balson, which was the

winner of the Jewish Book Council's 2019 Book Club Award. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

Sharing Chanukah at School - Chanukah Kits Are Here to Help

If your child attends a secular or public school, chances are that you may be asked to teach a short lesson about Chanukah. Don't fear. The Center for Jewish Education and PJ Library are here to help. We have Chanukah Kits to borrow and to take into almost any classroom situation. Chanukah kits are free and include:

- * Explanation of the holiday of Chanukah
- * Appropriate story book
- * Chanukah menorah and candles
- * Dreidels, as well as directions
- * Craft Ideas
- * Chanukah worksheets/coloring pages

Chanukah kits will be available for pick up at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Please call to reserve your kit today – quantities are limited. To reserve or for more information: Debby Block at debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CJE!
DECEMBER 2019

FRIDAYS: DECEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27
PJ Baby Playdate, 11:00 AM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
Love Our Local Authors
7:00 - 9:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
CJE Book Club, 10:30 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
PJ Library and the Jewish Preschool on Sardis
Donut Miss the Fun: Hands On Hanukkah
10:00 AM, Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish Life
6619 Sardis Road

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

PLEASE NOTE:
The Library will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and January 1.



Shabbat Candle Lighting for December 2019

Friday, December 6, 4:53 PM

Friday, December 13, 4:54 PM

Friday, December 20, 4:56 PM

Friday, December 27, 5:00 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



Growth Drives Future Plans at JFS

JFS has been helping the community for almost 40 years. It has been the primary resource, and place to go for those struggling with mental health, food insecurity, domestic violence, parenting, and aging. All of the programs and services are designed to engage, empower, and enrich with a goal of stabilizing and enhancing the lives of those it serves which is accomplished through four main areas of focus: Counseling and Domestic Violence Services, Senior Engagement and Holocaust Survivor Programs, Crisis Response and Assistance, and Community Programs and Education.

In order to deliver the most meaningful, relevant programs and services that meet the community's need, JFS closely monitors and takes note of emerging patterns and trends. It's what guides the agency and helps determine its offerings.

Over the past two years, there has been a significant rise in the number of inquiries and requests for services. This growth is not just in one main focus area, but from several. Increased calls for emergency groceries from our food pantry, people asking for assistance with finding affordable housing, help with navigating resources, and then there are those that are asking for increased dollars amount when facing a financial crisis. The call volume

and the services delivered have grown immensely. For example, in 2018, JFS served more than twice the number of clients for therapy than the previous year, reaching an all-time agency high. According to Howard Olshansky, Executive Director, "As JFS has continued to respond to the growing needs of our community, it's become clear that we need to establish a plan that allows JFS to grow its capacity in a way that ensures our ability to continue to meet the needs while at the same time maintaining the quality of our programs and services."

In response to the growing demand, during this year's strategic planning process, JFS identified priority areas for the organization. "When we looked at the data and trends, it became clear that there were a couple of significant, pressing areas of need for our community: older adults and those coping with mental health challenges," stated Olshansky. The older adult population is growing in numbers and in geography. JFS is now responding to the needs of seniors down in Sun City, SC, across Union County, and in Lake Norman. And because people are living longer the issues related to aging are more complex, JFS is creating a Senior Engagement Department and has hired a Senior Engagement Therapist, who specializes in delivering services in a com-

munity-based setting, as well as providing traditional therapy services in the office.

At JFS, we are also seeing increasing levels of trauma in individuals, kids, and families. In order to respond swiftly and appropriately, JFS trained and certified its staff in the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, which helps families respond to issues affecting teens and children and issues related to topics such as social media, bullying, depression and anxiety. Rachel Green, Program Director, indicated "at JFS we are continuously looking at ways to develop and stay on top of best practices to enhance the competencies of our staff. In addition to the parenting training staff has received, training is being planned in areas such as trauma-informed care, diversity and aging and emotional health. We want to ensure that JFS is able to offer a diversity of clinical interventions to meet the diverse needs of our clients."

Serving the community to the best of our ability means anticipating needs and being prepared. "I'm very proud that we have always been able to serve those in need, especially those in crisis. We have never had to create a waiting list for services," said Olshansky. "When I started here in 2016 we had nine staff. We now have 14. In fact, just this past month, JFS acquired additional

space on Shalom Park because we ran out of space in our existing offices," he added.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have been able to grow our financial resources to support the increased staffing and meet the growing needs.

As the needs continue to grow, as we have seen in 2019, strength-

ening our infrastructure is also one of our strategic priorities. Ensuring that we are well staffed and have the administrative, financial, and technological tools needed in-house means that our clients will continue to receive the highest quality care and best services possible.✧

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JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Month of October 2019

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, JoAnn Abdo, Marcia Arnolt, Ana Bonheim, Bill Brightman, James Bryan, Suzy Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Dan Coblentz, Sheryl Effren, Maggie Fogel, Mel Frank, Rob Friedman, Neil Golub, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, June Hirshman, Bob Jacobson, Brooks Jaffa, Judy Kaufman, Penny Krieger, Stephanie Krietman, Elliot Krietman, Marcia Lampert, Eric Lerner, Gary Lerner, Lisa Levinson, Lucky Levinson, Adam Levy, Kim Levy, Matt Luftglass, Harriet Meetz, Moshe House Staff, Frada Mozenter, Lisa Newman, Harry Rubenstein, Linda Safir, Fred Shporer, Louie Sinkoe, Mason Sklut, Harry

Sparks, Ken Stern, Liz Wahls, Amalia Warshenbrot, Jan Weiner, Nancy Wielunski, Jonathan Yass

Food Pantry Donations: Caleb Fordham, Bill Schwartz, Charlotte Jewish Community Center Members, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, JCC Soccer Program, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants, Women of Temple Israel, Shalom Park Community Gardens

Food Drives: Temple Israel High Holiday Food Drive

Mitzvah Basket Donations: In honor of Kyle Katz's Bar Mitzvah, in honor of Mike Humphrey Bar Mitzvah, in honor of Jacob Schwartz's Bar Mitzvah.✧

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Community News

Increasing the Light with the Stan Greenspon Center

At the end of the secular month of December and the Hebrew month of Kislev, we will brighten the darkest nights of the year by lighting our Chanukah menorah and sharing our light with the world. At the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte, we strive to illuminate the darkness of our world all year round.

We invite you to join the Greenspon Center as we kindle eight metaphorical candles in the months ahead:

Holocaust and Human Rights Teacher Workshops

We offer teacher workshops for middle and high school educators who teach the Holocaust. In the months ahead, we will host a full day Facing History and Ourselves program, an Echoes and Reflections, and an IWitness program. We also plan on working with individual schools to meet individual community goals. If you know a teacher who would benefit from our support, please make the connection.

Becoming One Human Family Programs in Regional Schools

November is a busy month for our flagship in-school program. Student workshops are scheduled in Lake Norman Charter School, Levine Middle College High School, and Corvian High School. We are collaborating with the Union County AIG Middle School coordinator to develop and ongoing student inquiry project. And, as always, we respond to calls and requests from individual schools and teachers seeking the best resources to engage their students with the lessons of the Holocaust.

Queens University Hillel

We fill the winter months with warm Hillel family-style Shabbat dinners and Sushi Shabbat lunches. We are excited for our monthly Mimi's matzah ball soup giveaway on campus, sponsored by the Gorelick family in memory of Patty Karro Gorelick. Students walk away with wonderful memories as we create great cultural bridges between the Jewish and non-Jewish campus communities. Our newest "At Our Table: A Shabbat and Holiday Experience" (funded by the Lenora Stein Community Creative Learning Grant) brings community members to the Queens campus for special Shabbat experiences. If you want to be included in our Art Shabbat or Educators' Shabbat contact dippoldt@queens.edu.

Jewish Studies
In the cold winter nights, consider warming yourself with a glass of tea or wine at Selwyn Pub as we study Mussar, Jewish ethical literature, inspiring us to work on our character traits (from gratitude to humility to silence to trust). Rabbi Judy Schindler invites you to meet new people, explore wellsprings of Jewish wisdom, and have a great time. This casual and relaxing event has a something for everyone. Classes will be held one Wednesday a month from 5-6:30 PM.

First Responders to Hate

We pray that the winter will be positive and peaceful. If it is not, the Greenspon Center team is ready to step in and provide help. We are ready to meet with schools and community members to deepen understanding and expand skills for responding to biased behavior.

Social Justice Advocacy

Times are tough for many of our Charlotte neighbors. Join the Greenspon Center in social justice advocacy and make a meaningful difference.

Will your 2020 New Year's resolution be ...

- To create more affordable housing and sustain diverse communities?
- To improve access to affordable healthcare?
- To create positive outcomes for those interfacing with the criminal justice system?
- To support our immigrant neighbors?
- To advocate for restorative justice?

Join us on January 23, 2020

(Continued on page 9)


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Foundation of Shalom Park 2019 Security Campaign Underway

Since the founding of Shalom Park as the center of Jewish life in Charlotte nearly 40 years ago the Foundation of Shalom Park has been the primary agency responsible for the security of the park

all of the thousands of people who visit every day. The Foundation has the responsibility for balancing the need to provide a secure and safe environment with our desire to create an open and welcoming atmosphere, something which has become much more challenging in recent years.

Last month we mourned the one-year anniversary of the horrific events at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. This incident, and others that have occurred since then, continue to be a stark reminders of the need for diligence and preparation in the face of increasing threats.

In response to our elevated concerns over security, over the past year the Foundation of

Shalom Park has continued to consult with the Department of Homeland Security and Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. We have also continued to implement the recommendations of an external security consultant. In 2019, these actions resulted in significant changes designed to improve security on the Park, including increased staffing levels, improved training and preparedness, and enhanced physical infrastructure. The cost of these changes increased security costs on the park – to a total budget of - \$425,000.

In 2020, to continue to improve our security, and at the request of all of the agencies operating on the Park, we are



The Foundation of Shalom Park Security team.

planning further enhancements, including increases in security personnel, CMPD coverage, security vehicle presence, and integration of the weekly security costs for Temple Israel and Temple Beth El. As a result, we anticipate security expenses across the park will increase by an additional 38% to \$595,000.

These costs are paid through a combination of direct charges to all of the Jewish agencies on Shalom Park, funds taken from the Foundation of Shalom Park's limited security reserves, a special grant received from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and contributions received in response to the Foundation of Shalom Park Security Campaign.

As necessary as these enhancements are, they will place a further strain on the budgets of all of the agencies operating on the Park. To help offset these expenses, last year the Security Campaign raised \$100,000 from generous donors like you.

Given the elevated threat levels we all face, we are again asking for your support. Our goal for this year is to raise at least \$150,000. These funds will benefit the entire park by allowing us to significantly increase our security budget without putting further stress on our agency tenants.

We can only do this with your help. Any donation is gratefully accepted but we suggest a mini-

mum donation of \$180. If you are able, a larger gift will help supplement those who are unable to contribute.

The Foundation of Shalom Park stands shoulder-to-shoulder with you to create a community where our families feel safe as they work, learn, play, and pray. On behalf of all the Shalom Park leadership, we thank you for your continued and generous support.

Nothing is more critical than the safety and well-being of the Shalom Park community – our families, children, seniors, guests, congregants, and employees. Please support this campaign and help us provide the safety we all need – every day.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which include: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew Cemetery Association, B'nai Brith Youth Organization, NC Hillel, and The Charlotte Jewish News.☆

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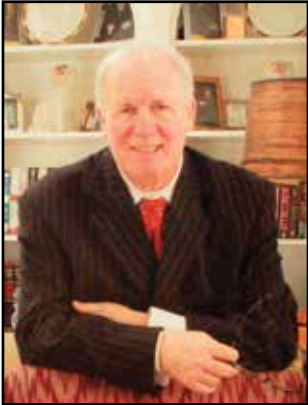
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An Evening About Helping Those Seeking a Safe Haven

By Amy Lefkof

It may have been November 3, well past the high holidays, but in the David Silverman Social Hall at Temple Beth El, over 130 attendees at the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative's 2nd Annual Welcoming the Stranger to the Table dessert reception and program, funded by a Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact and Innovation Grant, beat their chests, as Temple Beth El's Rabbi Asher Knight led them through a modified *vidui* – a confessional prayer said in the plural – to confront how we as individuals, as a Jewish community, and as a nation, have hardened our hearts to refugees and those seeking asylum in these days of “overwhelming inundation of the unthinkable.” Noting that our hardened hearts are calling to us, Rabbi Knight encouraged attendees to stand up for justice when we see people mistreated.

