

The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 42, No. 2

Shvat-Adar 5780

February 2020

The Jewish Federation Is On The Road to \$5 Million!

Risa Miller and Jake House, Federation Annual Campaign Co-chairs, are excited to announce that our Federation is "On the Road to \$5 Million." The impact Federation continues to make on Jewish life is more critical than ever. It will take everyone's help to reach this goal. Donors like you will be counted on to step up during this important time in our Jewish lives. To meet the growing needs of our community, we are committed to a \$5,000,000 campaign by no later than 2022.

Risa Miller states: "I feel strongly that in order to have a viable Jewish community we must support an organization that helps pull all of the pieces together, allowing Judaism to thrive. What would our community be without a Hebrew cemetery? With-

out Jewish preschools and a Jewish day school? Without a JCC and programs like Oasis? Without programs like Friendship Circle and ZABS Place to assist the special needs community? Without a global commitment to help Jewish people all over the world? Without the necessary security and leadership in place to respond to recent events? Your gift allows the Federation to provide ongoing assistance to all of these vital initiatives, resulting in a vibrant Jewish community."

Jake House adds: "We have been chugging along with low single digit percent increases each year. It's time to be bold. \$5 million is not an arbitrary number. It's what we need to do the work we want to do."

In 2020, we must be united to demon-

strate our strength and ensure that Jewish values and connections are preserved for current and future generations. The Jewish community has no one else to turn to for support besides ourselves. Federation hopes you will consider an increased gift this year. Or perhaps a multi-year gift during our Road to \$5 Million. Someone from our campaign team will be reaching out to you soon. Or you can donate online at www.jewishcharlotte.org or call 704-944-6757.☆



A Winter Wonderland of Learning with Jewish Life at Queens University

February and March Bring Thought Provoking Events to the Greenspon Center

Why are some people more resilient than others? Can resiliency be taught? Can it be learned? Dr. Teresa Stephens has spent decades researching these very questions. Dr. Teresa Stephens is an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at Medical University of South Carolina. She began studying the how and why of personal resilience after observing the high rate of burn-out among her colleagues. After leaving two nursing jobs as a result of high levels of many



Teresa Stephens

different kinds of stress, she decided to look for some answers. "I made myself a promise that if I ever had a chance to make a difference and make it better for other nurses, that's what I would do." By working with Holocaust survivors, Stephens began to understand and document how resilient people think, process stress, and grow from adversity. Please join us on February 5 from 6:30-8 PM in Ketner Auditorium as we welcome Dr. Teresa Stephens. This program would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors, Novant Health and Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte for sponsoring this program.

Our Second Annual Sklut Lecture features Justice Mark Davis. His talk, titled "Parallels Between Torah and our Modern Legal System," will be presented by Queens Jewish Life on Tuesday, February 11 from 6-7 PM in Ketner Auditorium on the Queens University campus.

During the second week of February, Jews across the world read the Torah portion called *Yitro* in which Moses' father-in-law (Yitro) advised Moses to set up a system of upper courts and lower court. Associate Justice Mark A. Davis of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, the first Jewish member of the Court in its 200-year history, will speak about links between the Torah and our modern legal system. Justice Davis will discuss the compatibility between the First Amendment and the Ten Commandments. He will explain how the structure of our modern court system derives



Tanya Gersh



Allison Miller

The Greenspon Center 3rd Anniversary Celebration brings a woman of courage to Charlotte and addresses a timely issue about which so many of us are concerned: Responding to Cyberhate in the Age of Technology.

Join the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice on March 26 to hear the riveting story of Tanya Gersh, a Jewish real estate broker who fought back in the face of a neo-Nazi troll storm. Her story begins when she advised Ms. Spencer, the mother of an infamous Neo-Nazi, about selling her building. The son, Richard Spencer, began an online attack against Tanya and her family that ended in a lawsuit.

After we hear from Tanya, Allison Miller from Bank of America will share her wisdom on how to protect ourselves while enjoying the benefits of online business and social media. Allison Miller is the Senior VP of Engineering and Cybersecurity Technology at Bank of America. She is active in the security community and speaks internationally on cyber strategy, technology design, fraud prevention, security analytics, and risk management.

Join us on March 26 from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Belk Chapel at Queens University, 1900 Selwyn Avenue for this incredible event. Many thanks to our

(Continued on page 9)

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for Peace and Social Justice

~ JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS ~

Spring Philanthropy Night, Celebrating the Power of Women
Tuesday, March 31, 7 PM, Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

The Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy engages Jewish women in the fulfilling work of making the world a better place. We are building and supporting Jewish life for today and for generations to come. Our collective philanthropy enriches our own lives while improving the lives of others. To celebrate the generosity and power of women in our community, Women's Philanthropy invites you to join us for our annual Spring Event on Tuesday, March 31. Jill Halver-

stam and Lisa Strause Levinson are co-chairing this event, featuring Archie Gottesman, Founder of JewBelong, a website making Judaism relevant in the 21st century.

So what is JewBelong? JewBelong is a nonprofit branded online resource that helps people find the joy, meaning, relevance, and connection that Judaism has to offer. JewBelong's Judaism always stands for inclusion and welcomes everyone wherever they are (or aren't) on their Jew-

ish journey. This site offers easy explanations, meaningful rituals, and free booklets for major Jewish holidays and milestones. JewBelong exists for Jewish people, wherever they are on their Jewish journey, people who aren't Jewish but are part of a Jewish community, anyone who has felt like a Jewish outsider, and especially for disengaged Jews who haven't been in touch with any sort of Jewish practice for a while. JewBelong's message for all Jews? You belong!

"It's a dark time in America for the Jewish community. With all the challenges facing Jews, it's imperative to put the joy in being Jewish front and center. This is why JewBelong offers Jewish people and their allies free relevant, easy, beautiful Jewish content to live their best Jewish lives," says Archie Gottesman. "Think of us as the friendly, kinda funny kid from your geometry class who explained in simple language and without judgment only what you needed to know for the test. We provide straightforward explanations, readings, and rituals to help warm your heart. We promise never to Jew-Barrass you (that anxious feel-



Archie Gottesman

ing you get when you think you should know some Jewish word or ritual but you don't), because we've all been there."

We look forward to laughing with you on March 31.

Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased online at www.jewish-charlotte.org.

A minimum gift of \$180 or more the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign is required to attend the event.

For more information contact

Ilana Toch, Development Associate, at ilana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6784.☆



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Shabbat Candle Lighting for
February 2020

Friday, February 7, 5:39 PM
Friday, February 14, 5:46 PM
Friday, February 21, 5:53 PM
Friday, February 28, 5:59 PM



We are seeking applicants for the part time position of Editor of *The Charlotte Jewish News*. For a job description and application information, please go to www.jewishcharlotte.org/job-opening.

The Charlotte Jewish News

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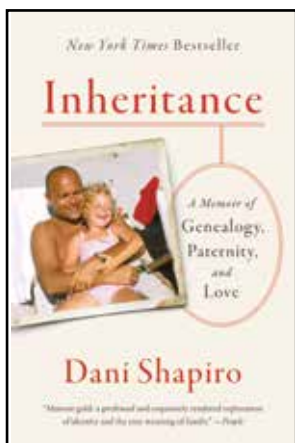
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Sue's Book Shelf By Sue Littauer

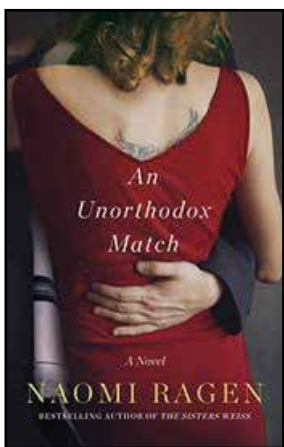
The Center for Jewish Education's Book Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM in Room A111 at Shalom Park. 2020 will mark the 3rd year of the CJE Book Club, and it has attracted a core group of loyal readers. The monthly discussions are lively and insightful.

The 2020 Schedule is as follows:

February 12
Inheritance by Dani Shapiro



March 11
An Unorthodox Match by Naomi Ragen



April 2
Special Event: "On the Same Page, Chapter 2" with Guest Speaker Ron Balson

May 13
Beneath the Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

June 10
This is the Way It Always Is by Laurie Frankel

July 8
Floating Feldmans by Elyssa Friedland

August 12
From Sand and Ash by Amy Harmon

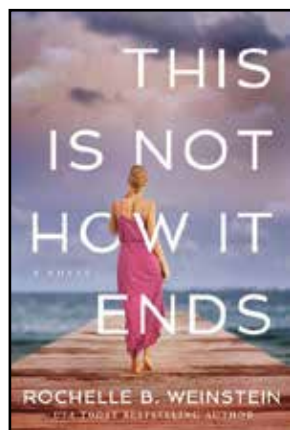
September 9
Maybe You Should Talk to Someone by Lori Gottlieb

October
Special Event: On the Same Page, Chapter One – date and information to follow

November 11
We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter

December 9 - TBD

The Book Club is open to all – for more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.



What's New and Recommended at the Center for Jewish Education's Levine-Sklut Judaic Library:

This Is Not How It Ends by Rochelle B. Weinstein

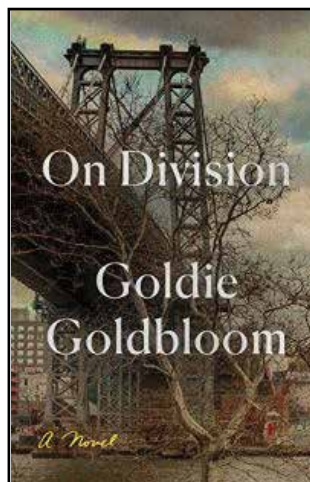
A beautiful and unpredictable story about three lives interwoven into a remarkable story about



love and friendships, guilt and loss, and mistakes and forgiveness. This is a story that pulls at your heartstrings and engages you from the very beginning.

On Division by Goldie Goldbloom

On Division is an excavation of one woman's life and a story of awakening at middle age. Award-winning author Goldie Goldbloom tells a deeply affecting, morally insightful story and offers a rare look inside Brooklyn's Chasidic community.



The Confession Club by Elizabeth Berg

If you loved *The Story of Arthur Truluv* and *Night of Miracles*, you'll want to read *The Confession Club*, the third book in the series. *The Confession Club* is charming, heartwarming, and inspiring. And as in the previous books that take place in Mason, Missouri, readers will find friendship, community, and kindness on full display. ☆



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CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CJE!

FEBRUARY 2020

FRIDAYS: FEBRUARY 7, 14, 21, & 28

PJ Baby Playdate
11:00 AM, Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

PJ Library Balloonacy
11:00 AM, Gorelick Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

CJE Book Club
10:30 AM, Room A111

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Israel in Fiction Series
Author of *Rachel's Tomb*, Joshua Bernstein
10:00 AM, Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

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



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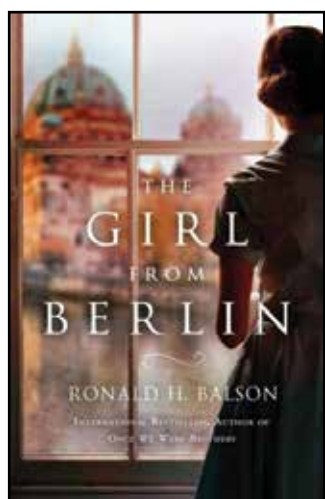
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LAKE NORMAN

On the Same Page: Chapter II - Ronald Balson Comes to Charlotte

Communities of all shapes and sizes have adopted the concept of building community through the reading and discussing the same book. The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) is the proud sponsor of On the Same Page, Charlotte's very own Jewish community-read. We are honored to announce that the book selection for this spring's community-read is *The Girl from Berlin* written by Ronald Balson.

