

The Charlotte JEWISH news

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January 2021

Mayim Bialik Featured at 2021 Main Event



The Main Event is the Jewish Federation's highest-profile event of the year and officially kicks off our community's 2021 Annual Campaign. This year, Federation's co-chairs Jen and Andrew Rosen are excited to announce that we will welcome Mayim Bialik to the Main Event as our featured speaker on Sunday, January 31 at 7 p.m. Please join us virtually as Mayim will help us celebrate the work of Federation through stories of her own experiences. Mayim Bialik is an actress and neuroscientist who has received two Critics' Choice Awards, four Emmy Award nominations, and a Screen Actor's Guild nomination. Bialik's beloved roles as an actress over the years include the young version of Bette Midler's character in "Beaches," Blossom Russo in the iconic 90s sitcom "Blossom," and Amy Farrah in the hit CBS comedy "The Big Bang Theory."

An acclaimed author, Bialik has written two #1 New York

Times bestsellers: "Girling Up: How to Be Strong, Smart and Spectacular" and "Boying Up: How to Be Brave, Bold and Brilliant." She has also written a parenting book, "Beyond the Sling," and a cookbook, "Mayim's Vegan Table." Bialik has recently dedicated her skills as a writer, actress, neuroscientist, and mother to driving the lifestyle website GrokNation.com.

Following the end of "Blossom," Bialik left acting for 12 years to earn a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from UCLA with a minor in Hebrew and Jewish studies. She went on to complete her doctoral degree in neuroscience. While at UCLA, Bialik was a dedicated student leader in UCLA Hillel, conducting and writing music for UCLA's Jewish a cappella group.

The 700 tickets for last year's Main Event quickly sold out. This year, with our first virtual Main Event, there is no limit to how many people can join us to hear Mayim speak and support

the crucial work of Federation.

As our community continues to respond to these times with generosity and commitment, Federation's role continues to be vital. Together with you, our donors, and partners, we are always at work empowering our community and your Jewish experience. Your time to help is now.

Join us at the Main Event where you will have the opportunity to make your pledge to the 2021 Annual Campaign. Virtual tickets are \$36 and are available online at www.jewishcharlotte.org or by phone at 704-944-6757.

The mission of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education, planning and community building, Federation's mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions, and connections are preserved for current and future generations.



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

Charlotte's Outstanding Philanthropist Award: Eric and Lori Sklut Honored

Philanthropy is a time-honored tradition — in America, in Charlotte, and in Judaism. For sixty years, the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) has supported this critical work nationally and globally. For thirty-five of those years, the AFP's Charlotte chapter has been active. Recognizing the crucial role of the non-profit sector in supporting communal needs, in 1986, the White House declared November 15th National Philanthropy Day. Since that time, those who lead the way in community giving are celebrated in an annual ceremony. On November 12, 2020, Eric and Lori Sklut received Charlotte's regional award for "Outstanding Philanthropist." They joined the esteemed company of past recipients including Herman Blumenthal (1997), Leon and Sandra Levine



Eric and Lori Sklut

(Continued on page 3)

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From the Editor

The Power of the Arts to Heal and Unite



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

At the end of each year, dictionaries like Merriam Webster and Oxford along with media and news outlets nominate their “word of the year.” Not surprisingly, “pandemic,” “lockdown,” and “coronavirus” landed at the top 10 of nearly every list.

Two other words frequently noted were “unprecedented” and “divided.” (Ironically “unprecedented” was one of the words mentioned in Oxford’s “Words for an Unprecedented Year.” (Perhaps Oxford was trying to be clever.) These two have specifically caught my attention.

I hardly need to yet again list

the events and circumstances of the year that earned these words their place in 2020’s hall of fame of most (over)used words. We’ve beaten that poor horse. I’m less interested in an accounting of what we have endured than I am in a reflection on how we’ve responded.

Our responses varied. Some of us succumbed to anxiety and depression. Others explored new creative outlets. Some of us found ourselves embroiled in 140-character clashes with strangers. Others “pivoted” (another big word of the year) and engaged in rapid problem solving. That was then, and this is now.

It’s a new year, and we’ve mostly moved beyond the “shock” of 2020. Looking toward the future, many seem ready to meet the unprecedented year with understanding and the division with healing. An excellent way to do so is through the arts.

Literature, music, dance, theater, film — they transport us to obscured places within ourselves; they allow us to peek through the window of “the

other” and the unfamiliar. We can tread gently into our own awareness and experiences; we can travel at the speed of light to another country and culture or into a stranger’s thoughts, hopes, and feelings. When we say we are “moved” by a story, a song, or a film, we are quite literally starting in one place and ending in another. To quote two representatives from the National Endowment for the Arts:

“The arts matter because they help us see the world from different perspectives. They give us empathy and help us understand people, places, periods of history, and issues with which we may otherwise be unfamiliar. They comfort us in grief and energize us in celebration. They are important because they can act as a catalyst for change...they can start a revolution! The arts ignite something in our brains that I can’t explain, but I know it’s essential for life.” — Jennie Terman

“The arts matter because they allow us to express ourselves and illustrate the world around us in a different light, helping us to gain understanding, build com-

munities, and give hope.” — Kelli Rogowski

This month’s Charlotte Jewish News illustrates the vibrancy of the arts, even during a pandemic. We hope this issue will help you take advantage of the many opportunities highlighted in the coming months.

Of special note, of course, is the opportunity to participate in Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Main Event to kick off the 2021 Annual Campaign, featuring celebrated author and actress Mayim Bialik (page one).

The Cultural Arts Department of the Levine Jewish Community Center has worked hard to plan this year’s Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, award-winning films right into your living room (page three).

If literature is more your thing, you might enjoy “Overbooked: Strong Women, Extraordinary Circumstances: A Monthly Women’s Book and Author Series,” a program of the Jewish Federation’s Women Philanthropy and The Center for Jewish Education (page six).

Sue’s Bookshelf by Sue Littauer is always an excellent

source of book recommendations and reviews and of interesting opportunities to hear directly from authors, including the Center for Jewish Education’s Book Club Zoom event with writer A.J. Sidransky, author of “The Interpreter” and many other novels of suspenseful, historical fiction (page five).

Rabbi Tracy Klirs shares an insightful book review of local author Herbert Foster’s book, “Ghetto to Ghetto: Yiddish and Jive in Everyday Life” (page nine).

And because we know it is never too early to introduce children to the arts and reading, this month’s CJN includes “Debby’s Bookshelf: Best Loved Children’s Books” with Miss Debby of the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library sharing her favorite selection of children’s books.

We may be staying physically close to home, but with so many offerings, we can still enjoy the arts that offer us a chance to develop understanding and to take a deep breath and begin to heal.

Shira

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times January

Friday, January 1, 5:04 p.m.
Friday, January 8, 5:10 p.m.
Friday, January 15, 5:17 p.m.
Friday, January 22, 5:24 p.m.



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Published monthly except July



A JEWISH JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD

A culinary series that offers a diverse, eclectic perspective on Jewish cooking, culture and history. You can register for one or all of the sessions at www.jewishcharlotte.org

January 24: Boris Fishman

Boris Fishman is the author of “Savage Feast.” Come aboard for a culinary trip through Boris’s family history as an immigrant from Belarus

February 7: Mandy Silverman

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

March 21: Michael Solomonov — Passover Cooking Demo

Israeli chef and restaurateur, known for his Philadelphia restaurant, Zahav, Michael Solomonov is the winner of the James Beard Foundation awards for Best Chef.

April 18: Julia Turshen

Author of “Now and Again,” Julia Turshen is an American cookbook author, food writer, cook, and food equity advocate. “Epicurious” has called Julia one of the 100 Greatest Home Cooks of All Time, and The New York Times has described her “at the forefront of the new generation of authentic, approachable authors.”

May 23: Jamie Geller

Jamie Geller is the author of “The Joy of Kosher” cooking series and “Jewish by Jamie,” an Israeli-American food writer, celebrity chef, television producer, and businesswoman. She is an author of several cookbooks and the founder of the Kosher Media Network. Geller hosts online cooking shows called the “Joy of Kosher” cooking series.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

NEXTGEN
Charlotte

Eric and Lori Sklut: Outstanding Philanthropists Continued

(Continued from page 1)

(2004), Howard Levine (2015), and Alfred and Amy Levine Dawson (2018) to name a few.

For Lori and Eric Sklut, giving is core to their being. The Jewish ethic of tzedakah, of righteous giving, is central to their consciousness. Their foundation seeks to improve the human condition. Their gifts are far-reaching. They address hunger, support hospice, healthcare, arts and culture, and ensure excellence in Jewish studies and Jewish organizations across our state. Rabbi Judy Schindler, whose title as the Sklut professor of Jewish Studies at Queens University of Charlotte bears their name, commented that “Lori and Eric’s gifts are lifesaving and soul saving. There is not a day in the calendar year where the fruits of their gifts do not sustain our community on both physical and spiritual levels.”

Loaves and Fishes, an ecumenical organization addressing food insecurity, nominated the Skluts for this year’s Outstanding Philanthropist award. They were joined by others with letters of support, including Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Atrium Health Foundation, and Queens University. Tina Postel, executive director at Loaves and Fishes remarked that the Skluts are “philanthropists down to the

bone.” She notes that one of the things that makes them special is their authenticity. They take the time to ask what her clients need and listen to the answer. When COVID hit, the Skluts immediately reached out to them to see what was needed.

The Skluts are interested in more than writing a check, however. They want to invest in a better community as well as inspire philanthropy in others. Matches are one way they do that. Their match with Loaves and Fishes gave people the opportunity to make a difference with their contributions, whether they had \$1 or \$100 to give.

The Skluts’ immense investment in North Carolina extends to our institutions of higher learning. They have maintained a deep and long relationship of support with University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Eric’s alma mater) where they established the Levine-Sklut Distinguished Professorship, in partnership with Lori’s parents, Leon and Sandra Levine, in 2007. Over the years, Lori and Eric also generously supported UNC-Chapel Hill’s Jewish Studies Graduate Student Fund, Undergraduate Experiential Learning Fund, and Student Interns Support Fund.

In 2010, their focus turned

to Elon University, as their son, Mason, matriculated as a freshman. They chaired the Jewish Life Advisory Council with staff, academics, and parents to support President Lambert’s vision for an expanded Jewish Studies program. They subsequently created the Lori and Eric Sklut Endowed Professorship in Jewish Studies in 2012 and supported the construction of the Sklut Hillel Center, inspiring a campaign that would be supported widely and broadly — endowing the Hillel the program for the long-term future.

In 2017, the Skluts chose a third campus closer to home, Queens University of Charlotte, where they established a Sklut Professorship of Jewish Studies ensuring that Jewish Studies would be an enduring part of the Queens’ campuses fabric. President Dan Lugo of Queens University remarked, “Their gifts to Queens University have been transformative. Their generosity has had an immeasurable impact on laying the groundwork for Queens University to emerge as a regional leader in interfaith engagement. Not a week goes by where our Jewish Studies programs are not reaching students from across the city. Not a beat has been missed during the COVID-19 crisis, as Jewish

studies continue online to use the wellspring of Jewish wisdom to enlighten, inspire, and build bridges of connection and concern.”

The breadth and depth of Eric and Lori’s commitment to building up Jewish Studies and Jewish Life in North Carolina’s institutes of higher learning with time, talent, and resources is unmatched.

That the Skluts follow a long tradition of Charlotte Jews who are celebrated for supporting community needs should be no surprise. Giving to support communal needs is part of the fabric

of Jewish culture and the Jewish faith extending back to ancient times. The Talmud notes that in the Jerusalem Temple there was a Chamber of the Silent, where the rich gave their money and the poor received funds, each not knowing the other’s identity. The Skluts take upon themselves that responsibility of lifting up the community. In accepting the award, Lori commented, “Hopefully we will come out of COVID next year. It has made everyone realize what’s really important in life. It’s not about the things we acquire but helping those who are less fortunate.”

The Show Must Go On: 2021 Charlotte Film Festival



By Susan Gundersheim

Experience the 2021 Charlotte Film Festival from the comfort of your own home!

The year 2020 has been a year like no other, with very few things you can count on to stay the same. One thing that remains constant is the power of the arts to inspire, heal, and bring

communities together. Another constant is the commitment of The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival (CJFF), a program of The Cultural Arts Department at The Levine Jewish Community Center, to remain a premier cultural event in Charlotte, even if the destination is your couch! We are pleased to announce our ex-

citing 17th season that will take place February 6-February 29, 2021, in an all-virtual format. We are thrilled that our marketing, our ticketing process, the actual viewing of the films, and the exciting Q & A opportunities will be located on one single platform, Eventive. We know this will be a big change for everyone, but we are confident that silver linings will be discovered and enjoyed!

We could not provide this cultural opportunity to our community without the generous and loyal support of The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Our corporate partners, especially Hearst Service Center, Hearst Entertainment & Syndication, and South State Bank, along with our individual patrons and community partners have remained. A big thank-you to our Screening Committee members Jeff Turk (chair), Stephanie

(Continued on page 4)



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Charlotte Jewish Film Festival Continued



"Here We Are," winner of four Ophir awards

(Continued from page 3)

Bensinger, Charlie Gale, Bob Ecker, Gene Kavadlo, Bob Kipnis, Eric Laxer, Judy Laxer, Ross Levin, Michael Lieberman, Gale Osborne, Floyd Patten, and Marcia Stern for their tireless dedication and for selecting a diverse and interesting 10-film slate. The All Festival Pass (10 films per device per household) will be available for \$100 through January 15 and \$110 from January 16 to February 6. All Festival Passes and tickets to individual films (\$12 per device per household) can only be purchased online by visiting charlottejewishfilm.com, which will immediately

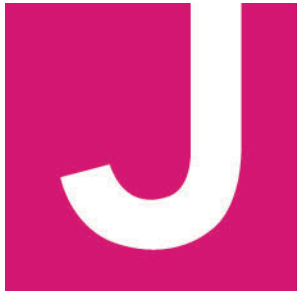
direct you to our new Eventive site. If you need assistance, many choices will be available to you once you get to the site. Not only can you view the films from your own home, but you will also be able to choose when to view the films. Three to four films will be released each week, giving everyone the opportunity to select a specific viewing time. Enjoying special opening and closing night Zoom celebrations along with many Zoom Q & As and panel discussions will be the next best thing to sitting in a theater together. More details will be on the site,

but here are a few highlights of our exciting 17th season: "Crescendo" will be our opening film, sponsored by Hadassah. When a world-famous conductor tries to create an Israeli-Palestinian orchestra, it takes all of his skill and resources to overcome the discord and get the group to play in harmony. On Sunday, February 7 at 3 p.m., we join together with The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice to present a Zoom panel discussion moderated by Rabbi Judy Schindler. "Shared Legacies" is the often forgotten story of the coalition and friendship between the Jews and African Americans; we will discuss the film and how we can use its lessons to bring more unity to our Charlotte community. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is our largest sponsor, and we are grateful to collaborate with them on the film "The Passengers," a story of two men caught between two worlds — the land of their birth and the land of their faith. Approximately 9,000 Ethiopian Jews are members of a community who speak Hebrew, keep kosher, and

have Israeli relatives, yet Israel continues to deny their appeals for aliyah — the birthright of Jews around the world to immigrate to the Jewish homeland. We welcome filmmaker Ryan Porush to a Zoom Q & A on Wednesday, February 17 to discuss this powerful film and what we can do to help this cause. The powerful film "Here We Are," which just won four Ophir awards including Best Director, is a soulful drama exploring family ties, the rights of those with disabilities, and the sadness of aging. We are proud to partner with Jewish Family Services and incredibly fortunate to welcome director Nir Bergman for a Zoom Q & A on Sunday, February 21 at 3 p.m. Temple Beth El joins forces with REEL OUT Charlotte (the LGBTQ+ film festival) to bring a wonderful documentary "Latter Day Jew," which follows H. Alan Scott, a writer-comedian/cancer survivor, who happens to be gay, and a former Mormon who converted to Judaism. We will enjoy spending time with H. Alan on Zoom on Wednesday February 24 at 7 p.m.

