

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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February 2019

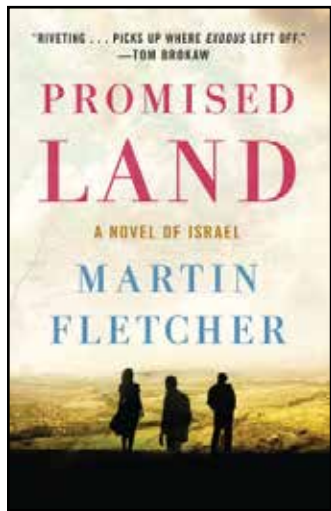
On the Same Page Chapter II

Featuring Bestselling Author and Award Winning Journalist Martin Fletcher

Sunday, March 24, 7 PM in Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) is proud to present the second chapter of our community wide read initiative: On the Same Page. Our goal for this initiative is to bring people together through the reading and discussion of a common book. Chapter II of our community read invites everyone to read *Promised Land*, the epic saga of Israel's early years, written by the former NBC News Bureau Chief in Tel Aviv, Martin Fletcher. Tom Brokaw calls the book, "a riveting novel that picks up where Exodus left off."

Fletcher spent the many years covering the Middle East and Africa. He was NBC correspondent in Israel for 26 years and bureau chief for 15 years. He has covered Kosovo, Rwanda, and Isra-



el, including the first and second Palestinian uprisings and Israel's war with Lebanon in 2006.

His reporting has earned him

many awards in TV journalism, including the DuPont (known as the TV Pulitzer), five Overseas Press Club awards, the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence and five Emmys, to name a few. Anderson Cooper called him for several decades "the gold standard of war correspondents."

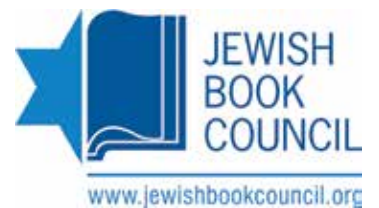
His fifth book *Promised Land: A Novel of Israel* is a sweeping saga of two brothers and the woman they love, a devastating love triangle set against the tumultuous founding of Israel. *New York Times* #1 bestselling author Nelson DeMille states: "Historical novels don't get much better than *Promised Land*." Fletcher will discuss his book on March 24 as a culmination of our community read. We invite you to join us to what promises to be an exciting and enlightening evening.



Martin Fletcher

Copies of the book available to borrow or purchase at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, as well as online as part of our eBooks selection.

There is no charge for this event. Space is limited and pre-registration at www.jewish-charlotte.org/cje is requested. For more information, please contact Debby Block, Center for Jewish Education Program Coordinator, (704) 944-6780 or debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org.



There Are a Few Tickets Still Available to Hear Bari Weiss, New York Times Editor and Writer, Speak at the 2019 Main Event

Only a few days remain until The Main Event, the Federation's highest profile event of the season...the event that kicks off our community's 2019 Annual Campaign. On Thursday, February 7, please join us at Temple Israel, 7:30 PM, to hear *New York Times* editor and writer Bari Weiss share her reflections concerning After

Pittsburgh: Pride, Peoplehood, and Power.

Bari Weiss was raised in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh. She grew up down the street from the Tree of Life Synagogue and became a bat mitzvah there as well. Following the recent shooting, Bari has written and spoken extensively about is-

suess of antisemitism and Jewish identity.

Bari is a passionate thought leader, staff editor, and writer for *The New York Times* opinion page. Previously, she was an op-ed editor and associate book review editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, and a senior editor at Tablet, the online magazine of Jewish news, politics, and culture.

Main Event tickets are \$36 each and are available online at www.jewishcharlotte.org, by phone at 704-944-6757, or at the door on February 7.

Every day, 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. Our impact is extraordinary. Please join us at the Main Event and learn more about how you can make an impact as well as an opportunity to make your pledge to the 2019 Annual Campaign. It all starts with you. You make everything we do possible.

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 sup-



Bari Weiss

port 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. ☆

Tickets - \$36 at www.jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6757



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

UNDER THE FEDERATION UMBRELLA

Curious to learn about the Jewish Federation's impact? Please join Women's Philanthropy for a tour of four local Jewish agencies and witness the impact of your support of the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.

See page 30 for more information. www.jewishcharlotte.org

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JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Jewish Federation Announces the 12th Class of the Bernstein Leadership Group

Applications Now Available at www.nextgencharlotte.com

The Donald H. and Barbara K. Bernstein Leadership Development Group (BLG) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is getting ready to recruit for its 12th class. BLG was started in 1996 by Don and Bobbi Bernstein to prepare the next generation of leaders to help ensure our Charlotte Jewish community remains thriving and adaptable to the changing Jewish landscape.

The 18 month leadership program aims to foster a participant's Jewish identity, broaden knowledge about the Charlotte Jewish community and build leadership skills. Participants will take part in tzedakah, tikkun olam, and initiatives with Jewish continuity. Together, the next BLG class will learn about the history of Jewish Charlotte, the various Charlotte Jewish agencies and issues facing our community and communities

around the world. The program also includes bringing in internationally renowned speakers as well as specialist in the fields of communication and leadership training.

Past participants include current Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte board president, Allison Lerner, and board members of various Jewish organizations, including The Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Family Services, and the Levine Jewish Community Center. In addition to developing a deeper connection to and understanding of the Charlotte Jewish community, participants also cultivate meaningful relationships with group members by participating in a weekend retreat, team building exercises, social activities, and group discussions. Recent BLG graduate Rachel Friedman said, "BLG

gifted me with some incredible friendships as well as helped me to better understand myself as a Jewish leader and how I can best serve the community in which I was born and raised. I chose to start by heading a committee at CJP where my daughter currently goes to preschool, and use this as the stepping stone for a long and prosperous career of giving back and strengthening our community for the generation to come."

The 12th class of BLG will begin in April 2019 and run through August 2020. BLG is for 25-45 year olds with a desire to learn more about and become involved with the Charlotte Jewish community. BLG members meet once a month on Sunday evenings from 4-6:30 PM with the exception of the weekend retreat. If you or someone you know is interested in making a meaningful



The 11th Bernstein Leadership Group at their "graduation."

impact on our Jewish community, an application is available online at: www.jewishcharlotte.org. To learn more or to answer please contact Kara Culp, Engagement

Coordinator for Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, at Kara.Culp@JewishCharlotte.org for an application. The application deadline is March 31.★

Correction to Donor Listing.

We apologize for the error in the October CJN.
Family
Menachem Begin Society \$1,000 - \$1,799
Zack Schwartz and Sarah Rose

Shabbat Candle Lighting for February 2019

Friday, February 1, 5:33 PM
Friday, February 8, 5:41 PM
Friday, February 15, 5:47 PM
Friday, February 22, 5:54 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made October 9 – December 31, 2018.

In honor of Abe Sheffer's 6th birthday
By: Sarina Spiegler

In honor of Steve Weiner. Wishing him a speedy recovery
By: Joshua Goodman; Mark and Alison Lerner

In honor of Kim and Sue Worrel on the marriage of their son, Reid
By: Julie Lerner Levine and Howard Levine

In honor of Kevin Ziman. Wishing him a speedy recovery
By: Troy Howard

In memory of Albert Jacobson
By: Richard and Paula Klein

In memory of Frances Reich
By: Mitchell and Ann Levine

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



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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What is Partnership 2Gether (P2G)? Learn About Federation's City Sister Hadera

P2G is the flagship program of the Jewish Agency (JAFI) partnering with local Federations to directly connect global Jewish communities with a specific geographic area in Israel. P2G's vision is "A global and united Jewish people made up of a tapestry of strong, lively, flourishing, and interconnected Jewish individuals, families, and communities working together to enrich Jewish

Where is our "Partnership region?"

Hadera sits on the Israeli Mediterranean Coastal Plain in between Tel Aviv and Haifa. Located along the flourishing coast of Israel, Hadera was founded in 1891, in the early days of modern Zionism by Eastern European immigrants as a farming colony. It was the largest purchase of land in Palestine by a Zionist group,

massive increase is due primarily to the waves of immigration from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. The disproportionately large number of new immigrants in Hadera today places a tremendous demand on the resources of the city.

P2G Programs:

Here are some highlights from our 2018 P2G programs:

*** Providence Day School Teen Delegation:** In March 2018, four teens from the Hadera-Eiron region came to Charlotte as part of a teen exchange with Providence Day School (PDS). The teens stayed in Charlotte for three weeks, attending classes in PDS, interacting with their Jewish and non-Jewish peers. The Israeli teens also actively participated in Jewish community events, such as the Purim celebration with the Charlotte Jewish Day School.

*** Medical Exchange:** In May 2018, Charlotte hosted three Israeli doctors from the Hillel Yaffe hospital in Hadera. This medical exchange offered the Israeli doctors the opportunity to parallel their work with the medical advancements in U.S. communities, to learn new methods, and to exchange ideas with American colleagues. The Israeli doctors were matched with local physicians, hospitals, and medical practices in their fields of practice (including Atrium, HopeWay, and OrthoCarolina, among others), and were able to shadow their counterparts here in Charlotte. In addition, our Partnership hosted a panel discussion on the state of medicine and healthcare in Israel, which was attended by more than 100 local doctors and medical practitioners. The second part of this exchange took place this past January, when two medical practitioners from the Charlotte area had the unique opportunity to visit Israel on a customized medical trip. The trip provided participants with an inside look at how Israeli healthcare system works and how Israel managed to build a universal health system at relatively low-cost. More on that experience to come in the next issue of *The Charlotte Jewish News*.

*** Educational Seminar:** In December, Charlotte was selected to host a first of its kind educational seminar. Over 20 Israeli and American educators came together for a weekend of learning, shared professional development, and meaningful interaction. The seminar was facilitated by Melitz, an educational organization offering a unique and inclusive educational approach with an emphasis on pluralism. The seminar provided the American and Israeli educators an opportunity to expand their professional experience and connect personally and professionally to



Participants in the Educational Seminar enjoy an evening of axe throwing.

continuity and identity and cultural understanding between Jews in Israel and their peers around the world."

Put simply, the objective is to build connections between Jewish communities across the world and in Israel, one relationship at a time. These connections lead to exciting, effective, and often ground-breaking programming for every life stage and in every area, from early childhood education to professional networking.

For over ten years, Charlotte has been a part of a Southeastern Consortium of communities (Charlotte, NC, Charleston, SC, Chattanooga, TN, Flagler and Volusia Counties, FL, Lee and Charlotte Counties, FL, Pinellas County, FL, Jacksonville, FL, Knoxville, TN, Nashville, TN, and Richmond, VA) partnering with the Hadera-Eiron Region of Israel. Our consortium has actively participated in various cultural, professional, educational, and youth exchanges as well as leadership development programs. These programs create bonds of friendship, deep people-to-people connections between Charlotteans and Israelis who are hosted at people's homes in Hadera and Charlotte, enabling them to truly understand and experience each other's lives, families, cultures, and communities.

Our Partnership is led by a joint steering committee, comprised of volunteers and professionals in communities in Israel and our Southeastern Consortium, dedicated to the creation of ongoing, fruitful, bilateral engagement: unique programs and one-on-one encounters based on mutual endeavors and shared Jewish identity. All Partnership activities are funded by its member communities' Federations.



Israeli and American Educators Seminar.

other educators in Jewish communities in the southeast and Israel. The educators also engaged in team building activities such as a scavenger hunt around Shalom Park, as well as a friendly axe throwing competition. "I so enjoyed working together with both our American and Israeli Educators," shares Betsy Olinger, who participated in the seminar. "It's like a family reunion where we couldn't wait to update each other on what we've been doing and share ideas for future projects. We came together at the Five-Legged Table sharing new

information, debating hot topics in Jewish education, and spent a meaningful Shabbat together. This wasn't a room full of stuffy teachers - we read, debated, created, laughed, debated more, and even threw axes as we celebrated our P2G Partnership. Unity, not uniformity."

For more information about our P2G programs and ways to get involved, contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759.✳

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PJ Our Way: Books and Programs for Tweens

PJ Our Way is the next chapter of PJ Library, for kids ages 8½-11. With PJ Our Way (PJOW), rather than receiving a specific book in the mail, kids can go to PJOW website every month to choose the book they want to receive – for free. Kids can also submit reviews and videos about the books. If your child is not currently receiving PJ Our Way books, simply go to www.pjour-way.org to sign up today.

In addition to providing books, PJ Our Way promotes programming and leadership opportunities for Jewish tweens (ages

8½-11). Recently, our Charlotte community nominated 12 kids to be the first, local PJOW Design Team. The Design Team meets quarterly and brainstorms activities and programs for their peers and promote PJ Our Way to their friends and classmates.

Mazel tov to our PJ Our Way first local Design Team members: George Couchenour, Maddie Friedlander, Lucas Jacobs, Daniel Lopez, Hadley Lord, Sophie Manaim, Ruby Pesakoff, Dylan Sacks, Asher Schreiber, Ben Spiegler, Jonah Weiss, and Nora Yesowitch.

It's a first! PJOW program for all Jewish tweens
What: Laser Quest – Leadership and Team Building
Who: All Jewish kids between 8½-11 years old
When: Sunday, February 10
Time: 2–4 PM
Cost: \$5

Space is limited. Register today at www.nextgencharlotte.org.
More info: Debby Block debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org, 704-944-6780. ☆

PJ Our Way tweens have fun decorating edibles.

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

CJE CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning, and creates pathways to Jewish identity. LIBRARY HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; and Sunday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm					1 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM
3	4	5	6 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM UNCC Salon 5:30 - 7:30 pm Jewish Identity & Assimiation	7	8 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM
10 PJ Our Way Leadership & Team Building at Laser Quest 2:00 - 4:00 pm	11	12	13 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM UNCC Salon 5:30 - 7:30 pm Jewish Identity & Assimiation	14	15 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM
17 PJ Library & CJP Cooking Fun with Grandparents 10:30 AM Sam Lerner Center	18	19	20 CJE Book Club 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM	21	22 PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM
24	25	26	27 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM	28	ALL PROGRAMS ARE HELD IN THE LEVINE-SKLUT JUDAIC LIBRARY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap by Judy Goldman

A routine procedure left novelist, memoirist, and poet Judy Goldman's husband Henry paralyzed. *Together* is her unforgettable account of the struggle to regain their "normal" life and a nuanced portrait of a marriage tested.

Charlotte author Judy Goldman's much anticipated memoir will be published February 12 by Doubleday Books and was edited by Senior Vice President Nan A. Talese. In my opinion, *Together* is Goldman's finest work to date.

I had the delightful pleasure

of interviewing Judy Goldman about her new book, her writing style, and her views on marriage and life in general.

Sue: At which point in your and Henry's story did you decide to write this book?

Judy: After Henry's accident, people kept asking me if I planned to write about it. I kept saying "no" until two years later when I was held up at gunpoint at the dry cleaners. After crying for days, I realized that I felt the same way I did after Henry's procedure left him paralyzed. I realized that life can change in an instant, and writing about my feelings helped me deal with my fear that some-



thing awful would happen again.

Sue: What are the benefits of writing a memoir?

Judy: The book answers the central question "How do we react when we encounter the unheard of?" One of the rewards of writing a memoir is self-understanding...trying to learn the deepest patterns of one's personality. I teach memoir writing workshops and encourage people to be open to self-discovery through their writing.

Sue: Readers will want to know how Henry is doing now.

Judy: Henry is so strong. One leg came back spottily and one

remained paralyzed. He's gone from wheelchair, to walker, to four-prong cane, to a regular cane.

Sue: You and Henry have been married for 51 years. What advice would you give couples?

