

The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 43, No. 2

Shevat-Adar, 5781

February 2021

Super Sunday: A Federation Tradition

By Ilana Toch

Each year, volunteers in our Greater Charlotte Jewish community have a tradition — they come together on behalf of our Federation to make phone calls to raise funds for the many essential services and programs that the Federation supports. This year, on February 14, our Super Sunday tradition continues, but will have a little twist. Rather than coming together, callers will contact potential donors from the comfort of their own homes, connected virtually by Zoom. The Zoom format will enable volunteers to share the excitement of making calls virtually, together. While volunteers will be calling from different locations, they will be calling with the same heart and passion for all that Federation supports.

Last year the Federation raised a record amount on our “Road to \$5 Million” to support the Jewish community — locally, in Israel, and around the world. These funds provided vital assistance to our beneficiary agencies. This year, that record-breaking tradition will continue.

This year’s Super Sunday on February 14 is being co-chaired by Rachel and Jonathan Friedman.

Both have been active in our community for several years. Rachel serves as co-president of Charlotte Jewish Preschool PTO and is on the board of Jewish Family Services. A Charlotte native, Rachel is the third generation to be involved in the Charlotte Jewish community. Rachel’s parents, Claire and Paul Puttermann, have volunteered in leadership roles for a variety of Jewish organizations for decades, and Rachel fondly remembers her defining experiences in Jewish programs throughout her childhood and high school years.

Jonathan serves on the board of the Jewish Federation, as well as on its Allocations Committee, and is the first vice president of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool board.

After moving back to Charlotte in 2015, Rachel and Jonathan graduated from the Bernstein Leadership Group, where they were inspired to dive into the great work happening around the community and made some amazing friends in the process.

Below are excerpts of an interview in which Rachel and Jonathan tell us more about themselves, their role in the Jewish community and with Super Sunday, and why they give.



Super Sunday co-chairs, Rachel and Jonathan Friedman

day, and why they give.

So, why did you want to co-chair Super Sunday, and what is your role?

The Federation is all about connecting our community, and

no day creates more connections than Super Sunday when volunteers make hundreds of calls to rally support behind inspiring Jewish causes in Charlotte and throughout the world.

Even though many think of Super Sunday as being just about fundraising, there is something special about all of those conversations taking place in just a few short hours. In a year when our shared experiences have revolved around so much grief and fear, Super Sunday is a time for us to remember the amazing things we can do when we come together as a community.

Our role as Super Sunday chairs is to rally a group of motivated volunteers to deliver joy and enthusiasm as they reach out across Charlotte to solicit pledges that will keep our community’s organizations strong for another year. All of us have our own stories of the warmth, compassion, and generosity shown by our fellow Jewish Charlotteans, and Super Sunday is the perfect time to remember and share those memories.

What will this year be different?

Super Sunday will be entirely different.
(Continued on page 3)

JCC Goal Exceeded!

By Marisa Jackson

On October 16, 2020, The Leon Levine Foundation challenged our community to raise \$1,000,000 by generously agreeing to match us dollar for dollar up to \$500,000. They challenged us to work together to ensure our J remains vibrant and a place for generations of families to call their “home away from home.” After seven months of lost revenue and declining memberships, it was time to take action. After launching the Challenge Campaign, we watched as our community stepped up and met the need at this critical time. Together, as a community, we not only met that challenge but exceeded it!

Nearly 400 families participated in the Challenge Campaign. Thirty families have deepened their support to the J by upgrading to a Distinctive Level or moving up to a higher level of distinctive membership. Ninety-four families restored their membership. And to those who have stayed members throughout the pandemic, thank you! This overwhelming support has sustained us and brought us to this day.

So today, despite the challenges we faced in 2020, we will begin 2021 by celebrating our community coming together to accomplish something remarkable. By exceeding our goal, we will be able to continue offering valuable programs like

Oasis, the Butterfly Project, and Rock Steady Boxing. We can continue to provide scholarship programs like Freedom School and Camp Soar. And we can continue to meet our mission of enriching lives and building relationships through quality Jewish experiences.

We all know that the challenges posed by COVID-19 are not over yet. Feel assured, when planning for Levine JCC programs, that safety is our highest priority. We’re here to provide programs and services for everyone — in a healthy and safe way. We will continue to offer our programs and services indoors and outdoors, including Group Ex Classes, tennis, aquatics, pilates, and massage, while also providing a way to connect virtually through our weekly On Demand classes, virtual person training, and our Charlotte Jewish Film Festival (February 4 – 28). Our summer camp registration is now open, and our camp staff is eagerly preparing to provide our campers with a memorable summer.

To Register:
• Programs & Services: www.charlottejcc.org/register
• Summer Camp: www.charlottejcc.org/camp
• Charlotte Jewish Film Festival: www.charlotte-jewishfilm.com

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 1208
CHARLOTTE, NC

5007 Providence Road, Suite #112
Charlotte, NC 28226
Change Service Requested

From the Editor

Doomscrolling for Breakfast?



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

Does this sound familiar? A morning alarm rings (or chirps, or chimes) from the phone by the side of your bed. You turn over in a half daze to turn it off. (Ah, how I miss the days of slamming my hand over the offending source of buzzing irritation to signal my resistance to starting the day. Meh, Meh, Meh... Whack! Somehow a gentle press of the forefinger lacks the drama and proclamation, "NO, I will not wake up! You can't make me!")

But rather than simply turning it off and sitting up to stretch and yawn like some 70s cartoon character, you absently draw the phone back into bed with you, and 10 minutes later, you find

that "snooze" has been replaced by passive scrolling.

We willingly ingest apocalyptic headlines, sarcastic and mean-spirited memes, angry tweets, and hate-filled arguments — all before we've even poured our morning coffee. When they said breakfast was the most important meal of the day, they likely did not have a heaping serving of negativity in mind.

The nature of this monthly paper entails my writing these words nearly an entire month before they will be read. As I write, we have just witnessed violence and destruction at our nation's Capitol, articles of impeachment are being introduced, hospitals continue to be overwhelmed with COVID patients, and we haven't even inaugurated our next president yet!

Last year, I learned a new word that really took off in 2020 — "doomscrolling," which Rebecca Jennings, a contributing writer to Vox, describes as "the masochistic practice of compulsively scouring the internet in search of evermore terrible information."

Most of us have been doomscrollers at some point in the past year, but it was only when

the incessant hum of anxiety turned into a deafening roar that I realized waking up to the bad news wasn't helping my state of mind. I was reminded there is a far better way to start the day: Modah ani l'fanecha, Melech chai v'kayam, sheh-he-che-zarta bi nishmtati b'chemlah. Rabbah emunatecha. I thank You, Living and Eternal Being, for you have mercifully restored my soul within me. Your faithfulness is great.

What then about the rest of my day? Was there anything (that I could control) that was going to seriously affect my life that I needed to know about as soon as it occurred (and often before all the facts were in anyway)? For me, the way to get through 2020 was to develop a mental health routine (which admittedly I slide on, just as with most self-care routines). It involved taking a break from most social media platforms except for limited, designated times each day. As for staying on top of the news, I controlled not just when I consume, but the actual content I consume. Sadly, many news outlets benefit from our doomscrolling and thrive on the 24/7 bad news cycle.

Watching the news, it's easy to conclude that the world is falling apart. But I still believe there is more good than bad in the world. And I am choosing to believe that we are actually more united than media would like us to believe. I'm not naïve. And I'm not burying my head in the sand. I'm just looking for balance.

Sam Harris, one of my meditation teachers, says, "There is a war being fought for our attention, and most of us are losing." If you want to join me in an effort to reclaim our attention and direct it in ways that are the most helpful to ourselves and healing for our planet, here are two things we can do.

The first is to unplug. We are more than merely connected by technology — we are entangled and choking. Whether it's unplugging in the morning or turning our devices off on Shabbat, we benefit from taking a break! Emmy award-winning and best-selling author Tiffany Shlain is featured on February 17 as part of the Overbooked Series sponsored by JFGC's Women's Philanthropy and the Center for Jewish Education. She will discuss her book "24/6: The

Power of Unplugging One Day a Week," which will also be part of the "Book Lovers Care Package" attendees will receive (page 6). The book is also featured as CJE's book club choice on February 10 (page 5). And it was Shlain's book that inspired PJ Library's "Shabbat Unplugged" initiative, which culminates with the National Day of Unplugging in March (page 8). I encourage you to participate in one of these opportunities.

Second, we can make mindful choices about our news sources. Good news sites and apps abound, giving us positive stories literally at our fingertips. Two of my favorites include Moodboost News and Good News Network, but there are many more. If you want to read good news taking place in Israel, subscribe to the weekly newsletter verygood-news.israel.blogspot (see ad on page 31).

Let's see how much better we feel when we give up our heaping serving of doomscrolling for breakfast.

Shira

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times February

Friday, February 5, 5:38 p.m.
Friday, February 12, 5:45 p.m.
Friday, February 19, 5:52 p.m.
Friday, February 26, 5:58 p.m.



The Charlotte Jewish News

5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone
Office 704-944-6765
email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org
Shira Firestone - Editor

The CJN does not assume responsibility for the quality or kasruth of any product or service advertised. Publishing of a paid political advertisement does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate, political party or position by this newspaper, the Federation or any employees.

Published monthly except July

POWERED BY
Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



In the words of Rabbi Dr. Lord Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory,
"We are as great as the challenges we have the courage to undertake."

SANDRA AND LEON LEVINE
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

ONE MILLION DOLLAR
CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

THANKS TO YOU

WE
EXCEEDED
OUR GOAL!

View the full list of members who upgraded,
rejoined or donated at www.charlottejcc.org

Super Sunday Continued

(Continued from page 1)

digital this year for the first time ever. We will be hosting a Zoom “happy hour” prior to the event for all of the callers so that we can still have the feeling of togetherness, even though this year we won’t be gathering in Lerner with friends, a stack of pledge cards, and the great energy that is created in that environment.

We know that it has been a difficult year for many people in the community and beyond. We know asking for money can be uncomfortable, even in the best of times, so it might be a little bit harder to break the ice, but rest assured, we are working some fun and creative ways to keep the energy level high and make sure it is a great event for all involved.

Can you tell us more about why you give?

We give because we truly believe in the work of the Federation. We believe in the promise of tikkun olam — that healing the world is not only possible but is an obligation for each of us.

We are inspired by the selflessness, dedication, and ingenuity of the Jewish agencies in Charlotte and throughout the world that are funded by the Federation. We know that each of these organizations comprises special people who are driven by the opportunity to help those around them and create Jewish experiences that bring us together. The Federation makes that possible.

We give to the Federation, because we can be confident of the impact of our donations, given the diligence that goes into making sure every dollar is spent wisely to advance these amazing causes.

Last, we give because we are grateful for having been embraced by this incredible community, and we want to make sure our children and future generations are given the same opportunity.

What do you want others to know about Super Sunday this year?

We want others to know that everyone is invited play be part. You don’t have to be on a board (or even wearing real clothes!)

to join in. Anyone who has some time on February 14 can join us virtually and make calls, even just a few. The time commitment is shorter this year since you won’t have to drive to and from Shalom Park! Also, we have some surprises in store that will make this year fun, even though we can’t be together.

If you aren’t up for joining in to make calls, please pick up the phone when it rings on February 14, make your pledge, and remember what being a part of Jewish Charlotte means to you. We want people to know that every little bit counts. We know this year has been hard for many, and more than anything else, we want people to know that their

community is there for them.

If you are interested in volunteering on Super Sunday or making a donation, visit www.Jewishcharlotte.org or contact Ilana Toch, Development Associate at liana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

The Ethiopian-Israeli Community: Federation’s Involvement

By Tair Guidice

Federations have historically viewed the case of Ethiopian-Israeli Aliyah and integration as a special one, meriting the Federation’s involvement and investment alongside massive intervention by the Israeli government. Our Charlotte Jewish community can take pride in knowing that its efforts have contributed both to provision of critical direct services to the Ethiopian-Israeli population and to strengthening the systems and structures in place to build stronger models to meet its needs.

Funds raised through annual campaigns of Jewish Federations across North America and here in Charlotte provide both vital core dollars that support the overall work of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) as well as designated funds allocated by our Charlotte community for particular programs, such as the Ethiopian National Project (ENP).

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)

Through core and designated funds, JAFI has helped bring Ethiopian immigrants to Israel and facilitate their successful integration into Israeli society.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

For decades, JDC has been developing programs for Ethiopian-Israeli immigrants and their children to promote access

to opportunities for successful, meaningful education and employment.

Ethiopian National Project (ENP)

Federation’s funds have supported the work of the ENP, a unique initiative founded by the Jewish Federations of North America, the government of Israel, representatives of Ethiopian Jewish community organizations, JAFI, and JDC in Israel and Keren Hayesod-UIA in 2004.

ENP’s primary focus is on Ethiopian-Israeli children, their parents, and the Ethiopian-Israeli leaders who can influence their lives, providing them with the skill sets necessary to thrive and prosper. Specifically, ENP provides its holistic School Performance and Community Empowerment (SPACE) Scholastic Assistance Program to 7th-12th-grade Ethiopian-Israeli students. SPACE was deemed so successful that the government of Israel, after a review of all programs and organizations serving the community, has asked ENP to nearly triple the number of children served, double the number of cities in which it operates, and include non-Ethiopian-Israelis in its intervention. ENP is currently providing SPACE to 6,120 7th-12th-grade students in 31 cities, including our partnership region of Hadera-Eiron.

“It may appear you are a long distance away, but to us it feels you are right by our side,” says

Dessie Roni Akale, director general of the ENP. “For us at ENP, for the Ethiopian-Israeli community, and especially the teens and their families in Hadera, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s support of ENP’s SPACE program relays the unwavering message that there is always someone who, as the kids put it, ‘has our back.’ Federation’s support gives SPACE participants the motivation to work harder and reach farther. As many of the kids have told me, ‘Knowing someone is there and cares about you is a constant reminder to be motivated. Because if they care about my success, then how can I not?’”

Akale continues, “We dreamed for 2,500 years to return to Jerusalem, and we achieved it in our lifetime. Most of the parents in our community were farmers and shepherds in Ethiopia, so they struggle in Israel. But every parent dreams their child will be a success. You, in Charlotte, are helping my community fulfill this dream now, and for this, we are forever grateful. So many in your community have not yet had the opportunity to come to Israel or even meet an Ethiopian Jew. We hope one day to host you here so you will see firsthand the incredible work you are helping us do and the many accomplishments we have achieved. You will always be our brothers and sisters. We are family; we are one.”



Windermere
Insurance Group

Since 1974, we have assisted community families and businesses with:

- **Group Benefits**
- **Life, Disability & Long-Term Care Insurance**
- **Business Planning & Executive Benefits**
- **Medicare Plans & Annuities**

As part of the Windermere Insurance Group, Greenspon & Associates can now also help with:

- **Home & Auto**
- **Commercial Business Insurance**
- **Risk Management Services**



Keith Greenspon
Advisor

704.247.3033
kgreenspon@windinsgroup.com

The KEYS to a successful real estate transaction...

Experience and Commitment!

Buying...Selling...Relocating...

Ann and Andrew

are your KEYS
to the local
Jewish Community.



Serving the Charlotte community for over 30 years.



Ann Langman
704-502-4328

ann.langman@allentate.com

Andrew Rosen
704-604-4756

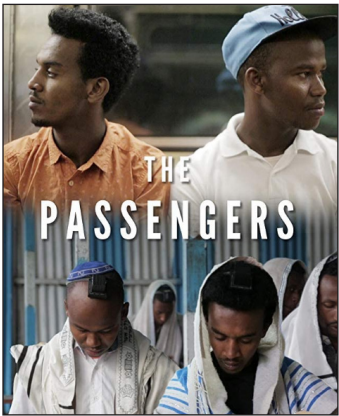
andrew.rosen@allentate.com

Ethiopian Aliyah Featured in This Year's Film Festival

By Tair Giudice

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is a proud sponsor of the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, a program of the Levine Jewish Community Center. The Federation is also proud to sponsor the film "The Passengers" as part of this year's 17th annual film festival.

"The Passengers" tells the story of the Ethiopian Jews and the struggle for this final community to immigrate to Israel. The film follows the journey of two young men as they represent their Ethiopian community on a fateful mission in America.



Since the establishment of the State of Israel, the government of Israel has brought 3.3 million new olim (immigrants) to Israel, including 95,000 immigrants from Ethiopia. In the mid-1980s, 8,000 immigrants arrived with Operation Moses through Sudan. In Operation Solomon, conducted in 1991, an airlift brought 14,000 immigrants to Israel. In the summer of 2013, Operation Dove's Wings brought an additional 7,000 immigrants from Ethiopia to Israel. This Aliyah (immigration to Israel) from Ethiopia is a core mission of Jewish Federations and the Jewish Agency for Israel and is central to their collaborative work.

However, many thousands are still waiting in Ethiopia to join their families in Israel. Most have left their homes and villages to wait in the major cities of Gondar and Addis Ababa. They are known as Falash Mura, or Falashmura, the name given to those of the Jewish Ethiopian community in Ethiopia and Eritrea who converted to Christianity during a time of upheaval,

famine, and ethnic strife in the 19th and 20th centuries. Some members of this community who are not eligible for Aliyah under Israel's Law of Return managed to immigrate to Israel during Operations Solomon and Moses in 1984 and 1991 respectively, during which time the entirety of the Jewish Ethiopian community that had never converted was brought to Israel. In November 2015, the government of Israel issued a formal decision to bring the remainder of the Falash Mura waiting in transit camps in Ethiopia to Israel on the basis of family reunification. This decision was embraced by Jews across the world, but implementation has been slow, primarily for budgetary reasons. Despite ongoing limbo and harsh conditions, the communities in these cities maintain a strong Jewish identity and carry out daily Jewish rituals.

Operation Zur Israel, which kicked off in December 2020, aims to reunify 2,000 Ethiopians waiting in Addis Ababa and Gondar with their families in Israel. The first Aliyah flights with



about 500 immigrants on board landed in Israel in early December 2020.

The Jewish Agency works in full cooperation with the government of Israel, primarily with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, on Ethiopian Aliyah. The organization has been authorized by the government of Israel to operate all Aliyah preparation in Ethiopia and to oversee the arrival and integration of these new immigrants into Israeli society. Once these olim land in Israel, the Jewish Agency provides them with their first home in one of its absorption centers dedicated specifically to meeting the needs of Ethiopian immi-

grants and provides Hebrew and vocational training for adults, academic enrichment, after-school activities for the children, and social and recreational activities for all. Support for these efforts is provided by Jewish Federations across the country through our collective overseas dollars to The Jewish Agency.

Jewish Federations nationally and The Jewish Agency are awaiting final approval from the government of Israel to bring all those waiting in Ethiopia to Israel.



J

THE LEVINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

17TH ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 4-28, 2021

CHARLOTTE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2021 CORE
FESTIVAL

PURCHASE PASSES/TICKETS
AT CHARLOTTEJEWISHFILM.COM

\$110

ALL FESTIVAL PASS

On Sale through February 18 (10 films for your household)

\$12

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS PER HOUSEHOLD

On Sale through February 28

2021

CHARLOTTE
JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL

POWERED BY

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Inspiration.
Innovation.
Imagination.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Inspiration.
Innovation.
Imagination.

~ Sue's Bookshelf ~ By Sue Littauer

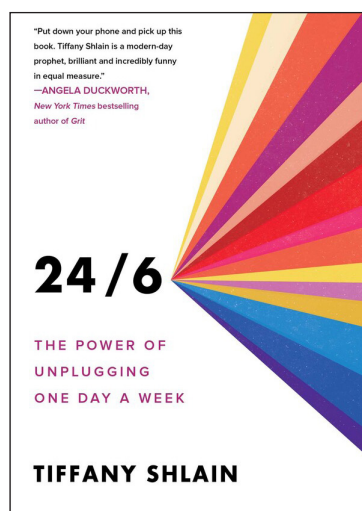


Sue Littauer

Are you looking for a book club to join this year? Well, look no further! The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Book Club is open to all members of the Jewish community. The criteria for book selection are simply that the book has to be written by a Jewish author and/or have a Jewish theme.

