

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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May 2019

JEWISH FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING MAY 13 A Progressive Lens on Israel: Religious Freedom and Equality

The Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte will take place on Monday, May 13 at 7:30 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park. During the Annual Meeting, the 2019-2020 slate of officers and Board of Trustees will be presented, and an election will be held. Anyone contributing at least \$36 to the Annual Campaign is considered a voting member.

Following the meeting we welcome Rabbi Uri Regev, internationally renowned leader and advocate of religious liberty and the liberal movements of Judaism in his native Israel and around the world.

Rabbi Regev serves as the President and CEO of an educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, "Freedom Of Religion for Israel" and of its Israeli counterpart, "Hiddush – For

Religious Freedom and Equality," which he founded in 2009.

For seven years he served as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the global umbrella organization of the Progressive, Reform, Liberal, and Reconstructionist movements. As head of the World Union, Rabbi Regev worked to strengthen modern, pluralistic Jewish life and democracy in the Jewish state and throughout the world.

We look forward to seeing you on May 13. For more information, please call the Federation office at 704-944-6757. ☆



Rabbi Uri Regev



SLATE OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES AS NOMINATED BY THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

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Commemorate and Celebrate Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut

There are very few celebrations or commemorations in the Jewish calendar that aren't part of a larger unit, a period of time that reflects a transition from one state to another. In his book, *A*

Passion for a People, Avraham Infeld urges us to view the nine days between Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), and Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence

Day) as a unit of time he terms "The Nine Days of We," to echo the traditional unit of time we call the "Days of Awe" (Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur). "The Nine Days of We" is a unit in time in which we commemorate the Jewish people's collective transition, the fundamental shift from destruction and powerlessness to independence and sovereignty.

This understanding of the "Nine Days of We" explains why Israel commemorates Yom HaShoah as a national holiday. After all, the Shoah did not take place in the geographical territory of Israel. However, an entire nation stands still for two minutes to commemorate an event, that although did not take place in Israel, is a profoundly Jewish event. And as the nation-state of the Jewish people, we have the privilege of commemorating this experience as a majority with all the trappings of government and national expression. Likewise, if I am Jewish and living outside of Israel, I must engage with Yom Ha'Atzmaut to celebrate my collective connection to the national home of my people.

Yom HaZikaron is a memorial for those people who gave their lives in order for the Jews to attain once again sovereignty and

power for the Jewish people. At the same time Yom Ha'Atzmaut is a celebration to recognize that the sovereignty and power that we gained was worth the sacrifice we made on Yom HaZikaron. ☆



Shay Charka perfectly illustrates the nine-day emotional roller-coaster from Holocaust Day (Yom HaShoah) through Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron) to Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut).

Commemorate Yom HaZikaron

Tuesday, May 7

6:30 PM, Sam Lerner Center for
Cultural Arts, Shalom Park

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut
Sunday, May 19

12 noon–3 PM, Shalom Park

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~ JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS ~

Yom HaZikaron - Israel's Memorial Day, May 7

Yom HaAtzmaut Festival, May 19, 12 noon-3 PM, Shalom Park

It has been taught: Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai says: "Three good gifts were given by God to Israel, all of them acquired through trial and pain. They are: The Torah, The Land of Israel, and the World to Come." Brachot 5a

In the early days of the State of Israel, there was Independence Day, but no Memorial Day. Hey b'Iyar was the holiday both to celebrate the "birthday" of the state, and the day to remember its fallen. As death rates grew, and the pain of such loss became unbearable, it became clear that a country cannot celebrate its existence on the same day as it mourns the price it has paid for it. Hence Yom HaZikaron – Memo-

rial Day – was born as a separate day from Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Not entirely separate, though. Even during this separation, a curious bittersweet moment is shared as the two days and two contrasting experiences meet when Independence Day kisses Memorial Day goodbye at the "Transition Ceremony." If there is anything that is constant in the form of Yom Ha'Atzmaut - an element that is symbolic and emotional - it is this tradition of a close and almost suffocating connection with Yom HaZikaron.

Join us as we commemorate Yom Hazikaron on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts in Shalom Park. ☆



Shabbat Candle Lighting for May 2019

- Friday, May 3, 7:52 PM
- Friday, May 10, 7:58 PM
- Friday, May 17, 8:03 PM
- Friday, May 24, 8:09 PM
- Friday, May 31, 8:13 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

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On Sunday, May 19, Shalom Park will become the Tel Aviv Tayelet (promenade) as we come together for a community wide celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

One of the most defining characteristics of Tel Aviv is its street art. Tel Aviv's street art and graffiti scene serve as a unique expression of the city's geographical location, cultural peculiarities, political movements and artistic sub-cultures. Tel Aviv's street art tells a story, a multitude of stories, written on the city's walls.

On May 19, artists from the non-profit organizations "Artists 4 Israel," a non-profit organization that brings unique arts-based programming to communities to learn about themselves, each other and Israel. "Artists 4 Israel" brings well known and talented, non-Jewish, tattooed, pierced, cool, male, female, black, Asian, Latino, and Italian graffiti artists to communities around the country to work with children and young adults to paint a giant Israel mural on a tall graffiti wall.

This experiential and participatory creation of beautiful art led by unique "Artists 4 Israel" artists will result in a powerful community display of support for peace and Israel.

Customized T-shirts with graffitied images and words of your choosing will also be available for sale at the festival.

Festival goers will have the opportunity to participate in a mitzvah project by decorating cards for the "Healing Arts Kits."



During Operation Protective Edge, "Artists 4 Israel" and WIZO NY partnered to bring the "Healing Arts Kits" to the Israeli communities on the border of Gaza. In Kibbutz Alumim and Sa'ad, the children were suffering from hundreds of rocket attacks each day and terror tunnels which made the idea of a "monster under the bed" all too real. The "Healing Arts Kits" are designed by psychiatrists, emergency first responders, art therapists, artists, teachers, and parents blending the most recent research and best practices in dance, drama, play and art therapy combined with the input of care-givers and on the ground medical personnel. After seeing the positive results of the Kits in such a difficult time, the decision was made to apply them in other contexts. The Kits have since been used in high-crime areas of Brooklyn and Chicago as well as at schools and community centers for children escaping abusive homes.

Each of the Healing Arts Kits comes with a card from a student expressing support, love, and hope for the child receiving the Kit. Help write your message knowing that what you do goes directly to help stop new cases of PTSD for children living through traumatic experiences

11 AM – Movie screening – *Fighting for Beauty: Terror Survivors Healed by Tattoos*



The movie tells the true stories of Israeli terror victims and war heroes who chose to cover their scars, physical and emotional, with works of tattoo art. This is the quintessential story of Israeli resilience and fighting war with beauty. The film offers a behind the scenes look at television stars, famous tattoo artists, and survivors enjoying Israel and learning about the world and themselves.☆



An example of Artists4Israel Healing Ink.

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Leadership 2Gether

This past March, Eliza Carney and Allen Sherman, two of our community's young adults, had the unique opportunity to travel to Israel as part of our Leadership 2Gether program, which is a program geared for young professionals, and is just one of the many programs that are part of Charlotte's Partnership 2Gether platform. Partnership 2Gether aims to build connections between Jewish communities across the world and in Israel, one relationship at a time.

During their time in Israel, Eliza and Allen traveled the state of Israel, connecting to the land and her people, working with their Israeli partners to develop ideas that can spread understanding between American and Israeli Jews.

Eliza: "Not having been to Israel in over 20 years, I eagerly said yes to the opportunity to join the 2018/2019 cohort of Leadership2Gether. My first trip to Israel was a journey of self-discovery, and 20 years later I wasn't quite sure what to expect as I embarked on a very different experience through seasoned eyes and a more solidified sense of self. Through the Federation's program, Leadership2Gether participants from the Southeast region were paired with Israelis in the Hadera-Eiron



Eliza Carney with Israeli host Michal Musari.

region to learn from each other, and together, to dream big.

"Though we had only met virtually a handful of times, meeting our partners and the entire cohort in person felt like meeting old friends. We all came from varied backgrounds and perspectives, there were instant connections made as we bonded over shared goals: to learn from each other and to dream of the possibilities for our Jewish future. From touring and exploring the land of Israel and standing together in Ben-Gurion's original office, my mind was stretched as we asked the tough questions and learned openly in a safe, judgement-free space."

Allen: "How are we different? How are we the same? That was what I hoped to understand from my trip with Leadership 2Gether. What did I discover after sev-

en amazing days immersed with my Israeli brothers and sisters? That we share a love of food (no surprise), we value family and community, and we all face challenges with maintaining religious pluralism. ... Oh and that it's cool to be a Zionist. Interesting fact, while attending a Purim party at the Beach Colony of Mikhmoret, I felt as if this Bohemian community of surfers, artists, and musicians had been transported from coastal Northern California ... right down to the herbal aroma that wafted through the sea spray blown in from the Mediterranean.

"What makes us different? Well, the most noticeable difference is that you don't have to be intentional to be Jewish in Israel: the Jewish calendar provides you with all the Jewish holidays, Hebrew is the language you learn without having to study it for



Allen Sherman and Eliza Carney

your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and good Kosher restaurants are a dime a dozen (did I mention the food is amazing?). Yet, there's a major difference you cannot escape: the need for security is woven into Israelis' DNA. Homes are built with safe rooms that can with-

stand rocket attacks; you don't have to worry about what you will be doing after graduating high school - the IDF has a job waiting for you.

"However, the one difference that stopped me in my tracks is

(Continued on page 6)

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Inspiration.
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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



**Can't Help Myself -
Confessions from a Modern
Advice Columnist by Meredith
Goldstein**

Looking for a quick entertaining read? After being dumped by her boyfriend in 2009, journalist Meredith Goldstein started "Love Letters," an advice column in the Boston Globe. The overwhelming response to the column was a complete surprise and its unusual format of inviting readers not only to comment on Meredith's advice but to offer their own made it an overnight phenomenon.

Featuring a lively mix of experiences in love, dating, intimacy, and other topics, the column became an immediate sensation, and the author's inbox crested with pleas for counsel. Despite a lack of psychology acumen, she parlayed her talent for dispensing rational advice to family and friends directly into her writing. This made her accessible, shrewd,

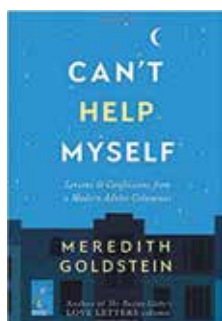
and relatable, and her real-world advice leveled the playing field with the everyday people who read (and responded to) the column. (Kirkus Review)

Meredith Goldstein follows in the footsteps of other Jewish advice columnists such as *A Bintel Brief*, Ann Landers, Abigail Van Buren, and Margo Howard.

A Bintel Brief was a Yiddish advice column, starting in early 20th century New York City, that anonymously printed readers'

questions and posted replies. The column was started by Abraham Cahan, the editor of *Der Forverts* (*The Forward*), in 1906. Recent

(Story, book club news, and CJE
calendar continued on page 6)



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Women's News

Hadassah: The Power of Women Who Advocate

You may have heard that Hadassah women “Do,” and one of the things we do best is advocate. Did you know that we are known for turning Jewish values into action in order to make the world healthier and safer?

As the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah works to nurture and further strengthen an already strong US-Israel relationship. We advocate for security, economic partnerships, and foreign aid for Israel. We also advocate for legislation to fight the delegitimization of Israel. On February 5, the Senate passed the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 (77 to 23); its companion, H.R. 336 has been introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill combines several very important pieces of legislation that were not passed into law in previous congresses, including The Combating BDS Act and the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act. Hadassah strongly advocates for the passage of H.R. 336, and encourages all of us to reach out to our Representatives to support its passage.

We call on all nations and international entities to address Antisemitism, and ask political and religious leaders to denounce Antisemitic statements, attacks, and propaganda. Hadassah supports the Never Again Education Act (H.R. 943) and salutes the recent appointment of a U.S. State Department Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism. In fact, Hadassah recently opened its Government Relations Office in Washington, DC, which demonstrates our organization's commitment to these advocacy

endeavors.

Hadassah is also a vital champion for health. We work to improve women's health outcomes by way of public education and legislative advocacy. Hadassah recognizes that women and men can react differently - based on hormones, genetics, metabolism and other factors - so it's essential that there is gender equity in medicine and clinical trials. As a Jewish women's organization, Hadassah supports numerous policies aimed at improving the lives of women. We advocate for paid leave, caregiver support, safety from harassment, assault, and exploitation, and strict gun control initiatives.

Hadassah Health Night 2019

Health and wellness are important components of the Hadassah movement. Each year, Hadassah Charlotte sponsors a free community program to promote health and wellness.

Join us on Monday, May 20 at 6 PM at the Morrison Regional Library (7015 Morrison Blvd in South Park, Charlotte) for our annual Health Night. This year, our own lifetime member, Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN, CDP, will lead us in dynamic conversation about Health Care Consumer Empowerment. “You have a voice ... use it! Be your own advocate!”

The health care arena of the 21st century is high tech, scary, and mysterious. Being an empowered patient has never been more critical. Learning how to advocate for yourself or someone you love is essential for being empowered in that arena. Once you are empowered, you can partner with the health care team in a positive way to make sure all of your needs... or the needs of your

loved one... are being met. This will ultimately provide you with the best patient experience ever, which is Lorrie's passion.

Lorrie is an acclaimed public speaker and patient-senior advocate who has been practicing nursing for over 46 years in a variety of roles. As President of Klemons Healthcare Consulting, she specializes in making sure that every consumer has a voice in the healthcare arena. She teaches, preaches, and lives patient-senior empowerment every day. Her book, *Ready ... Set ... Advocate! Your Step by Step Guide to Patient Empowerment* is available for purchase on Barnes

and Noble and amazon.com and will guide you on that journey towards empowerment.

Lorrie sits on the Patient Experience Advisory Councils at Lenox Hill Hospital in NYC, part of Northwell Health, and Atrium Health here in Charlotte. In 2016, Lorrie faced every mother's nightmare when her younger son faced two concurrent life-threatening illnesses. Lorrie was at his side 24/7 advocating and caregiving for him during that nine month journey which included six hospitalizations, seven surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation. As a Warrior Mom, she brings both the professional and family

perspective to her work. She is the “wow” factor in the patient experience.

