

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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October 2021

After Long Wait, Temple Israel to Install Rabbi Michael Wolk

By Karen Turk, Interim Executive Director

Temple Israel will be celebrating the installation of its 21st senior rabbi October 1-2, 2021. Rabbi Michael Wolk joined Temple Israel on July 1, 2020, and though rabbis are typically installed within the first few months of joining their new shul, COVID interrupted plans. Now after more than a year, Temple Israel is ready to officially welcome and celebrate him in person.

Rabbi Wolk grew up in the richness of an observant Jewish home and attended Jewish day school. He is a native of Long Island, New York. Growing up as the “cantor’s kid” in his shul imparted in him an early love of Jewish life that helped guide him toward the rabbinate. Rabbi Wolk graduated from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary’s (JTS) List College before attending rabbinical school at JTS. After being ordained in 2012, he moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to serve as the rabbi of Keneseth Israel Congregation. After spending seven years in Louisville, and developing a sophisticated appreciation for bourbon, he was ready for a larger congregation and a large metropolitan area. On March 13, 2020, just ahead of the North Carolina shelter-in-place order, the Wolk family visited Charlotte and knew this is where they wanted to be.



Rabbi Michael Wolk

Rabbi Wolk, his wife, Heidi, and daughters Klara Rose and Julia arrived in July in what we thought was the height of the pandemic, but that did not slow them down from settling in. Klara Rose and Julia were enrolled in Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Heidi found a teaching job with Charlotte Mecklenburg School District, and all of them found ways to connect with their new community. Rabbi Wolk embarked on his journey to meet as many congregants as he could in what became a popular initiative termed “backyard visits.” He will tell you he saw many dogs, pools, and neighborhoods as he met with Temple Israel congregants and, like many of us, became proficient on Zoom. Since then, Temple Israel has returned to in-person services, and Rabbi

Wolk’s enthusiasm for communal prayer, learning, and Jewish life has sparked new energy. Despite the challenges of COVID, Rabbi Wolk and Cantor Lissek just enjoyed their second High Holidays together but their first with congregants in Temple Israel’s Morris and Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary.

The installation theme Rabbi Wolk chose is “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all” (Isaiah 56:7) and exemplifies the importance he places on welcoming everyone, helping

anyone, and collaborating with others to make the community a better place for all. Rabbi Wolk has continued the long-standing relationship Temple Israel has enjoyed with Reverend Jim Howell of Myers Park United Methodist Church. Rabbi Wolk’s collaboration with Rabbi Asher Knight and other Shalom Park organizations solidifies his commitment to community building.

Rabbi Wolk will celebrate his installation with his father, Cantor Emeritus Morris Wolk of Plainview Jewish Center (New

York), Cantor Sharon Hordes, Keneseth Israel Congregation of Louisville (Kentucky), Rabbi Emeritus Stanley Miles, Temple Shalom, Louisville (Kentucky), and Cantor Randall Levin, Forest Hills Jewish Center (New York). There are many events throughout the weekend that you can participate in to mark Rabbi Wolk’s official in-person welcome to Temple Israel. Please visit templeisraelnc.org for more information and to register.

Women’s Philanthropy Fall Kickoff October 21: Tickets on Sale Now

Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy plays a key role in ensuring a thriving future for the Charlotte Jewish Community, Israel, and the Jewish people. More than one-third of donations to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Annual Campaign come from the Lions of Judah, Pomegranate, and Pearl Society, representing women who give to the Federation at various levels. Beyond philanthropic dollars, Women’s Philanthropy provides significant opportunities for all women to affirm their Jewish identity and spirituality, to be proactive in evolving issues of concern, and to engage new participants and leaders in the community to inspire other Jewish women by example.

On October 21, Women’s Philanthropy kicks off its calendar for the year with special guest Archie Gottesman, co-founder of JewBelong. This event will be the first chance for participants to gather in person since early 2020, and though the event will be offered virtually as well, in-person attendance will be limited to 75 people.

“Archie Gottesman is the co-founder of JewBelong.com, a groundbreaking organization and web-based platform focused on rebranding Judaism to make it more warm and welcoming for all, no matter where they are on their Jewish journey. Using awareness campaigns, including billboards in Times Square, New York City, JewBelong also focus-



Archie Gottesman

(Continued on page 3)

Look Inside...