Next on the program, under the heading, “This is Personal: We Are All Immigrants,” was Ken Schorr, Executive Director of Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, whose Immigrant Justice Program protects low-income and non-English speaking Latino residents and immigrants of other origins from exploitation through legal assistance. Schorr spoke

about his own family's immigrant experience: when his maternal grandparents emigrated from Poland to escape persecution in 1931, the doors to the U.S. were

of victims of gang violence and domestic violence, and deporting children even after a judicial finding that they are in danger and qualify for protection.

Schorr's remarks were reinforced by an animated documentary, Office of Missing Children, the true story of one six-year-old boy from Guatemala who was separated from his mother under the Trump Administration's zero tolerance family separation program.

Naomi Steinberg, Vice-President for Policy and Advocacy at HIAS, the world's oldest refugee agency, which was founded in the 1880s to resettle Jews fleeing persecution, but today uses its

expertise to provide services to all refugees regardless of national, ethnic, or religious background, demonstrated the difference that three years can make in refugee resettlement: North Carolina welcomed 3,342 refugees in 2016; whereas in 2019, because of a great reduction in the number of refugees admitted nationwide, only about a third of that number were resettled. Furthermore, a recent Executive Order requires each state's governor and local officials to opt into refugee resettlement – akin to another

refugee ban except this one is state by state, city by city.

Stressing that “great challenges provide great opportunities,” Steinberg encouraged attendees to contact Governor Cooper and Mayor Lyles and urge them to welcome refugees and let Congress know they should reach the new ceiling of 18,000 and that next year's ceiling should be set at the historic average of 95,000.



Kurdish refugees from Iraq attend JCRI's 2nd Annual Welcoming the Stranger to the Table dessert reception and program. The men were translators for U.S. troops.

Sil Ganzó, the local featured speaker and Executive Director of ourBRIDGE for Kids, a Charlotte based non-profit that offers after-school and summer programs for children of newly arrived immigrant and refugee

families to assist with acculturation, told stories of some children in her program who have been traumatized because of ICE raids and their border experiences. One child screamed every time ourBRIDGE served Cheez-Its for snacks. Why? He was fed Cheez-Its when in detention at the border.

In her closing remarks, Rabbi Judy Schindler, Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice, explained that rabbis agree that the most important moment in history is not at the parting of the sea or at Sinai, but today, when we can still make a difference. She then noted that Adam, Abraham, and Moses all answered the most important question God asked (Where are you?) with the phrase, “Hineini” – “Here I am. I am here.” Everyone in the packed social hall repeated the refrain “Hineini” in response to Rabbi Schindler's series of questions: “Can you say ‘Hineini – I am here’ to help those fleeing persecution in Central America to find a shelter and refuge in our country?” “Can you say ‘Hineini-I am here’ to vote for and support politicians who will create policies that reflect our values of justice and compassion?” and “Can you say ‘Hineini – I am here’ for my family and yours, and for our immigrant neighbor's family?” ☆



TBE member Abby Adams and Syrian refugee Basher Mansour manned the reception desk and greeted over 130 members of the Jewish community and refugee community at the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative's 2nd Annual Welcoming the Stranger to the Table dessert reception and program on November 3. Both were wearing a HIAS button that reads, “My People Were Refugees Too.” Photo credit: Lawonna Daves

no longer open to refugees from eastern Europe and the family had to go to Argentina. Tragically, 42 members of Ken Schorr's family who did not emigrate were killed by the Nazis in 1941.

Schorr explained how the Trump Administration has attacked both refugee resettlement and the asylum system by putting a cap on refugees of 18,000 for fiscal year 2020 (the lowest number in the 40-year history of the Refugee Act of 1980) and by introducing new barriers to asylum every week, e.g., exclusion

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J Street Annual Conference: The View from a Participant

By David deGroot

The annual conference of the pro-Israel pro-peace organization J Street was held in Washington, DC on the weekend of October 26-28. With over 4,000 attendees, this was the largest J Street conference ever. We welcomed five Presidential candidates, Speaker Pelosi, Senate Democratic Leader Schumer, and 70+ Members of Congress, proving that J Street is a significant political force on Capitol Hill. Of the attendees, 1,200 were members of J Street U, the college campus wing of J Street.

Attending the conference for the fourth consecutive year what distinguished this year's event for me was the additional emphasis on the values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. J Street's core mission is support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a solution which satisfies Zionism's goal of a democratic Jewish state living in peace with its neighbors and the Palestinian right to self-determination.

The need to form alliances based on shared progressive values was called out on multiple occasions. These alliances can be between Israeli and Jewish American organizations,

between Israeli Jews and Arabs, and between like-minded individuals anywhere. Several speakers quoted Martin Luther King's words, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," adding that each individual needs to do his or her part in helping it bend.

The theme of the conference was "Rise to the Moment."

J Street does not shy away from discussing difficult and controversial issues; here are some that were discussed at the conference:

* Regarding the US-Israel relationship, all Presidential candidates were asked to give their opinions on whether US military aid should be conditioned

between Israeli Jews and Arabs, and between like-minded individuals anywhere. Several speakers quoted Martin Luther King's words, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," adding that each individual needs to do his or her part in helping it bend.

* Palestinian citizens of Israel and those living in the West Bank were featured prominently. One Arab representative of a grassroots Jewish-Arab partnership organization came despite pressures from some not to attend a pro-Israel event. Knesset Member Ayman Odeh, chairman of the Joint (Arab) List party, challenged Benny Gantz, whose Blue-White party tied with Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud in the last elections, to invite the Knesset members from the Joint List into the governing coalition.

* Recently, Benjamin Netanyahu called for a boycott of the HBO series "Our Boys." The series' creators were interviewed in a plenary session at the conference. "Our Boys" was produced in Israel and follows the investigation of the murder of Mohammed Abu Khdeir, who was killed by Jewish terrorists in 2014 in a revenge attack after the kidnapping and murder of three Yeshiva students by Hamas terrorists in the West Bank. The creators explained that one of the reasons for telling this story was to show the public that



The conference included many advocacy groups.

of the way the Druze minority was impacted but ignored the effect on Israel's 20% Arab Muslim population.

* Palestinian Economy, whose panelists included a Member of the Palestine Liberation Organization's National Council. One of the attendees asked this panelist to explain why one of his colleagues working for a human rights organiza-

tion had been imprisoned by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

* Censorship and Israeli Cinema, being somewhat of an Israeli film and TV series "buff," I was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet one of the creators of the "Our Boys" series and ask a question about the behavior of one of the central characters in the series.

Many of the plenary and breakout sessions were recorded and can be found by searching YouTube for "J Street 2019."

For more information on J Street and its presence in the Charlotte region, please contact Amos Gil, J Street's Regional Director for the Capital/South, amosg@jstreet.org.★



One of the many panels attendees could choose from.



Leigh Altman For County Commission At Large - 2020

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- Strong Advocate for Children and Seniors
- Attorney Representative on Mecklenburg's Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Mother to Three Boys Attending CMS Schools

Tikkun olam has always been at the core of my Jewish identity. That is why I have used my career to stand for justice and why I am now running for the County Commission which oversees a \$1.9 billion budget for health, mental health, education, welfare, and the environment.

The Election is March 3, 2020.

To join the campaign, please visit LeighAltman.com!

2019: What a Year for The Ruach ... with Lots More to Come

The Ruach followed up the well-attended and highly acclaimed High Holy Day Experiences by heading up to Davidson to Temple Kol Tikvah on October 13. Although it rained and the pizza dinner could not be enjoyed in the Sukkah, nothing could dampen the spirits of the congregation just north of Charlotte. A full sanctuary welcomed The Ruach for The Sukkot Experience. Upon drummer Rick Lipson's count the band opened the set with Dan Nichol's classic, "B'tzelem Elohim" and for the next hour the congregation was treated to modern Jewish music. Though the band included a few songs by other artists, most of the music was written by the band. Nancy Good, The Ruach's lead singer, explained that all of the music that The Ruach played, even Nick Lowe's, "What's So Funny About Peace Love and Understanding" is included in The Ruach's Shabbat and High Holy Day Experiences.

On November 3, The Ruach performed at the Greensboro Jewish Festival for the second year in a row. This wonderful event draws several thousand people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who come for the culture, art, food, and entertainment. The Ruach played two sets as the headliner at the festival. The second set opened with Howard Swartz tapping out a beat on his congas which led the band into "Why Can't We Live Together," the

'70s hit by Timmy Thomas that was popularized again in the '80s by Sade and covered by many others including Santana, Steve Winwood, and Joan Osborne. Many in the crowd could be seen singing along and was met with a big applause at its conclusion. This song has become a favorite of The Ruach Community is now a staple in The Ruach Experiences coming out of the Amidah.

The Ruach returned to the Levine Center for Wellness and Recreation at Queens University on November 22. The Shabbat Experience was preceded by a chili preneg provided by Charlotte's Jewish Smokemaster, Rob "Ernie" Adler and his wife, Amy. Among the 150 or so in attendance, there were several members of Queens University Hillel.

Bringing an amazing year to a close, The Ruach will be at Temple Solel in Fort Mill, SC on December 27 for their Chanukah and Shabbat Experience. There is sure to be plenty of latkas and music of the season. It will be definitely worth the short drive just south of Charlotte to Fort Mill.

2020 is shaping up to be another big year for The Ruach. Here are just a couple of The Experiences happening in the first few months of the year:

* January 17 – The Steely Dan Shabbat Experience at Middle C Jazz Club. The Ruach will lead The Shabbat Experience at 6:30 followed by a performance by the incredible Steely Dan tribute



The Ruach at the Greensboro Jewish Festival. Photo courtesy Robin Swartz.

band, Mr. Whatever. Anyone who attends The Shabbat Experience will be able to stay for the Steely Dan set, free of charge.

* March 20 – The Ruach will join recording artist Joe Bu-

chanan at Temple Kol Tikvah in Fort Mill. Together, Joe and The Ruach will provide a Shabbat Experience that will kickoff a shabbaton weekend with Joe.

If you'd like to be on The Ru-

ach's distribution list and stay informed about upcoming Experiences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. To learn more about The Ruach "like" the band on Facebook, follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and, inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. The Ruach depends solely upon donations and grants to support the High Holy Day and year-round Shabbat Experiences. The Shabbat Experiences are supported, in part, by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. ♫

Greenspon Center Increases the Light

(Continued from page 5)

at 6:30 PM, as we set our Social Justice Agenda 2020 and lay out a plan to lift up our neighbors.

Travel - Cemetery Trip and Interfaith Trip to the Holy Land

Join a life-changing experience, the Greenspon Center's Interfaith Trip to Israel. Led by Rabbi Judy Schindler and Reverend Nancy Ellett-Allison, the group will visit cities such as Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. The itinerary also includes stops at significant his-

toric and religious sites such as Mt. Moriah, the Sea of Galilee, and the Western Wall. For more information contact Talia Goldman (goldmant@queens.edu). Reserve your spot soon.