We hope you will join us for this most informative and important conversation. Bring your family and friends. ☆

HADASSAH



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 Goretzky, 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

(Continued on page 22)

the best is yet to come.

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HOMES WITH CACHET
OPPORTUNITY

Sue's Bookshelf

(Continued from page 3)

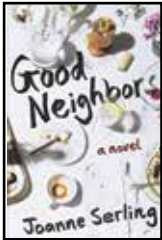
Jewish immigrants predominantly from Eastern Europe, asked for advice on various facets of their acculturation to America, including economic, family, religious and theological difficulties. In Yiddish, bintel means "bundle" and brief means a "letter" or "let-

ters." (Wikipedia) For decades, Eppie Lederer, better known by the pen name Ann Landers, was one of America's most trusted advice columnists. Landers was born Esther Pauline Friedman in Sioux City, IA, to Russian-Jewish immigrants. She was incredibly

close to her identical twin sister, Pauline Phillips, who became the revered advice columnist Abigail Van Buren. Margo Howard is the daughter of Ann Landers and dispenses advice in her columns "Dear Margo" and "Dear Prudence." When asked why she thinks Jewish women end up giving advice, she said, "It's likely some stew of family life, a desire

to help, a need to be useful, an ability to pass on wisdom and, of course, having the yenta gene." When commenting on the same question, "Love Letters" author Meredith Goldstein replied, "It makes sense that giving advice is part of Jewish culture because Judaism is religion that asks 'why.' There is this natural analysis of tradition, decisions, and choices. When that is part of your culture it becomes part of your day-to-day life."

Can't Help Myself - Confessions from a Modern Advice Columnist by Meredith Goldstein is available for check-out at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education.



CJE Book Club News: Please join the Center for Jewish Education Book Club on Wednesday, May 15, when we will be discussing Good Neighbors by Joanne Serling. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM and everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.✧

Check out what's happening this month at the CJE? CJE CALENDAR: MAY 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 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM	2	3 PJ Library Baby Playdate 11:00 AM
5	6	7 Yom Hazikaron Memorial Ceremony 6:30 PM Sam Lerner Center	8 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM	9	10 PJ Library Baby Playdate 11:00 AM
12	13	14	15 CJE Book Club 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM	16	17 PJ Library Baby Playdate 11:00 AM
19 Yom Ha'atzmaut Festival 12:00 - 3:00 PM @Shalom Park	20	21	22 Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM LAST STORYTIME UNTIL SEPT	23	24 PJ Library Baby Playdate 11:00 AM
26	27 Library Closed!	28	29	30	ALL PROGRAMS ARE HELD IN THE LEVINE-SKLUT JUDAIC LIBRARY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Leadership 2Gether

(Continued from page 3)

how everyone has or has a close friend who has lost a family member defending Israel. One moment I will never forget was during a visit to Yad Labanim in Hadera (Memorial Museum commemorating the fallen soldiers in Israel's wars). I listened as one of our Israeli hosts walked us through her experience of losing her older sister during a regular military patrol in Hebron. Thankfully, the overwhelming majority of us never had to experience the abrupt end of a love one's life, and I could not stop thinking about how it would alter my world if South Carolina was inhabited with people intent on killing me, my family, friends, and destroying our way of life."

Summarizing the experience, Eliza concludes: "We came together as individuals and left as a family with our eyes on the future. This was an experience I will never forget and I'm excited to see what's next." This adventure is not over yet. Participants in L2G will have the opportunity to reunite with their fellow American and Israeli partners during a fall seminar in Jacksonville, FL. 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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SCHOOL NEWS

Grandparents Day at JPS

The preschool years are all about sharing; sharing toys, sharing love, sharing joy...JPS has a special place in all our students' hearts, so why keep it to ourselves? Throughout the year, we invite family and friends to join us in school for events, holidays, and birthday parties. A couple weeks ago, it was Grandparents' turn to enter our

classrooms and enjoy what we offer their grandchildren - what a beautiful day it was. It was amazing to see the children show off their classrooms and of course (as it was right before Purim) their knowledge of the Purim story. We decorated crowns and dressed up like royalty with jewelry and costumes, while posing for pictures in the cas-

tle. Grandparents were able to experience firsthand how JPS affects, enriches, and brightens our students' lives. We so enjoyed having all our special visitors and can't wait for them to visit again!☆



Aili and her grandparents get ready for Purim.



Chana decorates a crown with her Bubby and Zeidy.



Lochlan brought both sets of grandparents to school.



Judah with his grandmother and great-grandparents.



Leigh Altman For County Commission At Large - 2020

- Attorney for 17 Years - Served as a Staff Attorney with Charlotte's Council for Children's Rights and Georgia's Office of the Attorney General
- Strong Advocate For Our Children & Seniors
- Current Officer in the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County
- Chair of Precinct 9
- Mother to Charlotte Jewish Preschool Alums

As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, I was raised on the importance of tikkun olam - repairing the world. As a lawyer, I have fought for social justice including protecting our seniors, at-risk children, and victims of discrimination.

***I'm running for the Board of County Commissioners to fight for children and families.
Please visit LeighAltman.com and join our campaign!***

Charlotte Jewish Preschool Goes to Italy

By Brooke Amo, Executive Director; Emily Snyder, Curriculum Coordinator

Mama Mia! This spring we have an extraordinary opportunity to join international educators on a weeklong seminar in Reggio Emilia, Italy, where the highly regarded early childhood educational philosophy was established. We will study under the leadership of Mara Bier and Sharon Sherry of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and Lisa Littman of PJ Goes to School (Harold Greenspoon Foundation). These dynamic professionals will challenge us to learn all about Reggio Emilia through a Jewish lens. This seminar will allow us to observe, hear from experts, and learn how to apply strategies that follow a Reggio Emilia approach within the Charlotte Jewish Preschool.

The Reggio Emilia approach was developed after World War II by Loris Malaguzzi and parents in the villages around Reggio Emilia and derives its name from the city. Reggio Emilia is a student centered approach where children learn the ability to express themselves through experience. Reggio Emilia philosophers believe that children are capable learners who deserve respect, real life experiences, authentic materials, and the permission to tell their own stories.

Over the past two years, we have been exploring the concepts of beautiful classroom environments, emergent curriculum, nat-

ural materials, the belief that children are capable learners, and the impact this has had on the teachers, the children, and the families. Teachers and children have more autonomy in their learning. Teachers and children are more proud of their environments and materials. Teachers are talking less and listening more. Children are asking questions, driving their instruction, and are more engaged throughout the day. These posi-



tive results have left us hungry for more information. In Jewish tradition, we are encouraged to ask questions, continue to learn, and always strive to be our best selves which led us to this unique opportunity with experts in the field.

We were asked by our Reggio facilitators what our hopes and goals are for this trip. This question encouraged us to think specifically about what we need to bring back with respect to our roles within our school:

Brooke (Executive Director): "This year, one of our main initiatives at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool is to nurture a school culture that puts Judaic values in the forefront, while we work to provide young children with a secure and loving atmosphere in which to grow, develop a positive self-image, and learn the joy of Jewish life."

"This year, all CJP stakeholders were asked 'what are our val-

ues, what words, what actions, what habits, what values do we want for our children, families, and staff?'"

"These values are to be the very fabric of who we are, and how we want operate at CJP. They are to transcend and apply

everywhere from a parent meeting, to the boardroom, to the way that Eli and Lucy work through a problem on the playground. Our work to repair the world is the responsibility of our whole community, from our youngest to our most senior stakeholders. We can all strive to make our world a better place.

"With this initiative in mind, my main objective in Reggio Emilia is to explore ways that this curriculum and philosophical approach can foster a culture of values, and how I can, as a leader, inspire all of our preschool family to embrace and embody these values.

"How do we inspire our community to be active learners?"

"How do we know we have 'created a culture'? What does that look like, feel like?"

Emily (Curriculum Coordinator): "My job is to help teach and inspire teachers plan for instruction with a Judaic, Reggio, early childhood, and value-centered lens, all while helping teachers to maintain their individualism and creativity. While in Reggio, I would like to gain a better understanding of how teachers in the Reggio region plan for and prepare for instruction.

"My main objective as a participant in this study is to act as an ambassador for the classroom



teachers and staff at CJP and other schools who are on similar journeys. I would like to create a vision for monthly team planning sessions as we think about where we want to go philosophically and practically regarding Reggio Emilia. I look forward to learning more about what goes into creating, maintaining, and improving a Reggio Emilia school from teachers and administrators who are living it themselves in the region where it was born.

We are hopeful that our experience in Reggio Emilia will strengthen our knowledge and philosophical beliefs about how children learn. As we gather more knowledge about the importance of the learning environment, the materials we use, the way we see and listen to children, we know we will be able to provide the best educational experience for our children, families, and stakeholders of CJP. ☆



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CJDS Students Are Given A Myriad of Choices to Study Pesach

In the continuing effort to give our students choice, input, and a voice in their learning, CJDS created a catalogue of courses about Pesach from which our students were able to choose. Much like choosing college courses, the students in grades three through five were so excited when given the booklet filled with over fifty hours of classroom options. They studied the class descriptions and couldn't believe that they were going to be able to decide how they were going to learn, experience, and discover the holiday. Each child had to narrow their options to 18 hours, understanding they would only get ten hours of Pesach classroom programming. The Judaica and art teachers created motivating and stimulating opportunities that are not always available in the typical classroom. After reading all of these choices, you might wish that you attended CJDS when you were in elementary school.

Some examples of the classes offered were:

*** Cartoon Clips Talk:** Students will share their favorite clips and find Chametz vs. Matza "talk," "actions," and "thoughts."

*** Turtle Art Coding:** Turtle Art Coding on Chametz discovery, Chametz-Matzah meaning, and the meaning behind Jewish names.

*** Grain Grinds Explore:** Students will take a variety of grains from their stalks to the flour and explore combinations and results.

*** Pasta Making:** Choose your own grain, grind flour, and prepare the dough, explore the dough rising of a variety of grains. Make pasta from the dough. Identify kitniyot vs. chametz and combine multiple flours to make pasta and compare the results.

*** Time Traveling in Hebrew:** Are you ready to challenge yourself to two hours without a word of English? We will travel back in time with the student from our virtual class to check out the first Pesach and see how it might be different from what we have now.

*** Make a collaborative Kahoot.** Would you like to learn how to create a Kahoot game? We will create a game of Pesach facts in this class.

*** Pesach Cooking:** Pesach cooking can be super challenging. All ingredients must be prepared in a special way and use no chametz. Learn how to make charoset just like the Ramban did – from his very own recipe. We will also experiment with ingredients that can be used in place of chametz.

*** Make a music video of Pesach songs.** Let's pick a few of our favorite Pesach songs and make music videos that could be used at CJDS to introduce the songs to other students. You will learn how to use Movie Maker.

*** Pesach Heroes:** Do you like doing research about famous Torah personalities? In this class we will learn about Moshe, Aharon, Miriam, Yocheved, Amram, and Batya and create presentations about them. Artists are welcome.

*** Israeli Moon Shot:** The Israeli Rocket to the moon attempted to land the week of our activities. With Yetzitat Mitzrayim (redemption from Egypt) we witnessed many miracles as Hashem rescued us from the hands of the Egyptians. Many of these miracles defied the laws of physics. The fact that we Jews are around today is an amazing miracle. At every turn our smaller, less-equipped people have survived against all odds. Today Israel has set out to do what only larger and more prosperous countries have set out to do over the last fifty years. Learn about the science, math, and visionary individuals who made this attempt possible.

*** Brit Bein Habtarim:** Did you know that Avraham was a time traveler? Learn about this amazing bit of Torah where Avraham had to do a special ceremony and Hashem shows him the future of the Jewish people.

*** Elijah's Cup:** We will explore the meaning of having a cup of wine for Eliyahu Hanavee on the Seder table and look at examples made by other artists. You will then have the opportunity to design and create your own cup for Eliyahu using polymer clay on glass.

*** Matzah Cover or Afikomen Bag:** We will discuss why and how the matzah is presented on the Seder table, and look at examples by other artists. You will then have the opportunity to create your own matzah cover and afikomen bag. Note: This project will require you to do sewing by hand.

*** Seder Plate with Glass Paint:** We will discuss the Seder plate, what is on it and how it is used at the Seder. We will look at examples by other artists and you will have the opportunity to create your own Seder plate to use at your family Seder.

*** Pesach Board Game:** Create a board game to demonstrate the ups and downs of the Jewish people during the times of Pesach. As we experience the steps of the game there will be some happy,

hopeful moments and difficult times.

*** Illustrated Guide for the Pesach Seder:** Create an illustrated guide for the Seder steps complete with photos and instructions. Go over each step, write instructions on how to do them, and take a picture acting out each step.

*** Be the rabbi at the Seder:** Prepare various talks on parts of the Hagaddah for the Seder

*** Create a Pesach animation.**

*** Experience a mock Seder** with a lifesize Seder Plate.

*** Design a Pesach mural to be displayed on the school walls,** starting from when we became

slaves through the ten commandments.

*** Uncover the deep mysteries of why did we have these 10 makkot (plagues)** and why were they sent in this order. Bring home your 10 makkot mystery box to share with your family at the Seder.

*** Read and act out some amazing stories about Eliyahu Hanavee.**

*** Try out some Pesach desserts** and design a Pesach menu for your family.

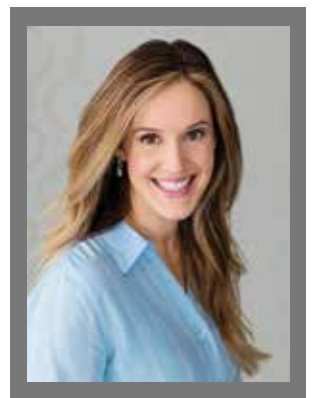
*** Dive into the deep sea** and hear some fascinating facts that took place at Kriyat Yam Suf and then design a diorama.☆

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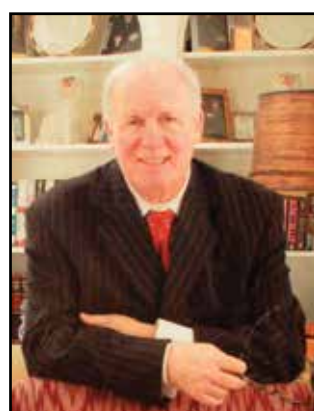
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Two Local Charlotte Students Represent at National JewQ Competition

Certainly you could understand if Eli Setless, 10, and Ranen Taylor, 11, were a little nervous as they prepared to step onto the stage at the International JewQ Competition in Brooklyn, NY.