FCJC Legacy Spotlight
Page 9

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From the Editor

There's No Masking Our Gratitude



Shira Firestone, Editor CJA

Once again I find myself assembling an issue of the Charlotte Jewish News (CJA) that is filled with talk of the pandemic. And this month, once again, the paper is also filled with messages of “We’re not sure,” “We’re working on it,” “We’ll have to wait and see,” and “Stay tuned.” The CJA begins preparing its next issue weeks before it lands on your doorsteps (or digital screens). The changing and

unpredictable nature of the pandemic has made this more challenging than usual. Plans that were announced in September’s paper were already changing when the paper went to print. Then and now, we include a disclaimer to check with organizations’ websites for updated details. We all have the month of Elul to prepare for the High Holidays, but for leaders of synagogues, congregations, and organizations, that planning begins months in advance. The scope of logistics to organize is mind-boggling under the best of circumstances — and these have not been the best of circumstances. Just as plans were beginning to fall in place, community leaders once again had to “pivot” and draw upon seemingly bottomless creative reserves to address concerns about newly rising COVID infection rates. Emergency board meetings were being held, and

logistical and emotional issues such as vaccination and mask requirements and social distancing were once again being reconsidered. I’ve had the privilege to witness many of these leaders up close as they grappled with keeping their communities safe, while providing a meaningful and transformational High Holiday experience. To them, I know I speak for all of us when I say thank you. And to all of the community members who were patient, flexible, and understanding, I know I speak for the community leaders when I say thank you as well. May the coming year bring health and safety to us all — and may it be a year when we can begin to reliably make plans to celebrate, worship, and gather safely together again.

Shira

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The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

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October 8 — 6:39 p.m.
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October 22 — 6:21 p.m.
October 29 — 6:14 p.m.

CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Charlotte Teachers Return From Israel

This summer, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of greater Charlotte, a cohort of five teachers from Charlotte, plus an additional two teachers from neighboring North Carolina communities, were able to take part in TALMA. TALMA is a community of certified educators from around the world who come to Israel for a summer, year, or Aliyah, in order to bring educational equity, access, and opportunity to Israel’s social and geographic periphery through English educational programming.

In November 2013, the Israeli Ministry of Education announced its intention to introduce a new concept in Israel — public summer school for elementary schoolchildren. The main objective was to create meaningful learning experiences for low-income Israeli children during July, thereby introducing a value-added “11th month” to the Israeli school year.

Sensing the urgency of this exciting new opportunity, two prominent family foundations, Schusterman Family Philanthropies and The Steinhart Family Foundation in Israel, decided to take action. They recognized the increasing importance of English for Israeli students and professionals on the one hand, and the growing need for an authentic educational service project in Israel for young, international Jewishly-connected educators, on the other. The two foundations



partnered with Israel’s Ministry of Education to create a unique new program on Israel’s educational landscape — TALMA. English for Israelis is a necessity, both as a global and local language, in schools and society. A requirement for higher education and many professions, understanding and speaking English is a basic necessity to advance in life. Nevertheless, a perpetual shortage of qualified educators leaves many peripheral communities without this critical tool for success. Under the guiding belief that English proficiency is essential to unlocking future opportunities for Israel’s low-income youth, TALMA’s social justice driven international educators devote their summer to volunteer-teaching with TALMA. In exchange for volunteering their teacher talents in underserved communities, fellows receive an all-expenses-paid

summer in Israel, professional development (generally recognized by U.S. school districts), social enrichment, and an opportunity to experience Israel through their profession. The Charlotte teacher cohort was based in TALMA’s living community at Kibbutz Mizra. Teachers’ placements ranged from serving in Jewish communities in Afula and Nof HaGalil to placements with our Druze partners in Maghar. Additionally, TALMA worked closely with the Federation and the Partnership-2Gether team to facilitate an enrichment program in Hadera that exposed the Fellows to various education initiatives, teaching peers, and programs happening in the community. Teachers from Charlotte and North Carolina communities were: Eliana Berger, Carmen Cardenas, Jesse Mazen, Kelsie Wall, Rachel Winter, Dr. Matthew Wynne, and Joey Fradkin.

Here’s what some of them had to say about their experience: **Eliana Berger**

One of the most impactful days during my entire TALMA experience was our trip to Hadera. We were hosted by Maya and Shimrit from the partnership and witnessed many of the incredible projects taking place that are made possible with the support of Charlotte. We were taken to a youth village, community market and community boys and girls club, all within the City of Hadera. I was truly inspired by everything the community was doing to help one another, even brought to tears at the youth village. This trip to Hadera made me want to get involved in the Jewish Federation and be a part of the Hadera- Charlotte Partnership even more. Partnering with a co-teacher in Israel was a huge learning experience. My co-teacher and I got along very well but definitely had different teaching styles. I really enjoyed watching her teach and learned a lot from the experi-



(Continued on page 5)

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Levine-Sklut Judaic Library In the New Year

Libraries usually conjure images of quiet, dusty buildings with stacks of books, but the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education is bigger than a building and more than just books. Since 2005, the library has been connecting Jewish people of all generations and circumstances to the resources they need, to meaningful experiences, and to one another. Since its inception, patrons and non-patrons alike have generously supported the library each year enabling the library to provide a rich offering of programs and services for our community. This year's library campaign kicks off this month and continues until December 31.

