

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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Tevet-Shvat 5780

January 2020

Time is Running Out to Get Your Tickets to Hear Best-Selling Author Mitch Albom Speak at the 2020 Main Event

Tickets are selling briskly for The Main Event, the Federation's highest profile event of the season ... the event that kicks off our community's 2020 Annual Campaign. On Sunday, January 26, please join us at Temple Israel, 7 PM, to hear best-selling author, Mitch Albom speak on "Have a Little Faith: How Trusting Others Can Change the World."

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, sportswriter, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster, and musician. His books have collectively sold more than 39 million copies worldwide, have been published in 49

territories and in 45 languages around the world, and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies.

While nationally recognized for his sports writing, Albom is perhaps best known for the themes of hope and kindness that weave through his books, plays, and films. In his talks and presentations, he brings the same inspiring message of community building, giving, and purpose. Expanding on themes already developed in his bestselling books *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, Mitch Albom weaves a captivating and uplifting message about the potential in all of us for a giving, meaningful life.

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



door on January 26.

Everyday, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, together with you, our donors and partners, enriches lives, builds community, and fosters a thriving Jewish future locally, in Israel and around the world. We are always at work empowering the community and your Jewish experience in ways you might not think of, in places you would never expect. This is your moment to help. Join us at the Main Event, and be the start of something powerful. You will also have the opportunity to make your pledge to the 2020 Annual Campaign.

The Main Event with Author Mitch Albom
Sunday, January 26, 7 PM, Temple Israel.
Tickets: \$36; www.jewishcharlotte.org;
704-944-6757

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

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews

locally, nationally, in Israel, and worldwide. Through education, planning, and community building, the Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions, and connections are preserved for current and future generations. ☆



The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports programs and services that have real impact on Jewish life each and every day, in Charlotte, Israel and around the world. Turn to **pages 8 & 9** to see how your dollars have powered our community!

YidLive! By YidLife Crisis Opens the 2020 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman of YidLife Crisis Bring Their Angst and Neuroses to Charlotte

By Amy Krakovitz

Can you have a mid-life crisis when you are still in your 30s? Well, it happened to Eli Batalion and Jamie Elman, two Montreal

comedians who say theirs was a "crisis of Jewish identity."

"We grew up in a very Jewish neighborhood," says Eli. "We went to a high school that taught

us the Yiddish language. In the next 18 years after high school, we ended up doing nothing that had anything to do with that. So at a certain point, we decided we should reconcile our very Jewish upbringing with our very non-Jewish lifestyle and that began this project."

"This project" is *YidLife Crisis*, a web series of short episodes almost entirely in Yiddish where characters Leizer (Batalion) and Chaimie (Elman) discuss food, tradition, rituals, philosophy, their place in the world, and Yiddishkeit, all with a caustic yet charming sense of humor.

But why Yiddish? Many people learned Spanish or French in high school, but they don't create web series in those languages.

"Yiddish is a few things to us," explains Jamie. "It's symbolic of the upbringing that we had in Montreal which was filled with Yiddish and Yiddishkeit because Montreal is a bastion of Yiddish culture. There was and still is a Yiddish theater, a Yiddish public library, and we learned Yiddish at Bialik High School. So this is part of our upbringing."

"We also recognize that there's

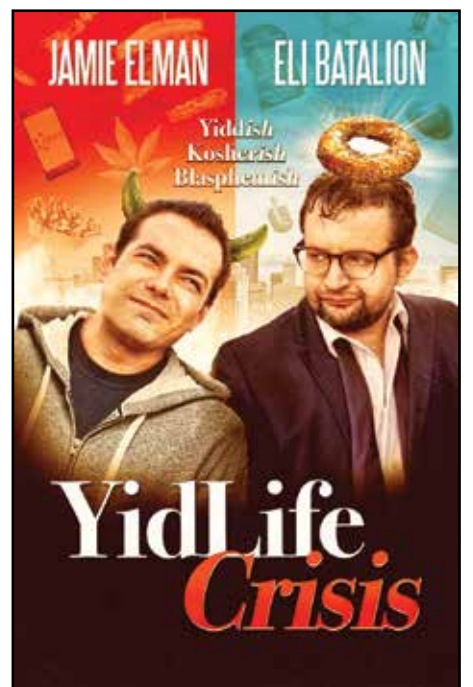
a Jewish comedy tradition that is rooted in Yiddish language and Yiddish inflection and the musicality of Yiddish that found its way into American comedy in the last century. By the way," he adds, "when we tell this story on stage, it's a lot funnier."

Appealing to an Intergenerational Audience

"Part of the appeal of Yiddish," Jamie continues, "is the nostalgia. On the other hand, young audiences get a kick out of hearing two young-ish guys speak Yiddish. We see grandparents bring their grandkids to our shows and vice

versa. It's an intergenerational experience. And the sense of humor is certainly intergenerational.

(Continued on page 27)



After what will be 22 years of editing *The Charlotte Jewish News*, our editor has elected to put down her red pen. We are seeking applicants for the position of editor. Please go to jewishcharlotte.org for the job description and information on the application process.

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Sue's Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer



When I read the obituaries and tributes to Holocaust survivors Henry Hirschman and Susan Cernyak-Spatz found in *The Charlotte Observer*, I immediately thought about their visits to

Hebrew High many, many years ago.

Henry was there to recall Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass." I will never forget the sound of breaking glass reverberating throughout Gorelick Hall, as Henry took a hammer to the pieces of glass stowed in a box under the lectern.

Susan's story was very different. Susan spoke of daily life during the three years she spent in Nazi concentration camps. Susan's story was about surviving the atrocities and humiliations as a prisoner in the hands of the Nazis.

Now Henry and Susan are gone.

Now Henry's and Susan's memories are gone.

Now the last survivors of the concentration camps and the Holocaust are leaving our world.

Now it is up to us.

I can recall countless times when I've heard from fellow readers that they don't want to read yet another Holocaust book. Regardless of how many Holocaust books you've read, or how

many Holocaust stories you've heard, there is always another story waiting. These stories are told from the points of view of not only survivors of the camps, but also of Jews and non-Jews alike who survived the war years in many countries throughout Europe. It is up to us to read these books, hear these stories, and share them with our children, grandchildren, friends, students, and neighbors to keep the memories alive.

In his book *Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom*, Ariel Burger honors Elie Wiesel's truth that "listening to a witness makes you a witness," and suggests that the reader of every story by a witness will become a witness, too. Our world needs new witnesses. A survey by the Conference on Material Claims against Germany, and released on Yom HaShoah this year, found that 41% of respondents, and 66% of millennial respondents, didn't know what Auschwitz was. Commenting on these results, *Tablet Magazine's* Alvin Rosenfeld concludes that we must keep alive the

stories of "survivor-witnesses," in order to preserve the memory of the past "for its own sake, as an act of fidelity to the dead, and also as a warning that what happened can happen again."

So continue reading Holocaust books, continue sharing these stories, in order to preserve the memories of survivors who are no longer with us.

Some titles you may not have read are:

* *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

* *Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and World War II* by Robert Matzen

* *The Girl from Berlin* by Ron Balson

* *Beneath the Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan

* *The World That We Knew* by Alice Hoffman

* *From Sand and Ash* by Amy Harmon

* *The Flight Portfolio* by Julie Orringer

All titles can be found in the Center for Jewish Education. ☆

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Shabbat Candle Lighting for January 2020

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Friday, January 10, 5:11 PM
Friday, January 17, 5:18 PM
Friday, January 24, 5:25 PM
Friday, January 31, 5:32 PM



The Charlotte Jewish News

5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone

(voice mail after office hours)

Office 704-944-6765

email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

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Amy Krakovitz - Editor
Advertising Sales Reps:
Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950 or
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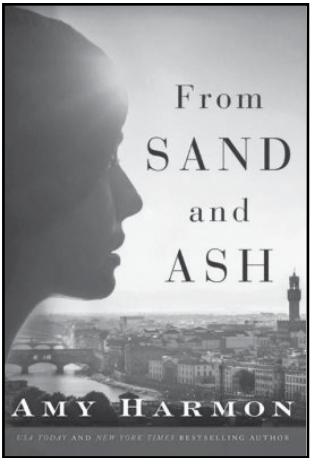
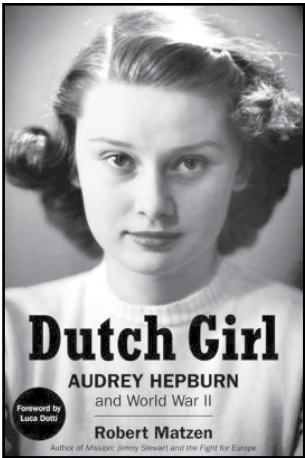
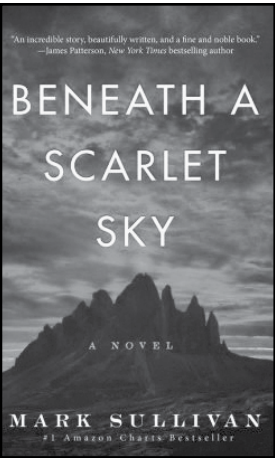
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Community News

Dr. Cernyak-Spatz - a Survivor, Scholar, Matriarch, and Mentor

By Temple Beth El clergy and Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice staff

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz, 97, passed away. The community mourned her life as a Holocaust survivor and scholar; as a mentor and family matriarch; as an actress and friend; and as a long-time devoted member of Temple Beth El and Charlotte's Jewish community.

There were many chapters to Susan's life: 16 years growing up in Vienna and Berlin, five years in the Holocaust – Theresienstadt, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Death March, Ravensbruck, and liberation – and 29 years of rebuilding her life; her marriage to an American GI; her immigration to America; the birth of Jackie in Illinois and Todd and Wendy in Missouri; and the return to school to earn a BA and PHD in German from Southwest Missouri State University.

There were Susan's 47 happiest years of being in Charlotte – becoming mother-in-law to Marcia, Dorne, Joe, and then Michael; becoming grandmother to Sam, Lia, Sydney, Bella, Elias, and Eden; becoming a Holocaust scholar and renowned survivor; and becoming wife to Hardy for two decades of a spectacular marriage.

This past year was the year of Susan – on stage and on screen. She shared her testimony to a full house at Queens University. Ron Small's documentary on her life had its debut. Three Bone Theatre's original play based on her life had its world premiere at Spirit Square.

Director Dennis Delamar, whose friendship with Susan developed over 30 years as a fellow actor, envisioned Susan's remarkable story as a powerful

play. Delamar collaborated with playwright Charles LaBorde to produce *Protective Custody Prisoner 34042*, whose first run sold out and received standing ovations every night.

With Susan's will of steel, she attended the show in early November. Delamar said, "Those in the audience felt the awe-inspiring significance of her presence in her wheelchair at the edge of the stage taking it all in. Susan had a word for me after the play ... she whispered, 'Brilliant.' When I visited her at her home at her bedside, the next day, she added, 'Dennis, take it on the road.'"

Susan served as a mentor to countless Holocaust educators, many of whom attended her funeral: UNC-Charlotte's Dr. John Cox and Dr. Ana-Isabel Aliaga-Bichenau; Appalachian State University's Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan; Queens University of Charlotte's Talli Dippold; and Rabbi Judy Schindler.

Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz inspired Talli to become a Holocaust educator. Talli's four grandparents were Holocaust survivors who died when Talli was young. Because of Susan's message, Talli has the basis for every lesson plan she will ever teach. Because of Susan's death, Talli will always remember that Holocaust runs the risk of becoming history, and we must all take upon ourselves the urgency of Holocaust education. Because of Susan's story, Talli knows that survivors' lives and stories are sacred and must be shared after they are gone.

Dr. Aliaga-Bichenau similarly reflected on the weight of responsibility she feels leading UNCC's German program that Susan created. Susan established the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies at UNC



Charlotte, led now by Dr. John Cox. While Susan's students initially saw a diminutive old lady, they quickly were awed by her as a powerful and brilliant professor.

Leah Naliboff, who traveled with Susan as she gave international lectures, became her confidante and best friend. To the world, Leah noted, "Susan was a public figure whose story and legacy were admired and respected wherever we went. ... To me, she was my cheerleader, my supporter, and my partner in crime. She taught me to love and appreciate history simply by being a living piece of it."

Susan formed a strong bond with every one of Temple Beth El's rabbis. Rabbis Knight, Klass, Schindler, Freirich, Streiffer, Barras, and Bennett each sent messages or shared the ways Susan impacted their lives. They described her as straightforward, smart, honest, wise, an inspiration, a force of nature, and a deeply caring and loving presence in the congregation.

Susan loved good friends and great chocolate. She gave generously to others and to countless causes. Susan loved the Temple and Jewish community. Most of all, Susan loved life and held fast to it for as long as she possibly could.

Summing up what she wanted

the world to know after her death, she said: "Please remember one thing ... all the people that developed the final solution were highly educated: PhDs, doctors, journalists, the cream of the crop in SS uniforms. They were educated but they had no humanity

in them. They were willing to use their education to persecute innocent human beings because of their religion. Please don't ever forget what can happen if you are not thinking critically about everything that is presented to you. It can happen anywhere."✡

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ZABS Place Celebrates Five Years of Recognizing Abilities

On Monday, December 9 ZABS Place marked an important milestone as we celebrated five years since ZABS Place opened its doors.

Since opening in December of 2014, ZABS Place has empowered over 167 specially talented young adults to pursue their dream jobs and career paths.

ZABS Place is thrift boutique in downtown Matthews that provides employment training and opportunities to young adults with special needs, or as we like to say "Special Talents."

"It means a lot. This is the first place I've ever been to where you just fit in no matter what, I've never had that before" said ZABS Talent Lauren Miller to Genevieve Curtis of WSOC-TV during a TV interview at the celebration.

Over the last five years, ZABS Place has received thousands of in-kind donations from the Jewish community and beyond. Hun-



ZABS Talent celebrating five years.

dreds of local avid thrifters have shopped ZABS Place supporting its mission to see potential in everyone and everything.

To learn more visit ZABS Place.org

ZABS Place is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.✡



ZABS Talent Graham enjoying some time with his job coach.

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A Novel Way to Visit Europe's Best-Known Cities, Part 1

By Richard A. Klein

There are those who may wait decades to save money and make the effort to visit places like Athens, Rome, Dublin, Vienna, Berlin, and Budapest. And then there are the painfully cramped and long air flights. Sluggish lines through foreign customs. Currency change. Long taxi rides to over-priced hotels. Guides. Tips. Language barriers. Spicy meatballs. You name it.

But what if you could eliminate it all and still have an enjoyable and interesting visit to all those places many of us dream about: Athens, Dublin, Rome, Vienna, Berlin, and Budapest? Just wave the wand and you're almost there. No air travel. No customs. American dollars. English spoken here. Normal meatballs.