Some CJE Book Club favorites in 2020 were "An Unorthodox Match," by Naomi Ragen, "From Sand and Ash," by Amy Harmon, and "The Bookshop of Yesterdays," by Amy Meyerson. Because of the pandemic, we have been meeting on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month and will continue to do so until it's safe to meet face-to-face.

The selections for February through August 2021 are as follows. I've included mini-reviews from reliable sources.



February 10
"24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day a Week" by Tiffany Shlain

"In this wise, wonderful work, filmmaker Shlain eloquently argues the merits of taking a break from technology, particularly smartphones, one day a week ..."

- Publishers Weekly

March 10
"Florence Adler Swims Forever" by Rachel Beanland

"Beanland deftly weaves various historical events and themes: the rise of the Nazi regime, family secrets, the struggle between classes, religious tensions, sexuality, and familial love. ... This novel is as close to unputdownable as they come."

- Amazon Book Review

April 14
"Other People's Pets" by R.L. Maizes

"While its quirky combination of fictional elements and adroit, deadpan writing give the novel a wryly comedic atmosphere, La La's story is melancholy and moving. An uncanny, appealing blend of suspense, irony, tragedy, and how-to for lock-picking, burgling, and ankle monitor removal."

- Kirkus

May 12
"Magic Lessons" by Alice Hoffman

"Storytelling is in Hoffman's bones, and the skill with which she dispenses information and compresses time, so that a year passes in a sentence, so that a tragedy witnessed becomes the propeller for a hundred-page subplot, is (forgive me) bewitching. My current reality feels chaotic and confusing; to have a narrator take my hand and tell me that linden root and yarrow will cure a racing heart, that witches turn silver dull with their touch, is an undiluted pleasure... Hoffman's book swept me away during a time I most needed it."

- New York Times Book Review

June 9
"Becoming Eve" by Abby Stein

"Becoming Eve is a powerful, heartfelt account of the often fraught journey toward one's true self. In sharing her story, Abby Chava Stein lights the path for all of us who are embarking on journeys of our own."

- Tova Mirvis, bestselling author of "The Book of Separation," "The Ladies Auxiliary," and "The Outside World"

July 14
"You Are Not What We Expected" by Sidura Ludwig

"Every single character is deeply rendered, every experience detailed beautifully, every story crafted with lucidity and poise. With tenderness, humor, sharp intelligence, and a vibrant grasp of family and community, Ludwig peels back the tensions of the Jewish experience. The Levine family and Ludwig's incandescent writing will stay with

readers for a very long time."

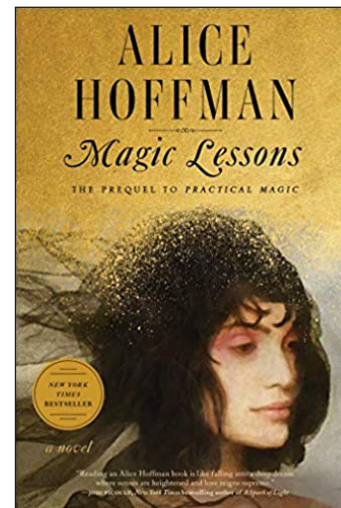
- Jennifer Manuel, author of "The Heaviness of Things That Float"

August 11
"Eli's Promise" by Ron Balson

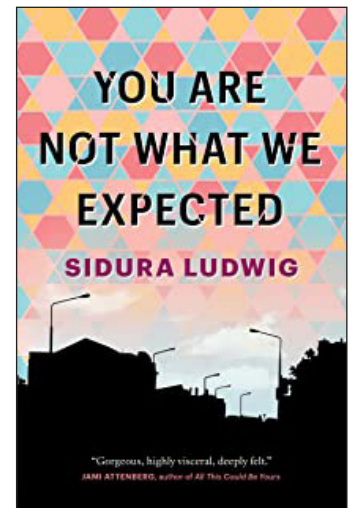
"Superb... Eli's Promise is a moving and suspenseful work of authoritative historical fiction. It is profoundly informative, entirely compelling and highly recommended."

- Jack Kramer, Book Reporter

For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.



May Book Club Selection



July Book Club Selection

Malak Jewelers

- since 1980 -

At The Arboretum | 704-341-1188 | malakjewelers.com

A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER

9189833

FOREVERMARK

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

Featuring Forevermark Classic Solitaire Diamond Pendant, Four Prong Diamond Studs and Line Bracelet in Platinum

© Forevermark 2020. Forevermark, the Forevermark logo, and "A Diamond is Forever" are Trade Marks used under license by De Beers Group.

On the Same Page and Overbooked Women's Book Author Series Presents Emmy Award-Winning and Bestselling Author Tiffany Shlain

Overbooked:

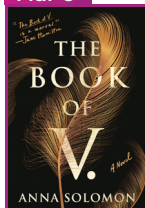
Strong Women, Extraordinary Circumstances
A Monthly Women's Book And Author Series

Feb 18



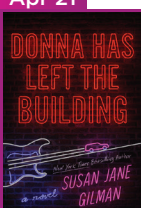
24/6
Tiffany Shlain

Mar 3



The Book of V
Anna Solomon

Apr 21



Donna Has Left
the Building
Susan Gilman

May 12



The Boys Club
Erica Katz

Jun 2



What We
Will Become
Mimi Lema

By Debby Block

During the pandemic, shared experiences are an excellent way to alleviate isolation and loneliness. The shared experience of reading the same book at the same time has always been the goal of On the Same Page, Charlotte's very own Jewish community read, sponsored biannually by the Center for Jewish Education. This year, our community read book selection is "24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day of the Week," by Emmy-nominated filmmaker, Webby Awards founder, and author Tiffany Shlain. Honored by Newsweek as one the "Women Shaping the 21st Century," author Tiffany Shlain is also our center's featured author in this month's installment of Overbooked: Strong Women, Extraordinary Circumstances.

Have you ever noticed an entire family sitting at the dinner table, but instead of talking, everyone is looking down at a screen? With screens literally at our fingertips, we feel pressured to check every email, text, and social media post at a moment's notice. "You can buy anything, make anything, do almost anything anytime. And because we



Tiffany Shlain

can do anything anytime, we feel we need to do everything all the time," says Shlain.

How about giving yourself a respite from the overstimulating and overwhelming constant exposure to technology? Tiffany Shlain has created a new vision and life experience. She has blended the beautiful Jewish tradition of Shabbat, a day of rest, with a much-needed respite from technology and screens. She developed what she labels "Tech Shabbat" for herself and her family. After practicing and refining it for years, Shlain wrote her book "24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day of the Week." With scientific facts and extensive research, as well as religious references, Shlain

explains how this is the perfect gift you can give yourself — no matter your age.

Tiffany Shlain will be talking to our community on Thursday, February 17 at 8 p.m. This is a free, virtual event; however, registration is required. Once again, our center will curate a special Book Lovers' Care Package to accompany the book. Packages include a signed copy of the book, a readers' guide, and themed gifts. To register for the event or purchase your care package, please visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.



Add These To Your Calendar ASAP!



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

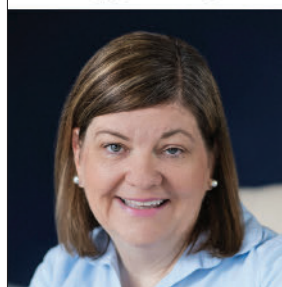


LEVINE HEARING
704-540-3081

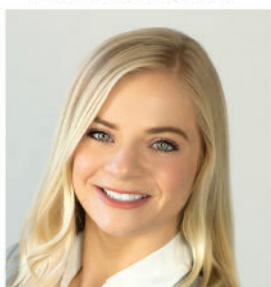
Our team is growing!

Join us in welcoming our newest team member, Eileen Clark! Masks muffle clarity, but we can help. Call today to schedule a free hearing evaluation.

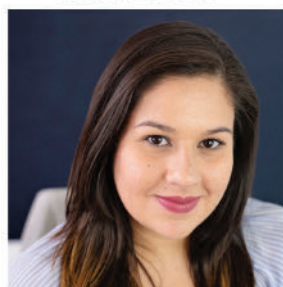
Practice
Manager
Maggie Page



Audiologist
Eileen Clark



Customer Care
Ana Leon



Hearing Aid
Specialist
Madison Levine



Excerpt from
"24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day a Week"

Living 24/6 feels like magic, and here's why: it seems to defy the laws of physics, as it both slows down time and gives us more of it. I laugh a lot more on that day without screens. I notice everything in greater detail. I sleep better. It strengthens my relationships and makes me feel healthier. It allows me to read, think, be more creative, and reflect in a deeper way. Each week I get a full reset. Afterward, I'm much more productive and efficient, with positive effects that radiate out to the other six days. It even helps renew my appreciation for all that I have to access to online, giving me that wow, the Internet realization fresh each week. Who would have thought that technology could be more potent in its absence?

Yet what I'm exploring here is the power of a technology invented several millennia in the past. More than three thousand years ago, the concept of Shabbat (also known as the Sabbath) transformed the world. Before then, time had no pauses: it was day after day after day. Shabbat made it so each week ended with a day off, for everyone, of every social class. The run-on sentence of time got a period, and humankind got a chance to catch its breath and focus.

Tiffany Shlain

”

~ Miss Debby's Bookshelf ~

Best-loved Children's Books

By Miss Debby

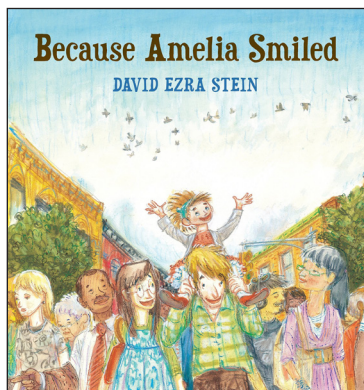


Debby Block

Books have brought me joy since I was a very little girl. Although, as a child, I longed to read the thick books on my parents' shelves, today as an adult, my best-loved books are still children's books! For February — the month of Federation's Super Sunday — I recommend my favorite books about mitzvah goreret mitzvah (one good deed will bring forth another good deed) or, in contemporary verbiage, paying it forward.

"Because Amelia Smiled" by David Ezra

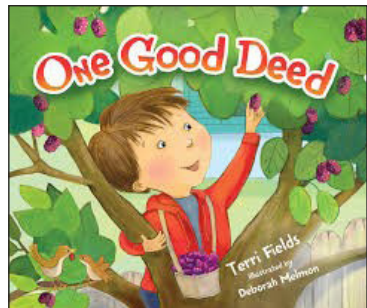
Written by David Ezra Stein, award-winning author and author of one of my all-time favorite books, "Interrupting Chicken," this book shows us that even a smile can make a big difference! It all starts when Amelia smiles, causing a ripple of positive acts that travel around the world, including Mexico, England, France, and even Israel. I love the message that even the smallest person can spread joy and make a difference. Recommended for grades preschool-2nd grade.



"One Good Deed" by Terri Fields

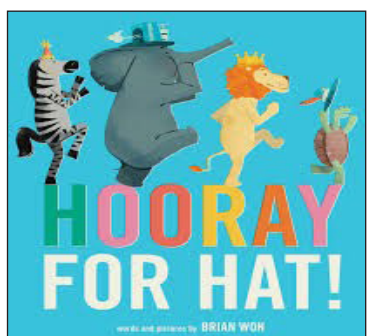
One way to capture children's attention and simultaneously provide a sense of comfort is through a predictable pattern or refrain. The phrase "He had a thought he'd never thought before," repeats over and over in this positive tale of doing a mitzvah. Jake picks berries for his neighbor, and the neighbor

is so amazed that she too has a thought she hadn't had previously. Before long, each neighbor has done something helpful or kind for someone else. As a PJ Library selection, this book promotes paying it forward and the Jewish value of "Love your neighbor as yourself." Recommended for ages 3-7 years old.



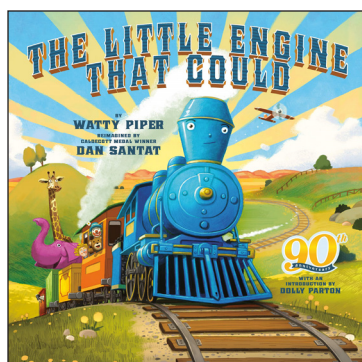
"Hooray for Hat" by Brian Won

Author and illustrator Brian Won finds the perfect way to show how the simple act of sharing his gift can help not only one, but six friends feel a whole lot better. Hooray for friends! This story is humorous and straightforward, but the message is valuable for all! Recommended for ages 2-5 years old.



"The Little Engine That Could" by Piper Watty

I think I can; I think I can make a difference! No engine wants to help the broken-down train get over the mountain to deliver food and toys to the children. Finally, a tiny, inexperienced engine agrees to help, and with sheer determination and an enormous heart, the littlest engine accomplishes a wonderful deed. The message of helping others, combined with never giving up, is truly perfect for children. This book is a classic that never gets old, and every time I read it at story time, children are enthralled! Recommended for grades preschool-2nd grade.



Miss Debby's best-loved books may be borrowed from the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, which is part of the Center for Jewish Education. You may find the books in person at the library or reserve a copy for curbside pickup. Please contact us for an appointment or pick up at www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje or call (704) 944-6783.

Welcome Back to the Library!

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library is now open for in-person services by appointment. We are carefully reopening with everyone's health and safety in mind.

FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Enter through the LJCC main entrance for a brief health screening. Maintain social distancing. Don't forget your mask – they're required at all times!



RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Visits are for one hour, by appointment only. Make your reservation online at www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje at least two hours in advance. Need help or have questions? Please email or call the Library, and staff will assist you!

COMPUTERS AVAILABLE

Computers and printing are available by appointment. Staff assistance will be limited. You may also reserve a work space and bring your own technology. All spaces and computer equipment will be thoroughly disinfected after each use.



BOOK DROP RETURNS

Return all checked out items to the book drops outside the Library doors or in the semi-circular drive. Place books handled in the Library, but not checked out, in the designated bins. All returned materials will be quarantined for 96 hours before they are available for check out.

CHILDREN'S ROOM OPEN

The Children's Room is open for reservation by one family at a time. For everyone's safety, toys have been removed. You may reserve the room for up to six people who share your household or are part of your COVID "bubble."



CURBSIDE PICK-UP

Curbside pick-up of books and other materials is available during certain hours on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Items must be requested in advance. For information on how to request books and schedule a pick up, contact the Library or visit www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Mon/Wed/Fri	9:30 am - 1:30pm
Tues/Thurs	12pm - 4 pm
Sat	Closed
Sun	9:30 am - 1:30pm

Phone: 704 944 6783

Email: library@jewishcharlotte.org

www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje



Call Julie Find Your Place

CRS – Certified Residential Specialist (3% of all Realtors)
SRES – Senior Real Estate Specialist
Five Star Professional Winner (7% of agents in Charlotte)
ABR, e-PRO, SPS, QSC

THE REALTOR WITH EXPERIENCE &
KNOWLEDGE TRUSTED BY



- BUYERS
- SELLERS
- RELOCATION

HomesWithCachet.com



Julie Taché
704.236.7536

Julie@JulieTache.com

DOWNLOAD OUR
APP AT THE APP STORE



Learning to Unplug and Be Tech-Free With Friends and PJ Library

By Kara Culp

This past November, PJ Library Charlotte piloted a new initiative called “Shabbat Unplugged” for 35 families in and around the greater Charlotte area. This initiative is made possible through a generous grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. This

initiative is inspired by Tiffany Shlain’s book “24/6: The Power of Unplugging One Day A Week,” which explores the Webby Awards founder’s decade-long practice of turning off all screens weekly as a way to reset and rebalance ourselves and our 24/7 society — a strategy that is exponentially more important in our pandemic, screen-

filled world. Shlain coined the phrase “Tech Shabbat” to refer to “a twenty-first-century interpretation of the ancient Jewish ritual of a weekly day of rest,” and she likens it to the practice of yoga or meditation. The premise of Shlain’s book is that “Tech Shabbat” is a coping mechanism for all of us who find ourselves overwhelmed by technology,

which both “amplifies” but also “amputates” our experiences. Underlying PJ Library’s work is the guiding principle of empowering parents to take the lead in their family’s Jewish life by connecting them to resources that inspire and support Jewish ritual, practice, and experience at home. Through Shabbat Unplugged, PJ Charlotte provides parents with the tools, techniques, and support for breaking the digital habit, if only a few hours at a time, and engage with the ancient ritual of Shabbat in a way that resonates with them. Each participating family received a Shabbat Unplugged starter kit, which included a copy of Shlain’s book along with activities and resources to celebrate Shabbat unplugged style. Families were divided into groups of three to five, called “pods,” with each pod forming its own micro community to support and motivate each other to celebrate Shabbat, unplug from digital distractions, and connect with family. “So far I think we have all been enjoying unplugging for



a bit and having a support system to do so ... So many thanks for all — we are having a blast with this!” shares Shabbat Unplugged participant Stephanie Rindner. Participants have enjoyed spending time outdoors, journaling, baking, and gardening as just a few of the ways to unplug. Another participant, Rochelle Carney, had this to say about her Shabbat Unplugged experience so far, “We got together for an early dinner and havdalah! It was at the time we would otherwise have sat around and watched TV until dinner. Hanging with friends was so much better!”

The conclusion of this cohort will take place during the first Shabbat in March to coincide with the National Day of Unplugging. National Day of Unplugging is an awareness campaign that promotes a 24-hour respite from technology, annually observed the first weekend in March. Join us for National Day of Unplugging from sundown to sundown, March 5-6, 2021.

Whether you are unplugging or not, we hope you will join our PJ Library community for a virtual family-friendly challah baking session with the challah guru, Mandylicious, on Sunday, February 7, 4 p.m.

PJ Library in Charlotte is made possible thanks to the generosity of Liz and Brad Winner and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



Choose Senior Living at Windsor Run.

Here are 3 reasons why...

When you put your trust in Windsor Run in Mecklenburg County, you choose a life of 1. **financial stability**, 2. **care and connection**, and 3. **healthy peace of mind**. Because we’re managed by Erickson Living®, a national leader in senior living, you are free to live your life with confidence and ease.

Learn more today. Call 1-800-583-9680 or visit WindsorRunCommunity.com for your FREE brochure.



A JEWISH JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD

Join NextGen for our FREE monthly virtual series celebrating the history, diversity, and excitement of Jewish food.

Sunday, Feb. 7th @ 4pm

Mandy Silverman

Mandylicious - Challah baking extraordinaire has created over 300 unique challah and babka recipes and has developed a worldwide following, including over 25,000 Instagram followers.



For more information visit <https://www.nextgencharlotte.org>



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

NEXTGEN Charlotte



Recognizing Shared Values in One Palestinian Family's Quest for Peace



Yousef Bashir

"The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine" — A book talk with author Yousef Bashir presented by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), Thursday, February 24 at 7 p.m.

By Laurel Grauer

Elu V'Elu: openness to multiple perspectives; B'Tselem Elohim: value humanity in each person; and Darchei Shalom: pursuit of the paths of peace, are inherently Jewish values, and at the same time, they are not valued by Jews alone. In his book "Words of My Father," Yousef Bashir recalls his adolescence in Gaza during the Second Intifada and his father's unshakable dedication to peaceful coexistence. Bashir's emotional memoir embodies these three vital Jewish tenets and reminds us of our obligation to understand the "other" and to find ways to come together for the sake of each other.