Judy: Changes just keep coming. You have to learn to adjust to the changes that occur in every relationship – ones that come with time and ones that come by surprise.

Sue: As you know, the Center for Jewish Education concentrates on books either written by a Jewish author or having a Jewish theme. Are there Jewish values that influenced you during your lifetime which have been incorporated into this book?

Judy: All I write about is family and I know the importance of family from my Jewish upbringing. The sanctity of marriage is also a Jewish value I hold dear. There were 28 people at my wedding. It was held at my parents' house and the rabbi from Temple Israel performed the ceremony. The basic ideas incorporated into that Jewish ceremony formed the basis for my marriage. At some

point in any long-term marriage each partner is going to evolve into someone new. When there is a scaffolding of love, you keep moving through different versions of your marriage and stay close as you move into unfamiliar territory. My memoir *Together* records that progression.

Please join us when we welcome Judy Goldman as our guest speaker at the CJE Book Club on Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 AM. Mark your calendars today. ☆



Donations to Jewish Family Services in December 2018

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Your loving father to Eric Fluster from Sharon Katz

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Carl Cohen to Amy and Gene Marx from Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Terry Patinkin to Floyd Patten from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

Francis Reich to Barry and Laura Reich from Scott and Rebecca Goodman

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David and Aleen Epstein from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

THANK YOU TO

Carolyn Hennes from Margi Goldstein

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Norman Steinberger for the Chanukah celebration from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman, Alan and Ruth Goldberg

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"There is an old saying: If you wish to find out whether your motive is pure, test yourself in two ways: whether you expect recompense from God or anyone else, and whether you would perform the act in the same way if you were alone, unbeknown to others."

—Bachya Ibn Pakuda, Duties of the Heart



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



JFS Annual Senior Adult Chanukah Party

The Senior Adult Chanukah party was an afternoon filled with laughter, music, entertainment, good food, and fun. Entertained by Viva Klezmer!, over 150 seniors enjoyed a traditional holiday meal including latkes and hand-

made menorah and dreidel holiday cookies, a performance by CJP, Chanukah cards created and distributed by the CJDS students, not to mention a very special candle lighting ceremony and song celebration by Cantor Shira. Spe-

cial thanks goes out to Norman Steinberger who ensures the seniors in our community are able to enjoy a holiday party each year, to Oasis for your partnership, and to all of our sponsors. Thank you! ☆



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JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Month of December 2018

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Comedy Night Volunteers: Suzy Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Maggie Fogel, Jodi Greenwald, Kevin Levine, Adam Levy, Kim Levy, Adina Loewenstein, Staci Mond, Fred Shporer, Anna Valdman, Liz Wahls, Sherri Zimmermann

Senior Adult Chanukah Party Volunteers: Linda Babich, Jimmy Clonaris, Dan Coblenz, Carol Connors, Andrea Cronson, Rob Friedman, Gail Halverson, Rabbi Tracy Klirs, Matt Luftglass, Kelly Markowitz, Laura Milgrim, Fred Shporer, Harry Sparks, Marcia Stern, Ken Stern, Liz Wahls, Dori Whitman, Mike Weinberg, The Staff at Moishe House: Eliza Carney, Lisa Cotherman, David Cygielman, Sara Gottschalk, Leah Jalfon, Rachel Leibold, Dave Press, Jen Rosen, Ziva Sholin, Rachel Southmayd

Special Thanks for Help with Chanukah Party: Hebrew High, Charlotte Jewish Day School and Sammy Abrams for making Chanukah cards. Charlotte Jewish Preschool for making bookmarks and performing, Charlotte Jewish Day School Student Council for handing out Chanukah cards, Cantor Shira Lissek for leading prayers and song.

Thanks for Contributing to the Dreidel Drive: Ballantyne

Jewish Center, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Hebrew High, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Jewish Community Center, Temple Solel, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Weaver and Budd Law Firm and the many many individuals who collected gifts for the Holiday.

Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Gladys Cherney, Sari Hochberg, Connie Green, Johnson & Wales, Judy Kaufman, Penny Kreiger, Andy McCleary, Harriet Meetz, Helene Rivlin, Joyce Stoll



Food Pantry Donations: Lauren Altopher, Madeline Aron, Marvin Barman, Wendy Kveskin, Kim Levy, Stefanie Rose, Empty Nester Club at Temple Israel, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants. Youth Engagement at Temple Beth El

Food Drives: Judy Lecker and friends for nonperishables donated at annual Chanukah party, Charlotte Jewish Day School and Temple Israel Religious School for canned goods from their "Chanukiah," PJ Library for items collected during a scavenger hunt at Publix. ☆

Community News



At the Stan Greenspon Center, Community Is Everything

For most people in the U.S., February is most closely associated with the celebration of Valentine's Day. Kindergarten-

ers celebrate friendships, middle school and high school students celebrate first crushes or BFFs, young adults celebrate romantic relationships, and married couples celebrate another year of partnership, better than the last. Here at the Stan Greenspon Center we also celebrate our relationships.

During this past year we have strengthened our relationships with many wonderful educators. Through professional development sessions and one-on-one meetings, staff at the Greenspon Center got a chance to see and hear the wonderful lessons being taught by teachers throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Union County, and York County school systems. We fell in love with these amazing men and women. We wish you could meet every teacher and experience the passion each one has for teaching about the Holocaust and human rights. You would love them as much as we do.

We developed stronger connections at Shalom Park as we partnered with Jewish Family Services, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the LJCC Butterfly Project, and the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative in 2018. Temple Beth El hosted a group of educators for a day as part of the week-long Holocaust Educator's Summer Seminar sponsored by the Greenspon Center. Temple Israel welcomed us with open arms to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht and provide a beautiful dinner to all of the survivors who live in our community. In November and December, we capably stood with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the LJCC Butterfly Project to respond to the rise of Antisemitism in our schools. The Greenspon team is grateful to be part of such a loving, caring, and responsive Jewish community.

As we move forward through this year, the Stan Greenspon Center will continue to bring outstanding programs to educators and their students and collaborate with our community partners







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Signup Now for Weekly Tour and Information Session

(Continued on page 15)

YOUR IMPACT

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports programs and services that have real impact on Jewish life each and every day, in Charlotte, Israel and around the world.

The combined generosity of hundreds of donors to the Annual Campaign makes it possible for our community to support more than 50 local, national and international agencies providing a lifeline that enhances and often saves Jewish lives.

More than \$4 million was raised this past year from over 1,500 generous donors like you!

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OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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Drinks and Dreidels 2018

Over 140 young Jewish professionals joined together to celebrate Chanukah at Ink and Ivy Uptown Charlotte for Chabad Young Professionals annual Drink and Dreidels party. The event was sponsored in part by Clinispan Health.



Brooke Rosenberg lights the 6 ft. menorah



L-R Anthony Bykovsky, Matt Lepow, Motti Groner, and Peter Dreyer



L-R Sam Dreyer, Jenna Beker, Inessa Bykovsky, Jamie Taylor, Chaya Groner, and Nicole Avarello



L-R Asher Lipsitz, Kayla Rosen, Melanie Zimmerman, Jacob Maniloff, and Ana Silverstein



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Innovative and Impactful – The JFGC Awards Grant to The Ruach

The Ruach Shabbat Experience is like nothing else in Charlotte. It is an uplifting and welcoming celebration of Shabbat that combines spirituality, modern music, and social interaction. Many Jews of all ages, whether affiliated or not, have discovered this joyous new way to enjoy Shabbat and are now choosing to be a part of The Ruach Community by attending the monthly Shabbat Experiences.

In recognition of The Ruach's success in creating a pathway for connecting and engaging Jews, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has awarded the band a \$5,000 grant to continue providing its monthly alternative Shabbat Experiences.

"The Federation values the contributions that The Ruach makes to our community and is pleased to be able to provide support of this program," the Federation said in a statement. "This



Lead guitarist Peter Levinson.

year was an especially competitive grant cycle. An exhaustive and rigorous evaluation process by the Allocations Committee resulted in funding 14 programs reflecting our diverse community demographically, geographically, and programmatically."

The award comes from the Federation's 2019 Impact and Innovation Fund. Grants from this fund are intended to inspire individuals, organizations, synagogues, and agencies to develop innovative and/or impactful programs and services that support and enrich the greater Charlotte Jewish community and whose mission aligns with one or more of the following Areas of Community Impact, each of which is consistent with the Federation's mission and strategic objectives: Heritage, Culture, and Religion; Jewish Identity and Engagement; Jewish Education; Social Responsibility/Tikkun Olam; and, Israel.

"We are grateful and humbled by this generous award," said Peter Levinson, lead guitarist and co-founder of The Ruach. "This grant, together with donations that we receive from other individuals and organizations, will allow us to continue to provide engaging new Jewish Shabbat Experiences in non-traditional settings that are uplifting, spiritual ... and really enjoyable. As we like to say, 'don't just celebrate Shabbat ... experience it.'"

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 con-

nections and, inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. The Ruach is: Nancy Nagler Good, lead vocals and rhythm guitar; Peter Levinson, lead guitar and manager; Dan Ruda, bass guitar and backing vocals; Franklin Kaunitz, violin and backing vocals; Howard Swartz, percussion; and, Rick Lipson, drums. If you'd like to be added to The Ruach's distribution list and stay informed about upcoming Experiences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. Also, to learn more about The Ruach like the band on Facebook, and follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.☆

Top 10 Reasons to Join the Hebrew Cemetery Association

Have you thought about pre-planning your funeral? We at the Hebrew Cemetery absolutely understand that it is normal to approach this decision with a great amount of anxiety due to the sensitivity surrounding this subject. Those who ultimately take the important step of documenting their wishes regarding their funeral and ultimately share these decisions with loved ones usually express a great sense of comfort and relief.

Here are the top 10 reasons why you should join the cemetery and pre-plan:

10. Being a member of a Temple doesn't automatically make you a member of the Hebrew Cemetery Association (HCA). Your membership supports the operations of these holy grounds.

9. HCA is a community wide cemetery serving affiliated and non-affiliated Jews throughout the Greater Charlotte area.

8. HCA includes reform, conservative, and orthodox, as well as unaffiliated segments of the community.

7. HCA was established in 1867, well before the first temple or other Jewish organization.

6. Thirteen Civil War Veterans are buried on the grounds.

5. HCA will buy back plots, no questions ask, although there is a 20 % administration fee.

4. A member of the HCA can save thousands of dollars on cemetery burial fees.

3. HCA has traditional Jewish burial grounds as well as orthodox, interfaith and cremation sections.

2. One should pre-arrange their final resting place according to Jewish Law.

1. The yearly membership costs only two cents per day (\$72)

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



February 7 & 8

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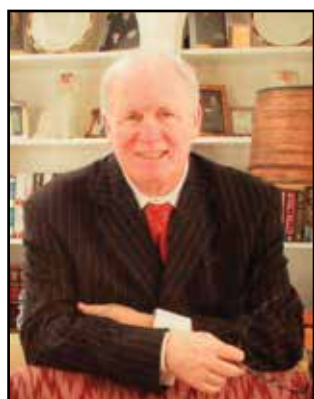
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Healthy vs. Unhealthy Teen Relationships

Know the Difference and How To Protect Your Teen

As parents, from the time our children are infants, we strive to do everything we can to protect them from being hurt, both physically and emotionally. We do our best to make sure they go to the finest schools, know how to select the right friends, and teach them to stay away from negative influences. And yet, in our society, impacting all socioeconomic groups, according to the National Council On Crime and Delinquency, one in three girls in the US will be a victim of physical,

emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner and 1.5 million high school students will experience abuse from a dating partner in a single year. One quarter of the abuse was first experienced between the ages of 11 and 17 years. Many of these youth fear reporting the abuse, so the number of abuse incidents is likely much higher than documented. And sadly, it does not end in high school. Nearly half of all dating college women report experiences of violent and abusive dating

behavior.

Unfortunately, while the data demonstrates the enormity of the issue, there is a lack of awareness regarding the prevalence of teen dating violence. Only 33% of teens who were involved in an abusive relationship told anyone and equally significant and surprising is the fact that 81% of parents do not believe teen dating violence is an issue. Most parents assume their children are not at risk. Hopefully, your teen knows and understands healthy relationships and won't need to work through an unhealthy relationship. Sometimes everything starts out great but slowly changes into a less healthy dynamic. Healthy and unhealthy relationships may not be clear cut. It is not uncommon for teens to get pulled into

unhealthy relationships during their youth, which is a time when they're trying to figure themselves and their peers out.

One of our greatest challenges is helping to protect our children when they don't want it or think they don't need it. As teens, our kids believe they are capable of handling any situation that comes their way, especially with their friends, peers, and dating relationships. Parents often feel they are bystanders as teens are often seen as only being influenced by their peers and social media. Yet teens consistently say that parents – not partners, not pop culture – most influence their decisions about relationships and sex.

So, as a parent, what should you do??

If you are ever worried about relationship dynamics that you see going on for your teen, we offer the following tips for helping to keep you teen safe from dating

violence:

- * It's never too early to teach your child acceptable behaviors in a relationship. Create an environment that makes it comfortable to share their feelings and experiences

- * Understand what constitutes an abusive relationship, it's not just about physical violence: Yelling, bullying, constantly being put down, controlling behaviors, inappropriate postings on social media are all types of abuse.

- * Check in regularly with your teen about their dating experiences. They may be resistant to sharing, however, helping them to understand that you are truly interested and just not prying will help open the dialogue.

- * Share your experiences, the good and the bad.

- * Plan an activity where you can meet your teen's partner.

- * Monitor your teen's behavior.

(Continued on page 17)

The Sanctuary AT STONEHAVEN

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-Lev Saks, Owner

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"To Dust" – a Film Starring Matthew Broderick and Geza Rohrig – Opens at Ballantyne Theaters on February 15

Run to Continue Throughout February and Into March

Shmuel, a Hasidic cantor in upstate New York, is distraught by the untimely death of his wife, Rivkah. As he struggles to find solace in his religion, which proffers a stringent timeline for grief, Shmuel has increasingly haunted visions of Rivkah's decomposing corpse. Convinced that her soul will suffer until her body returns to dust, Shmuel decides that to stop his feverish spiral he must seek an understanding of the physical processes of her decay – despite the blasphemy inherent in any scientific inquiry. Risking discover and expulsion, Shmuel tip-toes outside his enclave, where his search leads to Albert, a bumbling biology professor at the local community college. Soon, Albert is unwittingly seduced into an odd world of homespun forensic research and begins to guide Shmuel through outrageous



experiments that aim to approximate a timeline for Rivkah's dissolution – starting with the theft, suffocation, and burial of a pig. As amateur scientists practicing imperfect science and incompetent criminals on progressively absurd outings, the two find themselves neck-deep in genres in which neither of them belongs.

With their macabre moonlit misadventures growing every more perilous, the odd couple will stop at nothing to satiate their curiosity and ultimately find Shmuel the comfort he desperately seeks.

This unusual and poignant film deals directly with our potential discomfort as well as our acceptance of the things surrounding death. At the same time, it celebrates the relationship between two essentially different people, and how they relate and learn from one another. Filled with humorous moments, as well as bittersweet and tender episodes, this is a film that should appeal across a wide demographic.✪

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Bal Tashchit and Beyond

By David Rosenthal, Shalom Green Board Member
Le'ovdah and Leshomrah (credit: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)

Shalom Green is a group of Jewish community volunteers dedicated to promoting an understanding of Jewish environmental values. Our mission is to educate and mobilize members of the Charlotte Jewish community on environmental issues and Jewish values related to sustainable living and protecting the planet. Our goals: reduce the carbon footprint of Shalom Park facilities; maintain the Shalom Park Community Garden; and educate the community about environmental issues.