Ronald Balson's first novel *Once We Were Brothers* was a surprise blockbuster. With a 40-year career as a trial lawyer in Chicago, Balson originally self-published his first book, but as its popularity skyrocketed, a major publisher picked up the rights. Today, Ron Balson has published five popular books and the latest novel *The Girl from Berlin* recently won the best Book Club novel as awarded by the Jewish Book Council.

A small committee of dedicated Charlotte readers reviews many Jewish books before they hand-pick a book for On the Same



Page. Here is what they loved about the *The Girl from Berlin*:

* Ronald Balson's book is well-written, compelling and compulsively readable.

* Balson's historical fiction presents an opportunity to learn about the Jewish past. In this case, readers will learn about a Jewish violin prodigy in 1930s Berlin as well as a vineyard in Tuscany. Balson masterfully weaves re-

search and historical details with mystery, making every history lesson captivating.

* The characters Katherine Lockhart (lawyer) and Liam Taggart (private investigator) are highly likeable heroes. They work together to untangle a legal mystery which includes murder, deception, and greed.

* Readers of all ages, denominations, and genders will truly enjoy this book.

We encourage everyone and every book club to become part of this book-sharing experience. Join us on Thursday, April 2 at 7 PM to meet Ron Balson and discuss his newest novel. All are welcome. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. For more information or for group reservations please contact Debby Block 704-944-6780 or debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org.*



Women's News Calling All Moms (and Grandmas, Aunts, etc.) with High School Seniors

Senior year is certainly a busy one and now that our seniors are in their very last semester of high school, it is only going to get busier. Before things get too chaotic, we invite you and your senior to join us on Saturday evening, February 29 at Anik Harrison's home for a Sweet Havdallah celebrating our sons and daughters who will be graduating this year. Our celebration will take place from 6:30-8 PM so tell your kids they have plenty of time to hang out with their friends after our early dessert get together. Please RSVP to hadassahcjt@gmail.com by February 25. This event is open to all Mom/Seniors in the Jewish community, not just Hadassah members, so bring your friends.

Now that we started at the end of the month, February is going to be a busy month for Hadassah Charlotte.

With the Jewish New Year having passed months ago, and secular New Year in our rearview mirrors, it's time to celebrate the New Year of the Trees. Please join us on Monday, February 10 at 11 AM for our Tu biShvat Seder at Janice Bernstein's home. Come and learn about the customs and traditions of Tu biShvat. Do you know what almonds,

dates, olives, and figs have to do with this holiday? Join us and you will find out, while enjoying lunch with old and new friends. A \$5 donation is requested. Please RSVP to Janice Bernstein at janicegbp@gmail.com or 704-609-0175 by February 5.

Hadassah Lunch and Learn group meets on the third Friday of every month to discuss short stories. We meet at Temple Israel at 11:45 AM. The discussions are conducted in a positive relaxing atmosphere lead by a volunteer that attends the meetings regularly. The selected book for this year is *The UnAmericans* by Molly Antopol. It is a collection of stories moving from modern day Jerusalem during the Intifada to Jewish partisans. These are only two examples of Antopol's emotionally powerful stories.

(Continued on next page)

HADASSAH



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SAVE THE DATE

Adult Learning

ON THE SAME PAGE: CHAPTER 2

Thursday, April 2, 2020 | 7:00 pm

Featuring Ron Balson

Author of THE GIRL FROM BERLIN

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

www.jewishcharlotte.org/CJE



For more information, contact, Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator 704.944.6780/debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

Youth Visions

Hebrew High Post-Confirmation Students Go to College

The Tea About College: Big Questions, Casual Conversations

Hebrew High Post Confirmation students join Rabbi Judy Schindler at Queens University to talk about the important things in their lives. Preparing for college is far more than essays and SATs. Students will enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat buffet in the Dining Hall at Queens while important conversations will take place around the table and continue at different locations on campus each week, including the Emu Hammock area, the Diversity Lounge, the Firepit, and Rex's Lair.

Eleventh and 12th graders will be encouraged to explore who they are and what really matters to them. Using Hillel's "Ask Big Questions" program, we will tackle the following:

Week 1 – How are we seen? (Inclusion)

Many times a day, we make split-second, often unconscious, decisions about how we regard with whom we interact.

Week 2 – For whom are we responsible? (Social Justice)

Are we responsible for family members? For fellow students? For all human beings? This class features a story involving a request to take care of a stranger

and invites us to explore to whom and for whom we are responsible.

Week 3 – How do we re-charge? (Shabbat)

This class invites an open conversation about Shabbat, recharging, self-care, and the different ways in which people might seek out time to renew themselves.

Week 4 – How do we disagree? (Social Justice)

In conflict, issues of truth and justice may feel as though they are—or may really be—on the line, and we often feel not only intellectually, but also emotionally invested in a debate's outcome. This class uses one ancient disagreement to help us explore how finding a way to disagree well can open up new possibilities.

Week 5 – Where do you feel at home? (Why be Jewish)

Of all the big questions of life, "Where is home?" may be one of the biggest. Home is many things. It can be a physical place, defined by relationships or even be in our experiences. In this class we invite students to explore the many roles "home" plays in Jewish tradition.

Week 6 – How do we grow?

This class creates the opportunity for discussion about some of the various dimensions of growth: the ways we protect ourselves, are transformed, how we



allow ourselves to be vulnerable, and how we engage with the mysteries of being alive.

Hebrew High is proud to offer this opportunity to our Post Confirmation students and excited to partner with Queens University. ✨

Hadassah News

(Continued from previous page)



At Malak Jewelers for the big Chai-nukah event.

The meetings are open to everyone. Stop by even if you have not read the story. In honor of keeping the Temple's rules of Kashrut please bring a vegetarian or dairy lunch. Our next meeting is Friday, February 21 when we will be discussing pages 219-256 "Retrospective." If you have any questions, please call Amalia at 704-365-3313 or email: AmaliaI-ma@att.net or Linda Levy levyollie@aol.com.

Would you like to learn more about Hadassah? Do you want to get more involved in Hadassah Charlotte? Did you know that everyone is welcome to attend our monthly board meetings? Please sit in on our next meeting on Monday, February 17 at 7 PM. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions about Hadassah Charlotte, please email us at hadassahclt@gmail.com (we will let you know the location when you RSVP to the meeting).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Malak and his staff at Malak Jewelers in the Arboretum for hosting our Cha-

nukah celebration in December. Everyone who came out on that rainy evening was treated to delicious food and wine and a beautiful slide show of Mr. Malak's trips to Israel, all surrounded by gorgeous jewelry and friendly people. Many of us were able to check some people off our gift lists (or treat ourselves), while helping to support Hadassah with Malak's generous donation. Please support businesses who support Hadassah. ✨

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SCHOOL NEWS

Celebrating Chanukah at JPS

At JPS we don't just learn about Judaism, we live Judaism. Chanukah is no exception. For Chanukah, we learned and experienced the story, learned about the amazing miracles, and celebrated with Dreidels with Friends and Dads. We are so proud of all the brachot and customs that we have learned. ☆



Noah, Leha, Aviya, and Ellie plan a Chanukah Party in Dramatic Play



Boris, Micha, and Benjamin are building a Menorah in Blocks.



Noah and his dad are peeling potatoes to make latkes.



Our 4s made latkes with their special friends.



Leigh Altman
For County Commission At-Large

**The Time To
VOTE
HAS ARRIVED!**

**Early Voting Starts February 13th
Election is March 3rd**

Thank You For All Your Support These Last Months!

Celebrating Chanukah in a Different Kind of Way

By Becca Green

Each Chanukah the staff of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool spend their staff meeting doing a tzedakah project. We demonstrate the Jewish value *nedivut*, being generous, as a way to model for our students the importance of giving during the holiday season. *Nedivut* is found throughout our entire tradition going all the way back to Exodus 25 when God asks Moses to tell the Israelite people to bring gifts to build the *mishkan*, which was to act as God's house. The Israelites brought gold, silver, and copper (among other materials) that would serve to build the

Tabernacle, the dwelling space for God.

From this story we learn that when we all act with generosity and give of ourselves what we are able, then God will be among us. *Nedivut* differs from tzedakah in that *nedivut* is to be seen as a desire to be virtuous and not as an obligation. We are commanded to give tzedakah, and each week in our Shabbat service students bring coins to donate. But during Chanukah we want to model generosity and the joy that comes from doing good things for other people. *Nedivut* refers to our attitude. With the right mindset and

with our hearts guided in the right direction, not only can we show our generosity but we can also inspire others to act similarly.

In the past, we have put together hygiene kits for homeless youth in Charlotte. Last year we created Shabbat kits with candles, grape juice, and kippot for Kosher Troops, an organization founded to improve the morale

and welfare of Jewish soldiers by demonstrating appreciation for their commitment. This year we made blankets for kids at Levine Children's Hospital to be used in their pediatric rehabilitation unit. Levine Children's Hospital strives to create a fun and enjoyable environment for their young patients, and we hoped to add to their comfort and enjoyment with

handmade blankets. We ordered various patterns of felt and made 12 no-sew blankets that Executive Director Brooke Amo hand delivered.

Later that week, the staff enjoyed a potluck Chanukah party at Brooke's home where we lit the chanukiyah together and thanked God for the miracles in our lives.✡



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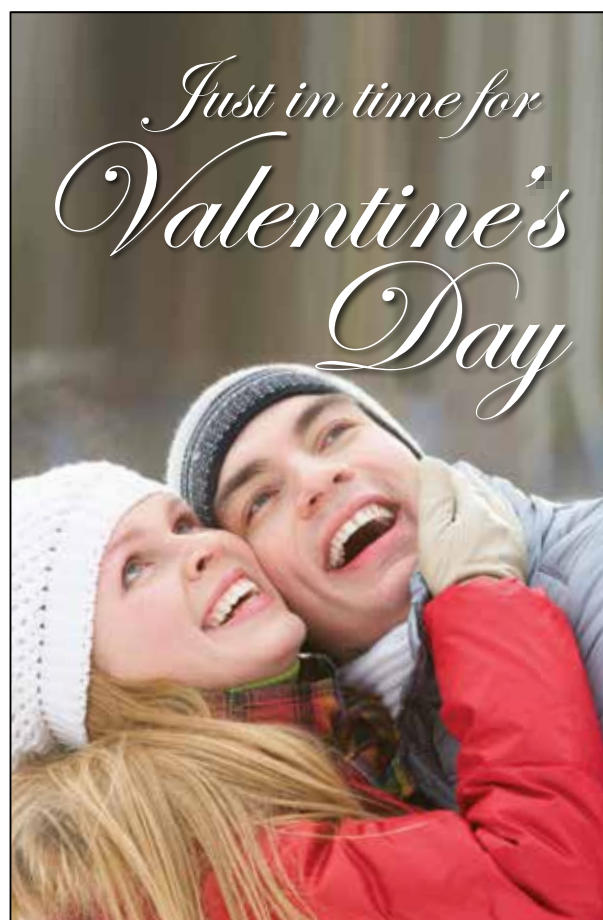
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Students at CJDS Are Proud to be Jews

By Mariashi Groner, director,
Charlotte Jewish Day School

"I am a Jew because of the audacity and the iconoclasm of Abraham, the first Jew of all. The whole world was awash in idols and he stood alone to proclaim the truth: There is one God.

"I am a Jew because my ancestors were slaves. And I am a Jew because the story of their Exodus from Egypt, their liberation from slavery, is a story that changed human consciousness forever.

"I am a Jew because our God commands us to never oppress the stranger.

"I am Jew because Ruth, the first convert to Judaism, told her mother-in-law Naomi, 'your people will be my people and your god will be my god,' reminding us of the centrality of the Jewish people to Judaism.

"I am a Jew because of Queen Esther, who understood that she had attained her royal position in order to save her people from destruction.