The Palestinian-American ac-

tionist recalls his adolescence in Gaza during the Second Intifada when he was shot in the spine by an Israeli soldier, leaving him in a wheelchair, paralyzed from the waist down for a year. Although an Israeli soldier had shot him, it was Israeli doctors who saved Yousef and helped him learn to walk again. This experience forced Yousef to reconcile with the words of his father, whose belief in coexisting peacefully with his Israeli neighbors was unshakeable and whose commitment to peace, absolute. Yousef became an outgoing activist for peace, dedicating his life to un-

derstanding the people he had once hated and empowering his own people to use peace to bring about change. Bashir earned a bachelor's degree in international affairs from Northeastern University and a master's degree in coexistence and conflict from Brandeis University. He served as a member of the Palestinian Diplomatic Delegation to the United States and is a vigorous advocate of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Join the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council on Thursday, February 24 at 7 p.m. for an online dialogue with Yousef Bashir. This event is free and open to the community. For more information or to submit your questions, contact the Jewish Federation's Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs Laurel Grauer at laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

Praise for
"The Words of My Father"

"At one of the darkest times in the elusive effort to end the conflict in the Middle East...[comes a] remarkable new memoir ... full of youthful exuberance, unlikely adventures, and raw discovery ... captivating." (Robin Wright, The New Yorker)

"To experience love and humanity on many levels, read this story. Beautifully told by a young man whose voice deserved to be heard — even if the world is not yet ready to listen." (Diana Darke, author of "My House in Damascus: An Inside View of the Syrian Crisis")

The Words of My Father



Love and Pain in Palestine

"At one of the darkest times in the elusive effort to end the conflict in the Middle East... [comes a] remarkable new memoir." — The New Yorker

Yousef Bashir

Join JFGC's Jewish Community Relations Council on February 24th, at 7:00 pm for an online dialogue with Yousef Bashir.

"Words of My Father" — Yousef Bashir recalls his adolescence in Gaza during the Second Intifada and his father's unshakable dedication to peaceful coexistence.

For more information or to submit your questions, contact JFGC's Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, Laurel Grauer, at laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Jewish
Community
Relations
Council

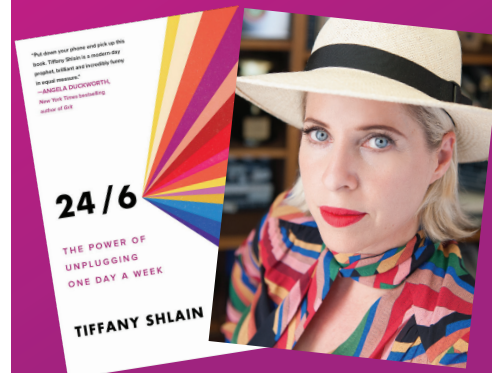


Jewish
Book
Council

Overbooked:

Strong Women, Extraordinary Circumstances

A Monthly Women's Book And Author Series



Feb 18

Every day feels the same.... How about trying the time-honored tradition of making Shabbat different and separate? Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tiffany Shlain suggests that we nourish our souls and nurture quality family-time by unplugging from technology for one day per week. Are you up for the challenge?

Meg D. Goldstein Attorney-At-Law

Estate Planning
Estate and Trust Administration
Pre-Marital Agreements
Charitable Planning and Entities
General Corporate and Tax Law
Business Succession Planning

5401 Lancelot Drive
Charlotte, NC 28270

704.846.3607 office
704.756.3626 cell
MGOLDSTEIN@MGOLDLAW.COM
WWW.MGOLDLAW.COM



The Words of My Father



Love and Pain in Palestine

"At one of the darkest times in the elusive effort to end the conflict in the Middle East... [comes a] remarkable new memoir." — The New Yorker

Yousef Bashir

Giving Jewishly Is How “We Do Jewish”

By Phil Warshauer, Executive Director, FCJC

Like many of you, I recently attended the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Main Event. Although this year’s event was virtual, the speaker was once again inspirational. The event provided me the opportunity to see many community members whom I have not seen in close to a year. I was reminded of a Main Event several years ago when the speaker was Bari Weiss, then an editorial writer for The New York Times. Her comments that night resonated with me. They still do.

“We didn’t survive decades of persecution, of oppression, of second-class citizenship and of near elimination in the fires of Europe to allow ourselves to be defined by the people who seek

our end,” said Bari. She continued, “The ultimate Jewish response to this uncertain, raw moment is by following a more than 2,000-year-old strategy that these days feels almost radical. It’s called doing Jewish.” She went on to list a variety of different ways we can “do Jewish.” It was a personal challenge. She mentioned wearing kippot in public, attending synagogue more often, playing basketball at the JCC, watching Israeli films, hosting a Shabbat dinner, giving tzedakah, practicing Tik-kun Olam, and loving our fellow Jews. There was more on her list, just as there would be more on your list and mine.

“We do Jewish by...”

Her comments hit the mark for me, both personally and professionally. What was I “doing

“

“We didn’t survive decades of persecution, of oppression, of second-class citizenship and of near elimination in the fires of Europe to allow ourselves to be defined by the people who seek our end,” said Bari. She continued, “The ultimate Jewish response to this uncertain, raw moment is by following a more than 2,000-year-old strategy that these days feels almost radical. It’s called doing Jewish.”

— Bari Weiss

”

Jewish?” Was it enough? Could I do more? Her words made me look inward. I can honestly say that I am “doing more Jewish” today than I was several years ago. And, as executive director of the Foundation for the Jewish Community (FCJC), I reexamined how FCJC could assist our clients with their Jewishness. This concept is now something that my FCJC colleague Nancy Kipnis and I have incorporated

into FCJC as we serve our community and our clients.

One appeal of FCJC is that it provides our clients the opportunity to “give Jewishly.” An example is an FCJC donor-advised fund (DAF). A donor-advised fund is a simple, flexible, and tax-efficient way to give to charity. It provides a centralized source of giving for our clients. Like a charitable bank account, people simply make tax deduct-

ible gifts to establish an FCJC fund and, through their fund, distribute grants to their favorite public charities. FCJC currently manages 94 donor-advised funds. In 2020, more than 1,000 grants were made from these funds on behalf of our clients to more than 360 individual charitable organizations. Many of these organizations were Jewish organizations, but the majority were not. Each recipient charity knew that the gift was from someone in the Jewish community, as the notification was written on FCJC letterhead. Our clients have established their donor-advised funds with FCJC instead of the many other financial institutions that provide a similar product. They have done this to support our work in the Jewish community and to “do Jewish” and to “give Jewishly.”

Another example of our work that provides the opportunity to do Jewish is the Create Your Jewish Legacy (CJL) initiative. To date, 400 families have created legacy gifts to support Jewish Charlotte, creating a future pipeline estimated at more than \$28 million. This money will support Jewish life for the community’s children and grandchildren for generations to come, many recipients whom our legacy donors will never know. These legacy commitments are the donors’ way of giving Jewishly today even though our Jewish organizations will not receive the dollars for years to come, after the legacy donors have passed. We honor these legacy donors today by listing their names in CJN ads and placing their stories in our Book of Life on the kiosk at Shalom Park and on our website, charlottejewishfoundation.org.

Doing Jewish is easy and personally fulfilling. I would like to challenge you to do Jewish in your own personal way. If we can help, let us know.

For more information on how FCJC can assist you, please contact Phil Warshauer at pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org or Nancy Kipnis at nkipnis@charlottejewishfoundation.org.

Thank You

LEGACY DONORS



TEMPLE BETH EL



COMMUNITY PARTNER
A FCJC program

The following individuals/families are in the Book of Life Society and have granted us permission to share with you that **Temple Beth El** has been included as a beneficiary of their legacy gift.

Anonymous* (5)
Bette Andrews
Judy and Stan August
Gail and John Baron
Sharri and Peter Benjamin
Benjamin and Elizabeth Benson
Adam Bernstein and Tammy Seigel
Andrew and Elka Bernstein
Bobbi and Don Bernstein
Mark (OBM) and Louise (OBM) Bernstein
Susan P. Bessey
Lee and Jeffrey Bierer
Lee and Alan Blumenthal
Jill Blumenthal
Philip Blumenthal
Gary and Susan Bogarad
Marian (OBM) and Walter Brawer
Barry H. Brodsky
Sera and Marvin Callif
Neil Sacks (OBM) and Caren Carr
Susan E. Cernyak-Spatz
Bruce Bishop Cheen and Regina Rosenberg
Judith and Richard Coates
Jena Coen
David Cohen
Paige and Mark Cohen
Denise and Bob Cooper
Andrea and George Cronson
Marcy and Fred Dumas
Barry and Mary Ellen Ezarsky
Larry Farber and Sherri McGirt
Henry (OBM) and Margaret (OBM) Federlin
Dorlisa and Peter Flur
Y'honatan E. Gimbel
Rick Glaser and Ellen Reich
Nancy Glass

Dawn and Mickey Gold
Allen Gordon (OBM)
Alan and Merle Gottheim
Fay (OBM) and Dan (OBM) Green
Karen Greenblatt
Keith E. Greenspon
Roslyn Greenspon
Bill and Gloria Grifenhagen
Deidre and Clay Grubb
Ted and M.E. Hessberg
Vicki Hopkins
Christy and Andy Horwitz
Jonathan M. Howard
Donald L. and Susan Sachs Jacobs
David Jacobson
Alyson Kalik
Morton and Mary Kaplan
Andrew and Susan Karp
Barbara and Alan Katz
Kenneth & Kimberly Katz and Family
Joan Kirschner
Robert P. and Moira Quinn Klein
Lorrie and Barry Klemons and Family
Anita Strauss-LaRowe and Bruce LaRowe
David A. Lash
Jack (OBM) and Carole Lash
Gladys (OBM) Lavitan
Janet and David Lefkowitz
Harry and Gloria Lerner
Donna (OBM) and Norman Levin and Family
Ross C. Levin
Leon and Sandra Levine
Gary and Janie Levinson
Holly and Hal Levinson
Jack and Alison Levinson
Sam and Linda Levy

Laura and Marc Lewin
Wilson (OBM) and Margaret (OBM) Lewith
Robert and Inta Lidz
Andrew and Gwendolyn Lindner
Marshall (OBM) and Faylinda Lindner
Jill and Marc Lipson
Don and Ellice Liss
Ron and Frances Liss
Annie and Harrison Lord
Linda McLendon
Michael (OBM) Meiselman
Elise Menaker
Staci and Darren Mond
Elsa and Martin Multer
Paula Sigal Musler
Bruce and Candace Naliboff
Leah M. Naliboff
Elizabeth and Jeremy Naman
Edwin and Jill Newman
Larry and Carole Nicholson
Michael and Judith Norman
Gwen and Paul Orland
Richard Osborne
Cyndee Patterson
Harriet and Mark Perlin
Diggie and Lee Pesakoff
Stephen and Laura Philipson
Milton and Gene Ruth Poler
Larry and Dale Polsky
Steven and Melissa Raphael
Tonda and Mitchell Rifkin
Wendy and Sandy Rose
Estelle and Murray (OBM) Rosen
Leon Rutman
Renee and Philip Schreiber
Sara and Mike (OBM) Schreiber

Chris & Jon Schuller
Howard and Andrea Seidler
Amy Jill Seittin
Daisy Shapiro-Rieke / Julie Irma Shapiro
Allen Sherman and Suzy Savod
Raenea Siegel
Marc and Mattye Silverman
Anne and Mike Sinsheimer
Harry and Laurie Sparks
Sophie Spolender (OBM)
Robert and Maxine Stein
Norman Steinberger
Liam G. Stokes and Betsy Rosen
Emery and Jacqueline Szabo
Beverly Tirsun
Patty Torcellini
Fred and Katie Valfer
Amy and Mark Vitner
Liz Wahls
Janice and Ronald Weiner
Alexander Weinstein
Susan and Robert Weiss
Mort Wise
Robert and Sandra Wolf
Kim and Sue Worrel
Michael and Nancy Yaffe
Robert (OBM) and Anne Yudell
Herman and Barbara Ziegler
Emily and Samuel Zimmern
William and Angela Zimmern

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



FOUNDATION for the
CHARLOTTE JEWISH
COMMUNITY

A supporting organization of Foundation For The Carolinas

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

704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org



FOUNDATION for the
CHARLOTTE JEWISH
COMMUNITY

Jewish Philanthropists Have Increased Their Giving During the Pandemic — But Prioritizing Causes Has Never Been More Difficult

(JTA) — Lisa Greer used to devote a significant share of her time and money to long-term philanthropic projects. She didn't mind that it could take years to see a new multimillion-dollar hospital wing built halfway around the world or for a project requiring years of planning to begin.

But when the pandemic started, her thinking shifted to what was closer to home, and in some cases to what was happening right in her own city.

"I'd much rather get some hospital people PPE, so people can live," she said from her home in Los Angeles, where hospitals are again filling to capacity and another lockdown has been put into place. "It's sort of like life or death became more important."

Greer, a philanthropist and investor, isn't alone in shifting her giving. According to a recent report by the Jewish Funders Network, a majority of Jewish donors are rethinking their strategies in response to the pandemic, loosening application requirements for grants and increasingly giving unrestricted gifts that can be used for any purpose rather than for specific projects or new programs.

"We've been talking about this for years but when the pandemic hit, people really adopted wholeheartedly this more flexible way of giving," said Andres Spokoyny, president and CEO of the Jewish Funders Network.

The changes to philanthropic giving have perhaps never happened as fast as they have during the pandemic, now in its 10th month, nor is it easy to recall a time in living memory when need has escalated so quickly — though unlike in past crises, a booming stock market means donors are in a better position to give. Not only are the strains on medical resources stronger than ever, but the economic fallout from the pandemic and its accompanying lockdowns has created an unprecedented need for social services like food and housing assistance. That has led some donors to shift their giving and prioritize social services over flashier causes.

The Jewish Funders Network survey found that the 30% of its members, which include over 500 private donors or foundations that give more than \$25,000 per year "in the name of Jewish values," public charities giving more than \$100,000, foundations outside the U.S. and giving circles donating more than \$50,000,

reported awarding \$409 million just in emergency grants. In a typical year, the organization estimates that its membership gives \$1.6 billion in total.

More than three-quarters of the group's survey respondents said they had increased their giving in response to the pandemic, and more than half of the respondents had broadened their giving to include new causes, with some of the new areas including support for basic necessities like food and shelter. More than half allowed for previously granted funds to be used for other needs and a like number also provided support for general operating costs.

Jewish federations and locally focused foundations have also increased their giving during the pandemic. The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles has disbursed \$14 million in COVID response grants this year. UJA-Federation of New York has disbursed approximately \$64 million in COVID-related aid on top of its regular grants of \$133 million. (The New York federation is a funder of 70 Faces Media, JTA's parent company.)

Eric Goldstein, CEO of UJA-Federation, said the pandemic had served as a reminder to donors of what was most important.

"Philanthropic people often pursue the shiny object, the new thing," Goldstein said. "I think in times like this it reminds you how critically important it is to support the abiding institutions



that are critical to the well-being of our community going forward."

UJA-Federation's board authorized five extra rounds of grants this year on top of its total budget of approximately \$195 million. Most of the extra grants went to social service agencies providing food, shelter and mental health services, as well as to Jewish community centers that were forced to close due to the pandemic.

Goldstein said the skyrocketing demands on social service agencies, which are partially funded by government aid but still require philanthropic support, had triggered an increased awareness of the importance of social services and of the extent of poverty within the Jewish community.

"It's a critical reminder of how urgent the less glamorous social service needs are," Goldstein said.

UJA-Federation dipped into its endowment to cover the cost

of some of its emergency grants this year, just like it did during the Great Depression when it nearly depleted its funds while aiding the unemployed. But during the pandemic, UJA-Federation saw an increase in donations, in part because the stock market has been rallying, leaving donors feeling confident and able to maintain their usual gifts, if not increase them.

And even as funders shifted their focus to critical services like food assistance and mental health services or ensuring hospitals have adequate PPE, some say it's still important to support cultural institutions and projects having to do with Jewish life.

The dilemma of whether it is right to give to the arts or to other causes when people are going hungry "is a very old dilemma, it's not a pandemic dilemma," Spokoyny said.

He believes there are enough resources to support all of the causes and that cultural projects and Jewish life initiatives should not be neglected because there are more basic needs still going unmet.

"It becomes a very difficult conversation," he acknowledged. "I tend to think that community building and welfare needs are complementary. Engaged communities give more to charity, so how do you create engaged community? With things that are not social services."

And even if it's important to support cultural institutions for their own sake, the welfare

of those institutions affects the welfare of the people who work for them.

Greer started supporting a local performing arts center after her daily drives past the darkened theater made her think about how many people were dependent on the center for their livelihoods.

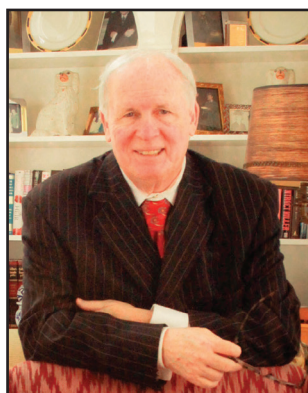
"At the beginning I thought about it just on that level, it doesn't matter if we go to the theater, people need food," Greer said. "And then when I started understanding, wait, there are 300 people and they have families and they provide for their families and all of a sudden you've got a thousand people who aren't going to have food because the theater is dark."

When it comes to thinking about a post-pandemic future, Spokoyny said, those institutions are going to be critically important. He likened the period after mass vaccination against the coronavirus to the Reformation period that followed the Black Death in the Middle Ages. He said he wants Jewish organizations to be in a position to offer spiritual direction to Jews once the pandemic allows some normal life to resume.

"There is always a spiritual search after a pandemic," Spokoyny said. "And if we don't invest enough in that stuff, we won't be able to provide an avenue for Jews to engage in that."



Brokerage Residential & Commercial



Richard Roskind

Realtor®/Broker

LICENSED IN NC & SC

704.905.6175

rcroskind@aol.com

*Lease
Evaluations, Inc.*



Premier Concierge Property Management

Hunter Roskind

Realtor®/Broker

*If you or anyone you know have
a property in need of a property
manager, please call me at:*

980.288.5616

hroskind@gmail.com



www.roskindhomes.com

~ JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES ~

A Grand Conclusion to 2020: Programs Serving Seniors and Holocaust Survivors

By Bonnie Bonomo

Chesed, tzedakah, and gemilut hasadim — a trifecta of Jewish values!

December is often a busy time of year for us all, and 2020 was no exception. As a matter of fact, for Jewish Family Services (JFS), it might have been one of the busiest, most productive feel-good times of this year. Despite what 2020 brought us, as a community we found joy, gratitude, generosity, and boundless giving, and we were able to strengthen and empower individuals and families — our core mission.

Reaching out to those in need (chesed) is deep-rooted in our Jewish ideology. Giving, whether financially (tzedakah), through acts of loving kindness (gemilut hasadim), or social action (tikun olam), is a central compo-

nent of our Jewish identity, and as a whole, we pride ourselves on tending to the temporary and chronic needs of members struggling in our community.

Throughout the year, as we assess client needs and develop programs to meet those needs, we pay careful attention to those in our community who are having a hard time, have hit a rough patch, are isolated and alone, or for whatever the reason cannot afford to put food on the table. In some cases, they are on a fixed income just barely getting by and cannot spend a penny more. For them, it is unlikely that they will have even a traditional Thanksgiving meal or a Hanukkah celebration.

This year, four programs and celebrations brought togetherness, music, gratitude, and the

enjoyment of holidays to so many. It started with Thanksgiving, as homemade meals created by The Circle of Generous Hearts found their way into many homes, as did supplemental gift cards and items from the JFS Food Pantry, much of which was so generously donated by the community.

To ensure that our seniors and Holocaust survivors were able to enjoy Hanukkah this year, more than 100 Hanukkah “Taste of the Holiday” goody bags were prepared and delivered by our staff and an army of volunteers. These bags were chock full of holiday delights, like treat-filled dreidels, Hanukkah gelt, candles, decorative menorahs and dreidel cookies, and hand-made cards from the students at Charlotte Jewish Day School. After receiving their bag, Vera and Jack Mendel called, saying, “Thank you for the Happy Hanukkah bag. It’s the cutest, nicest thing you do. Thank you for thinking of us as you always do. We truly enjoyed it!”