In 2017, the library became a part of the newly established Center for Jewish Education (CJE). The CJE, whose mission is to enhance community engagement, promote lifelong Jewish learning, and create pathways to Jewish identity, is a component of the Jewish Federation's Department of Education and Engagement.

Of the library's offerings for children, perhaps one of its best known and treasured is Miss Debby, who for ten years has led weekly story times for families and local Jewish schools, accompanied by her popular puppet helpers. Even during the pandemic, Miss Debby continued with her program online with "Miss Debby at Home," building a digital library that is free to access on the library's website. "Miss Debby's Best Loved Children's Books" column in the Charlotte

Jewish News each month offers reviews and recommendations for books that can all be found for free in the library, books that may be difficult to find or afford in the city library or local bookstores.

In addition, the library helps students succeed academically and avoid the summer decline of reading skills with its "Summer Reading Challenge." These challenges encourage preschool and elementary aged children to read books during the summer break. Participants are awarded prizes based on the competition's annual theme.

During the pandemic, the library's adult services haven't slowed down, just shifted gears.

Book check-outs continued, with scheduled curbside pickup, and the library was able to expand its eBook collection and provide Kindle devices for loan so that patrons can enjoy books from the safety of their own homes. The library is now open for community members to browse in person, but curbside pickup and eBooks remain available as well.

Sue Littauer, who also contributes a monthly "Sue's Bookshelf" column to CJN, continued to lead the CJE's monthly book club, albeit virtually.

But perhaps just as important as the library's outstanding programming and extensive collection of resources is its role as a free space for community members to gather. Whether as a place for the Baby & Me class for new moms, meeting space for book clubs, or just a "third place" to work away from home, the library is the only free, open-to-all

gathering space on Shalom Park.

The CJE looks forward to continuing improvements and expansion to library offerings, as well as other CJE programming. In the past year, the CJE continued to host community and education events. Adults pursued Jewish learning through adult learning classes in partnership with organizations such as iEngage and Queens University. Even during a pandemic, the CJE continued to host community and education events such as community reads, highlighting authors such as Ariel Burger to discuss "Witness, Lessons from Elie Wiesel's Classroom," and Tiffany Shlain to talk about the power of unplugging one day a week based on her book "24/7". In the coming year, the CJE will launch its inaugural Jewish Book Festival featuring appearances from five Jewish authors during the week of March 20-27.

Like everyone, the CJE looks forward to the day the library and the many CJE programs can return to "operations as usual." But until then, with your help, the work will continue to enrich our Jewish community. Donations can be made online before December 31 at www.jewishcharlotte.org/CJE.

To read about the history of, read the CJN article from March 2005 in "Looking Back" on page 31.



Women's Philanthropy

(Continued from page 1)

es on ending the antisemitism growing in the U.S. For almost 30 years, Archie was the chief branding officer/principal of Edison Properties and the voice behind Manhattan Mini Storage's iconic billboards. Archie has sat on various boards including: Zioness, Democratic Majority for Israel, Israel on Campus Coalition, Animal Haven Shelter and Foundation for Jewish Camp." (www.ajc.org/bio/archie-gottesman).

The event will take place at 7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$18 by going to www.jewishcharlotte.org. This event is open to all women, and there is no minimum gift requirement to attend. The event is intended to be a casual, warm,

and inclusive event to welcome all Jewish women in our community and help us mark the beginning of our Women's Philanthropy calendar.

The program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy, co-chaired by Lisa Levinson and Debra Van Glish. For further information, contact the Federation office at (704) 944-6757 or info@jewish-charlotte.org.



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Join us for the
Women's Philanthropy Kickoff Event

featuring
Archie Gottesman
co-founder of JewBelong
October 21st at 7:00 p.m.



Jewish Federation
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Sue's Bookshelf

Look Who's Coming to Dinner



Sue Littauer

Moses? Elie Wiesel? Herman Wouk? Anne Frank?