"I am a Jew because the Macabees were the original resistance. Because they modeled for us — and for all peoples — how to resist the temptation of self-erasure.

"I am a Jew because when Rabbi Akiva was being tortured to death by the Romans he laughed. He laughed and he told his students that he could finally fulfill the commandment to love God with all of his being.

"The Jewish people were not

put on Earth to be anti-Antisemites. We were put on Earth to be Jews.

"We are the people whose God never slumbers or sleeps, and so neither can we.

"We are the lamp-lighters.

"We are the ever-dying people that refuses to die.

"The people of Israel lives now and forever.

"Am Yisrael Chai."

These are excerpts from *NY Times* columnist Bari Weiss from her speech at the "No Fear No Hate" solidarity march in Brooklyn on the first Sunday of January. This is what our children have to hear. We need to surround them with impactful stories, our history and teachings. We cannot rely on fluffy words and symbolic messages that after a while just roll over their shoulders. We need to role model and provide them with meaningful facts and relatable lessons. The more recent acts of Antisemitism have been on my mind. Specifically, I was grappling with how to manage the impression it makes on our students, either after they see the news, or they overheard adults talking. When Weiss said these words specifically, I was reminded that the way to shift children's outlook on feeling left out of the world's holidays, on the difficulties of being a minority and witnessing or hearing about Antisemitism is not by focusing on what was done or how bad the behaviors are, but by emphasizing

what we have, the treasure of our heritage, the gift of our traditions and the genius of our Torah and its laws. Once we recognize that, there is nothing anyone can say to us or do to us that could touch our self-confidence and pride.

I am reminded of one of our graduates when he moved on to middle school, and began to feel like the minority he is, he was asked to write about a day with Santa. He had the confidence, the conviction and the belief that he just couldn't do that. So, he chose to write about a day with Moshe (Moses). It wasn't a difficult choice, and it was easy because he had the information, knowledge, and passion to produce the work. We need to provide a deep, meaningful, and layered education for the children to have the tools and ammunition to go out in the world.

At CJDS we marked Friday, January 10, as our "Jewish and Proud" day.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe is known to have encouraged us to seek acts of Prosemitism to combat Antisemitism. I would agree.☆

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Shalom Park Freedom School Seeking Teen Board Members

The Shalom Park Freedom School is pleased to accept applications (rising 10th-through incoming college freshmen) for the 2020 Teen Board.

What Is Freedom School?

Freedom School is a summer program that promotes the long-term success of children by preventing summer learning loss. It strives to ignite a passion for reading and inspire a love of learning. Summer reading loss is the foremost contributor to the achievement gap for low-income children, and Freedom School works to bridge that gap. The Shalom Park Freedom School provides a six-week literacy-based summer program for young scholars selected from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary (schools in faith-based partnerships with Temple Israel and Temple Beth El).

* Nationally, low-income children typically lose two to three months in reading level every summer, making them less likely to graduate high school as these losses become cumulative.

* Freedom Schools have a 90% success rate for preventing summer reading loss, with 65% of children jumping at least one level in reading comprehension after just a single summer.

Why Join The Shalom Park Freedom School Teen Board?

* To gain experience working with a diverse group of scholars, college interns, and professionals

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

* To serve on an actual non-profit board and develop an understanding of a board's inner workings

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

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

* To participate in the Freedom School Board Teen Leadership Program

* To successfully complete 80 hours of community service

* To work hard and form life-changing relationships with Charlotte students and teens

* To be inspired by experiences that can make meaningful college admissions and scholarship essays

* Also to receive a free t-shirt and participate in Harambe

What Is the Commitment?

Teen Board members commit to work as school assistants for at least two consecutive weeks between June 22-July 30. Hours will be 8:15 AM-3:15 PM, Monday and Friday, and 8:15 AM-4:15 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Responsibilities include: working in classrooms, accompanying teachers and students on field trips, planning activities, securing and delivering supplies, and other assistance as needed. Swimming with scholars

will be required. Additionally, teen board members will take part in some fundraising, which will go toward sponsoring at least one Freedom School scholar.

Teen board members are required to attend an orientation on Sunday, April 26 at 12:30 PM and are requested to volunteer for a two-hour shift to set-up the site on either June 18 (from 10 AM-12 noon or 1:15-3:15 PM) or June 19 (9-11 AM).

How Do I Apply?

Applications can be found at <http://spfreedomsschool.org/get-involved/>. Deadline to apply is March 23.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nancy Zolotorofe at nancy@international-collegecounselors.com or Lauren Campbell at lauren.campbell@allentate.com.

"I love seeing the smiles on the scholars' faces as their reading skills grow, even in just two weeks, and I'll never forget the excitement around going on a field trip. The children were always up for new experiences during enrichment activities." -Hannah Musa, Freedom School Teen Board, 2018-2019.☆



FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS
Shalom Park Freedom School



Shalom Park Freedom School teen board members.

Learning with Jewish Life

(Continued from page 1)

generous sponsors for this 3rd Anniversary celebration: Queens McColl School of Business and Bank of America.

Lastly, if you simply want a touch of Torah and community after work or after a long day, join us for our February and March Wine and Wisdom Series at Selwyn Pub (2801 Selwyn Avenue) from 5-6:30 PM. Once a month throughout the winter, spring and summer, Rabbi Judy Schindler invites you to come out for study and socializing. Come to one session or come to them all. Bring a

friend, grab a glass of iced tea or wine, and enjoy learning about Mussar, the Jewish study of character. On February 26, we will study humility and patience. On March 18, we will study gratitude and compassion.

For more information or to register for any of our programs, please visit StanGreensponCenter.org or contact Talia Goldman, Goldmant@queens.edu.☆

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SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Singing for Joy, Singing to Celebrate

By Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

Like many in the early 90s, I learned the section of Torah that I read at my Bat Mitzvah from a tape that my childhood rabbi recorded for me. I remember carefully rewinding the tape with a pencil when the ribbon got a little out of whack and hoping that it would still work. How on earth else would I learn my Torah portion? At age 12, I was no Hebrew scholar, though I think I was perfectly adequate for a bat mitzvah student. I needed that recording if I was going to succeed.

When I was 22, I actually learned to chant from the Torah from Cantor Bernard before I ever attended seminary at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. I learned all the trope symbols and all the grammatical tricks and exceptions that you must know if you want to be an expert *ba'alat korei* – a Torah chanter.

During this time of diligent study, I learned one of the most exceptional sections in the Torah, Shirat Hayam – the Song of the Sea. Shirat Hayam are the words of rejoicing sung by the Children of Israel safely on the other side of the Sea of Reeds. The careful listener will hear selections from our prayer “Mi Chamocha” chanted during the reading: Who is like You? For me, as a learner

delving in to this text in my early 20s, I was quick to realize that I had heard some of the other Hebrew words before as lyrics to the song, “When You Believe,” from the film Prince of Egypt. Shirat Hayam concludes with verses about Miriam the Prophetess taking up her timbrel and dancing in celebration.

Sometimes called simply, the Shir – the song – Shirat Hayam occurs during Parashat Beshalach, which is read on February 8 this year. This Shabbat is generally referred to as Shabbat Shirah – the Shabbat of Song. The Song of the Sea is unique in many ways. Visually, the text appears in the Torah staggered, like the bricks that the Israelites laid as slaves in Egypt, or perhaps as two walls of water, symbolizing the splitting of the Sea. Aurally, the Torah chanter will flip back and forth between the normal style of Torah trope and a special, inherited melody. Additionally, Biblical scholars believe that the Hebrew in Shirat Hayam is among the oldest in the whole Torah, suggesting that this moment of communal celebration is one of the most ancient threads that binds our people together. Reading Shirat Hayam on Shabbat Beshalach is a truly exceptional moment in the cycle of the Jewish year.

In some synagogues, it is customary to elevate the music on

Shabbat Shirah to celebrate of the power of music in worship and connection to the Divine. At Temple Beth El, we will mark Shabbat Shirah on Friday, February 7 at one of our lively 6 PM Family Shabbat evening services featuring our Shir Kids Youth Choir and, perhaps, a few other musical surprise guests. The 60-minute service will be reflective, joyful, and appropriate for all ages. The 6 PM Family Shabbat Evening Service is preceded by our monthly Shabbat SongFest at 5:30 PM, which is a Shabbat Sing-along for tots and preschoolers. We will further elevate and celebrate the season with a Congregational Shabbat Dinner for Tu B'Shvat at 7:15 PM. Please register on the TBE website. *Please note, there will not be a 7:30 PM service on February 7.

The holiday festivities continue in March. Save the date for Temple Beth El's Purim Shpiel on Sunday morning, March 9 at 11 AM. A Very Frozen Purim Shpiel will tell the tale of Esther, Mordechai, Haman, and the rest to beloved songs from both Frozen movies, interspersed with readings from the Megillah.

While the cold, wintry weather blows outside, let's keep our spirits warm and lifted in song on Shabbat Shirah, Purim, and always.✡

Havurat Tikvah to Hold Shabbat Services

Havurat Tikvah will hold a community Shabbat service on February 15, 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, Vanguard Classroom, 2821 Park Rd. Following services, a social will be held along with kiddush, challah, and blessings.

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/.✡



“Life without music is unthinkable; music without life is academic. That is why my contact with music is a total embrace.”

– Leonard Bernstein, *Findings*

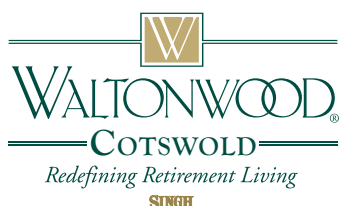


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Temple Solel - Vote For Your Voice in Israel in 2020

When studying William Shakespeare, it becomes evident in order to obtain a deeper understanding and intellectual references within his works, it leads to Biblical texts. And, following the example of Shakespeare, to better understand our history as Jews, we must have a similar map to Israel. Recently, Rabbi Steve Burnstein from Kehilat Birkat Shalom in Israel said, "If we study the Bible, we need to know about Israel." He described the seven species listed in the Bible as wheat, barley, grape, fig, pomegranates, olive (oil), and date (honey) found in Deuteronomy 8:8, then held up examples of the symbols and asked, "why these things?" People made guesses, but he explained, "If we were in France perhaps we would be celebrating with croissants, but the Bible is based in Israel and these are the elements to remind us of our connection to the land."

Rabbi Steve transitioned the conversation to helping us in the audience understand why there is such a need to show support for pluralism in Israel and what specifically must change for those living there. He asked a riveting question to the audience in Chicago recently at the URJ Biennial, "Do you know in Israel, Reform and/or Conservative Rabbis cannot wait to be the first to be arrested?" The room of people listening to his lecture became wide-eyed, most thinking, "arrested for what?!" He then explained in Israel a Reform or Conservative couple cannot get married there; however, they can fly from Tel Aviv to Las Vegas, get married by Elvis and the State of Israel will recognize it as a legal marriage. However, if he as a Reform Rabbi marries a couple in Israel, it is not a legal marriage for the couple being married or the officiant performing the ceremony. As American Jews, we could



Rabbi Steve Burnstein visits Temple Solel.

hardly believe the level of discrimination there is even between sects of Judaism, but if we don't educate ourselves, how can we drive change or help solve these problems?

He gave another example of a *savta* (grandma) who reluctantly attended her grandson's bar mitzvah in Israel led by Reform clergy. The family said, "Don't mind Savta, she never smiles." But, once she realized she could sit with everyone and not have to go upstairs a small grin appeared on her face followed by tears. She said, "I never dreamed in my lifetime the possibility of attending a Bar Mitzvah except to look over a wall separated from my family, but now I am reading Torah as a woman." Rabbi Steve reminded us "American Jews can change Israeli society and already are by voting in the World Zionist Congress elections every five years. All Jewish-identified adults over the age of 18 are entitled to cast a vote and make their voice heard in Israel. Some of the funding we received to build the shul was allocated after the elections." There were also changes made to the Herzl Cemetery video in their museum. Israeli children and IDF Soldiers all visit this sacred lo-

cation as part of Israel's history. In the video there is now footage showing women praying at the Kotel (Western Wall) and attending Bat Mitzvah. It changes how Israel sees choices in Judaism for the first time.