And finally, our closing film will be "Tango Shalom," an inspirational and joyful celebration of Hasidic Jewish life, one dazzling dance step at a time. To close out our virtual festival, we will meet stars Renee Taylor, Judi Beecher, director Gabriel Bologna, and producers Jos Laniado & Claudio Laniado for a Zoom Q & A on Sunday, February 28 at 3 p.m., followed by our closing night Zoom celebration. We are very excited about our 17th CJFF season, and we plan to make the most of the opportunities that going virtual will bring. CJFF is a wonderful community event that is not to be missed. Please think of some new friends or family you can invite to the film festival, and this year it doesn't even matter whether they live in Charlotte. We can't wait to laugh, cry, think, and feel — together in spirit — this year!





THE LEVINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

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2021 CORE FESTIVAL

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January 16 - February 6

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December 15 - February 6



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Inspiration.
Innovation.
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~ Sue's Bookshelf ~ By Sue Littauer



Sue Littauer

On January 13, author A.J. Sidransky will join our Center for Jewish Education Book Club over Zoom. I was completely hooked when I read A.J. Sidransky's novel "The Interpreter" and raved about it in a previous column. "The Interpreter" is a suspenseful, first-rate novel of historical fiction that has it all — love, hatred, heartbreak, family loyalty, danger, and courage. Hoping to find the answers about what happened during the war to his extended family and the woman he loves, U.S. Army officer Kurt Berlin returns to Europe in 1945 to accept the post of interpreter in the OSS interrogation of a captured Nazi war criminal. "The Interpreter" is the first installment in the author's upcoming "Justice" series.

In anticipation of our upcoming meeting with A.J. Sidransky, I was eager to read his award-winning Kurchenko and Gonzalez Mystery series. I was completely engaged in the lives of the detectives and the continuing story of the Rothman family. The first book, "Forgiving Stephen Redmond," was a National Jewish Book Awards finalist for Debut Fiction in 2013, and the second book, "Forgiving Mariela Camacho," received the David Award for Best Mystery 2016.

The third book in the series, "Forgiving Stephen Redmond," is being published this month, but it's actually the second book in the series. Sound confusing? Sidransky wrote his new book to answer questions left unresolved in his first book, "Forgiving Maximo Rothman" and in his second, "Forgiving Mariela Camacho." The family histories throughout the novels give us slices of Jewish journeys from Siberia to Sosua in the Dominican Republic and finally the Washington Heights neighborhood in New York City. These mysteries are riveting, the

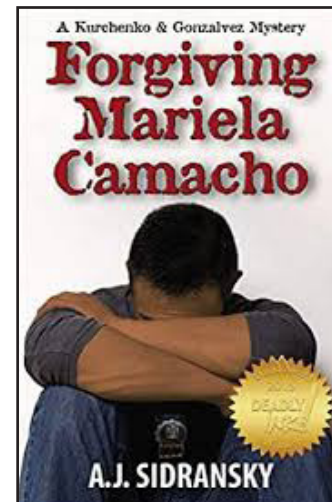
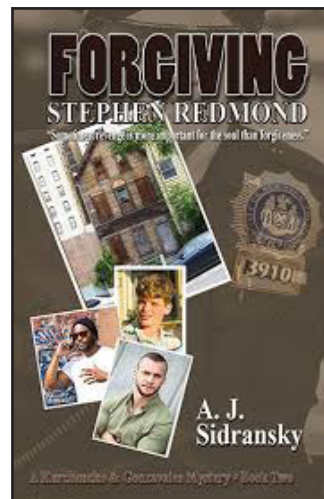
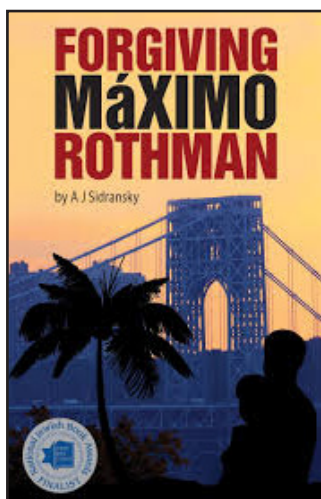
characters are well drawn, and the theme of forgiveness is interwoven throughout in a beautiful and meaningful way. It is important to read the mysteries in the following order:

- "Forgiving Maximo Rothman"
- "Forgiving Stephen Redmond"
- "Forgiving Mariela Camacho"

Curious why the author focuses on mystery-based historical fiction, I searched his website and found this explanation: "As an avid student of history, I focus on the personal experience of everyday people faced with extraordinary circumstances. What does one do when faced with events beyond their control? As a member of a family ravaged by the Holocaust, I am determined to tell the stories of refugees and survivors I've known. (However my) telling the stories of adversity isn't limited to the Holocaust. I hope to bring to light the stories of those who have triumphed over oppression, from Hitler's Germany to Soviet Russia, from Trujillo's Dominican Republic to Castro's Cuba, to the struggles of two peoples in the Holy Land and beyond."

I hope you'll join us on January 13, when A.J. Sidransky is the special guest for our book club. To receive the link or for additional information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.

All books are available for checkout at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library.



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A.J. Sidransky

Overbooked: Strong Women, Extraordinary Circumstances — A Monthly Women's Book and Author Series

Join Jewish Federation's Women Philanthropy and the Center for Jewish Education for a new monthly book and author series highlighting Jewish women authors and the bold stories

they tell. Starting in January through June, this monthly series will feature a virtual author presentation accompanied by Q & A with audience members. Prepare to laugh, cry, and be

inspired while connecting with other women in our community.

Although this series is open to all women in our community, members of Federation's Lion of Judah, Pomegranate, and Pearl Societies will enjoy access to additional exclusive virtual events. To learn more about Federation's giving societies, please contact Ilana Toch at ilana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org.

Kicking off this series is Bess Kalb, author of "Nobody Will Tell You This but Me, A True (as Told to Me) Story." Kalb, an Emmy-nominated TV writer, tells the story of four generations of women: Bess's great-grandmother, a refugee from Russian pogroms; her mother, a '70s reb-

el; and Bess herself — but most of all, her grandmother Bobby, the irrepressible, glamorous, unapologetically opinionated love of her life. Through interviews with her mother and grandfather, voicemails, and nostalgic memorabilia, Kalb commemorates her beloved grandmother, honoring her legacy and inimitable character. "Nobody Will Tell You This but Me" marks the creation of a totally new, virtuosic form of memoir — a reconstruction of a beloved grandmother's words and wisdom to tell her family's story with equal parts poignancy and hilarity.

Join Bess Kalb as she discusses her debut memoir with Tracy Brown, community member and

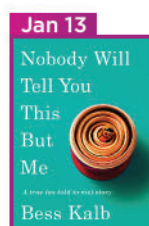
a member of the Jewish Book Council Executive Board.

Interested in elevating your reading experience? Make sure to check out the curated "book box" that will accompany each author presentation, including a signed copy of the book, discussion guide, and special treats!

For more information and registration, visit: www.jewishcharlotte.org.



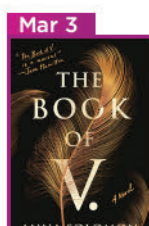
Overbooked: Strong Women, Extraordinary Circumstances A Monthly Women's Book And Author Series



Nobody Will Tell You This But Me
Bess Kalb



24/6
Tiffany Shlain



The Book of V
Anna Solomon



Donna Has Left the Building
Susan Gilman



The Boys Club
Erica Katz



What We Will Become
Mimi Lemay

Add These To Your Calendar ASAP!



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Do It Jewish with PJ@ Home Kits

Since 2013, PJ Library in Charlotte has been offering families raising young children a variety of quality programs and experiences through which to engage and connect Jewishly. Now PJ Library Charlotte has something new to offer families. We have created an exciting and accessible way for families to DIJ — Do it Jewish — in the comfort and safety of their own homes. Introducing: PJ @

Home, monthly kits for families raising Jewish children (geared for children ages 2-8 years old).

Each kit will focus on a different Jewish value, concept, or holiday. It will include a parent guide and DIJ activities that will merge Jewish and STEAM concepts, providing parents with a blended Jewish and secular education for their child. Kits will be offered to families at no cost — one kit per household. Janu-



ary's kit highlights bagels, complete with dough to make your own bagels at home.

This initiative is made possible through a grant from the Jewish Federation's Transformation & Adaptation Fund. The kits reflect the awareness that with most synagogues and Jewish organizations limited, or even closed, homes are now the center of the Jewish experience. As the COVID pandemic extends into a new year, we are taking these additional steps to make home practice easier to access.

PJ @ Home kits will begin in mid-January and continue through June, with monthly registration for each kit. For more information or to register, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.

Questions? Please contact Debby Block, Center for Jewish Education program coordinator, at debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6780.



A JEWISH JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD

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

**Sunday, Jan. 24th
@ 4pm**

Boris Fishman

author of "Savage Feast" A culinary trip through Boris' family history as an imigrant from Belarus. Boris will be preparing Banosh (polenta with mushrooms and feta)



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

~ Miss Debby's Bookshelf ~

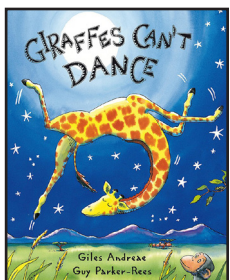
Best-loved Children's Books

By Miss Debby



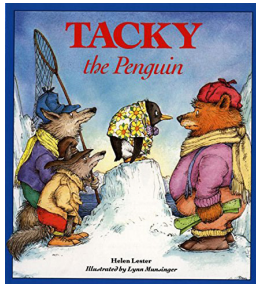
Welcome to Miss Debby's best-loved children's literature! Throughout my tenure as a storyteller and librarian at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, parents and teachers have often asked me to recommend appropriate books for their children. My top recommendations are now being launched into a column in the Charlotte Jewish News. Every month, I will recommend top-quality children's literature on a variety of age-appropriate themes. All the recommended books will be available in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education and may be borrowed in person (visits available by appointment only), or books may be reserved and available for curbside pickup. For more information, please call 704-944-6783, email us at library@jewishcharlotte.org, or visit our website www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje.

The theme for this month's books is children's books to inspire self-confidence. All recommended books are based on the Jewish concept Adam Yehidi Nivrah — every person is a unique creation.



"Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae

With colorful illustrations and lilting rhymes, this book is one of my all-time favorites. Gerald the giraffe is different from all the other animals in the jungle because he cannot dance the way the others can. When it comes time for a dance contest, Gerald is mocked, and he sadly retreats to be left alone. This story helps children build empathy for others and shares the message that it is okay to be yourself because we all "dance" to our own beat. Recommended for ages 2-6 years old.



"Tacky the Penguin" by Helen Lester

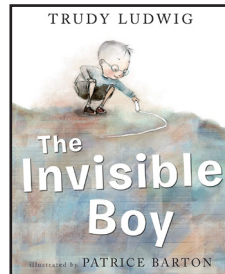
Tacky is not like the other penguins. He is loud and klutzy and wears bright-colored clothing. He clearly does not blend in with the other penguins Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect. When the hunters appear, Tacky's unusual mannerisms are just what is needed to save all the penguins. This book inspires everyone to embrace their inner Tacky and "be yourself!" Recommended for ages 3-8 years old.



"Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon" by Patty Lovell

"Walk proudly as you can and the world will look up to you," says Molly Lou's grandma. Brimming with positive affirmations, this picture book deals directly with being the best you can be no matter how small you may be and no matter what obstacles you may encounter. I love this book not only for the confidence-building messages

but also for the vibrant illustrations. Recommended for ages 3-7 years old.



"The Invisible Boy" by Trudy Ludwig

Believe it or not, I was a very shy and quiet child — so this book truly speaks to me. Nobody — not even the teacher — seems to notice Brian, who is very timid. When a new Korean boy joins the class, Brian extends a welcoming hand, and their friendship creates a beautiful tale of inclusion. Author Trudy Ludwig's work focuses on helping children cope with and thrive in their social world. Illustrator Patrice Barton adds exquisite, pastel illustrations of Brian evolving from a portrayal in black-and-white to full color. "The Invisible Boy" is not only a PJ Library selection but also a choice of the Children's Theater of Charlotte for its series to promote kindness. Recommended for preschool-grade 3.