It can be done because those exciting places are all located in the American state of Georgia.

It's just as easy to go to Warsaw, Indiana; Oslo, Minnesota; Madrid, New Mexico; Prague, Nebraska; Venice, Florida; London, Kentucky; Paris, Arkansas; Moscow, Idaho; Stockholm, New York; and Lisbon, Maryland. Pack an overnight bag, fill the car gas tank, and go.

It's easy to understand that past generations left these European cities for a better life in America. But they wanted to keep some memories, and those included their beloved communities across the ocean. Some are better remembered than others.

Georgia is a great example of

a state where the namesakes of some European capital city took off and became significant, thriving communities. One has almost faded away. But most are well worth the time and effort spent to take in the history, the attractions, and activities.

"Jewish life is alive and thriving in Athens.

The first Jews settled in the community before the Civil War. ...The entire town has a lively college atmosphere with its popular shops and restaurants."

Elias Roochvarg and I headed from Charlotte to visit the six European capital cities of Georgia in only two days: not an easy feat covering over 1,100 miles from North Carolina to and through the state that has the largest land mass east of the Mississippi.

Our first stop was Athens, which lies about 70 miles north-east of Atlanta. The community may best be recognized by the state's flagship university, The University of Georgia (Go Bulldogs). The entire town has a lively college atmosphere with its popular shops and restaurants.



Cantor Roochvarg in front of Athens, GA, synagogue, Congregation Children of Israel.

Jewish life is alive and thriving in Athens. The first Jews settled in the community before the Civil War. They came from Prussia. A charter to start a congregation came as early as 1872, Kol Kadush Beni Yisroile and Congregation Children of Israel. A modern building was constructed for Congregation Children of Israel in 1968. Today the congregation has over 140 members.

There is also an active Hillel building at the University of Georgia and Chabad of Athens-UGA close to campus.

No visit to Athens would be complete without a picture of the famous double-barreled cannon used during the American Civil War and now located in front of

City Hall. It was a colossal flop which was never capable of firing successfully. Other points of interest in Athens include the dedicated Tree That Owns Itself, the Georgia Museum of Art, and the State Botanical Garden on the campus.

About 209,000 people live in Athens and Clarke County, making Athens the sixth-largest city in Georgia.

From Athens we headed South to Highway 441 below Macon to the town of Dublin. Irish settlers named it because it reminded them of their native country's terrain. The town, founded in 1812, is nicknamed The Emerald City. In Dublin, GA, the celebration of St. Patrick's Day extends

for many days. The downtown has many unique shops and award-winning restaurants.

There is a self-guided Downtown Dublin Walking Tour, which includes more than 70 landmarks.

Dublin is also noteworthy as the site of Martin Luther King Jr.'s first public speech as a high school student.

Our third and final tour on our first day was of Vienna, home to almost 3,000 people. It is located on the Flint River and was established as Berrien in 1826. It went through another name change in 1833: Drayton. Finally, it was changed in 1841 to Vienna after the city in Austria. In the same year, it was re-designated the seat of Dooley County.

We arrived late in the afternoon to find many downtown buildings shuttered. However, the town center is charming with a very large tree in the middle which is across from an impressive old county courthouse. When we inquired about a good place to have dinner, we were advised by two Vienna real estate agents to travel south a few miles away to Cordele, Georgia instead of the local dining establishments. This seemed like a lost opportunity for Vienna, the birthplace of Myron Mixon, a celebrity chef and barbecue competitor, four-time winner of the barbecue World Championship.☆

To be continued in the February edition of The Charlotte Jewish News.



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ON THE SAME PAGE: CHAPTER 2

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Thirteen Years In: A Milestone That Comes with a Lot of Learning

By David Cygielman, Moishe House Founder & CEO

Jewish tradition has many “milestone moments.” Coming off a wonderful weekend in Atlanta celebrating my niece’s bat mitzvah had me thinking a lot about the first 13 years of Moishe House. These markers are a great opportunity to pause and reflect, and to take stock of where you’ve been and where you’re headed – both a time of appreciation as well as a chance to grow. For us, turning 13 offers a real opportunity not just to think about who we are and what we’ve done, but more importantly, who we want to become.

Thirteen years in, we’ve been fortunate to have already reached many numeric milestones. It feels strange to say it, but we have grown into a major international Jewish organization. Moishe House effectively engages tens of thousands of individuals every year, making us the global leader in this space and we’re on track to keep increasing that number. We’ve developed several different program models, all of which continue to grow and evolve to reach more and more young Jewish adults around the world. We’re in a good spot, and now, the real question is: What impact do we want to have on these individuals? Or on ourselves? Who do we want to be in this work? Being in a “good spot” can be a wonderful thing, but it’s extremely dangerous. It’s the time when we can fall into a groove that could hurt us in our next 13 years. These questions are crucial because they will shape who we are, what we do and how we do it.

Now is the time to hone our identity and ethos. We’ve “come of age” and generally know what it takes to manage in this work. Because of this, we’re making 2020 the year to invest in how we think about who we are. Organizational culture matters now more than ever, and we’re also looking to go beyond that. We want to ask ourselves: What does it look like to be a part of Moishe House? What does it mean to be affiliated with Moishe House? How do we embrace learning? How do we embrace joy and fun? How do we provide more support to our community builders? How do we invest in our teams? I believe that the challenge of answering these questions will push us to become a more cohesive organization, an even better workplace, and most importantly, an even more effective movement. But it won’t all be easy. There will have to be some changes and change is difficult.

Moishe House now runs some unique and scaling immersive experiences, such as our staff-led Jewish Learning Retreats, programs that really have the potential to transform lives (and have already had an impact on many). Creating these programs demands a high level of intention. We want to take time to think about what it means to be investing in leaders who are given the responsibility of executing these experiences. The more intentional we are with



Nearly 60 staff members from 6 countries gathered in Blowing Rock, North Carolina in late October for Moishe House's All-Staff Retreat



that approach, the better the outcome will be. Thirteen-year-olds often don’t have a choice in their growth – change is inevitable at that age. As an organization, we have a choice. We can coast on our proven models and current culture, or we can deepen our work and identity to become more unified and deliberate in execution.

We’ve just begun asking these questions and don’t yet have any real answers. But, we’re embracing the journey and are excited to see what results from this time of reflection and intention. ✨

David Cygielman is the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Moishe House. In 2006, he helped establish Moishe House and became the organization's first CEO. David currently lives in Charlotte with his wife, Myka, their daughter, Jordan, and their dog, Binx.

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The Howard Levine Athletic Campus Named at Charlotte Latin School

Continuing a lifelong tradition of philanthropy, Howard R. Levine, Charlotte Latin School Class of 1977, made a transformational \$1 million gift toward Charlotte Latin's Vision2020 capital campaign, one of the largest capital gifts in the school's history, thus naming the school's south campus.

The Howard Levine Athletic Campus was officially named in a ceremony on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Surrounded by classmates, friends, family, and members of the Charlotte

Latin community, Levine spoke of his experience at Latin. "I now

vividly recognize and acknowledge the opportunities that a Latin education allowed me. The culture is still in place after 50 years and that is phenomenal," he said.

Levine's gift showcases Charlotte Latin's south campus as an athletic complex. CLS Head of School Charles D. Baldecchi said, "This portion of our campus is a special place that the Board and school leadership had the wisdom to



Julie, Evan, and Howard Levine '77 with CLS Head of School Chuck Baldecchi and Board Chair Thad Sharrett '89

purchase when the opportunity arose. These acres truly differentiate Charlotte Latin. Athletics are an extension of the classroom, bringing people together with self-sacrifice, teamwork, and an incredible amount of spirit at the core."

The Howard Levine Athletic Campus includes playing and practice fields, concessions, locker rooms, a training room, cross

country trails, a lake, and a tennis complex. "Certainly, Howard Levine exemplifies what it means to serve others and to give back. Thanks to this generous gift, we can honor our mission to students for generations to come. On behalf of the Board and the entire Latin community, we could not be more grateful," said CLS Board Chair Thad Sharrett, Charlotte Latin Class of 1989.✶

Healthy Mind for a Healthy New Year

It's a New Year. The time of year when many of us resolve to take better care of ourselves - join a gym, eat healthier, cut down on our sugar or alcohol - you know the drill. The time of year when we are taking stock of the year before and thinking of ways to improve. Often times though, we reflect on last year's resolutions and feel disappointed in ourselves. And while making resolutions or setting goals for the New Year can be very helpful, criticizing yourself for what you did not achieve last year, is not.

Did you know that we all talk to ourselves? No matter good or bad, these are the messages that you are telling yourself all day long and unfortunately, our self talk is frequently negative. Often it is tainted with guilt about our past or anxiety about our future. Consequently, the messages you tell yourself will either encourage and motivate you or they will limit you.

You can learn a lot by paying attention to your "self-talk." The words we say have an impact on our subconscious in the same way as when other people talk to us. So, how we speak to ourselves can be a powerful tool - positive or negative. Our thoughts influence our feelings, choices, and actions. Positive thinkers are more optimistic, confident, and successful. Their effect is contagious and uplifts friends, coworkers, and loved ones. Research suggests that people with positive

self-talk have mental skills that allow them to solve problems, think differently, and be more efficient at coping with hardships or challenges. This can reduce the harmful effects of stress and anxiety.

The question to ask yourself is whether your inner voice is your friend or foe, and do you need to change it up in the New Year?

Below are some tips for Positive Self-Talk for the New Year:

Reframe negative thoughts. Positive thinking can help you feel peaceful and calm. Replace negative thoughts with positive affirmations. Instead of "I can't do it," tell yourself, "I'm up for this challenge."

Acknowledge your accomplishments; they can be big or small. Whether you completed a major project at work, reached a fitness goal, or were patient with a server who messed up your order, it's important to give yourself a pat on the back. Take a moment to reflect on the good.

Treat yourself like you'd treat a good friend. If your friend messes up do you laugh and belittle them? Hopefully, you're sympathetic and encouraging, which is exactly how you should treat yourself.

Cut overly negative people out of your life. Everyone can have a down day and be negative or moody. However, some people seem to have down days every day of their life. If you have some of these people in your life, it may be time to distance yourself from them.

Don't compare yourself to others. When you are constantly comparing what you lack to what others have, you can easily get down on yourself.

Be grateful. A great way to find the positive in your life and create positive self-talk, is to recognize the things in your life for which you can be grateful. A study in *Psychology Today* showed that: "Young adults assigned to keep gratitude journals showed greater increases in determination, attention, enthusiasm, and energy compared to the other groups."

Use positive words with others. If we are negative with our words with others, then we are likely to be negative about ourselves as well.

It's okay if positive self-talk doesn't come naturally to you. Like any other skill, it just takes practice. But once you're able to turn negative self-talk into positive thoughts or actions, you may find that you'll be happier and healthier.✶

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Need Something New in 2020?

Study, Advocate, or Celebrate with the Greenspon Center at Queens University

As many people welcome the new year of 2020, they consider how to make the coming year better than the last.

The Greenspon Center offers amazing opportunities in the New Year to learn with us.

Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew? Do you want to develop your skills? Then you are in luck. We are continuing the classes led by Rabbi Tracy Klirs exploring basic Hebrew and reading the siddur. Classes will be held on Monday evenings, 7-8:30 PM, at Shalom Park beginning January 13.

Explore the complex history and meaning of the Holy Land to Jews and Christians with Rabbi Judy Schindler and Dr. Nancy Ellett-Allison by signing up for the class "Seeing Israel through a Jewish and Christian Lens." We will meet on Wednesdays at Queens University from 12:30-2 PM beginning on February 5. To register for either of these courses visit our website (www.stan-greensponcenter.org) or contact Talli Dippold (dippoldt@queens.edu) for more information.

The Greenspon Center provides impactful ways in the New Year to advocate with us.

Are you passionate about creating more affordable housing and sustaining diverse communities in Charlotte? Do you want to improve access to affordable healthcare? Do you want to create

positive outcomes for those interfacing with the criminal justice system? Or to support our immigrant neighbors? What about creating equitable educational opportunities in Charlotte or advocating for environmental sustainability? We invite students, community members, congregants, and community leaders to join us as we set our 2020 Social Justice Agenda and goals on Monday, January 13, from 6:30-8 PM. Please contact Rev. Willie Keaton (willejkeaton@yahoo.com) for more information.

The Greenspon Center welcomes you in the New Year to celebrate with us.

There is a well-known saying that the way to a person's heart is through his stomach. Well, here at Queens University, we say it a slightly different way: The way to a Hillel college student's heart is through the stomach.

We are thrilled to announce our TGIF Queens University of Charlotte Hillel Challah Giveaway sponsored by Roz Greenspon and Marty Birnbaum. Hillel was very meaningful to Roz when she was in college. As a way to show her lifelong support of Hillel, Roz and her husband Marty are funding a new initiative on campus. Six times a year, the Hillel students will be giving away individual challot to students, faculty, and staff. A simple explanation of Shabbat will

go with each challah, and we will host a mini "Shabbat celebration" with music so those on campus can take a break from the busy day. We are sure this will become a tradition our students talk about with love long after they graduate. We are grateful to Roz and Marty for supporting this new Queens Hillel tradition.

The Greenspon Center invites you in the New Year to engage in Holocaust and human rights education.

We are proud of our 2019 accomplishments in Holocaust ed-

ucation and are looking to make 2020 even better.

Facing History and Ourselves returns to Charlotte January 9 to conduct a workshop focused on facing the hatred generated by white supremacist organizations. On January 31, we will also hold an intensive seminar on how to use testimony to increase student engagement in Holocaust and hu-

man rights related topics. In February, we will host a workshop to help teachers weave human rights issues into their already existing curriculum.

Come learn with us as we continue to create a team of educators and citizens who are ready to equip our youth to be upstanders and allies.★



Stan Greenspon Center
for Peace and Social Justice

"Wild Things" to Make Only NC Stop in Gaston County

International Exhibition to be on Display at Gastonia Library

Gaston County is going "wild." The Friends of the Gaston County Public Library will be hosting the Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition at the main branch of the Gaston County Public Library (1555 East Garrison Boulevard, Gastonia, NC 28054). The exhibit will be on display until Saturday, January 25.

The Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition is presented in honor of Ms. Jean Marie Torrence, a longtime patron and benefactor of the Gaston County Public Library, as well as the Friends of the Gaston

County Public Library nonprofit organization. It is a celebration of 50 Years, 50 Works, and 50 Reasons; it spotlights 50 original works of art by Sendak, who was an award-winning author and illustrator, most widely recognized for the children's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, for which he won the 1964 Caldecott Medal. The exhibition has been celebrated internationally and throughout the United States, and Gastonia will be the tour's only stop in North Carolina. Special thanks to the lenders, to the exhibition, and

to AFANYC for their support.