Not only were they about to participate with dozens of kids in a competition testing their Jewish

knowledge, they were doing so in front of hundreds and hundreds of strangers, hundreds of miles from home in Charlotte, NC.

As part of the CKids Jewish Adventure program (Chabad of Charlotte's version of a Hebrew School that's fun), they were offered an opportunity to challenge

themselves in JewQ, an international Torah competition that challenges students not attending Jewish day school to learn independently under the guidance of their local Chabad centers.

They began their studies in October right after the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah.



Admiring the world's largest challah.

To qualify for the main championship, Eli and Ranen had to excel on a series of concepts from Jewish Traditions, Maimonides' Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith, exciting mystical and ethical teachings in Judaism, and more.

Students with the top scores

were invited to spend a Shabbat together in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn and compete in the final round of JewQ in front of a live audience.

Hundreds of Jewish children from more than 77 cities across North America took part in studying for the competition. ☆



Eli and Ranen enjoying a weekend in New York City at the JewQ Competition

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Noah Goldman Receives Queens Social Justice Award

Noah Goldman, graduating senior at Queens University of Charlotte, was awarded the 2019 Queens Social Justice Award. This is given to a student who has shown the following characteristics: the individual is caring about all people and expresses that concern in their own lives, has made significant contributions to Queens University in helping make strides toward improving the quality of life for students,

and they are active forces for better understanding and acceptance between people of different races, religions, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Dean John Downey recognized that Noah has served Queens in so many capacity it would be easier to mention what he has not done rather than list all he has done. But to name a few he has been a member of Campus Union Board, Residence Life, Hillel and many, many others. Downey remarked: "Noah's name is synonymous with social justice. ... [H]e has demonstrated his integrity by advocating strongly on behalf of so many others, regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion. ... He has shown everyone what true character looks like in action. I am so proud of him and he is so clearly deserving of this award."

Jewish Life at Queens University of Charlotte asks you to join us in congratulating Noah for this honor. ☆



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Youth Visions

Friendship Circle Hosts Dual Sensory Friendly Passover Seders

As you may know, the Passover Seder includes a lengthy amount of time spent on reading the Haggadah and retelling the story of the Jewish people's exodus from slavery and the land of Egypt. On Passover, a special effort is made to engage the children. We encourage questions and make sure the children are part of the Seder. For children with special needs, however, the Passover Seder can be very difficult to sit through and can also be very overwhelming.

As in passed years, Friendship Circle organized a Sensory Friendly Passover Seder to ensure children with special needs were also included in the Passover experience. From unique games and activities for the children to Passover stories and discussions for the adults, our tailor made Seder was an uplifting experience.

New this year, Friendship Circle also organized a unique Teen #UMatter Seder on the second night of Passover. In conjunction with BBYO, teens learned the meaning of true freedom in their own lives. Freedom from challenging thoughts and obstacles but most importantly the freedom that comes from supporting one another and looking out for that lonely friend who may be silently reaching out for help.

Special thank to Ed and Leslie Rusgo as well as Rick and Dru Abrams for supporting these unique Passover experiences.

A very special shoutout goes to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for their support of Friendship Circle and the Impact and Innovation Fund for Supporting the new U Matter program.

To learn more about Friend-

ship Circle, please visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org. ☆



Sensory Friendly Passover Seder (Photo taken before holiday began.)



One Thing I Wish You Knew Almost Sold Out

Everyone has a story. Everyone has something they wish you knew. But all too often we think we truly understand and empathize in what our friends and family members, but sometimes we overlook what they're actually going through.

Friendship Circle's U Matter Campaign has been on the forefront in Middle Schools and High Schools breaking the stigma behind mental health challenges and ensuring everyone feels comfort-

all matter.

Bonus Features:

- Break out your painting skills as every participant at the event will join us in creating a giant mural with Artist Yitzhak Moully (known as the Chassidic Andy Warhol).

- A Special U Matter Program led by our U Matter Board: Charlie Gorelick, Joshua Friedman, Jordy Miller, and Olivia Potier.

Please visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org/OneThing.



able to share their story and the challenges they face.

And now we're proud to present our community event, "One Thing I Wish You Knew." This event will focus on members of our community and their courage to face their challenges head on.

Please join us on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 PM at future site of Friendship Circle's New Center to support every member of our community and ensuring they know they are not alone and we

Friendship Circle and its U Matter initiative is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. ☆



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Inaugural Hebrew High Cup Competition

The Inaugural Hebrew High Cup was held on Wednesday, April 3. The games brought together over 50 athletes comprised of both Temple Beth El and Temple Israel students who competed in various activities.

Under the leadership of Blue Team Captain Jason Schechter and Red Team Captain Sam Swire, athletes were divided up randomly by choosing either a blue wristband or a red wristband. The rules were explained by Hebrew High Cup Director Megan Harkavy, including the team with the most points at the end of the games would win the cup. To give teams an advantage, extra points were awarded for good sportsmanship and willingness to go the extra mile.

Competition started in the gym as teams competed against each other in relay races and dodge ball. Referee Stephanie Garner oversaw all aspects of the races and made sure all rules were followed. Athletes put their best foot forward and dashed around the gym hoping to score the most points. Smiles and laughter abounded as the athletes couldn't contain how much fun they were having.

Each team was then divided into two smaller teams to show their skills in the next two activities. First was the Jewish Iron Chef Charoset Competition. Each team had a variety of ingredients

to combine to make a one-of-a-kind charoset dish. Points were awarded for creatively combining eggs, chopped apples, dried fruit, spices, and seasonings, along with writing out their recipes and plating their creations.

Next we moved onto the Mitzvah portion of the Hebrew High Cup where athletes had to showcase different skills by decorating Passover bags for clients of Jewish Family Services (JFS). Again each team was judged on their creativity and how original their designs were. Let's just say JFS clients will be all smiles when they receive their bags.

The closing ceremonies were held in Gorelick Hall with the winning trophy awarded to the Blue Team. Both teams celebrated with red and blue chocolate coins. We can't wait for the Second Annual Hebrew High Cup. Stayed tuned! ☆



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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



Jewish Family Services to Host Live Laugh Give Comedy Night Again This Year

What do you get when you combine a funny Jewish comedian and a great show with a VIP experience, live auction, and raffle prizes? Jewish Family Services' Live Laugh Give Comedy Night. When asked what inspired JFS to start this event, Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director responded, "There are three things that bring people together for a good cause: laughter, prizes, and good food. We happen to have all three at our event."

This year's event will be held on Sunday, June 2 at Temple Beth El. The headliner for the evening is comedian Orny Adams, best known for his abundant energy, his many appearances on late night television and his role as Coach Bobby Finstock on the TV show *Teen Wolf*. After last year's success, returning co-chairs, Suzy Catennazo and Andrea Cronson weigh in about last year's fundraiser.

JFS: Tell me about your experience with the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night.

Suzy Catennazo: Our goal is to provide a unique opportunity for entertainment while supporting a great cause. The entire event, from the food and drinks at the cocktail reception to the hilarious comedy show was so much fun. My favorite part was watching a packed house of people all coming together and laughing together.

Andrea Cronson: Laughing helps when times are rough. I think comedy is a good pairing for our fundraiser. Comedians make jokes about us, so we can laugh at ourselves and feel good doing it.

JFS: Why do you feel supporting the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night is important?

Suzy Catennazo: I got involved with JFS because I believe they play such an important role. They provide social services that are easily accessible, serving people of all ages. This event, especially with the auction and call to the heart gave people the opportunity to show how important JFS is



Wendy and Adam Petricoff on their trip to the Riviera Maya.



The beach at Riviera Maya.

to this them.

Andrea Cronson: I think we all want to help our fellow human beings. We all run into difficulties from time to time and it's important to have a safety net and that's what JFS is, a safety net to so many people.

One of the many highlights of the event was the auction. With only three items to bid on the bidding was competitive.

Royal Hideaway Playacar and Mann Travels offered a three-night four-day stay at a five-star resort in the Riviera Maya. Wendy and Adam Petricoff won.

JFS: Tell us about the trip.

Wendy Petricoff: My husband bought the trip, not only to get away but because he knows

JFS is my favorite charity. I just love the way JFS supports the community. The trip was so relaxing. The property was beautiful and our room was top notch; beautifully appointed.

Snap Av donated a SunBrite 43" 4K UHD Outdoor TV with an all-weather soundbar. Joel Pace won.

JFS: Tell us about your winnings.

Joel Pace: I was determined to win this prize. It's great. Works beautifully. The event was amazing. From the time you got there until the time you left everything was great.

The Eat-Play-Stay Uptown: The Ritz Carlton, Blumenthal Theatre of Performing Arts, and Ciderworks.

JFS: Tell us about your experience.

Mason Sklut: We went with the some friends on the tour of the Cider Brewery and had a really nice time. It had that brewery vibe; open, rustic, lots of board games. It was interesting to see how the cider is made. *The Book of Mormon* was hilarious and had us in tears. We are looking forward to getting some R&R at our upcoming stay at the Ritz.

According to JFS Development Manager Susan Meyer, the committee has been working diligently and putting the final touches on this year's auction items. "There was so much enthusiasm generated around stepping up packages we even added one more," Meyer said. "We can't wait to see how our guests respond." This year's items include a Comedy Zone Golden Ticket Package, a stay at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, a one-year membership to Scout and Cellar wine club, and through Mann Travels, a vacation at Royal Hideaway Playacar in Riviera Maya.

Tickets are on sale now for the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night, benefitting Jewish Family Services. To select which experience you would like and pre-purchase raffle tickets, go to jfscharlotte.org. ☆

Donations to Jewish Family Services in March 2019

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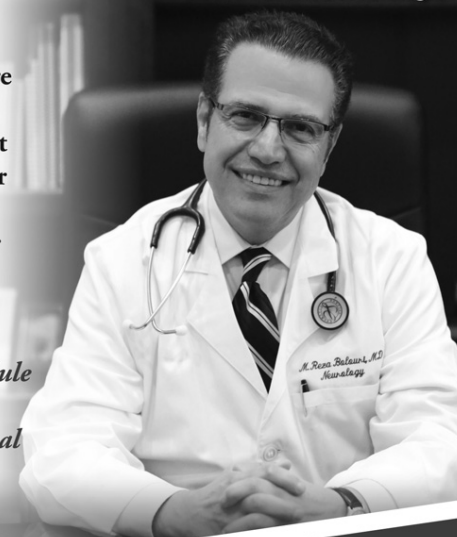
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ry Sparks, Liz Wahls, Amalia Warshenbrot, Jan Weiner.

Comedy Night Committee Volunteers: Suzy Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Maggie Fogel, Jodi Greenwald, Adam Levy, Adina Loewensteiner, Staci Mond, Fred Shporer, Liz Wahls, Sherri Zimmermann

Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Barbara Abrams, Phyllis Berlin, Cathy Bogus, Margie Bower, Ilene Cantor, Gladys Cherney, Denise and Bob Cooper, Donna and Burt Greenspon, June Hirschmann, Johnson

and Wales, Judy Kaufman, Penny Kreiger, Helene Rivlin, Eileen Schwartz, Roz Snyder, Joyce Stoll, Shayna Strasser, Elyssa Vining, Robin Zimmerman

Food Pantry Donations: Madeline Aron, Marvin Barman, Tom Cloniger, Dan Coblenz, Marci Goldberg, Wendy Kweskin, Marcia Lampert, James Shearer, Olivia Udoff, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Community Center Members, Hebrew High, PJ Library, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants,

Shalom Park Community Gardens

Food Drives: Daniel Cohen in honor of his sixth birthday

Purim Party Volunteers: Linda Babich, Dan Coblenz, Dana Ditesheim, Rob Friedman, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Gary Lerner, Matt Luftglass, Andy McCleary, Jack Malin, Laura Milgrim, Gloria Reeves, Fred Shporer, Liz Wahls, Jan Weiner

Special Thanks for Making Purim Party a Success: Nancy Goode and Peter Levinson of the Ruach, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Hebrew High

Special Thanks for Baking Hamantashen: Ballantyne Jewish Center, Friendship Circle and CTeen of Chabad, PJ Library, Women of Temple Israel

Mitzvah Basket Donation: Joan Kirschner in honor of Alexa Kirschner's Bat Mitzvah, The Wojnowich family in honor of Taylor Wojnowich's Bat Mitzvah



Jewish Family SERVICES
Engaging • Connecting • Healing

Community News

“Turning on the Lights” to the Grieving Process

By Sandra Goldman, Director, Hebrew Cemetery Association

I recently attended both an international cemetery and funeral conference and a cemetery convention and expo. Attending these conferences are always refreshing. They are great for networking and keeping up with the newest trends in the industry; but most of all they remind me of what a privilege it is to serve my community and our families.

By speaking with fellow cemetery workers, one recognizes more of the needs and wants of the customers and I certainly learned, among many teachings, how to better assist everybody involved in this circle of life and death.

We sometimes forget that our job does not end with the burial of a loved one. The aftercare – engaging beyond the funeral with

family members and friends – is just as important. Bereaved families might not remember the details of the day of the burial, who attended and what was said but they will recall how I made them feel during such a trying time. We must lead, listen, care, and try to ease their sorrow and pain. Grief can also come and go like the ocean tide. It overcomes us like a big wave at first and makes us feel like we are drowning. Then, slowly, the waves get smaller, and life feels more manageable. This is why there is no timetable for heartache. It is up to me to help create a safe place for everybody involved.