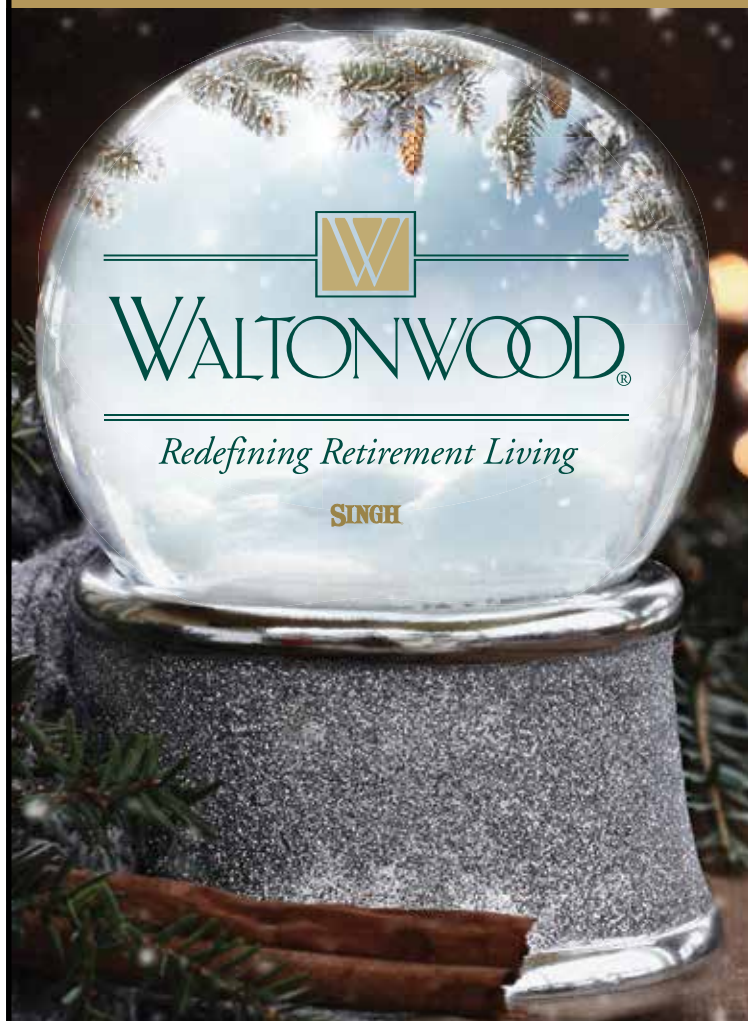
Second and Third Generation Speakers

In memory of Jeffrey Alan Schwartz, his brother Larry Schwartz and family have established the Jeffrey Alan Schwartz Holocaust Speakers Bureau. This newly developed program is now

available to bring second and third generation descendants of Holocaust survivors into regional schools and community organizations to keep the history, messages, and lessons of the Holocaust alive. If you're interested in booking a speaker, please contact Talli Dippold.

The Talmud teaches that one person's candle is a light for many. Please add your light to ours and help us succeed in brightening our world. To get connected with any of our programs, visit www.Greensponcenter.org. ♫

Holiday Open House



Make plans to attend both of the upcoming Open House events to meet our friendly staff and see firsthand why so many people choose to call Waltonwood home.

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Adult Programming

“LOLA” - Love Our Local Authors

Thursday, December 5 | 7:00 PM

Levine-Sklut Judaic Library @ the CJE

The Center for Jewish Education is proud to announce our inaugural “LOLA” (Love Our Local Authors) event.

Don't miss on this unique opportunity to hear different authors, speaking on a vast variety of topics and from different genres, all in one sitting. Each of our six featured authors will give a brief talk about their books. Afterward, attendees can visit one, or two, or all six authors. Think of it as speed-dating for book lovers!

Books will be available for purchase and signing. Refreshments will be served. This event is FREE, however, registration is requested. Please **RSVP** by Nov. 30 at www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje



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JUDY GOLDMAN



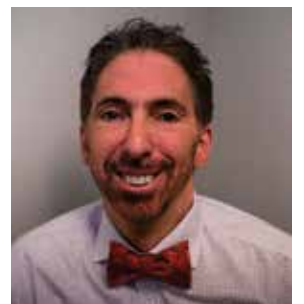
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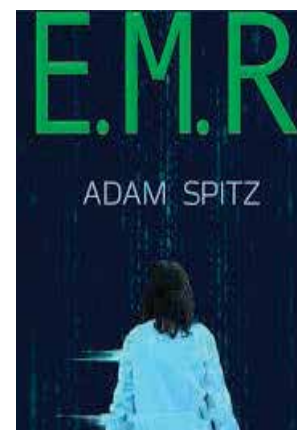
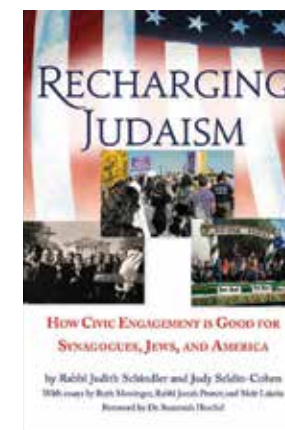
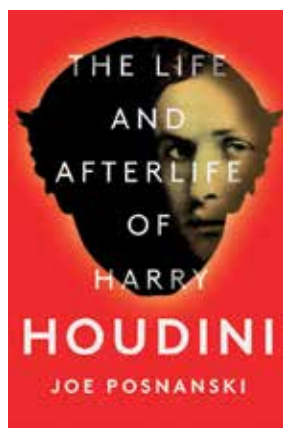
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JUDY SELDIN-COHEN



ADAM SPITZ



Questions:

Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator

704.944.6780/debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG/CJE

Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Going Green in 2019

Shalom Green: The Shalom Park Environmental Initiative is a lay-led social justice committee comprised of Jewish community volunteers dedicated to promoting an understanding of Jewish environmental values. With three areas of focus: creating and maintaining the Shalom Park Community Garden to serve as the educational hub for the initiative; working with Shalom Park facilities to reduce the carbon footprint of building operations; and educating the community about Jewish values related to protecting the earth and sustainable living; Shalom Green is poised to promote environmental stewardship across the community. We made great strides in 2019 and are excited to continue our work in 2020 and beyond.

We're building awareness and sharing our story through hands-on activities, volunteer opportunities, and educational events. In 2019:

* Shalom Green participated in Temple Israel's Yom Gemilut Hasadim and Temple Beth El's Mitzvah Day, hosting hands-on projects that allowed over 100 community members from both Temples the opportunity to give back.

* Shalom Green partnered with LJCC Cares to host a screening of *A Plastic Ocean*, an award-winning documentary that sheds light on the vast environmental im-

pacts of consumer plastic waste. Over 85 in attendance were given "Pledge Cards" outlining various ways that consumers can pledge to make conscious choices that reduce plastic pollution.

* We launched the Shalom Green Horticultural Education program aimed at teaching horticultural and environmental awareness through volunteer service opportunities for adolescents.

* Over 90% of the produce generated in the Shalom Park Community Garden is donated directly to charitable organizations including the food pantry at Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte. Shalom Green donated over 150 lbs of produce in 2019.

* Shalom Green engaged over 1,000 individuals in environmental programming across the Park.

Our final event of 2019 will be held on December 4 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center. We are hosting a Sustainable Jewish Communities panel discussion that will highlight current successes of Shalom Park and explore sustainable strategies implemented at Jewish communities nationwide. Our featured panelists are Rabbi Judith Schindler, Jennifer Roberts, and Ryan Snow. The event is free, please register at www.shalomgreenCLT.org.

Shalom Green aims to be a resource to Shalom Park Partner or-



ganizations and the Shalom Park community as we explore ways to embrace the Jewish values and traditions that encourage workplaces, families and communities to reduce their waste, make smart and healthy consumer choices and support behaviors and policies that encourage conservation.

Our goals for 2020 include increased volunteer base and fundraising efforts, the continued growth and maturation of the Shalom Park Community Garden, increased outreach to youth and adults through garden programming and environmental education in addition to continued participation in Park Partner events.

Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in supporting Shalom Green, please contact us at 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. ☆

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature, and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that there will always be comfort for every sorrow. ... And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles."

—Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, July 15, 1944



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Creating Space for Diverse Opinions on Israel

By Michele Schulman

Have you ever wanted to lead an Israel program, but didn't feel qualified? That was me. Israel has been a topic I've always been interested in, but I've always felt

like there was someone who was smarter or more knowledgeable about it and therefore I had no business getting involved. So I shied away and would engage only if it was a topic no one could



Michele Schulman

argue with, like falafel. And then I went on the Moishe House and Makom 4HQ Israel Encounters trip this summer and it changed everything.

4HQ, or the 4 Hatikvah Questions, are different entry points into the conversation around Israel:

- 1) How do we stay safe? (i.e. security)
- 2) Who is the "we" and how should "we" behave? (i.e. peoplehood)
- 3) How can we maintain our freedom?
- 4) How do we relate to our territory? (i.e. the land)



On our trip, these four questions became the lens for how we would interact with the speakers, educators, and discussions to better understand where the people and ideas originated and their intent. We were able to realize that at times when people discuss the conflict they are approaching the conversation with a specific perspective, for example, with a focus on security, while others are focusing on the rights of individuals. Both of these viewpoints are completely valid and important, but if a conversation on the same issue coming from different places can lead to misunderstandings and ultimately further conflict.

they have a painting you hate, you would never take it off the wall and destroy it. You may look at it, decide how you feel, and move on. Then at the end of the night, you can go back to your own home which you've styled to your taste. A difficult conversation can operate the same way.

Another concern is often: "What do I talk about?" When creating an Israel-related program, think about what you already love about Israel. What are you challenged by, and what are you still questioning? A good place to start in any kind of program planning is exploring what you're already thinking about.



You can then figure out where that subject fits into the framework of the 4HQ. When you know where it falls, you can establish the lens you'd like participants to focus on through the dialogue you're opening. Alternatively, when you know what lens you're talking through, you can try to make sure that other lenses are opened in the future.

Everyone, much like with their own on Jewish identity, comes to the Israel conversation or program from a different place and experience. Every person has different passions and perspectives which shape how they see the whole situation. Still, 4HQ has taught me that it shouldn't be the reason to not talk about it.

If you're between the ages of 22-32 and engaging in Israel is something you want to do, Moishe House wants to support you. For more information about 4HQ Israel Encounters, visit www.4hqisrael.org, or to learn more about the ways Moishe House is empowering young adults to create meaningful Jewish experiences for themselves and their peers, visit www.moishehouse.org.

Michele Schulman is Moishe House's New York Regional Manager, working directly with Moishe House residents in the Greater New York area.



What I learned on 4HQ is that by using this framework, it's possible for anyone to lead Israel programming and be comfortable hosting Israel programs that go beyond hummus.

At Moishe House's North American Training Conference (Natty Con), Gabrielle Adler, Senior Southern Regional Manager, and I led a session during "Plus One" (breakout sessions regarding inclusivity and diversity) using this model. We had forty community builders engage with simple activities that we ourselves did on 4HQ in Israel and in that hour had a few non-combatative conversations. Cramping one week into one hour didn't give us much time to dive deeply, but we enabled participants to explore where they already relate to Israel and get them to think about where they can open more diverse space for their communities.

If you weren't in that session, you may be thinking right now, "Well, how I can learn that, too?" An oft-seen concern surrounding Israel-related programs is: how do I prevent hostility? First thing first, set clear guidelines while framing conversations. Moishe House 4HQ Coordinator, Meghan Rodarte, put it very simply on day one: "You can visit someone else's opinion, you don't have to stay." For example, if someone invites you to their house and



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'Tis The Season - Not So Joyful for Everyone

It's December. Chanukah is in full swing, the candles on the menorah are burning brightly each night, and soon the kids all over Charlotte will be receiving presents rejoicing in the holiday that is the "miracle of lights." Offices are being decorated, holiday parties being planned and celebrated and the "'Tis the Season" music is all over the airwaves. Reservations for New Year's Eve are top of mind and for some it's the start of a year-end reflection and contemplating New Year's resolutions.

Although this time of year is fun and joyful for many, the added stress of a busy schedule, an over stretched budget, and challenging family dynamics can make the season challenging for many of us. Even for those of us who may not experience depres-

sion and anxiety during the rest of the year, we may find ourselves feeling a bit more "blue" or worried and on edge during the holiday season. For those who do experience depression and anxiety, this time of year can cause these symptoms to worsen. Even the clocks changing from daylight savings time and the shorter days may affect our mood and cause us to feel more tired and out of sorts.

If you notice that you or a loved one are experiencing the winter time blues or worries this year, there are some simple and easy changes you can make to help to combat this experience and feel better.

* Create a healthy sleep routine: going to sleep and getting up at the same time (even during school breaks and vacations) is an important part of wellness. Also

limit screen time before bed (no phone or other hand held screens for 30 minutes before bed is a good guideline) and try doing a relaxing activity such as taking a warm bath before bed.