Throughout his career, Sendak authored 22 books and illustrated 79 others. He was the only American illustrator to win the international Hans Christian Andersen Award (in 1970, for his body of work). Sendak was also a distinguished set and costume designer for opera and ballet. He designed productions of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and many more. In 1983, Sendak received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award from the

(Continued on page 10)



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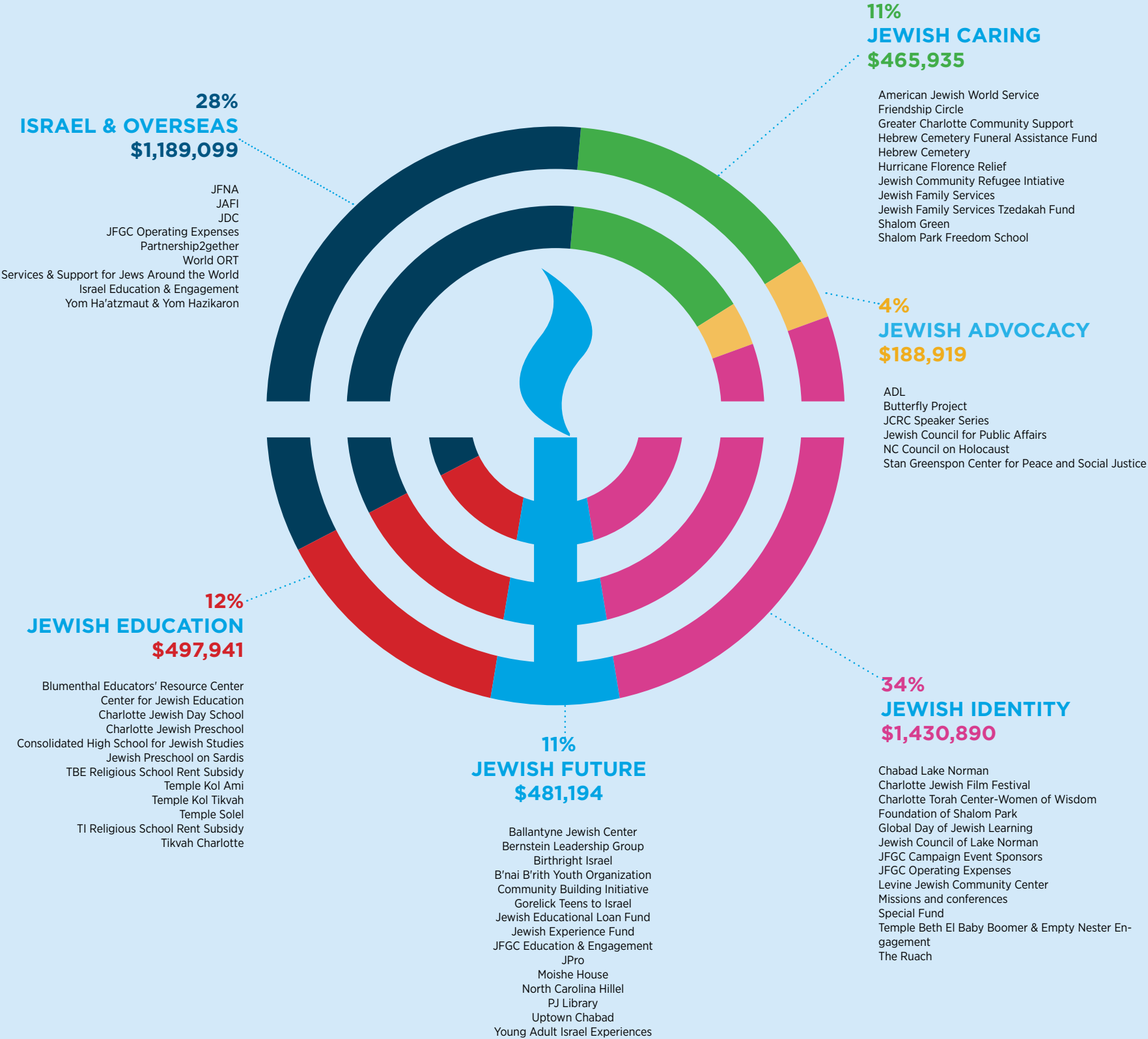


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The Ruach Community Finds a Home For 2020

“So, when and where is the next Ruach Shabbat Experience?” This is a question that we get often, and until recently, the answer depended on what space we could find that was available...and affordable,” says Peter Levinson, co-founder and lead guitarist of The Ruach. Not so easy, given that The Shabbat Experience, an uplifting and highly engaging, spiritual musical worship experience, happens on Friday nights. “We’re excited that we now have a solid answer to that question,” added Rabbi Rachel Smookler, whose relevant, meaningful, and powerful messages are a highlight of every Shabbat Experience.

Beginning in February, The Ruach Community will have a home for 2020 at Watershed Charlotte, at 2101 Shenandoah Avenue in the Chantilly neighborhood, just a couple of blocks from the center of trendy Plaza-Midwood. “It’s a wonderful space that can comfortably seat 250 people, has a state-of-the-art sound system, excellent lighting, and two large projection screens. It even has pretty good parking and is easily accessible,” says Levinson.

The venue was built in the 50s and was originally a Catholic Church. After the church moved, the building became known as Chantilly Hall and was used for a wide variety of functions. From 2007 until 2017, it was home to the contra dance group, the Charlotte Dance Gypsies. And as of

February 28, at 6:45 PM, it will be the new home for The Shabbat Experience. (The Shabbat Experiences will be on the fourth Friday of each month at 6:45, except for August, November, and December, when it will be on the third Friday.)

What happens before February? On Friday, January 17, The Shabbat Experience heads to the Middle C Jazz Club, located at 300 South Brevard Street, starting at 6:45 PM. Doors will open at 6 PM. Given that it’s MLK weekend, you can probably count on a few songs that will hold special meaning for the occasion and maybe even a guest appearance by someone who joined The Ruach at The High Holy Day Experiences. Immediately following The Shabbat Experience, Mr. Whatever, a Steely Dan tribute band, will play a set. Everyone who comes to The Shabbat Experience will be allowed to stay free of charge.

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



The Watershed Charlotte.

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; Franklin Kaunitz, violin and vocals; Howard Swartz, congas; Rick Lipson, drums; and David Armbrust, percussion and vocals.✡

Maurice Sendak Exhibition in Gastonia

(Continued from page 7)

American Library Association in recognition of his entire body of work. In 1996, he received a National Medal of Arts in recognition of his contribution to the arts in America, and in 2003, he received the first Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, an annual, international prize for children’s literature established by the Swedish government.

Admission to the exhibit is free, but tickets are required. You can visit the Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition webpage on the library’s website to order tickets for the exhibit. Out-of-town visitors to the Maurice Sendak Memorial Exhibition will receive a special room rate with the Hampton by Hilton Hotel in Gastonia, NC. Reservations can be made online at the following link https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?execution=e2s1 or by calling 704-866-9090. Be sure to use the group code “Maurice Sendak Exhibition” (MSE).

About Gaston County Public Library

Visit GastonLibrary.org to find Gaston County Public Library’s latest events and opportunities. Follow Gaston County Public Library and its branches on Instagram and Twitter @gascopublib and “Like” its page on Facebook at [Facebook.com/gastonlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/gastonlibrary).✡

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I Did Not Expect This Reaction

By Sharon Lachow-Blumberg

I woke up in the middle of the night startled. I was in a cold sweat. It was our first night in Munich at The Hotel Opéra, and I woke up my husband and said we need to leave. I'm scared. I don't like it here. I thought for certain the Nazis were going to knock down our hotel door and take both of us away. It felt real. I panicked and this feeling stayed with me for our entire time in Germany. Then we went on to the Czech Republic and Austria, and these feelings were present but not as strong. Since returning home to the US, I have had two more nights of waking up in a panic.

I'm Jewish. I lost family to the Holocaust and the pogroms of Russia and Austria. I was not at all expecting this visceral reaction. I know atrocities happened throughout Europe, but for some reason this feeling was strongest in Germany. Maybe it is because Nazism started in Munich or atrocities of some kind happened in our Munich hotel room a long time ago. Or it is simply the memories of my ancestors are imprinted on my soul. It is my DNA.

I do know we were considering staying at the Torbrau Hotel, which is the oldest hotel in Munich. It was in the basement of this property that the infamous SS was founded by Hitler in 1925. There is, of course, no mention of any of this history on their website. One has to carefully search on the internet to find this piece of information. I am so glad my husband found this out prior to our stay. I can't imagine my feelings if I stayed at that property.

Down the street from the old town hall building of Munich, near our hotel, Hitler's Minister of Propaganda Joseph Goebbels ordered Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass. Jewish property, businesses and synagogues were destroyed throughout Germany and Austria in November 1938.

I tried to push these feelings to the back of my consciousness as we visited the city. A walk through The Hofgarten and The Munich Residenz were wonderful, as well as visits to The Nymphenburg Palace and Park.

The Jewish Museum was a disappointment as the exhibits were more secular in nature. The city itself does have a fairly new Holocaust remembrance system that has vertically-displayed plaques that pay tribute to victims of the Nazi regime. These plaques



Stumbling stones.

or memorial markers will join existing commemorative brass cobblestones, known as "stolpersteine" or "stumbling stones," whose controversial placement in the ground has led to the development of this new memorial system in Munich. Across Germany and Europe there are more than 60,000 "stumbling stone" memorials.

This profound experience in Munich paled in comparison to the feelings I experienced while visiting Dachau. I had visited the Holocaust Memorial in Washington, DC and Yad Vashem in Israel. Both were gut wrenching. However, nothing prepares you for the overwhelming and profound experience you feel walking through the place of horror: hate, evil, and murder.

From central Munich we took a train straight to the town of Dachau, where we then took a short bus ride to the concentration death camp.

The concentration death camp of Dachau lies only 10 miles northwest of Munich. It was one of the first concentration camps in Nazi Germany and would serve as a model for all other camps in the Third Reich.

We followed the "path of the prisoner," walking the same way prisoners were forced to after their arrival at the camp. We saw a rebuilt barrack, and barrack X which includes the showers and the crematorium. We cried at the unmarked graves and various memorials.

Dachau was a death camp. From the moment we walked through the gates where "arbeits macht frei" was etched in the metal, tears began to fall. This means "work sets you free" and the prisoners who worked outside of the camp saw this every day. It was a heart wrenching experience and I cried throughout much of time at Dachau.

I could only take a few pictures. The experience was overwhelming.

The residual effect will stay with me forever. It has imprinted on my heart and soul. **#neveragain #neverforget** ☆



Shalom Green: Bal Tashchit and Beyond

By David H. Rosenthal

Tu BiShvat is a Jewish minor festival occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat. "Tu" stands for the Hebrew letters Tet and Vav, which together have the numerical value of 9 and 6, adding up to 15. Tu BiShvat is a relatively recent name; the date was originally called "Chamisha Asar BiShvat," meaning "Fifteenth of Shvat." It is also called "Rosh HaShanah La'Ilanot," literally "New Year of the Trees." In contemporary Israel, the day is celebrated as an ecological awareness day and trees are planted in celebration. In 2020, the "birthday" of all fruit trees begins at sundown on Sunday, February 9 and ends in the evening of Monday, February 10.

Tu BiShvat is one of the four "new years" of the Jewish calendar, mentioned in the Talmud, along with the first day of Tishrei (the month in which we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the most well-known new year); the first day of Nissan (during which month we celebrate Passover); the first day of Elul (the month before the High Holy Days); and, the fifteenth day of Shvat. This New Year of the Trees on the fifteenth day of Shvat generally occurs around the end of January or beginning of February, making it (at least in the northern hemisphere) an ironic time of year for the celebration of plants and new life.

Tu BiShvat has significance in Jewish law because it is the cutoff date by which the age of a tree is calculated for the sake of *orlah*, a Biblical prohibition against eating the fruit of a tree in its first three years. Most authorities say that this prohibition is only in effect within the Land of Israel. After Tu BiShvat of the tree's third year, the fruit is permitted for

consumption, provided the relevant tithing has occurred.

In ancient times, Tu BiShvat was merely a date on the calendar helping Jewish farmers establish exactly when they should bring their fourth-year produce of fruit from recently planted trees to the Temple as first-fruit offerings.

For environmentalists, Tu BiShvat is an ancient and authentic Jewish connection to contemporary ecological issues. The holiday is viewed as an appropriate occasion to educate Jewish people about their tradition's advocacy of responsible stewardship of God's creation, manifested in ecological activism. Tu BiShvat is an opportunity to raise awareness about and to care for the environment through the teaching of Jewish sources celebrating

nature. It is also a day to focus on the environmental sensitivity of the Jewish tradition by planting trees wherever Jewish people may live.

In the spirit of planting trees on Tu BiShvat Shalom Green invites the entire community to join us for a Tu BiShvat Plant a Fig Tree Event on February 9. Stop by the Shalom Park Community Garden between 11 AM-1 PM and get your free fig tree cutting. Plant one in your own garden in celebration of the New Year for Trees. Planting and care instructions will be provided.

Questions? Email info@shalomgreenCLT.org. Follow us on Facebook at Shalom Green: The Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT.☆



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Keeping the Records Straight at the Hebrew Cemetery

Your Hebrew Cemetery wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2020. The Association serves those of the Jewish faith and their families in the greater Charlotte area in need of end of life ser-

vices. As the year begins, the Association is proud to share a couple of important accomplishments of the past year.

The Association has many duties but keeping accurate records

and information on its customers, burials, and, as well its available graves is critical. Since 1867, record keeping was done on paper, hand written ledgers, index cards, notepads, and maps. In the 1980s a program called Lotus 123 was developed and the information was input into a computer on a spreadsheet. Some may remember Lotus now as Excel. It is a spreadsheet program of rows and columns divided into cells where-by data can be stored. There had to be very strict control over who entered the data and made changes. If you ever sorted the data and accidentally not included one row or maybe deleted a cell. Your data becomes quite useless. Therefore, only one person was allowed to make all the changes on the only copy of the spreadsheet. The printouts were updated about every three months. Until 2018, the data and cemetery information was maintained in that manner. Finally, last year the Association was excited to subscribe to a web based program called "CIMS." Which stands for Cemetery Information Management Software. It's a fully integrated man-

agement system bringing record keeping into the current computer age. Now your data and family history and the important statistics and information of the cemetery are safeguarded in the cloud with unprecedented security and protection. It's now very difficult to corrupt or mess up your records. This new software also allows for an enormous amount of data to be collected. The information we can now record includes relatives, obituary information, military service, marker data, and other familial information that families feel important to record in their permanent burial records. Please feel free to email information you would like to include in your family records to director@hebrewcemetery.org. The information received will eventually be included in the permanent database.