Executive Director for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), Rabbi Gilad Kariv, made a powerful statement, "American Jews need to understand the State of Israel insists there is only one way to be a Jew. This is why we are in an ongoing long effort to promote pluralism. The strength is by empowering Israelis to become partners in the Reform Movement. Jews in Israel are now being offered meaningful experiences in their local Jewish Community. These choices were not available before."

The 38th World Zionist Congress Vote is January 21 – March 11. Vote online for the Jewish future in Israel and around the world. Visit www.arza.org. If you have questions or need more information, contact WZC Captain for URJ Temple Beth El and URJ Temple Solel Shelley Pawlyk 803-548-1064.

All are invited to hear returning Guest Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky from the Institute of Southern Jewish Learning (ISJL) on Friday, February 14, at 7 PM and Saturday, February 15 at 10 AM. For more information see templesolelSC.org, write us at info@templesolelSC.org

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

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Operation Thunderbolt – Raid on Entebbe Coming to Charlotte

**Thursday February 27, at the Epstein
Chabad Center**

On June 27, 1976, an Air France plane took off from Ben-Gurion International Airport in Lod, Israel, heading for Paris with a stopover in Athens, carrying passengers of Israeli, French, and various other nationalities. Security at the Lod airport was famously tight – but in Athens, where security was lax, four hijackers boarded the Airbus carrying large black bags that held guns and hand grenades, took over the plane and forced the pilot to divert to Entebbe Airport, on the shore of Lake Victoria in Uganda. Six days later, a team of Israeli Special Forces personnel approached the airport in a daring and ingenious raid, named Operation Thunderbolt, and freed the hostages.

That raid is the most audacious hostage rescue mission in histo-

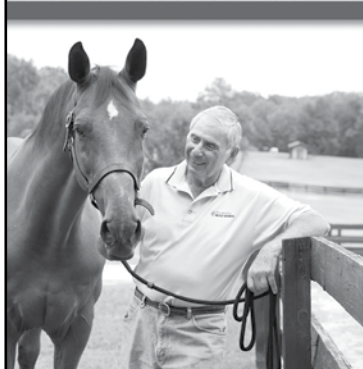
ry. The team of 140 commandos flew 2,500 miles to carry out the nighttime rescue operation that freed 106 hostages in 90 minutes. Four hostages were killed as well as all the terrorists. Four Israeli commandos were wounded and one, Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu, was killed.

Sasson "Sassy" Reuven was there. He was part of the vaunted "Red Beret" paratroopers brigade and was the second paratrooper off the first Hercules C-130 plane that landed at Entebbe seven minutes ahead of the three additional transport planes.

Sasson will be in Charlotte to relate his firsthand account of that legendary operation of over 43 years ago. He will be presenting this heroic story at the Epstein

(Continued on page 12)

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Raid on Entebbe Coming to Charlotte

(Continued from page 11)

Chabad Center on Thursday, February 27, at 7 PM.

Sasson Reuven vividly recalls the tension, excitement, and great risk of this project. Yet with determination in their hearts, they eagerly jumped into action to rescue the hostages from the grip of danger.

Reuven, a civil engineer who now lives in Southern California, has been telling his Operation Entebbe story publicly since 2013, after he joined Chabad. During his presentations, he includes details that aren't often in media accounts of the story – like the days he and his fellow soldiers spent before the operation waiting at an airstrip in central Israel, aware that a mission lay ahead but not yet knowing what it was, and subsisting on “a bucket of hard-boiled eggs, a bucket of pitas, and a bucket of brown water that they called coffee.”

Sasson completed his military service in November 1976, only

to return four months later as part of a special infantry reserve unit. He was shot in the leg and spent several years enduring surgeries and rehabilitation. During this time he not only studied civil engineering at Ben-Gurion University but also began to experience a spiritual awakening that he feels was brought on by his brush with death and by the death of a cousin in the Israel Navy Seals (Shayetet 13).

Mr. Reuven went on to complete his studies at Brooklyn Polytechnic. In 1985, he became El-Al cargo security director at Los Angeles International Airport, where he met his future wife, Susan. The couple married in 1987 and has three children, now 27, 23, and 15.

Fee for the presentation is \$10 in advance, \$18 at the door at Epstein Family Chabad Center, 6619 Sardis Rd. For more information please visit chabadnc.org. Or call our office at 704-366-3984. ☆

New Class: A Practical Guide to Being Mindful

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim

No one enjoys living with stress, fear or being limited by one's past but how can we eliminate these undesirable nuisances that sometimes seem to take over our lives? Contemporary psychology has many effective approaches to deal with these unwanted guests residing in our brains but a buzzword one often sees and hears about is being "mindful." Whether it's *Psychology Today*, *GQ*, or *Women's Health*, being mindful is a popular subject. It has also gained interest in the business world because it not only has the potential to manage stress and anxiety, but it can alter the way we think and process. Although mindfulness might be a novel idea for the Western world, it is part of the ancient and post-Renaissance body of Jewish literature and wisdom. One work in particular stands out, *Mesilat Yeshtarim*, roughly translated as

A Path for Straightforward People. It was written by Ramchal, the Hebrew acronym for Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto, an 18th century scholar, Talmudist, Kabbalist, philosopher, and poet. *Mesilat Yeshtarim* has been studied by thousands of people and is the one of the main texts studied until today by students of Jewish mindfulness and Mussar (character development). I have been a student of this book for three decades and have taught it for the past two. About eight years ago, a recent Wharton grad working for Wells Fargo found his way to CTC. He joined us every Friday night for Shabbat dinner; and at one point he asked me to suggest something that we might learn to help him retain clarity in his frantic world. I suggested *Mesilat Yeshtarim* but before we had a chance to start, others found out and asked if they could join. We didn't go at any particular pace; the idea was

to integrate the practical yet profound ideas contained in that relatively slim volume in our lives. That class was so popular that it led us to learn two other classical works on character development. Recently, there has been the desire to return to *Mesilat Yeshtarim* – but this time it is version 2.0.

Each class begins with a guided meditation, which gives everyone a chance to feel present and detach themselves from the hectic lives we all lead – cell phones are turned off. We then delve into this masterpiece of insight, into the motivations as well as the disincentives we deal with every day. The author first educates in some character trait, and then instructs us how to acquire it and also what the deterrents will be. If we translate this into physical terms it would be like someone being told about the importance of working out, then being told how to work out effectively as well as what de-

terrents might keep them keeping their exercise routine and how to avoid them.

Each of us is endowed with a unique soul, which means that we all have different emotional temperaments. Some people have an easier time forgiving than others due to a less intense nature but because these people have an easy-going nature, they might have a tough time saying no to people who ask favors of them – and they resent it. Whether one is tough by nature (finding it harder to forgive) or easier going, both character types might share the common denominator that they harbor resentments. Being as our emotional make up is often un-

even, there will always some areas in which we are stronger than in others. The more we become mindful of our natural gifts and foibles, the more we will be able to make decisions in a mindful way – a way that leads us in the direction in life we want to go.

Attendees have said that the unique method of mindfulness as set forth in *Mesilat Yeshtarim* has helped them have more clarity and meaning in life, as well as finding this a source of encouragement and hope for how to deal with the complicated life most of us lead. Want to do something good for yourself? Give yourself the gift of being mindful.

7 PM Wednesday nights at The Charlotte Torah Center, 234 Sardis Lane, Charlotte, NC 29270. ✧

Temple Kol Ami Receives Federation Grant

Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC has once again been rewarded with a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact and Innovation Fund. This is the fifth year that TKA has received this funding. We are extremely grateful to the Federation for their faith in us to appropriately and effectively utilize this money. In the past, Temple Kol Ami has implemented programming that has greatly benefitted the York County Jewish community including Shabbaton weekends with a rabbi, Holocaust

by choice, Joe is a rising star in the Jewish music scene who has released two albums including his most recent *Back from Babylon*. He will lead us in a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service (along with our hometown favorite band The Ruach) and Saturday night concert featuring his original music. We are thrilled to be able to sponsor this unique Jewish cultural experience for free thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte grant. Keep an eye out for more information in the February *Charlotte Jewish News*,



form congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. Come find your Jewish home in our welcoming community. For more information, contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com or check our website www.temple-olamisc.org. ✧



Joe Buchanan

education lectures, and cultural entertainment featuring the Israeli Tzofim Friendship Caravan.

Last year, Temple Kol Ami partnered with the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Winthrop University to bring a Holocaust Memorial lecture to the Winthrop campus. Over 100 students heard the story of survivor Alina Bacall-Zwirn as told by her children Walter and Sophia. We intend to sponsor another Holocaust program with Winthrop this year as teaching the lessons of the Shoah is crucial to preventing another genocide in the future.

We are especially excited to bring Jewish Americana musician Joe Buchanan to Fort Mill the weekend of March 20. A Jew

or check our website www.templekolamisc.org in the coming month.

Once again, Temple Kol Ami thanks the Federation for the opportunity to bring innovative and impactful programming to the Greater York County Jewish community. We look forward to partnering with the JFGC in building strong relationships with the growing Jewish population right over the border from Charlotte.

We hope you will join us at Temple Kol Ami for any and all of our wonderful programming and bi-weekly Shabbat services. If you live in York County or the South Charlotte area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Re-

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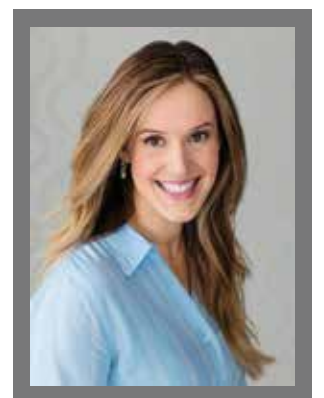
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Questions: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator | 704.944.6780 or debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

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PJ Library



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



Donations to Jewish Family Services in December 2019

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Carol Gorelick to Jeff and Bari Gorelick, Scott and Dana Gorelick, and David Weiner and Wendy Buttons Weiner from Lynn and Paul Edelstein, Elise Menaker, Lauri Moore, Louis Sinkoe and Kevin Levine
Barbara Orkin to Julie Loftis from Jonathan and Stephanie Simon

Bennett Lyons to Andrew and Courtney Lyons and Jeffrey and Francis Lyons from Jennifer, Carlie, Melissa, Diane, and Kari, David and Lee Farabaugh, Leonard and Leta Nadler, Rose Atkinson, Douglas and Paula Gentile, Alan and Ruth Goldberg, Tom and Nanette Gorman, William and Gloria Grifenhagen, Fred and Joy Miller, Gary Silverstein

Walter Marx to Eugene and Amy Marx, Lenore Marx, Peter Marx, and Robert and Janet Marx from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Nicole Keylin, Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Larry and Vera Reinstein, Elizabeth Rosenbaum, Robert and Maxine Stein, Pamela Bynum, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hunter, Russ and Jean Cossart, Ralph and Troyann Dougherty, Robert and Denise Esberg, Audrey Madans, Joel Ostrow, George and Lois Schneider, Gayle Wylie, Robert Barry

Carl Scheer to Bob Scheer, Lauren Scheer Quick, and Marsha Scheer from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, David and Marion Kronovet, Elise Menaker

Susan Cernyak-Spatz to Janni Fishbein Slotkis and David Slotkis from Meg Goldstein and Matt Luftglass

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Nancy Berry from David and Debra Van Glish
David Jacobson from David and Debra Van Glish
Ann Langman from David and Debra Van Glish

IN HONOR OF

The beautiful dolls you make to Betty Davis from Sandra Weinstein
Your induction into the bar of the Supreme Court to Alan Kronovet from David and Marion Kronovet
Ada Shapiro from Steven and Sharon Hockfield, Terri Otten
Norman Steinberger from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman, Robert and Joyce Stoll
Your mother's Yahrzeit to Susan Victor from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis
Your installation as President of Jewish Family Services to Louis Sinkoe from Kevin Levine

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Rick Greene from Mike and Sue Littauer
Elbert Lipman to Mike and Beverly Greenfield and Joseph Lipman from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis
Stanley Greenspon from Harry and Felicity Berzack
Howard Levine from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Leeora Pruden from The Loewensteiner Family
Austin Slutsky from The Loewensteiner Family
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Annette and Richard Gross from Mike and Sue Littauer
Larry and Dale Polsky from Stuart and Ellen Fligel, Lee and Wendy Pake

MAZEL TOV ON

The birth of your grandson to Margie Sigal from Audrey Madans

WISHING SUNNY DAYS TO

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With Growth Comes Change, Expansion and More Staff

A Change in the Finance Department

It is tough to imagine walking through the halls of Jewish Family Services without seeing its longest-standing employee, Nora Wolf, who after 20 years of service is retiring as the Financial Services Manager of JFS. Imagine the change, the growth, and the many phases of JFS Nora has witnessed throughout her tenure. When she first began her journey in the role of finance, there were just a handful of employees focusing on resettling Russian Jews, assessing the financial needs of individuals and families, helping seniors with care management and yes, there was a food pantry.