* If you feel overwhelmed by the number of activities on the schedule, have a family meeting and narrow down your obligations to the most important functions. Be careful of over scheduling and make sure to schedule some "down time" to relax and unwind, too.

If you are feeling isolated and lonely, this is very normal. Many people feel more sad and lonely during this time of year and it is ok to feel this way. Reach out to a friend, neighbor, or community support. If you are concerned about a loved one, check in. It is ok to ask them how they are

doing, tell them you are here for them and explain that it is common to feel a little down this time of year.

* If your loved one seems lonely or sad, you can ask them to join you for a walk or for a cup of coffee. If they say no, it's ok, ask again.

* Ask how you can help in the person's day-to-day life. You might do some housework, lawn care, or errands.

* Get your loved one to talk about happy memories. This may help him or her feel more a part of

the celebration.

* Listen when the person wants to talk. Don't try to talk him or her out of sad feelings, but acknowledge them.

* Reach out to loved ones living away. Call your family members, especially seniors and let them know you're thinking of them and that you miss them. Even if you can't be together it helps them just to know you care.

For additional support call Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594. ☆

Joining the Hebrew Cemetery Makes Your Pre-Planning Easier

We are creatures of habit. Each day we wake up on the same side of the bed, we eat the same type of breakfast, we sit in the same car and we take the same route to work. As the season is changing once again, we are reminded that the secular year is nearly over and soon we will be entering a new one that is full of opportunities. But life throws curveballs and sometimes it gets us really good and unprepared. So as the months move on, there is one thing only few like to talk about: end of life decisions and the preplanning of a funeral. Many of us continue to procrastinate to make these final arrangements and not too many remember that Jewish Law actually emphasizes that we should pre-arrange our final resting places and be buried in a Jewish cemetery.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to make those arrangements. We seek to honor the traditions of your family by providing a deeply personal experience. Planning your burial or making your loved one's burial arrangements is a responsible, yet difficult decision. The Hebrew Cemetery will guide families through the Jewish burial planning process in order to provide a meaningful and personal funeral

service that carries cultural, religious, and familial tradition to honor the deceased.

The Hebrew Cemetery cultivates memberships as the cemetery is not attached to any temple but rather is a community cemetery for the Greater Charlotte area. For \$72 per year one can become a member of the cemetery. For two cents a day, one becomes eligible for member pricing and is able to save nearly 30% on the price of plots and service fees.

The grave site can be paid in full at the time of purchase or over two years, interest free with a minimum of quarterly payments. The additional perpetual care fee and the actual burial costs may also be pre-paid or taken care of at the time of need.

Now is the perfect time to make your preplanning arrangements. Two years ago we opened parts of our newest sections; a continuous traditional all Jewish section and a community inter-faith section. Choose your preferred location from many different locations. You may select a plot that is closer to shade trees, next to the path leading to the memorial building, near the hillside or toward the back of the property. Act now while premium sites are still available. Keep



in mind that the price that you pay now through pre-planning will be guaranteed; no matter what it will cost when you actually will need your final resting place.

Give the final gift and plan ahead so that your family can focus on the one and only thing they should concentrate on when a loved one passes: grieving.

The Hebrew Cemetery will assist you with creating a budget, selecting a grave-site, or referring you to a funeral home or monument company. We will help you throughout the entire process to personalize the funeral service, whether it is a modest, intimate gravesite gathering, or a service in our memorial building to bring together friends and family.

To schedule an appointment or to receive further information about preplanning, please contact Director, Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org. ☆

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J At the Levine JCC we build

December 2019

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



JCHILDCARE.

7 weeks – 7 years old

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

Mon-Fri AM..... 8am-1pm

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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 if 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

Wellness & Fitness

Jenny Crow 704-944-6870
jenny.crow@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

DECEMBER HOLIDAY HOURS:

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve 5:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day..... 10:00 AM– 5:00 PM

Tuesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve 5:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 – New Year's Day 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM



**build
community**
קהילה kehilah

33rd LEVINE JCC ANNUAL MEETING

at the The Sandra and Leon Levine
Jewish Community Center

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

7:00pm

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

All Are Invited to Join Us!

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

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

Early Bird pricing ends December 31st



**TEAM
CAROLINA**
IS GOING TO
SAN DIEGO!



Each year, over 3,000 teens from around the world come together in North America to compete in this Olympic-style sporting event and arts competition. **Team Carolina ambassadors will compete in the 2020 Games and ArtsFest in San Diego.** Registration for the Games is easy, but being a delegate on Team Carolina takes commitment. Commitment to your JCC, commitment to mitzvah, commitment to family and commitment to the team are required in order to wear your Team Carolina swag.

MACCABI GAMES® & ARTSFEST®
August 2-7, 2020 • San Diego, CA

www.charlottejcc.org/teamcarolina

Team Carolina Delegation Contact:

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



community – קהילה – kehilah

Early Childhood

Shababa Shabbat

Babies-Preschool

Celebrate Shabbat with Ms. Patty in a relaxed and playful, community atmosphere with music, creative prayer, movement, and delicious challah. Experience and connect with Shabbat in a brand new and energetic way guaranteed to nurture family bonds and build connections to Jewish life and values

Fridays, 10:30am

Alvin E. Levine Gym

Free

K-8th Grade

Kids' Night in @ the J Parents' Night Out

7 Weeks – 12 Year Olds **Members Only**

Drop off your kids for a fun Hanukkah-themed night at the J, while you enjoy your own night out.

Younger ones will enjoy a Darby Acres Bunny Farm, pinata's, Hanukkah crafts, and a pizza dinner. Older kids will enjoy pizza dinner and Chocolate Bar in a Car. *Limited space, Reserve today at the LJCC Customer Service Desk 704-366-5007.*

Saturday, December 21 • 5:30-8:30pm

\$25/child \$50/2 siblings \$65/3 siblings

Adults

"Nosh & Know" about Parkinson's Disease

Join us monthly for a series of topics. We'll provide refreshments and snacks. December topic: "Ideas for Making your Life Easier and Safer with Parkinson's Disease" presented by Staci Mond, OT, Advanced Home Care.

Tuesday, December 17 • 11:30am-12:15pm

Weinberg Senior Center • Free

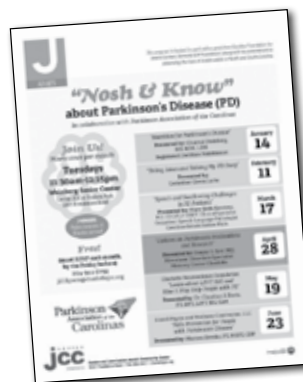
Must RSVP each month, by the Friday before to

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

This program is offered in collaboration with



Pick up a flyer today of our 2020 **Nosh & Know** Series continuing in January.



Oasis Book Club

November's Book: *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee

Friday, November 22, 1-2pm

FSP Boardroom • Free; just show up!

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

SHIIP

Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program

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



Adults 21+

JTENNIS. CHARLOTTE

TENNIS & TODDIES FALL SOCIAL

Fall fun tennis event featuring men's, women's, & mixed doubles rounds. Players may sign-up as a couple but will most likely be split up.
Min 16 players/ Max 60 players • Cancellations: 72 hours advance notice required for refund.

Saturday, December 14
3-5:30pm

Per player: M/\$15 NM/\$25

Complimentary Refreshments
Beer & Wine

LIMITED SPACE - MUST REGISTER BY: Thursday, 11/28@5pm
Call **704-366-5007** or Visit **LJCC Customer Service Desk**
Questions? 704-944-6748 • gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

2020

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20 Classes in 30 Days!

20 in 30

JAN 1 → JAN 31

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NEW YOU

JAN 6 → FEB 27

For more info go to charlottejcc.org or contact
704-944-6870 | jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

Monthly Field Trips
M/W/F Kosher Lunch

Our 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
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Game Days
Enrichment & Exercise
Educational Seminars
Painting Classes



Temple Israel Presents
ONE NIGHT ONLY

*Kavanah:
The Heart & Soul of
Barbra Streisand*

**FEATURING CANTORS
SHIRA LISSEK & MAGDA FISHMAN**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 5 P.M.

Please join Cantor Shira Lissek for a Winter Concert Fundraiser*, benefiting Temple Israel, as she welcomes her close friend, Cantor Magda Fishman, along with some remarkable musicians. The evening will include performances of Barbra Streisand classics, as well as incredible Jewish music selections. Visit templeisraelnc.org for more information about sponsorships and tickets.

** In recognition of their decades of service and dedication to Temple Israel, Ruth & Alan Goldberg will be presented with the Shofar Award during this event.*



temple israel

Lauren Mond Nominated for Student of the Year: Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

"Since the early 1960s, five-year survival rates for many blood cancer patients have doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled," quotes Lauren Mond. "We really are changing the face of blood cancer!"

Her enthusiasm is well founded. And she is demonstrating her commitment this year as a candidate for Student of the Year with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS).

"Student of the Year is a philanthropic leadership development program for exemplary high school students," explains Britt Hykal, the Student of the Year Senior Campaign Manager for the local LLS. "During the campaign, participants foster professional skills such as entrepreneurship, marketing, and project management in order to raise funds for LLS."

Lauren's team, Lauren's Lifesaving Squad, will raise funds in honor of a young patient hero who is currently battling a blood cancer. The campaign is seven weeks long and begins January 26, 2020. At the end of the seven weeks, the candidate team that raises the most money is named Student of the Year.

"Student of the Year is the newest addition to our legacy of innovating in fundraising," says Hykal. "It's amazing to watch these young men and women work so hard to fundraise and to help us cure cancer. Their ambition and commitment to this cause is truly inspiring."

Lauren's inspiration to raise funds for LLS came from knowing that a close family member lives with a blood cancer. "Our mission is to not only raise the most money, but also to bring attention to blood cancers like leukemia, which is the most common form of cancer in children and teens," Lauren says. "The donations not only support LLS-funded research but will help provide critical information and support for patients, and support advocacy for laws to ensure patients can access the care and treatments they

need."

Visit <https://events.lls.org/nc/CLTSOY20> and look for "Lauren's Lifesaving Squad." Click on Student of the Year to donate to Lauren's team and see the other inspiring teens vying for the title of Student of the Year.

Lauren and her family are members of Temple Beth El and Temple Israel, and Lauren was on-firmed through Hebrew High and is a member of Chai Chaverim BBG. ☆



Women's News

Order Your 2020 Mah Jongg Card Now Through Hadassah

Hadassah is now collecting orders for the 2020 mah jongg card.

1. Write your personal information (name, address, phone number, and email on a piece of paper that is not your check) and you'll receive an email confirmation of your order by February 1, 2020, directly from the National Mah Jongg League.

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

3. Want to do something easy to benefit Hadassah even more? Be a table captain. Collect all the checks and personal info from your games. It's still one envelope, one stamp, but you can insure that every player you know buys their card through Hadassah. So easy, but makes such a difference. Last year your participation made almost \$750 for Hadassah.

4. You can order your card now before the Chanukah and year end rush. No need to wait for the Mah Jongg League paperwork.

Remember: Make your check out to Hadassah and include the information on a separate piece of

paper. Include whether you want regular print card (\$8) or large print card (\$9).

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

6. Orders must be received by January 15, 2020. Questions? Call Madeline at 704-996-0342. ☆



HADASSAH



J

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,
December 8
10am-2pm**

A FREE EVENT

**Levine JCC
Main Street**
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Hadassah Announces New \$250,000 Endowment Gift for Groundbreaking Israeli Stem Cell Research

By Diana Warth Bregman and Sharon Goretsky

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. is pleased to announce a new \$250,000 endowment gift from an anonymous Charlotte donor to support Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) groundbreaking stem cell research.

"Practical Zionism" – putting Jewish values into action – has been a key component of Hadassah's mission for over a century. As explained by the donors themselves, "We have always valued the concept of tzedakah, believing there is an obligation to provide for our extended family and the community we live in. We have always made annual donations to support the values that are important to us. Establishing an endowment fund takes the gift and extends it beyond time. Both Hadassah and Israel have proven resources and commitment for this applied research. With this

endowment, we now have our sustaining legacy to support Hadassah and Israel."