And who would have thought that more than 75 seniors and Holocaust survivors would participate in a Zoom senior adult

Hanukkah party? Complete with a candle-lighting ceremony, participation from Rabbi Klirs, a sing-along from Cantors Mary and Shira, and performances from the students at Charlotte Jewish Preschool, this gathering brought joy and laughter and was almost as enjoyable as the in-person celebration!

It also brought our staff great joy to hear from senior living communities we cannot visit, as we are accustomed to doing, because of the pandemic. One note from Aldersgate to our Senior Engagement staff reads, “Happy Hanukkah! We’ve missed seeing you and being with you this year, yet your influence and teachings have been with us! I wanted to share that we copied your Hanukkah handout from last year and made it available to residents in Independent Living and at Asbury as part of our Hanukkah celebration this year. There is a brand new outdoor menorah across from the main entrance building that we lighted last night. We took individual menorahs to the Jewish residents currently at Asbury and our culinary team provided donuts and real latkes for the celebrations.

Eva Kantor and Jeanne Bellew, from our Generations at Shalom Park team, read a history and prayers in Hebrew and English at the Independent Living celebration. We are so grateful for all that you’ve done in times before to educate us and to share Jewish traditions with us at Aldersgate.” — Karen

Finally, we must extend a tremendous and heartfelt thank-you to you, our community, for making this year’s very unconventional Dreidel Drive an overwhelming success. You weren’t able to select the senior or the child you wanted to buy a gift for, and you weren’t even able to select the gift. We asked you to trust us, to send in gift cards, and we would match them up to the needs of our clients. And you did! We received \$4,000 in gift cards from Amazon, Publix, Harris Teeter, Walmart, and Target. Thank you seems inadequate to express our appreciation. Because of you, all of our clients in need, some of whom would not have been able to give gifts to their children, celebrated Hanukkah this year.

WORK WITH THE LEADERS IN CHARLOTTE REAL ESTATE

SARAH ROSE



SarahRose@remax.net

704 619-0422

STEVE LEPOW



SteveLepow@remax.net

704 975-8500

RE/MAX Executive



Jewish Family SERVICES

Engaging • Connecting • Healing

JFS Monthly Volunteers & Donors December 2020

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Mariah Bernanke, Ana Bonheim, James Bryan, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Sheryl Effren, Steve Englehardt, Terri Fishman, Maggie Fogel, Rob Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Marty Goldfarb, Neil Golub, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Tara Hubara, Bob Jacobson, Marcia Lampert, Eric Lerner, Linda Leviel, Adam Levy, Kim Levy, Matt Luftglass, Bobbie Mabe, Frada Mozenter, Julie Novak Barbara Rein, Harry Rubenstein, Lynne Sheffer, Fred Shporer, Janice Shubin, Louis Sinkoe, Mason Sklut, Lorin Stiefel, Ken Stern, Steve Teich, Gail Vogel, Jan Weiner

Circle of Generous Hearts: Phyllis Berlin, Cathy Bogus, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Sandy Hoagland, Sari Hochberg, Johnson and Wales, Judy Kaufman, Penny Krieger, Andy McCleary, Harriet Meetz, Helene Rivlin, Ivy Saul, Roz Snyder, Marcia Stern, Joyce Stoll, Elyssa Vining, Robin Zimmerman

Chanukah Deliveries to Seniors: Marko Alkan Mike Arnholt, Tyler Blumenau, Bill Brightman, Dan Coblenz, Terri Fishman, Arielle Gerstenhaber, Marty Goldfarb, Kim Levy, Julie Novak, Lynne Sheffer, Janice Shubin, Marissa Weiss

Food Pantry Donations: Thank you to our wonderful community for continuously donating items to the JFS food pantry. The donations have been incredible and we appreciate everyone’s generosity.

Grades 8-12 • Undergraduate Colleges • Graduate Schools

TAKE THE STRESS OUT OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- One-on-One Consulting
- College Selection
- Essays
- Interviews
- Academic Guidance
- Applications
- Extracurricular Opportunities
- Scholarships

Nancy Zolotorofe

980-265-2368

Offices in South Charlotte, Florida, New York and Connecticut



nancy@internationalcollegecounselors.com

www.internationalcollegecounselors.com

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE COUNSELORS
Expert Strategies For Admission

Getting to Know Dan Ruda: Bassist and Vocalist for The Ruach

Dan Ruda recounts how he became a part of The Ruach and what The Ruach community means to him.

Every so often something extraordinary occurs in your life that takes you in a new and unexpected direction.

One Saturday morning 11 years ago, as I did almost every Shabbat during my tenure as president of Temple Israel, I was seated on the bimah next to Murray Ezring, head rabbi of the temple. During the service, Rabbi Ezring leaned over and in softly spoken words described the "Rock Hashanah" alternative service he would be leading that year. Knowing my musical past as a touring rock musician, he asked if I would be interested in joining the other musicians. The idea was intriguing and sparked something that I had deeply buried in my past; however, I was too involved with temple board commitments, so I declined. He accepted my answer, but from his mischievous smile, I knew he would ask again one day.

That day came about a year later when Rabbi Ezring approached me in the social hall after a Saturday morning service. He suggested that since I was now the immediate past president, I should have time to be part of the band for the Rock Hashanah service he would be again leading that year. Throughout the year he had been subtly planting seeds. Occasionally he would mention how wonderful the first Rock Hashanah service was, with more than 200 people attending, an incredible number for a second-day Rosh Hashanah service. And from time to time, he would request my musical input. It was evident he was not going to take no for an answer, so I agreed to come to a band practice to check it out. When I saw what the band was doing, I knew immediately that I had to be a part of it.

Ten years have passed since I became the bass player and a vocalist for The Ruach. Now, The Ruach is an independent nonprofit religious organization. We have grown from being just a band that provided the musical part of Friday night and second-day Rosh Hashanah services to becoming an autonomous community open to all spiritual seekers, free of charge.

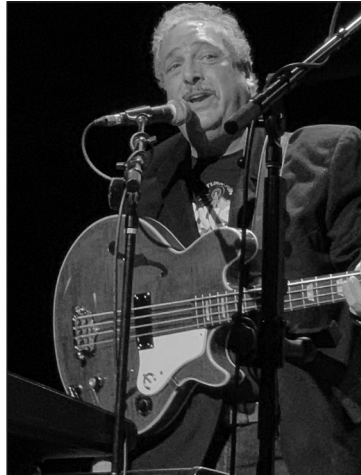
The Ruach has developed into being one of the most important pillars of my life. It is inextricably bound up with my identity, not only as a musician but also as a Jew. It helps me define the direction and focus of my energies

as part of our Charlotte Jewish community. It has made me a better Jew, feeling more committed, more complete.

As an honorary life president of Temple Israel, I maintain a devotion to the synagogue, and it remains a large part of my life. Simultaneously, I passionately believe in the mission of The Ruach and am fully dedicated to its success. These allegiances had created a certain amount of anxiety. I struggled with the idea that I must choose one over the other. I would ask myself, "Can I truly serve two seemingly similar organizations? Where is my loyalty? Which takes priority?"

After many hours of reflection, meditation, and experience, I have come to understand that I can properly serve both. The Ruach and Temple Israel are not the same. Although they both have similar missions, to promote and advance a fuller and more satisfying Jewish life, unlike the temple, The Ruach is not a membership-driven organization. Therefore, I believe we are not in competition with it or any other of our partner Jewish agencies.

In fact, by creating positive Jewish experiences, I believe that The Ruach enhances the membership of our partner agencies. We invite everyone to come experience Judaism with us and find the same joy of Judaism that so many others have. I am confident that your Jewish life will be invigorated just as mine has been and invite you to allow The Ruach and Rabbi Smookler to enrich your spiritual life.



Dan Ruda
Bassist and Vocalist, The Ruach

Follow The Ruach on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Subscribe to The Ruach's YouTube channel.

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through The Shabbat Experience and other new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to foster and maintain personal connections as well as to inspire and engage everyone to embrace Judaism and all that it has to offer. The Ruach is supported primarily through voluntary contributions together with a grant from Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



Donations to JFS in December 2020

In Appreciation of Sara Oppenheim

David and Suzy Catenazzo

In Honor of Adam, Kim, Sophie and Sam Levy

Stuart and Eleanor Bandit

In Honor of Bashia and Mason Sklut's Wedding

Michael and Judie Van Glish

In Honor of the birth of David and Kathryn

Kosovo's granddaughter

Michael and Judie Van Glish

In Honor of Bob Jacobson

Philip and Lauren Stark

In Honor of Jordan, Ethan, Shayna Van Glish

Dana Eckoff

Lisa Perlin

In Honor of Louise Rose

Harriet Meetz

In Honor of Mark and Harriet Perlin

Lisa Perlin

In Honor of Michael and Ashley Goldberg

Alan and Ruth Goldberg

In Honor of Penny Krieger

Alan and Madeline Aron

Robert and Sheila Peltzer

In Memory of Barbara Green

Barnet and Harriet Weinstock

In Memory of Edward Karp

Michael and Judie Van Glish

In Memory of Ellis Levinson

Todd and Donna Birnberg

David and Sandy Brenner

Joel and Paulette Cohen

William Benjamine Hawfield

Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

L. Brown and Gene

Holbrooks

Harry and Gloria Lerner

Jack and Alison Levinson

Matthew Luftglass and

Meg Goldstein

Mark and Audrey Mandel

Adrian and Andrea Mesoznik

Paul and Claire Putterman

Fran Schwartz and Family

Myron and Lynn Slutsky

Evan and Robyn Wolkofsky

In Memory of Gwen Kestin

Sharon Kugelmass

In Memory of Lester and Mitzi Cutler

Marla Brodsky

In Memory of Marc Rauch

Myron and Lynn Slutsky

In Memory of Marvin Barman

Daniel and Nancy Coblenz

Shirley Frank

Joe Freiberg

Matthew Luftglass and Meg

Goldstein

David and Elizabeth Panciera

David and Beth Thrope

Barnet and Harriet Weinstock

In Memory of Olga

Haime de Abadi

Jayme Bryan

In Memory of Leslie Abadi

Jayme Bryan

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Memory of Howard Winokuer

Shirley Frank

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Memory of David Winokuer

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Memory of Lucy Margolis

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Wishing Jill Newman a speedy recovery

Richard Osborne

Wishing Sue Worrel a speedy recovery

Richard Osborne

Wishing Audrey Madans a speedy recovery

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Looking for a meaningful, out-of-the-box Shabbat service that will spiritually move you? Look no further.

The Shabbat Experience

A modern worship experience...built on Jewish tradition

Last Friday of each month at 6:45 pm on 



www.youtube.com/theruachband



~ SYNAGOGUES AND CONGREGATIONS ~

Chanukah 2020 at Ballantyne Jewish Center



Chanukah Wonderland was an amazing success with more than 350 individuals visiting over the course of 10 days. Everything about this Chanukah experience was designed with safety in mind, including limited group sizes, private reservations, and lots of sanitizing and screenings for everyone who walked through the doors.

Cteen Jr. Chanukah party was well attended with fun activities such as blindfolded menorah building, gift exchange, and

minute-to-win-it competitions.

Chanukah began on the first night with a beautiful and inspiring menorah lighting at Stonecrest. Community members were able to watch outside and be socially distant or view from the safety of their cars. Individually packaged food and goody bags were given out to all participants. A juggler, balloon twister, and 12-foot screen with Chanukah videos entertained everyone while waiting. A nurse, teacher, and doctor were honored

for all of their hard work on the frontlines during the pandemic. It was a message of light over darkness. All we need is a little bit of light to give us hope for the future.

Although our celebration in Sun City was slightly different this year, we were not going to miss out on Chanukah with one of our favorite communities. Dinner to-go was available as individuals watched the lighting from their cars or outside and socially distanced.

COVID did not stop our sixth annual menorah lighting in Waxhaw. Over 100 people came out to celebrate the sixth night of Chanukah. Individually packaged latkes and donuts were given to all participants, and the children enjoyed goody bags with toys and crafts. What a beautiful sense of community.

As the pandemic continued well into 2020, we were worried. How will we celebrate Chanukah? How will we feel that sense of Jewish pride and

community that we always experience at this time of year? We were not disappointed! We are grateful to this special community and to everyone who helped make this holiday so memorable.



DON'T JUST LIVE HERE...
LOVE IT HERE.



THE BARCLAY
AT SOUTHPARK

NOW OPEN



Residents of The Barclay love the living choices, abundant resort-like amenities and nearly endless social engagements available to them. Here, residents and their families will love the emphasis on nutritious dining options, whole-person wellness and the peace of mind that comes from having continuing care in place should they need it.

Call 980.224.8540 to schedule a private visit and don't just live here...LOVE IT HERE.
4801 Barclay Downs Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210 BarclayAtSouthPark.com

Laughter Is the Best Medicine

By Cantor Mary Thomas,
Temple Beth El

I think my favorite part of the Purim carnival at the Bayonne JCC when I was growing up was the “shave the balloon” booth. The shaving cream was always so foamy, you got just a little bit messy, and someone always ended up popping the balloon. As a parent, watching my own kids and their friends get very excited about slime and slime-making, I am reminded of my own love of playing with shaving cream at the JCC on Purim. I also remember making hamentaschen with my mom and singing, “O once there was a wicked, wicked man ...,” in religious school. As a kid, Purim was a lot of fun.

When I arrived at seminary, I learned that one of my roommates had a big problem with Purim. A problem with Purim? What could be wrong with Purim? This smart, future rabbi helped me look more critically at the holiday and the celebration, moving past the childhood

memories of goldfish with very short lives to a more mature confrontation of the day.

The book of Esther is dark, covering such themes as the abuse of power, dishonesty, inauthenticity, anti-Jewish sentiment, plots of genocide, violent retaliation, taking vengeance, rejoicing in another’s downfall, and more. The story can be read as a reminder to remain vigilant about potential threats to our community. The Book of Esther is far from G-rated. It requires the modern reader to look closely at one’s own anger and aggression.

On Purim, we are meant to remember this difficult story but also experience joy as the Jews did in Esther 8:16: “The Jews enjoyed light and gladness, happiness and honor.” The four mitzvot of Purim include hearing a reading of the Megillah, partaking in a festive meal, giving gifts to friends and neighbors, and giving to those who are in need. Although we bear witness to the complicated and fearful

story of Purim, we also bring light and joy into our own lives and those around us.

It is customary to tell the story of the Megillah in a Purim spiel and loudly blot out Haman’s name with groggers. Purim spiels have been performed for at least 500 years. Spiels are often written as satire, and viewers will have many opportunities to laugh. The jokes, songs, and slapstick comedy of many of today’s spiels may warrant a knee-jerk laugh, but I have often imagined that spiels are leveraging two other types of laughter: nervous laughter and laughter as stress relief.

I will always remember the very first sixth-grade religious school class that I taught right after I had graduated from college. My curriculum included teaching the 12-year-olds about the Holocaust. I remember being surprised when one of the students started laughing in class. As young and inexperienced as I was, I thought that the child was

being disrespectful. I quickly realized that, in fact, the student was scared and was laughing nervously as a way to cope with her fear. I think that we laugh at Purim, in part, to cope with how truly difficult the story is.

This past year has not been easy. We have each had to make our own way through a global pandemic. Many members of our community have worked as hard as possible to maintain employment, care for friends and loved ones, move through a divisive election year, and confront loss and grief, all while remaining vigilant about handwashing, mask-wearing, and maintaining physical distance from others. Much has been difficult for many this year in ways we could not have imagined. Many are experiencing fear and significant stress.

Laughter is one of the best medicines we have. Data suggest that laughter stimulates our bodies with oxygen-rich air, activates and relieves our stress response, and can sooth tension.

Over time, laughter can even help improve our immune systems, personal satisfaction, and mood and reduce pain. If there were ever a year to laugh out loud for Purim, this is the year!

As in recent years past, we are excited to laugh out loud with you at the Temple Beth El congregation-wide Purim spiel on Sunday, February 28 at 11a.m., via Zoom. Please visit templebethel.org for more information about the spiel and other opportunities to celebrate Purim as a TBE community. As we have experienced joy in the past, so too may we experience joy in this year to come.



Journey of the Soul: A Fresh Look at Life After Death and After Life

JLI in Charlotte is pleased to announce the introduction of a new course that addresses the fundamental question of the Jewish perspective on life and death.

Death has earned itself negative ratings in the human psyche. It can trigger fear of the unknown, dread at the likelihood of suffering, despair over the termination of relationships, and injustice at the interruption of life. Death is a feature of the human condition that—often without our conscious awareness—wields disproportionate influence on how we live our lives.

The force of this dynamic inspired the scholars and researchers at the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute to create a groundbreaking six-week course, Journey of the Soul: A fresh look at life, death and the rest—in peace.

There is no shortage of classic material on the topic of mortal demise. Philosophical and theological discussions have survived their ancient authors in many scripts. Their findings influenced the approaches of health professionals, clergy, and others attempting to heal hurting hearts.

However, there exists an entire corpus of largely untapped wisdom and tradition that has influenced global discourse indirectly, but deserves to be explored as a direct fountain of insight. It is the combined wisdom of Jewish teachings and experience, amassed and honed for over three millennia by the collective efforts of disciplined and creative scholars and spiritual mystics. Journey of the Soul delves into the sea of Jewish insight and emerges with a transformative approach to death that is seamlessly integrated with the Jewish view of life.

The course’s results supply an authentic and organic package of comfort, understanding, empowerment, practical guidance, healing, and hope. Most importantly, the course reframes its students’ approach to life.

In this course we will explore why death is so painful for survivors. And where does the soul go from here? Is my presence felt by the soul when I visit their grave? What is the purpose of Kaddish? Do we believe in reincarnation? How does death influence the life we live?

This soul-searching six-week

course will start on Tuesday February 2, 7:30 p.m., for the evening class and Wednesday February 3, 11:00 a.m., for the morning class. The class will be available on Zoom for those who register and a limited in-person participation. All students will be receiving full-color textbooks with an abundance of readings on the course subject.

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or back-

ground in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call the Chabad of Charlotte office at (704) 366-3984 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. Fee: \$99 per person or \$180 per couple.

Good news for medical professional and health counselors, this course can provide you with

CME credits. Please visit myjli.com/continuingeducation for more information on continuing education credit for medical and mental health professionals and for a complete accreditation statement.



Harry and Bryant Co.
SINCE 1883
Funeral Directors

500 PROVIDENCE
ROAD

704-332-7133

Chanukah 2020 at Chabad

Chanukah 2020 was different from any recent Chanukah in memory. Overcoming the challenges COVID-19 presented, Chabad was able to reach thousands of Jewish people in Char-

lotte in a personal and meaningful way.

More than 1,000 donuts, 700 latkes, 2,000 Chanukah gelt coins, 500 beautifully produced Chanukah booklets, and 150

menorahs were given to local Charlotteans during this Chanukah celebration. The Chanukah kits were packed by Cteens, a Chabad teen group in Charlotte, and the event was covered by the NBC Today show.

The most impressive Chanukah event was the lighting of the spectacular 19-foot scissor menorah that was lit outdoors at SouthPark Mall. More than 500 people participated, remaining in their cars to partake in the lively and bright ceremony by viewing from any vantage point and listening to the event over their FM car radios.

A 45-car menorah parade preceded the lighting, with bright menorahs latched on the car tops. Led by an impressive police escort, the parade drove through many significant thoroughfares in the city. People were cheering the parade, as it was a genuine display of Jewish pride.

The lighting of the giant menorah took place at a designated area in the parking area, where cars lined up and families enjoyed the picnic-style atmosphere while still adhering to COVID protocols. Children were dressed in dreidel uniforms and Judah the Macabee outfits. Each



family received freshly baked donuts and freshly made latkes.