The Association is also proud to have launched its second website renovation at hebrewcemetery.org. The cemetery has also updated and renewed its website hebrewcemetery.org under a new format and updated information on the cemetery is avail-

able. There are great pictures, and many pages of important and helpful information. There's even a page on planning and things to know, as well as a page about membership and ways to help. You can even join and pay your annual membership of \$72 which is a huge mitzvah to help support your Cemetery Association. Members also receive substantial discounts of services and graves. Please join. Lastly, an interactive GPS active map is included by selecting the burial search button. Any grave burial can be located and if you have a smart phone the software will even guide you to the exact location. Continued improvement of the site will occur throughout the year to add more important information. Thank you to all that support the Hebrew Cemetery and any feedback is greatly appreciated.☆





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Women's News

President's Message

By Sharon Goretsky, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Wow, it's 2020 already. 2019 went by so fast. It was a great year. That's not to say that there weren't problems or that everything went smoothly, but throughout the year I saw teams of incredible women work together to get things done and make a difference. I could not be prouder.

2019 saw Hadassah Charlotte try some new things:

* We expanded our partnership with Novant and brought their Mobile Digital Mammography unit to Shalom Park twice. That's double the number of women who had the opportunity to have a lifesaving screening right in our own backyard.

* We partnered with WOW for a Purim Celebration where we not only prepared our own hamentashen to bake at home, but we tasted delicious sweet and savory hamentashen made for us by Sara Oppenheim and her helpers.

* We had several get togethers at Vintner's. These events introduced us to new Hadassah ladies, many had not ever been to a Hadassah event.

* We raised money for the renovation of Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem's Round Building at Hadassah Heals. Almost one hundred women came to a luncheon at Maggiano's to support Hadassah's 360 Campaign and to score great items in our Live Auction. The day was a great success and a lot of fun. Thank you to all who came and those who couldn't make it but sent a donation.

2019 also saw some of our favorites:

* Our Lunch and Learn group continues to thrive. Join the ladies on the third Friday of each month at Temple Israel (more info in this issue of Highlights).

* We had another wonderful Passover Tasting. Our annual Peach potluck continues to be one of the most popular events we do. What could be better than good food, friends, and a book of fresh recipes to take home?

* We got ready for summer with what has also become an annual tradition, Casa Hadassah. We sipped margaritas and shared

HADASSAH



snacks while making new friends and catching up with old ones.

* Our Directory Committee, under the leadership of Dana Kapustin, worked hard to bring the latest Hadassah Charlotte Jewish Community Directory to you. The directory is a labor of love.

* We raised money for Celebrate the Tatas at the soccer tournament and a wine pull. Hadassah Charlotte will always proudly support breast cancer research.

I know 2020 will be an amazing year as well. We have a lot of great things planned, starting with our first Hadassah Scholar in Residence Weekend. Please join us at Temple Israel on Shabbat, January 18 to hear Barbara "BG" Goldstein, Hadassah Office in Israel Deputy Director as she shares her thoughts on the latest from Israel. We continue our time with BG on Saturday evening. Our first Vintner's Night will be Tuesday, January 28, so put it on your calendar now. Looking ahead to February, join us on the 10th for a daytime Tu BiShvat Seder. More details about all of these events coming soon so keep checking your inboxes.

One of my favorite parts of being involved with Hadassah is meeting new friends from all over our region, the US, and Israel. I hope you will join me for Hadassah Super South's Tri-Region Conference in Atlanta May 15-18. Come meet women from

(Continued on page 14)



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Youth Visions

A Glimpse into Electives at Hebrew High

Hebrew High students dove into electives on Wednesday nights in December. Our teachers brought innovative ideas and experiences to their classes using modern media, games, art, cooking, and more. Students picked from exciting electives choices and, together with their friends, experienced photography, writing, Jewish tradition, leadership, and glam. Check out the class options below:

Capturing Strength Through a Jewish Lens and Pen

Learn about photography and writing to help you lean into your struggles and strengthen your core Judaism. The course will discuss excerpts of writings and pictures from different Jewish writers, poets, and photographers, how to capture and find strength in your personal struggle through photography and writing, and how you can use your Judaism to capture and share your world around you.

Surviving the Torah

Ever wonder how you would have held up in ancient times? Come explore the challenges our ancestors faced, such as famine, inhospitable deserts, fierce armies, and plagues. Learn hands-on survival tactics and discover how modern Jewish communities have adapted and put ancient knowledge to use. Get ready to get your hands dirty as we learn about the mixture of guerrilla tactics, spycraft, technology, and chutzpah that have allowed our people to survive for thousands of years.

The Emma Lazarus Project

Learn about the life of the poet who created the iconic words at the base of the Statue of Liberty. What was it in her life that caused her to pen these immortal words? Beyond that, what in your life can motivate you to write a poem just as moving and inspirational? All students in this class will participate in a national poetry writing

contest sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society.

Traditional Jewish Baking

Come learn how to make your bubbies' most delicious baked treats. We will make challah, mandel bread, and rugelach. It is sure to be a delicious elective.

Lehvahshel (cooking)

For this cooking class, we will be featuring new and exciting recipes including, but not limited to, no bake recipes, fresh Israeli ingredients, and some hands-on cooking game experiences. Come ready to get your hands dirty and taste some wonderful flavors.

Jewish Entrepreneurial Class

We will look at the history of Jewish business leaders not only in Charlotte, but the world. And we will see how they overcame many obstacles to create a successful business. America is rich with a history of Jewish leaders who have created a better America. We will not only look into our business leaders in the past, but

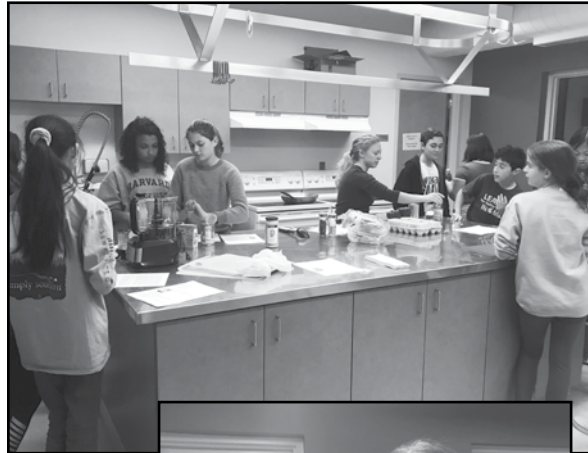
also what current Jewish business owners are doing in America and right here in Charlotte.

Chanting from the Torah

Join Cantor Thomas and Rabbi Klass for a zippy introduction to chanting from the Torah. Students will learn the basics of Torah trope and leave class with all of the tools needed to become a great Torah reader. Chanting from the Torah is not just for B'nei Mitzvah.

Put on Your Yarmulke, Here Comes Chanukah!

The Jewish holiday of Chanukah literally lights up the home. In this class we will create one-of-a-kind holiday masterpieces that get everyone in the Chanukah spirit. Your Chanukah decorations can reflect your own personal style, be it kitschy or glam. ☆



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BBYO: Sweetheart-Beau Information

Charlotte BBYO has had a great first half of the year and we can't wait to continue planning great programs and welcoming new members for the rest of the year. We had a successful fall fest watching the Charlotte Hornets and had 30 eighth graders in attendance. We've had so many new faces coming to programming over the past few weeks and have loved welcoming in many new members to all four of our chapters. If you haven't been able to come check BBYO out

yet but are still interested, don't worry. Feel free to check out any Tuesday program at the JCC from 7-8:30 PM, we are always excited to host anyone who is interested.

We are excited to host our annual Sweetheart Beau dance in Charlotte on Saturday, January 25 at the Levine JCC. Each chapter elects a sweetheart or beau for the next year and we welcome teens from across the region to a lively dance with our favorite DJ Eric Kelly. Parents are invited at 10:30 to come for a parent

social, to watch the crowning of our new sweethearts and beaux and to honor our seniors. Be on the lookout for more information about the dance and how to register online. We do take registrations at the door as well. Questions? Email Lauren Revenson at lrevenson@bbyo.org. ☆



Friendship Circle’s Junior Teen Friend for Bar/Bat Mitzvah Aged Kids

Our Junior Teen Friend program is designed for pre-teens entering into adulthood. The purpose is to provide the teens with a meaningful way to empower themselves as they give to others. Boys and girls, ages 12-13, will meet twice a week for a three-week series. Each session will build upon the previous lessons, helping them reach a point of confidence in spending time with a special friend.

Week 1:

Monday, January 6, 6:30–7:30 PM – “Intro To Special Needs; Understanding the Challenges”

Week 2:

Monday, January 13, 6:30–7:30 PM – “Engaging People with Special Needs and Making Friends”

Week 3:

Monday, January 20, 6:30–7:30 PM – “Bridging the Gap; What We Can Do About It”

Graduation:

Monday, January 27 at 6:30 PM
Friendship Circle’s “JTF”

qualifies for six hours of community service. After completing the semester, participants may schedule a meeting to register as a Friendship Circle Teen Friendship Circle. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 704-366-5983 or Jennifer@friendshipcircle.org.

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.✧



Dr. Gaskill educates our Junior Teen Friends on autism.



Friendship Circle's Junior Teen Friend Awards

Hundreds Walk in Pajamas to Support Friendship Circle and ZABS Place

Our community united together at Freedom Park to make dreams come true and make a difference in the lives of children, teens, and young adults with special needs. The Pajama Walk captured an amazing feeling of community support for Friendship Circle and ZABS Place and individuals with special needs.

Together, we’re shattering the stigma surrounding special needs and mental health. Together, we’re breaking the invisible barriers.

A huge thank you to all the organizers, volunteers, corporate partners, dreamers, and donors.✧



UMatter teens lead a Pajama Catwalk



Friendship Circle teens leading the way at the Pajama Walk.

The Shabbat Experiences - 2020

January 17	Middle C Jazz Club	Charlotte, NC
February 28	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
March 20	Temple Kol Ami w/Joe Buchanan	Fort Mill, SC
March 27	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
April 17	Heist Brewery	Charlotte, NC
April 24	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
May 22	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
June 26	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
July 24	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
August 21	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
October 23	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
November 20	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC
December 18	Watershed Charlotte	Charlotte, NC

All Experiences begin at 6:45 pm except March 20 which will be 7:00 pm.
For updates on these Experiences, as well as, the addition of other Experiences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com



David Drum leads the Friendship Circle and ZABS Talent in a drum parade.



Hadassah President’s Message

(Continued from page 12)

all over the South and learn what Hadassah is all about. Details will be available soon.

Typically, Hadassah chapter presidents hold their position for two years, however my presidency is different. I will be moving to Virginia this summer, so my term is ending after one year. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me make this year a success. I could not have done any of it alone. It was an absolute pleasure meeting so many new friends. I encourage all of you to get more involved in Hadassah Charlotte. I have learned so much about Israel, Hadassah, and myself. I am truly a better person for having been your president. Thank you all.✧

SCHOOL NEWS

The Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) Needs You

Committee Positions Opening

The Shalom Park Freedom School is looking for a volunteer to serve as the Communications Chair (one person). The existing chair would work together with the new chair for this season to ensure a smooth transition.

* The Communications Chair is in charge of submitting six to seven written articles to *The Charlotte Jewish News* and other local media to help promote awareness and facilitate support of the Shalom Park Freedom School in the community.

* The Communications Chair is also responsible for keeping the Shalom Park Freedom School Facebook page up to date.

* If possible, the chair is also asked to attend four Shalom Park Freedom School Committee meetings, held between January and May. If the chairs are unable to attend the meetings, they can send in a report.

* This position is very flexible and does not require an onsite commitment during the six weeks of the SPFS.

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

Save the Date – May 7

Save the Date for the 10-year celebration of the Freedom School at the Shalom Park site, the first Jewish-sponsored Freedom School site in the country. Our Freedom School site has educated and empowered economically disadvantaged children to succeed in school and in life. Please save the date to help us celebrate this amazing milestone.

May 7 at 7 PM in Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts in Shalom Park.

Additional details to follow.

Would you be willing to purchase your Amazon items through Amazon Smile?

Here is the link for the Shalom Park Freedom School Amazon Charity List: https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/1s/TFDAUTN5OPY2/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl.

It is run through the LJCC amazon smile account. You have to have an Amazon smile account to use it. Purchases will come directly to the LJCC.

Thank you to our Shalom Park sponsors of the SPFS: Charlotte Jewish Day School, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Foundation of Shalom Park, Jewish Family Services, Levine Jewish Community Center, Center for Jewish Education, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel. ☆

SAVE THE DATE

May 7, at 7 PM

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
in Shalom Park
10-Year Celebration of Freedom School at the Shalom Park site



FREEDOM SCHOOL PARTNERS
Shalom Park Freedom School

What Do Parents Say about JPS?

Jodi and Brad Seader moved to Charlotte from New York this past June. Their son, Lou, is 1-½ years old and joined JPS over the summer. Here are their words:

"We moved here from NY a few months ago and the team at JPS made us feel at home right

away. The team not only went out of their way to make our son feel at home in Charlotte, but us (the parents) as well by connecting us with other families at JPS outside of school. Our son loves it at JPS, and is so happy with his teachers and new friends. JPS has great di-

versity in activities and we love getting the daily report card with pictures to see everything he did. JPS is clearly run exceptionally well and we couldn't be happier with the staff and leadership." ☆



Lou with his mom and dad.



Lou gets ready for Chanukah by practicing lighting the menorah.



Lou's class on a nature hunt.



Lou and his friends enjoy story time with Ms. Chelsea from the Mecklenburg Public Library.

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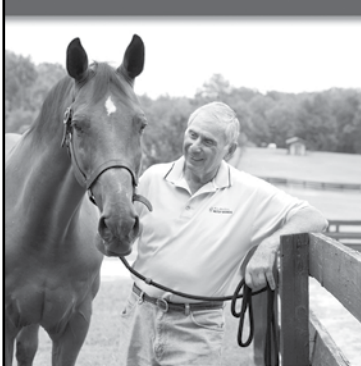
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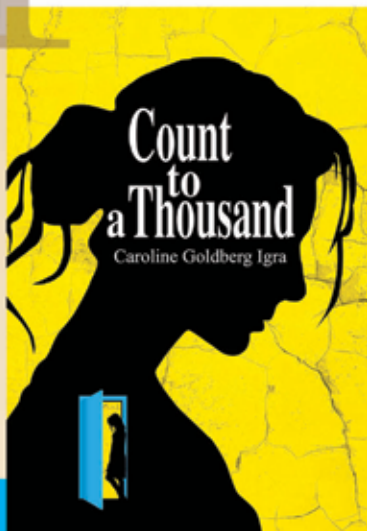
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Israel in Fiction

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Join the Center for Jewish Education and the Levine JCC for a literary trip to Israel with our upcoming author series of books set in Israel. The series will feature three authors of modern novels in English that illustrate Israel's multifaceted culture and society.