Founded in 1912, Hadassah began with a small mission to provide emergency care to infants and mothers in pre-state Israel. Hadassah has flourished into two world-class medical and research hospitals in Jerusalem, treating over one million patients a year, without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality. Bringing advanced medical care to all earned Hadassah a nomination for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. Hadassah continues to contribute to the betterment of the world through life-saving medical care, research in service to humanity, and other acts of tikkun olam.

Twenty years ago, when stem cell therapy was highly regulated in the United States and other countries, it was well underway in HMO's labs. Human embryonic stem cells have the potential to turn into any kind of cell in the body – brain, heart, lung, retina, bone marrow – and multiply infinitely. Adult stem cells live all over our bodies; their function is to repair local damage.

In the past five years, researchers at HMO have made tremendous strides in creating stem cell therapies that are on the leading edge of medical science. Using human embryonic stem cells, HMO scientists have halted the deterioration of the retina in laboratory models; using patients' own stem cells, they have inhibited the progression of ALS in human clinical trials. Treatments or cures for diseases like Age-Related Macular Degeneration, melanoma and other cancers, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and diabetes could be a reality in the foreseeable future.

The stunning results of HMO pre-clinical studies and clinical trials continue to fascinate the worldwide medical community. Another example is the work of Prof. Tamir Ben-Hur, head of the Division of Clinical Neurosciences at the HMO. Ben-Hur's research reveals that stem cells which reside in the brain may play an important role in protecting some people from Alzheimer's disease.

As Prof. Ben-Hur and his colleagues explain in their article in the December 2018 issue of *Neurobiology of Aging*, specific stem cells called neural precursor cells (NPCs), when transplanted into a mouse brain, demonstrate that they "possess powerful immune-modulatory and trophic properties." In other words, they support the growth, survival, and differentiation of both developing and mature neurons.

With age, however, these NPCs become dysfunctional, losing these important properties. Prof. Ben-Hur and his team note that this dysfunction "is induced by the pathological Alzheimer's brain environment at a critical time point before neurodegeneration." They hypothesize that these stem cells' failure to provide tissue support may be involved in promoting degeneration of the brain's neurons. Prof. Ben-Hur notes that "the optimistic side of the story is that stem cell dysfunction is not inherent, but rather acquired, and is potentially reversible."

In 2018, Hadassah embarked on a \$91.2 million 360 Degrees of Healing capital campaign to reimagine the iconic Round Building, the original inpatient center at Hadassah Ein Kerem. Through these much-needed renovations, HMO doctors will be able to further innovative research from "bench to bedside" that will both improve patient care and accelerate the discovery process. As Hadassah's infrastructure continues to grow, so will Hadassah's potential to discover, heal, and share knowledge with the world-wide medical community.

The work of HMO medical experts is only made possible through the generosity of individuals like the recent anonymous Charlotte donors. As these donors shared, "We hope our gift will inspire others in our community and family to similarly support the ongoing work of Hadassah Medical Organization."

For more information on how you can make an impact with Hadassah, please contact Diana Warth Bregman, Hadassah's Director of Development for the South, at 814-673-4303 or dwarth@hadassah.org.

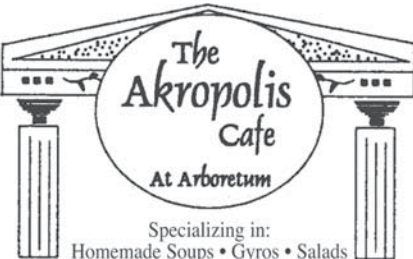
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Photo courtesy of ArtShots Photography

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PJ Library & The Jewish Preschool on Sardis present



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Register at www.nextgencharlotte.org

Questions: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator | 704.944.6780 or debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

International Speaker, Adrienne Gold Davis, Hosted by W.O.W. (Women of Wisdom)

On Sunday evening, October 27, a crowd of community members turned out to enjoy time with international speaker Adrienne Gold Davis at Queens University's Ketner Auditorium. The event was hosted by W.O.W. (Women of Wisdom), a local inter-denominational Jewish women's non-profit organization. W.O.W. is affiliated with the Charlotte Torah Center, but it is unique because it welcomes all Jewish women, regardless of their backgrounds or affiliations.

Adrienne Gold Davis is a sought after presenter who has devoted her life and professional career to Jewish education and motivational speaking. Her experience as a successful Canadian fashion and television personality brings energy and humor to her talks. Adrienne lectures around the world and is a Trip and Education Leader for Momentum, a global movement focused on the Jewish mother.

Some of the local women who traveled to Israel with W.O.W. founder Sara Oppenheim on Momentum trips in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2018, had previously experienced Adrienne's practical Jewish perspectives on life and relationships and were thrilled to be able to welcome her to Charlotte. Many "Israel Trippies" were in attendance on this night and were anxious to



Adrienne Gold Davis

reconnect with each other and to experience Adrienne's wit and wisdom once again in person.

The talk that Adrienne brought to Charlotte was entitled "Up the Down Escalator: Maximizing Greatness." It touched upon personal growth, faith, and forgiveness. A quote that rang true to many people in attendance was, "The hardest apology you will ever have to accept is the one you will never get."

W.O.W. was able to bring this internationally known speaker to Charlotte thanks to an Impact and Innovation Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, and local sponsors: Lebo's, Chai Expectations, and the Charlotte Torah Center.

W.O.W.'s mission is to empower, connect, and inspire Jewish women of all denominations

through engaging social and educational activities. W.O.W. women accept each other wherever they may be in their Jewish journey. There is mutual respect and understanding as they learn about Judaism, greet old friends, and make new ones. Even the W.O.W. board is comprised of women that are affiliated with Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, or no synagogue at all.

Please join W.O.W. for our upcoming Women's Chanukah Event on Tuesday, December 17. All women, regardless of affiliation, are welcome. Details about W.O.W. and more upcoming events can be found at www.charlottewomenofwisdom.com. If you are interested in an upcoming Momentum trip to Israel, please email wow@charlottetorahcenter.com. ☆



WOW board members with Adrienne Gold Davis.



WOW 2012-18 trip participants.

Welcoming New Students!

OPEN HOUSE & Fall 2020 Enrollment

Come take a tour.

Friday, January 24 • 9:30am

5007 Providence Road • Charlotte 28226

charlottejewishpreschool.org

**Charlotte
Jewish Preschool**
LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

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

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Youth Visions

Why Take Hebrew for Credit?

Hebrew for high school language credit, offered at Hebrew High since 2013, provides our teens with a unique and special opportunity to strengthen their Jewish identity through language, culture, land, and peoplehood. Students learn Hebrew not only to satisfy their high school language requirement, but to further develop their Jewish identities. We currently have 25 students enrolled in Hebrew for Credit this year, which is the highest we've ever had.

Students acquire a basic proficiency in modern Hebrew developing their ability to perform in all four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The goal of our Hebrew for Credit program is acquiring the ability to communicate in meaningful ways in modern Hebrew. Through active learning we motivate teens and help them develop their interest in the culture and people of Israel, which continues beyond Hebrew High and throughout one's lifetime.

As we enter our 6th year of offering Hebrew for Credit, we have proudly awarded foreign language credit to 28 students throughout Charlotte Mecklenburg and Union County high schools since its inception. Read what our current Hebrew for Credit students have to say:

Top 10 Reasons Hebrew High

Students Take Hebrew for Credit:

1. I enjoy Hebrew for Credit because I can still be a part of the Jewish community after my Bar Mitzvah. I also enjoy learning a language I can use in Temple and when I go to Israel.

2. I joined Hebrew for Credit to learn Hebrew, which is something I've always dreamt of. I am really enjoying the program so far, and I am happy that I have already made friends.

3. I've been to Israel previously twice, and both times we relied on our tour guide to translate, and I thought it would transform the experience if I go on Birthright if I am able to speak Hebrew, even if I am not completely fluent, because I will be able to really speak, understand, read, and write Hebrew.

4. The reason I wanted to join Hebrew for Credit is that I was not impressed with the language options at my high school. The second reason is that I am Jewish and want to travel to Israel.

5. I signed up for Hebrew High because I had always been curious whenever I would hear my sister, friends, or teachers speak about it. Eventually, I got excited about wanting to learn so I signed up. I have so much fun and on top of learning a cool new language, I have made friends as well. I am so glad I signed up because the

challenge and learning are my favorite part of my Wednesdays.

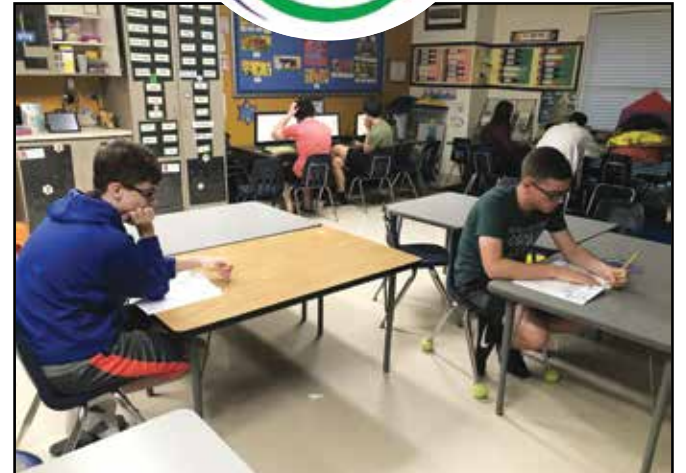
6. I like the class atmosphere and learning conversational Hebrew.

7. I've made a lot of memories in my Hebrew for Credit class. Some being the yearly "Pizza in the Hut," drawing pictures in our workbooks on especially long days, and overall just having fun and laughing a lot. So far, I've made some amazing friends and grown more confident with my Hebrew. Although I still have a long way to go, I look forward to the journey.

8. I like the way we get to work collaboratively in small groups. This allows us to both work at our own pace individually and to help each other when necessary. It's cool that the workbooks came from the ministry of education in Jerusalem and were written specifically for teens.

9. I am studying Hebrew because I am doing it for High School credit. Also, I am doing it because I have been learning Hebrew since I was in Kindergarten so I thought it would be nice to continue it.

10. I came to learn Hebrew because it is different than all the languages we can learn in school. Also, it helps us gain a deeper understanding of our faith. ✡



Dear Friends,

As we head toward the end of another year, we want to thank you for your support of the **Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community**. We also want to remind you of the many ways FCJC can help with your year-end charitable planning:

- Appreciated stock gifts to maximize deductions and avoid capital gains;
- Income fluctuations from bonuses or profits from businesses;
- Illiquid business assets or real estate;
- Donor advised funds and private foundations;
- Maintaining current giving levels when future income may be reduced;
- Introducing your children and grandchildren to philanthropy.

Supported by our colleagues at Foundation For The Carolinas, we're uniquely positioned to help you develop a plan that meets your needs, accomplishes your goals and benefits the organizations and causes that are most important to you. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks,

Phil
Phil Warshauer

Nancy
Nancy Kipnis





TORAH TOTS



BIM BAM SHABBAT SERVICE, CRAFT AND "KID"DUSH

Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m.
Join Rabbi Kornsgold and Mr. Caleb on guitar for a great time celebrating Shabbat together! We will follow our Shabbat service with a fun kids craft project and delicious "Kid"dush.



HANUKKAH CELEBRATION, BIM BAM SHABBAT SERVICE, AND ENHANCED HOLIDAY "KID"DUSH

Friday, December 27, 5:45 p.m.
Join Rabbi Kornsgold and Mr. Caleb for a great time celebrating Shabbat and Hanukkah! Our service will conclude with a delicious enhanced Hanukkah-themed "Kid"dush, including latkes and sufganiyot donuts. There will also be dreidels and gelt for every child.

YOUTH

KADIMA AFTERNOON OUT AT SPORTS CONNECTION

(6th & 7th Grades)

Sunday, December 15, 12:15-3:30 p.m.

Join Kadima for an afternoon out at Sports Connection for bowling, laser tag, and arcade time! Pizza lunch will be provided. *Drop-off & Pick-up at TIRS Cost: \$20/TI-Y Members; \$25/Non-Members. RSVP by 9 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11.*

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



VODKAS & LATKES 2019 WITH MOISHE HOUSE

Saturday, December 14, 8-11 p.m.