Nora's knowledge, insights, and historical perspective will be missed. "I cannot begin to account for the impact Nora has had on the organization over the years," said Howard Olshansky, executive director of Jewish Family Services. "What struck me time and time again about Nora is that she never lost sight of what was most important to JFS, always taking into account what was in the best interest of the people we serve," he added.

Joining JFS as the Administrative Services Manager is Elizabeth (Beth) Leonard. Beth, originally from Ohio, holds an accounting degree and has 18+ years of financial experience working for both large and small organizations. Throughout her career Beth has worked on a variety of accounting and finance projects and will be a great asset to the JFS team. Welcome, Beth. **The Senior Engagement Team at JFS Grows**

As time marches on so do the

needs of the community. After a 50% increase across many service areas in 2018, we anticipated a leveling-off trend for 2019, however that was not the case. Mental Health Services rose and programs for seniors, including those dedicated to the Holocaust survivor community rose, which meant that some shifting and hiring was needed to keep up with the demand.

Since the need for seniors was both clinical and programmatic, it made sense to hire Amanda Levine as the Senior Engagement Therapist. Amanda has a Masters in Social Work with a specialization in Geriatric Mental Health. Her credentials provide her with specific insights into the needs of the geriatric population, their struggles, and the issues they face throughout the aging process. Amanda developed a passion working with the senior population during one of her internships at Loyola University of Chicago where she attended graduate school. "I learned so much from them (seniors)," she said. "After hearing their experiences, their wisdom, and their stories, I realized that few people, including sometimes their family members, are prepared to deal with and cope with many of the aging-related issues," Levine said. We are grateful Amanda chose JFS.

As you may recall, JFS was the recipient of a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America

Center for Advancing Holocaust Care and Sheryl Gerrard was charged with developing and executing programs to engage and enrich the lives of Holocaust survivors in our community. She was also responsible for visiting many of the Jewish seniors in our community, helping them find and navigate the resources and overseeing the friendly visitor program. We are proud to announce that Sheryl Gerrard has been promoted to Senior Engagement Manager. She will now direct and oversee all senior community outreach.

Another member of the Senior Engagement Team, Dana Kapustin was also promoted to Senior Engagement Specialist. Dana's contributions to the survivors and their family members has been invaluable. In addition to program development, her passion is capturing survivor stories of survival and providing opportunities for them to remain engaged and an active part of the larger community.

We welcome all of our new employees and congratulate Sheryl and Dana on their promotions.

New/More Office Space

As the JFS family has grown, so too has our office space. JFS still has its original space, which is where the food pantry and mental health services remain, but we now have another office, known as the JFS Annex located by the portico. ☆

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Month of December 2019

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, Marcia Arnolt, Linda Babich, Ana Bonheim, Marcia Borden, Bill Brightman, James Bryan, Suzy Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Dan Coblenz, Sheryl Effren, Steve Englehardt, Maggie Fogel, Rob Friedman, Marc Gentile, Marty Gold, Neil Golub, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Bob Jacobson, Brooks Jaffa, Judy Kaufman, Stephanie and Elliot Kreitman, Marcia Lampert, Eric Lerner, Gary Lerner, Linda Leviel, Kim Levy, Sophie Levy, Matt Luftglass, Len Marco, Harriet Meetz, Laura Milgrim, Moishe House Staff, Frada Moenter, Abby Meyer, Lisa Newman, Harry Rubenstein, Linda Safir, Fred Shporer, Louis Sinkoe, Mason Sklut, Harry Sparks, Ken Stern, Liz Wahls, Amalia Warshenbrot, Jan Weiner, Nancy Wielunski,

Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Cathy Bogus, Margie Bower, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Denise and Bob Cooper Betsy Freeman, Sara Friedman, Donna and Burt Greenspon, Sari Hochberg, Johnson and Wales, Judy and Steve Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Andy McCleary, Harriet Meetz, Helene Rivlin, Roz Snyder, Marcia Stern, Elyssa Vining, Robin Zimmerman

Live Laugh Give Comedy Night Volunteers: Sam Batt, Ru-

bina Batt, Jeff Bierer, Suzy Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Maggie Fogel, Rachel Friedman, Jessica Garfield, Tara Green, Andrea Hollendar, Kevin Levine, Kim Levy, Adam Levy, Adina Lowenstein, Jodi Michel, Stacy Moskowitz, Cynthia Perrino, Stephanie Rindner, Anne Sinesheimer, Louis Sinkoe, Fred Shporer, Alan Sussman, Lori Tapani, Amy Udoff, Anna Valdman

Food Drives: CJP Miss Ellens 4's, CJP the Lollipop Class, Judi and Dave Lecker and Neighbors, Shalom Club of Sun City

Food Pantry Donations: Madeline and Alan Aron, Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman, Dan Coblenz, Robbie McGinley, Diggie and Lee Pesakoff, Ken Stern, Charlotte Jewish Community Center Members, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants

Special Thanks: To all members of our community who participated in this years Dreidle Drive. Thanks for making this year's drive a huge success. Over 300 gifts were collected.

Chanukah Thanks: Charlotte Jewish Preschool 4's for their wonderful performance at Senior Chanukah party, Charlotte Jewish Day School and Hebrew High for making Chanukah cards, Shana Strasser and BBYO for making Cards/bags. ☆



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Community News

FCJC Selected by Grinspoon Foundation to Participate in Pilot Program

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) has selected the Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) to lead the pilot program "Connections" an extension of its nationwide LIFE & LEGACY® program. FCJC and the Charlotte community were one of only three communities, out of sixty-three LIFE & LEGACY partners, selected to test this pilot program. The other two are the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation in Portland, and the Jewish Community Foundation of Orange County in Irvine, CA.

Since 1991, HGF has invested more than \$200 million in programs that make Jewish life and Jewish community more vibrant and more connected. Two of its most recognizable initiatives, FCJC's Create Your Jewish Legacy and PJ Library, have been very successful in Charlotte.

"The Harold Grinspoon Foundation invests in projects that provide a strong return on investment for the Jewish community," said Arlene D. Schiff, National Director of the Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY program. "As one of our first LIFE & LEGACY communities, we have great respect for the work of FCJC and have seen firsthand their commitment to developing a strong culture of philanthropy

in Charlotte. We want communities to understand that, despite having completed the four-year LIFE & LEGACY curriculum, we remain committed to assisting them in securing the future of valued organizations and their vibrant Jewish community. The funding of this pilot program is HGF's way of showing our confidence in and commitment to FCJC and the Charlotte Jewish community."

"Connections" is a collaborative effort between LIFE & LEGACY and Gateway for Good, a public benefit corporation whose focus is to leverage the radical power of the giving experience to impact the hearts and minds of those who give. Gateway for Good's principals, Yale Levey, managing director of Next Generation Wealth Planning, and Ryan Ponsford, a principal at Akili Capital and founder of Main Street Philanthropy, a 501c3 public charity, each have over 20 years' experience advising families and organizations on enhanced philanthropic giving and multigenerational continuity. They are



Phil Warshauer, FCJC Executive Director; Nancy Kipnis, VP & Coordinator, Create Your Jewish Legacy; Harold Grinspoon, founder, Harold Grinspoon Foundation; Arlene Schiff, National Director of the Grinspoon Foundation's LIFE & LEGACY program.

sought after speakers and thought leaders who use giving to create connections, foster trust and communication, and teach financial principles. "Connections" will bring together members of the Jewish community to participate in an interactive workshop designed to help identify and understand one's passion for giving, evaluate one's potential to make an impact, and inspire conversations and connections, consistent

with Jewish heritage and values.

"Providing Jewish communities with proven tools and training to help them secure their long-term financial goals is absolutely vital," said Harold Grinspoon, founder of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. "Our investment in 'Connections' reflects our continued commitment to our LIFE & LEGACY communities by supporting innovative initiatives to assist their work and allow future generations to enjoy our rich Jewish culture and heritage."

"It's an incredible honor for FCJC and



Charlotte to be selected by the Grinspoon Foundation to help them develop this prototype for philanthropic engagement," said Phil Warshauer, FCJC Executive Director. "The commitment and success of Grinspoon supported initiatives speak for themselves. A program that is designed to engage donors and assist them in identifying their passions corresponds directly with the evolution of FCJC. It enables us to use our expertise to serve the interests of our clients and assist them with their lifetime and legacy giving."☆

Bal Tashchit and Beyond: The Cost of Clothes

From "I have nothing to wear" to "on sale" and "on-trend," it is all too easy to be transfixed by the never-ending cycle of fashionable finds and the lure of discount duds. But it turns out that fast fashion is not a good deal for you or for the planet.

As consumers worldwide buy more clothes, the growing market for inexpensive items and new styles is taking a toll. According to McKinsey and Company, the average consumer purchased 60% more items of clothing in recent years than they did in 2000 but kept each garment for half as long. A separate study found that fast fashions are typically worn no more than ten times, whether because the garment fell apart, went out of style, or was simply viewed as disposable.

The impact goes deeper than your wallet. Fashion is one of the major polluting industries in the world. The production and distribution of the crops, fibers, and garments used in fashion all contribute to differing forms of environmental pollution.

* On average, Americans produce 75 pounds of textile waste per person each year.

* Globally, up to 85% of textiles produced go into landfills. In fact, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of clothes is burned or dumped in a landfill every second.

* The fashion industry alone

is responsible for 10% of humanity's carbon emissions. That's more emissions than all international flights and maritime shipping combined. If nothing changes, by 2050 it is anticipated the fashion industry will use up 25% of the world's carbon budget, making it one of the most polluting industries second only to oil.

* The fashion industry is the second-largest consumer of water worldwide and the fashion industry is responsible for 20% of all industrial water pollution worldwide.

Feeling buyer's remorse? What can we, as consumers, do to change this? When it comes to environmental action, one of the most effective ways people can have a positive impact on the planet is through more sustainable purchasing choices.

Begin by buying less. Start questioning why you feel the need to shop in the first place. Stop yourself from browsing online to fill the time or fill a void. Next, evaluate what it is that you really need to purchase. Consider taking an inventory of your closet and try restyling pieces that you wear less often. The most environmentally and economically sensible choice is to use and repurpose what we already have.