In order to do so, people have to become more comfortable with the subject of death. Yes, it might be a bit morbid and taboo at times but talking helps us to normalize what happens by sharing experiences with one another. Prearranged planning is a gift to families but it is also a reminder to be less afraid of death. Things are so much scarier in the dark. Let's turn on the lights and make everybody understand that they are stronger and braver than they thought.

At the cemetery and funeral conference, I was educated by some of the best in the profession and was taught how to construct



creative community outreach events through symposiums, workshops, and other types of gatherings. I also learned how to better communicate and answer questions regarding death. Bereavement is part of life but there is neither a linear process nor an end-point to these hard conversations. Death is a sacred space. Planning ahead is no “bubble-meise” (grandmother fable); it does not mean that pre-arrangement will make anything happen. The more one actually prepares and knows ahead of time, the more stress-free everything will be at the time of need. It also means that I can walk you through the process, follow your lead, hear your concerns, and reassure you that pre-planning does not only give you peace of mind but can also lessen the financial burden because you can lock in the current price.

To learn more about pre-planning or how to become a member of the Hebrew Cemetery, contact me at 704-944-6854 or at director@hebrewcemetery.org.

Klezmer Music in the Mountains

Looking for something fun and exciting to do for Memorial Day weekend? How about taking a drive up to the mountains to stomp your feet and clap your hands to Klezmer Music?

Clarinetist Gene Kavaddo will be performing klezmer music with the Rutherford Chamber Consort. Gene is known throughout the country as a leading interpreter of klezmer music. He will perform three concerts with the ensemble, to take place as follows:

Friday, May 24, 7 PM,
Maple Street Theater, 132 Maple St.,
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Saturday, May 25, 7 PM,
Ascension Lutheran Church, 300 N. Lafayette St.,
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The concerts are free. Please plan to attend and enjoy!

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AIPAC Policy Conference 2019: The View from Participants

Sam Zimmern: An enthusiastic group of people from Charlotte attended the AIPAC annual Policy Conference held in Washington from March 24–26 this year. Early on the first day of the conference, Howard Kohr, AIPAC's CEO, addressed the 18,000 people attending the event. He described the large number of recent attacks on supporters of Israel and the American-Israeli relationship. He pointed out that "... intense hatred of the Jewish state is creeping from the margins towards the center of our politics." And he noted that supporters of Israel were being called evil and even disloyal Americans. He characterized our critics as using "defamation masquerading as discourse." Then he set about countering the attackers. He made a strong case for Israel as the needed homeland for the Jewish people and as a nation with admirable values and practices including a democratically elected government and a free press. He pointed out Israel's many contributions to the world in fields including medicine, the digital economy and water use. Next, he demonstrated that Israel continues to garner strong support from big majorities of both political parties in Congress as well as from large numbers of citizen activists across diverse groups of Americans. Finally, Howard charged us to fight back and make our movement even stronger in the future.

The next two days of the Policy Conference provided impressive confirmation of many of the points made in the opening

didate to replace Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister in the recent election, spoke to the main session. He explained his views on Israel's current problems and made the case as to why he is the best person address them. The audience responded with many loud standing ovations. Mr. Netanya-



Alyson Grossman Traw on steps of Rayburn House building



Sen. Richard Burr and Ian Bodenheimer



Senators Martha McSally and Tammy Duckworth

speech. We learned more about the forces of history that led to terrible consequences for Jews and proved the need for a Jewish state. We heard about many of the people and events that culminated in the creation of Israel. Current threats to the country's existence were described. Some of the many achievements were illustrated including the upcoming landing of an Israeli explorer on the surface of the moon. Members of Congress, including the leaders of the House and Senate, spoke emphatically about the support for Israel that is maintained in a bipartisan fashion in their institution. Representatives from the administration including Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo told us about the many achievements of the executive branch in backing Israel.

Opposition to the current government of Israel was not ignored. Benny Gantz, the leading can-

hu was scheduled to address the conference in person but had to fly back to Israel to deal with rocket attacks from Gaza. He did speak to us via closed circuit TV from Israel and his remarks were well received.

On the third and last day of the Policy Conference, we went to Capitol Hill to exercise our right to lobby our elected officials regarding the American – Israeli relationship. Our group met with Representatives Adams, Foxx, and McHenry plus Senators Burr and Tillis. We also spoke with important members of their Congressional staffs. I think the people in our group would agree that our points were effectively transmitted.



NASA Administrator Bridenstine with founders of SpaceIL

I came back from this year's AIPAC Policy conference more convinced than ever that a strong American-Israeli relationship is essential and that AIPAC provides an effective way for citizens like me to contribute to sustaining that relationship.

Alyson Grossman Traw: I had the pleasure of attending my third policy conference in DC March 23-26, and this conference was the best yet. The engagement started on my plane ride to DC, where I met a Christian ally student leader from my alma mater – the University of South Carolina. She spoke about her passion for Israel, as well as her involvement working to identify and combat BDS on campus. Once in DC, the energy at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center was palpable. Four thousand students joined us at this conference, including campus leaders from historically black colleges and universities, college Democrats, and college Republicans. We also had lots of new folks in the Charlotte area delegation, and it brought me great joy to see their excitement and engagement.

During policy conference, we enjoy large general sessions, as well as smaller breakout sessions. AIPAC's bi-partisan message is strong, as evidenced by pro-Israel messages from both Democrat and Republican Congressional leaders. General session highlights for me included combat veterans Sen. McSally (R-AZ) and Sen. Duckworth (D-IL) sharing the stage to discuss their commitment to the strong American/Israeli relationship. Nikki Haley is always a crowd favorite, and she received a rock star reception. NASA Administrator Bridenstine and the SpaceIL leaders discussed the recent launch of an Israeli spacecraft toward the moon for the country's first attempted lunar landing. IsraAid spoke about the work they did in Puerto Rico after the hurricane, and the humanitarian aid they provide every day, all over the world. My favorite breakout sessions were about Lawfare (use of the law as a weapon of war) and Israel, and hearing from Amanda Berman, founder of Zioness (formerly with The Lawfare Project).

Policy conference concludes with a day of lobbying our elected officials. We had productive meetings with Rep. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Patrick McHenry, Rep. Alma Adams, Sen. Thom Tillis, and Sen. Richard Burr. Lobbying our elected leaders on issues related to the Israel/American relationship is a quintessential

American activity. I am thankful that AIPAC provides this amazing opportunity. ☆

All photos courtesy of Alyson Grossman Traw.



Keila Lawrence – AIPAC student activist from Miles College (HBCU)



The Charlotte delegation with Representative Alma Adams.

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Shalom Park Welcomes Senior Living

More than 200 people gathered in the Sam Lerner Center for Culture Arts at Shalom Park on March 25 to learn about the vision of a senior living community at Shalom Park and the details behind the zoning petition recently filed to enable the project. Since the creation of the park in the late 1970s, Charlotte's Jewish leadership has dreamed of creating a senior living community that takes full advantage of all of the services and activities on the existing 56 acre campus.

"Senior housing was discussed in the very early stages of Shalom Park's history, well before ground-breaking, but it never came to fruition," said Eric Sklut, community leader and philanthropist. "It now appears the stars are aligned, and Shalom Park will have services and facilities available for all ages – everything from infants to elders. A dream fulfilled!"

Project History

Several years ago, Temple Israel's leadership began exploring ways to sell properties previously acquired adjacent to its property along Providence and Jefferson streets. They were determined to do this in a way that would enhance Jewish life at Shalom Park and were drawn to the idea of adding senior housing to the Shalom Park campus.

"Judaism commands us to show respect and honor to the elderly, so using the Temple-owned property to develop a senior liv-



Suzanne Pugh, CEO of Aldersgate, and Barry Bobrow, president of the Foundation of Shalom Park.

ing community seemed a perfect use for the land," said David Rosenthal, President of Temple Israel. "We knew from the outset, though, that we needed to find a partner with operational expertise to make it happen."

To that end, Temple Israel, along with the leadership of many of Charlotte's Jewish institutions, began the search for a partner with the expertise to design, finance, construct, and operate a senior living community that would specifically meet the needs of Jewish seniors.

"Bringing on a partner wasn't undertaken lightly," said Barry Bobrow, president of the Foundation of Shalom Park. "Our goal was to ensure the best possible outcome while minimizing the financial burden and risks to the Jewish community." He added, "With Aldersgate we found the

perfect combination of skills and commitment to meet our needs. The Aldersgate team has significant expertise in developing and operating a full-continentum senior-living community, and their recent expansion at their main location has showcased their ability to finance and build high-quality independent-living residences."

Discussions with Aldersgate Life Plan Services began in 2016. Since that time members of Charlotte's Jewish community have worked alongside representatives from Aldersgate to design a residential community that will meet the needs of Jewish seniors. The planning efforts culminated with the signing of a letter of intent (LOI) in January of this year, which addressed ways in which the senior community would be fully integrated into the programming and infrastructure of all of the agencies on campus.

"The senior living project will be a wonderful addition to Shalom Park. It will create opportunities for greater social and physical interaction for the senior residents and enhance the long-term sustainability of Shalom Park through infrastructure and building improvements and financial participation in the

management and security of the Park," said Terri Beattie, Executive Director for the Foundation of Shalom Park.

"We're honored to be Shalom Park's partner," said Suzanne Pugh, Aldersgate's CEO. "We are a not for profit senior living operator and have been in Charlotte for over 70 years. We pledge to support the Jewish community in every way we can in creating a community that honors Jewish faith traditions and upholds the dignity of all people. We have developed similar residential units on our campus over the past few years and while the process takes time, we are highly confident in our ability to achieve success."

Community Design

The Temple Israel properties, when combined with land sold by the Foundation, will permit the new senior community to occupy more than 11 acres, with a design that is fully integrated into Shalom Park. Plans include 120 plus independent living units in a series of five residential buildings. There will be a smaller number of assisted living and memory care units, and a community center for administrative offices and food service. Because of the operational and licensing issues involved in operating a skilled nursing facility, the Shalom Park community will take full advantage of existing services available at Aldersgate's main campus, on Shamrock Drive, in Charlotte.

Next Steps

The recently filed zoning application to the City of Charlotte

is an early step in the process. Once that is accomplished later this year potential residents will have the opportunity to view detailed plans and express their interest in living in the community. Construction will begin when sufficient interest is received. Occupancy is currently anticipated to begin in 2023.

"We couldn't be more excited to be in sight of the development of a senior living community at Shalom Park," said Bobrow. "While there is much work to be done, completing this project is critical to the original vision of Shalom Park."

If anyone has questions or comments regarding the community, they should contact the Foundation of Shalom Park at SPSL@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-554-2022. The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Moishe House, Hebrew Cemetery Association, B'nai Brith Youth Organization, and *The Charlotte Jewish News*. ☆

Help Us Kvell!

Do you know a Jewish teen who has shown Jewish pride through his or her actions? Share your story with us!

The Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award was created in the Spring of 2012 to honor the memory of our beloved alum, Zachary Shporer, who attended the Charlotte Jewish Day School from kindergarten through eighth grade. While Zachary possessed many amazing attributes, the one that sticks out most in many of our minds is his Jewish pride.

Zachary incorporated Jewish values into every aspect of his life. He did not necessarily choose easy mitzvot or popular mitzvot. He didn't call attention to himself. But he carried the Torah in his heart and acted according to its teachings.

At CJDS, we want to continue Zachary's legacy by celebrating and recognizing Jewish students through high school, who, like Zachary, demonstrate their Jewish pride in their everyday lives.

Share your nominations with us! We will be accepting nominations for the award from now until the end of May. From all the nominations, a recipient will be selected by our Nominations Committee and will be recognized at the CJDS Graduation Ceremony.

Every day a Jewish teen does something extraordinary to demonstrate their Jewish pride. But we need your help to know the full story!

A \$250 grant will be awarded towards any enrichment of the recipient's Jewish life (i.e. camp, Hebrew school, Jewish books).



Please write on the back or by email to mgroner@cjdschool.org (in no more than 200 words) why you think the nominee demonstrates Jewish pride. Feel free to attach supporting documentation as a way to illustrate your discussion. Please note, because supporting documentation may not be returned, only copies should be submitted.

Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award* Nomination Form (please print clearly)

*All Charlotte, NC area Jewish teens are eligible. Nominee does not need to be a CJDS student or alumni to participate.

Nominee/Name of Jewish teen being nominated

Nominee's Contact Phone _____

Nominee's Email _____

Nominee's Mailing Address _____

Person submitting the Nomination

Nominator's Contact Phone _____

Email _____

What Refugee Resettlement Looks Like and Why We as Jews Should Care

By Amy Lefkof

The Social Club of Temple Israel, co-chaired by Ruth Goldberg and Irving Bienstock, invited Marsha Hirsch, Director of Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRA), a HIAS affiliate, to speak at its March 24 luncheon.

Hirsch's overview of refugee resettlement began by defining refugees as persons forced to flee their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

There are nearly 25.4 million refugees worldwide and refugees must find a way to a UN facility (camp) or an urban area where they have to register and be recognized as a refugee by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Whereas in previous years, the number of refugees resettled in Charlotte was between 500-750, from nations as diverse as Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, and Iraq, the number has been cut back dramatically, with the current administration's Presidential Determination (the maximum number of refugees that can be resettled in the US during 2019) set at only 30,000 — a much reduced ceiling from 75,000 during the Obama admin-



Irving Bienstock, Marsha Hirsch, director of CRRA, and Ruth Goldberg.

istration.

The vetting procedure which can take between 1-½ to 2 years is conducted by the Department of State and involves various US national security agencies. And even then it is not easy to get to the United States. As Hirsch said, "One client just got off the plane [in 2019], and that refugee had applied in 2000."

Once refugee status is granted and the refugee arrives in Charlotte, the refugee is entitled to certain benefits that CRRA provides: cultural orientation, an apartment, a checklist of items to be in the apartment, a case manager, staff to bring them to social service agencies for temporary assistance, and help with job placement, since refugees have to go to work within 90 days.