Location TBD

Join Torah on Tap and Moishe House Charlotte for another fun-filled Hanukkah celebration! We're hosting our 6th Annual Vodka & Latkes Party for Jewish Young Professionals. More details to come.

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL (WoTI)

HANUKKAH: MIRACLES IN OUR LIVES

Thursday, December 19, 7 p.m.

Location: TI Boardroom

Have you experienced miracles in your life? Join us for an intimate, self-guided discussion of the miracles in our lives and to explore the nature of miracles.

SOCIAL CLUB

ANNUAL HANUKKAH LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 22, 12:30 p.m.

Location: Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall

We'll enjoy a delicious holiday meal, including lots of latkes. After lunch, Cantor Emeritus Elias Roachvarg will lead us in a Hanukkah Song Fest with group singing! *The cost for members is \$22 and guests \$26. Mail payment to Temple Israel, c/o Social Club.*

SOCIAL ACTION

MEN'S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE (STATESVILLE AVE.)

Tuesday, December 24, beginning at noon (Christmas Eve)

Join us as we cook a healthy, delicious, dinner at Temple Israel, and then serve it to 120+ men in need at the Statesville Ave Men's Shelter. We are also collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. For details, visit templeisraelnc.org. To volunteer, please contact Jonathan Berger (jbergetisa@gmail.com or 704-995-1732).

EMPTY NESTERS

MAKING HANUKKAH MEANINGFUL

Wednesday, December 18, 7 p.m.

Location: TBD

Join us as we gather for a Hanukkah celebration and discussion with Rabbi Howard Siegel. We will discuss the meaning behind Hanukkah and the many ways to continue to make it significant in our lives without our kids at home. Latkes and sufganiyot will be served.

LIFELONG LEARNING

LUNCH N' LEARN WITH RABBI HOWARD SIEGEL

Thursday, December 12 (lunch menu: NY Deli*)

***When All You've Wanted Isn't Enough- The Search for A Life That Matters*, 11 a.m.**

Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought, and join Rabbi Howard Siegel once a month at Temple Israel for an engaging discussion on one of Harold Kushner's thought-provoking books, followed by a delicious catered lunch (menu: NY Deli - *vegetarian option available). Registration required.

Cost: \$10/TI Congregants; \$18/Guests. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

Temple Israel Presents
ONE NIGHT ONLY
Kavanah:
The Heart & Soul of
Barbra Streisand

FEATURING CANTORS
SHIRA LISSEK & MAGDA FISHMAN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 5 P.M.

Visit templeisraelnc.org for more information about sponsorships and tickets.

In recognition of their decades of service and dedication to Temple Israel, Ruth & Alan Goldberg will be presented with the Shofar Award during this event.

LIGHT
Up the
NIGHT

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28
7TH NIGHT - COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING
6-10 P.M.

COST: \$25/OVER AGE 21, \$15/AGES 7-20; \$10/AGES 1-6

ArtShots, ECE, and other logos are displayed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT TEMPLEISRAELNC.ORG

Mark Your Calendar

YOM GEMILIUT HASADIM
(A Day Performing Acts of Loving Kindness)
Sunday, January 19

The Rose Room

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 of normal business hours are available. Please contact Tess Berger (704) 488-3842 or Cindy Jennes (203) 450-2261.

LET US HELP YOU FIND THAT PERFECT GIFT FOR SIMCHAS, HOLIDAYS & MORE.

WE ALSO DO WEDDING, SHOWER & B'NAI MITZVAH REGISTRIES!

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

SCHOOL NEWS

CJDS Receives a World Class Net Promoter Score of 91

We are delighted to announce that Charlotte Jewish Day School recently earned a World Class Net Promoter Score (NPS), indicating an extremely high level of parent satisfaction touching all points of the educational experience, including school leadership and faculty, environment, communication, programming, and academic rigor.

A Net Promoter Score is a tool that measures customer satisfaction and is used by organizations across all industries, including many private schools, to gauge customer satisfaction and is derived from the answers to a singular question: "On a scale of 0-10, with 0 being 'not at all likely' and 10 being 'extremely likely,' how likely are you to recommend the school to a friend or family member for his or her child(ren)?" ISM (Independent School Management), a premiere management-support firm for private schools in the United States, believes that a Net Promoter Score is a critical metric to be monitored by schools. The standard benchmarks for the Net Promoter Score are: 0-50 (Good), 50-70 (Excellent), and 70-100 (World Class). Charlotte Jewish Day School was given an NPS of 91, a



rarely achieved score that implies parents would recommend the school to friends and family without reservation and that they are confident in the educational experience and its delivery.

Charlotte Jewish Day School parents feel such a high level of satisfaction because they believe that the school delivers on its mission statement: CJDS sets the standard for elementary education built on Jewish beliefs. Parents value the fact that Charlotte Jewish Day School uses a gifted curriculum as the standard

curriculum and that teachers utilize differentiated learning in the classroom, allowing students who are ready to learn at an accelerated pace to do so while others get the right support, ensuring that all students reach their maximum potential. Year after year, CJDS students' ERB test scores surpass those of other private schools across the nation. An emphasis on character development, being a contributing, caring member of society, and the beauty of living a Jewish life compliment the school's academic rigor.

This can only happen when the faculty and staff are committed and devoted to the school and

their students, and we are forever grateful. We are humbled by the trust and appreciation our parents are expressing, and we continue to seek new opportunities to enhance and enrich what we are doing already.

Want to learn more about CJDS? Call Gale..... to set up a tour.☆

cjds
Charlotte Jewish Day School

WHAT IS THE NET PROMOTER SCORE?

The Net Promoter Score is a tool used to measure overall customer satisfaction. It is an index ranging from -100 to 100 that measures the willingness of customers to recommend a company's products or services to others.

Our score was calculated using a recent survey that asked the question: *On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to recommend the CJDS to someone else?*

Apple has an NPS of 72
Nike has an NPS of 32
Honda has an NPS of 0

The Shalom Park Freedom School Needs You (to be Part of the 2019-2020 Committee)

And here is why ...

Children growing up in high poverty homes typically enter kindergarten with a 30-million-word deficit compared to peers from higher income homes (www.freedom-schoolpartners.org), starting off their educational career at a disadvantage. The discrepancies seem to grow at an exponential rate as the children from socio-economically challenged backgrounds age. When students are entering third grade, children from lower income homes are often two years behind in reading, with almost three quarters of students who are not on the targeted reading level by third grade, never catching up (<https://freedom-schoolpartners.org/our-programs/whats-at-stake/>). By the time children from high poverty homes reach high school age, the drop-out rate is five times that of their middle or high class peers (<http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/indicator/2013/05/poverty-dropouts.aspx>).

In 2004, the Freedom School Partners (FSP) was selected by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) to serve as a local partner to facilitate the CDF's six-week literacy-facilitating summer program called "The Freedom Schools." The Jewish community showed our neighbors support for this program by opening the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) site in 2010.

Current research suggests meaningful and measureable gains from this program. With-

out intervention, 75% of students from low income homes are estimated to lose 2-3 months of learning over the summer. Research conducted with Freedom School partners suggests that 90% of scholars gained or maintained their reading ability. These results help reduce the chances of the students falling and staying behind expected benchmarks in elementary school, providing powerful potential to help change the trajectory of these children's lives.

The Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) is one of 16 Freedom School sites in the Charlotte Metro area, and is the first Jewish-run Freedom School site in the country. The Shalom Park site welcomes 70-80 scholars each summer. Our students come from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary Schools, Title I Schools where 97% of children that participate in SPFS qualify for free and reduced lunch.

The Shalom Park Freedom School is looking for community committee members for the 2019-2020 year. Time commitments vary – and can be flexible. Examples of positions include (but are not limited to): Communications Chair and Chair of the SPFS 10 Year Anniversary Celebration (a fundraiser for the Shalom Park site). Please reach out to Margaret Musa at mmusa@carolina.rr.com or Annie Lord at annielord@gmail.com for more information.☆



FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS
Shalom Park Freedom School

Dream Home Today. Your Home Tomorrow.



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Salesman When
You Can Hire a
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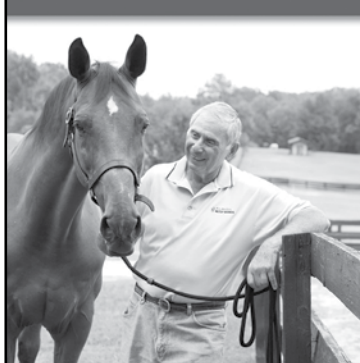
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– DAVID SWIMMER



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What Do Parents Say about JPS?

Sharon and Shai Fargian are proud parents of Ellie, Maya, and Pnina. Ellie and Maya attend JPS currently and Pnina will join next year. Here are their feelings about JPS:

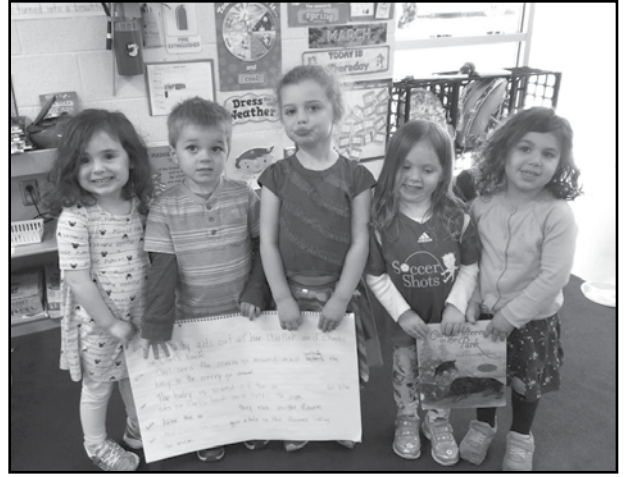
"We are thrilled for another school year at JPS. We have been part of the JPS family since 2016 and are grateful for the love and education our daughters receive. Through leadership changes in 2018 our school has sustained excellence in academics and maintained a nurturing familial environment. Perhaps more importantly, we feel increased warmth, approachability, and inclusion, and have seen expanded enrichment activities and outside of the box programming." ☆



The Fargian family.



Ellie spending time in her class Sukkah.



Ellie's class wrote the words for the book "Carl's Afternoon in the Park."



Ellie and friends at the model Seder.



Maya celebrates her Jewish birthday with her family.



Maya sharing a hug with a friend on the playground.



Yours Truly Needlepoint and Knitting

Join us - Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint

- * Handpainted needlepoint canvases
- * Huge selection of yarns
- * Expert finishing
- * Complimentary lessons
- * Unique gift ideas

yours truly, b&w, pu

THANKS TO THE AMAZING WORK OF VOLUNTEERS

12,000 blankets have been donated to the Levine Children's Hospital
10,000 chemo hats have been donated to facilities for cancer patients around Charlotte

Wednesdays 8-11AM at the Levine Jewish Community Center
Thursdays 9 AM - 5 PM at 3802 Columbine Circle

All proceeds go to local charities

704-366-6765

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

CGI Ballantyne Winter Camp

After our sixth incredible and successful summer with more than 120 campers, CGI Ballantyne is back and offering an amazing Winter Camp experience for your children. With activities, games, exciting Jewish themes, daily trips, crafts, and much more, your children will have a blast every single day. Our handpicked staff are experienced, energetic, and fun-loving camp counselors, who love working with children. A special thank you to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for their support.

**Monday-Friday,
December 30-January 3
9 AM-3:30 PM.**

Extended care available upon request.

**For children ages 3-11.
Children will be split by age:
Preschool, K-3rd, 4th-6th.**

**Pricing per child:
Register for one day or for the entire week.**

Early Bird Price: \$55 per day or \$225 for the week.

After December 1: \$65 per day or \$275 for the week.

Cost includes daily snacks and a hot kosher lunch.

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



Waxhaw Menorah Lighting

Join us for our fifth annual Menorah Lighting in Waxhaw.

Thursday, December 26, 5:30 PM, Downtown Waxhaw.

E North Main St. at the Overhead Bridge.

This event is open to the community free of charge.