When you shop there are many options outside of fast fashion. It's easy to find stylish, affordable, and ethical clothing if you

know where to look:

* Thrift. Between consignment stores, vintage shops, and online retailers, you'll be able to find the right resale store to fit your budget and style.

o Thrift stores typically refer to nonprofits who sell donated items. If you don't mind sifting, you can find great clothing for as low as a dollar.

o Consignment retailers buy used items and resell them. They'll often carry designer labels in mint condition, but at a fraction of the price and environmental cost.

o Vintage refers to clothing with history. Here, you can find garments from just about every era of the 20th century.

* Share. Take advantage of the share economy by renting special pieces through retailers like Rent the Runway or by swapping items with friends. Embrace hand-me-downs and join social media groups that facilitate buy, sell, and swap opportunities.

* Support. Even the most environmentally minded among us can agree that certain garments should not come second-hand. For those occasions, look to retailers dedicated to using recycled materials, green manufacturing, and the humane treatment of workers. Avoid purchasing clothing made from convention-

(Continued on page 23)

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Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/\$2/hour

NM/\$5.50 per hour

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

Micro/Juniors/Kickers & Youth Soccer Leagues

Registration Dates:

Members: February 4 – March 2

Non-Members: February 17 – March 2

Parent and Me Soccer (2.5–3 year olds)
March 29 – May 3

Micro-Soccer (4–5 year olds)
March 15 – May 17

Juniors Soccer (6–7 year olds)
March 15 – May 17

Kickers Soccer (8–11 year olds)
March 15 – May 17

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(ages as of Aug. 1, 2019)



Register 3 ways: charlottejcc.org • LJCC Customer Service • 704-366-5007

LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us if you have questions!

Membership

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

Early Childhood

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

K-5th Grade Programs

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

Adults & Seniors/Oasis

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

Wellness & Fitness

Jenny Crow 704-944-6870
jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

Sports

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

Aquatics / Swim Team

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

LJCC Tennis / CRUSH

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

Visual/Performing Arts

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

J-Childcare

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

Social Action

Julie Rizzo 704-944-6730
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• Minimum age to participate is 3 years • Deadline to register is 2/16/2020

Sunday, February 23rd • 3:30-5:30 PM

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Couple pricing: M/\$25 NM/\$35

TO REGISTER: 704-366-5007 or visit the LJCC Customer Service Desk

QUESTIONS? 704-944-6881 • lyn.addy@charlottejcc.org

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14th Annual

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12:00pm Lunch

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- * Hole-in-One



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K-7th Grade

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Price per month: 2 classes per week

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Lori Sklut Recreation Hall at Camp Mindy

M/\$18 B/\$11 NM/\$28

LJCC TEEN DEPARTMENT & CJFF PRESENTS...

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT



Meet up with your friends and come enjoy the movie, **Abe**, (starring Noah Schnapp, Stranger Things) about a boy navigating the clash of cultures that forms his Jewish/Muslim family all the while creating concoctions in the kitchen.

Enjoy falafel with traditional Middle Eastern flavors, pizza and ice cream!

Saturday, February 8th • 7-9 PM

Gorelick Hall, LJCC

M/\$20 B/\$12 N/M \$30

Register at LJCC Customer Service

by Feb. 5th

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Questions?

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Adults

"Nosh & Know" about Parkinson's Disease

Join us monthly for a series of topics. We'll provide refreshments and snacks. February topic: "Telling Jokes and Talking My PD Story" presented by Comedian Glenn Lurie.

Tuesday, February 11 • 11:30am-12:15pm

Weinberg Senior Center • Free

Must RSVP each month, by the Friday before to

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

This program is offered in collaboration with



Oasis Book Club

February's Book:

The Woman in the Window, by A. J. Finn

Friday, February 28, 1–2pm

FSP Boardroom • Free; just show up!

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

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SHIIP

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



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is for every girl at the LJCC!

Twice per week for 10 weeks, girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills.

Tuesdays & Thursdays

3:30-4:45pm

February 25th – May 7th

with Coaches Daniela Becker & Jenny Crow

No Class April 13–17

Outdoor Track (transfer from JTEAM is available)

End of Season 5K: May 10th (mommaday5k.com)

M/\$170 NM/\$190

Register at charlottejcc.org or

at LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org



OASIS Senior Enrichment

Mon-Fri • 9am-5pm

Weinberg Senior Center

View our monthly newsletter online, or pick up a hard copy in Weinberg.

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

Monthly Field Trips • Exercise Classes

Game Days • Painting Classes

Enrichment Activities

Educational Seminars

M/W/F Kosher Lunch

Q? Jill Lipson: 704-944-6792

jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org



The Union for Reform Judaism Biennial: Your Vote Counts

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) is the largest Jewish movement in North America, with almost 850 congregations and nearly 1.5 million members. Two local Reform synagogues, Temple Beth El and Temple Solel, recently sent delegations to the URJ Biennial in Chicago, IL.

Before a live audience, URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs presented a riveting reminder to us as Jewish people, "There are people out there that are looking for the authentic, meaningful experience that we offer, and as long as I have the great honor of leading our movement, we're not going to walk away from them. Not now, not ever." He continued, "We need to do what Jews have been doing for thousands of years – look to Torah. The key to our future isn't demography; it's theology. Back in Genesis, our ancestors were told over and over that Jewish life was meant to expand and grow, not contract. God makes this promise to Abraham and Sarah, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore ...' (Genesis 22:17). The Holy One wanted us to have more than a bit part in the unfolding saga of human life. We need to be everywhere, and there needs to be a lot of us, like the stars and sands."

Rabbi Jacobs also acknowledged the current times, "I don't need to tell you that there is brokenness and injustice all around



A motorized dreidel.

us. To live in this moment, if we want to do the sacred work of being God's partners, we need more hands and hearts on deck There are millions of North Americans Jews looking for their spiritual home, yearning to be inspired, looking for a place to belong. That place is our tent. It's our Movement."

Clergy, staff, and lay leaders from both synagogues attended the Biennial. Temple Beth El Senior Rabbi Asher Knight and Rabbi Emerita Judy Schindler, Director of the Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University, attended and are also important delegates in the World Zionist Election. Cantor Mary Thomas shared the importance of Biennial for clergy and professionals to connect with counterparts throughout the

Reform Movement. Jan Rose, Treasurer of Temple Solel, spent the conference surrounded by longtime friends and former colleagues from all over the US. She said, "I am having the time of my life." Russ Cobe, Lay Leader of Temple Solel, and Jan had the honor of representing small URJ congregations by carrying a Torah during the Saturday Shabbat service. Those attending for the first time like Temple Solel Secretary, Robin Spivock, expressed wonder and welcome, surrounded by thousands of people praying. Others in attendance, like Shelley Pawlyk, an active member of both Temple Beth El and President of Temple Solel, attended as many lectures as possible concerning Israel. Shelley noted that, "It was nice to balance serious lectures by building a motorized dreidel



Rabbi Gilad Kariv



Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky

taught by staff from the URJ 6-Points Sci-Tech Academy."

Dynamic presenters like Executive Director for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), Rabbi Gilad Kariv, focused on the ramifications for ensuring Israel's future as a pluralistic Jewish society by changing the hearts and minds of Israelis by inspiring meaningful Jewish experiences in their local Jewish Communities. Chair of Arzenu – the international Federation of Reform and Progressive Zionists - Rabbi Lea Muehlstein, reminded us as Jews in the west, we are living in a majority of pluralism. She added a global perspective from Europe where she and others are facing discrimination against the diversity of Judaism there also, not just in Israel. American Reform Jews are a part of a much larger, global Progressive Jewish movement in



Israel and throughout the globe.

As American Jews, we have an obligation to vote in the 38th World Zionist Congress. All Jewish-identified adults over the age of 18 are entitled to cast a vote and make their voice heard in Israel. Every hotel key card at Biennial was stamped with the phrase "Vote Reform – The key to your voice in Israel" as a constant reminder that each American Jewish adult has a vote and a voice that matters.

The 38th World Zionist Congress Vote is January 21–March 11. Vote online for the Jewish future in Israel and around the world. Visit www.arza.org. If you have questions or need more information, contact Israel Committee Chair, Alyson Traw 980-275-9435 or WZC Captain Shelley Pawlyk 803-548-1064.✳



We congratulate

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FOUNDATION FOR THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH COMMUNITY

on your selection as one of only three community partners nationwide to pilot LIFE & LEGACY's new "Connections" program.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUED COLLABORATION.





TORAH TOTS



SPECIAL DINNER & BIM BAM SHABBAT SERVICE WITH CJP
Friday, February 7
5:30 p.m. – dinner
6:15 p.m. - service

Join us for a special Shabbat with CJP and Torah Tots! After a delicious dinner we will welcome in Shabbat with songs, prayers, and movement led by Rabbi Kornsgold, Mr. Caleb, and a guest appearance by a special CJP friend! Register at templeisraelinc.org by Monday, February 3 (5 p.m.).

PAJAMA-DALLAH

Saturday, February 22, 5:45 p.m.
 Wear your pajamas and bring your pillow for a fun family program including music, Havdallah, and arts & crafts. RSVP for this FREE event at templeisraelinc.org by Tuesday, February 18 (5 p.m.).



YOUTH

KADIMA ON ICE (6th & 7th Grade)

Sunday, February 23, 12:15-4:15 p.m.

Join Kadima for an afternoon of ice skating at the U.S. National Whitewater Center! Bring a packed dairy lunch and we'll provide the hot chocolate. Drop-off & Pick-up at TIRS Cost: \$20/TI-Y Members; \$25/Non-Members. RSVP by 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

MARCH MITZVAH MADNESS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Sunday, March 1, 10 a.m.

Levine JCC

It's March Madness...or in our case, March Mitzvah Madness! Team up for this 3 vs. 3 double-elimination tournament benefitting Jewish Family Services. A minimum \$15 donation per person is required to play. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to JFS. Visit templeisrael.org calendar for details and/or to register.

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL (WoTI)

NOSH, CRAFT & KIBBITZ: PINOT & PAINTING

Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m.

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

Sip some wine and paint your own canvas, co-signed by Mordechai Rosenstein. Cost: \$18/WoTI Members; \$25/Non-Members. Limited space. RSVP at templeisraelinc.org.

EMPTY NESTERS

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, February 23, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Napa on Providence (110 Perrin Pl)

Join the Empty Nesters for a Sunday brunch of good food, drinks and great company at Napa on Providence! Seating is limited - register at templeisraelinc.org today!

LIFELONG LEARNING



LUNCH N' LEARN WITH RABBI HOWARD SIEGEL

Thursday, February 13

Conquering Fear: Living Boldly in an Uncertain World, 11 a.m.
 Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought, and join Rabbi Howard Siegel once a month at Temple Israel for an engaging discussion on one of Harold Kushner's thought-provoking books, followed by a delicious catered lunch (menu: NY Deli, with vegetarian option available). Registration required. Cost: \$10/TI Congregants; \$18/Guests. To register, visit templeisraelinc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CJFF PRESENTS: INCITEMENT

Wednesday, February 5, 7:15 p.m.

Temple Israel Community Partner Film

Directed by Yaron Zilberman, Israel 2019

Israel's submission for the 2020 Academy Awards, this rigorous psychological thriller depicts the lead-up to the 1995 assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin through the worldview of his assassin, Yigal Amir.

LEGACY SHABBAT

Saturday, February 8, 9:30 a.m.

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



WORLD WIDE WRAP XX

Sunday, February 2, 8:45 a.m.

8:45 – 9:15 a.m. – Wrapping

(Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary)

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. – Service (including Minyan)

(Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary)

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. – Breakfast provided by Men's Club

(Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)

Join Temple Israel and the Men's Club for the 20th Annual World Wide Wrap, which takes place on Super Bowl Sunday morning at Temple Israel. We will be wrapping tefillin together with hundreds of communities around the world, and will be joined by the parents and children from the Vav and Zayin classes at TIRS. We're in it for the tie!