In 1836, Samson Raphael Hirsch, pseudonym Ben Uziel, gave the most forcible interpretation of biblical law relating to environmental protection in "The Nineteen Letters," Letter 11. The statutes, Hirsch said, represent the principle that "the same regard you show to man you must also demonstrate to every lower creature, to the earth which bears and sustains all, and to the world of plants and animals." They are a kind of social justice applied

to the natural world: "They ask you to regard all living things as God's property. Destroy none; abuse none; waste nothing; employ all things wisely. Look upon all creatures as servants in the household of creation."

Hirsch also gave a novel interpretation to the phrase in Genesis 1, "Let us make man in our image after our own likeness." The passage is puzzling, for at that stage, prior to the creation of humans, God was alone. The "us," says Hirsch, refers to the rest of creation. Because man alone would develop the capacity to change and possibly endanger the natural world, nature itself was consulted as to whether it approved of such a being. The implied condition is man may use nature only in such a way as to enhance it, not put it at risk. Anything else is *ultra vires*, beyond the remit of our stewardship of the planet.

In this context, a phrase in Genesis 2 is decisive. Man was set in the Garden of Eden "to work it and take care of it" (Gen. 2:15). The two Hebrew verbs are significant. The first – *le'ovdah* – literally means "to serve it."

Man is not just a master but also a servant of nature. The second – *leshomrah* – means "to guard it." This is the verb used in later Torah legislation to describe the responsibilities of a guardian of property not belonging to him. He must exercise vigilance in its protection and is liable for loss through negligence. This is perhaps the best short definition of man's responsibility for nature as the Bible conceives it.

Man's dominion over nature is thus limited by the requirement to serve and conserve. The famous story of Genesis 2-3 – eating the forbidden fruit and the subsequent exile from Eden – makes just this point. Not everything we can do, may we do. Transgress the limits, and disaster follows. All of this is summed up by a simple Midrash: "When God made man, God showed him the panoply of creation and said to him: 'See all my works, how beautiful they are. All I have made, I have made for you. Take care, therefore, that you do not destroy my world, for if you do, there will be no one left to mend what you have destroyed.'"

We know much more than we once did about the dangers to the earth's ecology of the ceaseless pursuit of economic gain. The

guidance of the oral tradition in interpreting "do not destroy" expansively, not restrictively, should inspire us now. We should expand our horizons of environmental responsibility for the sake of generations not yet born, and for the sake of God whose guests on earth we are.

In 2019 and beyond, let's endeavor to show the same regard we show to our fellow human beings to every lower creature, to the earth, which bears and sustains all, and, to the world of plants and animals.

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

If you are interested in learn-

ing more about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT.✧



SHALOM GREEN
Jewish Values, Sustainable Living
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With Demand Booming, Moishe House Opens New Home to Serve Charlotte Jewish Millennials

Moishe House is positioning to become the hub for a booming millennial Jewish life in North Carolina for years to come, after dedicating a new home for post-college-age Jews in the hip North Davidson – or "NoDa" district of Charlotte.

The NoDa house, opened in late November, with four residents ages 21-24. Moishe House NoDa joins another Charlotte Moishe House in Colonial Village, which originally opened in 2013 and was rededicated this past March.

New Moishe House resident, Caleb Seidler, said of this opportunity, "My goal is to turn Moishe House into our Moishe 'Home.' I want to do this by having Shabbat dinners that go deep into the night and early morning, hopefully creating bonds with other young Jewish adults in Charlotte."

Moishe House is a global organization with 110 houses in 27 countries worldwide, where young Jewish adults live together and host Jewish programs one to two times each week for their peers. In exchange, the residents receive a modest monthly rent subsidy, and a monthly programming budget to create some 60 programs annually.

Demand for millennial Jewish community in North Carolina continues to drive Moishe House in the state. The first Moishe House Charlotte has so far attracted more than 4,700 Jewish young adults to its programs. Residents of the new Moishe House Charlotte in NoDa plan to make the



Moishe House NODA's new residents.

area's hip bars and restaurants extended venues for programs, as well as draws for young Jewish millennials to enjoy before and after more formal house activities. So far programs include a Shabbat bagel brunch, Monday Night Football watch party, ice skating extravaganza and (secular) New Year's party.

In addition to the two Moishe Houses in Charlotte, Moishe House Triangle, located in downtown Durham, has engaged more than 1,000 unique Jewish young adults through over 200 programs since opening in August 2015 with the purpose of providing meaningful, home-based Jewish programming for 20-somethings in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill community. [EC1]

"We are very excited about this new group of residents," said Dave Press, Moishe House Southeastern Director of Advancement. "They not only have

the potential to draw in a newer, younger population of young adults into Moishe House programming, but their choice to live in NoDa meant that geographically, we would be able to effectively engage individuals who might not otherwise be attending Jewish young adult programming in Charlotte."

About Moishe House:

Moishe House is a program for young Jewish adults that creates meaningful, welcoming communities for themselves and their peers in a post-college world. Three

to five 20-something residents live together and host ongoing events for their peers. Each year, the 100+ Moishe Houses around the globe hold more than 11,000+ programs for 60,000+ unique participants. Moishe House welcomes people from all Jewish backgrounds and is supported by organizations, individuals and the young adult participants themselves. To find out more about Moishe House, visit www.moishouse.org.✧



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- Multiple children attending camps and/or Jewish programs
- Extenuating chronic family circumstances (ie: special needs children; disability, etc.)

For more information, please contact Jewish Family Services. 704.364.6594.

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

Gloria & Harry Lerner Family Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish young adults between the ages of 21-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program

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

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



Jewish Federation
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*of blessed memory

Jenna Rosen Is Teaching English in Neighborhood School in Israel

Jewish Agency's Masa Opens a Door to a Diverse Teaching Experience

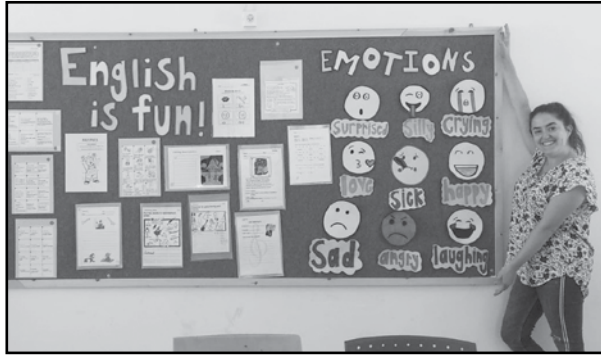
After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Jenna Rosen was unsure of her exact career direction. She thought she might want to work with children, or to become involved with a Jewish nonprofit organization. She was passionate about diversity. And in the short run, she was certain that she wanted to spend a meaningful amount of time in Israel.

Jenna, 22, found the ideal fit both personally and professionally in Masa Israel Teaching Fellows (MITF), one of the programs offered by Masa Israel Journey. Through the 10-month MITF experience, she currently works in Bat Yam at the Gordon School, where she teaches English.

The Gordon school is located in a low-income neighborhood south of Tel Aviv. For many of the kids who attend the school, English is their third language, after Russian and Hebrew, which at times makes Jenna's work even more challenging.

"I think for people like me who are considering teaching as a career, the program gives us great experience in classrooms, while helping us see a different side of teaching that might be different than education in the U.S. — but certainly, we can take back lessons we learn from the Israeli educational environment to America," Jenna says.

Masa Israel Journey is the global leader in long-term experiences in Israel for young Jewish adults from around the world. Since its co-founding in 2004 by The Jewish Agency and the government of Israel, more than 130,000 alumni from over 60 countries (including nearly 12,000 in 2017) have spent 2-12 months "living like a local" through Masa programs, experiencing an authentic, unmediated, and challenging journey into Is-



Jenna Rosen shows off her classroom. Photo courtesy Jenna Rosen.

raeli society, its people, culture, politics, economy, land, and history. Masa offers top gap-year, study-abroad, volunteer, and professional development opportunities to young adults aged 18-30. It provides funding; offers cutting-edge leadership training; and inspires a new generation of connected, committed young Jewish people who walk the world with Israel inside.

The Jewish Agency founded, funds, or currently operates various Israel experience programs in cooperation with Masa, including Onward Israel, Israel Tech Challenge, Bac Bleu Blanc for French Jews, and more. "Given my career interest in potentially pursuing Jewish communal work, it means a lot to me that Masa is linked with The Jewish Agency, one of the world's best-known and most influential Jewish nonprofits," says Jenna.

With the goal of advancing Israeli students' English skills

Chaverim BBG. She continued that community involvement at the University of South Carolina, where she served as president of the school's Hillel branch for two years and collaborated closely with the Columbia Jewish Federation.

"The Jewish community on campus was small, but vibrant," Jenna says. "Everyone involved was really eager to contribute however they could."

Once she graduated, Jenna was eager to expand her cultural horizons, and she found that with Masa in Bat Yam—Israel's 12th-largest city, located on the Mediterranean Sea just 15 minutes south of Tel Aviv. She has especially enjoyed the Gordon School's diverse mix of Russian, Arab, and Jewish students.

"Diversity has always been important for me — to think outside my bubble, and to be exposed to new people and new perspectives," she says.

Beyond the classroom, Jenna has had the opportunity to take part in unique experiences in the broader community like recently touring South Tel Aviv and meeting with a Sudanese refugee who survived the Darfur genocide.

"Meeting this refugee was a really eye opening experience for me," says Jenna. "It showed me how diverse of a place Israel is and how everybody has their own story. It was really impactful for me to hear this inspiring story of someone who overcame such adversity and is now working on getting his master's degree."

Jenna lives in Bat Yam with five other roommates from the MITF program; overall, there are about 35 teaching fellows in Bat Yam and 250 across Israel who experience the personal and professional benefits of the program's vast network. The fellows also have access to monthly leadership seminars; Jenna's next seminar, to be held in Jerusalem, will cover the landscape of the Jewish Federation system and resume-building skills.

Prior to her Masa program, Jenna had only visited Israel, on a Taglit-Birthright trip. Now, about halfway through her Masa experience, she says, "I feel lucky to be where I'm at, teaching in such a diverse school and being part of such a well-rounded, immersive program in Israel."

Learn more about Masa Israel Journey at: <https://www.masaisrael.org/>.



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You Have a Voice ... Use It

Ready ... Set ... Advocate! Your Step by Step Guide to Patient Empowerment

By Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN and Randy Sperling

Can I refuse care? How do I navigate through the emergency room? How do I access my medical records? What questions should I ask before surgery? Before a diagnostic procedure? How do I select a doctor? How do I prepare for that visit? How do I give hope to the dying patient? What do I need to know before signing a treatment consent form? How do my medical bills get paid?

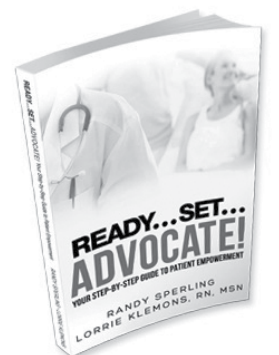
The healthcare setting of the 21st century is oftentimes complex and scary. As healthcare consumers, we have lots of questions that might go unanswered because we don't know what to ask and whom to ask. Finding your voice so you can partner with your healthcare team in a positive way is how you become an empowered patient advocate for yourself or someone you care about. Once you are empowered, you can be proactive in making sure your needs ... or the needs of your loved one ... are adequately served in the healthcare arena. Having a voice guarantees that as a patient or patient advocate, you become an active member of the healthcare team, being involved with all decision making and care planning.

When local Charlotteans and Jewish community members Lorrie Klemons and Randy Sperling

first met more than 12 years ago, they realized a shared passion for patient advocacy and empowerment. In 2010, they joined forces and created PatientAction.com, a website dedicated to fulfilling their collective passion to make sure that every healthcare consumer was guaranteed a voice in the healthcare setting. Learning how to advocate for oneself or someone one cared about, would guarantee patient empowerment in every healthcare setting. Their company mantra became "You have a voice ... use it."

Randy gained her advocacy experience through work in a variety of healthcare settings early on in her career and by advocating for a sick son for over twenty-five years. That son ultimately died in 2011 while awaiting a liver transplant. As a nurse, nurse educator, and senior wellness expert, Lorrie has spent over forty-six years advocating for her patients, her students, and her seniors. She added Warrior Mom to her resume in 2016, after spending most of the year caregiving and advocating for her own very sick son in New York City. Her son's illness and extended hospitalization impassioned her even more in the work she does and she truly believes that "Woe is the patient who does not have a patient advocate ..."

Ready ... Set ... Advocate! Your Step by Step Guide to Pa-



tient Empowerment is a product of their collective passion, professional expertise, and personal and painful experiences as Warrior Moms. The book contains dozens of worksheets that will guide and empower healthcare consumers through a variety of healthcare scenarios and settings. It is dedicated to Randy's deceased son, Philip Joshua Sperling, whose kind heart and sweet soul inspired the creation of Patient Action. The book is available on Amazon or Barnes and Noble.com

In 2017, Lorrie established Klemons HealthCare Consulting to allow her to focus more on senior advocacy and empowerment. As a Senior Advocate and Lifestyle Consultant, Educator, Speaker, Author, and Warrior Mom, she is ready to help you with all of your patient-senior advocacy, care management, family-healthcare liaison, staff development, and guest speaking needs.☆

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A Community of Peace

"Peace is when people are kind to people different than them." "Peace is choosing to relax." "Peace is keeping others safe." "Peace is practicing getting along." "Peace is being still and thinking about your breath." Listening to Kindergarten students from Rama Road share what "peace is" reveals such hope and encouragement.

During the week of December 10, students across Rama Road Elementary School participated in the first ever Peace Week. The idea for Peace Week arose upon reflection of the hurt and sadness from the horrific hate crime at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh last October. Principal Patricia Denny collaborated with teachers Lucia Huber and Melissa Van Glish to create a week full of activities that teach peace to the students at Rama Road.

As a member of Temple Israel and the Jewish Community Cen-

ter, Melissa Van Glish worked hard to plan powerful activities and ensure Peace Week had a positive impact on the students. When first approached about the possibility of Peace Week, Van Glish shared, "I felt honored and respected that my principal thought enough to reach out to me and the Jewish community during this tragic time." Peace Week held special meaning for Van Glish as she "felt extremely hopeful for our future knowing that students were demonstrating the compassion that is needed in our world today."

Peace Week included various experiences with the ultimate goal of educating students about the importance of practicing peace, promoting love, and establishing relationships grounded in compassion and understanding. All stu-

dents, Pre-K to Fifth Grade, experienced the activities of Peace Week. Each day, students had a different opportunity to explore the importance of peace. Students wrote letters of encouragement to the congregation at Tree of Life Synagogue. The week included many other activities such as making friendship loops with classmates, writing about how to be peaceful, participating in a Peace Walk, learning about symbols of peace, and many more activities.

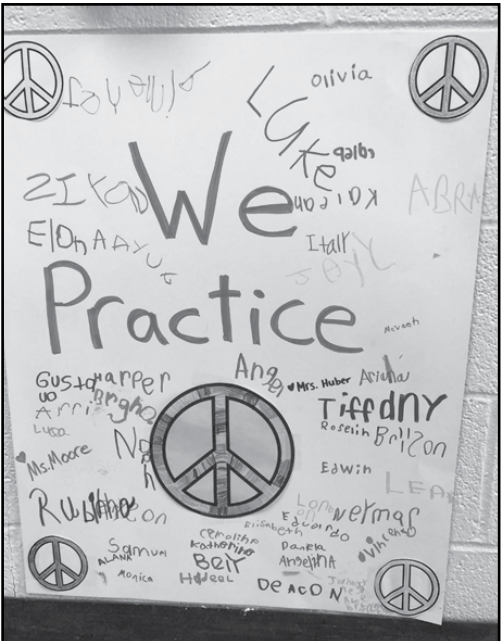
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Rama Road Elementary School recognizes the

importance and truth behind the quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. Teachers and students at Rama Road work hard to exemplify love and peace for their commu-

nity. Rama Road plans to have an annual Peace Week to ensure that students and teachers create a school and community founded in peace. ☆



Melissa Van Glish with her first grade students holding the friendship loop made within the first grade classes.