For more info visit www.JewishBallantyne.com. ☆



Your Connection To The Jewish Community



Jeremy Ordan **Matti Ordan-Reider**

704.609.9300

704.904.7250

Jeremy.Ordan@AllenTate.com

Matti.Ordan@AllenTate.com

TheOrdanReiderGroup.com

Havurat Tikvah Prepares to Celebrate Chanukah

Havurat Tikvah will hold its annual Chanukah Party on either December 22 or 29, 4 PM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, at 2821 Park Rd.

Enjoy the glow of the Festival of Lights along with latkes, sufganiyot, fellowship, and song. Participants are asked to bring their candles and chanukiyot to light.

To join in RSVP to admin@havurattikvah.org.

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with Shabbat services and a full spectrum of holiday observances, as well as religious educational options for both adults and children. We are a diverse group of families, singles, and Jewish and interfaith couples who participate in projects that promote social justice.

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

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism.

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



havurah hope



Madison Levine
Board Certified
Hearing Instrument Specialist



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3121 Springbank Ln. Ste G
Charlotte, NC 28226
704-540-3081

~ SAVE THE DATE ~
Kids Mega Challah Bake
Monday, January 20

AGES 5+

JSTAGE
PRESENTS

Annie

Book by
THOMAS MEEHAN

Music by
CHARLES STROUSE

Lyrics by
MARTIN CHARNIN

PERFORMANCES:

Saturday, December 7
2pm & 7pm

Sunday, December 8
2pm & 5:30pm

Saturday, December 14
2pm* & 7pm
**2pm Performance is Sensory Friendly/ASL Interpreted*

Sunday, December 15
2pm & 5:30pm

LOCATION:
Gorelick Hall
Shalom Park
5007 Providence Rd, Charlotte

TICKETS: \$15

Purchase tickets at
charlottejcc.org/culturalarts

JCC Charlotte

Funded by
Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



CELEBRATING HANUKKAH IN CHARLOTTE



Please stop by one of the Dreidel Drive displays at Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, The Levine JCC, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Hebrew High School and Charlotte Jewish Day School. For many children, adults and seniors, the gifts they receive may be the only gifts they receive for Hanukkah this year. All gifts must be delivered to JFS by December 13th, for distribution to clients and family members in time for Hanukkah.



Pre - Hanukkah Events

- DEC. 14** Torah on Tap and Moishe House Annual Vodka Latke Party | 8:00 pm | Location TBD - For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org
- DEC. 15** PJ Library and the Jewish Preschool on Sardis Donut Miss The Fun: Hands on Hanukkah | 10:00 am | For more information, visit www.nextgencharlotte.org
- Judaic Fair and Hanukkah Bazaar | 11:00 am | Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman - For more information, contact principal@templekoltikvah.org
- Jewish Council of Lake Norman Community Hanukkah Party | 1:00 - 3:00 pm | Mount Zion United Methodist Church - For more information, visit www.jclkn.org
- Hanukkah Game Night & Dinner | 5:00 - 6:30 pm | Sam Lerner Center - For more information visit www.charlottejcc.org
- DEC. 17** W.O.W. Women of Wisdom Hanukkah Party | 7:00 - 9:00 pm - For more information - visit www.charlottewomenofwisdom.com
- DEC. 18** Temple Israel Empty Nesters: Making Hanukkah Meaningful | 7:00 pm - For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org
- Temple Beth El SPICE Hanukkah Program | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Temple Beth El - For more information or to RSVP, visit www.templebethel.org
- DEC. 19** Women of Temple Israel: Miracles in Our Lives | 7:00 pm | Temple Israel - For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org
- DEC. 20** Temple Kol Ami Latke Shabbat Hanukkah Celebration | 7:00 pm | Philadelphia United, Fort Mill - For more information visit templekolamisc.org
- DEC. 21** Kids' Night In at the J: Llama Hanukkah! | 5:30 - 8:30 pm | Shalom Park - For more information visit www.charlottejcc.org

Hanukkah 2019 begins at sunset on Sunday, December 22, and ends at sundown on Monday, December 30.



Social Club Hanukkah Luncheon
12:30 pm | Temple Israel
For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 22**



Friendship Circle Family Hanukkah Party
3:30 - 4:30 pm | Selkin Family Friendship Circle Center
For more information, visit www.friendshipcircleNC.org



SouthPark Grand Menorah Lighting
5:00 pm | SouthPark Mall
(circle near Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom)
For more information, go to chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984



Community Menorah Lighting & Donut Food Truck
5:00 pm | Temple Kol Tikvah
For more information, visit templekoltikvah.org



The Porch Southern Fried Hanukkah
5:00 - 7:00 pm | Temple Beth El
For more information, visit www.templebethel.org



Glow in the Dark Menorah Lighting on the Green
Chabad Lake Norman
4:30 - 6:30 pm | Davidson Village Green, 216 S Main Street
www.chabadlakenorman.com/upcoming

**MONDAY
DECEMBER 23**



Build & Light a Lego Menorah at StoneCrest
5:00 pm Children's Activities | 5:30 pm Menorah Lighting
The StoneCrest Shopping Center (at the Fountain Plaza)
For more information, visit www.JewishBallantyne.com



Sisterhood of Kol Tikvah Candle Lighting & Hanukkah Party
6:45 pm | Temple Kol Tikvah
For more information, visit templekoltikvah.org



Latke's and a Movie
5:00 pm | Temple Kol Tikvah
For more information, visit templekoltikvah.org

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 24**

Happy 4th Night of Hanukkah
**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 25**

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 26**

Drinks + Dreidels 3.0
Uptown Chabad Hanukkah Party for Young Professionals
7:30 pm | Location TBD
For more information, visit theuptownchabad.com/dreidel



Matthews Community Menorah Lighting
5:30 pm | Matthews Community Center, 100 E McDowell St
For more information, visit ZABSPace.org



Waxhaw Menorah lighting
5:30 pm | E North Street in Downtown Waxhaw
(by the Overhead Bridge)
For more information, visit www.JewishBallantyne.com



**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 27**

Hanukkah Shabbat Evening Service and Dinner
6:00 pm Service, 7:15 pm Dinner (RSVP Required)
Temple Beth El
For more information, visit www.templebethel.org



Shabbat Hanukkah (Creative Hanukkah Garb)
7:00 pm | Temple Kol Tikvah
For more information, visit templekoltikvah.org



Torah Tots Hanukkah Celebration
5:45 pm | Temple Israel
For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org



Temple Solel SC Hanukkah Celebration with "The Ruach"
7:00 pm | Belair UMC Family Life Center
(8095 Shelley Mullis Road, Indian Land, SC)
For more information, visit www.templesolelsc.org



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 28**

TI Annual Hanukkah Party
6:00 pm | Temple Israel
For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org



Hanukkah Havdalah & Candle Lighting
5:00 pm | Temple Kol Tikvah
For more information, visit templekoltikvah.org



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 29**

Sun City Hanukkah Party and Dinner
6:00 pm | The Lodge, 2955 Sun City Blvd
\$15/ person Email: rabbi@JewishBallantyne.com



Navigating the December Dilemma

Nothing stirs up feelings quite like the winter holiday season. Celebrations that should be joyful can become a source of conflict. Someone recently reflected to me, "I get anxious just thinking about it. The Christmas tree in the living room was a source of tension instead of joy. We were both angry." She asked, "Rabbi, what should we do?"

This question is not new. A significant number of people in our community grew up religiously or culturally in another faith and married Jews. Thank God for our community's non-Jewish parents, who proudly make costumes for Purim, cook for and participate in the Passover Seder, braid challah and make Shabbat, shape matzah balls, worship and pray, light the candles and make latkes for Chanukah, and so much more.

Yet, December can be a tough month for Jewish families in a world flooded with Christmas decorations and advertisements. This will be especially true this year, as Chanukah and Christmas overlap. Holidays evoke memories. Deciding how to celebrate and communicate during this season is essential. Here are some tips for this season.

Detoxify the issue and focus on feelings. Approach the conversation with inquiry and humor. Laughing about something does not diminish the importance. Try

looking at your partner's side for a new perspective. Try statements like, "I'm worried that my parents won't come to visit if they know there's a Christmas tree here," or "I feel like I can't be part of something that was very precious to me."

Acknowledge feelings of loss. If the feelings of loss remain off limits, tensions can mount to anger, disappointment, jealousy, and sadness. Even when we make conscious, rational choices about holiday celebrations, there may be sad feelings related to compromise. Often the acknowledgment of these emotions will shift the focus from loss to hope and partnership.

Childhood memories are a part us. Our past remains with us, no matter what religious choices we may make as adults. The holiday season is a time when we are often drawn back to our families, and it may be especially important to help one another find ways to share the current season with relatives and friends.

Be courageous to make adult

decisions. Celebrating two sets of holidays in one house may seem like the best compromise, but it may also confuse children and complicate their sense of identity. Leaving the choice of religion up to children when they are old enough can translate to them feeling that they are choosing one parent over the other. That's an unfair choice for any child to make. This does not mean that your family cannot join in the joyous celebrations of extended family.

Consider an "Anthropological Christmas." Many families have successfully managed the December Dilemma by observing Jewish holidays in their own home while sharing Christmas at the home of a family member. Children will not be confused if they understand that they live in a Jewish home and are helping their non-Jewish relatives celebrate holidays in their home.

Build Jewish identity throughout the year. Coping with Christmas is easiest when there is a firm Jewish identity supported by a

year of holiday celebrations. If you observe Shabbat regularly, sing Jewish songs, read Jewish books, enjoy Passover Seders, decorate a Sukkah, and celebrate Purim with costumes, carnivals, and hamentashen, the few weeks of the holiday season will feel less challenging.

Feeling like an outsider can be tough for kids. The prevailing culture in Charlotte is decidedly Christian. Learning that you are an outsider is never easy. For a child it can be doubly hard. Christmas-envy is not a religious issue. Kids want the flashing lights, the candy, and, most of all, the toys. Jewish children react in different ways: jealousy, sadness, outrage. Little children may cry. School-age kids, obsessed with the idea of "fairness," sometimes express anger. Don't talk kids out of their feelings. Listen and sympathize. Explain how you handle your feelings about the holiday. Chanukah is an excellent time for reinforcing a sense of identity with Jewish life and history. Well defined identities lead to a healthy

sense of self, a greater ability to relate to others, and becoming a proud member of a religious minority.

Celebrate. Join us for Temple Beth El's Chanukah Shabbat Service and Dinner on December 27, as well as many other special Chanukah events all week. And most importantly, celebrate in your home. Our discovered traditions gift-shop can help you experience a beautiful holiday. Visit www.templebethel.org for more information. ☆



**TEMPLE
BETH EL**

Build and Light a 9-Foot LEGO Menorah at StoneCrest

Join us for an unbelievable experience and help us light a giant 9-foot LEGO Menorah at StoneCrest. Bring your family and friends for an amazing Chanukah night including games, activities, crafts, hot drinks, donuts, and latkes.

**Monday, December 23,
5:30 PM.**

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

This event is free of charge.
Visit www.JewishBallantyne.com for more details. ☆



Thank You

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Ohr HaTorah
a project of Lubavitch of North Carolina

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Our gratitude and thanks to our precious Legacy Donors who have made a commitment to ensure the continued and expanded growth of our educational and enriching programs which are vital to the quality of Jewish life in the greater Charlotte region. The donors listed below have given permission to publicize their names with the hope of encouraging you to join them. We invite you to be part of this great heritage legacy. Please contact Rabbi Shlomo Cohen at 704-366-3984.

With thanks and appreciation,

Lubavitch of North Carolina and Congregation Ohr HaTorah

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To learn how you can create your own Jewish legacy, contact
Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544 or Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554.

704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org

Temple Solel Keeps Our Friends Closer

On forbes.com there is a quote: "It's not too often that Sun Tzu, the brilliant Chinese military strategist and Al Pacino of *The Godfather* give the same wise business advice: Keep your friends close and your enemies closer."

While this statement may present a manner of truth in business, it certainly doesn't apply to friendship when you know the people who are among you. One friend of Temple Solel was deeply grieving the loss of her beloved husband of 35 years. Lillie expressed the comfort she felt growing up in a Jewish neighborhood and how the synagogue served as a refuge for whenever she suffered a personal crisis in Westchester County, NY. A fellow church parishioner from St. Phillip Neri Church suggested she visit Temple Solel and insisted, "They are such lovely people. They will help you get over your husband's loss and I know the ladies would love to see your Bar/Bat Mitzvah sign-in scroll." Within a couple of hours of sending an inquiry email, she received a reply, "Of course. We'd love for you to visit us anytime."