1



Friday, JAN 17th
10am

Count to a Thousand
by Caroline Goldberg Igra



A poignant novel about an American expatriate whose insular life in Israel is shattered by unanticipated events.

2



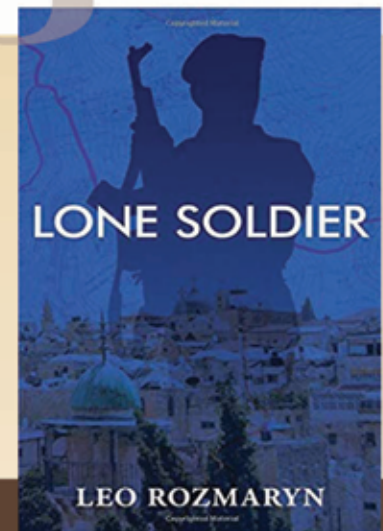
Friday, FEB 14th
10am

Rachel's Tomb
by Joshua A. Bernstein



A novel that brings to life the complex image of Israel through the stories of young soldiers in the Israeli Defense Forces and the loved ones they've left behind.

3



Friday, MAR 13th
10am

Lone Soldier
by Leo M. Rozmaryn



Part military thriller, mistaken identity and complicated love story, Lone Soldier brings alive a mixture of real and fictional characters to create a sprawling epic of the tensions between Israel and the U.S. during the 1970s.

Books are available for sale at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library.
Book sale and signing to follow each event.

Location: Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education

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Jewish Federation
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Theory into Practice: A MakerSpace Is Born at the CJP

By Brooke Amo, director,
Charlotte Jewish Preschool

At the CJP we know that children begin to learn and understand the world around them best through play and experiential learning. Our emergent curriculum is designed to respect each child as a capable and unique individual, to foster the diverse ways in which they develop and learn, and to create a nurturing environment. We are inspired by various educational approaches and philosophies including, but not limited to, the Reggio-Emilia approach.

The Reggio Emilia approach is an educational philosophy developed by Loris Malaguzzi in Reggio Emilia, Italy, in the 1950s. This pedagogy emphasizes and values the image of the child, the classroom environment, and relationships within a school community. Within this approach, it is believed that children have over 100 languages to express themselves. These languages include speaking, listening, painting, creating, dancing, singing, and 94 more.

In order to acknowledge children's capabilities and various



This is an initial rendering. Design is subject to change.

avenues of expression, CJP has placed more value in physical space and the learning opportunities we intentionally provide. This is accomplished by providing a wealth of open ended materials that provoke student interests within their learning environments. We are proud that our classrooms have evolved into places of warmth and research. We have worked tirelessly to provide our children with enriching spaces that reflect our belief systems, most importantly, that preschool children are highly ca-

pable learners.

A MakerSpace is Born

To foster deeper inquiry and innovation, we have designed a unique space outside of the regular classroom that allows children to tinker, invent, and explore. A space where process is emphasized over product. This will capitalize on each student's intrinsic motivation and natural inquiry enrich the incredible learning already taking place in the student's regular classroom. In our MakerSpace, students will have access to many materials including but

not limited to, paints, writing/drawing utensils, clays, recycled items, different paper textures, tinker objects, light and shadows, loose parts, and upcycled materials.

We are excited share this journey with you and to announce that the construction for our new MakerSpace is already underway.

Thank you to our Annual Fund donors who have made this space possible. ☆



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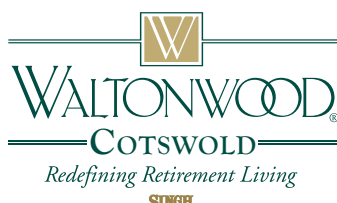
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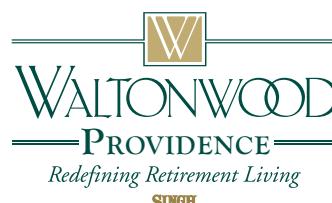
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Photo courtesy of ArtShots Photography

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Chanukah at CJDS

In preparation for Chanukah, we chose three messages that Chanukah brings to us, to share with the students.

CJDS students have been discussing, sharing, and exploring the deeper meaning of Chanukah. The root word of the Hebrew word Chanukah is "chinuch" (education). For students at a Jewish day school this is the opportune time to reflect on what it means to be receiving a Jewish education, why they are so fortunate to be receiving an education and how it might benefit them in the future. Students were interviewed to share their thoughts about this topic.

Jack Stone: A Jewish education is important because you get to learn about our past and where we came from. Like with the Holocaust, we made it through that and we made it through the Romans when they destroyed our Beit Hamikdash. I am proud that I am a Jew and that I have a good education about Judaism.

Ryan Cohen: Jewish education is important because you can connect with Hashem by saying tefillah and you can teach other people about the Jewish culture. You can tell other people and they can tell other people, and on and on.

Sophie Manoim: It teaches you how to do things and how to do things in a better way.

Alise Schwartz: I think Jewish education is important because we all believe in Hashem. We also celebrate all of the Jewish holidays together and pray together.

Gavi Delfiner: I think Jewish education is important, because without knowing Judaism, we wouldn't know, we wouldn't be us, we wouldn't know where we

came from. Judaism was a present, nobody else wanted it, but we took it. Nobody can take that away from us.

Ella Friedlander: I think Jewish education is important because it helps us learn the religion of Judaism and so when we have children and they have children, everyone will learn it since it is such a cool religion.

Rom Lasri: I think Jewish education is important because just like the kids back in the story of Chanukah, they weren't afraid of the Greeks. It teaches us not to be afraid to teach the facts from the Torah and to help people understand the Torah.

Ava Martin: I think Jewish education is important because it gives you questions and lets you learn about your religion and about your history and about yourself, really.

Shaina Vorst: Jewish education is important because the kids are the ones who are at school and the Torah was given to the kids, who are going to teach it to their kids.

Tom Nachshon: I think Jewish education is important because we connect better with Hashem.



Samantha Cohen: I think Judaism is important because we learn Torah. And if you don't learn Torah you can't teach it to your kids. And if your kids don't learn Torah they can't teach it to their kids. Hashem gave us the privilege of being Jewish so we should use that privilege wisely.

Mia Lumelsky: A Jewish education is important because it helps you find out who you are. There are not a lot of Jewish people in the world. It is a really big privilege to know about your religion.

Justin Sokolowicz: I think Jewish education is important because it connects us with Hashem and with the Torah.

Ruby Pesakoff: My Jewish education means to me that I am able to learn things that my parents and their parents got to learn.

Liran Reichenenthal: A Jewish education is important for us to be Jewish and we need to keep it going on forever.

Annie Herson: Jewish education is important to me because it teaches us right and wrong, and connects us to Hashem.

Maddie Friedlander: My Jewish education is important to

me that I get to learn everything that all the Jew are learning.

Lily Ross: Jewish education is like a privilege. We learn about the creator of the world and we get to pass it down to family and friends.

Sanya Bernstein: Some people risked their lives for Judaism and if it wasn't for them we might not even be here.

Gabi Gordon: Jewish education is important to me because at Matan Torah (the giving of the Torah) Hashem said, "Who will be the guarantors to keep the Torah?" The Jewish people answered, "the children."

Ayla Hoody: I think that Jewish education is important because we can pass it down to our kids, and their kids and their kids. We are connected to God, the King of the universe. We should pass it down to keep the religion going.

The second lesson that we embarked on in preparing for Chanukah was in how can we be a Maccabee today.

The Maccabees of old were faced with very tough situations. The decisions they had to make were not about convenience, their decisions were about life and death. Because they knew that their light came from the Torah, they were able to stand up strong and make the right choice. Although Antiochus and his army were very powerful, the Maccabees knew that there is no one more powerful than God. They faced their problems and with Hashem's help, they were successful.

The children know that today, in a way, we are also Maccabees, modern Maccabees. We also have challenges that we need to face – we need to be brave like the Maccabees of old and shine our light even when it's difficult.

Our Chanukah candles that are lit when it's dark, teach us that the time to shine your light is when it's dark, especially when it's dark. Don't run away from problems – face them. Deal with the difficult situations by shining your light. Make the right decisions and you'll be successful.

The students then chose one challenge that they face and how they were going to shine their light to brighten the "darkness."

The third lesson is to "Be a Shamash." After discussing that even though the Shamash lights all of the candles, it doesn't lose any of its own light, the students will be encouraged to consider who and how they can help someone, without giving up on anything. The most impactful choices will be published in the school newspaper.

By the time Chanukah came, our students understood that Chanukah is a holiday that can affect us in many ways, spiritually, emotionally, and socially. Integrating Judaism, its practices, and lessons is certainly the best way to experience a meaningful holiday. ☆

CJDS Charlotte Jewish
Day School

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Havurat Tikvah Engages in Levine Educational Series

Havurat Tikvah will host a Lunch 'n Learn on January 26, 10 AM-12 noon, at the Lipman/Westendorf residence, 2229 Chatham Ave., Charlotte, NC. The session will be centered around discussion of a module of Amy-Jill Levine's The Old Testament Great Course series. Participants will listen to Levine's discourse on the selected subject and then will be able to engage in discussion afterward. Bagels, spreads, and coffee will be served. Registration is required. To join in, send RSVPs via email to admin@havurattikvah.org. Check the congregational calendar for further updates.

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/.✡



On Our Way to Liberation, With a Little Help From our Friends

By Rabbi Dusty Klass

Each time I get to lead t'filah with our 6th and 7th graders, I pause when we arrive at Mi Chamocha and ask: what does this prayer mark? What does it help us remember? And they respond: This prayer is about freedom. It is about the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. They sang it when they successfully made it across the Red Sea. And they are right. But for me there are a few additional reminders Mi Chamocha offers us.

First: Each time we arrive at this point in the service, whether we are having a wonderful day and feeling incredibly grateful or whether we are having a terrible day and feeling miserable, we are invited to rejoice. What a fascinating, complicated, and important task – to seek joy and celebration even on the worst of days.

Second: Mi Chamocha reminds us that the story our history tells is a story in which our ancestors were indeed delivered from the great nightmare of slavery – a powerful reminder that redemption is possible in the first place. If the Israelites were once redeemed, so too can we all be.

Third: The words of the prayer speak of *geulah* – redemption. We thank God for redeeming us,

for delivering us from slavery and returning to us our agency, our ability to act in the world. The Hebrew word for redemption, however, is different from the Hebrew word for freedom. Because even as they stood on the far shore of the Red Sea, finally out of the Egyptian's grasp, our ancestors were not yet free. They were no longer literally enslaved, sure – but redemption offers us only the first step toward freedom. In order to find full freedom, we must choose to continue forward on that path ourselves; we must exercise our agency.

In some ways, we are still each in our own way somewhere on that journey, moving from that which enslaves to that which frees us. And the weight of slavery and joy of redemption that we carry in our bones, guides the choices we make with the agency we have. We must not wrong the stranger, for we were strangers (Exodus 22:20). We must befriend the stranger, for we were strangers (Deuteronomy 10:19). We must offer others the opportunities that have been offered to us. We must join together in the struggle for a world in which all are able to recognize and celebrate all those who hold within them the Divine spark. And we must seek a future

in which each person is equally able to use the free will offered to us all.

That's our Jewish story of redemption, a story of the beginning of the liberation of our people. And if there's one thing I know, it's that we don't have the monopoly on redemption stories or liberation tales. Throughout the month of January, all are invited to join us at Temple Beth El on Friday evenings for dinner and Shabbat services. Each week, we will welcome a speaker from a different faith to share their understanding of liberation. We begin with Rabbi Judy Schindler on January 10, followed by Rev. Peter Wherry on January 17, MLK Jr. weekend. Dr. Hadia Mubarak will join us on January 24, and Father Hugo Medellin will conclude the series on January 31. May their teaching enhance our own understanding, so that when we pray the words of Mi Chamocha, we might uncover yet another kernel of meaning.✡



TEMPLE
BETH EL

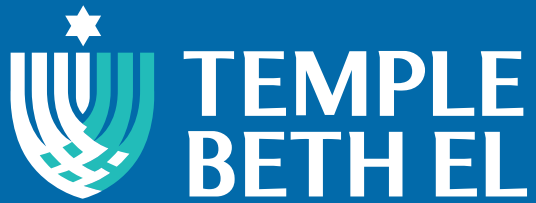
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THROUGH 1/31

Your Health Is
An Investment.
Not An Expense.

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Frídays in January beginning 1.10.20

SHABBAT DINNER & SPEAKER SERIES

SHARING THE STORY *of Liberation*



January 10, 2020
Rabbi Judith Schindler



January 17, 2020
Rev. Dr. Peter Wherry



January 24, 2020
Dr. Hadia Mubarak



January 31, 2020
Father Hugo A. Medellín

6:00pm Shabbat Dinner | 7:30pm Shabbat Worship and Sermon

Take a leap with us and find your

TriBE

LAUNCH PARTY

 **TEMPLE BETH EL**



TriBEs are designed to inspire us and transform our lives and the world around us, with deeper relationships and a greater experience of joy and meaning. TriBEs strive to build a vibrant, inclusive community where members feel strongly connected to our congregation and to each other. We want TriBEs to foster relationships that motivate members to live active, meaningful, and impactful Jewish lives. Take a leap with us and find your TriBE!

TriBEs are intended to engage Temple members to become stakeholders and to develop a living Judaism that speaks to their daily interests, concerns, needs, and aspirations. Members of TriBEs will be learning, playing, praying, acting, caring, and become accountable to each other.

Join us **TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

6:30pm Light Dinner
7:00pm TriBE Launch Party

For information and registration, visit tbe.shulcloud.com/calendar

Temple Solel Member Spotlight

By Shelly Pawlyk

I want to introduce you to two of our members, Ted and Dar Finkelstein, who are affectionately known as Peanut Butter and Jelly. They are Volunteer Clowns which I will tell you about later. I was talking with Ken Nelson, the head of the International Fellowship of Chaplains' Metrolina Corps, to which I belong. He told me a story that can be described as, "Wow, what a small world." He said that he ran into someone where he lives in Sun City and went on to tell me, "Before retirement I worked for a sewing thread company and had a rival salesperson that I would talk to at trade shows. I could barely believe my eyes when, after 10 years, I saw a familiar face and it was Ted." He went on to tell me Ted would be a fantastic Chaplain and because he was Jewish it would be nice if I might consider reaching out to him. I did and this year Ted completed his chaplaincy training with the IFOC and became a Sr. Jewish Chaplain. He is also training to become a Charlotte Ambassador through the Charlotte Police Department's "Bridge the Difference" program.

After 13 years of being breast cancer free, Dar was recently diagnosed with terminal stage IV metastatic breast cancer in her bones. Dar is dedicating her life to educating others about metastatic breast cancer, which is breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast and nearby lymph nodes to other organs in the body



Ted and Dar Finkelstein clowning around.