The Kindergarten Class' Peace Poster

At Greenspon Center, Community Is Everthing

(Continued from page 8)

on pressing issues. We will also celebrate victories in our mutual quest for a more just world. Most of all, we will love one another with kindness and patience and

compassion. As the light in the sanctuary reflects the divine presence, the light of our loving actions will show others that hope is present in our world today.☆

"As a Jew, I share a strong commitment to the Jewish intellectual tradition. That tradition places emphasis on learning - learning for the sake of understanding and perfecting our world, and learning for its own sake. Through the ages, we have taken pride in being known as 'The People of the Book' and have carried our Torah and our traditions with dignity and affection. Even in the face of persecution and dispersion, and often denied access to centers of learning, the Jewish people, never satisfied with conventional answers, have always valued the intellectual inquiry and continued to honor wisdom and learning ... finally, Judaism represents a great synthesis of universal and Jewish values. For me as a Jew, there need be no conflict between science and religion. Moses Maimonides, philosopher and codifier of halacha, also graced the world of medicine. He is a role model of living in two worlds, Jewish and universal, and of making them one."

--Rosalyn Yalow in *The New York Times*, Sunday, March 7, 1993

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The Ruach to Perform at Temple Kol Ami in March

They are the fresh new voice in Jewish music that has swept through Charlotte, NC and the surrounding areas. They are bringing a cool vibe to prayer and engaging young and old with their sound. And as their name implies, The Ruach is infusing a new spirit into our sacred liturgy with their own melodies and rock rhythms. Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC is thrilled to welcome The Ruach back to our congregation to lead us in Kabbalat Shabbat service on March 15 at 7 PM, Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill. Temple Kol Ami has hosted The Ruach previously at a Havdalah service and could not wait to bring them back to York County for Shabbat. "Everyone, the kids, the adults, we all just loved them!" exclaimed Bonnie Shaw, past president of TKA.

"I have seen The Ruach at other venues, and we are just so excited that we can have them right here in Fort Mill."

The Ruach is a non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through modern Jewish music. They perform regularly at the Rabbit Hole in Plaza Midwood as well as around the state of North Carolina. You can see them right here in York County and have a truly uplifting spiritual and cultural experience. This event is free and open to the public. Please join us and find out for yourself why The Ruach is so special.

If you live in the Greater York County/South Charlotte area, Temple Kol Ami may be the Jewish home for you. We are



Dan Ruda, Nancy Good, and Peter Levinson of The Ruach.

a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. For more information, please check out our website www.templekol-amisc.org or follow us on Facebook (Temple Kol Ami). Feel free to attend any of our Shabbat services which are generally on the first and third Fridays of each month. We hope to meet you in 2019.☆



Exciting February Happenings at Chabad

Many people wonder what exactly is Chabad? One might think that Chabad services and classes are geared for Chassidic Jews or that their programs are out of touch with today's contemporary, fast paced world. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Chabad welcomes every Jewish person, regardless of their level of knowledge, affiliation or background. Chabad strives to allow each individual to connect with their Jewish heritage at their own pace.

Children who attend C-Kids, (the Sunday School program) can't wait for class each week, which is filled with exciting adventures. Gone are the days of dreading Hebrew school. At Chabad, the kids learn through engaging activities and understand the depth of Jewish tradition as it pertains to their every-day lives and challenges. In addition to C-Kids, there is C-Teen Junior (for middle school kids) which

has fun activities this month including Capture the Flag and meaningful discussions like "Do we go to Hell if we Sin?" C-Teen Senior (for high school teens), has a Challah and Rugelach Bake Sale, Mind Yoga, and a Mind Blowing Shabbaton, during the month of February.

Come and check out the many different types of adult classes: a weekly Torah Studies class with a contemporary message is taught each Thursday evening; the upcoming Jewish Learning Institute course, "Crime and Consequence" begins on February 5/6. This groundbreaking JLI course explores the Torah's insight into our current Justice system and what we can do to improve our perspective and attitude towards those who have committed crimes. See last month's *Charlotte Jewish News* for details or visit myjli.com. For women, the "Rosh Chodesh Society" will have an exciting program on



C-Kids

February 6 - "The How and Why of Honoring Your Parents."

If you are trying to find ways to bring a little more Jewish living into your routine then join one of our warm and welcoming Shabbat services -it's easy to fit into the Chabad family. If you need to say kaddish or would like to pray any day, there is always a daily minyan each morning and evening. If you want to study a little Torah one on one, Chabad has got you covered with a great team of rabbis.

Stop by the expanding Chabad campus at 6619 Sardis Road and visit the new Youth Building. Check out all the exciting construction of the brand new Synagogue and Chabad Center slated to open in time for the High Holidays of 2019.

If you don't live nearby, don't forget there are Chabad Centers in Ballantyne, Uptown, Lake Norman, and throughout North and South Carolina. To find more information about any of the programs mentioned, visit chabadnc.org, or call 704-366-3984 to speak to a friendly Rabbi - Chabad is here to help.☆



C-Teens



Women's Rosh Chodesh group.

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Temple Solel Embarks on Congregational Study

We are already a month into the new calendar year 2019 and nearly half way through 5779. At a recent Shabbat Service at Temple Solel, lay leader, Russ Cobe's d'var Torah provided some input from differing opinions of Jewish thought whether we should only consider Rosh Hashanah the New Year, or, perhaps, we should consider whether to include the regular calendar too? He asked the congregation, "Which calendar do you consider the most important in your everyday lives?" Responses were as varied as the d'var itself.

Whether you set your compass at the time of Rosh Hashanah, January, or both, it is imagined we may have goals that are either new, already fizzled out, or we've already been working on for months. It's sometimes mentioned how mystical activities increase around the High Holy Days to help guide us for the coming year. However, it seems plausible most of us have forgotten the focus on spirituality and probably replaced those thoughts with ones about our dietary habits and goals of working out more by succumbing to the relentless advertisements and reminders by the beauties on social media how much we lack. One recent online post showed a well-known model who thought it was a helpful gesture to vigorously jump rope at the front door of a fast food restaurant while sneering at everyday people who came out holding a purchase. The model wasn't completely wrong. She demonstrated her strength, but in doing so, made the mistake of exploiting another person's weakness instead of joining together to help them.

Before December was over, our President, Shelley Pawlyk, spoke with a coach at the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism), with which we are affiliated, to gain information in order to participate in this year's Congregational Benchmarking and Assessment Survey.



Rabbi Asher Knight explained Temple Beth El participated in a recent year and encouraged us in our pursuit of the type of feedback we should receive from such a journey. The Union for Reform Judaism helps congregations stay relevant and innovative, supporting them as they inspire sacred action and expand the way in which people can live Jewishly.

A small portion of our Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact and Innovation Grant is being used to participate in a study on congregational engagement. We are grateful for the leaders in our community who are imparting their wisdom, so we can learn and partner with them. After all, no matter what synagogue we belong to (or not), we come from varied backgrounds and have to find people with whom we can share common ground. In our efforts to mature as a congregation, we are taking the approach that we have some good ideas; however, we need input. Can you imagine how many opinions there will be? We are anticipating constructive and usable feedback from our members, community leaders and also non-members alike that will be-

come instrumental in our growth and exciting next steps in our future. A majority of people lead busy lives, travel, have families and jobs both inside and outside of their homes. The retired people we meet say they are busier now than when they were in the height of their careers. Most of all, we want to let you know we are glad to see you when you can come visit or if you decide to stay. It takes time to cultivate and grow relationships and we see the fruits of the years leading up to this current phase. We are determined to form new goals by taking a position of strength and focusing on our assets to offset what we may lack.

Identifying gaps and reviewing lessons learned will be an important part of the process also. We are going to continue increasing our communication and media presence so you know about upcoming events. We are still friends with the ISJL (Institute

of Southern Jewish Life) based in Jackson, Mississippi that provides a variety of educational, cultural and religious services to underserved Jewish areas in the South. We have two visits coming up with Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky, the Director of Rabbinical Services. There are other rabbinical visits, studies, education, and even movie nights we are preparing, which will be open to anyone in the community who would like to attend.

Temple Solel holds Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope to see you soon in the

Community Room at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill. For details, call 803-619-9707 or visit www.templesolelsc.org or Temple Solel SC on Facebook.✡



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By Madison Levine



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Teen Relationships

(Continued from page 12)

ior for warning signs: A decline in school performance and other activities, changes in personality, changes in eating or sleeping habits, signs of depression or anxiety, increased secretiveness, use of drugs or alcohol, obsession with dating partner, physical signs of abuse such as bruises, scratches, or other injuries.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, a great time to talk about healthy and unhealthy relationships. Keep an

open mind as teens mostly fear being blamed for the abuse. Let your teen know you care and are available if they are ever feeling uncomfortable in a relationship.

Join us for Dating Abuse; Tools for Talking to Teens on February 20 from 6:30-8 PM in the Teen Meeting Room in Shalom Park. For more information or to RSVP to this program, call Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.✡

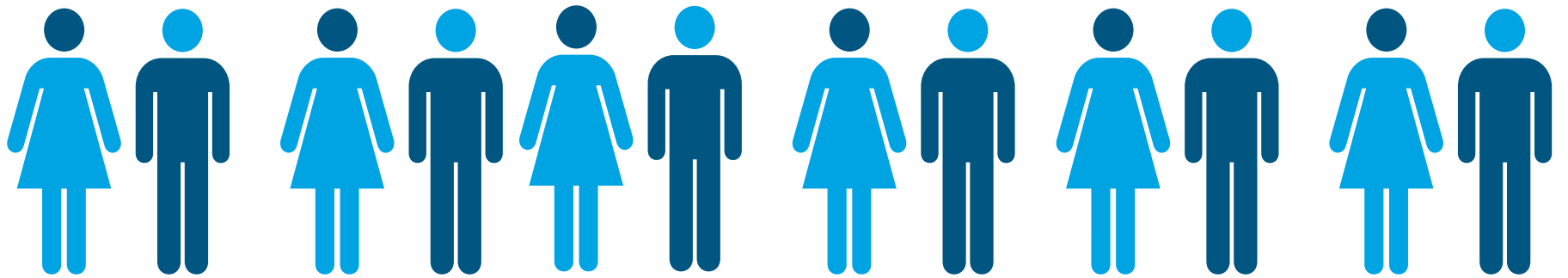
"Reverence for the old, dialogue between generations, is as important to the dignity of the young as it is for the well-being of the old. We deprive ourselves by disparaging the old."

—Abraham Heschel, The Insecurity of Freedom

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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 and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations.

Repairing the World through Racial Justice

By Jennifer Clark

Tikkun olam—repairing the world, often through social action—has long been a cornerstone of Temple Beth El's mission and values as a congregation. We have seen this in the number of canned goods collected for local food pantries around the High Holy Days and the many volunteer hours our congregants devote to causes in Charlotte and beyond. Over the last two years, Temple Beth El has worked to broaden our commitment by developing ways we can work together to address some of the systemic barriers to equality and justice, specifically around racial inequality.

This evolution in our approach to tikkun olam as a congregation was spurred by the police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott and the resulting Charlotte Uprising in September 2016, which sparked important conversations around the city on racial inequality. We at Temple Beth El acknowledged that our current efforts—though important and still necessary—were barely scratching the surface. We had focused much effort on the “leaves” and not enough on the “roots” of the issues that we care about.

Tikkun olam is an audacious goal. This guiding principle urges us to act for the greater good (“repair”) by thinking systemically (“the world”). We are charged, as a congregation and a community, to figure out how to make meaningful repairs to an incredibly large and sometimes unwieldy system. At Temple Beth El, we



Jennifer Clark

are using the principles of community organizing to help engage our large and diverse congregation around a shared vision of how we can contribute to achieving racial justice in Charlotte.

We define community organizing as building powerful relationships across lines of race, class, and differences, grounded in trust and mutual respect, and leveraging the power of people to act in shared self-interest to help make systemic change. Through building relationships within and outside of the congregation, listening to the varied perspectives of congregants and neighbors, researching key issues, and identifying where our unique capabilities as a congregation can make the most impact, Temple Beth El is drawing on our collective power to tackle complex challenges.

We began with listening. Before taking action as a congregation, we needed to better understand both the diverse perspectives and backgrounds among

our membership and actions and strategies of other faith groups and social justice organizations. Through listening circles with members, we learned that some of us grew up in diverse communities, while others didn't. Some members shared their stories of being both Jewish and people of color. All of these experiences shaped how individual members of our congregation experienced, and still experience, race.

Congregants noted the tremendous disparities they saw between white residents and communities of color, often acknowledging segregation in our city's neighborhoods and schools. Their stories spanned several decades and showed us the importance in understanding the historic context that created systemic racism.

We then put our listening into action. We identified three issue areas that kept bubbling to the surface in our conversations with members: pre-k to 12 education, affordable housing, and criminal justice. With this narrowed scope, we developed a plan of action for pinpointing specific ways our congregation could make actionable, systemic change in Charlotte. We created three teams to dive deeper into each issue area through research, one on one conversations with other congregants, and meetings with external organizations to make stronger connections in the greater Charlotte community.

We regularly hold community organizing trainings for our members to engage more congregants in this work and build leadership within our ranks, with the intention of developing a sustainable social action model that will guide us over many years.

We also developed a public event series to educate our congregation and other community members on the intersection of racial justice with these three topic areas. Our fall kickoff event featured a lecture from Dr. Willie Griffin, the staff historian of the Levine Museum of the New South, who gave a historical overview of race in Charlotte. January's events included a talk on implicit bias from Derrik Anderson, Executive Director of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, and a look at the history of public education in Charlotte, featuring historian Dr. Pamela Grundy. This free, public series will continue with talks on affordable

housing (February 27) and criminal justice (March 31).

We embarked on this community organizing model knowing that the work of engaging many people around a shared objective is not often a quick and easy process. An audacious goal—repairing the world—requires an audacious effort. ☆



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Alaska is the Jewish State in New TV Series Based on Michael Chabon Book

By Marcy Oster

(JTA) — Alaska is the Jewish state in a television series that is being developed by married Jewish authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman.

The series will be based on Chabon's 2007 book *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*, Deadline Hollywood first reported.

In the book, the Jews lose the War for Independence in 1948 and instead set up a Jewish homeland in the Alaskan panhandle. It follows homicide detective Meyer Landsman, a divorced alcoholic, as he solves the mysterious murder of an Orthodox Jewish crime boss who also is considered the potential Messiah.

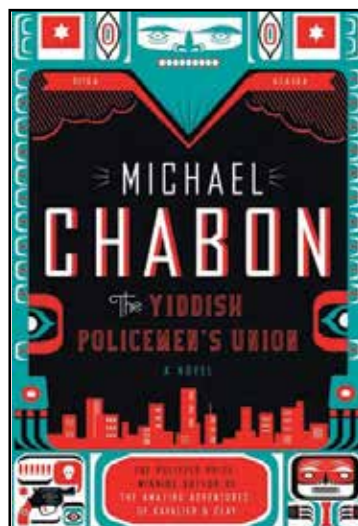
Chabon and Waldman are the executive producers. It is a co-production of CBS-TV Studios, PatMa, and Israel's Keshet Studios. No release date has been announced.