Hirsch spoke of the fortitude

of refugee families, and how at the five-year mark they are ready to apply for citizenship. CRRA provides citizenship classes and help with filling out those documents. Hirsch concluded on this

upbeat note: "These families are then moving forward, not as refugees but as citizens."

Bienstock, a Holocaust survivor, explained to the forty members in attendance that refugee resettlement should be important to all of them because HIAS helped many Jewish families resettle in the United States. His own personal refugee story makes Bienstock compassionate towards today's refugees: "The person that helped me was a Dutch woman by the name of Gertrude Wijssmuller, of blessed memory, who was not Jewish but saved thousands of Jewish children. I, today, feel for these refugees, who have been vetted by the United States and are now being helped by HIAS to resettle in the Charlotte area. I know how they feel."

Dan Biber, a member of TI's Social Club, a volunteer with CRRA, and a member of the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative Steering Committee, stated that volunteering at CRRA on Thursdays for the last three years has been the highlight of his week. He asked the attendees to consider that it is not only Jews who have been on the receiving end of atrocities and that this is a special moment in history when Jews are not the refugees but rather in a position to volunteer to help non-Jewish refugees.

For information on how to volunteer locally with refugees, or make donations, please contact Amy Lefkof, chair of the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, alefkof@carolina.rr.com. ♡

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The Leon Levine Foundation Awards Camp Judaea \$500,000 To Support New Arts Center

The Leon Levine Foundation (TLLF) has awarded \$500,000 to Camp Judaea (CJ) to support the building of a new Arts Center. The new center will be named the Leon Levine Arts Center. It will replace the current arts space which CJ has outgrown.

"Camp Judaea is honored to receive this support from The Leon Levine Foundation. The foundation's generous grant will enable CJ to realize its dream of building a first class dedicated Arts Center. Our arts program continues to gain popularity each year and having this amazing facility will benefit generations of campers," said Camp Judaea Board Chair Sam Levy.

When asked about the Foundation's decision to make this gift, Tom Lawrence, executive director of TLLF, remarked: "We're honored to partner with Camp Judaea by investing in the new Arts Center, and, ultimately, future Jewish communities. We see this Arts Center as a safe place for young people to have meaningful Jewish experiences that will shape the expression of their faith



Sandra and Leon Levine

for years to come."

In 2013, Camp Judaea began the process of revitalizing the *omanut* (arts and crafts) program. The decision to focus on improving this program not only came from the desire to enhance the Judaica component of the camp's mission, but also to meet the creative development needs of campers who are not receiving extensive arts education in schools due to underfunding or budget cuts. As the curriculum developed in sophistication

and the numbers of campers increased, it became apparent that CJ's current program space could no longer meet the camp's needs.

In summer 2019, Camp Judaea will debut the new Leon Levine Arts Center. The center will triple the size of the camp's current arts space and expand program offerings. Plans include a woodshop, ceramics studio, general arts and crafts space, and a general open studio.

About The Leon Levine Foundation

Started by Leon Levine – the founder of the first Family Dollar Store in Charlotte, N.C. – in 1980, The Leon Levine Foundation's mission is to improve the human condition by creating permanent, measurable, and life-changing impact throughout the Carolinas. The organization invests in non-profits with strong leadership, a successful track record, and a focus on sustainability in the areas of health care, education, Jewish values, and human services. For more information, please visit www.leonlevinefoundation.org.

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The Mental Health Initiative Helping To Break the Stigma Surrounding Mental Health

Over the past eighteen months, through the work of the Mental Health Initiative, our community has been exposed to a diversity of facts, programs and marketing messages regarding the impact Mental Health has on our day-to-

day lives. In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, it would seem wise to highlight some of the more significant issues affecting our emotional well-being.

* 1 in 5 adults in the United States live with a mental health condition.

* 60 million people in the United States face the day-to-day reality of living with a mental illness.

* Half of all lifetime mental health conditions begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24, but early intervention programs can help. Yet only 50.6% of children with a mental health condition aged 8-15 receive mental health services.

* 90% of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, but suicide is preventable.

* In North Carolina, suicide rates for youth 10-17 have doubled in the last 10 years and is now the 2nd leading cause of death for that age group, second only to auto accidents.

* The best treatments for serious mental illnesses today are highly effective; between 70 and 90% of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with the right treatments and supports.

* 56% of American adults with a mental illness do not receive treatment.

With the prevalence of mental health issues growing so significantly, the reality is that almost everyone in today's society is impacted by knowing someone; a

family member, friend, co-worker or neighbor who is struggling with a mental health issue. Why then are we still challenged with the "stigma" of seeking mental health counseling? For so many, there is still the long-term belief that seeking treatment for a mental health issue is a weakness.

If as individuals we acknowledge that mental health is affecting our lives; and if as a friend or loved one we recognize that accessing treatment can help those that we care about; then as a community it is critical that we collectively work to change the culture of how we perceive mental health. Just as we don't think twice about seeking treatment for diabetes or taking medication for high blood pressure or getting physical therapy for a torn knee, so should we just as easily seek treatment for depression, anxiety, or any other issue that is impairing our emotional health and well-being.

As we look to raise awareness regarding Mental Health let us all promote good emotional health and recognize that accessing treatment is a strength, not a weakness. Personally, take the step to reach out to a family member, friend or co-worker that is struggling. Talk to them, encourage them to seek the treatment they need and support them in taking a positive step towards healing an emotional wound.

If you are interested in helping to break the stigma around Mental Health or you want to learn more about accessing treatment, contact Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594. ☆



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Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop Held at Shalom Park

Given today's ever-changing threat environment, preparing for and training employees to cope with workplace violence is a key piece of an organization's incident response planning.

A Unique Training Opportunity

Foundation of Shalom Park and the National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Infrastructure Protection, within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), hosted a



Captain Ryan Butler from Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department discusses City of Charlotte response and first responder impact during a major emergency.

one-day Security Workshop at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts to enhance awareness of and response to an active shooter event. On March 12, over 150 security leaders representing companies, religious and educational institutions, and first responder organizations throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg County were in attendance. Senior leaders from the Foundation of Shalom Park, the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, the Charlotte Jewish Day School, and the Levine Jewish Community Center were also present.

DHS, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Emergency Management Center educated the participants on the history of active shooter events and described common behavior, conditions, and situations associated with active shooters. They fostered communication between critical infrastructure owners and operators and local emergency response teams.

Building Emergency Planning Capabilities

The event also described how to incorporate key elements of successful incident management into planning efforts including:

- Communication and incident planning for employees;
- Emergency action plan development;
- Recognizing behavioral indi-

cators; and

-Coordinating with first responders.

The planning process focused on the core planning components of recognition, prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Crisis Management Training – Shalom Park Leadership

Continuing with the theme of training and preparedness, the senior leadership of all Shalom Park agencies and Temples participated in four hours of training with the goal of creating a standard approach for handling critical incidents.

The training was led by Threat Suppression, Inc., an international leader in public safety training. The course looked at lessons learned during major critical incidents and explored how to use these lessons as a platform for critical event planning and mitigation at Shalom Park.

Dedicated to Promote Proactive Strategies for Emergency Preparedness

The Shalom Park agency executives are dedicated to promoting proactive strategies to improve emergency preparedness of all kinds – from an active assailant situation to addressing weather and utility events. Our drive is to make a difference and continue to lead in the evolution of emergency preparedness and response tactics.



At our core, the Foundation of Shalom Park wants to provide training to empower everyone to make safe and life-saving decisions. Safety is everyone's job.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Char-



Mike Philbeck, Foundation of Shalom Park Director of Safety and Security, and Dominick Pagano, Threat Suppression Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, open the Crisis Management Training for Shalom Park agency leadership.

lotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Moishe House, Hebrew Cemetery Asso-

ciation, B'nai Brith Youth Organization, and *The Charlotte Jewish News*. ✪

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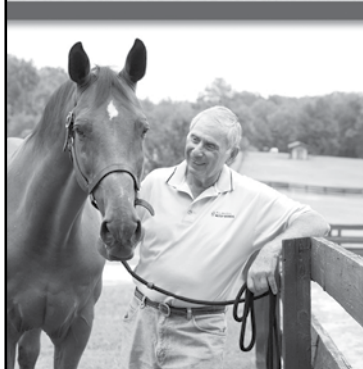
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Darryl Asprey from the Department of Homeland Security opens the Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop

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

May 2019

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



Memorial Day Hours / Monday, May 27th

Building: 7am-7pm • Indoor Pool: 7am-6:45pm • Main/Bubble Pools: 10am-6:45pm

JCHATS

A SERIES OF ENGAGING COMMUNITY EVENTS & CONVERSATIONS

Author Avi Jorisch

Author Avi Jorisch profiles 15 wondrous Israeli innovations that are changing the lives of billions of people around the globe. Jorisch will explain the Israeli revolutionaries that helped solve some of the world's biggest problems and why this movement is a shining light in the face of darkness.



Discussion & Moderated Q & A

Wednesday, May 22nd
7-9:30pm

Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park

*\$18 Donation includes a signed copy of
Thou Shalt Innovate: How Israeli Ingenuity Repairs the World*

FREE but an RSVP is required at charlottejcc.org or 704-366-5007

2019 SUMMER TENNIS CLINICS & CAMPS

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 (9 wks)

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 (9 wks)

Junior CRUSH Tennis Camps

Ages 6-16

Weekly Sessions, Full-Day or Half-Day

Contact Coach Greg for Daily Options

June 10-August 16

Camp registration is open!

For pricing and details

and to download the

complete forms packet,

please visit

charlottejcc.org/sportscamps

Private/Semi-Private Tennis Lessons

Special Packages available.

View pricing and details at

charlottejcc.org or contact

LJCC Customer Service at

704-366-5007



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

JCHILDCARE

7 weeks - 7 years old

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

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

Mon-Thu PM 4pm-7:30pm

Saturday 12pm-3pm

Sunday 8:30am-2pm

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

Grades K-5th

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

Sundays, 8:30am-1pm

Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/\$2/hour

NM/\$5.50 per hour

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

LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us 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

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KIDS AGES 5-14



8th Annual Levine JCC
Kids Triathlon
Benefiting Pediatric
Rehabilitative Services at:
Atrium Health
Levine Children's

June 2
2pm

Early Childhood

3.5-5 year olds

6 Weeks of cool summer afternoon classes for active, curious preschoolers! Classes take place in the Camp Katan Building.

"Groove Shooz"

Kids will dance, make music, move, and groove with Ms. Lo.

Tuesdays, 1:15-2pm

June 18-July 23

6-week session:

M/\$90 B/\$60 NM/\$108

Creative Art

Have fun while creating masterpieces. Kids will explore their creative side with arts and crafts in different mediums.

Wednesdays, 1:15-2pm

June 19-July 24

6-week session:

M/\$90 B/\$60 NM/\$108

Cooking Club

Our little chefs will learn about cooking by watching, feeling, smelling and tasting. Each class is themed and packed with learning, creating, tasting and fun! Kids will be making recipes that are fun to make and yummy to eat.

Thursdays, 1:15-2pm

June 20-July 25 (No Class 7/4)

5-week session:

M/\$75 B/\$50 NM/\$90

Register at charlottejcc.org or call 704-366-5007
704-944-6891 or patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org

K-6th

Fencing

7 years - Adult

Students will learn the skill of attacking and defending with either the foil, epee or sabre. After developing a general understanding of these movements, students will learn a series of fencing drills and open fencing with other students. The final stage is tactics and strategy for competitive situations. All equipment will be provided and included in the class fee. Equipment is also available for purchase. Instructor: Daniel Makogon A2018 Rating

June 4- June 26

July 2-July 31

August 6- August 28

Choose one OR two days per week

A) Tuesday, 6:30pm-7:30pm (All levels)

B) Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:30pm (All levels)

Camp Mindy Rec Hall

Price per month: 1 class per week

M/\$80 B/\$48 NM/\$100

Price per month: 2 classes per week

M/\$140 B/\$84 NM/\$155

Summer Taekwondo

K - 6th grade

Teaches blocks, hand strikes, kicking, forms, self-defense, sparring combos, footwork and board breaking. Students will also practice discipline, focus, goal-setting, respect, positive attitude, honesty, teamwork and perseverance. Uniform and Belt testing fees are separate. Master Alyssa Watson.

Tuesdays, 4:15-5:00pm

June 18 - July 30

Upstairs Aerobics Studio

M/\$115 B/\$70 NM/\$140

704-944-6743 or stephanie.gamer@charlottejcc.org

Teens

Summer Employment Opportunities

• Lifeguards

Competitive pay, flexible schedule, paid lunch, great working environment. The LJCC offers American Red Cross® Lifeguard Training Courses and job placement after completion.

704-944-6746 or joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org

• Summer Camp Counselors

Fun filled environment and membership privileges Preschool through Teen Camp counselor positions available.

Half Day • 8:30am-1:30pm or

Full Day • 8:30am-4:30pm

704-944-6738 or mark.didonato@charlottejcc.org

Adults

Oasis Book Club

May's Book: *The Nest*, by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

Friday, May 24, 1-2pm

FSP Boardroom

Free

Art with Parkinson's

Spend time with others who have Parkinson's disease, and immerse yourself in art to help you relax. We will use a variety of mediums of art, and you should experience emotional, physical, and social benefits. The act of creating art can reduce tremors, freezing, isolation, depression, and anxiety. Instructor: Eileen Schwartz, BFA, MAE, CDP
Fridays in May (May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)
2:30-3:45pm

Weinberg Senior Center

Monthly Fee: M/\$65 B/\$55 NM/\$80

Register with payment online or with LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@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, May 14

What are the Gifts You Bring to This World?