Many of the attendees related that this was their first time they had attended a public event in many months and expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate the joy of the holiday safely. This festival of lights truly brightened the lives of all who were part of this magnificent event.

Purim at Chabad

Purim 2021 falls on the night of February 25 and the day of February 26. Purim, which is the most joyous day on the Jewish calendar, will be celebrated at Chabad, with adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

Thursday evening service and Megillah reading will be at 6:40 p.m. Friday. Purim morn-

ing service will be at 6:30 a.m. and Megillah reading at 7 a.m. An additional reading will take place at 2 p.m. All services will be held at the Epstein Family Chabad Center on Sardis Road.

Chabad rabbis and staff are preparing hundreds of Purim kits to be distributed in Charlotte. These kits will contain the essential mitzvot that are observed on Purim plus delicious hamantaschen to add joy and flavor to the Purim holiday.



YALE HAYMOND LAW PLLC



704-557-6675

Personal Injury • Business Disputes • Civil Litigation

910 East Boulevard, Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28203
Licensed In NC & SC
www.YaleHaymondLaw.com



There's so Much to Love About Waltonwood!

Waltonwood offers seniors a carefree lifestyle and peace-of-mind in this ever-changing world:

- Life Enrichment programs, amenities, and neighbors offering opportunities for learning and engagement.
- Chef-prepared meals with desserts created by an in-house Pastry Chef.
- Safety and well-being are our top priorities. Associates and residents are taking extra precautions by practicing social distancing and wearing masks.
- Care teams are available 24/7.

**Schedule
a virtual
tour
today!**



Independent Living, Assisted Living & Memory Care

11945 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28277

704-246-3055



Assisted Living & Memory Care

5215 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

704-495-6031



WWW.WALTONWOOD.COM | WWW.SINGHCAREERS.COM



templeisraelnc.org



temple israel

Our House. Your Home.

TORAH TOTS



TORAH TOTS FAMILY ART FUN: IT'S PURIM!

Sunday, February 21, 3 P.M.

Join us for some family fun art projects as we get ready for Purim via Zoom! Then join us on Thursday evening as we celebrate Erev Purim in a fun Torah Tots

service. Cost: \$10 per child- includes an all-inclusive kit with 2 art projects! Visit the Upcoming Events page at templeisraelnc.org to register.



YOUTH

MAHAR VIRTUAL MASK MAKING (3rd-5th grades)

Sunday, February 21, 1 p.m.

Join your TI Youth Group friends as we make masks for Purim! Kits are available for pick up. Cost per kit: \$5 TI Members; \$10 Non-Members. <https://templeisraelnc-org.zoom.us/j/93691137415>

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

PURIM ANOTHER DRINK AND GAME NIGHT WITH MOISHE HOUSE

Thursday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.

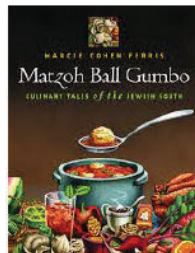
Save the date! Details forthcoming.

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL (WoTI)

NOSH, CONVERSATION & KIBBITZ: Matzah Ball Gumbo With Marcie Cohen Ferris

Thursday, February 18, 7 P.M.

Join this acclaimed author and your WoTI friends as we discuss what it means to be both southern and Jewish. Visit the Upcoming Events page at templeisraelnc.org to register.



LIFELONG LEARNING

MONTHLY LUNCH N' LEARN WITH RABBI MICHAEL WOLK THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – "Vaccination in Jewish Law" 12 Noon - 1 p.m.

*Due to a very generous grant received from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS), Temple Israel is pleased to offer a free lunch (**) to the first 25 registrants of each class. Lunches can be picked up at the Temple, the morning of each class.

**Recipient must be a full member of Temple Israel, age 65+



The Rose Room

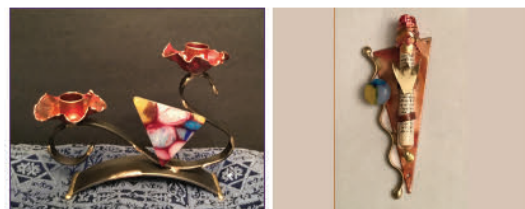
Let us help you find that perfect gift for simchas, holidays & more.

We also do Wedding, shower & B'nai Mitzvah registries!

THE ROSE ROOM GIFT SHOP IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

We have beautiful B'nai Mitzvah, Shower and Wedding gifts in stock! You can now shop online or make an appointment to shop in person. Can't find what you are looking for? We can help you source that special piece of Judaica.

For details, please visit templeisraelnc.org/gift-shop



*Purchase pick-ups take place every Tuesday between 9:30 AM - Noon.
*Alternative pick-up arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL EVENTS



WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT *

Thursday, February 4, 5 p.m.
(available for streaming)

Temple Israel Community Partner Film

Based on Judith Kerr's semiautobiographical bestselling children's novel, this beautiful historical adventure follows nine-year-old Anna, who is too busy with schoolwork and friends to notice Hitler's face glaring from posters plastered all over 1933 Berlin. When her father suddenly vanishes, and the family is secretly hurried out of Germany, Anna begins to understand life will never be the same.

YEAR: 2019

RUN TIME: 119 minutes

LANGUAGE: German
(with English Subtitles)

COUNTRY: Germany

* Winner of both the German Film Award (Best Children's Film) and Cavis Cinema Award

For details on all offerings from this year's Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, please visit <https://charlottejewishfilm2021.eventive.org>



20th ANNUAL GLOBAL WORLD WIDE WRAP

Sunday, February 7, 8:30 a.m.

This year's Wrap will take a different form than in the past, but we will come together in one way or another to celebrate the mitzvot of tefillin, as we will connect the old and the new. For additional information, visit the Upcoming Programs page on templeisraelnc.org.

PURIM CELEBRATION & SHPIEL

Thursday, February 25



5:30 p.m. - Torah Tots
Purim Program

6:15-7:30 p.m. – Star Wars
Shpiel, Megillah Reading,
Mixology Fun and Minyan!

Please join us for a special virtual
Purim celebration!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF OUR PROGRAMS,
PLEASE VISIT TEMPLEISRAELNC.ORG FOR UPDATES UNDER "UPCOMING PROGRAMS."**



celebrate PURIM



TEMPLE BETH EL

PURIM TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, February 20 @ 9:00am

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

NOSHIN' ON HAMANTASCHEN

Saturday, February 20 @ 9:30am

HAMANTASCHEN

BAKING AND CONVERSATION

Thursday, February 25 @ 7:00pm

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

PURIM SINGALONG AND CRAFTS

Sunday, February 28 @ 10:00am

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

SHPIEL & MEGILLAH READING

Sunday, February 28 @ 11:00am

WWW.TEMPLEBETHEL.ORG/CALENDAR

Temple Solel Remembers

By Shelley Pawlyk

On Saturday morning December 19, our beloved friend and congregant Wendy Weinberger passed away. Hebrew Cemetery did a wonderful job providing live video of her funeral on Tuesday, December 22. Although we couldn't be there in person, we were grateful to attend the beautiful service led by our lay leader, Russ Cobe. Wendy and Roy, her husband of more than 50 years, frequently expressed their appreciation of Russ by saying, "Russ is the heart of Temple Solel."

Wednesday evening December 23 was a celebration of Wendy's life on Zoom with many family members and friends sharing their personal memories and stories. Wendy loved stories — hearing them, writing them, and sharing them. She was a masterful speaker; she captivated all of us and drew us in as her audience. One person described the time Wendy told the story of what it was like when she and her husband, Roy, were the only Jewish couple in attendance at Jimmy Carter's Sunday Bible Story in Georgia. Wendy's daughter, Laurabree (Monday), talked about how, over time, the family started numbering their stories so they could reference them more quickly. Wendy's son Blake talked about how important she was not just to him but also to all their school friends growing up. Others chimed in and confirmed how Wendy taught them that saying, "no problem" is usually an indication that there is a problem or there might have been a problem! She suggested the best response is "my pleasure."

For those of us who have known the Weinbergers and Mondays for a while, we understand that "Thanks for Dropping By" is a significant expression. A three-part series that aired on CN2 News back in January 2018 gives further explanation and is still available online. Reporter Indira Eskieva met with news anchor Laurabree Monday's parents to hear their story. Not many can make jokes when talking about their own funeral, but Wendy and Roy Weinberger can teach us all a thing or two about love and why a sense of humor is everything, even when it comes to death. Wendy said it best in her own words, "The goal here is to make life simpler for those surviving and to not feel like they have to guess at what we might want." It is, indeed, what she did for her family.

One funeral home explained that only 20% of people pre-plan their funerals. Most do not know what options their loved ones will face in their moment of grief. In the video, Roy and Wendy talk about how they pre-



Wendy Weinberger

planned their funeral, purchased a plot, chose their headstones, and made decisions in advance. At Wendy's celebration, Roy encouraged everyone in attendance

to consider making preplanning a goal.

In a conversation with my friend Al, we talked about the additional importance to both of us of being members of Hebrew Cemetery, leaving legacy gifts, and not being afraid to speak to our children about tough topics. I told him that when my father was dying from pancreatic cancer, he did not want to talk about final arrangements. I remember saying, "Dad, sometimes we have to face death in order to live for the time we have left." In the end, I was left with decisions so difficult that in the same year as his death, I updated my own trust, purchased a plot, and made prearrangements with the funeral home. It wasn't easy, because I was still grieving, but it is a clear

message that we can truly lift a heavy burden off our loved ones by following the Weinbergers' example.

One of the most important things about living is being part of a community. One of the most common phrases we Jewish people say when making an excuse not to belong to a Temple is "I'm not religious." However, being part of a community is about having relationships from now until we leave this earth. Al and I finished our conversation talking about how nice it would be to hear the nice things people might say about us at a funeral — while we are living. I replied and said, "We do though! I am glad that we have the type of relationships at Temple Solel where we do express those thoughts to each

other in support and encouragement."

It is with a great deal of respect, love, and admiration that we say, "May Wendy's memory be for a blessing."

Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month via Zoom during the pandemic and hopes to resume services when appropriate at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. For more information, see templesolelSC.org, write us at info@templesolelSC.org, or call (803) 610-1707.



TEMPLE SOLEL

Transformation Through Jewish Learning

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

I don't usually read the editor's column in most publications, but I made an exception last month when reading CJN's own Shira Firestone in her From the Editor column about the power of the arts to heal and unite. All of us have been affected in some way by COVID, and her thoughtful piece about the efficacy of the arts particularly now was a breath of fresh air. Can anyone deny feeling transported to a different emotional and mental place when listening to Mozart's Eine kleine Nachtmusik or momentarily connecting to Proust's vivid description of his resurrected memories when eating a petite madeleine? Yes, indeed, the arts have the ability to give us a temporary respite from the stresses of life — especially now during this pandemic. I grew up in a family that placed much value on the humanities, but sometime toward the end of college, I discovered something else that, for me and countless others, also had the power to transform — but in a more direct, practical, yet transcendental way. It's called classical Jewish learning.

The Talmud tells a story about a gentile who wished to convert on the condition that Hillel would teach him the entire Torah while standing on one foot. Hillel told him, "That which is hateful to you, don't do to your fellow. This is the entire Torah." Many think the story ends here, but they are mistaken and don't realize they are leaving out the most important part, the next line. "All the rest is elaboration; now go and learn it." You can

use a one-liner to summarize the Torah, but ultimately you need to learn it. One might even begin with how Hillel's statement makes any sense. What do Passover or Sukkot, the Sabbath or kosher laws have to do with not doing what you hate to someone else? There's wisdom and beauty in Judaism, but one can't access it without heeding Hillel's advice — now go and learn it.

When learning the story of Joseph and his brothers, one is taken by the tragedy of hatred between siblings, yet at the same time we learn about hope and forgiveness. A bitterness I have heard over years of counseling is the resentment people nurse, sometimes for decades, and how it has destroyed relationships and families. I have also seen some of these people get involved in Jewish learning and realize that the heretofore old books have meaning when they are thoughtfully discussed. They have the ability to help frame one's mindset from a place of despair to a place of hope. They enter a world in which emotions are indicators, not dictators. This is the world of Joseph and his brothers — a world of choice and forgiveness. It's the world of a powerful King named David who allowed Nathan the prophet to reprimand him, and he accepted the rebuke. Where in world history or literature do we find a king or queen humble enough to allow others to tell them when they have acted wrongly? How does one with money and power remain humble? When understood properly, these stories give you tools for how to cope with life's vicissitudes.

How about Joshua, Moses' successor? Who does this righteous, intelligent, and divinely inspired leader marry? A former prostitute who converted from an idolatrous nation. His open-mindedness, acceptance, and willingness to not limit a woman to her past is inspiring. Other than the insane Don Quixote falling in love with Aldonza, we don't find leaders, knights, or princesses willing to give someone of an ignoble background a chance.

Tony Blair gave a beautiful eulogy for Britain's Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks. He was inspired by the Jewish wisdom imparted to him by Rabbi Sacks.

It is mind boggling that traditional Jewish teachings inspired a prime minister both personally and as a world leader.

How about you; why not give it a chance? At the Charlotte Torah Center, we offer classes ranging from the terse logic of the Talmud, mindfulness, self-awareness, understanding the Bible as an adult, women's studies, and much more — all in the safety of your home.

The arts are important and can transform you. But let's not forget that transformation comes as well from the study and depth of what has comforted and motivated our people for thousands of years.



Dream Home Today. Your Home Tomorrow.



**Why Hire a
Salesman When
You Can Hire a
Sales Mensch?**

♦ Free Market Analysis ♦ Free MEGA Open House
♦ Fire Me Guarantee

ANDY GRIESINGER 443-299-8946
www.SalesMensch.com andy@andyre.com

KW SOUTHPARK
KELLERWILLIAMS



Gaining Insight Into the Peaks and Valleys of Black-Jewish Relations Helps Us Be Better Allies

By Amy Lefkof

When Rabbi Judy Schindler, Queens University Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies and director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice, offered a virtual eight-week course this past fall titled *Peaks and Valleys: Milestone Moments in Black-Jewish Relations*, she posed an ice-breaker question: “Why does the issue of Black-Jewish relations interest you or matter to you?” We were 27 Jewish women and one Jewish man — all white. Many of us enrolled because the tragic deaths of so many unarmed Black people at the hands of police made us yearn to support the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, which emerged initially as a hashtag but was subsequently labeled by The New York Times as the “largest social movement in American history.” And yet our whiteness, coupled with our growing awareness of our implicit biases and white privilege, made many of us unsure how we could best take a stand as allies.

In our varied responses to Rabbi Schindler’s ice-breaker, it was clear that we were searching for a way to understand the complexities of Black-Jewish relations. Tracy Brown recognized that Charlottesville, which brought back memories of the Skokie march, made her think longer and harder about Black-Jewish relations. “I began to see that white supremacists had it out for Jews and Blacks

alike and that both communities would be stronger fighting the fight together.” Gail Baron feared that instead of Blacks seeing Jews “in solidarity,” many Blacks may view Jews “simply as white people — and in many ways they are correct.” Stacy Gorelick, who was born two days after Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, wanted to probe why many whites have such little interaction with people of color. And Alison Lerner wanted to know what derailed the Jewish connection to the Black community and what we could do to repair the relationship.

Our first assignment introduced us to Rabbi Joachim Prinz, who directly preceded Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1964 March on Washington “I Have a Dream” speech. Rabbi Prinz, who had escaped from Berlin during the Nazi rise to power, implored Americans to realize, “Bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problems; it’s silence. America can’t be a nation of on-lookers. Not for the sake of the Black community, but for the dream and inspiration of America.” As one class member, Roni Fishkin, noted in her daily class reflection, “If silence is the real problem — then speaking out is the antithesis — but is it enough? Is it too easy to speak out and too hard to act?”

We then traveled backward chronologically and downward to a valley: the mid-1800s where Rabbi Morris Raphall, the leading rabbi in the country, was an

outspoken proponent of slavery, using as justification the curse of Ham. By contrast, abolitionist rabbis during the Civil War, such as Rabbi David Einhorn, repudiated Rabbi Raphall by citing portions from Exodus and appealing to a belief in historical progress to rebut claims that whatever biblical Israelites practiced in terms of slavery could somehow still be deemed morally right or sanctioned by God.

Fast-forward to the summit of good relationships between Blacks and Jews where a deep commitment to civil rights cemented the bonds between brave leaders of our two communities, such as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel who said he felt his “legs were praying” as he marched arm in arm with Dr. King in Selma.

But we concurrently read an assortment of essays by Southern rabbis in the late 1950s and early 1960s that demonstrated that although some, like Rabbi Jacob Rothschild of Atlanta’s largest synagogue, were willing to take a public stand against segregation and in support of the civil rights movement, other rabbis considered support of the civil rights movement to be against Jewish interests, especially given the bombings and attempted bombings of Jewish sites in Southern cities. As Cheryl Greenberg said in her essay “Black and Jewish Civil Rights Agencies in the Twentieth Century,” “Jews were no more eager to embrace the cause of a pariah people than any other white community.”

James Baldwin’s 1967 essay “Negroes Are Anti-Semitic Because They’re Anti-White,” unsettled us — had coming to America and passing as white prevented us from living up to

our Jewish values, namely standing with victims of racial injustice?

In contrast to this view of Jews as assimilated whites were the Crown Heights riots of 1991 where some rioters shouted, “Death to Jews” and “Heil Hitler” before they stabbed and killed a Hasidic man after the accidental killing of a 7-year-old Guyanese boy who had been run over by a car driven in Rabbi Menachem Schneerson’s motorcade.

Marc Dollinger’s book “Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s,” explained some of the frays in Black-Jewish relations: As identity politics led to Black power and Black activism, Jews also took on this mantle of identity politics to advocate for Soviet Jews and Israel and pulled back from interracial, interfaith solidarity.

Our last class featured a recorded panel discussion from the virtual 2020 World Zionist Congress titled “Black Lives Matter, anti-Racism, and Zionism: The Role and Place of the Reform Movement in Navigating This Complex Landscape.” The panelists, two of whom were Jews of color, noted that one in seven members of the American Jewish community is a person of color. So racism is not just a problem for some other groups in America; it is also a problem for members of the Jewish community.

Another panelist, Rabbi Pesner, the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, stated that the BLM movement reflects a Jewish value. But to be anti-racist and be part of the solution, American Jews must familiarize them-

selves with three terms — white supremacy, white nationalism, and white privilege — and acknowledge that we as white Jews have benefitted from white privilege and from structures built on a white supremacist ideology. Citing the Tree of Life massacre by a white nationalist, Pesner stressed that our safety as American Jews “comes in our solidarity” with other minority groups.

How do we support Black lives? Rabbi Schindler notes, “Education is the beginning of the journey to racial justice.” Citing Maimonides’ teaching regarding repentance and righting a wrong, Schindler offers, “At the Greenspon Center, we seek truth telling and apologies for past harm, restorative measures, and systemic change so that we stop causing harm and uplift our Black neighbors. This applies to every realm in which racial injustices have occurred from housing to healthcare, from education to economic mobility and incarceration. May the history we write together be one that will make the next generation proud.”

Please visit the Stan Greenspon Center website for the full version of this article and also read the blog *Peaks and Valley of Black-Jewish Relations* to obtain access to the class lectures and reading assignments noted in this article and to explore other ways you can become an ally to support the BLM movement.

<https://www.stangreenspon-center.org/2020/12/25/peaks-and-valleys-in-black-jewish-relations/>

QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice



BUSINESS BROKERS
MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Selling a Business?

VR has sold more businesses in the world than anyone.®



Adam Petricoff
VR Charlotte

9301 Monroe Road, Suite L
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-360-8898 office
704-905-8658 cell
apetricoff@vrcharlotte.com

www.vrbcharlotte.com

Upcoming Events at Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice

Please join us in February for one of our many learning opportunities!