Chabon won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his book *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. He also is the author of *Wonder Boys* (1995), *Telegraph Avenue* (2012) and *Moonglow: A Novel* (2016).

Waldman has written novels including *Love and Other Possible Pursuits*, *Bad Mother*,

and *Motherlove*, as well as “The Mommy-Track Mysteries” series.

Chabon and Waldman have been critical of Israel and its treatment of the Palestinians. In 2016, they led a group of writers on a tour of the West Bank and published the subsequent essay collection “A Kingdom of Olives and Ash,” which was critical of Israeli policy. ☆



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Rabbi's Journal III

Public School Students Meet a Rabbi

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

One of the challenges today is making sure people remember the Holocaust. To this end, the Butterfly Project on Shalom Park bring hundreds of public and private school students each year to give them a brief introduction to the destruction of the Jewish communities of Eastern and Western Europe. But even if there would be ten such programs in Charlotte, there would still be more students to reach. Here's one small contribution we make each year to reach out to public school students.

There's a public school teacher who is committed to making a difference in her classroom, even though she doesn't (officially) teach social studies or history. She teaches English and every year her curriculum includes Elie Wiesel's *Night*, as well as Simon Wiesenthal's *The Sunflower*. Each year I address her class to (officially) talk about the Holocaust, but that is always just a small part of the discussion. They are told they can ask me any question they choose, and over the years some fascinating topics have come up. This is the first time that the overwhelming majority of students have ever met or spoken with a Rabbi and even though they come from diverse backgrounds with regard to race, ethnicity, economic, and social levels — including IB students, honors students, and others — there are certain areas of interest they all seem to share.

Do Jews believe in Jesus? Why not? (See my December *CJN* article "Now, How Do I Answer That?"). How about science and

the age of the universe? Yes, Jews embrace science and do not see the age of the universe or any other subject using empirical data as contradicting our faith (I discuss this in greater length during the class and give many practical examples). Whether agnostics or devout fundamentalist, I can tell by their faces that my answer was not what they were expecting; a bit too open minded for the fundamentalist, a bit too unexpected for the agnostic. Sex is always a popular topic but what is said in the classroom will have to stay there. Suffice it to say that their young minds are still trying to navigate their way in a complicated subject, even though it appears simple.

Here's another question that always seems to come up: Why do so many people hate Jews? The answer to the question is longer than most others and it's a challenge to do the subject justice in such a short time period; I have an audio-visual complete seminar on this topic. Is it because Jews are rich? How about the millions of Jews living in the Pale of Russia over the centuries who were below the poverty level; why were they hated? We have been hated for being communists — and capitalists. We have been accused of being meek weaklings but also controlling the world. Many additional questions are asked once we get into the topic.

Although the class is less than an hour, the teacher agreed to write a note for anyone who wanted to remain for another period, which was most of the class. Their curiosity and willingness to engage gives me hope, yet also

a responsibility to find new ways to reach out to people in a meaningful way. A few days after our session, I received a wonderful gift, a manila envelope filled with letters of appreciation. The topic that came up more than any other — by far — in their thanks was the discussion of the Jewish approach to forgiveness. This topic came up in a bigger way than I recall from previous years and judging from the feedback, it is something on their minds. Here is a sampling of quotes: "especially the Jewish beliefs on forgiveness and atonement." "The way you explained your stance on forgiving ... I had never heard such a great explanation of forgiving and repenting." "You have opened my eyes to ... how we must not only learn to forgive others, but also we must also come to terms with and forgive ourselves." It is tragic that there isn't a single class in high school or college devoted to this crucial topic. If one never learns how, the resentment that festers becomes a cancer with the ability to destroy friendships, marriages, communities, and self.

A discussion about the Holocaust? Well, almost; it seems they were too curious to focus on that one topic but, rather, were seeking to learn some Jewish wisdom about some of their existential challenges. ✧




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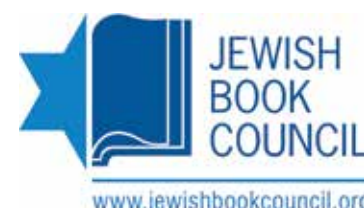
Nazi Hunters' Memoir Wins Top National Jewish Book Award

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, two prominent French Nazi hunters, won the Jewish Book Council's top national book award last month.

Hunting the Truth: Memoirs of Serge and Beate Klarsfeld includes first person accounts of the couple's 50-plus years of pursuing Nazi war criminals. The Jewish Book Council noted that the Klarsfelds were hesitant at first to work on an autobiography, saying they lacked "talent for storytelling," but were pleased with the final product.

See the other winners in categories such as American Jewish studies, contemporary Jewish life and practice, biography, and more here: <https://www.jewish-bookcouncil.org/awards/2018-national-jewish-book-awards-winners-and-finalists>. ✧



SouthPark at Phillips Place

Where Families Come Together



Photo courtesy of ArtShots Photography

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

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



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





Jewish Federation
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Inspiration

Innovation

Imagination

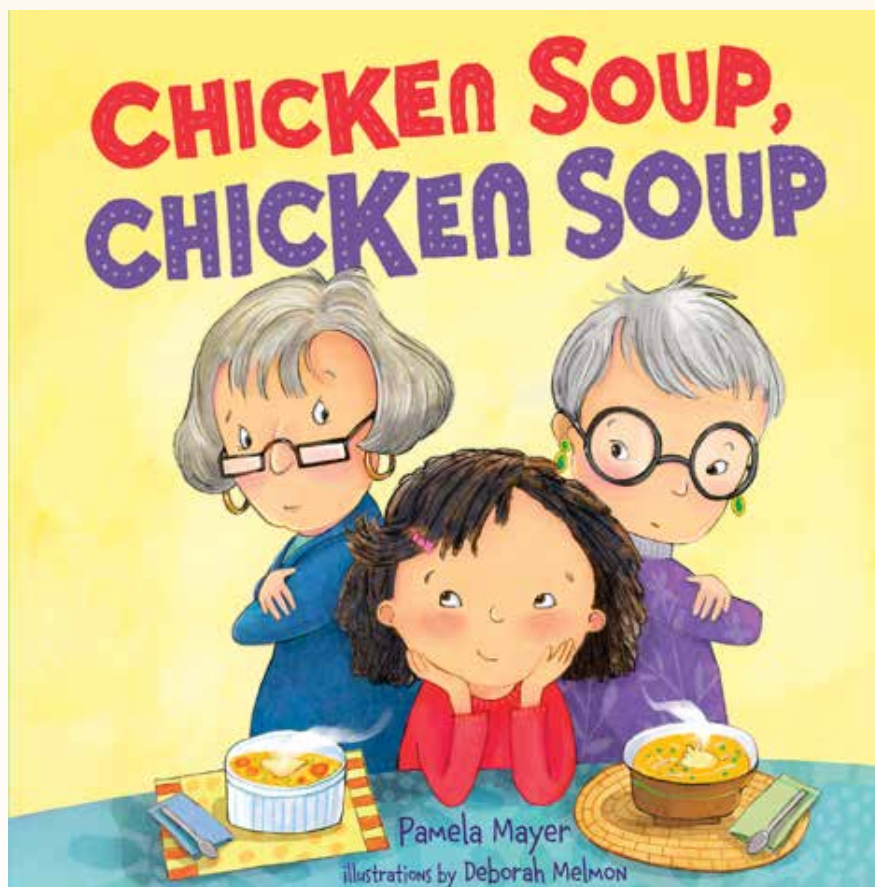


Family Engagement

CHICKEN SOUP, CHICKEN SOUP: COOKING FUN WITH GRANDPARENTS

Sunday, February 17 | 10:30 AM

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts, Shalom Park



Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup, a play—the story of a little girl with a Chinese grandma and a Jewish grandmother and delicious chicken soup.

Bring your grandparent(s) for a morning of interactive fun, crafts and a snack.

SHARING: Bring your favorite chicken soup recipe to share.

GIVING BACK: Bring a can of chicken soup to donate to Jewish Family Services food pantry.

FREE — Space is Limited. Registration is required.
www.NEXTGENCHARLOTTE.ORG.

SPONSORED BY:



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

Contact: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator 704.944.6780 debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

RSVP by Feb. 13 at www.nextgencharlotte.org

Women's News

President's Message

By Sharon Goretsky, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

With the secular New Year having just passed last month, I have been reading a lot about picking a word for the year. Some people chose words such as patience, strength, and focus. I'd like to go a different route for Hadassah Charlotte's word and choose a phrase. For our chapter of Hadassah, 2019 is going to be the year of *kulanu b'yachad*, all of us together.

Kulanu b'yachad, we will continue to make our mark on our Charlotte community. With over 1,000 women in the Charlotte metro area, we will fight breast cancer by raising money for research at Hadassah Medical Organization through our very own

Celebrate the TaTas. We will help the Charlotte Jewish community find each other by producing the area's only Community Directory. We will continue to support the arts by being co-sponsors of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, which we founded in 2005. These are only a few of the programs we will offer throughout the year.

Kulanu b'yachad, we will continue to make our mark on the country. Along with over 30,000 of our Hadassah sisters throughout the United States (and our Associate Members), we will advocate for

the health, safety, and wellbeing of women. We will work to create a more equitable world for all. We will participate in Days in the District and Dates with the States in order to build relationships with our representatives both in state capitols and Washington, DC. We will come together in New York City this summer to strengthen ourselves and our organization.

Kulanu b'yachad, we will continue to make our mark on Israel and the world. Our fundraising efforts here will continue to support Hadassah's hospitals in Israel, as well as Hadassah's youth villages such as Meir Shfeya and Neurim. Hadassah Medical Organization is a world leader in stem

cell research, having made significant advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, melanoma, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and many other diseases. Hadassah Hospital opened the first trauma center in Israel and is still the only Level-1 trauma center in Jerusalem. Hadassah surgeons developed life-saving protocols and procedures which are now implemented around the world. Hadassah and Israel continue to need our support and commitment.

I am very excited for 2019 and hope to broaden Hadassah Charlotte's reach. I hope you will join us. With so much going on in our chapter, I am sure you will find something that interests you. Please feel free to check out our website (<http://www.hadassah.org/regions/southern-seaboard/chapters/charlotte/>) or our Facebook page, and do not hesitate to email me at sharon.goretsky@gmail.com. I can't wait to meet you, *kulanu b'yachad*. ☆

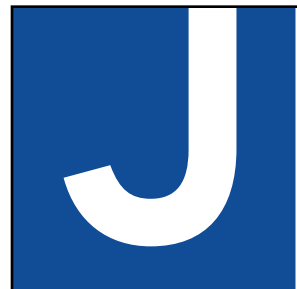
Hadassah Charlotte 2019-20 Jewish Community Directory

Now is the time for Charlotte Jewish Community Members to get your personal listings to us, so that we can include you in the 2019-20 Jewish Community Directory put together with love by Hadassah Charlotte. Many thanks to the entire Directory committee: Jena Coen Gartner, Marci Goldberg, Marci Willenzik, Judy Kaufmann, Amy DeLoach, Bonnie Bonomo, Lynda White, Linda Reece, Sharon Goretsky, Dana Kapustin and Tonya Meltsner for all of your help! There is a lot of work to be done, but we will look to YOU, the community, to help make sure all of the information is accurate! Go to hadassah.org/Charlotte and input your household and advertising information so that we can include you in the 2019 Jewish Community Directory. If you are interested in advertising your business, this is a wonderful way to reach an audience of over 10,000 people! Please do not assume that we have your correct information. The best way to ensure that you are listed in the directory is to submit your information on our website. Thank you and we look forward to a wonderful new year in Hadassah Charlotte.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOA), is the largest Jewish women's organization in the United States. With 300,000 members, associates and supporters Hadassah brings Jewish women together to effect change and advocate on critical issues such as medical care, research and women's empowerment – meeting with elected officials on Capitol Hill and locally through its Day in the District Program. Through the Hadassah Medical Organization's two hospitals, the world-renowned trauma center and the leading research facility in Jerusalem, Hadassah supports the delivery of exemplary patient care to over a million people every year. HMO serves without regard to race, religion, or nationality and earned a Nobel Peace Prize Nomination in 2005 for building "bridges to peace" through equality in medical treatment. For more information, visit www.hadassah.org. ☆



Like us on Facebook: Charlotte Jewish News



L'DOR V'DOR

from Generation to Generation



LJCC Legacy Donors Shellie & Harvey Barer, with Shellie's son Josh, grandson TJ, daughter-in-law Louise, and daughter Susan.

Through the **Charlotte Create Your Jewish Legacy Program** at the **Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center**, you can ensure that generations of Jewish families continue to have a strong and vibrant community to call their own. Please join the Barer family, and many who have already committed to leave a Legacy Gift and make a difference in our community for years to come.

charlottejewishfoundation.org • 704-973-4544



Thank You ...to our LJCC Legacy Donors

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Lori & Eric Sklut
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Marilyn & Harry Swimmer
Karen & Jeff Turk
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Debra & David Van Glish
Judie & Michael Van Glish
Diana Warth
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Kim & Marc Wojnowich
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Of Blessed Memory (updated Nov 2018)





Jewish Federation
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Family Engagement

PJ Our WayIT'S A FIRST!

Program for all Jewish Tweens (8 1/2 - 12)

Laser Quest - Leadership & Team Building with PJ Our Way

Sunday, February 10, 2019 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Laser Quest, 10403 Park Road



\$5 per person

Space is limited!

Register today at www.nextgencharlotte.org



Contact: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator 704.944.6780 debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

RSVP by Feb. 8 at www.nextgencharlotte.org

SCHOOL NEWS

Wedding of Yitzchak and Rivka Celebrated at JPS

Weddings are not exactly the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks about preschool ... weddings are quite distant, they are special occasions some children are lucky to attend and they relive those moments over and over again for weeks to come. Here at JPS, the children

were able to participate in the "wedding" of Yitzchak and Rivka. This journey began with the children learning about Avraham and Sarah, and their special blessed tent in the dessert. With puppets, tents, and lots of dramatic play, they listened and participated in the story of how Yitzchak

was born and how Rivka was chosen as his wife. Now comes the great celebration – their wedding. Complete with a chuppah, delicious treats, music, and festive dancing, this will be a wedding to remember. ☆



The bride and groom, Yitzchak and Rivka.



The wedding party under the chuppah.



Celebrating with some festive dancing



The wedding guests enjoy special treats.



WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

Israel Partnership Tikkun Olam Summer Exchange Trip (for teens in rising 10th and 11th grades) is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be hosted and feel a part of the family of an Israeli teen. You will travel through Israel with both Americans and Israeli friends from our ten Southeastern US communities. This incredible opportunity combines touring and community service, planned programs and free time with your Israeli family. The friendships you make on this trip will last a lifetime and make you a part of the Partnership2Gether family forever.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



**JUNE 30 - JULY 11
2019**

For more information, contact Tair Giudice,
Director of Education & Engagement, at
tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org
704.944.6759.

TIKKUN OLAM HADARA-EIRON REGION...

Itinerary subject to change

Day 1 – Arrive in Israel. Group welcome activities. Night with host families.

Day 2 – Jerusalem – Old City, Western Wall, Hezekiah's Tunnel. Stand With Us Program. Sound and Light Show. Overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 3 – Jerusalem – Yad Vashem, Mount Herzl, Machane Yehuda.

Day 4 – Volunteering in Summer Day Camp in Pardes-Hanna; Afternoon in Tel Aviv; Dialogue in the Dark, Holon

Day 5 – Volunteering in Summer Day Camp in Pardes-Hanna; Afternoon touring in Zikron Ya'akov – Rothschild Gardens

Day 6 – Shabbat with Host Families

Day 7– Beit Guvrin - Archeological dig and cave crawling. Bedouin Hospitality – Camels, Dinner and Bonfire. Overnight in the South.