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



OASIS
SENIOR ENRICHMENT
Read our monthly newsletter
at charlottejcc.org

A Jew, A Muslim, A Seventh Day Adventist, and An Atheist Walk into Shabbat Dinner

"My time at Queens has been very special to me. Thanks to being active in Hillel, I feel more connected to the Jewish Community of Charlotte and the larger Global Jewish Community. I hope to take what I have learned in my time at Queens and in Hillel to continue being active in Jewish Life and the Jewish Community." — Noah Goldman, Queens Class of 2019

On March 22, Hillel at Queens hosted an Interfaith Shabbat. Over 30 students, faculty, and staff attended. The students organized every aspect of the event from the food to the program. The evening included student speakers from the Muslim faith, the Seventh Day Adventist community, and the atheist community. Hillel President Noah Goldman welcomed the group with words of Torah that included the following reflection:

"During Presbyterian and Pluralist Week, we had wonderful events: a great lecture from Imam Atif (who we are so thankful and proud to have here and one of the many reasons I don't want to graduate), an off-campus trip to the Hindu Center, and an amazing concert by Abraham Jam. Now, after a crazy week, we prepare to rest.

"In Judaism, there are three required 'loves': to love your God,

to love your neighbor, to love the stranger. Hopefully you love your parents too, but just know you're not required to. I would argue that pluralism enters through these requirements. We love our neighbor of another faith. We love the stranger of another faith.

"But loving your neighbor and the stranger can be difficult. Different cultures, different religions, different values, different ideas, and so many other differences often get in our way. If there is one thing I have learned these past few years is that we're not that good at having the important and difficult conversations. It also seems that forgiveness is increasingly harder to come by.

"There are some things we find in Judaism that can help encourage better discourse.

"There is a concept in Judaism called 'Kavod HaBriyot' which calls for respecting the humanity of our fellow human beings. Even in the intense rabbinical debates of ancient days, the rabbis challenged ideas, not people.

"These debates put every idea to the test and yet, in defending



complex ideas, personal attacks were not permitted. Even ideas that were widely unaccepted, were recorded for history to be the eternal judge of their value.

"We should remember, like the rabbis, that there is more to someone than their worldview. They have favorite hobbies, foods, goals, dreams, and so much more. We need to humanize those who challenge us because ultimately, they make us better human beings. Their ideas make us think better, see the world more critically, and demand growth.

"Even when I strongly disagree with others, I remind myself that there is more to my friends than their opinions. There is more to them than their religion. I know that our friendship doesn't have

to be consumed by difficult dialogue. There's more to us than controversy.

"That is where the beauty of Shabbat enters. We welcome a time to rest, try to ground ourselves and silence the outside noise. What better way to find humanity in each other than in falafel and hummus? I try to take Shabbat as a time to quiet the politics, the debates, the tweets, and focus on this radical concept called

rest. Rest and dialogue, two things we could do better at.

"Believe me, it is worth taking a day to rest. Try it. Stay off social media. Stay away from the news. Eat food with friends. Just for 25 hours. The universal theme of Shabbat, whether you are in the US, Argentina, Israel, or anywhere else is to spend time with family and friends, your neighbor, and the stranger in your land.

"So, for the rest of the day and tomorrow, relax with your neighbor and the stranger. Welcome them into your home. Dis-

cuss each other's lives together, what makes you happy, and what brings you joy. Save the work — being difficult dialogue — for the weekdays. Interfaith is more than just dialogue. For me, the biggest and best part of interfaith is enjoying food together and reaffirming each other's humanity.

"Let there be peace in our communities and between our communities."

For more information on Queens University of Charlotte, please contact Talli Dippold, dippoldt@queens.edu or visit www.queens.edu or StanGreensponCenter.org.

(Noah Goldman will be graduating from Queens University of Charlotte in May. He was actively engaged and on the Hillel Board during his entire tenure at Queens. He was as Hillel President over the past two years. Noah is the recipient of the Gossett Jewish Leadership Scholarship and Rabbi Judy Schindler and Talli Dippold ((his Hillel "moms")) have no doubt that he will go on to do incredible things.)



L-R Jamie Liner, Ilana Toch, and Jake Wohl



L-R Allison Winston, Jenna Haris, Dustin Peiare, Evan Brown, Rebecca Gale



L-R Sara Gottschalk, Leah Jalfon, Jonatan Perez, Maeve Ginsburg, and Vincent Ginski

Cirque Du Purim 2019

Over 75 young Jewish professionals joined together to celebrate Purim with Chabad Young Professionals. The event was sponsored in part by Sazerac Company Inc.

Stay tuned for more events at theuptownchabad.com



L-R Sarah Mann, Zack Lansat, and Becca Wolchok



L-R Marianna Stuhlman and Abby Fellman



Hadassah Directory

(Continued from page 5)

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.

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www.hadassah.org/charlotte

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Commemorate and Celebrate

Tuesday, May 7

YOM HAZIKARON

Israel Memorial Day

6:30 PM, Memorial Ceremony

**Sam Lerner Center
for Cultural Arts**



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Sunday, May 19

YOM HA'ATZMAUT FESTIVAL

Israel Independence Day

Shalom Park

12:00 - 3:00 PM

Israeli food, music, children's
activities, crafts and more.....



For more information visit www.jewishcharlotte.org or call 704.944.6757

Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Reduce Your Environmental Footprint

The planet is warming, and our climate is changing. Since 1906, the global average surface temperature has increased by more than 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius) – even more in sensitive polar regions. The effects of global warming are appearing right now; the heat is melting glaciers and sea ice, raising sea levels, shifting precipitation patterns, and setting animals on the move.

In Jewish law, it is forbidden to waste a resource if one can find a way of accomplishing the task without any waste. All the more so, it is forbidden to waste a resource for no reason whatsoever. We all have the power to make a difference and to address climate change, by doing just a few small things differently in our daily lives. Just in time for summer, we'd like to share some quick tips about how you can reduce your personal environmental footprint by reducing your impacts related to travel.

Reduce Your Environmental Footprint While Traveling

Travel is an amazing way to learn about other people and other cultures; however, travel also can have significant environmental effects. Use these tips to minimize the impact of your travel, while still having a great time on your trip.

Before You Leave Home

* Unplug all of your electron-

ics. Items that are still plugged in draw power from outlets even when they are not turned on.

* Make sure your thermostat is set to low. Since no one will be home, there is no need for air conditioning or heating.

During Your Trip

* Bring a reusable water bottle and a reusable coffee mug. If you are flying, you can fill them up once you've gone through airport security. This will eliminate the need to buy disposable water bottles and coffee cups while traveling.

* Use public transportation. It is a great way to learn about a city and its culture.

* Rent a hybrid or electric vehicle. Try out a low-carbon vehicle while you're on vacation.

* Try a Bike Share Program. All around the globe, cities have implemented bike share systems. This is a great way to get around in a new place while getting some exercise.

* Purchase carbon offsets. The purchase of carbon offsets from a company such as Terrapass (www.terrapass.com) will go towards projects benefiting the environment, like landfill gas capture and wind power. You can also calculate your personal travel carbon footprint at Sustainable Travel International (www.sustainabletravel.org).

* Eat locally sourced food. Just like using public transpor-



tation, this is also a great way to more deeply engage in the local culture.

* Bring a reusable shopping bag so that you don't need to use single-use plastic or paper bags.

* Locate recycling bins so you can recycle materials such as newspapers, bottles, and cans.

* Select a green hotel. As you choose a hotel, consider those that have environmental programs. TripAdvisor has a Green Leaders program that ranks leading hotels for their green practices (www.tripadvisor.com/GreenLeaders). Just look for the TripAdvisor GreenLeaders badge on the hotel's listing page and click to see the property's green practices.

* Book an eco-trip. There are a variety of vacations and conservation service trips available.

Hopefully we have shared some tips here that you can use every day to reduce your personal environmental footprint. Please

(Continued on page 26)

Oasis Senior Passover Seder

On Wednesday, April 17, nearly 130 seniors attended the annual Oasis Senior Passover Seder in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park. Seniors from all around the Charlotte community came to enjoy this traditional service and luncheon with their friends. The Seder is sponsored by Stanley P. Greenspon, Jewish community member. Stan has been a generous sponsor of this event since 2012.

The two-hour program was an inspiring event. Rabbi Klass from Temple Beth El, Cantor Lissek from Temple Israel, and Song Leader Patty Torcellini led the service in a warm and welcoming way, while volunteers and staff worked together to make certain all of the needs of the seniors in attendance were met. The Oasis Seder is a wonderful way to spend time with friends and to remember the events which led us to this celebratory holiday and traditions.☆



Cathy and Iris enjoy the Seder



Pearl and Felix had a good time at the Oasis annual Seder.



What families say about JPS

"JPS is a magical place. Its haimesh, loving, small, and nurturing environment is exactly what our family imagined for our preschool aged children. It provides an outstanding education, learning environment, and lays an amazing Jewish foundation for our kids and family.

As our oldest child is finishing his last year, he is BEYOND prepared to enter elementary school. JPS has become an extension of our family, every staff member knows exactly what our children need, and we could not ask for anything more."

Sara & Jon Kulbersh



Sara and Jon Kulbersh with their sons Julian, Dylan, and Taylor

Join our family

Give us a call (704) 364-8395 or visit jpskids.org



Rabbi Smookler and The Ruach Already Preparing for 5780 High Holy Day Experiences

It is only May, but Rabbi Rachel Smookler and The Ruach are hard at work putting together this year's Rosh Hashanah Experience which will happen at The Fillmore at the NC Music Factory in Charlotte on Monday morning, September 30. "We are incredibly excited to be at The Fillmore for Rosh Hashanah. The venue has between 700 and 750 chairs so there should be no problem with anyone getting a seat," says Dan Ruda, bassist and backup vocalist for The Ruach. "The sound system is incredible so everyone will be able to hear, and ... there is plenty of parking."

And, for the first time, there will be The Kol Nidre Experience. It will be held Tuesday evening, October 8 at the Queens University Sports Complex and Conference Center on Tyvola Road. Both High Holy Day Experiences are free and open to everyone. They are supported solely by donations and, Rabbi Smookler and The Ruach band members all give of their time and talents and receive no compensation.

The High Holy Day Experiences are an alternative to traditional services and provide a unique, modern approach to observance of the Jewish New Year. Last year, the band was joined by Dawn Anthony, one of the area's finest jazz and gospel singers,

and her two daughters. So, what should folks expect this year? "Expect the unexpected," says Rabbi Smookler.

The Experiences combine modern Jewish music with familiar elements from traditional Reform and Conservative High Holy Day services to provide an uplifting, engaging, and truly meaningful spiritual experience. "The Rosh Hashanah Experience was a breath of fresh air that brought a new dimension to celebrating the High Holy Days," said Milton Silver who attended last year's Rosh Hashanah Experience with his wife, Karen.

Last year The Rosh Hashanah Experience brought together about 450 people of all ages to celebrate the Jewish New Year. "Even though there were a lot of people there, the Experience felt warm and friendly. Our family felt like participants, not just observers – the energy was palpable," remarked Mary Damstetter. "My husband and I loved it. And I was amazed how into it my eight-year-old daughter was. The Experience engaged our spirits, minds, and bodies. It is so wonderful to have this alternative opportunity to observe our High Holy Days."

Alyson Traw agrees. "Watching my children connect with our Jewish culture and faith through song and dance is magical. We

are so blessed to have Rabbi Smookler and The Ruach provide a soulful, approachable way to experience Judaism. We look forward to starting the New Year by opening our hearts, minds, and souls to renewal through Jewish music. The music of The Ruach touches my soul, and opens my eyes to a whole new way of experiencing Judaism."

Linda Green, lives in Durham, grew up Jewish and was involved with synagogue most of her adult life until a few years ago. Once her children were adults and living on their own, she stopped going to temple. When she heard about the Rosh Hashanah Experience, she decided to drive to Charlotte seeking to reconnect with her roots. "For the first time in more years than I can recall, I had the true heartfelt experience of connecting and celebrating Rosh Hashanah," she said after being at last year's Rosh Hashanah Experience. "It was life changing. I was moved by the music, the service, the sermon, the people ... every aspect of The Experience."

"When I walked through the doors of the Infinity Ballroom last year, I was awed by the level of engagement and excitement that permeated the room," says Jason Boschan. "I'm looking forward

(Continued on page 26)

First Jewish Justice Installed in NC Supreme Court

Justice Mark Davis has been formally invested as associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina during a swearing-in ceremony in the Supreme Court courtroom on Wednesday, April 3.

Dignitaries attending the ceremony included Governor Roy Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein, former chief and associate justices, and representatives from all three branches of state government.

Justice Davis grew up in Jacksonville, NC, with his two siblings. "It was such a small Jewish community that we had a circuit-riding rabbi who visited only occasionally," he reminisced. "After that our family moved to Fayetteville where we did have a full time rabbi."

Justice Davis was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 2012 and was elected to a full eight-year term in 2014. He served as a Special Deputy Attorney General in the North Carolina Department of Justice for five years. He spent thirteen years as an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, where he was a member of the firm in the Litigation Section. He also served as General Counsel in the Office of the Governor for approximately two years.

Justice Davis received his law



Justice Mark Davis

degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2018, he received a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Judicial Studies from the Duke University School of Law.

His Jewish education guided him on the strict requirements of impartiality. "I learned broad principles of judging from the Talmud and the Torah. My faith has a nice dovetailing effect."

One of his siblings is Bob Davis, who is a member of Temple Beth El in Charlotte. "This is such a proud time for our family. Seeing my brother sworn in as the first Jewish justice on the NC Supreme Court couldn't make me happier. We all feel very fortunate to have seen this momentous event," he concluded. ☆

J

ALL AGES

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ANCHOR YOUR SPOT!