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 - 1:30 pm
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2021 LOCAL BENEFICIARY AGENCIES \$3,377,844

Anti-Defamation League	\$2,000
<i>Our nation's premier civil rights/human relations organization.</i>	
BBYO	\$15,000
<i>Youth-led, worldwide organization, promoting Jewish identity and personal growth among Jewish teens.</i>	
Ballantyne Jewish Center	\$15,000
<i>Provides one week of Jewish winter camp and three weeks of Jewish summer camp to children in the greater Ballantyne area.</i>	
Birthright Israel	\$5,000
<i>Young adults traveling to Israel.</i>	
Butterfly Project	\$10,000
<i>Educates the community on the lessons of the Holocaust.</i>	
Center for Jewish Education	\$188,161
<i>Promotes the advancement of lifelong Jewish education, learning and literacy.</i>	
Chabad Lake Norman	\$6,000
<i>Create a dynamic, family-oriented center to enhance the Lake Norman Jewish Community.</i>	
Charlotte Community Agencies	\$11,204
<i>Crisis Assistance Ministries, Mecklenburg Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, Hospice Charlotte, Safe Alliance, Urban Ministries and CBI.</i>	
Charlotte Jewish Day School	\$177,000
<i>Quality Jewish day school serving students from Kindergarten through 5th grade</i>	
Charlotte Jewish Film Festival	\$8,000
<i>Illuminates global Jewish experiences through film.</i>	
Charlotte Jewish Preschool	\$65,000
<i>Quality Jewish preschool educational program and full-day childcare facility.</i>	
Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies	\$21,000
<i>An enriched Judaic program for Charlotte-area teens.</i>	
Foundation of Shalom Park	\$431,422
<i>Provides rent and security subsidies for Jewish agencies in Shalom Park, helping to keep operational expenses to a minimum.</i>	
Friendship Circle	\$26,000
<i>Creates lasting friendships between Jewish teens and children with special needs.</i>	
Hebrew Cemetery	\$23,000
<i>Provides a dignified final resting place for the Charlotte Jewish community.</i>	
Jewish Community Relations Council	\$139,537
<i>Promotes the interest of the Charlotte Jewish community by creating working relations with our neighbors and serving as the collective voice of the Jewish community.</i>	
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	\$1,500
<i>Serves as representative voice of the American Jewish community.</i>	
Jewish Council of Lake Norman	\$15,000
<i>Community programming to enrich and strengthen Jewish life in the Lake Norman area.</i>	
Jewish Educational Loan Fund	\$3,600
<i>Provides interest-free loans to college students in the Southeast.</i>	
Jewish Experience Fund	\$3,000
<i>Subsidies for summer camps and other Jewish youth experience opportunities.</i>	
Jewish Family Services	\$289,000
<i>Professional counseling, family education programs, and social services.</i>	
Jewish Family Services Tzedakah Fund	\$15,000
<i>Emergency financial assistance and loans to assist local Jewish families in need.</i>	
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte	
Development	\$559,650
Administration, Operations, Finance, and Marketing	\$376,001
Education and Engagement	\$51,666
Jewish Preschool on Sardis	\$30,000
<i>Quality Jewish preschool educational program.</i>	
Moishe House	\$15,000
<i>Provides meaningful Jewish experiences for young adults in their 20s as they create a vibrant home-based Jewish community.</i>	
North Carolina Council on the Holocaust	\$8,000
<i>Holocaust educational workshops and displays for public and private school teachers.</i>	

Record Allocations \$4,493,249*

*total amount net of campaign shrinkage and reserves

North Carolina Hillel	\$55,000
<i>Promotes Jewish life on college campuses across North Carolina.</i>	
PJ Library	\$23,766
<i>Strengthen the identities of Jewish families and their relationships to the Jewish community by offering free, high quality Jewish books and music to families raising Jewish children ages six months through eight years.</i>	
Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center	\$307,000
<i>Enriches Jewish lives through cultural, educational and athletic programming.</i>	
Shalom Green	\$5,900
<i>Shalom Park Environmental Initiative promoting Jewish values through sustainable living, a community garden, and educational programming.</i>	
Shalom Park Freedom School	\$17,000
<i>Embraces Jewish values and builds Jewish identity by providing a summer enrichment program for children of poverty in CMS schools.</i>	
Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice	\$24,000
<i>Provides educational programs based on lessons of the Holocaust as well as current events with a focus on antisemitism.</i>	
Supplemental Gifts and Special Distributions	\$359,299
<i>Provides customized giving opportunities over and above Annual Campaign gifts, enabling donors to maximize their giving potential and fulfill their philanthropic goals. Includes American Jewish World Service, Bernstein Leadership, Birthright Israel, Blumenthal Educator Resource Center, CJE Campaign, Campaign and Women's Philanthropy Event Sponsorships, Community Building Initiative, Gorelick Teens to Israel, Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, PJ Library, and Mission Subsidies</i>	
Temple Beth El	\$12,000
<i>Provides Jewish Identity and engagement opportunities for the baby boomer and empty-nester populations.</i>	
Temple Kol Ami	\$6,380
<i>Strives to be a voice for the diverse Jewish community of the greater York County, SC area.</i>	
Temple Kol Tikvah	\$8,250
<i>Provide a spiritual home and strengthen the Jewish community in the Lake Norman area.</i>	
Temple Solel	\$7,500
<i>Sustains future generations of the South Carolina Jewish community with expanded programming for adults and children.</i>	
The Ruach	\$6,000
<i>Through Jewish musical experiences, help inspire positive connections with Judaism.</i>	
Tikvah Charlotte	\$7,500
<i>Jewish education for children with special needs.</i>	
Uptown Chabad	\$12,500
<i>Provides networking and Jewish connections for Jewish young adults.</i>	
ZAB'S Place	\$15,000
<i>Provides workplace training and experience for Jewish young adults with special needs.</i>	

2021 ADAPTATION AND TRANSFORMATION FUND GRANTEES \$228,454

The newly established Adaptation & Transformation Fund provides grants that support programs, services, and initiatives focused on the most pressing issues of the day, with an emphasis on strategic, creative and bold thinking. The JFGC Board designated priorities for 2021 include an organizational commitment to transformation and adaptation in response to COVID-19 and to educate, engage, and act on issues of racism and racial justice.

COVID-19

Chabad of Lake Norman	\$2,500	Jewish Federation: NextGen	\$18,836
Charlotte Jewish Day School	\$8,946	Jewish Preschool on Sardis	\$12,000
Charlotte Jewish Preschool	\$15,000	North Carolina Hillel Shalom	\$15,000
Foundation of Shalom Park	\$15,000	Green	\$5,500
Hebrew Cemetery	\$4,297	Temple Beth El	\$22,000
Jewish Family Services	\$18,000		

Racial Justice

Foundation of Shalom Park	\$32,000	Stan Greenspon Center For	\$10,000
Jewish Federation: JCRC & CJE	\$28,000	Peace and Social Justice	
Jewish Preschool on Sardis	\$1,375	Temple Beth El	\$13,500
Moishe House	\$3,700	Temple Kol Ami	\$2,800

ISRAEL AND OUR GLOBAL FAMILY \$886,951

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✦ Educating 4 Excellence	✦ Jewish Federations of North America	✦ Ulpanit Mevaseret Baruch
✦ Ethiopian National Project	✦ Jewish Agency: Argentina	✦ Yerucham Association
✦ Gidon Association/Maksam	✦ Jewish Agency: Amigour Senior Housing	
✦ Hadera Young Adult Center	✦ JDC: FSU Welfare	
✦ Hand in Hand: Jewish-Arab Education	✦ Krembo Wings	
	✦ Partnership2Gether - Hadera Eiron	

“Ghetto to Ghetto: Yiddish and Jive in Everyday Life”



Reviewed by Rabbi
Tracy G. Klirs

While many books and articles have been written about the respective influences of Yiddish and Black dialect (colloquially known as “Jive”) on American language and culture, Herbert L. Foster’s new book is almost certainly the first that examines the outsized impact that both have had on popular usage. Dr. Foster, professor emeritus in the Graduate School of Education at the State University of New York, Buffalo, came by his Yiddish naturally growing up in Brooklyn in the 20s and 30s. He first became acquainted with Jive through his associations and friendships with Black students during his college years and subsequently as a teacher in the NYC public school system. Dr. Foster wrote his Ed.D. dissertation on Black English.

As for his motivation for writing this new book, Foster states in his conclusion, “My main objective at the start of this book was to bring to light that a majority of us are unmindful of the Yiddish and Jive lexicon usage that is omnipresent in our midst. Indeed, more often than not, we neither knew that a word was either Yiddish or Jive, nor what the word’s real definition was.” But in his preface, he also made known a deeper motivation: “Both Yiddish and Jive, to some extent, reflect the underlying spirit of two peoples who have faced innumerable adversities. But most important, it also seems appropriate that I research and publish this Yiddish and Jive book because historically American Jews and Blacks have been involved in a longtime special relationship – sometimes positive and sometimes negative, sometimes as an alliance and, unfortunately, sometimes in conflict. Perhaps, Jews and Blacks will find some additional commonalities that could bring them closer together while being more understanding and respectful of one another.”

The main part of “Yiddish & Jive” is a lexicon, arranged alphabetically with examples from both Yiddish and Jive interspersed. Foster’s examples are illustrated through quotes he has come across in literature, TV, advertisements, personal interviews and correspondence, photos of signs, newspaper clippings, advertisements, license plates, movie posters, and more. I found many of the entries to be highly informative and entertaining. As something of a Yiddish maven myself, I was familiar with virtually all of his Yiddish entries but nonetheless enjoyed the novelty of the specific examples Foster quoted. The amount of ink devoted to each term seems to have no relation to its significance, merely to the number and length of the quotes or anecdotes Foster was able to amass. Hence, four pages are devoted to “maven”, whereas “kvetch” only receives one line.

When it comes to the Jive lexicon, I realize how little I actually knew. Having attended predominantly Black public schools from sixth to 12th grade, I thought I had a decent command of Black vernacular. Foster’s book quickly proved me wrong, as I learned dozens of new terms (one of which is “playin’ the dozens”), I also was surprised to learn the Jive origins of some terms that are so widespread that we all use them organically, such as “get-go” and “the Big Apple.”

One of my favorite chapters is Gentile Yiddish Speakers. Apparently James Cagney, Ralph Ellison, and Sir Michael Caine all spoke fluent Yiddish. Colin

Powell, Burt Lancaster, and Paul Robeson all knew some Yiddish, though Colin Powell has frequently debunked rumors that he is fluent in the language. There’s also a chapter on Shabbos Goys, which includes famous personages and celebrities from Mario Cuomo to Elvis Presley and U.S. presidents Harry S. Truman and

Do you know these Jive words?

Get-go: beginning, start
Showboating: showing off
Threads: clothing, especially stylish or hip clothing

Do you know these Yiddish words?

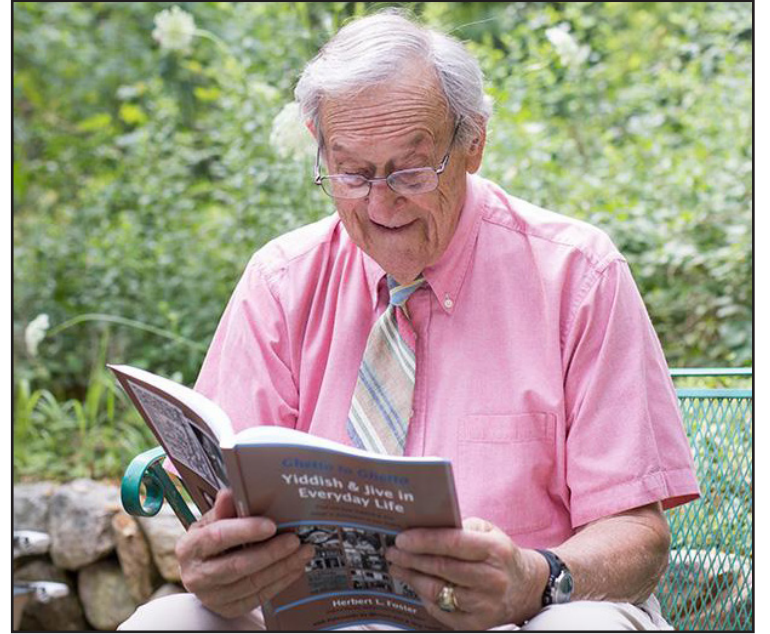
Shrek: fear, fright, terror or alarm

Glitch: a mistake

Shtick: piece of something, a characteristic physical or vocal device used often by actors and others

Barack Obama. The chapter on Black Community Social History is extremely informative and helpful, though I must warn you that it contains a poem (an example of “The Signifying Monkey”) that is outright obscene.

But for me the single biggest surprise in this unique and quirky book is what is sure to endear it to my fellow Charlotteans. I stumbled across the first exam-



Herbert J. Foster

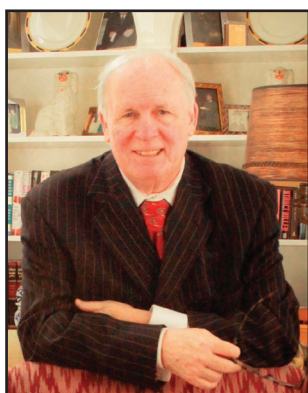
ple on page 22 and continued to find more throughout the book — and that is a Charlotte connection. The book is sprinkled with photos taken in Charlotte and references to Charlotte events, sports teams, and so on. It wasn’t until about halfway through the book that I was able to figure out why — it turns out the author’s daughter, Donna Foster, a professional photographer, lives in Charlotte. Among the tidbits of local Charlotte flavor that can be found scattered throughout the book are the annual Booty Loop cancer fundraiser, the Charlotte Bobcats, Phil’s Deli, the former Phat Burrito and Menchie’s restaurants, and (spoiler alert) my fave, a photo of my dear friend and colleague Cantor Elias

Roochvarg in his full High Holy Day regalia, holding up his now legendary custom license plate that reads: IMDCANTR.

“Ghetto to Ghetto: Yiddish & Jive in Everyday Life” is an easy read, filled with delightful anecdotes and illustrations, which is sure to both entertain and explain. The book is charming, fun, and informative and should be a worthwhile read for anyone interested in the enormous and enduring impact of Yiddish and/or Black vernacular on American culture and the English language or, for that matter, anyone who loves the quirky, the idiosyncratic, and the bizarre. A mishmash of fabulous, funky and fly facts, this book is dope, and that’s no drek.



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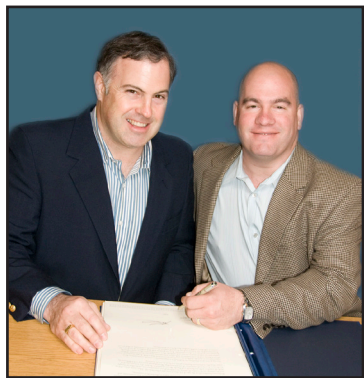
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Kevin Levine and Louis Sinkoe Legacy Profile



Kevin Levine and Louis Sinkoe

We learned from both of our parents the importance of giving back and leaving the world and our community a better place. They inspired us through their actions and set examples for us to follow throughout our lives. The teachings of Judaism remind us that we are judged by our actions and not our words. It is these teachings, our own experience growing up in this community, and the memory of our parents, that have inspired our legacy to the Jewish community.