Wine and Wisdom Mid-Week Midrash Winter/Spring Series
Time: Third Wednesday of every month from 5 to 6 p.m. starting January 20, 2021.
Location: Virtual.
RSVP to Talia Goldman at goldmant@queens.edu.

Rabbi Judy Schindler invites you to come out to the Selwyn Pub or join online for study and socializing. Bring a friend, grab a glass of iced tea or wine, and enjoy learning more about the Torah and

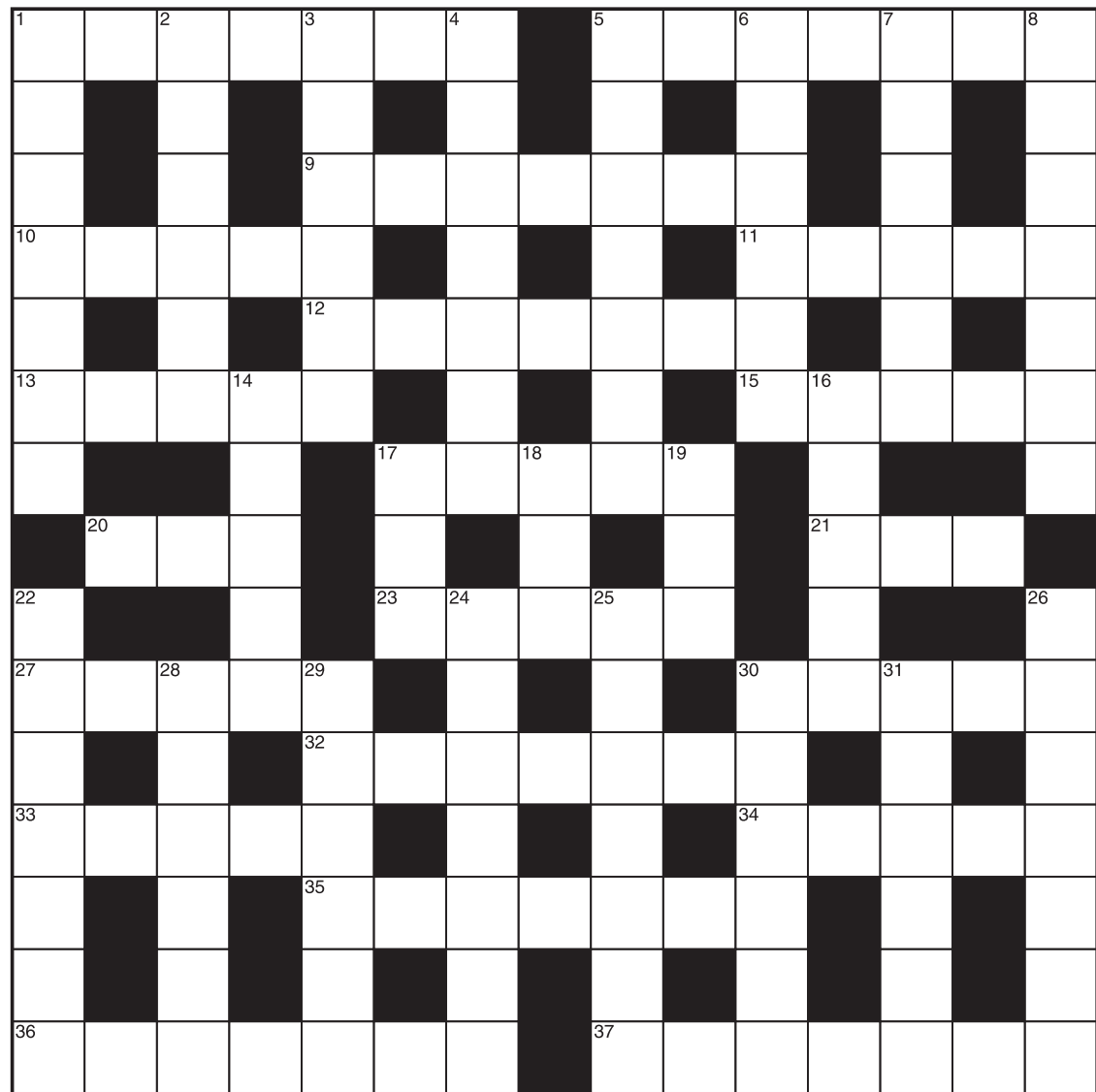
ways in which it can touch and lift our lives. This is a casual and relaxing event with a little something for everyone. Come to one session or come to all.

Jim Crow and the Nuremberg Laws: The Relationship Between Institutionalized Discrimination in the U.S. and the Beginnings of the “Final Solution” Donna Tarney and Doyle Stevik
A two-session series: February 5 and 12, 2021
Virtual: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

As the Nazi government was designing policies regarding the Jews, Adolf Hitler spent time

(Continued on page 21)

Where in the World? — Geography



(Answers on page 30)

Crossword Puzzles are sponsored by Phil's Deli
4223 Providence Rd. in the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center
Open for Dine In and Take Out
704-366-8811
Thank you, Phil!

ACROSS

1. Japanese hostesses
5. Location of the mile-long Galle Face Green
9. Windy latitudes, ... Forties
10. African fenced village
11. NW Israeli port
12. World's highest peak, Mount ...
13. Pop music's address, Tin Pan ...
15. Antarctica's McMurdo ...
17. Le Havre river
20. Port Moresby is there (1,1,1)
21. Michigan university town, ... Arbor
23. Greece's Mount Athos residents
27. Joan of Arc's trial city
30. Western Australian capital
32. Rome, the ... City
33. Paris' ... de la Concorde
34. Ruhr valley metropolis
35. New Zealand city in Otago region
36. Famous Rio beach district
37. Fashionable London area

DOWN

1. Nepalese Hindu natives
2. Hebrew country
3. London's medical region, ... Street
4. Thai
5. From Santiago
6. Aurora borealis, northern ...
7. LA beach resort
8. Florida's Disney World city
14. US bird emblem, Bald ...
16. Chicago's airport (1'4)
17. Personification of the US, Uncle ...
18. Historic Bodmin Moor building, Jamaica ...
19. Western German town & river
22. Major Lebanese city
24. Pacific region
25. Great Britain & Northern Ireland, United ...
26. Ontario port, ... Bay
28. East African land
29. Thames monument, Cleopatra's ...
30. NE New Zealand area, Bay of ...
31. Moscow is there

Greenspon Events
Continued

(Continued from page 20)

and money researching how other nations segregated their populations. Although several countries had unfortunately established successful policies and practices to keep their white and non-white populations separate and unequal, the U.S. stood above the rest. During this two-session webinar, we will explore ways in which the Jim Crow Laws provided inspiration and lessons for the Nazis as they moved to legalize discrimination against the Jews in Germany. Participants will interact with material and come away with virtual classroom-ready lessons. To register, please email Donna at Tarneyd@queens.edu.

Our Student-to-Student High School Peer Education program is off to a great start!

Student to Student is a nationwide program developed by the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis. It helps young people put a "human face" on Judaism — the best antidote to bigotry and intolerance. The program will launch in winter 2020 and will be conducted virtually. Charlotte will be the ninth city to launch this program and the first in the Southeast.

Student presenters (high school juniors and seniors) will share on a range of topics from the different branches of Judaism, namely Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform. These topics include, but are not limited to, the Sabbath, the Jewish life cycle from birth to Bar/Bat Mitzvah to marriage to death, antisemitism and the Holocaust, Israel, the Hebrew language, Jewish dietary practices, and Jewish holidays.

For information about becoming a Student-to-Student participant, please email Talli Dippold at dippoldt@queens.edu, or to schedule a presentation, please email Donna Tarney at tarneyd@queens.edu. Also be sure to follow the program on Instagram and Facebook for up-to-date news and to engage with the Student-to-Student community virtually!

This program is generously sponsored by Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE

Stan Greenspon Center
for Peace and Social Justice

Insurance for Home, Auto, Business and Life.



"My father, Harry, founded Swimmer Insurance Agency over 60 years ago offering security to the community and helping families through times of trouble. Today, we continue that tradition of service with everything we do. We will be there for every milestone, every hardship and every transition your family or business experiences."

- DAVID SWIMMER



725 Providence Rd
Charlotte, NC 28207
704.333.6694

www.swimmerinsurance.com

~ SCHOOLS ~

“When I Think of JPS”: As Told by JPS Parents

When we asked Jewish Preschool on Sardis (JPS) parents to sum up their experience at JPS in just a few words/sentences, we were blown away by their responses! Take a look at what parents first think of when asked about our school:



Emma loves every day at JPS!

JPS is accommodating to our hectic schedule.

JPS staff are generous, unbiased, and attentive toward children and parents alike — no one is ever left out.

Our daughter has loved every moment at JPS; there is no better feeling than the happiness I feel when my child is there. Watching her grow every day is nothing short of amazing. I know she is more than just looked after; she is treated like one of their very own children. We could not have chosen a better place for our daughter.

Lindsay Stutts

I want to stay at JPS forever! I want my kids to remain in the protective loving bubble of Jewishness.

The teachers kvell over my kids like an auntie or a bubbe, and my kids learn more than me!

Kendall Nicholson

When I think of JPS, I know my child is in great hands. The staff is caring and takes the time to really know each child.

The curriculum is so creative, even at age 2. I was especially impressed with all the special Chanukah activities this year!

The way JPS handled the COVID closure, by setting up online classes within two days and sending packets home for each child, was unbelievable. The staff also implemented COVID protocol seamlessly. It has been a difficult year, but JPS certainly rose to the occasion.

Jodi Seader



Seader family at JPS outdoor Chanukah party



Lou and his friends set up their menorah



Bodhi making latkes

It's never too early.
Register now.

ב"ה





**Jewish
Preschool
on Sardis**

jpskids.org/register

Registration for camp & school year is now open.
Accepting children 6 weeks through 4 years. Space is limited!

CJDS Splashes in the Puddles

By Mariashi Groner

We splashed in the puddles! Our motto this year of “Gam zu l’tova!” (This too is for the good!) is practiced almost daily. The following story is especially poignant in which all involved needed to apply the lesson we are all trying to learn — “When life gives you rain, splash in the puddles.” Among her many talents, Hamorah Donna deGroot is a master quilter. She primarily teaches first grade, Hebrew, and Judaic studies. When her first-grade colleague Ms. Sara, who teaches the general studies curriculum, went on maternity leave, Donna had the idea for the class to create an ABC quilt for the teacher’s first, new baby girl. Ms. Jadyn, the substitute for the first-grade teacher, was very excited to take part, and there began a wonderful collaboration as the students created their own individual quilt square with love and precise purpose for the teacher’s baby. Donna then went to work over her Thanksgiving break — quilting, sewing, and putting together a memorable and priceless work of art. She washed each square individually so that when the

quilt was done, she could send it to the cleaners to be completed. Well, the best-laid plans did not come to be, because during the professional cleaning process, some colors ran and some colors faded, and Donna was handed a pretty messed-up quilt. We can all put ourselves in her position and imagine how disappointed, frustrated, and unhappy we would be. But that is not how Donna and Jadyn responded. They modeled our motto to perfection. Both of their letters to Ms. Sara were so beautiful and demonstrated the best example of acceptance that “This too is for the good.”

At Charlotte Jewish Day School, we use real life to emphasize the Torah lessons of *menschlichkeit*, kindness, understanding, and empathy as we focus on the education and development of the whole child.



Dearest Sara, Sean, and Millie,

This is the story of how the quilt came to be:

Last August I approached Ms. Jadyn about making you an alphabet quilt to celebrate little Ms. Millie as part of the first-grade “life long ago” lessons.

Fortunately, she agreed to work with me on this project.

Unfortunately, it took a while to get the squares started, and Ms. Millie was born before I even had the squares to sew together.

Fortunately, I had already quilted seven squares before the week of Thanksgiving, and I thought I could finish it then.

Unfortunately, in the world of COVID, I wanted to make sure that it was cleaned properly after I was done.

Fortunately, I finished it on Sunday, November 29, and it looked great. So, on Monday I took it to the dry cleaners before I gave it to you.

Unfortunately, it looks like they not only washed it, but they washed it in hot water and the colors ran and they gave it back to me much worse for the wear.

Fortunately, the worst of the stains along the edge, I was able to cover with cloth and make loops that you could use to hang it if you want.

Unfortunately, you probably won’t want to be because it so faded in the wash.

Fortunately, because of the fading, it might match your nursery better because the orange is peachier.

Unfortunately, all the other colors faded, too.

Fortunately, I have pictures of what it looked like before the fateful trip to the cleaners.

Unfortunately, you will never see how nice it looked in person.

Fortunately, you don’t have to worry if Millie throws up on it — it will be fine.

Much love and care went into making this gift, and I am heartbroken with how you are seeing it today.

All the best, Morah Donna

Dear Ms. Sara,

We miss you so much, but things are going well here at school. Morah Donna is such a magical soul. She came in to show us her progress about once a week. The kids enjoyed following her progress. You can imagine the devastation when she got the quilt back. I wanted to cry for her. But she is magical, like I said before. She jumped into the puddle and made the best of it. I know you and Millie will love and cherish it anyway. It was made out of an abundance of love and care. Can’t wait for you to see it. We love you, Ms. Sara! Love, Ms. Jadyn



Ms. Jadyn Woodson and Morah Donna deGroot

704.366.4558 | CJDSSchool.org

NOW OFFERING

TK

FALL 2021

Check Us Out!

ASK ABOUT OUR SCALED TUITION PROGRAM

CALL NOW FOR A PRIVATE, SOCIALLY DISTANCED TOUR

~ YOUTH VISIONS ~

ZABS Place Relaunches Upcycling University

After a long break from in-person classes, we're excited that Upcycling University went back to in-person classes in December. While it's not the same as pre-COVID, now with physical distancing, mask wearing, temperature taking, class size limits, etc., it's so much more fun than when we met for eight months via Zoom. Upcycling University is a craft-based program focused on building community with individuals who have special needs talents while teaching skills to support financial independence. Each project is designed to help students learn how to see the potential in everyday items and harness their creativity to transform these items into something greater. These inclusive classes are 60-75 minutes and are designed for individuals ages 16 and older who enjoy crafting, community, and creativity and can follow instructions with occasional support.

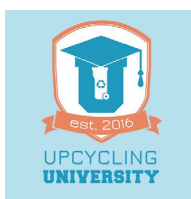
Ms. Blaire Traywick, former continuing education coordinator of Union County Public Schools, is our Upcycling University director and lead Upcycling professor. Ms. Traywick has previously served as the district arts and humanities administrator of Union County Public Schools and enjoys photography, crafting, and upcycling.

To learn more about classes and to sign up as a visiting Upcycling professor, visit ZABSPlace.org/UpcyclingU.



Upcycling Class at ZABS Place

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



CTeen Delivers Cookies to Heroes

We all know 2020 was a tough year for everyone.

We can only imagine how difficult it has been for people on the forefront of public service.

To brighten their holiday season, our CTeen leaders initiated a cookie drive, baking and delivering hundreds of cookie packages and delivering them to firefighters, police officers, and teachers!



Hannah Ross delivering cookies to firefighters



Rachel Mae Rubin delivering cookies to teachers



Shayna Weiss delivering cookies to police officers

NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrolling ages 6 months to 4 year olds



Charlotte Jewish Preschool

LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

For more information please call 704.944.6776

www.charlottejewishpreschool.org/registration

Moishe House's Second Queen City Location Offers More Programming and Leadership Opportunities to Young Jews

By Dave Press, Moishe House Senior Director of Advancement
"I want to create a place where people can really come together."

This is the vision Emily Koller, 25, had in mind when she and her Northwestern University college friend and Rubbermaid colleague, Alison Shay, 26, had as they planned to live together in Charlotte. The women are the founding residents of the new Charlotte Moishe Pod-South End that launched in January.

The Moishe Pod is affiliated with Moishe House, a global organization that provides a space for thousands of young adults around the world to create meaningful, welcoming Jewish communities for themselves and their peers. This new home for post-college-age Jews in Charlotte's booming, hip South End allows more of the city's young adults in their 20s to foster connections with peers, find community, and seek out opportunities for Jewish

observance and programming.

It was a no-brainer when Moishe House decided to expand in the city: It's quickly becoming home to one of the fastest-growing Jewish young adult populations in the country. According to the most recent Brandeis Population study, it is estimated that 4,100 Jewish young adults between the ages of 22 and 32 now live in the Greater Charlotte area. The climate and job market make the Queen City an attractive location for millennials and Gen Z as they transition out of college.

The opening of Charlotte Moishe Pod-South End is an exciting milestone for Moishe House, and it speaks to the growing demand of young Jews looking to engage with Judaism on their own terms. Moishe House has had a strong presence in Charlotte since 2013, serving as a vibrant hub of pluralistic Jewish life for hundreds of young adults through ongoing peer-led



Emily Koller and Alison Shay

and home-based programming.

The new Moishe Pod is only five miles away from another Moishe House: Moishe House Charlotte-North Davidson (NoDa), where four young male residents have lived in the historic arts district since December of 2018. Charlotte Moishe

Pod-South End and Moishe House-NoDa offer young Jews different ways to engage in Jewish programming. The NoDa residents host Shabbat dinners, holiday gatherings, bonfires, and football watch parties stage climbing, and hiking excursions in the Appalachian Mountains. Meanwhile, Koller and Shay are focused on planning opportunities for more traditional Jewish observances and offering DIY crafting programs, cooking and baking demonstrations, and a Marie Kondo-themed decluttering party. Koller and Shay also maintain a kosher home and observe Shabbat and holidays more traditionally, whereas Moishe House Charlotte-NoDa does not.

"I want a Moishe House that I'm a part of to be a place where everyone feels comfortable regardless of denomination or background," said Shay in reference to the new hub of Jewish life for young adults that she and Koller have established. Koller

has been living in Charlotte for three years, and Shay recently moved from South Florida, where she was a resident at Moishe House-Fort Lauderdale. The two bring a broad Jewish network, knowledge of life at Moishe House, and experience in community organizations: They were active in Hillel and in a women in engineering club at Northwestern University.

"Emily and Alison are well organized and eager to bring a new vibe to Moishe House programming in Charlotte. They have 'go-getter' attitudes and philosophy that will translate well to building community," said Shaina Abrams-Kornblum, senior community manager at Moishe House. "They bring the social connections and prior Moishe House resident experience that will make them a great pod. They are well organized and understand how to create thoughtful programming for

(Continued on page 26)



SUMMER CAMPS 2021



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!







CAMP MINDY
PRESCHOOL • K-5 • TEEN
TRADITIONAL DAY CAMP
half & full day • extended care
leadership camps

PERFORMING ARTS CAMPS
GRADES K-8
2 SUMMER PRODUCTIONS
pick one or both!

SPECIALTY SPORTS CAMPS
GRADES 1-10
FIND YOUR SPORT!
tennis • football • lacrosse
all-sports • soccer • basketball







All camp details & registration online:
CHARLOTTEJCC.ORG/CAMP

JSTAGE*
Specialty
SPORTS CAMPS

CAMP MINDY
Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp

Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

Teen Dating Violence Awareness

By Howard Olshansky, Executive Director, Jewish Family Services

The month of February is designated as Teen Dating Violence Awareness. In the past, Shalom Park agencies have partnered to provide programs creating awareness around this important issue. Nationally, roughly 1.5 million high school students admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed by someone they are romantically involved with, and 33% of teens in the United States are victims of sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional dating abuse. ([Dosomething.org](https://www.dosomething.org)). You might assume that incidents of abuse would decrease during the pandemic while many teens are not able to be physically together. However, just as one aspect of domestic violence is emotional abuse, so too it is with teen dating violence. Even before the pandemic, 50% of 14- to 24-year-olds experienced digital dating abuse. (Domestic Violence Services, Inc.) With communication taking place mostly online, especially for youth, this abuse can be exacerbated during the pandemic.