Reflecting upon her early years, she said, "The Lord kindly sent me Jewish mothers, Sadie and Ruth, to rescue this 13 year old chubby Catholic Italian girl. It was through these wise ladies I learned about Jewish traditions. But most of all they taught me about love of family and friends."



Lay leader Russ Cobe reading Torah

Before the Kaddish prayer was said at the end of the service, the Lay Leader, Russ Cobe, asked the congregation, "Would anyone like to remember a lost loved one?" Without hesitation our friend lifted her hand and mentioned her beloved husband's name with the words spilling forth and tears flowing down her cheeks. The *Ima* (Jewish mother) beside her stroked her hand, "It's okay. It's okay." While explaining the experience our friend said, "I needed to hear these comforting words from a Jewish person. I have found a new place of peace and know I will be back."

She continued telling her story, "My rabbi in Connecticut addressed the issue of bias between religions and peoples. 'We just can't make it without each other,' he repeated every so often. To preserve the strength of this wonderful country and its precious freedoms we must extend our minds and hearts to one another. Most of our bias is simply based on listening to the wrong people." She also quoted Pope Francis' reflections on Vatican II: "Our future consists of living together. It is a call that challenges, a path to be taken together, for the good of all and with hope. May the religions be wombs of life bearing the merciful love of God to a wounded and needy humanity. May the doors of hope penetrate the walls created by pride and fear." Then she said, "Thank you Temple Solel." Our reply back with a hug, "We thank you too Lillie, and are so glad you come see us often now that we are friends."

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Mark Halpern

Temple Solel is a URJ Affiliated Reform congregation and welcomes interfaith families where in many cases, both spouses become members. Couples attend services on Friday evening and then also go together to their spouse's church on Sunday. We choose to keep our friends closer using Jewish tradition and spirituality as a foundation where sharing, inclu-

sivity, and positive relationships are valued.

On December 9, at 7 PM, Temple Solel SC is excited to host Rabbi Steve Burnstein from Kibbutz Gezer-Birkat Shalom in Israel to update us on progressive Judaism and keeping us connected over the miles.

On Tuesday, December 10 at 7 PM, as a Beneficiary Agency of the Charlotte Federation of Greater Charlotte, Temple Solel is sponsoring guest speaker, Mark Halpern. Mark is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland. The newly formed chapter of the Jewish Genealogical Society is led by Elissa Boyet. Please RSVP to her at niftee@msn.com or 203-731-1882.

All are invited to join us at our annual Chanukah Celebration featuring The Ruach on Friday, December 27 at 7 PM. Bring your chanukiyah and some friends.

For more information see templesolelSC.org, write us at info@templesolelSC.org or call 803-610-1707. Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. ☆



Temple Solel's party in the Sukkah.



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Giant Double Menorah Lighting at SouthPark Mall

This Chanukah, Chabad of Charlotte invites the entire Jewish community to usher in the Chanukah holiday with a spectacular Menorah lighting celebration at SouthPark Mall. This exciting event will take place on Sunday, December 22, which is the first night of Chanukah. This year, we will light not one, but two giant Menorahs at Southpark.

The Chanukah celebration will appeal to many age groups. The program will start at 4:15 PM inside the mall at Circle Court. There will be a Chanukah Sing-Along with the children from The Jewish Preschool on Sardis, an opportunity to do arts and crafts for the children, and decorate a giant Candy Menorah, which will be entirely covered with Laffy Taffy. Outside, between the Container Store and Dick's Sporting Goods, there will be a giant Graffiti Menorah for the teens to decorate from 4:30-5:30.

The grand Candy Menorah lighting will be inside at Circle Court at 5:15 PM. Once the Candy Menorah has been lit, everyone will be invited outside to join the teens and light up the night with a giant Graffiti Art Menorah at 5:45 PM. The SouthPark Chanukah Celebration will include traditional doughnuts and chocolate gelt that will be served free of

charge, along with lively Jewish music, including glow in the dark Chanukah knickknacks, T-Shirts, and more.

This celebration is the perfect event to open the Jewish holiday season, as it allows the Jewish community to express pride and joy in our faith in a public venue, during a time when many in our country are celebrating their holidays.

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

Chanukah Menorahs and candles will be available for purchase at the event. For more information, please contact Chabad of Charlotte at 704-366-3984, visit chabadnc.org, or e-mail: info@chabadnc.org. Be sure to check out all of Chabad's Chanukah Events - in Ballantyne, Uptown, Matthews, Waxhaw, Sun City, and Lake Norman. For more information, contact your local Chabad Center.✡

Temple Kol Ami Is Like a Family

During Yom Kippur services this year, Temple Kol Ami president, Andrew Lyons, delivered a beautiful speech about exactly what TKA considers itself to be: a family. Just like a family we have good times (celebrating Chanukah and Purim), break bread together (Friendsgiving Shabbat and Pizza in the Sukkah), go on vacations together (camping trip), educate our youth (Religious School and Holocaust Memorial Lecture), and kvell with pride at their achievements (B'nei Mitzvah). Sometimes we grieve together as members of our family have sadly passed away. At other times we might even argue (what, a Jewish family that disagrees? Never heard of it). But always, the TKA mishpachah is there for each other and responds when there is a need.

So many family members who have been there on our journey for the last decade ... Jonathan Shaw saw a need for a synagogue in York County, SC, 10 years ago. He, along with others, took the first few baby steps that have led to the thriving Jewish family that is TKA today. Michelle Silva saw a need for religious education and started Temple Kol Ami Religious School in her kitchen with our first seven students. Today, TKA Religious School has grown to over 40 students who meet in a beautiful educational facility in age-appropriate classes taught by a staff of volunteers who are there for their Jewish family. Erin



Unrolling the Torah on Simchat Torah.

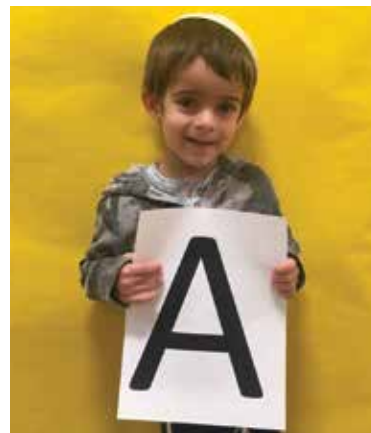
Roseman saw a need for our kids to socialize together and strengthen their Jewish identities, so she started our youth group. So many examples of family that is ready to respond to the needs of their loved ones.

Just like a family, we have watched with awe and amazement as our baby, our synagogue, has grown and changed and adapted over the last ten years. It definitely takes a village to raise a child, and our Jewish village, our TKA family, has been there to nourish and support along the way. Why? Because it's just what family does for each other.

As 2019 comes to a close, we can look back with pride at all that we have achieved as a family. We would like to invite you to join our mishpachah in the coming year. Temple Kol Ami has services the first and third Fridays of the month (oc-

asionally there may be an alteration to our schedule, such as the Saturday morning service that is scheduled for December 7 in lieu of Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service, so please check our calendar at www.tempekolamisc.org) at 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the family for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope to see you soon!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy (secular) New Year.✡



Panama Red – Jerusalem Wed

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim

[This article is being written from Jerusalem due to a long story that began a few years ago. Thank you, JCC and Federation, for creating a portal that made this story possible.]

A young woman from Panama with a passion — and gift — for baking, decided to leave the comforts of home and enroll at Johnson and Wales. It was Rosh HaShanah and she had classes; the school wouldn't give her off because it was a mandatory lab. She was planning on going to the lab but then had a Sandy Koufax moment. Would she completely negate a holiday that was one of the few times she found herself in synagogue? Then she started thinking about her family and how they used to go together. She really missed them. She started to reconsider her choice to come to study in America, maybe it was too many changes, too fast, at the same time. She spoke with her dean about going home and pursuing options there. The dean knew of a Jewish faculty member in the English department and suggested they speak. The professor was also relatively new to Charlotte and had no connection to the Jewish community here. She had to be creative; she discovered that there was a kosher restaurant (i.e., there used to be) in town and suggested that they talk there; at least it would be something they were both familiar with (we later discovered that there are 28 ko-

sher restaurants in Panama City, which has a Jewish population the size of Charlotte). In Latin America, all members of the Jewish community belong to the Jewish club, which is a unifying component for all Jews, regardless of observance or affiliation. As such, the logical next step was to go to the JCC. The two women introduced themselves, and the professor explained that a student far away from home needed to find a place that would make her feel at home. The woman who greeted them had recently come back from a dynamic women's trip to Israel led by Sara, which was part of the international women's Jewish group called Momentum. She suggested that they get in contact with Sara. Rosh HaShanah that year was the first time we met Leoni.

We opened our home and community to her and invited her back whenever she wanted and asked her if she would like to check in every so often to make sure she was settling in and acclimating herself to a new culture, language, and school. She really appreciated the gesture and a few weeks later when Sara called, Leoni said things were going fine but she still felt far away from home. Sara invited her to come over Friday night to meet the eclectic group that finds their way to us. She had a great time; we invited her back and she accepted. After that she started inviting herself and ultimately came to us

every week. She seamlessly fit in and was a good sport about people joking about her strong accent (something like Ricky Ricardo's) and jumped into the banter by giving great comeback lines.

Eventually, her parents visited and we all became like one big family; they even insisted on bringing us to Panama for Leoni's brother's wedding. But it didn't end there. Eventually, I called the professor to thank her for connecting us to Leoni and also to thank her for taking the time to care for a Panamanian homesick Jewish student. Leoni had told her about coming to our home Friday nights and she asked if she could join us one week to see what Leoni was talking about. We now have a new friend. Then, she found another Jewish professor who had also relocated to Charlotte and had not participated in anything Jewish for a long time. She convinced her to come over one Friday night, and now we have another friend. Since then, I have given a few classes at Johnson and Wales and, due to our friends there, the university has graciously allowed us to use their kitchen for Sara's annual Challah bake sale before Rosh HaShanah.

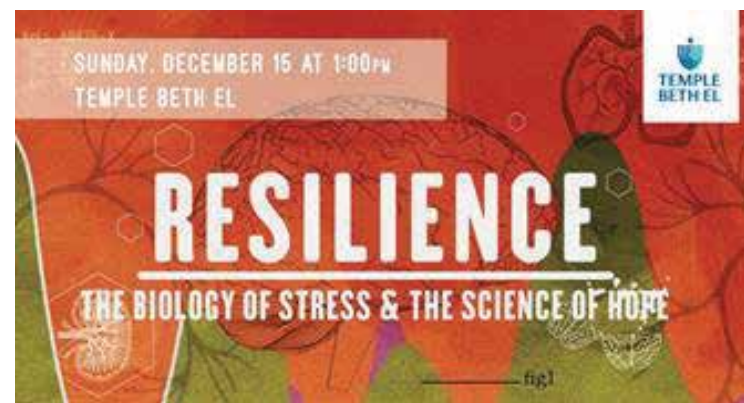
Leoni eventually graduated and decided to study in Israel. One year led to another, and that led to her meeting Jacob, who also happened to be in Israel. Although they will be living in America, they wanted to get

married in Israel, and that's why we're here. Leoni's parents once again insisted on bringing us to the wedding of what they call the girl with four parents.

It's time to go; the wedding is tonight but we're leaving soon with the family to take pictures at the Western Wall. Mazel tov. ✨



The wedding at the Kotel.



Join educators, pediatricians, administrators, and other concerned citizens invested in improving education for all Charlotte students, to learn about the emerging science of adversity and childhood stress. Temple Beth El's Equity in Education issue team presents *Resilience*, a documentary that reveals the ways in which toxic stress wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, but also chronicles a movement that is determined to fight back. This film will begin a conversation that empowers our community to take action that will enable children in every school throughout Charlotte to build resilience and have a more successful educational experience.

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Thank you! Our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and meaningful Hanukkah.

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