(most often the bones, lungs, liver, or brain). Surprisingly Dar could not find a support group for metastatic breast cancer in the Charlotte area. Therefore she became a peer to peer support group leader with Metavivor and started a group. For information she can be contacted at MBCdar@yahoo.com. When you hear someone has metastatic breast cancer, please show extra compassion and support towards these women who may be facing a different outcome than others you know who have a greater chance for survival.

As I stated earlier, Ted and Dar are clowns but only clown for charities. They are also volunteer wish granters with Make-A-Wish of Central and Western North Carolina. Every 34 min-

utes Make-A-Wish grants the wish of a child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition in the United States. Through Make-A-Wish, Ted and Dar discovered "Give Kids the World" which was founded by Henri Landwirth, a Belgian Holocaust survivor who spent five years in the Auschwitz and Matthaussen concentration camps. Henri immigrated to the United States, where he studied hotel management, made his fortune, and gave back by creating an 84-acre, non-profit "storybook" resort in central Florida where children with critical illnesses and their families, from all over the world are treated to a week long, cost-free vacation. GKTW gets them free tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, SeaWorld, etc. Since 1986, more than 167,000 children and families have had their dreams fulfilled.

I want to share some of the comments that children and their parents have said about Ted and Dar: "PB&J were amazing and definitely our favorite people." The next "Caught you Caring" card reads, "I adore PB&J. They were so fun to be around." Another parent wrote, "PB&J took their time to talk to us, worked with my daughter's fears and comforted her." Now you know why we became instant friends.

When asking various volunteers why they do what they do, a common answer is, "I choose to help others rather than dwell on my difficulties." These are the

truest heroes in our communities – those who make choices to help others by spreading a little PB&J.

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. ☆

Exciting News for CGI Ballantyne Summer 2020

Get ready for our seventh summer of awesome CGI Fun. Our camp is part of the fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world. Camp Gan Israel enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trend setter in Jewish camping with innovative ideas and creative programs being introduced continuously. Your child will wait all year to come back to camp. Campers enjoy a wide range of exciting activities and field trips in a warm, caring environment, cultivating pride and love for their Jewish heritage.

The mission of CGI is to instill Jewish values in children of all Jewish backgrounds and all levels of observance. Our camp program and activities are imbued with Jewish ambiance and culture. Challah baking, stories, Israeli dance, drama, Jewish and Hebrew songs, group discussions, and beautiful Jewish crafts combine to create an atmosphere of joy, fun, and spirit in each child that attends. This is all part of the unique Gan Israel experience. We have brought it all here. Allow your child to experience the magic. This summer, enroll your child

in Camp Gan Israel.

This year we have expanded to six weeks of nonstop fun.

June 29–August 7

Sign up for single weeks or all six and save.

Our campers are divided into three main groups:

Mini CGI (Preschool), Ages 3-5.

Junior CGI, Rising K - Rising 3rd Grade.

Senior CGI, Rising 4th - Rising 6th Grade.

New this year – we are offering CGI Extreme for rising 7th and 8th graders. The first three weeks only. June 29-July 17.

Visit www.CGIBallantyne.com for more details and information. ☆



ב"ה

Jewish education starts here

Registration opens January 8

for more info visit

jpskids.org/register

704-364-8395 / info@jpskids.org



Jewish Preschool on Sardis



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A Licensed Five-Star Preschool, NC Division of Child Development



A project of Chabad of Charlotte

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte



New JLI Course to Explore Judaism's Gift to the World

How Major Jewish Ideas Have Become Universal Values

Coming to Charlotte - January 28

The Jewish Learning Institute of Charlotte is introducing a monumental new course geared for Jews and non-Jews. The six week course will delve into six Jewish ideas and see how they have been adopted by humans all across the globe.

A fraction of the human race in number, the Jewish people have wielded an entirely disproportional degree of influence on human development and discovery throughout history until the present day.

All of the ancient civilizations we know about today left a record of their history in material things. But what we know about the Jews in ancient times comes mostly from the ideas they taught and the impact that these ideas had upon other people and other civilizations. Judaism's Gifts to the World is an in-depth exploration of these values and ideas that have successfully been shared with humanity. Many of these concepts were once considered preposterous, but today they are taken for granted. The historical accounts of such transitions are as fascinating as they are instructive for the present.

"All the great conceptual discoveries of the intellect," wrote the British historian Paul Johnson, "seem obvious and inescapable once they have been revealed,

but it requires a special genius to formulate them for the first time. The Jew has this gift." Human-kind ought to thank the Jewish people, he insists, for the many values that "constitute the basic moral furniture of the human mind," to the extent that without the Jews, the world "might have been a much emptier place."

Judaism's Gifts to the World is an in-depth exploration of the most notable values and attitudes that the Jews have successfully transmitted from generation to generation. The stories of such transitions are as fascinating as they are instructive for the present. Judaism's Gifts to the World also considers how Judaism might continue its role as a beacon of clarity and fountain of wisdom for all of humankind.

The six lessons will focus on responsibility, as it is often assumed, that throughout the ages, good people instinctively felt an obligation concerning the welfare of all members of society, such as assisting the poor and establishing livelihoods for the masses. In truth, the Torah first introduced the concept of mutual responsibility for all others, and it took many centuries for the idea to filter into common thinking.

Sanctity of Life - we have forged a consensus that human life is sacred and that murder is abhorrent. But what is the source for this belief? The Bible

proclaimed that all humans are created in the divine image, and that all murder is wrong – not for social considerations, but as a crime against God. It took many centuries for much of humanity to gradually adopt this viewpoint.

Created Equal - the ancients universally considered it self-evident that all people were not created equal. Their hierarchical mind-set upheld a "golden rule": he who owned the gold ruled, and with power came the right to abuse. Judaism was the first to claim that in God's eyes, all people are equally valuable.

Purpose and Trust - the Hebrew Bible insists on the existence of one God, not many gods. Is it merely a matter of theological math, or are there practical differences? Judaism's monotheism first introduced the human consciousness to the concepts of purpose in life and trust in a single higher power – specifically, that God created each of us for a reason, cares for us, and is in complete control of every event.

These and more will make for exciting discussion and study as we examine multiple texts and delve into the deeper meaning of Jewish values.

Evening classes will be held on six consecutive Tuesdays, starting January 28, at 7:30 PM. Morning classes will begin on Wednesday January 29, at 11 AM. All classes will be held at

the new Epstein Chabad Center on Sardis Road. Fee is \$99 per individual and \$180 per couple. To

register or learn more about the JLI, please visit myJLI.com or call our office at 704-366-3984.✧

Tu BiShvat Ohr HaTorah Shabbaton on February 7

Tu BiShvat, the New Year for Trees, always comes within proximity of Shabbat Shirah – Shabbat of Song. What better way to celebrate this special and exciting Shabbat than with a grand Shabbaton at Ohr HaTorah. The Shabbaton will feature delicious gourmet food from Kosher Charlotte as well as a selection of exquisite kosher wines from Israel and around the world.

Based on the last Shabbaton in December, which hosted a sellout

crowd, we encourage people to register early to ensure that they have a place by the table at this grand celebration.

The Shabbaton will be held on Friday, February 7, at 5:40 PM at the Epstein Chabad Center beginning with a Shabbat candle lighting ceremony. Cost for the Shabbaton is \$25 per person and \$15 per child. To reserve your seat at the Shabbaton, please visit chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984.✧

Daf Yomi at Ohr HaTorah

Daf Yomi is a daily regimen of learning the Oral Torah and its commentaries (also known as the Gemara), in which each of the 2,711 pages of the Babylonian Talmud is covered in sequence. A *daf*, or *blatt* in Yiddish, consists of both sides of the page. Under this regimen, the entire Talmud is completed, one day at a time, in a cycle of seven and a half years.

The cycle will conclude in the beginning of January and the new

cycle begins immediately on the day after. Ohr HaTorah will offer classes on the Talmud coinciding with the Daf Yomi. If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Shlomo Cohen at Rabbicohen@chabadnc.org.✧



Greetings from...

SUMMER CAMPER

Preschool
K-5th • Teen

2020
YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CAMP MINDY
Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp
Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

Can't Wait to See You Here!

Registration Going On Now! www.charlottejcc.org

JCC Charlotte

Temple Kol Ami Strives for a Better World

Making *mishloach manot* for a domestic violence safe house. Collecting school supplies for less fortunate students of Fort Mill, SC. Contributing to a food pantry to help those in need. These are just a few of the mitzvah projects that Temple Kol Ami has spear-headed to make our community a better place. Tikkun olam, heal the world, is one of the driving principles of Judaism, and is certainly one of the pillars upon which TKA is built. Since our inception almost 10 years ago, the congregants of Temple Kol Ami have contributed to both our local community and national community in so many ways. Most importantly, we have taught our youth the importance of performing mitzvahs, good deeds, and *gemilut hasadim*, acts of loving-kindness.

Every year, Temple Kol Ami sponsors a food drive to benefit a local organization. In the past, we have donated 100s of pounds

of food to the pantry at Jewish Family Services at Shalom Park, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Carolinas, the Fort Mill Care Center, and the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen of Rock Hill. Additionally, our TKA Religious School students have put together *mishloach manot* care packages for women and children at the Safe Passages Domestic Violence Center of Rock Hill, as well as for the Clover Area Assistance Center of Clover, SC. Our Religious School kids have also participated in school supply drives to benefit Classroom Central of Fort Mill as well as Pilgrim's Inn of Rock Hill. In addition to bringing donations, the kids decorated pencils and notebooks and made pencil pouches for students in their community. Last year, the students voted to donate all of our tzedakah collections to the York County Humane Society. They also made toys for the animals to play with and collected dog and



The children of Temple Kol Ami send gifts to the needy.

cat food to donate.

At times of national emergencies, Temple Kol Ami has also responded. When our neighbors in North and South Carolina were deeply affected by flooding caused by hurricanes, Temple Kol Ami sent donations of dry goods and collected tzedakah at Religious School to benefit the American Red Cross. Congregants were also encouraged to

make donations to the relief organization of their choice, and many sent funds to Nechama, the Jewish Disaster Relief Organization.

Contributing to our Jewish community is also a priority at Temple Kol Ami. Members of TKA have previously volunteered to help plant trees at the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte. Additionally, the Religious School students made travel menorahs to send to our Jewish soldiers at Fort Bragg, NC. They also donated toiletry items that were made into gift bags for our servicemen and women.

Just this past Chanukah, Temple Kol Ami sponsored a "gift"

drive for the Active Day Center of Chester, SC. This wonderful organization helps those with disabilities as they age as well as people with dementia. Gifts as simple as socks, combs, games and art supplies were greatly appreciated. It was fantastic to be able to help make someone's holiday a little bit brighter.

As we enter another decade, Temple Kol Ami will continue to support many worthy organizations both locally and nationally. We hope you will join us in making the world a better place. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. For more information, contact us at yorksnyagogue@gmail.com or check our website www.temple-olamisc.org.



Don't Just Sit on Your Lily Pad, Jump into the New Year

We're just a week into 2020 and hopefully people are still on their best behavior keeping their New Year's resolutions to go to the gym and eat better; but wait a minute, don't members of the tribe regard Rosh HaShanah as their new year? Well, yes, sort of. January 1 is an official American holiday, so you don't have to take a vacation day or schedule a makeup test but being as both days are on the personal calendar of so many American Jews, it behooves us to look into the differences and similarities of the new years.

Depending on your level of observance, Rosh HaShanah lasts either one or two days, but all recognize that it begins at sunset and finishes after sunset. We sanctify it with wine but don't find ourselves having to deal with a hangover the following day.

Whereas the American New Year's party is full of loud music and dancing, the Jewish New Year is a time of reflection about one's past and potential for the future (not as exciting but hopefully more meaningful). But, wait a minute, there are some common rituals crucial to both. The first involves calling out numbers: 5-4-3-2-1-Happy New Year vs. the Rabbi announcing, "please turn to page 320." Drinking alcoholic beverages derived from grapes is the second ritual shared by both; champagne vs. Manischewitz.

One final point of commonality: on both days it is a ritual to sing a song that only a few know the lyrics to whereas the rest of the people know the tune well enough to hum along. In the first few seconds of the new year, everyone begins "Auld Lang Syne" but for most, after "Should old acquaintances be forgot," the rest is a hum along. So, too, with the familiar centuries old tune to "Avinu Malkeinu"; after the first words, the rest is hummed along with the cantor. (While

we're speaking of singing, if you watch videos of New Year's celebrations 40 years ago [Guy Lombardo in all his glory], the songs played at those gala evenings have absolutely no connection to what one hears at a 21st century New Year's party but the basic prayers of Rosh HaShanah are the same ones said for centuries; even new prayers are addendums to the basic format of the service).

Ultimately, the two New Years' deviate from one another; sweetness is their point of divergence. The theme of our New Year's Day is not just to have a happy new year, but to have a sweet new year. Shana tova – a "good year" – is said by some but a more traditional greeting is *shana tova u'matuka* – a good and sweet year. In addition, the customary Rosh HaShanah foods revolve around sweetness. From the round sweet challah to the apple dipped in honey, sweet tasting foods reflect the theme of day. Could one even conceive of kiddush without honey cake – a *shanda*.

Both New Years' abound with possibilities. A new start and the idea that no matter how much I have messed things up until now, I can start with the proverbial new slate. Here's a bit of advice from the 19th century Chassidic master Rav Tzadok HaKohen to help you feel as hopeful at the end of the year as you did in the

beginning. "It's not enough to believe in God, you must also believe in yourself." That means that you believe that you have the ability to drastically change the way you eat, control your anger, stop trying to control people, or the myriad of character defects we have come to believe are just "who I am." Whether it's the first of the Tishrei or the first of January, ask yourself, "What will it take for me to believe in myself and my ability to truly live rather than emotionally survive?" The following riddle sheds light on a solution.

Three frogs are sitting on three lily pads. If all three decide to jump, how many frogs are left on the lily pads? Answer: All of them; they just decided, but never jumped.

What will your year look like? If it doesn't involve revisiting and working to change at least one undesirable character defect or emotional challenge, you might want to ask, "Do I really believe in myself?" Whether the answer is yes or no, the net action is the same – get off your lily pad.

Best wishes for a successful jump.☆



Kids Mega Challah Bake 2020

Kids! Now it's your turn. Roll up your sleeves, put on your aprons and get ready for an awesome challah baking experience. Children from across the Charlotte area are invited. Our goal is to bring Jewish children of all ages together, from every point of the Jewish spectrum, for a

day of unity, fun and creativity. Each child will make their very own batch of challah dough from scratch and braid their challahs to take home. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, January 20, 1 PM, Epstein Family Chabad Center,

(Continued on page 27)

Yours Truly Needlepoint and Knitting

Join Us - Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint

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

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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

704-366-6765

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J At the Levine JCC we build

January 2020

Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
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JCHILDCARE

7 weeks – 7 years old

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

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

Mon-Thu PM4pm-7:30pm

Saturday 12pm-3pm

Sunday8:30am-2pm

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

Grades K-5th

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

Sundays, 8:30am-1pm

Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/\$2/hour

NM/\$5.50 per hour

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

LJCC Department Directory

Please contact us if you have questions!