You might be asking, "What is 'digital dating abuse,' and how bad can it be when the two people are not physically togeth-

er?" According to The Women's Freedom Center, "Digital dating abuse is a form of verbal and/or emotional abuse, particularly among teens, which can include unwanted, repeated calls or text messages, pressure to send nude or private pictures or videos, and the use of social networking sites such as Instagram to bully, harass, stalk, or intimidate a boyfriend/girlfriend."

As we all know, adolescence is a challenging time, filled with uncertainty, anxiety and, most of all, the need for acceptance. That vulnerability often leads teens to make decisions to do something they know is wrong because of peer pressure and to avoid being ostracized. Think about it. I'm sure most of you did something, or many things, that you knew was wrong — took the car without permission, stayed out past curfew, or lied and said you were at a friend's when you went to a party with alcohol, and often it was because you were afraid of what your friends would say or do if you said no.

Today, teens are under much more pressure because of social media. It can take only seconds for someone to post or tweet something embarrassing, and seemingly the whole world is fol-

lowing. The pressure to succumb to a request for inappropriate pictures or to respond immediately to a text can seem overwhelming. The repercussions of saying no can seem life altering.

How can you help your teen not become a victim of dating violence? Foremost, open up a dialogue. Create a safe space to talk about the issue. Ask questions, but without judgment!

But we all know that teens often close up when being asked to discuss their personal relationships, especially with their parents. If this is the case with your teen, think about whether there is someone else they might be more comfortable talking to.

Most importantly, make sure teens know there is access to information and support if they think they are being subjected to dating abuse. Websites like

www.loveisrespect.org or hotline numbers like 1-800-799-SAFE are resources specifically for teens that they can explore confidentially on their own.



Moishe House Continued

(Continued from page 25)

their community that includes follow-up and relationship building."

Moishe House is the global leader in engaging young adults in peer-led Jewish programming. More than 70,000 Jewish young adults are involved in over 140 Moishe House communities in 30 countries throughout the world. Each Moishe House and Moishe Pod brings together young Jews to live together and create and host Jewish programs that inspire community.

This newest Moishe Pod in Charlotte is being made possible through the generous support of Moishe House's local partners, including Jewish Federation

of Greater Charlotte, the Leon Levine Foundation, and many others in the community.

To learn more about Charlotte Moishe Pod — South End and its upcoming programs, visit moishehouse.org/find-a-house/charlotte-moishe-pod-south-end/ or follow it on Facebook at facebook.com/moishepodsouthend.



Jewish Family SERVICES

Engaging • Connecting • Healing



MOISHE HOUSE
Inspiring Jewish Homes

LIGHT UP THE SUMMER



The Jewish Federation provides scholarships and special grants for Jewish summer camps as well as qualified Israel experience programs.

JEWISH EXPERIENCE FUND: Need based subsidies are available to local Jewish youth attending camp and/or Jewish programs.

GORELICK TEENS TO ISRAEL FUND: Subsidies for local Jewish teens ages 13 - 19 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

GLORIA AND HARRY LERNER FAMILY FUND: Subsidies for local Jewish young adults between the ages of 21-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

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

RootOne Vouchers

Thanks to a new initiative called RootOne, a limited number of \$3,000 RootOne Vouchers are available for Jewish teens who are entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grade or graduating high school in the Summer of 2021, and are eligible for one of the following five youth organizations Israel experiences: (YSOs)—BBYO, USY, Ramah, Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), and NCSY. Vouchers are limited, and are not guaranteed.

RootOne is seeded through the generosity of The Marcus Foundation, and is powered by The Jewish Education Project.

For more information and applications, contact Elina Kurakin, Israel & Jewish Education Coordinator, at elina.kurakin@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6740.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Purim is Coming! Purim is Coming! And More in Hadassah News

*"I know that we'll have a ball
If we get down and go out, and
just lose it all." **
- Black Eyed Peas

(*Often said about heading to a loud and crazy Purim service.)

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

Purim is coming! Purim is coming! What other holiday is so much fun for children and adults? There are costumes, a hamantoshen, reading the Megillah, noisemakers, dancing, drinking, Purim carnivals, plays, and parodies.

Purim commemorates the day Esther, queen of Persia, saved the Jewish people of Shushan from execution by Haman, the adviser to the Persian king. Esther bravely exposed her previously hidden Jewish heritage to her husband, King Ahasuerus, and asked him to save her people, which he did. Purim is celebrated on the 14th of Adar on the Hebrew calendar, which this year falls on February 26 on the Gregorian calendar.

Traditional Purim observances include the reading of the Megillah (the Book of Esther) and making lots of noise every time Haman's (the bad guy) name is read. When I was cleaning out our costume bin to prepare for our move to Charlotte, I found more than a dozen groggers (noisemakers) that my sons had used over the years at our raucous synagogue Purim service and then back home, much to my husband's and my chagrin.

I remember the fun of deciding what costumes we should wear. I was usually Queen Esther. Sometimes, the boys dressed as the characters in the Purim story. Sometimes, they wanted to wear their last year's Halloween costume. And other times, we created new costumes, like when my then 5-year old wanted to be a "puffy not flat" hamantoshen.

I have a friend who always has a clever costume. It is often a play on words and not always easy to decipher. My favorite was the year she was in medical scrubs and had all different-colored bell peppers, chilis, and jalapeños attached. Of course — Dr. Pepper!

Every year, each of the boys got to choose his favorite hamantoshen filling (traditional prune and poppy seed never made their list), and we baked dozens and dozens of hamantoshen to eat and to give to friends as mishloach manot (gifts of food, another Purim tradition). We made some definitely nontraditional flavors like chocolate chips and marshmallow or crushed Oreos with chocolate syrup. Some



flavors worked well; others got very stale waiting for someone to eat them.

While we aren't celebrating at Purim carnivals this year, come celebrate with Hadassah! Dress up, grab your grogger, turn on your laptop, and celebrate at Hadassah's virtual Purim bingo on February 21 at 3 p.m. Prizes! Hamantoshen! Goodie bags (porch pickup)! Candy! And a whole lot of fun! Email hadassahclt@gmail.com or check our website for more information.

In other Hadassah news...

Hadassah Lunch and Learn discusses a short story on the third Friday each month (except for holidays). The next meeting is Friday, February 19 at 11:45 a.m. The short story is *A Man in Thrall*, on page 77 in the book "Many Seconds Into the Future," by John J. Clayton. Future Lunch and Learns will be held on March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 25. Feel free to join the Zoom discussion even if you haven't had a chance to read the story. For additional information, please email Amalia Warshenbrot at AmaliaIma@ATT.net or Linda Levy at levyollie@aol.com.

The next Hadassah Charlotte leadership and board meetings will be held on February 15 and March 15 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All members of Hadassah Charlotte are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please email hadassahclt@gmail.com to register and receive the Zoom link.

Help with your Zzzzzzzzzs

On Thursday, March 4, Hadassah CLT is excited to host Nicole Fox, MD for a special joint Health Education and Membership event. Dr. Fox will speak about how to improve your night's sleep using Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) and will have a Q&A after her talk. Insomnia is a common problem involving trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or getting quality sleep. CBT-I aims to improve sleep habits and behaviors by identi-

fying and changing the thoughts and the behaviors that affect the ability of a person to sleep or sleep well. Dr. Fox can also provide insights into the mental and emotional problems caused by stress in these times.

Dr. Fox is a double board-certified physician in both psychiatry and lifestyle medicine whose full-time practice focuses on the intersection of the mind and body. She received her medical degree and completed residency at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where she is now on clinical faculty. She received the Outstanding Teacher Scholar of the Year Award for work related to the neurology of stress, trauma, and connectivity. Dr. Fox is a Lifetime member of Hadassah and is the daughter of Nadine Fox, VP, Zionist education, Southern Seaboard Region of Hadassah.

This event is for both members and non-members. Please join us.

Honoring the Keepers

Hadassah Charlotte's Keepers of the Gate will be honored on Sunday, March 14. They will be treated to a personal virtual tour of the famous Marc Chagall Windows direct from the Abell Synagogue at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. The tour will be conducted by

Barbara (BG) Goldstein, deputy executive director of Hadassah offices in Israel.

Keeper gifts begin at \$1,000 annually. Since 1996, Keepers of the Gate has been Hadassah's premier annual giving program, raising over \$75 million in needed funds to ensure Hadassah's mission continues from year to year. You can step up your existing giving level or learn more about a new gift by contacting Laurie Sheinhaus at laushein@gmail.com or visit www.hadassah.org/keepers. We welcome new Keepers to join this special group of women and men. Help us support the future for the next generation. Will you be our newest Keeper?

Vintners Passover Wine Event

L'Chaim! On Purim, we are commanded to drink alcohol as part of the holiday celebration. On Passover, we are commanded to drink four glasses of wine at the seder. Let Vintner help you fulfill the commandments. Vintners is hosting a special Passover event from March 1 through March 31. When you purchase your Passover wine from the large selection at Vintners, 10% of your purchase will be donated to Hadassah. The list of kosher for Passover wines will be on the Hadassah website. Choose your wine, pick up and pay at

Vintners, and mention Hadassah when you are there. Feel free to share this with your family and friends, even if they are not Hadassah members.

Get ready to party! Hadassah CLT will hold its No Show Event on Sunday, April 18. Mark your calendar. More details to come.

Do you know a Hadassah member who might need a little pick-me-up? Are you or a member you know having surgery or experiencing a loss? Hadassah CLT's Sunshine Committee is here for you. Please email Elissa at svining@aol.com.

Nancy Kerstein has kindly volunteered for many years to send out beautiful Hadassah cards for births, illness, sympathy, and other life events. If you would like to send your family or loved one a personalized card, please email Nancy at randee3763@gmail.com.

If you have questions about Hadassah Charlotte events, please check our website at hadassahclt.org for more information.

HADASSAH





BREAST AUGMENTATION
\$1000 OFF

**2021
NEW YEAR! NEW YOU!**

Now that 2020 is over, kick off your spring with a new look. Schedule a **FREE** cosmetic consultation with one of our board-certified plastic surgeons.



Gregory Mantooth, MD, FACS



Miguel Yáñez, MD, FACS



704.542.2220
5815 BLAKENEY PARK DR., CHARLOTTE, NC 28227
Offer applies to breast augmentation only. Valid Feb. 15-May 28, 2021.

FULLY ACCREDITED OPERATING ROOMS • STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT • FINANCING AVAILABLE

Hebrew Cemetery: No Longer an Abstraction

By Robert Valenstein

In Judaism, the Fifth Commandment is to honor your father and mother, both in life and in death. One way to fulfill this commitment is to ensure the Hebrew Cemetery provides a healing place to honor our parents in death.

My relationship to the Hebrew Cemetery has been evolving for the last 41 years. Not only has my spiritual understanding of the cemetery matured, but so too has my appreciation of the physical grounds inside its front gates.

As a young man, I was very

detached from the cemetery, except when my parents went to an occasional funeral. The cemetery and the process of grieving was simply an abstraction for me. That changed when my father unexpectedly passed away when I was very young. My dad's passing in 1979 was the first funeral I experienced at the Hebrew Cemetery.

This life event marked the beginning of my understanding of how Judaism helps us navigate death and the grieving process. Since that time, the cemetery has gone through many changes.

As a Jewish community, we

are fortunate to have a Hebrew Cemetery that is alive and not in decay, which is not the case with so many others. This was not always so; during the 1980s, the cemetery and the surrounding area were in decline. I remember attending a funeral at Temple Israel and driving ahead of the procession and arriving at the cemetery. As I drove toward the gravesite, I saw a police SWAT team raid an adjacent apartment building.

Today, the cemetery is a dynamic place. The staff of professionals and volunteers spends countless hours to ensure that bereaved families are not alone and that the Jewish community supports them during their difficult time with dignity and compassion. I have always admired the professionalism of the staff

when my own family has required these services. The cemetery has also evolved to meet the ever-changing needs as the Jewish demographics change over time, ensuring all are welcome and all have a place.

We have all witnessed the blossoming of the physical infrastructure and grounds in the last few years. Our cemetery is lucky to have generous benefactors. The improvements to the cemetery have been dramatic and include the new chapel, new landscaping, and landscaping to the grounds to create uniformity, the ongoing growth of the tree canopy, and the investment in technology.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impelled many of us to think about our own mortality. During this time, the Hebrew Cemetery

has admirably responded to the changing regulations concerning gatherings while staying true to our Jewish faith. Many of you have reached out to the Hebrew Cemetery for the first time. It may be time for many of us to pay attention to what had previously been something of an abstraction.

To schedule an appointment or to receive further information about preplanning, membership, or how to leave a legacy gift, please contact Sandra Goldman at (704) 576-1859 or email at director@hebrewcemetery.org.





Yours Truly Needlepoint and Knitting

Join Us - Knit, Crochet, Needlepoint

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

THANKS TO THE AMAZING WORK OF VOLUNTEERS

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

Wednesdays 8-11 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

W.O.W Goodbye to 2020, Hello 2021

By Andrea Gamlin

Charlotte Women of Wisdom concluded November with its very first book club event. Nine women joined a Zoom discussion of Mitch Albom's book "Have a Little Faith." In this book, the author explores the lives and com-

munities of two men who, at first glance, have nothing in common; yet, as Mr. Albom finds, have much in common. What if your hometown rabbi asks you to deliver a eulogy? That's what Mr. Albom's rabbi asked of him — to deliver the rabbi's eulogy. While the author gets to know his rabbi on a personal basis, he also meets Pastor Henry who answers a call to preach to the homeless at an abandoned church following a life of using and dealing drugs. Mitch Albom floats between these two worlds, and readers are asked, "What if our beliefs were not what divided us, but what pulled us together?" The book gives us insight into how faith is an integral part of both the rabbi's and the pastor's lives.

Our book club meeting discussed many questions raised in the book, and ultimately we found that both rabbi and pastor acted on their faith in G-d. Why is faith important to these men? How were they rich? And what is being rich? What if someone you marginally knew asked you to write their eulogy? Do you discuss religion? And if asked about Judaism, what do you say? It was wonderful being part of a deep yet respectful discussion between members of our group who have varied backgrounds. We are looking forward to our next book club meeting on March 1 at noon to discuss Sarah Hurwitz's "Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life — in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)." Attorney Hurwitz was former First Lady Michelle

Obama's main speechwriter from 2010 to 2017 and rediscovered her faith later in life.

W.O.W.'s Chanukah 2020 event on December 15 kicked off with Ilana Levin sharing some thoughts about Chanukah followed by a latke-making demonstration by Dr. Melissa Karp. This event also hosted our Chanukah tzedakah project: Be the Light Gelt Exchange. Participants donated to eight different Jewish organizations of their choice, including Friendship Circle, Jewish Family Services, Hadassah Medical Center, and Jewish Federation of Charlotte, and briefly shared the missions of each organization.

Save the date for W.O.W.'s Purim event and annual fundraiser on February 21 — Laughter Games Workshop with video coach Debbie Hirsch of Israel. Participate with us in the Fun Club and learn to live with more fun and positive energy in your life! Purim is for celebrating and bringing joy into our lives, so let's do it together on Sunday, February 21!

Please go to W.O.W.'s website at <https://charlottewomenofwisdom.com> for more information about W.O.W. and about our events. May 2021 bring blessings of good health, joy, and strength to all of us!



W.O.W.
Women of Wisdom
Charlotte

Make preplanning your final act of love and kindness.



- Peace of mind
- Locked in cost
- Funeral planning your way



Hebrew Cemetery of Greater Charlotte

Honor • Celebrate • Embrace

For more information,
please contact:
Director, Sandra Goldman
director@hebrewcemetery.org
704-576-1859

Bal Taschit and Beyond: Shalom Green Growing Together



By Summer Minchew

The year 2020 was unprecedented for us all. We recognize the weight of change and challenge; we recognize the impact that COVID-19 has had on humanity at a global scale and on the humans most dear to us, in our own homes and in our hearts. The realities of fear, sickness, and loss have been a daily burden for so many. We typically end the calendar year in reflection, considering our successes, and making resolutions to improve, but that can be difficult when we are mired in the daily hardships of a post-COVID reality.

My service in 2020 as board chair for Shalom Green: The Shalom Park Environmental Initiative has in many ways been a metaphor for life. This year, I have never been more challenged by forces beyond my control or more proud of what Shalom Green has achieved for our community. In the spirit of growing together, here are some lessons I have learned:

Keep growing. In March, when Shalom Park was shutting down, and we knew we could not safely count on the hands of our many dedicated garden volunteers, we had to make a choice. We could plant less to reduce the burden of labor hours required to maintain and harvest produce, or we could power through and keep growing as we normally would. Our garden coordinator stepped up and truly became essential, seamlessly switching gears from overseeing volunteers and leading education sessions to almost single-handedly managing nearly all garden planting, maintenance, harvesting, and donating the resulting produce. When presented with the option to cut back or grow, I am grateful that our team decided to keep growing. And we grew big! From 16-foot tall mammoth sunflowers to more than 300 pounds of fresh produce grown from March to December, we set a new goal that will carry forward: to yield

as much produce as possible for donation right back to the community. Despite the reduced volunteer force in 2020, we doubled the amount of produce we donated from last year and effectively served those most in need in our community.

Be grateful for your village. It takes a village to achieve just about anything meaningful in life, from raising a child to accomplishing a goal or overcoming an obstacle. This year, we have never been more aware of our need for and our impact on community. Shalom Green is a lay-led social justice initiative. Our board comprises volunteer leaders, all of whom are juggling exceedingly busy lives and careers. This board has been the backbone and the heart and soul of Shalom Green since its inception in 2015. Thank you to our current board members: Lisa Shpritz who oversees educational programming, David Rosenthal our treasurer, Liz Wahls who leads the community garden, and Rochelle Carney, our social media maven. I am grateful for your countless hours of involvement and your motivation and dedication to educating the Shalom Park community on environmental issues and sustaining our shared planet. And to our founding board member, Bette Andrews, whose service concluded at the beginning of 2020, I offer a heartfelt thank-you for making this all possible.

We are resilient and adaptable. On difficult days when juggling work and remote learning is overwhelming, my mantra has been modeling resilience and adaptability for my children. Almost every day this year we have been given the opportunity to address and recover from difficulties, to learn to make what is most important a priority, and to adjust when needed to create a more positive outcome. Despite the challenges of 2020, Shalom Green has adapted to Zoom for meetings and events, and we

have modified how we schedule and organize our in-person volunteer opportunities to ensure safety during garden workdays. We will continue to use online resources to connect and engage with the Jewish community, and we hope that public health conditions support safe, in-person occasions to connect in the coming year.