Day 8 – Sunrise Climb up Masada. Ein Gedi Swimming and Spa visit.

Day 9 – Golan Heights – Hiking tour. Kayaking on the Jordan. Bental Lookout.

Day 10 – Free Day with Host Families/Evening Departure

CJP Staff Steps Up to Support Kosher Troops

By Becca Weiner

At the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, there are five values at our foundation that pave the way for everything we do: *b'tzelem elohim* (we are made in God's image), *kehillah* (community), *kavod* (respect), *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and *limud* (learning). Both inside and outside of our classrooms these values drive our day-to-day processes for everyone, from our youngest students to our oldest stakeholders. At our December staff meeting for lead teachers, our staff members participated in a tzedakah project for Kosher Troops inspired by these core values.

Kosher Troops is an organization founded by Sara Fuerst and Ava Hamburger to "help improve the morale and welfare of the armed forces of the United States of America by showing our appreciation for the commitment." Our very own 2s teacher, Talya Tateo, spent seven years serving in the United States Air Force prior to becoming a teacher at CJP. She shared with us how difficult it can be to be Jewish and active military, explaining that she never got Shabbat off and very rarely got to celebrate Jewish holidays. Kosher Troops sends holiday care packages with items that help our American troops celebrate the Jewish holidays and Shabbat so they can feel connected to the Jewish community while their serving our country. We felt that the mission of Kosher Troops aligned with our core values and we wanted to do a mitzvah project for them.

As a staff, we stuffed 125 cups

with Shabbat candles, bags of nuts, protein bars, a kippah, and a personal thank you note for Kosher Troops. Each thank you note included the candle lighting blessing in Hebrew and English so that the troops receiving our care packages could say that brachah. Our goal was to thank our Jewish brothers and sisters by supplying them with sustenance and the materials needed to welcome in Shabbat. Every teacher was excited to participate in this tzedakah project and to provide American troops with supplies to make Shabbat.

For more information on Kosher Troops you can visit their website at www.KosherTroops.com.☆



Clockwise from upper left: notes from the teachers; stuffing the cups; the teaching team; preparing the brachah for stuffing.



Freedom School Seeking Teen Board Members

The Shalom Park Freedom School is once again pleased to accept applications (rising 10th-12th graders) for its Teen Board for the 2019 summer program at Shalom Park.

Application can be found at <http://spfreedomschool.org/get-involved/>.

Application deadline is March 3.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Camille Kanofsky at camille@rsdiv.com or Betsy Olinger Betsy.B.Olinger@gmail.com.

The vision for the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) is to engage in tikkun olam by fulfilling the highest level of Jewish charity.

Helping 80 children in our community through a six-week literacy based summer program for elementary school aged children in high poverty areas. These 80 scholars are selected from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary Schools.

Why be a part of the Shalom Park Freedom School Teen Board?

- * Great experience working with a diverse group of scholars, college interns and professionals in the area.

- * To be with some of the most proactive, solution-oriented teens from all over Charlotte.

- * To serve on an actual

non-profit board and develop an understanding of what that means and the responsibilities.

- * To get hands-on experience working in a dynamic education setting.

- * Explore Charlotte through field trips, guest speakers, and community-wide events

- * Be a part of the pilot program for the Freedom School Teen Leadership Program

- * Successfully complete 80 hours of community service activity at beautiful Shalom Park.

- * Work hard, be valued and supported, and form life-changing relationships with Charlotte students.

- * Get fabulous experiences that make super college admis-

sions and scholarship essays.

- * Free shirt

- * Harambe!

What is the commitment?

Teen Board members will commit to volunteer as school assistants for at least two consecutive weeks between June 17-July 25. Hours will be 8:15 AM-3:15 PM Monday and Friday, and 8:15 AM-4:15 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Opportunities will include working in classrooms, accompanying teachers and students on field trips, planning activities for the classroom, securing and delivering supplies, and other assistance as needed. A swim test and swimming with scholars will be required. Additionally, the teen board members

are all responsible to participate in fundraising opportunities. The teen board fundraising goal is to raise enough funds to sponsor at least one scholar through the Shalom Park Freedom School.

Teen board members will commit to attend two instructional meetings. Sunday, April 7 from 3-6 PM and Thursday, June 13

"Welcome to Freedom School" lunch.☆



FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS
Shalom Park Freedom School



The 2018 teen volunteer team.

Dream Home Today. Your Home Tomorrow.



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

February 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

Mon-Thu PM4pm-7:30pm

Saturday 12pm-3pm

Sunday8:30am-2pm

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

Grades K-5th

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

Sundays, 8:30am-1pm

Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/\$2/hour

NM/\$5.50 per hour

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

Early Childhood

Music and Me

8-18 months

Interactive music and age-appropriate movement for mommy, daddy or caregiver and their baby/toddler.

Mondays, 12-12:40pm

March 4 – May 20

Family Place

M/\$165 B/\$132 NM/\$198

K-5th Grade

Youth Soccer Leagues

Boys and Girls ages 4-13

2.5-3 years: March 24 – May 5

4-13 years: March 10 – May 19

Registration begins February 4th for members and February 14th for non-members.

Register online at charlottejcc.org or by calling the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007

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



April 15, 2019
at The Golf Club
at Ballantyne Resort

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

GIRLS 3rd-5th

Girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills.

The season ends with a noncompetitive 5K event on May 12th.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-4:45pm

Feb 25 – May 9 (twice per week/10 weeks)
with coaches Daniela Mickey & Jenny Crow

M/\$170 NM/\$190
Register at
charlottejcc.org
or LJCC Customer
Service
704-366-5007



Girls who were the least active at the start of the program increased their physical activity by more than 40%

Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

MOMS IN TRAINING



A wonderful program for moms committed to reaching their personal goals while helping cancer patients reach theirs. MIT meets the needs of today's busy moms – a flexible 10-week fitness program led by certified coaches, including the opportunity to participate in a family-friendly run/walk event.

This program is for expectant moms, moms of babies, toddlers, and kids of all ages. This program is for moms who are brand new to fitness and want to get back in shape and for those moms looking for some ME time!

Sundays • 9:30am
March 24 – May 19
Camp Mindy Pavilion

Member: \$36 Non-Member: \$50

Register at charlottejcc.org or LJCC Customer Service

Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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

Teens

Levine JCC Aquatics Employment Opportunities

The LJCC is has the following aquatics positions available:
School Year Group and Private Swim Instructors
School Year Lifeguards
Summer 2019 Swim Instructors
Summer 2019 Lifeguards
Joshua Steinberger, Aquatics Director
704-944-6746 or joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org

Adults

Ladies' Night Out Dinner and Broadway Thursday, February 21 Dinner 5:30pm at Fresh Chef Show 7:30pm at CPCC

M \$28 NM \$36- plus cost of Dinner
704-944-6737 or robin.stier@charlottejcc.org



American Red Cross® Lifeguard Class

Lifeguard Training

■ Mon 4/15 – Thu 4/18 • 8am–1pm
■ Mon 5/13 – Thu 5/16 • 4:30–9pm
■ Mon 6/3 – Thu 6/6 • 4:30–9pm
■ Mon 2/4 – Thu 2/7 • 4:30–9pm

Certification:
M/\$179 B/\$99 NM/\$199

Lifeguard Recertification

■ Wed 2/20 & Thu 2/21 • 4:30–9pm
■ Wed 4/24 & Thu 4/25 • 4:30–9pm
■ Wed 5/22 & Thu 5/23 • 4:30–9pm

Recertification:
M/\$169 B/\$89 NM/\$189

Q: joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org

A Matter of Balance

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict activities. An award-winning program designed to strategically and practically manage falls and increase activity levels.

Space is limited; register early.

Thursdays, 10am-12pm
February 7, 14, 21, 28 and
March 7, 14, 21, 28

FSP Board Room

Free

RSVP required by January 30th to [Sharri Benjamin](mailto:sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org)
704-944-6753 or sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org



The Power of Aging

Discover and uncover the basic physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs which the aging experience challenges you with on a daily basis. Life can be exciting, purposeful and meaningful! Meets once per month on Tuesdays. A collaborative program between LJCC's Senior & Adult Department and First Hand Success' Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN.

Tuesday, February 12

What's Love Got To Do With It?

9:15–10:15am

FSP Board Room

Free

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

JMemory Café

Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia? Come with them to the JMemory Café. Socialize, meet new friends, engage in activities together and just have fun. A light breakfast will be served.

The purpose of the program:

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

Meets twice every month:

2nd & 4th Thursdays • 10am–12pm

Weinberg Senior Center

704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@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

.....



Open to the Public
Ages 10 – adult

LEARN CREATE REFLECT

Levine JCC's Butterfly Project Community Workshop

Middle schoolers through adults are invited to experience a Butterfly Project Workshop!

Sunday, March 10
1:30-3:30pm

Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park

FREE to LJCC Members • Non-members \$5
Registration Required Call 704-366-5007



704-944-6730 • julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

JTENNIS* CHARLOTTE

ADULT SUMMER PROGRAMS

Cardio Tennis (18+)

A great way to get the blood pumping! An aerobic workout complete with basic tennis skills, and medium to high impact cardio training.

Wednesdays, 6-7pm • June 12–August 14 (no class 7/3)

Fridays, 9-10am • June 14–August 16 (no class 7/5)

M/\$189 B/\$153 NM/\$279 per 9 week session

Men's Drill (18+)

Open to 3.0–4.0 USTA A drill and play session with the Pro. Emphasis on point play, drills, and match strategies.

Wednesdays, 6-7pm • June 12–August 14 (no class 7/3)

M/\$189 B/\$153 NM/\$279 per 9 week session

Special Packages Available For Private or Semi-Private Lessons

Private/Semi-Private Lessons

With the LJCC Tennis Director:

1/2 hr	Private	M/\$35	NM/\$44
1 hr	Private	M/\$57	NM/\$66
1 hr	Semi-private (2)	M/\$36	NM/\$45
1 hr	Semi-private (3)	M/\$27	NM/\$36
1 hr	Semi-private (4)	M/\$23	NM/\$32

With the Assistant Director/Professional:

1/2 hr	Private	M/\$33	NM/\$41
1 hr	Private	M/\$54	NM/\$62
1 hr	Semi-private (2)	M/\$34	NM/\$42
1 hr	Semi-private (3)	M/\$26	NM/\$34
1 hr	Semi-private (4)	M/\$22	NM/\$30

Register at charlottejcc.org or LJCC Customer Service
Q: gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

OASIS

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

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

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

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

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

Kindergarten or Another Year of Preschool?

By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDS

I wish I could take away the worries I see on parents' faces when deciding if their child is ready for Kindergarten or not. After raising ten children, and now observing and hopefully supporting my children raising twenty-four grandchildren, I can tell you with certainty that although there are good reasons behind making either of these choices, your child will really grow up to achieve their potential and most probably reach beyond some of your dreams and goals regardless. He/she may even side-step what you have in mind and do something totally different, but just as wonderful.

Each year we invite Dr. Terri James from Southeast Psych to speak to parents of rising Kindergarten students at our Kindergarten Readiness Seminar. She succinctly explains what is needed for a child to be successful in a Kindergarten classroom, surprising almost everyone in the room. What most people expect to hear is that they should already be able to recognize and identify letters and sounds, that they should be able to count to 100 and even add and subtract, and that writing a few sentences should be no big deal. Dr. James touches on the ac-

ademics, but at the very end, with almost no emphasis.

As a child matures emotionally, we would like to see a reduction in intense anxiety and difficulty separating from mom and dad. That is not to say that all children will leave their parents willingly all the time, but we want to see growth and progression in this area. Another emotional target is learning how to express frustration appropriately. That is why you will often hear a preschool teacher say, "use your words." Temper tantrums and meltdowns should become a behavior of the past as children move into the elementary school years.

"Interested" and "curious" are key words in one of the messages she shared with us. Is your child interested in letters and reading? Is your child interested in listening to stories? Is your child interested in talking about ideas? Is your child excited and eager to learn? Is each new lesson, subject, or topic a new adventure? Does your child enjoy pretending to read? Being read to? Play rhyming games? Recognize some letters? Know their first and last name? Can he/she retell a story or a part of a story? Does your child express himself when he needs something? Does he use complete sentences to communicate?

Research tells us that not knowing how to read when entering kindergarten has not been linked to any disadvantage in school. Children go to school in order to learn, they do not need to know everything before they get there, but they have to be primed and ready to be taught. If they are developmentally mature enough to receive the instruction and to absorb the experiences, they will ultimately have a successful kindergarten year.

Most importantly, though, is how does your child get along throughout the day? Does your child cooperate with his or her friends, or with you when you need to accomplish something with some challenge involved? Does he follow directions, possibly even some multi step directions? How often does she challenge simple rules? Is it difficult for your child to understand that there are some red lines that we don't cross? Do they have patience, especially when they have to share and wait their turn? That is not easy when it is a toy they really want to play with. Can they sit for a short while and listen attentively when you take them to a museum or show? Do they enjoy interacting with guests you may have at home or when you are running errands?

Oftentimes it is so much easier to help our children with their needs, or even do it for them. However, independence is truly very important, if not vital for their success in Kindergarten and beyond. Working without adult assistance, using the bathroom, washing their hands, blowing their nose, feeding themselves, putting on their coat, snapping, buttoning, and zipping are all tasks that kindergarteners should be on their way to do on their own.

Large and small muscle development is also a good indicator for a child's readiness for kindergarten. Running, jumping, and swinging are very helpful in building a child's large muscles, especially learning how to ride a two-wheel bike. Progress in small muscle development can often be seen in the children's ability to be independent when they are dressing themselves, or approaching tasks without adult assistance, in addition to being able to hold a pencil, using scissors, or stringing beads together.

An additional year is often referred to as a "gift of time." It is a gift if that is what your child needs, but it is important to address weaknesses and disabilities that have been identified, since an additional year will not magically



erase those issues.

At CJDS we use four pieces of information to assist us and you in assessing the readiness of your child for kindergarten. The WPPSI IQ screen, The TERA Test of Early Reading Readiness Ability, Preschool Teacher Recommendation, Parent Interview. There is also a Gesell Developmental Observation that can further assist you in determining the developmental age of your child which will provide objective information regarding the appropriate placement for your child. We often use this assessment when a child has a "late birthday" and the recommendation for repeating another preschool year is automatically made. At CJDS we do not believe that a child has to repeat just because they have a June or July birthday.

Every child is different and will mature and develop at a different pace, but understanding where your child is on the journey is the key.✱

Youth Visions

What Is Happening on a Wednesday Night at Hebrew High?

Have you ever wondered what happens on Wednesdays at Hebrew High? Here are the amazing electives that our students get to take:

Pay It Forward

Have you seen the movie *Pay it Forward*? Do you understand the social significance of paying it forward? In this class we will use a combination of art, cook-

ing, and games to help make the world a better place all while learning to be better people to those around us.

Teen Leaders for Tikkun Olam

Making the world or our com-

munity a better place requires leadership skills. Teen leadership is not just about taking the lead in big ways, but in everyday small things, too. Teen Leaders for Tikkun Olam will explore what it means to be a leader, how to work with others, ethical decision-making, risk-taking, team-building, communication, creative thinking, and more. Students will learn how to take a leadership role, working with other teens on projects that help repair the world.

Jews and the Environment

We will explore our history with the environment, why it is important for us to sustain our planet, and what we can do in our own lives to increase the sustainability of our environment. In Green Jewish Living, we will take this to another level by helping and caring for the environment around us, while learning how to be sustainable at home and in our communities.