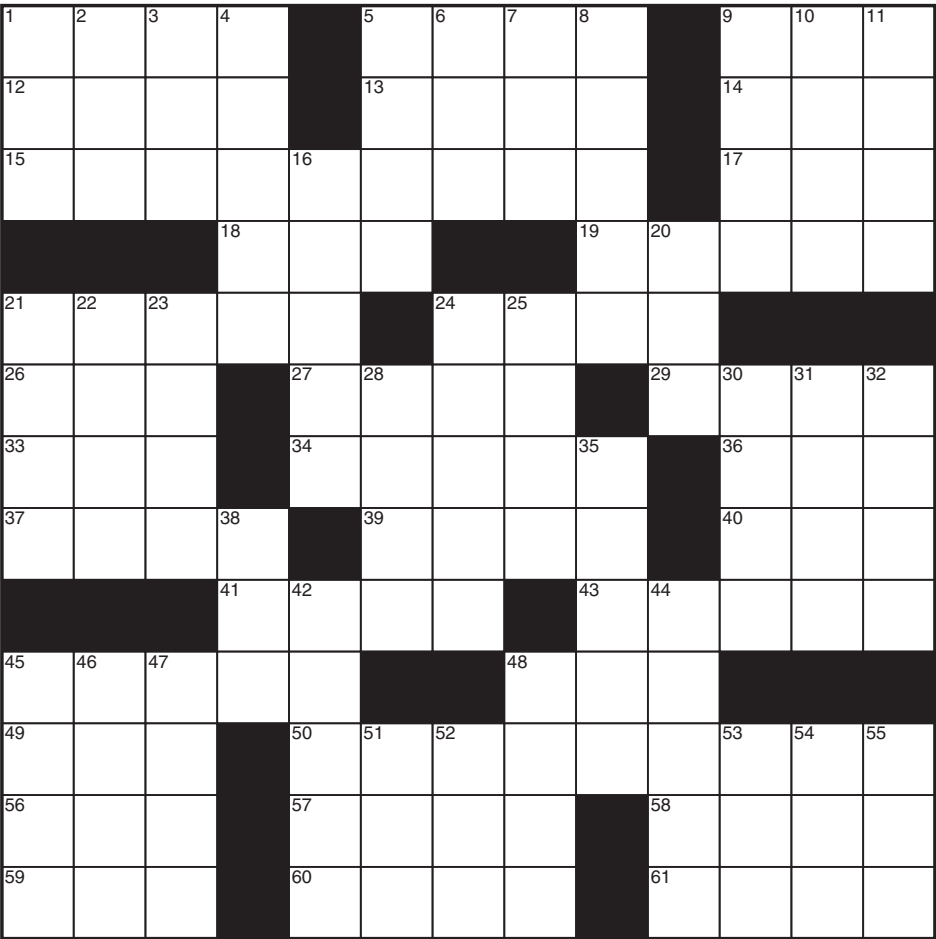
We became best friends at the age of 13 when Louis was a Bar Mitzvah. After many years of love and friendship, on November 8, 2003, we celebrated our commitment to each other at Temple Beth El together with

our friends and family. Then in 2011, Rabbi Judy Schindler legally married us in Washington, DC. We are grateful to be part of a community that has been so loving and supportive of our partnership. We find great meaning and fulfillment by supporting the institutions that have given our lives so much meaning.

Having grown up in Charlotte, we both feel it is important for a Jewish community to have organizations to provide children an enriching environment that is full of opportunities to learn about Judaism and its rich traditions and values. Our parents were involved in many of these organizations, and we want to honor and celebrate their commitment to these same values by leaving our own legacy to the community. It is our greatest wish that evidence of our legacy be demonstrated by our actions and our financial support of our Jewish community so that we can ensure it will thrive and flourish to benefit future generations.



Crossword Corner



Crossword Puzzle Sponsored by Phil's Deli. Thank you!

(Solution on page 30)

Thank You

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ACROSS

- Andrew Lloyd Webber hit
- Low digits
- "Bleah!"
- Rev. Roberts
- Suffer from
- Woody herb
- Produced
- Campus facility
- Awful review
- It may be educated or wild
- Clergy counterpart
- Hatchery sound
- Communal pronoun
- "I've finished," on a radio
- Santa's burden
- To's partner
- Explosion maker
- Kicks
- Piquancy
- Punishment for a sailor, maybe
- IT worker's complaint
- Drink garnish
- Take home, as a pet
- Inside info
- Angle opener
- Heavy weight
- Grew larger
- Texas tea
- Apple discard
- Jogger's gait, perhaps
- Paper towel measure
- Sebaceous gland woe
- Reasonable try

DOWN

- Minor player
- "What ___ friends for?"
- Malibu hue
- Failed as a sentry
- Comparative word
- Cereal crop
- New Year's ___
- Bulrush relative
- Craving
- Dolls' companions
- Fashion lines
- First synthetic fiber
- Downs' opposite
- Barn area
- A psychic may see it
- Attend to a pressing detail?
- Corolla part
- Goofs up
- Adjective for a cad
- Retro hairdo
- Crescent horn
- Like most sweaters
- Midwest hub
- Local mail H.Q.
- Long stories
- Cockpit array
- Layover
- Spring
- Partner of one?
- Elder, e.g.
- "___ so fast!"
- React to spilled milk?
- Drunkard
- Waste watchers' org.
- One who's coming out

The Question of Anonymous Giving

By Phil Warshauer

I've been thinking a lot about the word "anonymous." Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines an anonymous act as "one made by an individual that is not named or identified. An anonymous face in the crowd is one lacking individuality, distinction or recognizability."

In my profession I meet many generous people who wish to remain anonymous. They feel an obligation to give back, making charitable gifts with little care for recognition. Maimonides writes that an anonymous gift is "a commandment fulfilled for its own sake," rather than done in order to obtain honor.

Several years ago my daughter and I stopped for breakfast at a fast food restaurant. After giving our order over the intercom we proceeded to the drive through window to receive our food and pay for it. The nice woman at the window handed me our order and I handed her payment for the food. She informed me that my order had been paid for by a man who had just driven off in the car in front of me. She explained that he was a regular customer, and each week he paid for the car behind him. My daughter and I were shocked! I asked, "Who was this man?" The women told us that while he was unidentifiable to her by name, the entire staff at the restaurant knew him as a regular customer. Each week he puts the same smile on their faces as could be seen on the faces of me and my daughter in the car that morning.

I have thought of that generous man quite often. He has motivated me personally and professionally. On several occasions, but not nearly enough, I have followed his lead and returned the favor to unsuspecting customers at other fast food restaurants. He taught me that my smile is even broader in the role as the anonymous donor than the unexpected and appreciative recipient. I have learned to

put money and trust in the hands of others to follow my request that my gift be used to improve the lives of others. I realized that if he could do that so could I and that even a small gift affects the lives of others. As inspiring as this anonymous man has been to me, I regret that I will never have the opportunity to thank him for his gift and to let him know how he inspired me and set an example for my daughter.

In the philanthropic world, professionals are taught the power of the words, "thank you." There are many ways to thank donors and volunteers for gifts of their time and financial resources. One of these ways is to list their names for others to see. We want to say thank you to these donors, make others aware of their generosity and inspire them to follow their lead. Donors lead by example and like to know that they have inspired others to follow in their footsteps.

As a development professional, one must balance the wishes of an anonymous donor and the potential that donor's gift has to influence others. When we see others in similar economic positions as we are making generous gifts, it is human nature for us to think that maybe we can do the same.

If one of our Jewish institutions is already in your will or estate plan and you have decided to remain anonymous, we thank you for your generosity. If not, I ask you to consider contacting either the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community or the institution you would like to support to let them know about your planned gift. We want to say thank you and let others in our community be inspired by your generosity.

For more information please contact Phil Warshauer at the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org.



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~ JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES ~

Optimism During Discouraging Times

By Bonnie Bonomo

Is it possible to find a silver lining in the dark cloud of COVID-19? We would never argue that the pandemic is a good thing. It has caused many deaths and a long-lasting economic slowdown; it has elevated stress and anxiety, but as many have said, maybe this virus has a silver lining. Maybe there is still a reason to be optimistic.

The pandemic has forced us all to find ways to connect with our families, our friends, and even ourselves. Virtual happy hours, birthday parties, and trivia nights are becoming the norm. Baking, painting, reading, gardening, and tackling home improvement projects are now more popular than ever. Perhaps most significant to note is that we have a renewed sense of community and a deepening sense of gratitude.

At Jewish Family Services (JFS), the health and well-being of the community is always at

the forefront of our minds. We are leveraging technology to maintain our clients' health and keep our clients connected. To our amazement, we hear from many that telehealth has its advantages. "I get to stay safe from the virus and still see my therapist regularly. It's the perfect scenario for me," said one therapy client. Another shared that the cost of gas and the stress of battling traffic during rush hour to get to her appointment was wearing her down. She was conflicted about whether to continue therapy, which she emphasized was really helping her. Now she is able to participate in therapy from the comfort of her own home.

Using technology for community education workshops was challenging at first. Learning the technology, and then teaching it to participants who were not tech savvy, took some getting used to. However, delivering programs has not only delighted our staff

but also our participants. "Serving clients, extending our reach, and still being able to provide services has never been easier," said Sheryl Gerrard, senior engagement manager. We can cross geographic boundaries by hosting online programs such as Armchair Travel, Jewish Comedians Throughout the Ages, Finding Your Shalom, Managing Stress and Anxiety, and Broadway and Brunch, just to name a few.

Offering online programs has helped one caregiver who lives in an assisted living facility with her husband who lives with dementia. Even though she needs support now more than ever, she cannot get away to attend a support group. Now she can receive the support she needs without the struggles related to transportation. She also no longer has to worry about who will care for her husband while she is gone. This may seem insignificant to many, but to someone who has to be a caregiver 24/7, it can be the difference between holding on or feeling hopeless.

Another caregiver who moved to Martha's Vineyard to care for

her 90-year-old father shared, "I am so grateful to still see my friends. Moving up here was unexpected and has been so isolating. I don't have my Charlotte support system to help me, but participating in the virtual group at least makes me feel like I still have my community."

Maintaining an optimistic outlook supports the immune system, reduces the risk of chronic diseases, is better for our mental health, and provides greater odds of longevity. Research suggests that one way to feel more optimistic is by volunteering. According to Psychology Today, there is even evidence from MRI studies of the brain suggesting a link between generosity and happiness.

So it is no surprise that volunteerism during these discouraging times is on the rise. JFS has been blessed to have so many people offering to assist. They've become crucial to the continuation of services, especially the food pantry. A small army of folks that wants to serve others shows up regularly to not only sort through, organize, stock, and fill pantry orders but also

to deliver these much-needed groceries, home-cooked meals, and personal items. "It is so fulfilling to do just this one small thing every couple of weeks. The woman I deliver to has no way of getting out. Just knowing I can make that kind of difference is so rewarding," said one volunteer. Not only is helping someone else a great way to change our world, and our community, but also it can help us be more optimistic.

In our neighborhoods and around the world, everywhere we look, people are sharing their strength, resilience, and compassion in the face of the coronavirus, and that is a good thing. If you or someone you know is struggling, JFS can help. Call 704-364-6594.



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Volunteers: Rick Abrams, Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Mariah Bernanke, Ana Bonenheim, 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, Bob Jacobson, Marcia Lampert, Alison Lerner, Eric Lerner, Linda Leviel, Adam Levy, Kim Levy, Matt Luftglass, Bobbie Mabe, Frada Mozenter, 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, Denise and Bob Cooper, 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

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.

Dreidel Drive: A very special thanks to all the members of our community who donated so generously to this year's dreidel drive. We are thrilled that we were able to give a gift card to so many members of our community in need.

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Israeli Trees: Fascinating Stories



(JTA) Michael Brown

Since the first Tu B'Shevat ceremonies in what is now Israel in the 1880s, it has been customary to plant trees there. Over the years many of these planted trees have blended into the landscape. Behind their casual appearance, there are compelling stories. Here are a few:

"The Botanist's Palms"

Drivers traveling along the coastal highway near Atlit will notice two neat rows of tall palm trees disappearing into the countryside. These trees are a living monument to the life and sacri-

fice of Aaron Aaronsohn. They lead from the town of Atlit on the coast, to an agricultural experimental station he helped found below Zichron Ya'acov. The trees, California Fan Palms, are close to 90 years old.

Aaronsohn moved with his family at the age of six to Palestine. His father was one of the founders of the town of Zichron Ya'acov.

After studying in France, he returned to Israel, where he became a well-known botanist. With the help of influential Jewish leaders and philanthropists he raised funds for the establishment of an agricultural experimental station at Atlit between the years 1909-1910.

Aaronson is also known for his part in the Nili spy group, which helped the British in their aim to conquer Palestine from the Turks. He was killed in an airplane crash over the English Channel on May 15, 1919.

"The Settlers' Eucalyptus Grove"

When early visitors came to Palestine they saw not one, but two lakes. Old maps clearly

show this lake north of the Sea of Galilee. Known as Lake Hula, it covered five square miles. The lake was surrounded by extensive swamps which covered close to another four square miles.

The lake supported a tremendous variety of animal and plant life. Unfortunately, it was also a fertile breeding ground for the mosquito that carried the dreaded malaria disease. In 1934, the Jewish Agency for Israel purchased the rights to a large part of the Hula Valley, with the intention of draining the area to eradicate the disease from the area and increase land for farming.

One of the villages that directly benefited from the draining of the Hula was Yesod Hama'aleh. The early years of the village were difficult and many of the settlers were stricken with malaria. Soon after the founding of the village, in the 1880s, the residents planted a grove of Eucalyptus on what was then the bank of Lake Hula.

The grove is located on a small knoll near the entrance of the Hula Nature Reserve. The trees once on the edge of the lake

are now in the middle of the Hula Valley.

"Oskar Schindler's Carob"

The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Its mission is threefold: to commemorate the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators, to memorialize the Jewish communities which were destroyed in an attempt to eradicate the name and

culture of Israel, and to honor the heroism and fortitude of the Jews and the Righteous Among the Nations.

As you walk the grounds of this national institution, look for a tree-lined promenade called the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations. The trees planted along this walkway are carob trees, and each represents

(Continued on page 20)

Donations to JFS in November 2020

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Jennifer Lahn

**In Appreciation of
Eric and Lori Sklut**

Jennifer Lahn

**In Appreciation of
Tamika Jackson**

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**In Honor of
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*Abraham and Amalia
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**In Memory of
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Celebrating Tu B'Shevat by Planting Trees

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*
Joyce Kilmer

This month, on January 28, we get to celebrate one of my favorite holidays — Tu B'Shevat, the “New Year of the Trees.” As a young child, I remember the Jewish National Fund (JNF) “blue box” sitting on my grandparents’ kitchen counter. Whenever anyone found a coin in the sofa or had some extra change, my bubbe told us to “put it in the pushke.” My parents had one too and planted trees in Israel for family special occasions.