Membership

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

Early Childhood

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

K-5th Grade Programs

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

Adults & Seniors/Oasis

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

Wellness & Fitness

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

Sports

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

Aquatics / Swim Team

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

LJCC Tennis / CRUSH

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

Visual/Performing Arts

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

J-Childcare

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

Social Action

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



JANUARY HOLIDAY HOURS:

**We are open 10am – 5pm
on New Year's Day**

Early Bird pricing ends December 31st



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



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

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

www.charlottejcc.org/teamcarolina

Team Carolina Delegation Contact:

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



NOT TOO "BoReD"

GAME
exTRaVaganza!



GRADES 2-5

Come join your friends up at
Camp Mindy Rec Hall
for a night of board game fun
featuring classic games like
Monopoly,
Risk,
Payday,
Yahtzee & more!

Includes snacks and pizza dinner!

Saturday, January 11

6-9pm

M/\$15 NM/\$20

Register at LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007
Questions? 704-944-6718 • conor.butner@charlottejcc.org

community – קהילה – kehilah

Teens

Teen Camp Reunion

6th–7th Grades

If you went to Teen Camp this past summer, join us for some Teen Camp fun. We will have pizza, discuss trip and activity ideas for the summer and head to Sports Connection for bowling, laser tag and arcade fun. Upon returning to the LJCC, we will play Bingo. Please register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk by January 16th.

Saturday, January 18 • 5:30–9:30pm

Free

704-944-6739 or michelle.rusgo@charlottejcc.org

College Admissions 101/What You Need to Know Long Before You Apply to College

10th–11th grade and family

It's never too early to start planning for college. Learn what you need to know now to navigate high school and plan to build your best college application. Learn about the application process and get some insider tips on how to stand out. For more information visit www.collegeadmissions101.org.

704-944-6739 or michelle.rusgo@charlottejcc.org

J Teen Xtreme: Indoor Laser Tag

6th–8th Grade

We are bringing the excitement of Laser Tag to the LJCC, turning the facility into a laser-tag arena. Bring your friends and we will bring the fun!

Pizza and snacks will be provided.

Saturday, February 8 • 6:30–9pm

Alvin E. Levine Gymnasium

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

Adults

Eating for Gut Health & Environmental Food Sustainability

Please join LJCC Registered Dietitian, Chantal Otelsberg, as she helps us understand how to eat responsibly for long-term gut health and how to shop to protect the environment. Please register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk or call 704.366.5007

Thursday, January 16

7pm

Sam Lerner Center

Free

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

How Hearing Impacts Whole Health

Presented by: Madison Levine, Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist/ Owner, Levine Hearing.

Friday, January 17

10–11am

FSP Boardroom

Free

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

Fighting the Winter Blues?

Novant Health geriatrician Dr. Violeta Mihailescu will explain the difference between “winter blues” and seasonal affective disorder (SAD). She will discuss why it happens and ways to overcome both conditions.

Friday, January 24

1–2pm

Weinberg Senior Center

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

“Nosh & Know” about Parkinson’s Disease

Join us monthly for a series of topics. We’ll provide refreshments and snacks. January topic: “Nutrition for Parkinson’s Disease” presented by Chantal Otelsberg, MS, RDN, LDN Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

Tuesday, January 14 • 11:30am–12:15pm

Weinberg Senior Center • Free

Must RSVP each month, by the Friday before to

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

This program is offered in collaboration with



Pick up a flyer today of our 2020 Nosh & Know Series.



Oasis Book Club

January's Book:

Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens

Friday, January 31, 1–2pm

FSP Boardroom • Free; just show up!

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

Tai Chi/Qigong

Adults 50+

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

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

Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio

Oasis/M/\$35 B/\$25 NM/\$45 per month

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

SHIIP

Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program

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



OASIS

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

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

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

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

2020 Fitness

FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Preschoolers & Families	Grades 5-10	Fitness Challenges for Adults
“Let’s get PHYSical” FAMILY FITNESS HOUR Preschoolers and families warm up and get active together! Join us for a fun fitness hour with a “BOOT CAMP” for all ages, and family fun fitness games! Sunday, January 5 3–4pm • Free Camp Mindy Rec Hall	FORCE Youth with Renaldo The clinic is designed for the athlete or non-athlete, and consists of an overall fitness program designed to improve body strength and endurance, speed and agility. Tue/Thu • 5:30–6:10pm January 7 – March 12	20 Classes in 30 Days! 20 in 30 JAN 1 → JAN 31 NEW YEAR JAN 6 → FEB 27 NEW YOU JAN 6 → FEB 27

For all programs, register at LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007
DETAILS & PRICING AT CHARLOTTEJCC.ORG

704-944-6891 patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org	704-944-6870 jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org	704-944-6870 jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org
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PJ Library Presents



“Ballooney” Produced by Children’s Theatre of Charlotte

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | 11:00 AM

Gorelick Hall At Shalom Park

SUPER SUNDAY FAMILY FUN

Imagine a single balloon changing one person’s life forever. Ballooney is a tender, uplifting show for your child (big & little).

Sweet, inventive and packed with physical comedy, this play explores the power of friendship and shows how, with a little imagination and acceptance, companionship is everywhere.

Free - Registration is required by Feb. 5

Register at www.nextgencharlotte.org

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

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



PJ Library

YidLive! by YidLife Crisis Arrives in Charlotte on February 1

(Continued from page 1)

Some of it is a bit more modern and edgy, but a lot of it is based on classic Jewish comedy tropes.

"The web series is in Yiddish," he clarifies. "The live show is not. The show is about the crisis. The crisis of Jewish identity and how we're going to express our Judaism in the modern world."

The series has been frequently compared to *Seinfeld* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and both men welcome the comparison. "I'm very glad those shows are coming to mind when people watch it," Eli tells us. "We like to say that *Seinfeld* is Talmud for us. Someone told us that [*YidLife Crisis* is] '*Seinfeld* in Yiddish.' We're not *Seinfeld*, obviously, but we are definitely somehow regurgitating stuff from there. But our thesis is that they regurgitated from a long history of Jewish comedy. But they happened to have done it in English and we're doing it in the roots language of Yiddish. From which most of it was born."

Ed-Jew-Tainment

In addition to the web series, the two have begun producing several documentaries about various Jewish communities around the world, focusing on the culture in those communities, but especially the food (most episodes in the web series take place in restaurants). The web series, though, has moved on from food as the focus and now the food side is being pursued in the documentaries. "We've tapped into something we're able to tell – and you can

see this in our Global Shtetl stuff as well – stories about history that we like to call 'ed-Jew-taining' and teach people through education materials," Eli says. "We're doing it in our clown-y, food-y kind of way where we're around other experts who provide their knowledge and we provide the comedic platform. It just plays into who we are and frankly, we are just hungry people. The food will always play a role."

Jamie and Eli say they have been anxious to come visit Charlotte for five years, since the inception of the web series. That's because Jeff Turk, chair of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, has been a fan since day one. "We're very excited about coming," Jamie claims. "That's because we know at the helm of this festival is a guy who has been a legit, genuine fan from the beginning and seems to really appreciate what *YidLife* is. Because of him we think the Charlotte audience will be good, warm, and *heimishe*."

YidLive! By YidLife Crisis is Saturday night, February 1, at 7:15 PM at Temple Israel, followed by the Film Festival's opening night reception. Jamie and Eli's documentary *Chewdaism: A Taste of Jewish Montreal* will be screened on February 2 at 1 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts in Shalom Park where there will be a Q & A with Jamie and Eli and a nosh (of course!) after the film.

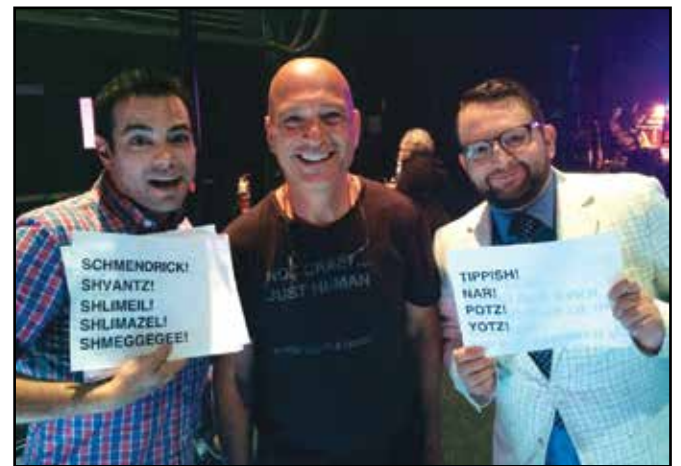
Tickets for both events and the remainder of the film festival are available at charlottejewishfilm.com.

For an advance look at *YidLife Crisis*, visit yidlifecrisis.com. For a look at one fun episode with Howie Mandel, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w-A-k5Kc_0. Warning: mild Yiddish expletives in this episode.

It's Not Michael Jordan, But ...

In addition to the Opening Weekend, the CJFF will screen 14 additional films at Temple Israel and Regal Ballantyne. Closing day includes *A Cantor's Head*, which profiles the "Michael Jordan" of Cantors, Jack Mendelson, who is scheduled to appear after the film for a Q & A, with the film's writer/director Eric Anjou, and *Aulcie*, a film about Israeli basketball star Aulcie Perry, who converted to Judaism and is known as the "Michael Jordan" of Israel.

For the rest of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival Schedule, see the folder inserted in this edition. See you at the movies! ✨



Jamie Elman, Howie Mandel, and Eli Batalion.



Leizer (Eli Batalion) and Chaimie (Jamie Elman) eating - of course.

Kids Mega Challah Bake

(Continued from page 23)

6619 Sardis Rd.
\$15 per child
Appropriate for children ages 4-11
Snacks will be served.
For more information visit:

www.cltmegachallah.com or email Leah@JewishBallantyne.com.

Kids Mega Challah Bake is a joint project of Chabad of Charlotte and the Ballantyne Jewish Center. ✨

SAVE THE DATE
Kids Mega Challah Bake
Monday, January 20

OPEN HOUSE & Fall 2020 Enrollment

Friday, January 24 • 9:30am



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charlottejewishpreschool.org

Thank You to our Legacy Donors!



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES



Donations to Jewish Family Services in November 2019

IN HONOR OF

The dolls you make to Betty Davis from Sandra Weinstein

Elbert's 100th birthday to Joseph Lipman from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis

Your mother's Yahrzeit to Susan Victor from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz to Jackie Fishman from Michael and Judie Van Glish

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, Susan Richard

Henry Hirschmann to Paul and June Hirschmann from Eileen Schwartz

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO

Steven and Darcy Garfinkel from David and Debra Van Glish

Barry and Lorrie Klemons from David and Debra Van Glish

William and Fran Schwartz from David and Debra Van Glish

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Steven Langman from Ann Langman

Elbert Lipman from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis

Scott Menaker from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

Steven Menaker from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

Jon Schuller from Sarah R. Grossman

Harry Swimmer from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Jan Weiner from Rebecca W. Green

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVER TO

Leonard Strause from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

MAZEL TOV ON

Evan Ryan's birth and bris to Jeff and Becca Stern from Melanie Resnick

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Month of November 2019

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, Marcia Arnolt, Ana Bonheim, Bill Brightman, James Bryan, Suzy Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Dan Coblenz, Sheryl Effren, Steve Englehardt, Maggie Fogel, Rob Friedman, Neil Golub, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Bob Jacobson, Brooks Jaffa, Judy Kaufman, Marcia Lampert, Eric Lerner, Gary Lerner, Lisa Levinson, Lucky Levinson, Adam Levy, Kim Levy, Matt Luftglass, Harriet Meetz, Frada Mozenter, 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: Phyllis Berlin, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Denise and Bob Greenspon, Sandy Hoagland, Sari Hochberg, Johnson and Wales, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Harriet Meetz, Helene Rivlin, Roz Snyder, Joyce Stoll, Elyssa Vining, Robin Zimmerman

Food Pantry Donations:

Madeline Aron, Bob Jacobson, Wendy Kveskin, Matt Luftglass and Meg Goldstein, Robbie McGinley, Andrea Sauer, Charlotte Jewish Community Center Members, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Moishe House, PJ Library of Union County, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants

Mitzvah Basket Donations:

The Halverstam family in honor of Oliver's Bar Mitzvah

The Dreidel Drive Was a Success

Jewish Family Services extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this year's Dreidel Drive an overwhelming success. Dreidels and stars were posted on displays throughout Shalom Park and at the Preschool on Sardis. A big thank you to our partners, too. Almost 300 gifts were collected and distributed. Each year we ask our clients to tell us what they would like for Chanukah. All sorts of requests come in. This year, one family requested bedding and pots and pans to set up a new apartment, while another family requested Legos for their youngest and art supplies – a sketchbook, pens, and charcoal pencils for their teen. One senior asked for a warm blanket. We know we can count on our community to bring a little extra joy to those in our community who might not otherwise be able to celebrate.



Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Ruthie Warshenbrot Receives Outstanding Young Professional Award

Ruthie Warshenbrot, native of Charlotte, and currently serving as director of the Wexner Field Fellowship at the Wexner Foundation in Columbus, OH, received the eighth annual Larry S. Moses Outstanding Young Professional Award in November.

The award, established in 2012, honors a young professional who has rendered exceptional service to the Columbus Jewish Community. The award includes an \$1,800 grant for professional development. The award is funded by several Jewish organizations, including JewishColumbus, the Jewish Community Center of Columbus, Wexner Heritage Village, Jewish Family Services, The Ohio State University Hillel, Columbus Jewish Day School, and Columbus Torah Academy.

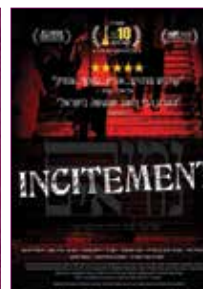
"I am glad that our community recognizes the importance of investing in young professionals, something that has made a difference to me throughout my career," said Warshenbrot. "Thank you for recognizing me with this

(Continued on page 31)

Levine Jewish Community Center Cultural Arts Department presents

16TH ANNUAL CHARLOTTE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FEB 1-23

 Feb. 1 • 7:15pm Temple Israel	 Feb. 2 • 1:00pm Temple Israel	 Feb. 5 • 7:15pm Temple Israel	 Feb. 6 • 7:15pm Temple Israel	 Feb. 8 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 9 • 2:00pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 12 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	
 Feb. 13 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 15 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 16 • 2:00pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 16 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 19 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 20 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 22 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	
 Feb. 23 • 2:00pm Regal Ballantyne	 Feb. 23 • 7:15pm Regal Ballantyne	EARLY BIRD SPECIAL \$130 Dec 15 - Jan 15					ALL FESTIVAL PASS \$160 Jan 16 - Feb 2

Tickets can be purchased online at CHARLOTTEJEWISHFILM.COM









TORAH TOTS



BIM BAM SHABBAT SERVICE AND "KID"DUSH

Friday, January 10, 5:45 p.m.