SAVE THE DATE

MORDECHAI ROSENSTEIN

Artist-in-Residence Weekend
MARCH 5-8, 2020



Since 1979, Mordechai Rosenstein has been creating Jewish art. His unique style evolved as a result of various influences. By uniting his interest in Judaica and painting, Rosenstein has given a contemporary meaning to the art of Hebrew calligraphy. His art will be on display at Temple Israel, and available for sale. For information about this exciting weekend, visit templeisraelinc.org.



THE ROSE ROOM – WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP

GIFT SHOP HOURS

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

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

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

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



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

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Purim Carnival

Community-Wide

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
LEVINE JCC

11:00 AM: PJ Library Storytime
for Preschoolers

11:30 AM: Food available for sale

12:00 PM: Carnival begins

3:00 PM: Carnival ends

games ♦ inflatables ♦ food ♦ crafts ♦ prizes

Bring canned goods or household items for JFS
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Respect, Empower, Include: The Moishe House Approach to Building Community

By Terry Wunder, Moishe House Senior Program Director

"We put out a puzzle on a table so that they know there is a place for them to sit, an activity for them to do, and I try and remember to tell them the schedule of what's happening so they know what to anticipate."

This quote, from Alex Richler in Moishe House Toronto, is in reference to a space that she and her roommates created for members of their community that are neurodivergent (simply put, someone whose brain functions differently from society's standard of "normal") and may need some specific activities and structure to be comfortable in a sometimes loud, unstructured social environment. I love this idea because it's a simple, thoughtful adjustment that can make a Moishe House a space that fully inclusive for any and all community members.

I highlight this example because it's one of many that I've seen from residents across the Moisheverse this year, like MH Boston - Cambridge's soup delivery program (they literally make soup as a group and then deliver it to sick community members), Jordan Daniels, who is trying to open a Moishe Pod in San Diego, is looking for only ground-level housing so that people in wheelchairs can access their home, or how MH Houston and MH Atlanta - Virginia Highland put out Polaroid cameras for their community members to take selfies and post in their home so they're part of the house. These sometimes small, but important efforts show residents' respect for their community members, empower residents and others to create a more welcoming space, and are inclusive.

We believe that these three elements, Respect, Empower, Include are so important to the work we do as community builders that we're using it as the lens for which projects, systems, programs, and opportunities we'll be creating, changing, and evolving in 2020.

In a world where examples of division and conflict are in the headlines every day, we want to face that by putting all of our effort into treating people well, making sure everyone that wants to be part of a vibrant, wel-



MH Boston - Cambridge's community making soup for their soup delivery program



MH Philadelphia learning about housing insecurity in their Sukkah

coming, Jewish social space can be, and give every resident the tools, skills, funding, and confidence to make that happen.

In 2020, Moishe Houses will do 23 programs every single day. If we approach each one of those events as an opportunity to show respect to each other, empower one another to live Judaism your way, and include as many young people as possible in the process, we'll have changed the world for the better.

Here are more examples of Respect, Empower, Include moments from other Moishe Houses:

MH New York City - Murray Hill created an automated RSVP system to make sure they never missed a community member who emailed about a program.

MH Miami Midtown resident Carol Kaplan personally called a potential community member to invite them over because they were feeling wary of showing up because of anxiety related to their neurodiversity. After the event, that new community member wrote a nice thank you note to the

resident and MH staff.

MH New York City - Williamsburg hosted a Young Adult Mental Health panel which brought about almost 40 participants to learn from local experts and field workers.

MH Baltimore includes an accessibility statement in their newsletter including parking information and who to contact if you have a disability and require an accommodation.

MH Philadelphia resident, Liat Greenwood, created a text study about housing insecurity and they used it when doing a pizza in the sukkah event for Sukkot as a way to infuse content in collaboration with Loren Berman, their Regional Jewish Educator.

MH Atlanta - Toco Hills hosted a program with a "points expert" to talk about credit cards and airline points and how to work the system for max returns.

MH Twin Cities sent out thank you cards to all their WE ARE donors over a certain dollar amount, to MH staff, and their local Federation. ☆

Terry Wunder is Moishe House's Senior Program Director, supervising the teams overseeing the 118 Moishe Houses across the globe, as well as the Moishe House Without Walls (MHWOW) program.



Shalom Green: The Cost of Clothes

(Continued from page 17)

al cotton, synthetics like polyester, nylon, and acrylic, and animal-derived materials like leather and fur as these have the largest negative environmental impact.

One featured sustainable retailer is ZABS Place, a local nonprofit thrift boutique that addresses a critical shortage of employment opportunities for young adults with special needs (talents) by providing jobs with personalized training. According to ZABS Place Chief Executive Talent Bentzion Groner, "At ZABS Place we are big believers

in second chances. When we receive items that may not be good enough quality to be sold as-is, we often try to repurpose them as something different using the salvageable parts of the item. We've created an atmosphere of innovation turning random items into useful everyday tools. We've made worn out jeans into trendy utility belts, spoons and forks as fitting room hooks, rusty cable wheels as clothing racks, and wire hangers into assistive shirt buttoning devices. It's not rocket science, it's a shift in mindset."

We hope you will use these resources to fuel your fashion fix at a fraction of the environmental cost. Give the clothes in your closet a second chance and challenge yourself to cut your new clothing consumption by 50% this year. It's a bargain deal for your budget and your planet.

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. ☆

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

Wednesdays 8-11 AM at the Levine Jewish Community Center
Thursdays 9 AM - 5 PM at the home of Lynn Edelstein 3802 Columbine Cir.

All proceeds go to local charities

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- Household gross income not to exceed \$75,000
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- Multiple children attending camps and/or Jewish programs
- Extenuating chronic family circumstances (ie: special needs children; disability, etc.)

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

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

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

For more information about Israel subsidies, please contact the Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations & Israel Affairs, at 704.944.6751 or email her at laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

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



Jewish Federation
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THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

*of blessed memory

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Back in October, Jewish Family Services initiated a "Lighting the Way to Peace" campaign to heighten awareness about Domestic Violence. And, although October is the official month to shine a light on Domestic Violence, it is important to keep the dialogue going year round as violence in relationships occur year-round, as does Teen Dating Violence (TDV). It is more common than you think.

It is hard to imagine, and maybe too scary to confront, that your teen could be involved in a physical and/or emotionally violent relationship. However, TDV affects millions of teens in the U.S. each year. And if it is happening with your teen, they are most likely not telling you anything about it.

TDV is a type of intimate partner violence. It occurs between two people in a close relationship and includes four types of behavior:

- * Physical violence is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.

- * Sexual violence is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent.

- * Psychological aggression is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm another person mentally or emotionally and/or exert control over another person.

- * Stalking is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the victim.

Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a "normal" part of a relationship – but these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence.

While one in three women and one in four men will experience violence from their partners in their lifetimes, one in three teens will experience sexual or physical abuse or threats from a partner in one year.

In an effort to help raise awareness, here are some facts that show why it is important to talk about healthy relationships:

- > Young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence – almost triple the national average.

- > Only 33% of adolescents who were in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse.

- > Violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications by putting the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and further domestic violence.

lence.

- > One in six young men have experienced abusive sexual experiences before age 18.

- > LGBT youth are more likely to experience physical and psychological dating abuse, sexual coercion, and cyber dating abuse than their heterosexual peers.

- > 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don't know if it's an issue.

To affect change it is important to talk with your teen. Here are some tips:

- > Encourage open, honest, and thoughtful conversation about healthy relationships.

- > Be sensitive and firm, willing to talk openly and respect differences of opinion.

- > Understand teen development. Adolescence is all about experimentation. Knowing what's "normal" is critical to helping you better understand and guide young people.

- > Understand the pressure and the risk teen's face. Young teens express their desire to have parents take the time to listen to them and help them think through situations.

- > Take a clear stand. Make sure young teens know how you feel about disrespect, use of abusive or inappropriate language, controlling behavior, or any forms of violence.

- > Accentuate the positive. Conversations about relationships do not need to focus solely on risky behavior or negative

consequences.

- > Be an active participant in your young teen's life. Explore ways to know more about your young teen's friends and interests. Find activities you can do together.

- > Be prepared to make mistakes, because you will, but continue to help your teen make responsible choices.

If you are in a violent relationship or know someone who is, Jewish Family Services can help. Call 704-364-6594. ☆



Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Freedom School Partners Announces New CEO and Executive Director

The board of directors of Freedom School Partners is pleased to announce that Glenda Bernhardt has been named CEO and Executive Director of the organization. Bernhardt has most recently served as the Executive Director of Temple Israel in Charlotte.

"I am so excited to become the next CEO and Executive Director of Freedom School Partners, and I look forward to working with the board, staff, volunteers and partners to write the next chapter of this important community agency's story," says Bernhardt. "Together, we will build upon the strength and impact that Freedom School Partners has demonstrated over the last 20 years and define a future that best serves our community's children and families and promotes their long-term success." ☆



Glenda Bernhardt

From Generation to Generation:

L'DOR V'DOR



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Please join us!

Come share a very special morning of
LEARNING – GROWING – CONNECTING
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Grandparents' Day

Friday, February 14th

8:30-9am Check-in Main Lobby

9am-12pm Programs



Charlotte Jewish Preschool

CJP is a partnership between Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, and Levine JCC

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Create Your Jewish Legacy
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Levine JCC 2019 Annual Meeting

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community was held December 10. The evening began with a beautiful cocktail celebration.

Julie Guidry, Executive Director of Upstream Arts, gave an inspiring D'Var Torah to over 150 attendees. Julie inspired us all to think about B'tzelem Elohim, and how segregation of people with and without disabilities has denied all of us opportunities to genuinely, successfully, joyfully, be in community with one another.

Outgoing Directors, Brian Bernhardt, Elise Kosofsky, Ed Pizer, and Jon Simon were honored for their service to the LJCC. Jon Simon thanked Nominating Committee members Julia Greenfield, Elise Kosofsky, Mark Lerner, Lisa Strause Levinson, Andrew Rosen, and Robert Valenstein for their success in selecting a strong slate of candidates.

The slate of Officers and Directors were presented to and unanimously approved by the general membership: Officers Raizel Kahn (President), George Cronson (Treasurer), Lauren Althofer (VP), Gabe Mathless (VP) as well as Directors Dawn Chandland*, Ellen Goldberg, Todd Gorelick, Michelle Perlmutter, Steven Rogelberg, Jenny Sugar*, Adam Taback*, and Chip Wallach were elected to the Board of the LJCC (*New Directors).

Jeff Turk, outgoing President, thanked his family, Board, LJCC



Jeff Turk (Past President), Julie Guidry (Upstream Arts), Peter Blair (CEO), Raizel Kahn (President)

Staff, and CEO Peter Blair for their support during his term. Jeff stated that "the J ensures an environment that is inclusive, wel-



LJCC Directors: Steven Rogelberg, Brian Sterling, Jon Simon

coming, and fosters meaningful relationships. Membership is the strongest ever with over 10,000 members, more Jewish members than any other Jewish organization in North and South Carolina, people refer to the J as the heartbeat of the Jewish community.

and find a home." Raizel's vision for the J is "... that it continues to grow and thrive as both a proverbial town square for conversations within the Jewish and broader communities, and also as a gateway into Jewish life. It is our community's job to express to everyone who walks through our doors, whether Jews or those of other faiths, our core Judaic values of justice, community, charity, outreach, and family."

Peter Blair, CEO, thanked Bank of America and Paul Burley for their title sponsorship of the Annual Meeting. Peter's inspiring speech challenged us all to think about inclusion within our community and between our members. He reinforced his vision that the Levine

We are J-Awesome."