My husband, sons, and I have continued the tradition with a blue box on the counter and planting trees in Israel, and we have added a few new family traditions. Since the boys were

little, for one night of Hanukkah, we’ve planted a tree for each of them. Every year we had a birthday party for the trees on Tu B'Shevat, complete with cake and, you guessed it, another tree planted for each family member. That made an impression on the boys. When my youngest was in kindergarten, he wanted to be an apple tree for Halloween. We made his costume with carton board, green and brown paint, and lots of red and green apples we cut out of construction paper. He was so excited until he couldn’t fit through his classroom door by himself! When our oldest son moved to Philadelphia for college, he learned how to plant and care for trees in the city and became an urban tree tender. Our family often plants trees as



gifts for Mother’s and Father’s Day, graduations, and other special occasions. We plant trees when someone close to us passes away as a physical memorial of their place on earth. We try to plant trees at home as well. When we lose a tree, we plant two in its place. Tu B'Shevat is a reminder of our connection to

the State of Israel as well as our dependence on trees as a source of shade and sustenance.

Planting trees is an easy way to support Jewish National Fund, as it develops and cultivates the land of Israel. Do a mitzvah for Tu B'Shevat. Plant trees through Jewish National Fund and raise money for JNF with a Blue Box. Need a box or help to get one emptied? Contact Janice Bernstein at bernsfins@gmail.com.

Celebrate Tu B'Shevat with Hadassah. Please join us on January 27 at 7 p.m. for “G-d, Israel and our Hearts: A Tu B'Shevat Seder” as we learn how the seven species we eat on the holiday promote a healthy heart. Please check our website at www.hadassahclt.org for additional information about this Zoom event.

As a tzedakkah project for the event, we will be raising money to create a shade garden in Israel. Hadassah’s newest initiative, in partnership with the Jewish National Fund, is the Hadassah Shade Tree Garden at the Eshkol Resilience Center. Your donation will support the Hadassah and JNF partnership to create a garden for patients and their families at the Eshkol Resilience Center, located in Southern Israel, where thousands of Israelis are treated annually for PTSD.

In other Hadassah news...

Are you interested in learning about Hadassah? Join us at “Cocktails and Conversation” on January 13, from 7-8 p.m. Grab your favorite cocktail and join Hadassah Charlotte for a Zoom Meet & Greet. Learn about our local chapter and what we accomplish both in Charlotte and in Israel and become part of a sisterhood of amazing, talented women. RSVP to Karen at karenleslie2603@gmail.com or Lori at lptrap@aol.com. You will receive a link with Zoom details prior to the event.

Membership keeps Hadassah strong. Our Membership Committee won a Bronze Award in recognition of the number of new members signed up during the membership viral eight-week challenge. The Charlotte chapter was the only one recognized in the Southern Seaboard Region. Our hard-working membership team includes Karen Hauser, Lori Trapani, Judy Kaufmann, and June Hirschmann. Mazel tov!

At Hadassah’s Lunch and Learn, we discuss a short story on the third Friday of each month (except for holidays). The next meeting is Friday, January 15 at 11:45 a.m. The short story is “Dreams of Freedom,” on page 59 in the book “Many Seconds Into the Future” by John J. Clayton. Future Lunch and Learns will be held on February 19,

March 19, April meeting TBA, 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 levyolie@aol.com.

Do you play mah jongg? Whether you plan to play in person or online, it’s time to order your 2021 mah jongg card! The last day to order from Hadassah Charlotte is January 15, 2021. Why order through Hadassah? The National Mah Jongg League donates the proceeds from the sale of its official cards to charitable organizations, including Hadassah. It is a big fundraiser for our chapter. This year, the small cards are \$9, and the large cards are \$10. To order, please send your name, address, phone number and email, plus a check made out to Hadassah to Merrill Schenkel, 3315 Mannington Drive, Charlotte, NC 28270. Questions? Contact Merrill at red2467@earthlink.net or at 704-839-6275.

The next Hadassah Charlotte Leadership and Board meeting will be held on January 18 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All members of Hadassah Charlotte are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact hadassahclt@gmail.com to register and receive the Zoom link.

Grab your grogger, turn on your laptop, and celebrate Purim at Hadassah’s virtual “Purim Bingo & Craft” on February 21 from 3-5 p.m. 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.



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HADASSAH



~ SYNAGOGUES AND CONGREGATIONS ~

Temple Solel Is Grateful



Linda and Murray Simon
with Shelley Pawlyk

Written by Shelley Pawlyk

Whether I speak with family, friends, congregants, or even strangers, one common theme that arises in our conversations is the difficulty most of us have experienced in 2020. In retrospect, the darkest part of winter in January and February actually seemed like the best part of the entire year! Even “Saturday Night Live” capitalized on our angst when a group of friends went to see fortune teller Kate McKinnon with the skit set in 2019 prior to our knowledge of the pandemic. In it, one of the actresses asks the fortune teller whether she and her boyfriend would still be together in the future. Kate dramatically replied, “Yes, yes, I see you and your boyfriend living together in the future, but you are crying and yelling at him, telling him to hurry up and wash the bag of chips so you can eat them.” Another actor chimed in, asking about his future friendships. Kate said, “Yes, I see you with your friends, but they hate you and won’t see you now because you went to a restaurant.” Those scenarios would have made no sense a year ago, but they do now!

But we are not fortune tellers and never know when special friendships will appear. Years ago, I joined the Charlotte Gem and Mineral Club. There was a building near Charlotte Douglas Airport called “The Dairy” leased to various artisans — potters, silversmiths, glass artists, and so on. The building ended up falling victim to progress and was snapped up by Amazon, where the mammoth facility now collects and distributes thousands of our purchases. The whimsical bright yellow, artistically painted The Dairy building is gone now, but at least one precious friendship that began there lives on.

The club kept its equipment on-site, and there were classes to form and polish cabochon stones for jewelry. It was in a class that I met Linda Simon and her husband, Murray, who was the president of that organization at the time. Linda and I ate our sandwiches sitting in my car while looking at the under-

bellies of huge jets flying overhead, rattling our insides as we tried to have a conversation. I asked where she had grown up, and Linda told me she’d been raised in Virginia and about how involved her family had been in her synagogue there.

It was at that moment that we connected over our Judaism, bringing an unexpected closeness in the relationship. Linda then asked, “What will you do for the High Holy Days?” I excitedly explained that I would be attending services at Temple Solel in South Carolina and could send her the information to join us. Later I learned that they had not been active in a temple for many years and longed to reconnect with their Jewish upbringing. It’s not very often that our circles overlap in multiple ways. This was fun for all three of us. The story continues with the Simons saying, “We went to High Holy Days, and in two weeks we were co-chairs of the Caring Committee,” usually followed by, “The rest is history, and we are still here!”

The day after Thanksgiving, our lay leader, Russ Cobe, led a short service during which he invited those on the call to express something they were thankful for. Amazingly, people had more deeply expressive comments than the expected generic ones, “family, friends, job, etc.” Linda and Murray impressed us most when they shared, “We have spent so many hours isolated with each other that we became even more thankful for each other.” They said it and looked at each other on Zoom like none

of us were watching! There was a tone of discovery, awe, and appreciation for each other with well over 50 years of marriage. I am grateful for the moment they shared with us, truly an extension of the warmth they show our congregants as well.

This all serves as a reminder that friendship and Jewish connections can happen anywhere. I try very hard not to let a day pass in which I look for the small gems in other people and take time to get to know them by listening to their stories. Our bib-

lical texts are filled with examples and stories of hardship, too. When I read them, I try to identify with their pain and learn from their interactions with Adonai, like the relationship I long to have. Feeling closeness to each other is amplified when we also look to Adonai as our strength in such a time that we need it most.

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 Kol Ami Planning for a Brighter 2021

By Shari Baum

Each new year brings a promise for change and renewal. After a very difficult 2020, we look to 2021 with hope for a brighter future. Temple Kol Ami is excitedly anticipating a return to some normalcy, therefore we are in planning mode for another successful year of playing and praying together.

One of our most imperative objectives for 2021 will be implementing the programming set forth in our Adaptation and Transformation Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. This fund was established to address issues of racial justice education and engagement. Temple Kol Ami intends to use this grant to partner with an

AME church in the York County area to build relations and understanding between the African American and Jewish communities through multiple events. These programs will include a joint worship service and youth group mitzvah project along with other educational/cultural events such as a Passover Seder and discussion panel exploring the history of prejudices suffered by both communities. We are hopeful that such programming will foster strong relationships and continue on an annual basis.

Temple Kol Ami invites you to check us out in the upcoming year. Currently, we hold Shabbat services via Zoom on the first and third Fridays of each month (except this month which

will be the second and fourth Fridays). If you would like to join us, contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com for the Zoom link. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the Jewish home for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation composed of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom and are hopeful for in-person sooner than later!



For more event information, visit www.templebethel.org



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For Wholeness, Go to the Woods and Seek Justice

By Rabbi Dusty Klass

Every year, MLK Jr. Day and Tu Bishvat live near each other on our calendars. A holiday that celebrates trees and a holiday that honors a civil rights giant do not, on the surface, have much in common. Yet Jewish text has a long history of connecting seemingly disparate topics, allowing each topic to enhance and build upon the other. In putting the below thinkers in conversation with each other, perhaps we might find a connection that deepens our understanding of both.

Of the many picturesque ponds that dot the outskirts of Boston, Walden Pond is perhaps the most famous, thanks to Henry David Thoreau. The author and naturalist spent just over two years living in the woods by the pond as part of his quest to live simply, outside of the confines and trappings of society. His cabin no longer stands, but the spot is marked with a stone cairn created by visitors to the spot, along with a sign on which Thoreau is quoted:

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to

front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

Standing at the cabin site on a visit to Boston, listening to the wind in the trees, looking up at the changing leaves, and reading Thoreau’s words, I was reminded of two other teachers whose words we recall in this season.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, who also “went to the woods,” offered this prayer: “Master of the Universe, grant me the ability to be alone; may it be my custom to go outdoors each day among the trees and grass — among all the growing things. And there may I be alone, and enter into prayer, to talk with The One to whom I belong ... And may all the foliage of the field, all grasses, trees and plants awake at my coming, to send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer, so that my prayer and speech are made whole through the life and spirit of all growing things, which are made as one by their transcendent Source.”

On the surface, Bratslav’s words describe a simple practice

— the power of individual prayer in a natural space. But in fact, his message teaches far more about universality and connectedness. In going out among the trees, he invites those trees, grasses, and plants to participate in prayer with him. His words alone are not enough. It is only through the combination of his speech and the “power of life” of those grasses, trees, and plants that his prayer is made whole.

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”

Henry David Thoreau

Tu Bishvat reminds us of this interconnectivity between adam (people) and adamah (earth), between humans with the wholeness of creation. When we are at

odds with each other, we threaten the future of the natural world — and our own. When we work in partnership, our words are made whole, and God hears our prayers.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. understood this interconnectivity too. In Atlanta in December 1967, he taught, “If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.”

Dr. King recognized that this call to transcend race, tribe, class, and nation would not be easy (just as, if we are honest, it is not always easy to go to the woods and talk to God). But as with Thoreau, who sought to ensure that when he came to die, he did not “discover he had not lived,” doing the hard work was imperative. As Dr. King put it: “A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that which is true.”



Tu Bishvat reminds us of our interdependence. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. calls on us to act on that interdependence.

This year, may we venture into the woods and into partnership with our earth, that our prayers may become whole, and may we commit to pursue justice in partnership across lines that seek to divide so that our world may become whole.



2021

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TORAH TOTS



BIM BAM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE (VIRTUAL)

Friday, January 8, 5:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Kornsgold, Rabbi Wolk and Mr. Caleb for a great time celebrating Shabbat together! This will be a brief, but fun filled service for your lil' ones, including all their

favorite songs and dances for Shabbat!

TU B'SHVAT TREE PARTY

Sunday, January 31, 3 p.m.

Join your Torah Tots friends as we celebrate the birthday of the trees! Expect an afternoon of fun, crafts and songs all in a safe and socially distant gathering. We look forward to seeing you there!



YOUTH

USY & KADIMA TU B'SHVAT SEED BOMBS AND TRIVIA (8th-12th Grades)

Sunday, January 24, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Celebrate Tu B'Shvat by making seed bombs and playing trivia against your fellow Kadimans and USYers!



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

FAMILY FEUD: TORAH ON TAP EDITION

Thursday, January 7, 7:30 p.m.

Grab a beverage and join us on Zoom for our very own version of Family Feud! More details to come. <https://templeisraelnc.org.zoom.us/j/92483649780>

LIFELONG LEARNING

MONTHLY LUNCH N' LEARN WITH RABBI MICHAEL WOLK THURSDAY, JANUARY 14 – Mi Sheberach: Why and How do we Pray for Healing?"

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.

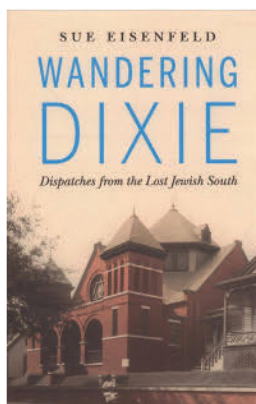
**Recipient must be a full member of Temple Israel, age 65+

SPECIAL EVENTS

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. (via Zoom)

In Sue Eisenfeld's non-fiction book, "Wandering Dixie: Dispatches from the Lost Jewish South," she embarks on a journey to nine states to educate herself about Southern Jewish culture. In the process, she discovers the unexpected ways that race, religion, and hidden histories converge. All are welcome as we discuss this book that Jewish Book Council notes is "not only a fascinating read; it's also a model of engaged scholarship." Please contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com) for additional information.



YOM GEMILIUT HASADIM

A Day Performing Acts of Loving Kindness

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Join your Temple Israel family and friends as we continue to do our part to repair the world (Tikkun Olam) through acts of loving kindness (gemilut hasadim).

This day will consist of virtual group projects, DIY projects and even a few on-site activities (pre-registration required). Although we are apart, let us continue to live by the great words of Rabbi Hillel, "If I am not for myself, who is for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" (Pirkei Avot 1:14).



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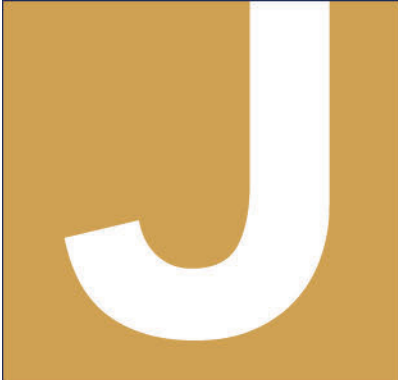


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Remembering the Holocaust: Is There a “Right” Day?