The future is bright. We are looking to the future. We are collaborating, we are innovating, and we are engaging our community in novel ways. We conducted our first-ever fundraising

(Continued on page 30)

Garage Door Installation

Garage Door Openers

FREE QUOTE
No obligation

Repair Service

Providing security to your home

www.tiptopgaragedoors.com

Call us: 1-844-784-7867



HERE WE GROW!
Thank you donors and partners
for your support of the
**Shalom Park
Community Garden!**



Lynn Addy
Bette Andrews
Sandy Altschuler
Madeline Arom
Lia Beresford
Jill Blumenthal
Dr. & Mrs. William Bockenek
Lesly Bowers
Rochelle Carney
Stacie Coblentz
Lynne Cojac
Andrea Cronson
Robert & Elizabeth Davis
Maria Elliot
Louise Frumkin
Lisa Garfinkle
Barry & Karen Greenblatt
Sarah Grossman

Bernie Hutchins
Bina Indelicato
Rabbi Asher Knight &
Rabbi Ana Bonheim Knight
Marilyn Kraus
Gloria Katzen Lerner
Beth Lewis
Harriet Meetz
John Mikita
Summer & Matt Minchew
Alexandra Naranjo
Lee & Diggie Pesakoff
Carrie Rabinowitz
Steven & Melissa Raphael
David Rosenthal
Scott Rizzo
Toby Ruda
Emily Russell

Deborah Shpritz
Lisa Shpritz & Jeremy Tart
Tami Silverstein
Robert Sisson
Norman Steinberger
Jeremy Stephenson
Marilyn Stiff
Sheri Stock
Nancy Strunk
Alyson & Russell Traw
Sara Wahls
David Weinrib & Liz Wahls
Louisa Weinrib
Jeannette Wheatley
Keith Wheatley
Cindy Wiesemann
Joanna Wisotsky



SouthPark at Phillips Place

Where Families Come Together

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



For more information, contact: Pamela.Haythe@hilton.com

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





Josh Rubin's Plumbing, LLC

LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Layouts for slabs - Rough-in and Finish
Water Heater Repairs and Replacement
Kitchen/Bath Remodeling
Toilets, Tubs, Faucets, Sink, and Disposal
Repairs/Replacement

~ 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE ~
NC State Lic. #29197 SC State Lic. #M110508
704-517-4918



The Akropolis Cafe
At Arboretum

Specializing in:
Homemade Soups • Gyros • Salads

Mike Sadri
Arboretum Shopping Center
fax: 704-541-5989

\$2 OFF
Any Purchase
of \$10 or more
with this ad

Only 1 coupon per transaction.
Expires 2/28/2021

Take Out or Delivery
with Doordash
704-541-5099



WanFu
Quality Chinese Cuisine

- Upstairs Banquet Room
- Private Dining
- Full Bar & Wine
- Proudly Serving the Jewish Community SINCE 1989

704-541-1688
10719 Kettering Dr. • Charlotte, NC 28226
www.mywanfu.com

Puzzle Solution

(Puzzle on page 21)

G	E	I	S	H	A	S		C	O	L	O	M	B	O
U		S		A		I		H		I		A		R
R		R		R	O	A	R	I	N	G		L		L
K	R	A	A	L		M		L		H	A	I	F	A
H		E		E	V	E	R	E	S	T		B		N
A	L	L	E	Y		S		A		S	O	U	N	D
S			A		S	E	I	N	E		H			O
	P	N	G		A		N		M		A	N	N	
T			L		M	O	N	K	S		R			T
R	O	U	E	N		C		I		P	E	R	T	H
I		G		E	T	E	R	N	A	L		U		U
P	L	A	C	E		A		G		E	S	S	E	N
O		N		D	U	N	E	D	I	N		S		D
L		D		L		I		O		T		I		E
I	P	A	N	E	M	A		M	A	Y	F	A	I	R



TYNECASTLE
— SOUTHPARK —

"Distinctive English Modern Living"

- Lock & Leave Luxury Townhomes
- Walkable to Charlotte JCC
- Spacious Floorplans
- Phase 1 nearing completion, 7 Reserved & 7 Remaining
- Signature Greg Perry Inspired Architectural Design

TyneCastleSouthPark.com | Dee Reid 704-281-3913



Shalom Green Continued

(Continued from page 29)

campaign, Here We Grow, which ran from November to December. Thanks to generous support from Temple Beth El, community members, and garden supporters, we generated funds to fully retain the position of the garden coordinator in 2021. Thanks to funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, we will move forward with an improvement project to increase capacity and comfort of outdoor seating options within the Shalom Park Community Garden. By adding five durable park-style tables with integral seating, the garden will provide seating and learning space for 10 to 30 people, depending on social distancing mandates. Providing an inviting option for outdoor classes, community gatherings, and group meetings, this project is especially timely in response to COVID-19 when viable outdoor space will continue to be critical to safe operations. Look for this

new Shalom Park Community Garden amenity and much more from Shalom Green in 2021. Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in supporting Shalom Green, please contact us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT, and visit our website at www.shalomgreen-CLT.org.



Looking Back

Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories and experiences, providing a snapshot of our history. The Charlotte Jewish News has been in print since 1979, providing a nearly bottomless opportunity to delve into the history of the greater Charlotte Jewish community. The following are from February, 1997.

Looking Back... Blumenthals Will Be Honored

February, 1997

On March 5, 1997, two of the Charlotte Jewish community's most prominent philanthropists, Herman and Anita Blumenthal, will be honored at a gala celebration in the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

The evening, sponsored by the Board of Directors of Temple Beth El, will mark the beginning of the fund raising efforts for the Temple Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund Trust, which was initiated last year by the Blumenthal's \$1 million gift.

The black-tie evening will

feature keynote speakers Governor James Hunt and Rolfe Neill, editor of The Charlotte Observer. Other highlights will include cocktails, dinner, and performances by the resident companies of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

There will be a special presentation of the Blumenthal Aware, which honors Herman and Anita Blumenthal and their generous \$1 million gift which was the first major contribution to the Temple Endowment Fund. Herman and Anita Blumenthal were the inspiration for this aware and

this special evening is an opportunity to celebrate their philanthropy.

In addition to honoring the Blumenthal's for their lifetime of giving, the Board of Directors will also announce and recognize other major gifts that have already been pledged to the Endowment Fund, and will launch the next phase of the endowment drive which will continue as a permanent part of the Temple's financial program.



*Photo from February 1997 Charlotte Jewish News
Anita and Herman Blumenthal (far right) with son Alan Blumenthal, granddaughter Stacy Blumenthal, daughter-in-law Lee Blumenthal and granddaughter Jill Blumenthal*



News of Israel's Achievements and Heartwarming Stories from the Jewish State.

In January's edition: Why Israel is a COVID vaccine leader

Read and subscribe to receive more good news in your inbox each month at www.verygoodnews.israel.blogspot.com.

Looking Back...Federation Set to Begin Demographic Study

February, 1997

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, in its continuing effort to better serve its constituency, is about to embark on a major community demographic study. For the first time ever, the Federation will conduct a survey of the Jewish community with a view toward determining the size of the population, the services it needs, and the elvels of its participation in, and awareness of, Jewish life and institutions. The study has the full cooperation of all synagogues and Jewish agencies in Charlotte.

Sara Schreiberman, Chair of the Federation Demographic Study Committee, said the survey will provide the Federation with a clear profile of the geographic, demographic, religious, and philanthropic characteristics of the growing Charlotte Jewish community.

The study will be conducted by the University of Miami's Dr. Ira Sheskin, a nationally-recognized Jewish demographic expert. Sheskin has conducted fourteen studies of Jewish communities. Sheskin has designed a questionnaire based on input from the committee and will oversee the selection and training of the interviewers. The de-

mographic survey will entail 400 telephone interviews conducted on a random digit-dial basis in the greater Charlotte area. Interviews will be conducted over a two to three week period beginning on March 6, 1997.

The interviews will be done anonymously, Sheskin said, but he added that in order for the survey to provide valid, unbiased results, it is necessary for a high percentage of the Jewish households to answer the questionnaire.

"That is why it is so important that the community be aware of what we're doing," Schreiberman said. "If people are aware of the study, they'll be more likely to participate."

In order to heighten awareness and maximize participation, Federation will mail out more than 2,500 postcards to everyone on its mailing list, and posters and flyers will be placed in synagogues and institutions around the community.

"This study will set the direction and the tone for the Federation as we move toward the year 2000," said Marvin Goldberg, Federation executive director. "It will enable us to et a true handle on the numbers and needs of our growing Jewish population."

Beautiful Crowns with CEREC®

One-visit dentistry



- ONE VISIT
- NO IMPRESSIONS
- NO TEMPORARIES
- METAL-FREE
- HIGHLY ESTHETIC

Leaders in Cerec Technology & Digital Dentistry since 2004

**Smile
CHARLOTTE**

Drs. Menaker, Rodney, and Berman

704-377-2503

www.SmileCharlotte.com

There's More Than One Way to Make Hamantaschen

1. Hamantaschen with Cranberry filling

About 25-27 medium (3-inch) cookies

Dough

1 & 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 egg

6 tablespoons butter, room temperature

1/3 cup sugar

1/4 teaspoon salt

3 & 1/2 tablespoon sour cream
Filling (recipe from King Arthur Flour company)

1/4 cup (57 g) orange juice

1/3 cup (71 g) light brown sugar, packed

1 cup (99 g) fresh or frozen cranberries

1/2 cup (57 g) dried cranberries

1 tablespoon (14 g) melted butter

1/8 teaspoon orange oil or 1 teaspoon grated orange rind

1 teaspoon Yuletide Cheer Spice or cinnamon

Egg wash

Remaining 1 tablespoon beaten egg

2 tablespoons water or milk

For filling combine the orange juice, brown sugar, and both types of cranberries in a small saucepan set over medium-low heat.

Cook the mixture, stirring occasionally, until it begins to thicken to a jam-like consistency, about 10 to 15 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the melted butter and spice.

Transfer the cranberry mixture to a heat-safe bowl and allow it to cool to room temperature.

The filling might be done in advance and kept in a covered container in a fridge. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before making hamantaschen.

For the dough, in a small bowl, beat lightly egg and remove

1 tablespoon of liquid and set aside for egg wash.

In a medium bowl, mix sour cream, salt, and beaten egg.

In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Pour sour cream mixture and briefly beat to combine everything.

In another medium bowl, mix baking powder and flour. Add flour mixture to wet ingredients and make a dough. Cover with a plastic wrap and place it to the refrigerator for about 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets.

Divide dough into 2 equal balls. On a lightly floured surface, roll one ball out to 1/4 inch in thickness.

Cut into circles using a cookie cutter (3-inch) or the rim of a drinking glass. Place cookies 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets. Spoon about 2 teaspoons of preserves into the center of each one. Pinch the edges to form three corners.

Re-roll the scraps and make more cookies. Repeat process with another ball.

For egg wash, mix remaining beaten egg and water. Brush each cookie.

Bake for 10 minutes on a lower-third shelf in the preheated oven and 10 minutes on the upper-third shelf, until lightly browned. Allow cookies to cool for 1 minute on the cookie sheet before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar (optional). Keep in an airtight container for a couple of days.

2. Lemon hamantaschen with Chocolate-Chestnut filling.

Yields 28 to 30 cookies

Lemon cookie dough

zest of one lemon

3/4 cup sugar

1 stick (1/2 cup) butter or margarine, softened

juice from 1 lemon

1 egg

2 cups flour (if you need more flour, please add a little bit)

1/2 tsp baking powder

1/4 tsp salt

Mix the lemon zest and sugar together, then let sit for 5 minutes.

Beat the butter and lemon sugar together until light and fluffy. Add in the egg, lemon juice and continue beating until combined.

Add the flour, baking powder and salt and mix until just combined. Gather the dough together and wrap in plastic, and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Chocolate Chestnut* filling from Giada de Laurentiis

2 cups roasted chestnuts

2/3 cup sugar

Pinch kosher salt

4 tablespoons amber rum

4 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa powder

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

1/2 cup (about 1 1/2 ounces) mini semisweet chocolate chips

* - Use Gefen Whole Roasted Peeled Chestnuts. Most big supermarkets carry this label.

Blend the chestnuts, sugar and salt in a food processor until the chestnuts are finely ground.

Add the rum, cocoa, cinnamon, cloves and ginger. Blend until the filling is almost smooth, scraping down the work bowl as necessary. Add the chocolate chips and pulse until combined. (Can be made 2 days in advance).

On a well-floured surface, roll the dough to about 1/4" thick. If it's very sticky, you may want to knead in some extra flour.

Using a 2 1/2" round cutter -



this can vary on your preference - cut out circles as close together as possible.

Place about 3/4 of a teaspoon of filling in the center of each circle. Fold up two sides of the circle, and pinch together well to seal, then repeat with the remaining side, pinching both corners.

Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 F for 12 to 15 minutes, until just beginning to brown at the corners. Let cool on the sheets for 5 minutes, then remove to a wire rack to cool completely

3. Cheesy Hamantaschen (Tweaked recipe from "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine)

Makes 2 1/2 dozen cookies.

1/2 cup butter or margarine, very soft

4 ounces sharp process American cheese, thinly grated (1 cup)

1 1/3 cups sifted all-purpose flour

2 tablespoons water

Filling

1 cup dried prunes (I took 1 1/2 cups prunes)

2-3 tablespoons apple juice (my addition)

1 cup granulated sugar (I took 1/2 cup)

Cream butter and cheese till

light. (I processed cheese in a food processor and added very soft butter) Blend sifted flour into creamed mixture. Add water and mix well. Chill 4-5 hours.

Meanwhile, prepare filling. I cooked prunes, sugar and apple juice on a medium heat for 10 minutes, cool and processed in a food processor until smooth. Divide chilled dough in half.

On a well-floured surface, roll the dough to about 1/4" thick. If it's very sticky, you may want to knead in some extra flour.

Using a 2 1/2" round cutter - this can vary on your preference - cut out circles as close together as possible.

Place about 3/4 of a teaspoon of filling in the center of each circle. Fold up two sides of the circle, and pinch together well to seal, then repeat with the remaining side, pinching both corners.

Brush with egg wash.

Bake on greased cookie sheet at 375F for 8-10 minutes.

Dust with confectioner's sugar. (optional)

CJN Bonus content: Online Edition only

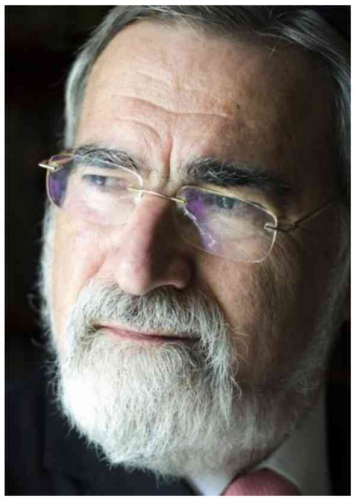
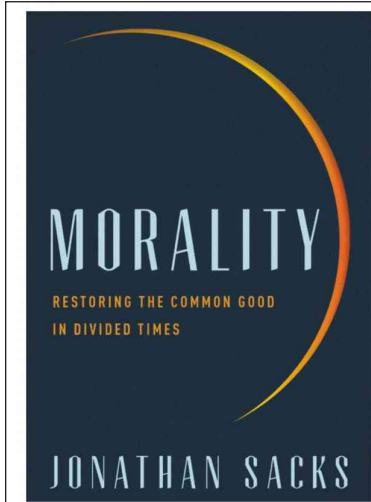


Why Do Jews Eat Hamantaschen on Purim?
from My Jewish Learning
More holiday history and videos can be found at www.myjewishlearning.com.



Make the perfect Hamantaschen
from My Jewish Learning/The Nosh
More recipes and videos can be found at www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh.

Jonathan Sacks' Final Book, Dozens of Others Win 2020 National Jewish Book Awards



would include an end to “cancel culture,” changes in Israeli policy and more encounters with people who hold different views — in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last summer.

Among the dozens of other new books drawing top honors was Rabbi Art Green’s “Judaism for the World: Reflections on God, Life, and Love,” which won the Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award for best book about contemporary Jewish life and practice. Green spoke to JTA last fall about his undeterred vision for a robust contemporary Jewish spirituality.

Magda Teter, a historian who teaches at Fordham University, won the The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award for books based on archival material for “Blood Libel: On the Trail of an Antisemitic Myth.” She spoke to JTA multiple times during 2020 about the

ways that the blood libel theme could be detected in the conspiracy theories reshaping American politics.

The top children’s book of 2020, according to the Jewish Book Council, was “Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail.” The book, about a cat that appears on a boy’s doorstep during his family’s Seder, also won a Sydney Taylor Book Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries this week.

Among the award-winning novels were Colum McCann’s “Apeirogon,” set in Israel and Palestine, and Max Gross’ “The Lost Shtetl,” about a Jewish village in Poland that the Nazis neglected to visit. McCann, who is not Jewish, told Kveller last February about the real grieving fathers who inspired his novel. Gross told Alma in October about his writing process, where he drew inspiration and what he

considers Jewish fiction.

The year’s Jane and Stuart Weitzman Family Award for cookbooks and food writing was “Now for Something Sweet,” by the Monday Morning Cooking Club, a group of six Jewish women who have been collecting recipes reflecting the diverse traditions of Australian Jews for years. They spoke about their project with The Nosh in 2017, on the occasion of their third cookbook release.

The full list of 2020 National Jewish Book Award winners and finalists can be found here. A virtual ceremony to honor the winners will take place April 12.

(JTA) — The final book published by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks before he died in November is the Jewish Book Council’s top book for 2020.

“Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times,” published in the United

States in September, was awarded the Everett Family Foundation Book of the Year when the Jewish Book Council announced its 2020 National Jewish Book Awards on Wednesday.

Sacks shared his vision for a moral future — one that he said

Facebook Debuts New Fact Check Box to Combat Holocaust Denial

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) January 27, 2021 — People who search for information about the Holocaust on Facebook will now be prompted to visit a website on the genocide curated by the World Jewish Congress and UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Starting January 27, which is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, users will see a box labeled “Learning About the Holocaust” when they search Holocaust terms. Similar boxes with resources pop up after searching about things such as the COVID-19 pandemic and U.S. elections.

“The Holocaust was the organized persecution and killing of 6 million Jewish people, alongside other targeted groups, by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II,” the box reads. “Learning about the Holocaust can help prevent future genocides and other acts of hatred based on religion, ethnicity or other differences.”

There is a link to aboutholocaust.org, a joint WJC and UNESCO site.

WJC President Ronald Lauder said the new tool could help counter Holocaust ignorance among the young. A study last fall on Gen Z views on the genocide found a widespread lack of subject on the subject — 11%



of respondents thought that Jews caused the Holocaust.

“It is saddening and disconcerting that 75 years after the end of World War II, roughly 50 percent of the world does not even know that the Holocaust occurred, or that Jews were targeted for genocide in Europe,” Lauder said in a statement.

Another factor spurring the prompt is the proliferation of hate speech on social media. Facebook has come under fire in recent years for not adequately stemming hate speech, incitement and disinformation. Last July, a campaign sponsored by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany produced videos of Holocaust survivors urging Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to take forceful steps to erase Holocaust de-

nial content from the site.

Facebook now works to remove hate speech, including Holocaust denial.

“At a time of rising hate and intolerance, taking time to read and reflect on what happened to Jews and others in Europe is more important than ever,” said Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, who is Jewish, in a news release.

Monica Bickert, Facebook’s vice president of content policy, spoke Wednesday on a panel

jointly organized by The Paley Center for Media and the Claims Conference, entitled “The Media’s Role in Combating Holocaust Denial, Misinformation and Anti-Semitism.”

“We’re thinking not just about removing hateful content; we are now removing anything that denies or distorts the Holocaust,” Bickert said on the panel, whose speakers also included Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss and Sara Bloomfield, the director of the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. “A really important part is using technology. We need to make sure we are harnessing the very positive power of social media to educate.”

Sign Up for our Tu B'Shvat Tree Giveaway!
Sunday February 7th from 2-3pm.
Hebrew Cemetery
1801 Statesville Ave.
This is a “drive through” event.

Sign up here:
<https://tbe.shulcloud.com/form/tu-bshvat.html>

This event made possible by a generous donation from the Charlotte Women of Wisdom.



a beneficiary agency of
Jewish Federation
 OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



SouthPark's perfect
senior living experience
doesn't exist yet.
WE'RE BUILDING IT.

Generations at Shalom Park will be the realization of a new vision in senior living.

Offering 125 spacious and contemporary independent living residences in an architecturally striking neighborhood, Generations—following Jewish tradition—will be a community where all are welcome. As an extension of the multi-generational Shalom Park campus, residents will enjoy access to remarkable resources and vibrant amenities like the Levine Jewish Community Center, including its state-of-the-art fitness center, educational opportunities, art studio, performance hall and much more.

Best of all, Generations will benefit from the experience of Aldersgate. Our affiliation will provide residents access to the full continuum of care—all from an area leader in senior living.

Live where you play, learn, laugh and love.

To learn more about this groundbreaking community and to secure limited-time Charter Member benefits worth more than \$50,000, call us at (704) 736-3343.



PROUDLY AFFILIATED WITH ALDERSGATE



Serving all faiths and beliefs.

generationsatshalompark.com
5935 Carnegie Blvd., Suite 101 • Charlotte, NC 28209