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SUMMER CAMPS

2019










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Traditional Summer Camps
Performance Camps
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Half & Full Day • AM/PM Care

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Weekly Tennis Camps

Register for all camps online:

charlottejcc.org/camp

CAMP MINDY
Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp

Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

Levine

JCC

Charlotte

Moishe House News

MoHo NoDa is keeping the fun rolling with another slew of events for the Charlotte young Jewish professional community. We took in

a movie with friends at the house, and we also went to a yoga class with members of our community. We hosted a pizza, wine, and social learning event at the

house, and Rabbi Motti Groner of Chabad Young Professionals of Charlotte was kind enough to bring kosher pizzas and lead a short learning session on some pre-Passover topics. We supported Moishe House Charlotte as they hosted their last event

and helped them “pass the torch” to the MoHo NoDa house in a meaningful havdallah. We are looking forward to volunteering at the Little Sugar Creek community garden and hosting our own “Sustainability Shabbat” dinner which we hope will provide an

opportunity for our community to reflect on the food we eat and the energy we use. Take a look at some of the photos of our recent events. ☆



Footprint

(Continued from page 24)

share any ideas you may have to reduce environmental impacts, or ideas for future articles, with Shalom Green by emailing us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. If you are interested in learning more about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenclt.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT. ☆

Thank You LEGACY DONORS



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*Donors who wish to remain anonymous
OBM - Of Blessed Memory

The Ruach Gets Ready for the Rosh HaShanah Experience 2019

(Continued from page 25)

to being at both High Holy Day Experiences this year with my fiancé. I can only imagine how fantastic the service will be at the Fillmore.” This year, don’t just celebrate the High Holy Days ... experience them. The Ruach is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through music. To get updates about The High Holiday Experiences and become part of The Ruach Community, email The Ruach and get on the band’s information and invitation list: the.ruach.band@gmail.com. Also, you can follow The Ruach on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. ☆

“When the heart is glad, the feet are ready to dance.”
– Folk Saying



To learn how you can create your own Jewish legacy, contact Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544 or Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554.
704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org

JScreen Can Test for Jewish Genetic Disorders

By Hillary Kener Regelman

Rabbi Asher Knight of Charlotte's Temple Beth El states that "we need to increase awareness about Jewish genetic disorders" - and he could not be more spot-on. Most Jews of childbearing age have not considered genetic screening, but it's not because they opted out, but rather because they have no idea that it's available to them. For those of you who were getting married in the 1970s and 1980s, you are probably familiar with Tay-Sachs disease because of a Jewish community initiative across the country promoting screening for this devastating disease. Fast forward to 2019, a revamped version of this program is changing the way millennials can access genetic carrier screening.

The modern day public health initiative bringing this matter to the forefront is JScreen, a national non-profit genetic screening initiative that uses the innovative technology of DNA sequencing and lets people complete testing from the comfort of their homes. JScreen tests for over 200 different genetic diseases, including those that are common amongst people of Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi Jewish ancestry and others that are common in the general population. Science has come a long way since just screening for Tay-Sachs disease, making testing appropriate for all couples, including interfaith.



This testing informs you about whether you are a healthy carrier of a genetic disease, meaning that you aren't affected by the disease and do not have symptoms, but have the capacity to have a child with the disease if your partner is also a carrier. It's quite common to be a carrier, in fact, 2 in 3 Jews tests positive as a carrier for at least one of the diseases on the JScreen panel. Rabbi Knight goes on to say, "that means that many healthy individuals are unaware of the risks of passing disorders to their children. While discussing this may feel scary, the truth is that screening empowers people to be proactive in family planning and can prevent potentially heart-wrenching decisions and painful experiences."

Whether you are single, dating, or married, genetic screening is important for every member of our community who plans to have children in the future. Rebecca Weiner is engaged to be married and says, "It's imperative that the Charlotte Jewish community have access to JScreen and the services they provide. The more you know and can prepare for with your partner, the better fu-

ture you will be able to provide for your future children."

It's estimated that 80% of children with a serious genetic disease are born to parents with no known family history for the disease, making JScreen important for anyone planning to start or grow their family. It's important to point out that the majority of couples receive reassuring results from JScreen's certified genetic counselors. For those that are at increased risk, there are many available options, such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF) with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), to help them plan ahead for healthy children. Weiner adds, "getting tested with JScreen gives you the information you need to make informed decisions."

JScreen is an essential resource for the Charlotte Jewish community and is dedicated to informing and empowering those that are considering starting a family. Do your part and spread the word to your family and friends - you'll be giving them the best gift of all.

To learn more about JScreen or to request a screening kit visit www.JScreen.org. ☆



SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Save the Date Women of Wisdom (W.O.W.) Presents:

An Evening with Adrienne Gold, international media personality and lecturer

Sunday, October 27

Queens University of Charlotte

"Up the Down Escalator: Maximizing Greatness"

For ticket information: CharlotteTorahCenter.com



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



TORAH TOTS



SHABBAT SERVICE & ONEG

Friday, May 10 (5:45 p.m.)

Come welcome in Shabbat with Rabbi Kornsgold and Miss Nancy with songs, prayers and movement!

SAVE THE DATES: SPLASH INTO SHABBAT

Friday, June 21

Friday, August 16

During the summer months, all pre-school families are welcome to SPLASH INTO SHABBAT with Torah Tots, at the LJCC Pool/Splash Park! There will be open play, songs, and a Shabbat service, capped off with a delicious kid-friendly meal. Registration information coming soon...



YOUTH

END OF YEAR YOUTH PARTY MACCABI GAMES (3rd-12th Grades)

Sunday, May 19 (12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.)

Join all of Temple Israel's Youth Groups for Maccabi Games! Compete in various physical challenges, Jewish trivia, and games. Pizza lunch will be served. Free to all TI-Y Members! RSVP at templeisraelinc.org by Monday, May 13.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



LAG B'OMER BBQ

Saturday, May 18 (7:30 p.m.)

Location: address given with RSVP

Join us for a Saturday evening BBQ to celebrate Lag B'Omer! More details to come.

SOCIAL CLUB



MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT

WITH JOHN LEON LEWIS

Sunday, May 26 (3 p.m.)

Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall

John Leon Lewis will return for an encore musical performance of PATRIOTIC MUSIC, in honor of Memorial Day. We will enjoy wine and fancy

desserts, and sing and dance along with the music. Cost: \$14/members and \$18 non-members.

EVENTS

TEMPLE ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 19 (10:45 a.m.)

All are welcome to celebrate a year in the life of our Temple and our community's accomplishments over the past year.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE & ONEG

Wednesday, May 22 (7:30 p.m.)

Join us as we celebrate our Confirmation class with a beautiful service and dessert reception. All are welcome to attend and celebrate.



THE ROSE ROOM - WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP

GIFT SHOP HOURS

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

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

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

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

Stop by and see our expanded product selection (including Passover items) and let us help you find that perfect gift for simchas, holidays & more!

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

Temple Israel Honors Rabbi Murray Ezring

Please join us as we honor Rabbi Murray Ezring's 25 years of service to our community. Rabbi Ezring has dedicated countless hours to our synagogue over the years and ensured that Temple Israel has been here to serve the congregation and the greater Charlotte Jewish community. We look forward to bestowing upon him the title of Rabbi Emeritus.

As part of the weekend's celebration, Temple Israel is delighted to bring to Charlotte Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*.

The scholar-in-residence weekend is graciously supported by the Wendy & Frank Rosen Endowment Fund and the Gorelick Family Foundation.

Friday, May 31, 2019

6:15 P.M. - Shabbat Services

7:15 - 8 P.M. - Dessert Oneg (No Cost - Reservation Requested)

Saturday, June 1, 2019

9:30 A.M. - Shabbat Services Honoring Rabbi Ezring

Noon - Kiddush Luncheon (No Cost - Reservation Requested)

1:15-2:15 P.M. - Relational Judaism: A Workshop with

Dr. Ron Wolfson on Crafting Community

7 P.M. - Celebration Dinner (Doors open at 6:30 P.M.)

Cost: \$90 - By Reservation Only

Seated Dinner

Dress: elegantly casual

אין כמו בבית

Ayn k'mo babayit - there's no place like home.

The Hebrew word for home, bayit, transcends the brick and mortar structure, as it also describes a state of mind. Temple Israel is not only a gathering place, but it is a place to engage with Judaism and to transform your life through Torah, worship and acts of loving kindness.

Our egalitarian kehillah kedosha was founded in 1895 by visionaries and is continued today by visionary lay leaders, clergy, and professional staff who want to help you find a sacred and safe place to connect to each other and to Judaism. Won't you join us on this journey? **Temple Israel....our house, your home.**



WE HAVE SURVIVED. WE ARE STILL HERE

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

May 5, 4 pm at Temple Israel



Meetings and Memory

By Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

I had not noticed before this year, but, goodness, May is filled with Ms! Here are just a few:

* Memory –Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Temple Israel on May 5 at 4 PM

* Meeting – Temple Beth El's Annual Congregational Meeting on May 6 at 7 PM

* Mother's Day is May 12

* Mitzvah – TBE's Mitzvah Day is May 19 and begins at 8:30 AM

* Memorial Day – Both the Israeli one on May 8 and the American one on May 27.

All of these Ms are days, events, and observances that are just off the top of my head. That is a lot and there are certainly more: meetings, b'nei Mitzvah, we might even take some new Jews to the mikvah during May. M after M after M, moment after moment, each an opportunity for making memories and meaning together.

One of the greatest gifts of Judaism is the ability to structure and sanctify time. Judaism teaches us to organize time, lest the minutes and hours of our lives stretch on without form and void. Each day is bound by sunrise and sundown, our tradition provides us with prayer to acknowledge the power of the sun rising and setting, the stars and moon twinkling according to plan. The story of creation and our inheritance of Shabbat organizes our days into weeks. The cycle of the holidays



organize our weeks into years. Concepts like the Jubilee year, rites of passage, and the lifecycle – the milestone moments of our lives - organize our years. Our holidays and rituals are like buoys anchoring our existing to the Eternal, even as time itself seems fleeting.

Time without structure seems limitless. As children, teens, and young adults, time seems to stretch out indefinitely. As we grow and experience more and more of life, we learn how time passes, how it is ephemeral, and how moments slip away as quickly as they occur.

Time is our single greatest non-renewable resource.

On the one hand, how we choose to spend the precious gift of time is entirely up to us. On the other hand, we are bound by responsibility and societal norms that demand that we spend our time in certain ways. Some have children and parents who need care. Some have demanding jobs that afford the opportunity to care for those loved ones. Some have long commutes by necessity in order to reach the jobs they need to survive. Some have school, some have sickness, and some

have sadness that limit our ability to fully manipulate our time. There are things that we can change and things that we simply cannot. At once, there are limitless options and then there are the limits that we choose or accept for ourselves.

Now, back to my list of Ms. Each of these moments are opportunities to choose to bring more meaning, more connection, and more community into our lives. Some are opportunities that we can share with children and partners, others are opportunities to bring ourselves to help our community to thrive, others still might be an opportunity to show love, gratitude, and respect to others who help to create the rich fabric of our society. In deciding where and when to show up, knowing that we cannot be everywhere everywhen, we must ask ourselves: Where will I have the greatest impact on my community? Where will I be most greatly impacted? Where can I give of myself? Where can I grow?

As we move through the many Ms of May and all the months that follow, may we each be intentional with the precious gift of our time. May we be open to allowing new experiences into our lives while having the courage to reclaim time when necessary. May we show up with open hearts and minds, ready to make a difference for ourselves, for those we love, and for our community. ♡

Lag Ba'Omer at Hall Family Farm

Join us for a bonfire and BBQ at Hall Family Farm in honor of Lag Ba'Omer. Enjoy a delicious BBQ Dinner, crafts and activities for the kids, strawberry picking and the Farm's famous Hayride. If you haven't already heard, Hall Family Farm is moving after this season, so get in your last licks of strawberry picking at this location.

Lag Ba'Omer is the anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. Why are we celebrating on what should be a sad day? Because that was his wish. Mark this date as a day of joy. We celebrate with outdoor outings, bonfires and sometimes parades.

Lag Ba'Omer also commemorates another joyous event. The Talmud relates that in the weeks between the Jewish holidays of Passover and Shavuot, a plague raged among the disciples of the great sage Rabbi Akiva (teacher

of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai), "because they did not act respectfully towards each other." These weeks are therefore observed as a period of mourning, with various joyous activities proscribed by law and custom. On Lag Ba'Omer the deaths ceased. Thus, Lag Ba'Omer also carries the theme of loving and respecting one's fellow (*ahavat Yisrael*).

**Thursday, May 23
5:30 PM**

At Hall Family Farm
10713 Providence Rd. W
\$18 per person/Max \$54
per family

Free for children 3 and under

RSVP:

Leah@JewishBallantyne.com
or visit our website
www.JewishBallantyne.com.



NO JOINING FEE

Through May 31

Outdoor Pools & Splash Park Open May 25!

charlottejcc.org



Rabbi Bonnheim Brings Spiritual and Educational Growth to TKA

Rabbi Ana Bonnheim moved to Charlotte, NC in 2016 when her husband, Rabbi Asher Knight, was appointed senior rabbi at Temple Beth El. Little did we know that Temple Beth El's decision would have such a huge impact on Temple Kol Ami. In search of a semi-regular rabbi, Rabbi Bonnheim immediately fit our needs. After spending a Shabbaton weekend with her in December 2016, TKA knew we had found our rabbi to lead us both spiritually and educationally. Starting in January 2017, Rabbi Bonnheim has led us in Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services as well as some Saturday morning Torah services. Her D'var Torah discussions are creative, insightful, and engaging. The small, intimate setting of TKA's services makes for easy interaction and lively discussion facilitated by Rabbi Bonnheim.

At Temple Kol Ami, religious school education is one of our top priorities. Our all-volunteer staff of teachers and administrators works hard to educate our youth. Rabbi Bonnheim has been a tremendous asset to this initiative. The TKA Board and Reli-



Rabbi Ana Bonnheim

gious School teachers made the decision last year to bring Rabbi Bonnheim on a more frequent basis to Sunday school so that our students would have more interaction with her and benefit from her wisdom. Rabbi Bonnheim was previously associate director of the URJ Greene Family Camp in Dallas, TX, where her

focus was on Jewish youth education. With this background, she has been a wonderful addition to our Hebrew School program. Her knowledge and experience in this area has been invaluable to the Religious School on Sundays as well as in guiding some of our b'nei mitzvah to their big day. Temple Kol Ami is so thankful that fate brought her to the Carolinas and into our congregant's lives. Rabbi Bonnheim is also available to perform Jewish life cycle events such as weddings and baby namings for those outside of TKA. You may contact her at yorks synagogue@gmail.com.

The Strawberry Festival in Fort Mill, SC will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and Temple Kol Ami is so excited to be a part of it for the first time. Please stop by on May 4 to visit us at our booth at Walter Elisha Park in Fort Mill. The Strawberry Festival is a wonderful event for kids and adults featuring live music, games, rides, and of course, strawberries.