By Talli Dippold

International Holocaust Remembrance Day occurs on January 27. The nation of Israel will hold Yom Hashoah commemorations this year beginning at sundown on the 27th of Nissan

(April 7 according to the Gregorian Calendar). This difference brings up the question, “How important is a date?”

As a teenager, I lived in Jerusalem, and though many details from those middle school

years are fuzzy, my memory of the Yom Hashoah ceremony at school will never fade. Each year, on the 27th of Nissan (the Gregorian date shifts year to year), the entire nation stops at 11 a.m. as a two-minute siren blast halts all movement. The day is filled with community-wide gatherings. School students wear white and hear solemn testimonies from survivors. Radio and television stations broadcast Holocaust-related programs. The experience was always extremely emotional for me, and seemingly for everyone.

The 27th of Nissan was selected in April 1951 by a Knesset resolution because the date was near the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the most prominent act of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust. The actual uprising occurred on the 14th of Nissan but wasn’t selected because it was the eve of Passover. Originally named Yom Hazikaron la Shoah Ve-Mered Hagetaot, Holocaust and Ghetto Revolt Memorial Day, the new state of Israel rejected a remembrance focused on victimhood. Instead, it elevated the memorialization of physical resistance, even though physical rebellion by Jews was uncommon.

The entire nation of Israel stops in unity to remember the lowest point in Jewish history. This physical act connects each person to their homeland and to the Jewish people. The message of Israeli Holocaust ceremonies is clear and consistent — Jews now have a home. The creation of a Jewish state enables Jews to protect themselves and to rescue and shelter other Jews anywhere who are threatened by persecution.

In 1978, the U.S. Congress declared April 28-29 as the Day of Remembrance of Victims of the

Holocaust. These dates marked the anniversary of the American liberation of Dachau. And so the U.S. chose to commemorate the victims on a date significant to Americans. For decades, the United States was the only country outside of Israel to hold a national Holocaust commemoration.

In 2005, the U.N. designated the anniversary of Auschwitz’s liberation on January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It sought to reject any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event. The U.N.’s vision was to urge member states to recall past crimes and develop educational programs to prevent future genocides. The U.S. moved its date of remembrance to January 27, and as of 2020, 32 other countries recognize this day as well.

Israeli Holocaust commemorations teach about the Jewish history of heroism and hardship and the value of having a homeland. American and international commemorations educate about genocide to prevent future genocides. Different dates, different particulars. So which one is the “right” one?

For me, Holocaust commemoration is not limited to a certain date. It occurs in moments of connection. Last summer, I attended Shabbat services at the Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue in Berlin. Due to its location within a courtyard and next to German-owned buildings, it was not set ablaze during Kristallnacht. The building was rededicated

in 1947 by the fledgling Jewish community that had survived the war. I was struck by the concept of absence of presence and presence of absence. I pondered all the descendants of the victims who should have filled the pews. The recitation of the Mourner’s Kaddish took on new meaning in this setting. On my walk back to the hotel, I stepped over the Stolpersteine, the memorial stones embedded in the sidewalk commemorating individuals who last lived in that spot before they fell victim to Nazi terror. I read each one as I passed.

I experience powerful moments of contemplation and remembrance when I see a Holocaust survivor interact with their grandchildren or I witness a student have an “ah-ha” moment during a lesson on the Holocaust. Recently, I watched a middle school student wipe away a tear after hearing a survivor share testimony and recognized it as a moment of remembrance.

The date selected is not significant, as there were atrocities committed by the Nazis and their collaborators every day of the calendar year. How or when we choose to commemorate is less important than that we choose to commemorate. For in that choice, we commit to honoring the memory of the survivors. In that choice, we commit to educating others about the danger of creating an “us” and “them.” In the act of commemoration, we commit to act in ways that build a better world for everyone.

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Center Programs Online

Israeli Trees Continued

(Continued from page 13)

a particular person who was instrumental in saving Jewish lives during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem decided to plant carob trees along this avenue for several reasons.

First, the carob tree is evergreen; its leaves do not wither or fall in the winter months. Second, it is a fruit-bearing tree. Both these characteristics are symbolic of life and continuity.

Finally, it is not a particularly tall or obtrusive tree, and thus reflects the modesty of the Righteous Among the Nations.

On the right side near the beginning of the path is the tree of Oskar and Emilie Schindler. The tree was planted by Oskar Schindler himself on May 5, 1962. His increased popularity, partly as a result of Steven Spielberg’s movie “Schindler’s List,”

can be seen by the large number of stones piled by the tree. It is a Jewish custom to place a small stone on a person’s gravestone when visiting at a cemetery. In this case, they have been placed by the tree.

Michael Brown, a school librarian in Marlboro, NJ, is the author of the “Jewish Gardening Cookbook.”

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**Stan Greenspon Center
for Peace and Social Justice**

Events at Stan Greenspon Center for Social Justice

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

"Stamped: Racism, Anti-racism, and You" Book Study for Educators led by Donna Tarney and guest facilitator: January 7, 2021, Virtual: 7-8 p.m. This book is a "remix" of Ibram X. Kendi's book, "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America," written by Kendi and Jason Reynolds for middle and high school-age students. Easy to read, filled with both humor and challenging truths, this book is perfect for people of all ages who want to understand our country's history and work to change the future. We will read through the book together with an eye to bringing all or parts of it to our classrooms.

Wine and Wisdom Mid-Week Midrash Winter/Spring Series Time: Third Wednesday of every month starting January 20. Virtual: 5-6 p.m. RSVP to Talia Goldman at goldman@queens.edu. Rabbi Judy Schindler invites you to come out to the Selwyn Pub or come 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.

An Exploration of Jewish Peoplehood Through Film and Literature, Eight-week Fall Community Course Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies, Talli Dippold, associate director, Stan Greenspon Center Wednesday afternoons, 12:30-2 p.m. January 20 to March 17 We learn about Judaism not only through experiencing what happens inside synagogues or reading Jewish scripture but also through culture that is creatively captured in film, poetry, and literature. From exploring Jewish identity to Jewish culinary arts and from viewing cinematic images of Jewish mothers to exploring the struggles of assimilation, we can learn about the deeper meaning of Jewish peoplehood.

Join us to broaden your understanding of Judaism and of the Jewish people while enjoying film, literature, poetry, and even Jewish humor.

Wednesday, January 20 — An Introduction to Jewish Peoplehood: Who Is a Jew? How Do Jews Identify Themselves? (Films: "The Tribe," "Gefilte Fish," and "I Am Jewish" spoken word)

Wednesday, January 27 — Ties to the Bible: What Is Torah? What Is Artistic License? ("The

Ten Commandments," "Prince of Egypt," "Joseph & the Technicolor Dreamcoat")

Wednesday, February 3 — Jews and Civil Rights ("Driving Miss Daisy," "Mississippi Burning," "From Swastika to Jim Crow")

Wednesday, February 10 — America and the Great Melting Pot: The Challenges of Integration and Assimilation for American Jews ("Crossing Delancey")

Wednesday, February 17 — Always Controversial: The Holocaust in American Film and Television ("The Holocaust," "Jo Jo Rabbit," "Amazon's Hunters")

Wednesday, February 24 — Jewish Mothers, Jewish Daughters, & Jewish Scholars: The Roles of Jewish Women in Film and Television ("In the Footsteps of Regina Jonas," "Yentl," "The Women's Balcony")

Wednesday, March 3 — Jewish Humor and Making Fun of Ourselves: Where Do We Draw the Line? Woody Allen, Joan Rivers, Jerry Seinfeld, and more.

Wednesday, March 17, 2020 — Israel Through an American Entertainment Lens: From Netflix series to Hollywood and From "Fauda" to the "Raid on Entebbe," How Does an American Lens Hurt Israel, and How Does It Help?

Agenda 2021

Thursday, January 21, 2021, Virtual: 6:30-8 p.m.

What will your New Year's resolution be? To right deeply rooted racist policies in Charlotte? To expand affordable housing? To create positive outcomes for those interfacing with the criminal justice system? To support our immigrant neighbors? To create equitable educational opportunities in Charlotte? To advocate for restorative justice? We invite you as students, community members, congregants, and community leaders to join us as we set our 2021 social justice agenda to achieve our goals in creating a more just society. Please visit our website for more details.

An evening with Dr. Jim Waller, author of "Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Murder" January 26, Virtual: 7 p.m.

Join us as we welcome Dr. Jim Waller, the Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College, New Hampshire. Dr. Waller will present on his seminal work, "Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Murder." For more information or to register for this virtual event, please contact Tarneyd@queens.edu.

This program is offered in

partnership with Appalachian State University's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies and UNCC's Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies.

Jim Crow and the Nuremberg Laws: The Relationship Between Institutionalized Discrimination in the U.S. and the Beginnings of the "Final Solution" led by Donna Tarney and Doyle Stevik. A two-session series: February 5 and 12, Virtual: 3:30-4:30 p.m. As the Nazi government was designing policies regarding the Jews, Hitler spent time and money researching how other nations segregated their populations. Although several countries had established 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.

Quotes from students:

"The Greenspon community classes deepen understanding and spark further exploration. I

leave each week energized and eager to learn more." Emily Zimmern

"My busy schedule always made it hard for me to participate in classes, but Wine & Wisdom provided the perfect opportunity: a casual monthly happy hour. Add an interesting

topic, a great educator, a diverse group of people, and wine, and you get a winning combination!" Roni Fishkin.

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~ SCHOOLS ~

JPS Is Committed to Inclusion

Jewish Preschool on Sardis (JPS) was recently the grateful recipient of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Adaptation & Transformation Fund!

The grant allowed agencies to apply for funding for a project related to racial justice and/or transformation and adaptation related to COVID-19. JPS applied for and received funding for both, and today we'd like to share with you how we are recommitting ourselves to the topic of racial justice.

It has always been our mission to nurture children in an environment that deepens their connection to the world around them. Our goal is to set the stage for our students to thrive in and take pride in their Judaism while

understanding that the world is a colorful place and that we must respect each other. One of the ways we fulfill this mission is by providing an atmosphere of inclusion and an array of racially diverse materials for the children to engage with.

After receiving the grant, we purchased new dolls, toys, books, puzzles, and posters that the teachers have already begun introducing into their classrooms. Thematic units will center on this topic, and through role play, dramatic play, story time, and environmental additions, we will establish the importance and relevance of inclusion in the children's daily lives.

We are so excited and grateful for this opportunity to deepen our commitment to racial justice. Thank you, Federation!

gun introducing into their classrooms. Thematic units will center on this topic, and through role play, dramatic play, story time, and environmental additions, we will establish the importance and relevance of inclusion in the children's daily lives.

We are so excited and grateful for this opportunity to deepen our commitment to racial justice. Thank you, Federation!



Sophie and Naomi are taking excellent care of their new baby dolls.



Ms. Liz and Doran read "Here are My Hands," featuring children from around the world and celebrating the bond between all people.



Leo introduces a new family into his playhouse.



These friends are proud of themselves for completing the Children Around the World puzzle.



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Jill and Michael Dinerman Grateful for CJDS

In a year in which it has been difficult to find the positives amid everything going on, enrolling our kids at Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) has been a silver lining of 2020 for our family. Both of our kids are proud graduates of Charlotte Jewish Preschool. At the time of their preschool graduation, private school was not something we considered. Mike and I are both graduates of the public school system and felt that public school provided benefits and experiences that private school could not. That all changed in 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to ravage our population and trample life's plans, we decided to consider enrolling at Charlotte Jewish Day School.

We knew starting a new school during a global pandemic would be an adjustment for our girls. But by August, we were all used to adjusting, and considering CJDS, which offered the benefit of in-person learning, was a choice we were all willing to make. What we did not expect was the incredible blessing that the school would be to our family in ways beyond in-person learn-

ing. Through our first interaction with Mariashi about enrollment to the first day of school to today, the transition has been seamless. The school's staff, parents, and students have provided a warm welcome, and the kids have adapted without missing a beat.

More than that, CJDS has provided an underlying foundation in Judaism that we did not imagine. Growing up on the north shore of Long Island, I took for granted my Jewish upbringing and the ease of Judaism woven into everyday life. In the south, instilling our children with a sense of pride and understanding of their Jewish heritage requires effort; this is a priority for Mike and me. CJDS provides this foundation and pride and so much more. Within their first week, the girls were singing new songs (in Hebrew!), sharing stories grounded in Jewish tenets, and espousing concepts of Jewish character that we strive to teach them.

All these lessons, songs, and stories are forming the foundation in Judaism that Mike and I dreamed would be a part of our girls' childhood. And it was

almost effortless for us. It felt like we were cheating. The girls were learning about taking care of the world, the importance of tzedakah, empathy, caring for others, justice, and more. All aspects of Judaism were woven into the fabric of their everyday education; the girls did not even notice that they were building character while learning about science, social studies, and music.

This was the amazing blessing of COVID for our family — it brought us to CJDS and gave our family the gift of a more meaningful and tangible relationship with Judaism. We are certain that this blessing will last a lifetime for our girls. They will take their Jewish foundation and understanding of their heritage with them past the walls of CJDS. This is a gift we did not know was so easy to give them, and our only regret is that we did not consider it earlier.



Jill and Michael Dinerman; Emery and Tahli (3rd and 5th)





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Hebrew High Students Explore Roots of Racism and the Jewish Connection

By Megan Harkavay

The reality and effects of racism in the United States are rooted in the very foundations of our country. Systemic racism has a long and complicated history. Its legacy continues to influence literally every part of our lives, and yet we do not learn about it in school or discuss it openly with others. For eight weeks this past semester, several Hebrew High students did just that — they learned about and discussed these issues with their peers in a class titled “Be the Difference: Racism and What I Can Do to Change It.”

During these classes, our students engaged with the messy evolution of racism from slavery to mass incarceration. They explored the deep connection between the Jewish community and civil rights movement. They learned more about Charlotte’s history of racial inequity and why it hurts all of us. Most importantly, students learned how to become active agents for

change in their circles of influence as we move to build a more equitable society. This class was taught by Donna Tarney, the education coordinator at the Stan Greenspoon Center for Peace and Social Justice.

In one class in December, our teens along with 100 other teenagers from four other Jewish communities had the unique opportunity to learn from Billy Planer, the founder and director of Etgar 36 (www.etgar.org). Billy’s presentation, titled “Jews and Blacks in the Civil Rights Era and Now: Midrash and Fact” was eye-opening and inspirational.

Billy began his presentation on the history of the civil rights movement. Many students commented that they were surprised to hear that there were Jewish people who had fought on both sides of this movement. He ended the conversation by speaking about the events of this past summer. Billy shared some of his thoughts and opinions of what

was happening in the streets during the Black Lives Matter movement. This was not our story, just as the civil right movement was not our story. But there were Jewish people involved in the protests.