Raizel Kahn, incoming President, thanked her family for their patience and willingness to make their own sacrifices so that she could take on this role. She noted that the J "exists to make us all better in a world of increasing disconnectedness. It allows everyone, no matter what stage of the life cycle they are at, to engage, connect,

JCC "shall be a place of welcome for all" and reaffirmed the LJCC's commitment to ensuring that we are an inclusive community for all, regardless of the factors that differentiate us.

Upstream Arts was presented with the J's Yachad Award for their work with our community members with varying abilities over the last five years. Peter thanked Upstream Arts for "push[ing] the J to not only be increasingly inclusive of members with disabilities, but to be bold in [our] leadership... Together is exactly what it has felt like to partner with Upstream Arts, and together we shall repair the world."

Bruce Mirman was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for his tireless dedication to the JTennis Department. Bruce built community every day, through every email, and in every moment that he dedicated to the tennis community.

Lisa Strause Levinson, Director, received the President and Executive Director's Award for ensuring a successful golf tournament, chairing a Benchmarking Task Force, and serving as a Vice President of the J Board. Her dedication will continue to provide our community with a stronger J and ensure that our community has the environment in which to create new relationships for the



Bruce Mirman (2019 Volunteer of the Year), Greg O'Connor (Director of Tennis)

next generation.

Peter expressed his appreciation for the value and commitment of the staff and presented awards to the Outstanding Employee of 2019, Diana Barnes, as well as Jill Lipson and Dee Copper for five years of service to the LJCC and Elsa Safir for 10 years.

The evening was a celebration of all that the LJCC has accomplished over the past year and offered a chance to look forward to the year to come. All who attended left saying, "This was the best annual meeting we have ever had," a refrain heard every year for the past several years. We hope to see you all next year. ☆



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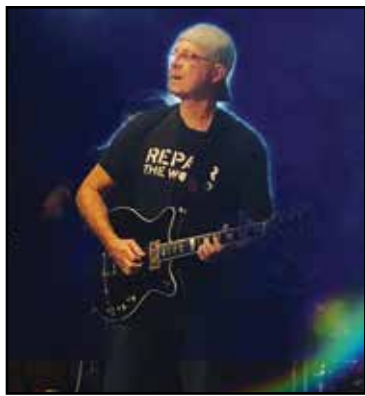
Director, Sandra Goldman
director@hebrewcemetery.org
704-576-1859

The Shabbat Experience, and All that Jazz...

"Free at last, free at last!" Dr. Martin Luther King's immortal words still ring in our heads today. On January 17, Middle C Jazz, the new club owned by Larry Farber and managed by Jonathan Gellman was filled to capacity for The Shabbat Experience led by The Ruach and Rabbi Rachel Smookler that included a tribute to the visionary leader.

Some in attendance at the service were moved to tears as The Ruach played "People Get Ready," the inspirational song that Dr. King even called the unofficial anthem of the Civil Rights Movement. With its all-inclusive lyrics, Dr. King often used this song to inspire and engage his marchers. Curtis Mayfield wrote the song a year or so after the historic March on Washington in 1963 that culminated with Dr. King's monumental "I Have a Dream" speech that has come to symbolize that occasion, the hope, spirit, and struggle.

In addition to the modern Jewish music The Ruach plays at every month's Shabbat Experience, they often play popular secular songs that are relevant to the theme of the evening. So, everyone knew immediately what was coming next when they heard Peter Levinson, The Ruach's lead guitarist, launch into the familiar guitar intro to U2's "Pride in the Name of Love." After the opening and before the first verse, Nancy



The Ruach lead guitarist Peter Levinson

Good, lead singer of The Ruach, recited some of the words of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and explained that in Hebrew, the word for love is "ahava." The feeling of love was palpable as the song ended with everyone on their feet, swaying side-to-side, arms wrapped around each other, singing "ahava" together, over and over to the tune of U2's anthem. Once again, music was the vehicle for bringing people together to hope and dream. That is what The Ruach and The Ruach Community are all about.

Speaking of "People Get Ready," get ready to be part of the next Ruach experience.

On February 28 at 6:45 PM, The Shabbat Experience will be at Watershed Charlotte, 2101 Shenandoah Avenue in the Chantilly neighborhood, just a couple of blocks from the center of Pla-

za-Midwood.

Don't miss a thing. To be on the distribution list and get the latest updates on The Ruach and upcoming Experiences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. To learn more about The Ruach, visit the band (and give them a "like") on Facebook, follow on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music, and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. The Ruach depends solely upon donations and grants to support the High Holy Day and year-round Shabbat Experiences. The Shabbat Experiences are supported, in part, by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. All members of The Ruach and Rabbi Rachel Smookler are volunteers and receive no compensation for their contributions. What they do is done with an authentic and genuine love of Judaism and the Jewish people. The Ruach is: Nancy Good, lead vocals and rhythm guitar; Peter Levinson, lead guitar; Dan Ruda, bass guitar and vocals; Howard Swartz, congas; Rick Lipson, drums; and David Armbrust, percussion and vocals.☆

Pre-Planning Can Ease A Loss

By Sandra Goldman, director, Hebrew Cemetery Association

Change is never easy. Just the idea of leaving old habits, belongings, or even leaving people behind can be enough to make us feel uneasy. There is this overwhelming sense of uncertainty that makes us feel afraid of finally making that big change, starting over, and doing something new. So let's all be reminded, a new year brings a message of hope, motivation, new birth, and new beginnings. This is also the time that one should consider getting all personal belongings in order and perhaps also looking at the other side of life's spectrum: Death.

If you don't know what is important to the person that you are ultimately responsible for, it will be a burden to decide just that. Experts agree that talking about your death or the death of a loved one is a very loving, although sometimes uncomfortable, act for your family. It is, however, the ultimate gift to yourself and your loved ones and talking about it is not going to bring on our demise any sooner.

Our culture is focused on living and prolonging life. When we know a death is imminent, our bodies are often in a state of hyper-alertness – we panic whenever the phone rings; we worry about any change. It's so tough to watch our loved one suffer and

decline. This can become mentally and physically exhausting. Caring for a loved one takes an emotional toll on us and we begin to grieve.

Here is the thing about grief – though we think of it as something that happens after a death, it often begins long before death arrives. It can start as soon as we become aware that death is a likelihood. Once death is on the horizon, even just as a possibility, it is natural that we begin to grieve.

Though anticipatory death is different than the grief that follows an actual death, its grief can carry many of the symptoms of regular grief – sadness, anger, isolation, forgetfulness, and depression. These complicated emotions are often coupled with the exhaustion that comes with being a caregiver. We are aware of the looming death and in an acceptance that it will come, can bring an overwhelming anxiety and dread. More than that, in advance of a death, we grieve the loss of the person's abilities and independence, their loss of cognition, a loss of hope, loss of future dreams, loss of stability and security, loss of their identity and our own, and countless other losses. This grief is not just about accepting the future death, but of the many losses already occurring as an illness progresses. For

(Continued on next page)

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A Novel Way to Visit Europe's Best-Known Cities, Part 2

By Richard A. Klein

Our second day began with an early morning visit to Berlin, GA, which was incorporated in 1910. The town was briefly re-named "Lens" after America entered World War I.

We visited the building housing the local police department and town hall. Three police cars were parked outside when we knocked on the door. Officer Evan Garlick spoke with us and posed for photos next to his police car. We later met with Chief Zach Fallin who welcomed us with information about this town of almost 600 people and four police officers. When asked about the biggest police problem in Berlin, Chief Fallin smiled and said "dogs." Second biggest concern? A young man had committed some burglaries, but was caught.

Berlin's website (www.city-ofberlinga.com) has a listing of sites of interest: water conservation, Colquitt County, Colquitt

County Schools, and town newspapers.

We headed north not far from the Alabama border, passing Albany and Columbus, both of which have Jewish congregations. The congregation in Albany, GA, is Temple B'nai Israel, which is Reform. The Conservative congregation in Columbus is Shearith Israel Synagogue; the Reform congregation is Temple Israel.

Our next destination was Budapest, GA. Today's Budapest barely appears on some maps, and not at all on others. For the most part, Budapest is a shadow of its past. One plaque notes that in 1888, wine-making communities were founded in Budapest on about 2000 acres. Ralph Spencer, a land developer, invited 200 Hungarian wine-making families to settle in the area. A Catholic priest, Father Janishek encouraged the Hungarians to move from the coal mines of Pennsylvania to Budapest. About 50 families responded. Each family was allotted ten acres.

The wineries did well for sev-

eral years producing an abundance of grapes as well as establishing a town church and general store. But then along came the Prohibition Act of 1919 and the market for grapes soured. Most of the Hungarians returned to Pennsylvania because the soil was good for grapes, but not for general farming.

Only a small cemetery with about 20 graves and a large arch gateway at the entrance was left in the Budapest we visited. There have been no burials since 1956. There is a historical encasement at the entrance with some archival photographs on display, a small Hungarian flag and an envelope with a postmark stamped Budapest, GA, dated 1902.

Rome, GA, is located about an hour north of Budapest. With a population of over 36,000, the city had developed on seven hills, which explains why it was named Rome, the capital of Italy, by European-American settlers.

A most striking statue stands in front of Rome's city hall. Italy honored the American community with a replica of the statue

of Romulus and Remus nursing from a mother wolf, the symbol of the founding myth of Italy's Rome. It is known as the Capitoline Wolf. The statue was temporarily removed and stored for safety during World War II, but returned in late 1952.

We were welcomed to Rome, GA, by Joseph Smith, city clerk, and Katie Kiser, assistant to City Manager, Sammy Rich.

Among the attractions in Rome: the large Victorian Era District, the Rome City Clocktower and Freedom Garden - dedicated to the demonstrators of the civil rights movement. There are also a number of possible tours: Civil War Sites, Riverboat Tours, History Tours (complete with Roman chariots) and a film tour where some popular movies and television programs were made.

Rodeph Sholom Congregation in Rome is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. It was established in 1875 and has a membership of about 30 families.

Leaving Rome, we found ourselves about five hours, and a few hundred miles away from home

in Charlotte. We now had the opportunity to amaze and surprise our unsuspecting friends with the news that we had just spent time in Athens, Dublin, Vienna, Berlin, Budapest, and Rome. And the first question most asked: "Which airline did you take to make the trip?" The answer was always the same: A Ford Fusion. ☆

Elias Roachvarg is Cantor Emeritus at Temple Israel in Charlotte, NC. Richard A. Klein recently retired from fund raising for a major philanthropic organization. One of the communities he served was Athens, GA.



Cemetery Pre-Planning

(Continued from previous page)

those reasons and so many more, it is imperative to know what is important to the person that you are ultimately responsible for and if you don't take the time now to deal with these reasons, it might just be too late.

So let's learn from these lessons, plan for this coming year and beyond. Call the cemetery and make an appointment to pre-plan your funeral and reserve the gravesite of your choice and lock in today's price. We will sit with you in our office at Shalom Park or meet you on site at the cemetery and explain the process to you at your own pace.

If you have not done so, become a member of the cemetery and receive a discount on grave and burial fees. Funeral planning is a conversation with your loved ones that makes them part of the process. Do you want a traditional burial or rather wish a green "Israeli style" burial? The Hebrew cemetery offers choices - find your final resting place in the traditional Jewish section, within the Orthodox section, in our community/interfaith section, or in our cremation section. Purchase just one grave for yourself or plan ahead and buy for your entire family and future spouses.

By preplanning your funeral, one thing is guaranteed, a weight will be lifted off you and you will have peace of mind. Create a folder with all your final wishes. Make sure your family knows where you keep these important documents. Once you have completed these steps, go work on those new resolutions you have made up for this New Year and concentrate on life's joys and gifts as they come.

Contact Cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman, for information on how you can become a member and for any other membership/burial/grave/funeral/legacy/gift-giving questions you might have: director@hebrewcemetery.org/704-576-1859. ☆

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