Cooking for a Cause

This semester we will continue to learn about and make delicious Jewish recipes. But instead of eating our wonderful creations, we will have a bake sale each week during snack time to raise money and donate it to a charitable cause of our class choice. Together we will not only nourish our tummies but we will also nourish our souls. **Tough Questions/Smart Answers**

From "Why is it called Judaism?" to "What church do Jews go to?" we get questions from our neighbors and friends. Join this fast-paced, interactive class to be able to discuss, define, and defend your responses to questions about

our faith. Explore the differences between reform, conservative, and orthodox practices.

Jewish Influences on US Social Justice

The United States is a relatively young country that has been indelibly shaped by the many immigrants who have come to call it home. Many of these immigrants were Jews fleeing hatred and persecution. They brought with them a burning desire for a more just and democratic society. Come and find out how Jews, Jewish values, and Jewish organizations have left their mark on US history and culture.

Comic Books: A Venue for Jewish Creativity, and Justice

With Superman having a Hebrew name and being created by Jews, we can find instances of Jewish involvement in the medium of comic books frequently. This involvement didn't just serve as a surface level inside-joke for the chosen people to notice, but served as a place where issues of Tzedek (justice) could be seen both through the costumed struggles of right and wrong, but also in the plain-clothes problems that the superhero alter-egos go through like Superman and Supergirl as refugees and the X-Men mutants as a metaphor for discrimination over race and sexual identity (including a prominent survivor of the Holocaust.)

This course will focus on a new Tikkun Olam issue every week, and how this issue has been presented in comics and graphic novels to show students how these issues can be incorporated

(Continued on next page)

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The 50 Jews Everyone Should Follow on Twitter

By JTA Staff
(JTA) — In today's world, dominated by an accelerated, unpredictable, unrelenting news cycle, Twitter remains a valuable tool for learning and sharing information. Despite forecasts of its demise — amid grumblings about its role in allowing the spread of disinformation, and predictions that a longer word count would cost the medium its punch and edge — Twitter is still central to the online conversation.

In recognition of its continued relevance, we have compiled a list of 50 Jews who everyone should follow on the social network to stay informed, entertained, and involved in the conversations that are most important to the contemporary Jewish community.

It is important to note that this is not a list of the 50 most famous Jews on Twitter, or the 50 Jews with the most followers. Some of the people on this list have only a few thousand followers, some have over a million. What unites them all is deep, meaningful en-

gagement with Jewish news and culture, and an ability to drive the conversations around those topics.

The list is not all serious news, either: There are chefs, actors, activists, and rabbis on it, too. Here is an alphabetical list. For a short bio and their twitter handles, see: <https://www.jta.org/2019/01/03/culture/50-jews-to-follow-on-twitter>

Happy tweeting.

Lili Beyer, Peter Beinart, Mayim Bialik, Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt, William Daroff, Sophie Ellman-Golan,



Harry Enten, Lisa Goldman, Daniella Greenbaum, Jason Greenblatt, Jonathan Greenblatt, Lahav Harkov, Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Ron Kampeas, Jacob Kornbluh, Andy Lassner, Talia Lavin, Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Amadi Lovelace, Josh Malina,

Bethany Mandel, Avi Mayer, Jennifer Mendelsohn, Debra Messing, Adam Milstein, Josh Nathan-Kazis, Elad Nehorai, Ma Nishtana, Eve Peyser, Rebecca Pierce, Joel Pollak, Barak Ravid, Yair Rosenberg, Laura Rozen, Rabbi Ruti Regan, Rabbi Danya

Ruttenberg, Sigal Samuel, Adam Schiff, Chemi Shalev, Ben Shapiro, Dan Shapiro, Sarah Silverman, Amy Spiro, Jake Tapper, Nova Tarnapolsky, Michael Twitty, Jonathan Weisman, Bari Weiss, Molly Yeh, Rabbi Josh Yuter



What's Happening at Hebrew High?

(Continued from previous page)

into art so that they can create their own stories to inform others about an issue that they are passionate about.

Beit – MultiMedia – Drash

In this elective, we will read through the week's Torah portion, discuss its meaning and symbolism, analyze other Talmudic commentaries, and chat about how modern Jews can apply the conclusions we come up with to the larger Jewish and secular Charlotte communities and beyond. After discussing the weeks portion, students will make a social media campaign around the stories in the Torah.

Protest! Jewish Social Justice Through Art and Music

Explore the Jewish artists and musicians who have resisted authoritarians and promoted social justice through their craft. From the 1930s union promoting to the 1960s civil rights and anti-war movement to today's resistance, learn how Jews have contributed to the benefit of society. Students will have the opportunity to work on either a poem/song or a piece of art that supports a social justice cause of their choice. ☆



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A New Play Shows the Real Anne Frank (and Now I Like Her Even More)

By Arielle Kaplan

This article originally appeared on Alma.

One of my most vivid memories from elementary school is learning to perform a song about Anne Frank in sign language. Adapted from her diary, the lyrics to “I Still Believe” hinged on the Holocaust victim’s most infamous written sentence: “In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.” It’s a beautiful, globally recognized line, and its fame illustrates exactly how we failed Anne — that’s what I learned when I sat shiva for her. I know what you’re thinking: Shiva? For Anne Frank? But she died 64 years ago! Let me explain.

When she was 15, Anne died of typhus at Bergen-Belsen, one of the Nazis’ deadliest concentration camps. Two years later in 1947, her father, Otto, published the first edition of her diary. But it wasn’t until he authorized a play in 1955 based on the book that people took notice of his daughter.

Notably, the first version of Anne’s diary that Otto published was lightly edited to omit unflattering, yet crucially important details of her story, which led the world to canonize her. When a movie based on the play was produced in 1959, book sales skyrocketed. Suddenly everyone knew about the teenage saint who

believed that in spite of the terror that Nazis inflicted on the Jews, in spite of everything, “people are really good at heart.”

Although she’s one of the most famous women in history, Anne’s legacy has been infantilized by people donning rose-tinted glasses.

“When we only remember those beautiful bite-size things she said about people being really good at heart, we forget how she died,” writer Rachel McKay Steele told me.

A few weeks ago I watched Steele, 33, cosplay as Anne Frank in a workshop performance of her solo stage show, “Shiva for Anne Frank.” Between noshing on chocolate rugelach and a bagel with a schmear (typical shiva food that was served to the audience), I laughed, cried, mourned and celebrated Anne’s short life as told through the lens of a Jewish comedian. Throughout the performance, Steele intertwined her own life experiences — from being bullied for her nose job in high school to a relationship with a German — with Anne’s to bring the iconic teen’s true persona to light.

Speaking with Steele on the phone following her performance, I asked what she hopes people take home from the show. Steele told me she wants people to return to the unedited version of “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

“I would love if it was a book that isn’t something we read in seventh grade to understand the Holocaust,” she said. “There is so much in her writing to relate to as a young woman that is universal.”

My favorite bits of the performance were the passages from Anne’s unedited diary that Steele analyzed. Her comedic interpretations paired with historical context eroded Anne’s saintly image and grounded her as an average, relatable teen. For example, Steele compared the “Burn Book” (the world’s second most infamous diary from “Mean Girls”) to Anne’s diary with receipts to support her hilarious joke: “Rob Cohen used to be in love with me, too, but I can’t stand him anymore. He’s an obnoxious, two-faced, lying sniveling little goof who has an awfully high opinion of himself.” I mean, come on. If

that doesn’t sound like Regina George’s penmanship, then you need to rewatch Tina Fey’s modern classic.

During the show, Steele also highlighted a universal struggle — the mother-daughter relationship. Like most teenagers, Anne had difficulty relating to her mom. She was a total daddy’s girl, and Otto knew it because she told him.

“I finally told Daddy that I love him more than I do Mother, to which he replied that it was just a passing phase, but I don’t think so,” she wrote. “I simply can’t stand Mother.”

Through this passage, Steele illustrated the importance of valuing Anne’s diary not as a means to remember the Holocaust, but as a relatable, coming-of-age story for young girls.

Luckily for Steele, as she wrote



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

her cosplay manifesto over the summer, the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam released two never-before-seen pages full of dirty jokes from Anne’s diary. And boy are they juicy. After hearing just a few of them, I can’t imagine that any audience member left Steele’s show refusing to relinquish the myth of Anne’s sainthood.

Like Steele, I think my narrative would’ve been different if I had read the unedited version of “The Diary of Anne Frank” when I was going through puberty. If I knew that Anne struggled with her adolescence, that I wasn’t alone in my attractions, I would’ve felt more comfortable navigating my own changing world.

But if Otto had originally published his daughter’s diary uncensored, would it have fared as well? Considering that parents are still trying — and failing — to ban the book from public schools, probably not.

“Maybe her story wouldn’t have been as famous because it allowed so many people to compartmentalize her as this innocent young girl who symbolized everything that was good in the world,” Steele told me. “And that is easy to digest.”

In two hours, Steele dismantled the censored, saintly version of Anne and replaced it with one that paints her the way she should be remembered: an intelligent, hilarious, blunt, budding woman who hated her mom and loved dirty jokes. So, yeah, Anne Frank was not a saint. But she’s still my icon. ☆



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Friday, February 22

5:30 p.m. – dinner

6:15 p.m. – service

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MAHAR - GAME TRUCK EVENT!

(ALL 3rd - 5th Graders)

Sunday, March 3 (12:15-2 p.m.)

Get ready for the Game Truck and spend the afternoon playing video games with friends.

Pizza lunch will be provided. Limited space! Cost: \$18/ TI-Y Members; \$25/Non-Members. Register at templeisraelinc.org by Wednesday, February 27.

TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



TIRS ALL-SCHOOL SHABBAT SERVICE

Saturday, February 23 (9:30 a.m.)

Please join us as Kitah Zayin (7th grade) helps lead services in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL

Tuesday, February 5 (7:30 p.m.)

Location: Dilworth Tasting Room (300 East Tremont St)

Join Torah on Tap for a wine and cheese tasting at Dilworth Tasting Room! Wine is available for purchase, and the cheese is on us!

EMPTY NESTERS

CHOCOLATE THERAPY WITH THE EMPTY NESTERS

Saturday, February 16 (7:30 p.m.)

Because everyone could use a little chocolate therapy (accompanied by wine) now and then! Cost: \$18/person. Space is limited. Location: Private Residence (Address given with registration, @ templeisraelinc.org).

LIFELONG LEARNING

TALMUD IN THE TECH AGE

Saturdays (12:30-1:30 p.m.). * Beginning February 16

Rabbi Ezring will teach an introduction to Talmud (with Rabbinical commentaries and analysis [Gemara] from both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds) and explain how these ancient writings are relevant to us today. No charge for Temple Israel Congregants. Admission for non-congregants is \$18. To register, please contact Dallas Morris (dmorris@templeisraelinc.org) in the Clergy Office.



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WORLD WIDE WRAP XIX

Sunday, February 3

9:15 - 9:45 a.m. – Wrapping (Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary)

9:45 - 10:30 a.m. – Service (Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. – Breakfast (Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)

Join Men's Clubs and congregations around the world for the 20th Annual WORLD WIDE WRAP (which originated at Temple Israel!) as we teach the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin. **"We're in it for the Tie!"**

EVENTS

CJFF PRESENTS: HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL

Sunday, February 10, 7:15 p.m.

Temple Israel Community Partner Film

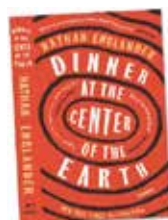
Directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, and Jeremy Newberger

Documentary, USA, 2018



Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel is the David and Goliath story of Israel's national baseball team as it competes for the first time in the World Baseball Classic.

Winner Audience Award,
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TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB

Monday, February 11 (7 p.m.)

Join us as we discuss Nathan Englander's *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*, which Publisher's Weekly describes as "Appealing... Clever, fragmented, pithy...." Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book. *Questions?* Contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com.)

LEGACY SHABBAT

Saturday, February 23, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Shabbat service, followed by a special Kiddush, as we pay tribute to the individuals and families who have created a legacy gift and named Temple Israel as a beneficiary. Also, on this special morning, former Temple Israel Religious School students (Beyond B'nai Mitzvah) will gather to lead the congregation in services.



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Tuesday – Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

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A Mexican Jewish Babka is Taking over Chicago

By Emily Paster

This article originally appeared on *The Nosh*.

Sufganiyot bursting with dulce de leche and pumpkin cream. Savory babkas swirled with roasted poblano peppers and crema. Mexican-inspired Jewish pastries from a new, online-only bakery are bringing exciting new flavors to Chicago's Jewish food scene and Chicagoans of all backgrounds are already addicted.

Founded by two Mexico City natives, Masa Madre offers a limited selection of made-to-order treats, many of which draw on co-founder Tamar Fasja Unikel's Jewish heritage. Among Masa Madre's offerings are several flavors of babka, challahs, and a rotating selection of seasonal treats that change with the Mexican, American, and Jewish calendars — from Pan de Muerto for the Mexican Day of the Dead to Thanksgiving pecan pies to rugelach and Chanukah sufganiyot. “Mexicans, Americans, and Jewish people are all very excited because there is something that they can relate to, but still try something new,” Unikel says.

Indeed, although the business is only a few months old, Masa Madre has attracted lots of attention and loyal customers with its unique flavor combinations and personal, artisanal approach to baking.

“We do everything [to] order,” Unikel says. “We make every order by hand. It's a different experience. You get a special treat that was packaged just for you.”

Not only do Unikel and her partner, Elena Vázquez Felgueres, make everything by hand, they put their hearts and their heritage into each of their unique creations. Both women have day jobs — Felgueres teaches yoga and Unikel teaches kids' cooking classes as well as maintains a food blog called Ssugarpill — but they get up early and stay up late to bake for their customers.

The longtime friends met at university in Mexico City when both were studying fashion design, but Elena soon switched gears to attend culinary school and then cooked in restaurants in Spain and Mexico. Unikel worked in fashion for a time but eventually moved to Chicago where her husband was pursuing a doctorate in biblical studies.

When Elena ended up in Chicago a few years later, the two friends were determined to find a way to work together. They launched a business selling sourdough bread and babka, which Unikel had learned to bake when living in Israel. The sourdough soon fell by the wayside and the friends honed in on a highly curated menu of pastries anchored by the babka. Why babka?

“My grandmother is a baker and she is Ashkenazi, and I really felt like it was part of my heritage,” Unikel says. Babka “is something that people here didn't really have. I had tried it in New York and Boston and I loved it and I couldn't really find it in Chicago.”

Not only is Masa Madre's rich, not-too-sweet babka arguably the best in Chicago, like all of Masa

Madre's other offerings it reflects Unikel and Felgueres's Mexican roots. Unikel grew up in Mexico City's thriving Jewish community with both Ashkenazi and Sephardic ancestry.

“My grandparents came from Syria on my dad's side and Poland on my mom's side,” Unikel says. “They've been in Mexico for over a hundred years, so of course there's a lot of mix in the food culture.”

From the beginning, Unikel and Felgueres knew they wanted Masa Madre's treats to mix Mexican and Jewish cuisine.

“We're both Mexican; we're not both Jewish,” Unikel says. “Elena has shown me the recipes that she grew up with and I [showed her] mine. When I tell her about a holiday or a Jewish thing I want to do, she is quick to understand it.”

Felgueres' professional training and extensive work experi-

ence in the pastry field has helped as well.

“She has a lot more experience in baking than I do,” Unikel says about her partner. “And she brings a lot of the Mexican flavors.”

Mixing Mexican flavors into traditional Jewish dishes, at least on the savory side, has been happening in Mexico for centuries. But not in dessert.