Why is that? For us as Jews, one of the most important values is to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The Torah teaches that we also need to take care of the orphans and widows. The rabbis teach us that there are no extra words in the Torah, so why would it specify the orphan and widow? Commentators go on to explain that there are times in all our lives that we are more vulnerable, and we should help those who are more vulnerable. During his talk, Billy said, “One could say that in the summer of 2020, the Black community in America was definitely more vulnerable than others and needed more attention. If all lives are going to matter, then all lives must matter. And if one person’s life doesn’t matter, then all lives don’t mat-



ter. So we have to make sure that we are loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.”

ter. So we have to make sure that we are loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.”

How do we begin to break down barriers and get involved in each other’s story? It is very simple — all it takes are conversations. One of the ways we can break down barriers is to talk to one another. Talk to someone who doesn’t look like you, think like you, love like you, pray like you. It is so important to just talk to people who are not like you and find the humanity in each other. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “People hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because

they don’t know each other. And they don’t know each other because they can’t communicate with each other. And they can’t communicate with each other because they are separated from each other.”

It was clear that the teens felt inspired and connected after this presentation. Although we are living in a time of separation from everyone due to COVID-19, these teens had the chance to be together through Zoom, and talk, learn, and break down barriers. Teens from North Carolina, New Jersey, Texas, Missouri, and Pennsylvania were able to learn and grow together.



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~ YOUTH VISIONS ~

Staying Connected Through Friends on Call

We may be physically distant, but that doesn't mean we can't be socially close! That is exactly what we had in mind last May when Friendship Circle introduced its Friends on Call program. Friends on Call began as another way to highlight the importance of friendship for everyone and to provide an opportunity for friends to interact no matter what was happening in the world around us.

When things began to shut down, prohibiting our teen friends and special friends from meeting in person, the idea of Friends on Call emerged. A Friend on Call is someone who makes weekly contact through FaceTime, Zoom, GroupMe, or even a phone call just to say, "Hi, how are you?" We started off with just a few pairs of friends and currently host 18 pairs and the numbers continue to grow.

During the weekly meetings, some of our friends like to talk and catch up on what's happened during the week, some play games, and some have been known to travel to Disneyland or ride the biggest rollercoaster on a virtual tour. It's a way to stay connected and have fun. Anything is possible between friends!

In times of uncertainty, nothing feels better than spending time with friends who truly care about each other. Friends on Call provides that kind of friendship to all of its participants.

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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.



What if Every Jewish Professional Were a Jewish Learner: Insights from Moishe House's 1:1 Jewish Learning Initiative



By Rabbi Ana Bonheim

Over the last few years, the Moishe House team contemplated what seems like a crucial question: How do we best envision and create the Jewish future we want to live? What are, or should be, the ways we support our professional and volunteer teams to do high-level thinking and building? And what is, or should be, different from doing this in the Jewish world than in another kind of organization?

After a period of reflection

and exploration, we landed on a straightforward but potentially revolutionary answer: We need to include Jewish wisdom as a component of the professional learning we already engage in to stay current and broaden our horizons.

Too often, the professional and lay Jewish world has outsourced Jewish learning and wisdom to clergy and educators. When we want to learn, we turn to the experts. But what if each staff member and lay leader felt ongoing Jewish learning was as important as ongoing secular learning?

Jewish learning and literacy lie at the core of who we are as a Jewish people, valued in our texts, our traditions, our history, and our religious and cultural identity. But since antiquity, Jewish leaders have acknowledged that even our most beautiful texts and traditions must be engaged with to become

meaningful. And of course this kind of engagement also requires that these texts and traditions be accessible to those who want to engage with them.

As we explored the idea of how we might better integrate Jewish literacy and learning into Moishe House, we also realized how making these experiences priorities for our leadership might have a broader-reaching ripple effect among the communities we serve. If we want a vibrant, learned, engaged Jewish community and believe in living our values, then how could we be

successful without also emphasizing ongoing Jewish learning in the lives of Jewish professionals and lay leaders?

If every Jewish professional and board member had access to Jewish learning in addition to secular learning, imagine how the world might change. We would model that Jewish learning, like general learning, doesn't culminate at any age but rather continues throughout our lives. We would nurture a cadre of Jewish leaders that cares about deeply studying the texts and traditions as relevant perspectives.

And this translates into deeper Jewish living and commitment and brings new sparks of knowledge and understanding into our organizations and those they serve.

We wanted the Moishe House team to become Jewish learners as part of our commitment to general learning. Thus we designed the 1:1 Jewish Learning Initiative. Our goal was to increase access to Jewish learning to a much broader range of individuals, including those who would

(Continued on page 27)

The following aspects of 1:1 Learning are "very important" to the majority of respondents:

79%

The content is tailored to their interests.

64%

They have a personal connection with their educator.

60%

The sessions are during paid working hours.
• The frequency is up to them.

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Moishe House Continued

(Continued from page 26)

likely not otherwise participate. Our priority was to make the initiative as warm, straightforward, and personal as possible.

Thanks to the visionary support of one of our mentors and supporters, we piloted a program to give every Moishe House staff and board member the opportunity to access 1:1 Jewish Learning with a Jewish educator. People are studying everything from the weekly Torah portion and Talmud to mussar and mysticism. They are preparing for a wedding or for leadership.

Our 1:1 Learning Initiative pilot showed that this kind of learning had a profound effect. One staff member said, "Participating [in 1:1 Jewish Learning] makes me feel more authentic about the work I'm doing. Like I'm walking the walk, not just talking the talk."

We found that this program influenced how employees think about their Jewish identities and roles as Jewish professionals. Ninety-eight percent of learners reported that what they learned had had a personal impact, and 95% reported a professional impact.

As of the spring of 2020, Moishe House staff and board members have completed 795 hours of 1:1 Jewish Learning over the last two years. We realized that the successful learning experiences exemplified all the following four principles: regular (between one and four times per month), relevant (learners saw how Jewish wisdom is personally meaningful), customized (learners determined their educational journeys), and relational (the learning partners fostered a strong connection with each other).

This initial pilot of 1:1 Jewish Learning has been so overwhelmingly successful that we are excited to share the concept with other Jewish organizations. In our dreams, this kind of Jewish learning would be a basic part of professional development in the Jewish organizational world and would immeasurably enrich the communities our organizations serve and thus the Jewish community as a whole.

Click here to download the full report, or contact Dave Press, Moishe House's senior director of advancement at

dave.press@moishehouse.org.
Rabbi Ana Bonheim is the director of the Open Dor Project, a Moishe House initiative.



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The Ultimate Babka for Tu B'shevat: A One-of-a-Kind Dessert Featuring All Seven Species

It's Tu B'shevat — the birthday of the trees! And we are celebrating this year with the folks at Jewish National Fund and a brand new, one-of-a-kind babka made with the "seven species." The Jewish National Fund is actually the original "tree people" and to date have planted 240 million trees in Israel, making Israel one of only two countries to enter the 21st century with a net tree gain.

The seven species actually comes straight from the Torah: wheat, barley, grapes (or wine), olives (or olive oil), pomegranates, dates and figs. It is traditional in some communities to host a Tu B'Shevat seder, where these foods are enjoyed as part of a Passover-like seder.

To participate in Tu B'shevat Across America, check out Jewish National Fund's website and consider planting a tree, hosting a seder, or baking up one of these delicious babkas. (It tastes like a sophisticated Fig Newton!) And if you purchase a tree this Tu B'shevat with The Jewish National Fund, you will be entered to win a trip to Israel.

Ingredients

For the dough:

1 Tbsp dry active yeast
1/2 tsp sugar
1/2 cup lukewarm water
3 1/2 – 4 1/2 cups unbleached

all-purpose flour
1/2 cup barley flour
1/3 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 cup milk or almond milk
3/4 cup olive oil
2 eggs

For the filling:

1 cup dried figs, cut in half
1 cup pitted dates
1 cup water
1/2 cup wine or grape juice
1 Tbsp pomegranate molasses
1/4 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon

For the topping: (topping is optional)

date honey (silan)
slivered almonds

Directions

Place yeast and sugar in a small bowl. Add lukewarm water and set aside until foamy, around 5-10 minutes.

In a stand mixer fitted with dough hook or a large bowl, mix together flours, sugar, vanilla, and cinnamon. Start with 3 1/2 cups of flour, and add more later if dough seems too sticky. Add milk and olive oil.

Add the eggs one at a time.

When the dough begins to come together, after about 3-5 minutes, turn out onto a floured surface and knead vigorously for 5-10 minutes. Or if using a stand

mixer, switch to high and mix another 4-5 minutes. Dough should be shiny, elastic, and very soft when it is done. If dough is sticking too much, add more flour 1/4 cup at a time until dough is no longer sticking.

Place dough in a greased bowl with a damp towel on top. Allow to stand one to two hours.

While dough is rising, make filling.

Combine all filling ingredients in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil, then reduce for 10 minutes, until liquid has reduced to slightly more than half. Allow to cool slightly. Place in food processor and pulse.

*Note: you can also replace filling with store-bought fig jam.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cut dough into two parts. Roll out each section of dough until it is a rectangular-like shape. Spread with filling. Working from the shorter side, roll up dough using quick fingers, like you would to make cinnamon rolls.

Once the dough is a long log, cut it straight down the middle so the filling is exposed. Secure the ends on one side, and twist both the pieces. Pinch and secure at the other end.

Place in a greased loaf pan. Allow to rise another 10-20 min-

utes. Sprinkle top with slivered almonds if desired (this step is optional).

Bake for 30-35 minutes.

Top with date honey if desired.

Printed with permission from The Nosh <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh/the-ultimate-babka-for-tu-bishvat/>

Jewish National Fund — This post was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Jewish National Fund, whose goal is to fill the desert with millions of trees, build thousands of parks across Israel, create new communities and cities, bolster Israel's water supply and ensure that no citizen is left behind.



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

In November's edition:

Breath test detects asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers.

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

BBYO International Convention 2021

We are reminded that we do not choose the historic moment we live in, but we do choose how we rise to the moment. In Deuteronomy 31:7, the Torah tells us, "Be strong and courageous, for our community will rise together." This sage advice provides the theme of "United We Rise" for BBYO's International Convention (IC) 2021/5781. Every Jewish teen everywhere is invited to join us, February 11-15. This year's IC will be a special digital experience that all members will be able to attend virtually.

No matter the year, no matter the moment, our movement is always strongest when we're together, and the pandemic will not change that! BBYO invites Jewish teens from across the globe to unite with us, celebrate with us, and move forward with us. This year, 725 chapters in 55 countries

will be part of the largest annual gathering of Jewish teens worldwide. Although IC 2021 will have the same rhythm, the format will be different. It will be a special digital experience that will take place over five days on six continents. The sun will never set on BBYO while we celebrate together! All the teen favorites will be part of IC 2021. There will be limited edition IC swag bags, celebrities, musicians, music studio jam sessions, global gaming tournament, BBYO's farthest-reaching Shabbat, senior class celebrations, service projects, local chapter programs, surprise meetups, and some good ole' fun! For more information, go to azabbg.bbyo.org/ic/2021.



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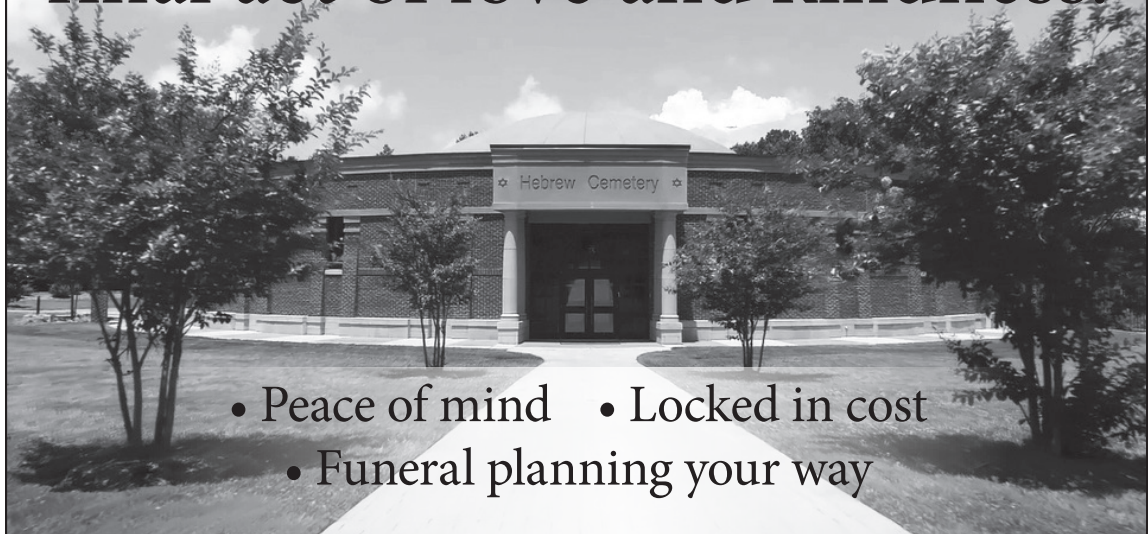
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Puzzle Solution

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(Puzzle on page 10)

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“Jeopardy!” Just Had a Yiddish Category with Words Like “Schlep” and “Nosh”

(JTA) Lior Zaltzman

“Jeopardy!” fans have been hard hit by the loss of Alex Trebek, who died of cancer in November at age 80. But because the show films in advance — and Trebek kept filming until a week before his passing — the beloved longtime host is still with us until Jan. 4 with new episodes airing on weeknights.

Just why are we writing about this iconic game show? Well, Jewish questions and guests are not exactly rare on “Jeopardy!”. But on Monday night, the show had an entire category dedicated to Yiddish. The clueless contestants were clearly schvitzing — that’s “sweating” in Yiddish — and mostly stumped.

Of the five Yiddish questions, only two of the three contestants got two right. Let’s review them — read on and see how you would do!

Yiddish for \$1,000: The word for cheap and shoddily made goods now usually refers to cheap and shoddily made entertainment.
(The answer is: What is schlock?)

Yiddish for \$800: The opening to Laverne and Shirley used these two Yiddish words, one meaning an oaf, the other, an unlucky person.
(The answer is: What are schlemiel and schlemazel?)

(Continued on page 31)

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 was front page news in October 1996.

The Charlotte JEWISH news

Vol. 18 No.9

Tishri-Heshvan 5757

October 1996

By Cary Bernstein

At long last, Charlotte finally has its own Jewish festival!