Looking forward into June, TKA's annual picnic will be on June 2 at McDowell Nature Pre-

serve on Lake Wylie in Charlotte. This is always a good time with lots of great food, a face painter/balloon artist, and usually a water gun fight for those who dare. All of our events are open to the public, so this would be a great time to come by and find out who we are, make new friends, and check out Temple Kol Ami. Please check our website for more information at www.templekolamisc.org. We look forward to meeting you.★



Havurat Tikvah Welcomes Shabbat with Prayer

Havurat Tikvah joins the greater Charlotte Jewish community on May 5, 4 PM, at Temple Israel, 4901 Providence Rd., in the Morris and Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary for a Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration Service and Program to honor those who perished in the Holocaust.

Then on May 18, 10 AM, the congregation will hold a Community Shabbat Service at Avondale Presbyterian Church, Vanguard Classroom, 2821 Park Rd. A kiddush, along with challah and blessings, will follow services, as well as a short social gathering. The community is welcome to attend. A quick email to admin@havurattikvah.org with the number attending will allow for proper preparation for guests. There is no childcare available.

Monthly minyan services continue in the upcoming months. Information on times and locations are on the congregational website's calendar, as well as other upcoming service dates and events.

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with Shabbat services and a full spectrum of holiday observances, as well as religious educational options for both adults and children. We are a diverse group of families, singles, and Jewish and



interfaith couples who participate in projects that promote social justice.

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

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism.

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



JLI Charlotte Participants to Explore the History and Philosophy of Jewish Spiritual Worship

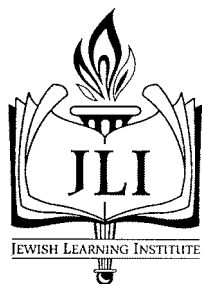
This May, Rabbi Yossi Groner and Rabbi Shlomo Cohen of Chabad of Charlotte will offer With All My Heart, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that will examine the Jewish art of prayer and spiritual experience.

Beginning, Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30, for the evening class and Wednesday, May 15, at 11 for the morning class, participants in the course will study the history and philosophy of Jewish worship, seeking to discover the deep, elegant structure embedded within the Jewish prayer book and within Judaism's ancient synagogue traditions.

"Responsibilities pull us in so many directions that we seldom get a chance to reflect on our lives, our mission in this world, what's true, and what really matters to us," Rabbi Yossi Groner, the local JLI instructor said. "Even much of religion seems to have become routine and devoid of heartfelt feeling and spirituality. This course is out to debunk that notion and reclaim the 'spirit' within spiritual practice."

According to JLI's website, the course promises to "outline profound Jewish prayer techniques that lend wings to our emotions and words to our yearnings, allowing us to communicate with something much larger than ourselves, and feel comfort and shelter within a reality that's more whole, more intense, more real, and more beautiful."

"We tend to turn to prayer when we're out of options, seeking some kind of magical inter-



vention when we're having trouble dealing with what life throws our way," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham, of JLI's New York headquarters. "Prayer is meant to be so much more than that. It's a way to relieve stress; find focus, clarity, and connection to a raw and vulnerable place deep within us; or even just to start each day from a positive, humble, and grateful frame of mind."

With All My Heart explores questions such as: What is Jewish prayer? How do we achieve intimacy with God? What is the mystical meaning, power, and impact of our prayers? If prayer is a journey, what is its destination? And how do we practice focused mindfulness while engaging in our day-to-day responsibilities?

Rabbi Laibl Wolf, founder and dean of Spiritgrow and author of Practical Kabbalah, commented about the course, "Talking to God, or discovering the deeper self, is not taught or experienced by most Jews in a lifetime. It is, therefore, heroic of JLI to tackle this gap and bridge it with an excellent course that includes experiential elements like meditation."

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 704-366-3984 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Charlotte as part of Chabad of Charlotte Jewish education program.

Fees for the class are \$99 per person, \$180 per couple. This includes illustrated textbooks and access to the JLI website where one can expand their exploration with multi-media presentations. All classes will be held in the new FC/Youth building at Chabad, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries, including Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Panama, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Venezuela. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.★

Lag Ba'Omer Celebration at Chabad

Lag Ba'Omer commemorates the anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. Rabbi Shimon lived in Israel some 2,000 years ago when the Jews were oppressed by the Romans. Rabbi Shimon was a fearless leader who kept the light of Torah burning amongst his flock under the most trying circumstances. He spent more than 12 years hiding in a cave in northern Israel with his son where they studied the mystical and esoteric part of the Torah. Rabbi Shimon is credited with the introduction of Kabbalah as an integral part of Jewish studies.

Rabbi Shimon was very much revered in Israel and when his time to depart this world came, he asked his students to celebrate the day instead of mourning his death. Lag Ba'Omer has since become quite a festival in Israel. To this day there are bonfires, music and parades in his honor. Outdoor activities are planned for

families and children as a tribute to Rabbi Shimon. It is the most joyous day between Passover and the festival of Shavuot.

So come and celebrate Lag Ba'Omer with Chabad. We will be having a delicious Kosher BBQ dinner with all the trimmings on Thursday, May 23 at 6 PM. The event will take place at William R. Davie Park (indoor shelter), at 4635 Pineville Matthews Road in Charlotte. If you reserve by May 9, the cost will be \$18/person or \$50/family. After the 9th, it will be \$23/person or \$60/family. Make your reservations at chabadnc.org or mail a check to: 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270.★



Temple Solel Hosts Inter-faith Community Discussion on Antisemitism

One of our members noticed some Antisemitic trope coming from a local pastor's sermon while switching channels on television. She described how uncomfortable the words made her feel to a group of Jewish friends, and how not knowing what to do about it made it a worse experience. We are encouraged when we "see something say something."

In this particular example the sermon was available online to review in more depth and after further investigation, suggested follow-up. A quote, "Those people in the synagogue behaved the way most people when the majority do when we perceive a threat to our most favored status. They lashed out and tried to make an example out of someone (Jesus). They flexed their muscle. They exercised their power. The reason ... they weren't ready to accept the version of the world that he came to embrace and to save. They wanted a smaller, simpler version where they were still at the center. It is amazing to me how the Word of God stands up after all these years and still speaks into our reality." Our congregant reached out to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

and clergy at Shalom Park to ask for their help. They followed up and we always hope for closer understanding and relationships, especially with our Christian friends. Education and communication is key.

During the same timeframe *The Washington Post* headline read, "Nazi salutes and a swastika made of red cups: Newport Beach students condemned for 'abhorrent Antisemitic activity.'" We might not even know this happened if it weren't for two Jewish students in this high school who spoke up. Good for them. They have more courage than many adults. There was an overwhelming response from the community condemning the activity and efforts began to "... develop comprehensive programming so that students can empathize with people different than themselves." We have so much work to do; patience to exercise – intolerance to hate combined with tolerance to communicate when there is hope for change once a bad actor realizes history and corrects their behavior.

We recently celebrated Purim, remembering our deliverance from Haman's evil plot to destroy the Jewish people. Our role models appropriately represented both genders in Esther and Mordecai, the heroes of the story. Lay Leader, Russ Cobe, read the Megillah to the congregation. We ate hamantaschen cookies and looked at each other's costumes – realizing that knights, cowboys and even the pirate family were all friends. It also included a flower child,

farmer, football fan, Hawaiian princess, beautifully dressed ladies wearing Asian attire, a gem miner, and tailor to the king. If only our differences could be accounted in such a joyful way every day within and outside of our borders whether physical or emotional.

We are very grateful for the 2018 Impact and Innovation Grant awarded to us by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, which has made it possible to grow our efforts around education, community support, and social action. We are partnering with local leaders to strengthen our relationships which included hosting special guest lecturer, Rabbi Ana Bonnheim who led a powerful inter-faith community discussion on Antisemitism.

She began with its very definition – "Antisemitism refers to prejudice and/or discrimination against Jews as individuals and as a group. Antisemitism is based on stereotypes and myths that target Jews as a people, their religious practices and beliefs, and the Jewish State of Israel. Historically, what began as a conflict over religious beliefs evolved into a systematic policy of political, economic, and social isolations; exclusion, degradation and attempted annihilation. It did not begin in the Nazi era, nor did it end with the close of World War II. Its continuance over the millennia speaks to the power of scapegoating a group that is defined as the "other." She went on to teach how Antisemitism took place in Biblical times,



Temple Solel members celebrate Purim

a new anti-Judaism evolved, we see it in the middle ages, the Holocaust, and today. Today using modern technology, did you realize the new form of a yellow Star of David "Jude" – comes in the form of a triple parentheses or triple brackets also known as an (((echo)))? Started by the alt-right blog, this is an Antisemitic symbol used to "mark" Jewish individuals, groups or even our businesses online. Education goes both ways. We have to educate ourselves.

During the discussion a local Christian Bible Study Leader and Veteran described a disturbing experience he witnessed. He was surprised to learn other countries view the term "nationality" on our passports differently than we do. An official in Eastern Europe told his fellow soldier who was African American his nationality was not listed correctly because "he was part of the Black Nation" not "America." It is shocking for us to think of someone making such a comment; and even hearing such an example is offensive. However, it pushes us to think

about our social contracts – "Are we really part of particular groups we think we are? What is an appropriate description we use for ourselves and other people? Do we ignore what is said or do we stand up and take action to lessen racism and hate?"

Rabbi Bonnheim shared, "The Torah's word for faith is *emunah*, which means trust and commitment we show to each other as human beings – especially when we tell each other, 'I believe you.' Judaism teaches us that our judgments and choices deeply matter – our actions shape not only our lives, but the life and future of the world." Following the discussion we felt more equipped to be part of the solution. Many thanks to all who attended such a wonderfully guided difficult topic.

For more information write us at info@templesolel.org or call 803-619-9707. Temple Solel holds regular 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 Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC. ☆



An American Holocaust Survivor Recalls Fighting in Israel's War of Independence

By Josefina Dolsten

Teaneck, NJ (JTA) — Mordechai Schachter didn't know he would soon be a soldier when he traveled from his native Romania to prestate Israel in 1948. He was a 17-year-old with a passion for Zionism, leaving behind a country that was becoming increasingly anti-Semitic a few short years after at least 270,000 Romanian Jews died during the Holocaust.

At the end of 1947, Schachter had boarded one of two boats of 7,500 Jews each that were to take them to the promised land, despite a British ban on Jewish emigration there. Many of the passengers were lone children whose parents sent them on the boats to escape Romania.

Schachter's parents had meant to come, but his father fell ill before the trip, so they stayed behind.

The journey went as planned until the boats hit the Dardanelles, a narrow strait in northwestern Turkey. There they were met by seven British ships. Passengers decided not to fight back since a significant portion of them were children and elderly; their boats were rerouted to Cyprus. Three months later, the British agreed to allow the children, including

Schachter, to go on to Palestine.

Schachter remembers arriving in Ranaana, and eating hamantaschen and oranges on his first week there. In Ranaana, he also met one of his three brothers, who had arrived in prestate Israel four months earlier. Five weeks later he was ordered to join the army, where he was taught how to shoot a gun and given an Italian rifle from World War I and 25 bullets. Others got "whatever they could find," Schachter recalled.

"Everybody had a different type [of weapon] at that time. They had very little ammunition," he told JTA on Monday at his home in this northern New Jersey township about 11 miles from Manhattan.

Schachter remembers the exuberance felt in Israel a few weeks later, on May 14, 1948, when the country declared its independence.

"Everybody was dancing in the streets celebrating," he said.

The next day, a coalition of neighboring Arab states — Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq — invaded the new country. Israel's War of Independence would end the following year with an Israeli victory. Seventy years later, as Israel prepares to mark the

milestone anniversary, Schachter spoke to a reporter about his role in Jewish, and world, history.

Schachter was assigned to be a mortar commander, which meant he did not have to be in the first line of fire. However, he had to deal with incoming mortars fired at him from the enemy side.

"We were in a couple of cases in very dangerous situations, but you don't think about it because you are too young to realize how dangerous it is," he said.

Schachter fought alongside native Israelis, immigrants from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Iran and Yemen, as well as volunteer fighters from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

"It wasn't easy for a commander to give orders," he said. "Sometimes he had to give orders and somebody else had to translate the orders."

One of his units had a large contingent of Yemeni Jews, so Schachter quickly learned how to communicate in Hebrew.

"We got very friendly because we fought together, so you're like brothers," he said.

When the war ended the following year (Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria each signed armis-

tice agreements with Israel in 1949 between February and July, while Iraq did not sign an agreement), Schachter stayed in the army. Over 6,300 soldiers were killed as part of fighting during the war and several months preceding it, a number representing nearly 1% of Jewish settlers in Israel at the time. The Israeli army had over 100,000 Israeli soldiers by the end of the war, including 12 brigades.

After serving in the army for two years, Schachter took a job at a yeast production factory in Tel Aviv. He later studied television and radio repair at a school in Milan set up by World ORT, a

Jewish organization providing education and training around the world. After four years in Italy, he returned to Israel, finding a job at a chemistry lab in Haifa and later a government computer center in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is also where he met Fanny, the woman who would become his wife. At a party, the pair discovered that they both came from the same town in Romania, Botosani, in the northern part of the country.

Three months later, at Passover, Schachter went to visit his family, who by then had moved

to America. They had survived World War II because Russia occupied Botosani right before its Jewish residents were set to be deported to concentration camps and were now living in the Bronx.

A month after Schachter arrived in the United States, his father died, so he decided to stay in New York and found a job working for a computer servicing company. He kept in touch with Fanny for a year via letters before returning to marry her in Israel and bring her with him to the U.S.

The couple would have two children and two grandchildren, relocating to Teaneck and joining Congregation Beth Shalom, a Conservative synagogue. Schachter, who still works part time for the same computer servicing company, says that although he does not consider himself "a hero," he looks back at his time fighting in Israel with pride.

"You are proud of it," he said. "You think you were there when this came up, and [that's] something that doesn't happen to every generation. Being there as a soldier, you feel happy, you feel good about it." ☆

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