“This isn't something that is happening in Mexico that much,” Unikel notes. Among Masa Madre's diverse clientele, Jewish Latinos, in particular, “have

been very excited to see the mix of the two [cuisines].” Even Unikel was surprised to learn how many Jews from Latin America, or with Latin American roots, are in Chicago.

The bakers also were influenced by their shared Chicago neighborhood, Pilsen. Unikel calls it “amazing.”

“It's mostly Mexican. The interesting thing is that it was started as a Polish neighborhood,” Unikel says. “So I feel like what we are doing is a mix of those two: an Eastern European and a Mexican thing.”

In return, the neighborhood has embraced Masa Madre.

“So far, [the residents of Pilsen] have been very receptive,” Unikel says gratefully.

Unikel is keeping mum on what unique treats Masa Madre will offer for spring holidays.

“We think about [holiday items] about a week in advance,” Unikel says with a laugh. “We are

going one step at a time.”

There is one secret that Unikel is willing to share: She and her husband are expecting their first child in June. But she plans to keep baking.

“I don't know what is going to be happening with the business then,” Unikel says. “But I am happy I will be able to keep working from home.”

Chicago-area babka lovers are counting on it. ☆

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



Photo courtesy of Emily Paster.

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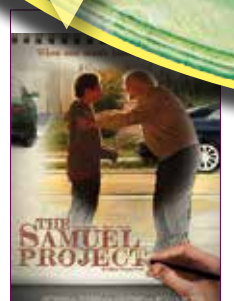
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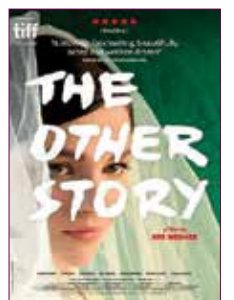
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How Being on Netflix's "Tidying Up" Changed This Jewish Mom's Life

By Lior Zaltzman

This article originally appeared on Kveller.

Ever since I had my son this year, messes have been on my mind. I used to really not care about being organized, but I am learning that parenthood changes how you feel about everything — including your home. But despite my pre-birth purging half of my closet, and what I think is probably 200 books, my house still feels like a total mess that I can't seem to overcome.

This is why I was encouraged when I saw another Jewish mom, Rachel Friend, remove the physical and mental burden of her clutter in Netflix's new hit show "Tidying Up."

The reality show is based on Marie Kondo's book "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing." Kondo brings her cleaning and organizing process (which, as Friend tells me, "is not just about tidying your place, it's a complete shift in mindset") to one household each episode.

Kondo's method seems simple, but it's actually a lot of work. It takes the Friends weeks to completely "KonMari" their house (that's the verb for using Kondo's method). It's all about purging your house of things that you don't need, and only keeping things that "spark with joy."

After I watched the first episode, I reorganized my son's drawers according to the KonMari method. But that was some seriously low-hanging fruit — my baby is growing, after all — so I knew that wasn't enough.

Fortunately, Friend, a 34-year-old mom of two, agreed to get on the phone with me and tell me what that experience was like — and even provide some advice about taking control of my own home.

Friend is as personable in real life as she is in the show. The Las Vegas native, who lives in California with her husband, Kevin, and two children — son Jaxon, 5, and daughter Ryan, 3 — teaches interpersonal communications, after all. Friend is Jewish, her husband is not. Both children attend a Jewish school, "but we still spend holidays with [Kevin's] family so the kids will have a nice little mix," she tells me.

When I first watched the show, I was struck by how nice and color-coordinated Friend's home looks: It's filled with decorative frames, plush and welcoming furniture, and an abundance of accent pillows and throw blankets. But when it comes to clutter, looks can be deceiving.

The mess, she says, affected her relationship with her husband. It wasn't that Kevin wasn't involved in cleaning: "In the show it almost portrayed him as not doing stuff, but he's never been the husband who's like, 'Why are things not clean when I get home?' I would've never married someone like that."

Rather, after having kids, the couple — who met working at

a restaurant — started nitpicking each other about the state of the house, a familiar scenario for many overwhelmed parents.

But once they purged, they got their mojo back. "It's been nice because now we know how to do everything and we're not coming down on each other," she says. "Now, when there's something to put away, instead of, 'I'm going to wait for him to do it,' or 'I'm going to wait for her,' it's like, 'I'm just going to put this away because it makes me feel better.'"

The mess, she says, affected her relationship with her kids. "I realized that once things piling up, when I couldn't get a handle on it, I started taking it out on the kids more," she tells me. "I was really feeling tapped out, as most mothers do, but I didn't realize that a lot of it came from the home."

After implementing Kondo's methods, Friend's relationship with her children also changed for

the better, she says. "I've definitely been kinder and more loving to the kids which is how I used to be before I started letting things get to me."

Friend tells me that every time they get new toys, they have to implement the method again. She tells me that aside from a week when her kids were home sick, she's been able to keep up with the process — a pretty remarkable feat, as it's been about six months since the show was filmed.

Friend tells me she ran across Kondo's method about two years ago, after having anxiety attacks and wanting to change the state of her house and her career. She, like many moms juggling child-rearing and work, wanted to create a home office and work on moving her career forward, but wasn't quite ready to make the change.

In fact, it was only after the show that Friend purchased Kondo's book. ("I missed her voice," she tells me).



Rachel Friend on Netflix's Tidying Up (photo courtesy of Netflix)

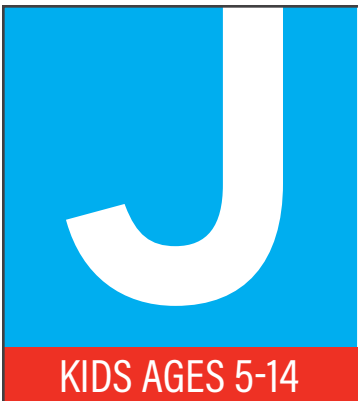
As for her interaction with Kondo, Friend tells me what you see on the screen is pretty much all there is to it: "She would come in, and she would go straight from the car and into the house — everything was really raw and open. Literally, the last day we were done [implementing the method] was the last day we saw her."

She's hoping that her appearance on the show will inspire others — especially moms or parents of young children — to take control of their homes. "It's completely possible if that's something that you want. It's definitely

hard, but it's definitely possible. It's just how committed you are to making that change, essentially."

Friend also shared some advice to me about my book hoarding problem: "Kondo says 'books should represent where you are now.' She also says that if you started a book but didn't finish it, it's a sign that you're never going to finish it."

Ok, guess I am saying farewell to *Catch-22* and *Ulysses*. Inspired by Friend (and Kondo), I am planning a massive book purge this weekend. ✨



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In 1944, She Performed an Opera at a Concentration Camp

70 Years Later, I Got to Meet Her

By Annie Cohen

New Orleans (JTA) — Ela Weissberger, though tiny and elderly when I met her, was the strongest woman I have ever known.

Her energy was indefatigable, her personality vibrant and sunny, her wit sharp and charming. Her magical rapport with children was undeniable.

Ela was a Holocaust survivor, sent at age 11 to Theresienstadt, or Terezin, in Czechoslovakia, from her home in Prague. At the concentration camp, Ela performed in the children's opera "Brundibar," written for the Prague Children's Opera by Hans Krasa and later smuggled into Theresienstadt.

The Nazi guards there paraded the children to perform "Brundibar" in front of the Red Cross for propaganda purposes, hoping to convince the world that Jews under Nazi control were well treated. Ela was made to perform the role of the Cat 55 times. On the night of the last performance, most of the children in the cast were sent to Auschwitz, where they perished.

"Brundibar" also survived the Holocaust and is now performed to memorialize the children who were murdered. And Ela became its most loyal champion. After surviving the war, she spent much of the rest of her life traveling the world to attend every production

of "Brundibar" that she could. She gave speeches and spoke with the children, and followed the opera in hopes of preserving the message of music and friendship that it portrays.

Ela was thrilled to see the resurgence of "Brundibar," as it kept alive the memory of her friends. Music and hope went hand in hand for Ela.

When Ela died in March at 87, her passing was little noted outside of North Carolina, where she was living. But for those like me who got to know her through "Brundibar" — and others who learned her story through newspaper articles or her own oral testimony and videos, or the 1991 documentary "The Journey of Butterfly" — her life was a defiant message of hope amid the destruction.

"Brundibar" tells the story of a brother and sister who need to earn money to buy milk for their sick mother but must defeat the evil organ grinder Brundibar to do so. With the help of a dog, a cat, a bird and a group of children, they defeat Brundibar and celebrate by singing a victory march. It was known in Theresienstadt that the character of Brundibar represented Hitler, and singing its climactic victory march was a thrilling rebuke of the horrors of life in the ghetto.

Despite its use as propaganda, Ela loved performing

"Brundibar." She had always loved to sing and was excited to be cast in the production at Theresienstadt. Ela said that music and "Brundibar" were everything to the prisoners, and that when she was singing all of her troubles disappeared. She told us that music brought joy and hope to a place where there was none.

Ela said that music and "Brundibar" were everything to the prisoners, and that when she was singing all of her troubles disappeared. She told us that music brought joy and hope to a place where there was none.

Ela was 15 when she, her sister, and her mother miraculously evaded Auschwitz and survived the war at Theresienstadt. After the liberation they returned to Prague, but Ela eventually moved to Israel, where she served in the army and Israel's equivalent of the Secret Service. In Israel, she met her husband, Leopold, and

eventually they moved to New York with their children.

"Brundibar" came into my life in 2016 during a performance arranged by the New Orleans Opera Association, the National World War II Museum, and Cantor Joel Colman of the city's Congregation Temple Sinai.

I was honored to play Aninka, the sister. The production took place at the National World War II Museum on a stage set in a hangar with World War II-era planes strung overhead. Robert Lyall conducted an orchestra and a cast of children from the Greater New Orleans area. Most special of all, Ela attended the performances and addressed the packed audience after each show, sometimes joking and sometimes serious.

At 18, I was one of the oldest members of our cast (I could pass for much younger, a fact Ela found very funny) and initially I understood the weight of our task more than some of the younger kids. But Ela had a talent for storytelling and she shared her experiences in Theresienstadt with the cast before our dress rehearsal. She helped us understand the deep significance of our performances. At the end of each show, after addressing the audience, Ela joined us in an encore of the victory march, singing in Czech while we sang in English and wrapping her arms around as many children as she could reach.

I was heartbroken when I heard of Ela's passing. Her presence at "Brundibar" performances around the world touched so many lives. Countless children learned about the Holocaust from Ela, and they were changed by her words and indomitable spirit. Ela made history come alive for us, and while it was sobering to learn the history behind the opera, Ela was a comforting presence not just to me but to countless other children worldwide.

"I always thought the opera died with the children, but when I hear it here in a reunited state, singing it by children free, it will never die," she said in an interview for the USC Shoah Foundation.

This was the message of remembrance that she had kept throughout her life, and her eyes would always light up when we sang, for she was remembering her friends and we were bringing them back to life for her.

I treasure my copy of the book *The Cat with the Yellow Star*, a memoir for young adults she wrote with Susan Goldman Rubin in 2008. She wrote a message in my book: "Remember me and my friends, Love Ela." ☆

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media, or The Charlotte Jewish News.

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For more information about Women's Philanthropy, please contact Ilana Toch, Development Associate, at ilana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org or 704.944.6784.

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The Era of “Never Again” Is Ending

By Eric Rozenman

(JTA) — Filmmaker Steven Spielberg told NBC News he thinks society must take the possibility of genocide more seriously now that it has in the past generation. In an interview marking the 25th anniversary of Schindler’s List, Spielberg referred to the massacre at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue and warned that “hate leading to genocide is as possible today as it was during the Holocaust.”

He was behind the curve. The era of “never again” is ending in Western Europe, fading in North America and never penetrated the Middle East. Relentless demonization of the Jewish state renormalizes demonization of Jewish people.

Examples of post-Nazi genocide and attempted genocide abound, including Muslim Indonesia’s seizure of largely Christian East Timor, the auto-genocide perpetrated by Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge, suppression of southern Sudan’s Christian and animist Darfur region by the government of the Muslim north, the murder of much of Rwanda’s Tutsi minority by the Hutu majority, and today’s oppression by Myanmar’s Buddhist majority of its Rohingya Muslim minority.

Two post-Holocaust mass murders of Jews already have been attempted.

In 1948, five invading Arab countries committed to the de-

struction of the fledgling Jewish state. The United States no sooner became the first nation to recognize Israel than it slapped an arms embargo on the region. Though intended to diminish general tensions, in practice the move undercut Israel, since the other side continued to receive British arms and advice.

In 1967, Israel preempted a potentially overwhelming attack by Egyptian, Syrian, and Jordanian forces mobilized on its border. Afterward, the philosopher Eric Hoffer noted that “had [Egyptian President Gamal Abdel] Nasser triumphed ... he would have wiped Israel off the map and no one would have lifted a finger to save the Jews.”

Today, Iran builds ballistic missiles and seeks to develop nuclear warheads for them, functionally asserting that “the Holocaust never happened and we intend to finish it.” The European Union, smarting at American insistence that it re-impose economic sanctions on Tehran at the expense of trade, has sought a way around potential penalties.

Nazism obsessed over racially inferior Jews destroying the German people. The accused Pittsburgh murderer fantasized that pro-immigration Jews threatened “his people.” The man charged with mailing letter bombs to prominent Americans reportedly wanted “to go back to Hitler times.” The U.S. “alt-right”—also

described as the “alt-reich” — imagines the Israeli tail wags the American dog.

Not entirely dissimilar, leaders of the Women’s March movement demand that Jewish activists check their white privilege and apologize for the Jews’ racist suppression of black and brown people.

From medieval allegations of “Christ killers” to contemporary indictments of Jews as killers of Palestinian Arabs, those who portray Jews and the Jewish state as demonic — as Louis Farrakhan did yet again shortly after Pittsburgh — serve to reopen “the Jewish question.” As in, what shall be done with this never quite assimilated, always stubborn people?

Infinitely adaptable, ever-enduring Jew hatred — today regressing to its pre-Auschwitz mean through the gateway drug of anti-Zionism — retains its eternal answer: the elimination of Judaism and those who proclaim it. Among polite circles, like those who insist they are never Antisemitic, “only anti-Zionist,” marginalization and social-cultural re-ghettoization will be sufficient.

The original ethical monotheism, with its damned “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not,” contradicts the West’s increasing secular fundamentalism just as it called into question Christianity and then Islam’s claims to supersession.



A pro-Palestinian activist holds an Israeli flag painted with a Nazi swastika and the sentence “Who would say that David ... now is Goliath!” at a rally against the Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip outside the Mexican Foreign Ministry building in Mexico City, July 11, 2014. (Yuri Cortez/AFP/Getty Images)

Including this small chosen people with their tiny promised land in that now-you-see-it, now-you-don’t multicultural rainbow remains one diversity too many.

The Holocaust must be understood not only as an event halted by the Allies’ defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 but also as a process interrupted. As the survivor and author Primo Levi put it, “It happened, and therefore, it can happen again. This is the core of what we have to say.” The words are inscribed at the entrance to Berlin’s Holocaust memorial.

Twenty percent of French respondents between 18 and 34 tell CNN they’ve never heard of the Holocaust. So does a similar

proportion in the United States. A Labor Party unit in northern Britain rejected a proposed resolution condemning the Pittsburgh murders because there’s too much talk of “Antisemitism this, Antisemitism that.”

Today the spread of neo-Nazism anti-Zionist Antisemitism makes continued war against, and potential genocide of the majority of the world’s Jews — that is, those living in Israel — a renewed possibility. ☆

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