L'Chaim Charlotte '96 — A Celebration of Jewish Heritage, Culture & Faith is planned for October 13 from noon-5 p.m. as part of the 10th anniversary celebration of the Jewish Community Center and Shalom Park.

Presented by the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the inaugural festival will be staged in the lower parking lot in front of the JCC's main entrance. It will feature Jewish food and music, Israeli folk dancing, exhib-

its, tours of Shalom Park facilities, and more.

"This is an ideal opportunity for Jews and non-Jews alike to come together and learn more about the richness of Jewish culture and heritage and see what has been accomplished at Shalom Park," said Adam Bernstein, JCRC chair. "The excitement has snowballed since the festival idea first surfaced last spring. To be honest, we've been amazed at how much interest and support has been generated in such a short period."

L'Chaim Charlotte will feature booths and exhibits from some twenty organizations. Professional and amateur entertainment acts will

perform on stage throughout the afternoon, including klezmer bands, Israeli folk dancing, children's choirs, Jewish folk music, and more. Food vendors will serve a variety of Jewish fare, including falafel, bagels, kugels, knishes, and a variety of baked goods such as mandelbrot, rugelach, hamentashen and challah (to name a few.) More than 100 volunteers have signed up so far.

L'Chaim Charlotte was the brainchild of JCRC member Jerry Klein, local talk-show personality and long-time Charlotte resident. It follows several earlier attempts by the community over the years, most

recently in 1989, to establish a local Jewish festival similar to the Greek community's annual Yiassou festival.

L'Chaim will help kick off the community-wide festivities for the JCC's 10th anniversary, which will culminate on October 19 with the JCC's Annual Gala, which this year celebrates the 10th anniversary of Shalom Park. It will feature a performance by The Capitol Steps, the nationally famous political satirist troupe.

"Both events compliment each other by giving everyone in the community an opportunity to participate in the festivities," Bernstein said.

L'Chaim will be promoted with announcements on WBT-AM, the media sponsor. There will also be announcements at both Temples, distribution of informal fliers to 3,400 Jewish households and more than 700 students (and their families) of area Jewish religious schools, and outreach to local churches.

The Bank of Mecklenburg is the lead corporate underwriter for the festival. Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Federation and JCC have also provided financial support.

Jeopardy Continued

(Continued from page 30)

Yiddish for \$600: This verb means to haul or to move with effort.

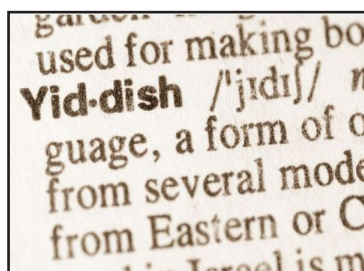
(The answer is: What is schlep?) This one was correctly answered by contestant Ben Ring, an accountant originally from Allentown, Pennsylvania. Mazel tov, Ben!

Yiddish for \$400: Sometimes in the middle of the night I'll head to the kitchen and do some of this from the Yiddish for "snacking."

(The answer is: What is nosh/noshing?) And, in case you didn't know, The Noshers is the name of our partner site that's dedicated to Jewish food.

Yiddish for \$200: There's no guilt in knowing that "gelt" is this; you'll receive some with a correct response.

(The answer is: What is gelt?) Contestant and college administrator Tracy Arwari of Newport, West Virginia, got some gelt for this one. And, FYI, gelt



is simply Yiddish for "money," though of course we also love to eat chocolate gelt during Hanukkah!

How would you have done? Personally, I found the questions all extremely easy, but, you know, I work for a Jewish publication. Nonetheless, we did get verklempt watching Trebek impart his viewers with some Yiddish knowledge, knowing that we'll have to say goodbye to him on TV. May his memory be for a blessing.

This article originally appeared in Kveller.



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Those We Lost In 2020: Remembering the Rabbis, Pioneers, Innovators and Family Members

By Gabe Friedman (JTA)
There's no way to tally all whom we lost in 2020, a year when we mourned even our ability to carry out time-tested rituals of grief.

Among those who died this year were some of the Jewish world's most famous and influential pillars in a range of industries, realms of thought and areas of activism — from the pioneer jurist Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the moral thought leader Rabbi Jonathan Sacks to the Modern Orthodox rabbi Norman Lamm to the influential

countless Jews, including thousands of Israelis, large numbers of aging Holocaust survivors and rabbinic leaders around the world. The disease felled prominent people, such as the Novominsker rebbe, Yaakov Perlow, and Fountains of Wayne songwriter Adam Schlesinger, who was just 52 when he died April 1. But it also took from us mothers, fathers, grandparents, young adults with promising futures and dear friends — the full range of human experience extinguished by an unrelenting pandemic.



Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

LGBTQ activist Larry Kramer. But many of the people whose deaths tell the story of 2020 were not widely known, except among the people who loved them and the communities they enriched.

To honor the loss that defined this year, we're departing from our usual practice of highlighting only a few luminaries. Here, we've listed all of the people memorialized in Jewish Telegraphic Agency obituaries in 2020.

We'll start with the many people — many of whose names will never make the news — lost to the pandemic that still rages. After that, we have decided the names into themed sections and listed them in chronological order of their death.

VICTIMS OF COVID-19

Nearly two million people worldwide have died of COVID-19, the new coronavirus that emerged in China at the end of 2019. Among them were

RABBIS

William Wolff: This later-in-life rabbi returned to Germany, where he had fled the Nazis as a child, to lead a community in a former East German state.

Adin Steinsaltz: His landmark translation of the Talmud made it more accessible.

Jonathan Sacks: The former chief rabbi of Britain was one of the Jewish world's leading moral and intellectual voices.

Dovid Feinstein: Feinstein was one of the foremost haredi Orthodox legal authorities in the United States and a symbol of the rich Jewish history of the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Gedaliah Schwartz: This major Orthodox beit din (or rabbinical court) leader notably clashed with the Israeli Chief Rabbinate.

Yehuda Herzl Henkin: Henkin and his wife, Rabbanit Chana Henkin, started a groundbreaking program for Orthodox women to answer questions of Jewish law.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

David Stern: The beloved and longtime commissioner of the NBA helped turn the league into a global powerhouse.

Elizabeth Wurzel: Wurzel, only 52, helped kickstart the literary memoir genre boom with her 1994 book "Prozac Nation."

Buck Henry: Henry, born Henry Zuckerman, was another Mel Brooks acolyte but a star screenwriter in his own right, penning scripts for films such as "The Graduate."

Kirk Douglas: The iconic movie star of Hollywood's early golden age, who was born Issur Danielovitch and lived until 103, reconnected with his Jewish roots later in life.

Sy Sperling: The Jewish son of a Bronx plumber was famous for his Hair Club for Men ads in the New York City subway, noting that he wasn't only the company's president, he was also a client.

James Lipton: He hosted the famed "Inside the Actors Studio," interviewing hundreds of movie stars over decades.

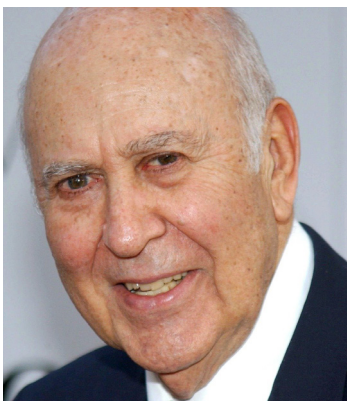
Danny Goldman: The actor and casting director, who was raised Orthodox and attended Jewish day school, was best known as the voice of a Smurf.

Alan Shestack: The influential museum director helped lead the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Yale University Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Art.

Jerry Stiller: One generation knows him best as the father of Ben, and another knows him as George Costanza's cranky dad on "Seinfeld," but Stiller was an actor with broad range — and a mensch.

Joel Schumacher: The openly gay director of blockbusters was known for helming "St. Elmo's Fire" and two Batman films.

Milton Glaser: One of the most famous and influential designers of all time made some



Carl Reiner



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

pretty Jewish graphics in his heyday.

Carl Reiner: The comedy legend called himself a "Jewish atheist" after the Holocaust, but that didn't stop him and his best friend Mel Brooks from writing some of the 20th century's best Jewish comedy.

Angela Buxton: The 1956 Wimbledon doubles champion was denied admission to the All England Club, which hosts the prestigious tennis tournament and normally gives lifetime access to all winners, because of anti-Semitism.

Arnold Spielberg: His war experiences inspired his son Steven to make "Saving Private Ryan," and he helped make the USC Shoah Foundation into a leading archive of Holocaust testimony.

Ronald Harwood: The acclaimed screenwriter won an Oscar for his script for "The Pianist," based on the memoir of a Polish Holocaust survivor.

Helen Reddy: The Grammy Award winner for the hit feminist anthem "I Am Woman" converted to Judaism.

Marlee Shapiro Asher: The acclaimed visual artist, who lived until 107, survived the Spanish flu pandemic as an infant and COVID-19 in the last year of her life.

Catie Lazarus: The comedian and writer hosted one of the entertainment world's best kept secrets: "Employee of the Month," a live show that involved standup and interviews

with celebrities.

LAW AND BUSINESS

Sumner Redstone: The media industry giant born Sumner Murray Rothstein created an empire that included CBS and Viacom.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The first Jewish woman to serve on the Supreme Court was a feminist pioneer, an unapologetic liberal warrior and in her later years a pop culture icon.

Linda Sher: Sher founded JACPAC, the first political action committee run by Jewish women.

James Wolfensohn: The investor-turned-World Bank president was a philanthropist to Jewish causes and shepherded Israel's exit from Gaza in 2005.

Theodore Mann: Mann led several major Jewish organizations, including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the American Jewish Congress, and was an early critic of Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

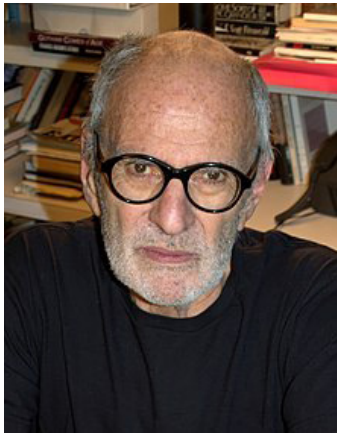
ACTIVISM

Larry Kramer: The outspoken writer emerged as one of the most important figures in the history of LGBTQ activism during the AIDS crisis.

Gabor Hirsch: Hirsch, who survived near death in Auschwitz, was one of Switzerland's most prominent advocates for Holocaust commemoration.

Justin Sonder: Sonder be-

Those We Lost In 2020 Continued



Larry Kramer

came a police officer in his native Germany just six months after U.S. troops liberated him from a death march from Auschwitz, and later a left-wing politician and activist.

Renzo Gattegna: In addition to testifying before young people about the Holocaust, Gattegna helped rebuild the Jewish community in Italy after the genocide and eventually led the Union of Italian Jewish Communities.

Paul Sobol: The Belgian Auschwitz survivor became dubbed a “a conveyer of memory” by local media in his later years.

Maurice Cling: Cling, who survived Auschwitz and Dachau, became an English teacher who also told his story to teens in France, where he eventually fled to.

Esther Cohen: Cohen, who escaped a stint in Auschwitz, educated her fellow Greeks about the Shoah.

ACADEMIA AND INNOVATION

Larry Tesler: The Xerox and Apple innovator invented the now-ubiquitous copy and paste function.

Norman Lamm: The prolific Jewish scholar and author helped turn Yeshiva University back into a flagship institution of Modern Orthodoxy as its longtime president.

Zeev Sternhell: The Israeli expert on fascism and ultranationalism taught at Hebrew University for decades and was an outspoken critic of the settler movement.



Martha Nierenberg

Martha Nierenberg: The Hungarian Holocaust survivor and MIT biochemist who spoke six languages helped bring Scandinavian furniture design to the U.S. through a company

with her husband.

David Schneer: The beloved Jewish studies professor at the University of Colorado died of the coronavirus at 48.

Jack Steinberger: The pioneering physicist won a Nobel Prize for helping to identify the universe’s smallest particle.

JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE

Albert Sherman: The influential communal and political insider in Boston held leadership positions at several major Jewish organizations, including the New England Anti-Defamation League.

Stephan Ross: The Holocaust survivor founded the New England Holocaust Memorial.

Robert Lappin: The massive giver to Jewish causes helped found the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews and sponsored teen trips to Israel decades before the start of the Birthright program.

Ilia Salita: His Genesis Philanthropy Group worked to strengthen the Jewish identity of Russian-speaking Jews around the globe.

GLOBAL

Maurice Bidermann: The Holocaust survivor became a leading men’s fashion magnate but was also eventually convicted of corruption.

Yefim Goldberg: The 106-year-old Jewish veteran of World War II who was honored frequently by the governments of Belarus and Russia.

Tedje van der Sluis: The



Yefim Goldberg

Dutch Holocaust survivor was the subject, along with her survivor husband, of a hit documentary in her native Holland.

Jackie Jakubowski: He became one of Sweden’s most important Jewish voices as editor of the local cultural magazine the Jewish Chronicle.

Albert Memmi: The famed French author often referenced his Jewish identity and wrote about anti-Semitism.

Beny Zlochisty: The beloved Mexican Jewish leader helped Jews in the Soviet Union, led trips to Holocaust sites in Europe through March of the Living and helmed the Mexican Zionist Council.

David Galante: It took decades for the Auschwitz survivor to teach younger generations about his experience in his adopted Argentina.

Jorge Kirszenbaum: The influential former president of Argentina’s Jewish community helped the relatives of those who were kidnapped and disappeared under the last military

dictatorship that ruled Argentina, from 1976 to 1983.

Mikhail Zhvanetsky: The Holocaust survivor from Odesa became one of Russia’s most famous standup comedians, against all odds during the oppressive Soviet Union years.



Suzanne Belling

Suzanne Belling: The former JTA correspondent was a leading writer on Jewish issues in South Africa.

Joseph Safra: Brazil’s richest man at the time of his death, with a fortune of over \$23 billion, was a leading global Jewish philanthropist.

CJN Bonus Content - Digital Issue Only



PBS Remembering Influential AIDS Activist Larry Kramer



Remembering Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg



Carl Reiner: A Founding Father of TV Comedy



THE MAIN EVENT

JANUARY 31 AT 7PM

FEATURING

MAYIM BIALIK

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE WELCOMING MAYIM BIALIK TO THE MAIN EVENT, THE FEDERATION'S HIGHEST-PROFILE EVENT OF THE YEAR. THIS EVENT OFFICIALLY KICKS OFF OUR COMMUNITY'S 2021 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN. ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 7:00 PM, PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY AS MAYIM WILL HELP US CELEBRATE THE WORK OF FEDERATION THROUGH STORIES OF HER OWN EXPERIENCES.

VIRTUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