Join Rabbi Kornsgold and Mr. Caleb on guitar for a great time celebrating Shabbat together! We will follow our Shabbat service with a delicious "Kid"dush.

YOUTH

MAHAR CHOCOLATE BAR IN A CAR (3rd-5th Grades)

Sunday, January 26, 12:15-1:45 p.m.

Chocolate Bar in A Car is coming to educate about where chocolate comes from, how to make chocolate and, most importantly, creating a delicious treat! Drop-off & Pick-up at TIRS Cost: \$12/TI-Y Members; \$18/Non-Members. Register by 9 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

MOVIE NIGHT WITH HAVDALLAH

Saturday, January 11, 6:15-11 p.m.

Location: AMC Park Terrace 6

Join Torah on Tap and catch a winter flick at the newly restored AMC theatre in the Park Road Shopping Center! We will have a brief Havdallah service in the parking lot before the movie. We'll hold a Facebook poll to choose the movie once times are released.



WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL (WoTI)

NOSH, CRAFT & KIBBITZ

Thursday, January 9, 7 p.m.

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

Relax with warm drinks, tasty nibbles and friends as we learn to make our own beaded kipot. Cost: \$18/members; \$25/non-members. Register by 9 p.m. on Monday, January 6 at templeisraelinc.org.

SOCIAL CLUB

PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Sunday, January 26, 12:30 p.m.

Location: Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park

Dr. Tom Hanchett, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library's historian-in-residence, will return to speak on Charlotte's music history and how it intertwines with the Charlotte Region's textile history. He will share the story of how back in the 1930s more music was recorded in Charlotte than Nashville! FREE for 2020 paid-up members. Guests: \$26.

EMPTY NESTERS

SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, January 10, 7:15 p.m.

Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall

Please join us for Shabbat services at 6:15 p.m., followed by a traditional Shabbat dinner. Cost: \$36/person (vegetarian option available). Register by 9 p.m. on Sunday, January 5 at templeisraelinc.org.

LIFELONG LEARNING



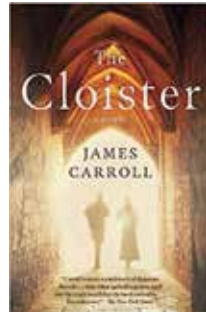
LUNCH N' LEARN WITH RABBI HOWARD SIEGEL>

Thursday, January 16, 11 a.m.

Who Needs God

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: Baked Potato Bar with vegetarian chili). Registration required. Cost: \$10/TI Congregants; \$18/Guests. To register, visit templeisraelinc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, January 8, 7 p.m.

James Carroll's highly acclaimed, and ardously researched historical novel *The Cloister* is the challenging selection for Temple Israel's next book club meeting.

From Kirkus Reviews, "With his familiar deftness and depth, James Carroll weaves a profound and compelling novel from diverse but overlapping narrative strands.... The Cloister illuminates life's most vital questions and proposes inspiring, radical and timely answers."

Everyone is welcome to attend book club discussion, whether or not you have read the book. For additional information contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362 or levyollie@aol.com).



YOM GEMILUT HASADIM

A Day Performing Acts
of Loving Kindness

**Sunday, January 19, 2020
(Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Join the entire Temple Israel community to help others on MLK weekend.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Adults, Youth and Families to get involved and make a difference in our community. By participating in Mitzvah projects you will be sharing in Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

Visit templeisraelinc.org for details

RICK RECHT



Havdallah Family Concert

presented by Temple Israel
sponsored by the Schwartz Family and an Anonymous Donor

Saturday, January 25, 2020 6:30pm

rickrecht.com • facebook.com/rickrechtworld

**Register for this
amazing FREE* concert
at templeisraelinc.org.**
*registration required



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.



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WEDDING, SHOWER
& B'NAI MITZVAH
REGISTRIES!

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

JFS's Annual Senior Adult Chanukah Party

The 16th Annual Senior Adult Chanukah party is in the books. Seniors, Holocaust survivors, and family members from all over the community enjoyed a traditional holiday lunch, the sounds of Viva Klezmer!, hand-made cards from

the students at Charlotte Jewish Day School and everyone was especially delighted by the performance given by Charlotte Jewish Preschool. ☆



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The Top 10 Jewish Stories of 2019

By the JTA Staff

(JTA) — For many Jews around the world, there's probably no love lost for 2019.

As the year draws to a close, the Jewish community continues to grapple with the continued rise of global Antisemitism. And Israel is caught in the grip of political paralysis following two fruitless elections (with a prime minister facing prosecution for corruption).

Meanwhile, with a U.S. presidential election looming next year that is sure to be bitterly contested, there's little reason to think we're in for a smoother ride in 2020.

These are the Jewish stories that most captured our attention in 2019 and whose reverberations are likely to be felt well into the next ride around the sun.

The Poway Synagogue Shooting

In April, on the last day of Passover, a gunman opened fire at a Chabad synagogue in the San Diego suburb of Poway, killing one person and injuring three. The accused gunman told a 911 dispatcher that he did it because "Jewish people are destroying the white race."

The Poway attack shook the American Jewish community, which was still reeling from the shooting attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh that killed 11 worshippers at Shabbat services. As the one-year anniversary of the shooting approached in October, the community held a number of memorial events that made it clear the aftershocks were still being felt.

"I live with October 27 every minute of every hour of every day, and I will for the rest of my life," Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said.

Two Killed in Yom Kippur Attack on German Synagogue

As 51 people gathered for Yom Kippur services in the German city of Halle, Stephan Balliet, clad in combat gear and wearing a head-mounted camera, tried to blast his way inside. When the synagogue's fortified doors kept him out, he turned and shot Jana Lange, who had reprimanded him for making too much noise. Then Balliet proceeded to a nearby kebab shop, where he shot and killed a man identified only as Kevin S. Balliet later told police he was motivated by anti-Semitism.

Worshippers remained in the synagogue for hours before they were evacuated by police to a nearby hospital, where they continued their holiday services.

"It was intense and emotional," one participant said.

The shooting sent shock waves through the tiny Jewish community of Halle, which numbers about 500 people. It also sparked outrage from leaders of German Jewry, who demanded to know why the synagogue was left unguarded on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, called the failure "scandalous," and said if police had been present they could have disarmed the gunman before he harmed anyone.

Israelis Vote Twice and Still

Don't Have a Prime Minister

Israeli politics are a hot mess right now.

In April, national elections resulted in a tie between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and his principal challenger, the Blue and White party led by former general Benny Gantz. Netanyahu failed to form a government, so Israelis went back to the polls in September and again delivered no clear winner: 33 seats for Blue and White, 32 for Likud. First Netanyahu tried to form a government, then Gantz. Neither succeeded.

Israel has now entered uncharted territory: It appears headed for a third election, likely to take place in early March. The only thing Israelis probably agree on right now is how unpalatable another election will be.

Netanyahu Faces Corruption Charges

As if the Israeli political situation wasn't complicated enough, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was indicted in November on multiple charges of corruption, including bribery and breach of public trust.

The most serious case alleges that Netanyahu traded political favors to the largest shareholder of the telecommunications giant Bezeq in exchange for favorable news coverage. Netanyahu also was accused of accepting gifts totaling \$200,000 from Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan in exchange for political assistance, and of seeking positive coverage from the daily newspaper *Yediot Acharonot* in exchange for advancing a law that would have hurt a competitor.

Netanyahu has decried the indictment as a "witch hunt" and an attempted coup. He has 30 days to seek immunity from prosecution in the Knesset, his country's parliament.

Hate Crimes against Jews Are Spiking

Around the world, law enforcement and community organizations found that hate crimes continued to rise, with Jews often the most common targets.

In April, the Anti-Defamation League reported that 1,879 Antisemitic incidents occurred in 2018, the third-highest tally in the four decades the ADL has been conducting annual audits. In July, the Canadian government reported that Jews were the most targeted minority group for the third straight year, even as hate crimes against other groups fell. And in August, the British Jewish community's Antisemitism watchdog reported the highest number of Antisemitic incidents ever in the first six months of 2019.

In Brooklyn, a series of violent attacks against visibly Jewish victims caused particular alarm. Three were reported in one week in August alone. The situation led the city to create a new Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes and install Devorah Lauter, a former ADL official, at its helm.

Israel Becomes a Wedge Issue

This year saw serious cracks in what has long been a cherished feature of the U.S.-Israel relationship: bipartisanship.

In February, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., came under fire for a series of controversial tweets, including one charging — falsely — that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee pays politicians to be pro-Israel. Omar drew quick rebukes from leading Democrats and subsequently apologized. The following month, President Donald Trump piled on, calling the Democrats the "anti-Jewish" party. In August, Trump upped the ante, saying that anyone who voted for a Democrat was guilty of "disloyalty," a comment that drew condemnation from critics who said it evoked classic Antisemitic tropes.

Meanwhile, Democratic politicians were trending leftward on Israel, with several of the leading candidates for the presidential nomination saying they were prepared to use American aid as leverage to pressure Israel. The shifting center of gravity on Israel prompted pushback from the party's so-called moderate wing and prompted the creation of a new organization, the Democratic Majority for Israel, dedicated to cultivating support for the Jewish state in the party.

With a sure-to-be-nasty presidential election looming in 2020, both sides were preparing to spend heavily on the Israel issue. The Republican Jewish Coalition announced a \$10 million ad campaign painting the Democrats as a "shanda" — Yiddish for "disgrace" — in part because of their position on Israel. Democratic groups pushed back with an ad blitz of their own.

British Jews Unnerved by Corbyn Candidacy

With the United Kingdom facing an enormously consequential election that could well determine the future of its membership in the European Union, British Jews were facing a momentous choice of their own. The Labour Party, long the political home of a majority of Britain's Jews, is led by Jeremy Corbyn, who has been long been dogged by accusations of anti-Semitism.

Concern over Corbyn reached a fever pitch in the months prior to the December 12 vote. In early November, Britain's oldest Jewish newspaper, *The Jewish Chronicle*, published a front-page editorial pleading with Britons not to support Corbyn, noting a recent poll suggesting that approximately half of Jews would consider emigrating if he were elected. Weeks later, in an unprecedented intervention, British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis wrote of British Jewry's justified anxiety at the prospect of a Corbyn premiership in a *Times* of London op-ed, warning that "the very soul of our nation is at stake."

Corbyn's record of actions that unnerved British Jews is long and well-documented. He once defended a London mural showing bankers playing monopoly on the backs of dark-skinned people that was widely seen as Antisemitic, said Zionists have "no sense of irony" and described the militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah as "friends."

He has passionately argued that there is no place for Antisemitism in his party, but recently apologized for "everything that's happened" in Labour over the past few years.

Boris Johnson ultimately defeated Corbyn.

The #MeToo Movement Hits the Jewish Community

Michael Steinhardt, the Jewish megadonor who helped found Birthright Israel and supports a wide range of Jewish institutions, was accused of a pattern of propositioning and sexually inappropriate remarks to women.

According to an investigation by The New York Times and ProPublica, the journalism non-profit, seven women alleged that Steinhardt made sexual requests of them while they were seeking his financial support. Steinhardt denied the accusations, but acknowledged a pattern of comments "that were boorish, disrespectful, and just plain dumb."

In the wake of the accusations, the organized Jewish community's longtime focus on encouraging endogamy and child rearing — long among Steinhardt's favored philanthropic objectives — drew increasing scrutiny.

A Measles Outbreak Hits the Orthodox Community

A measles outbreak that began with a trickle in haredi Orthodox communities in Israel and New York last year exploded into a full-on public health crisis in 2019. Hundreds of cases were reported in New York and thousands in Israel.

New York officials took aggressive measures to contain

the outbreak, declaring a public health emergency and ordering that unvaccinated people living in four heavily Orthodox Zip codes in Brooklyn be vaccinated or pay fines up to \$1,000. The state also banned religious exemptions for vaccines and at least 10 Jewish schools in New York City were shuttered for admitting unvaccinated students.

At least three fatalities were attributed to the disease in Israel, one of them a 43-year-old El Al flight attendant who contracted the disease on a flight from New York. By September, New York had declared the epidemic over.

Tiffany Haddish Has a Bat Mitzvah

Tiffany Haddish's breakthrough year may have been 2017, when the 40-year-old actress and comedian starred in the successful comedy "Girls Trip" and released her memoir, "The Last Black Unicorn." But 2019 was her Jewish breakout year.

Haddish, who only learned she was Jewish in her 20s when she met her Eritrean Jewish father, released a Netflix special, "Black Mitzvah," in December on the same day she celebrated her bat mitzvah, with Sarah Silverman's rabbi sister presiding. She also sang "Hava Nagila" on "The Tonight Show" in the same week.

"Something that I feel like a lot of African-Americans have been stripped of is their history," Haddish said. "A lot of us don't know [our] origin. We don't know what our origin story is because that was taken from us. And it talks about that in the Torah. I think it's so powerful."★

Ruthie Warshenbrot Receives Young Professional Award

(Continued from page 28)



Elka Abrahamson, The Wexner Foundation President, Larry S. Moses, Ruthie Warshenbrot, Or Mars, The Wexner Foundation Vice President

honor and for prioritizing young professionals and investing in our future community."

Colleagues have said that Ruthie "is a star in the Columbus and North American Jewish communities. We are all so lucky to have her," and, "Through Ruthie's leadership, the Wexner Foundation now has a prestigious three-year program of professional development for Jewish professionals and educators across the country to whom she serves as a mentor."

In her seven years as a Jewish professional in Columbus, Ruthie has had a tremendous impact. Professionally, Ruthie

co-founded the Wexner Service Corps — engaging 40 Columbus Jewish teens annually in intensive social justice activities and Jewish study for a full year. To date, almost 300 Columbus teenagers have been inspired by Ruthie's creation.

In addition to developing and managing the newly expanded Wexner Field Fellowship (in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation), she also works with the Wexner Graduate Fellowship alumni community and the Wexner Service Corps, while also advising on Foundation-wide initiatives.★



"I can't believe I'm here."

YOU POWER JEWISH IDENTITY

At twenty-one, Anna had never thought much about being Jewish until she embarked on a Federation-supported Birthright Israel trip and felt truly connected to Judaism for the first time.

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Consider endowing your gift to ensure a strong Jewish world for generations to come.



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