These are some of the responses I've received when I've asked, "Which three Jewish writers, dead or alive, would you most like to have dinner with?"

According to Ron Balson, author of "Once We Were Brothers, The Girl from Berlin," "Eli's Promise," and a host of other best sellers, he would choose "Elie Wiesel for his wisdom and poignant memories, Leon Uris to discuss how he researched and created his stories, and Jake Tapper because of the clever things he would say."

On the opposite end of the spectrum comes the response from American author and public speaker Fran Lebowitz: "None. I would never do it. My idea of a great literary dinner party is Fran, eating alone, reading a book. That's my idea of a literary dinner party. When I eat alone, I spend a lot of time before I sit down to my meager meal choosing what to read. And I'm a lot better choosing a book than preparing a meal. And I never eat anything without reading. Ever. If I'm eating an apple, I have to get a book."

I've been giving this question a great deal of thought, and even though there are myriad Jewish writers I'd like to have dinner with, I keep coming back to three: Alice Hoffman, Tova Mirvis, and Shulem Deen, and I'd like to have dinner with the three of them together. I think they would enjoy learning about each other's life journeys and experiences, the people and events that shaped their lives, the challenges of storytelling and, most importantly, their search for their own Jewish identity.

Alice Hoffman is an American novelist whose books about

women in search of their identities mix realism and the supernatural. Since the death of her grandmother, her novels have taken on more of a Jewish influence. I'm curious whether the inclusion of Judaism, found first in "The Dovekeepers" and then in "The Marriage of Opposites," "The Museum of Extraordinary Things," "The World That We Knew," and most recently in "Magic Lessons," is in part a quest for her own Jewish identity.

Tova Mirvis would be my second guest. In her own words, her books "The Ladies Auxiliary," "The Outside World," and "The Book of Separation," "explore the issues of belief and doubt and the tensions between community and individuality, tradition and modernity ... Those books were a way to for me to grapple with my own upbringing and life as an Orthodox Jew." I would welcome the opportunity to learn how she has reconciled her beliefs and navigated the world after leaving Orthodox Jewry.

My third dinner guest would be Shulem Deen, author of the award-winning memoir "All Who Go Do Not Return," an ac-

count of living within and then leaving New York's Hasidic community. He exhibited great strength to make this change, not only leaving his community but also his children. I know he's made a new life for himself as a writer on political and social issues, and I would be extremely interested to learn more about his personal journey.

That's my guest list for my literary dinner party, and I'd love to hear yours. Please email me at sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org, and I'll be happy to share your "guest lists" in my next column.



"Spin"

Our first meeting in the new year will be Wednesday, October 13. Peter Zheutlin, author of "Spin," will be joining us in person. We'll meet in the Weinberg Center at 1 p.m. Peter Zheutlin is a freelance journalist and author whose work has appeared regularly in The Boston Globe and The Christian Science Monitor. His first book, "Around the World on Two Wheels: Annie Londonderry's Extraordinary Ride," is the story of the author's great-granddaughter who, in 1894, left her three young children with her husband in Boston to circle the world on a bicycle. In doing so, she became the world's first female international sports star. Zheutlin's ninth and latest book "Spin: A Novel Based on a (Mostly) True Story," reimagines the Annie Londonderry story in this work of historical fiction. All are welcome to join us for this special event.

Miss Debby's Best Loved Children's Books

Expand Your Child's Horizons: Read Aloud to Big Kids



Debby Block

Some of my favorite memories include snuggling in bed and reading chapter books aloud to my own sons. Even to this day, we exchange beloved quotes from those shared books. Though your elementary-aged children are able to read to themselves, reading aloud to them remains an extremely valuable and educational experience.

Here are some of the many benefits of reading aloud to your school-aged children:

- Builds a joyous connection to reading and to literature
- Expands vocabulary
- Improves comprehension
- Improves listening skills
- Models fluent reading
- Introduces different genres
- Enhances empathy and un-

derstanding of others and promotes opportunity for discussion

• Last, but probably the most important, reading aloud for 15-20 minutes a day provides quality bonding time between parent and child — a true benefit for both the child and the adult.

I recommend that the adult reads aloud books that are above the level their children are capable of reading comfortably to themselves. Bedtime is a great time to explore together classic literature such as "Charlotte's Web," "The Mouse and the Motorcycle," the Judy Blume series about Fudge, or even J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit." Pick a book that you as the adult will enjoy, making this a perfect win-win experience.

Here are some of my best-loved books to read aloud to your big kid:

"The Indian in the Cupboard" by Lynne Reid Banks

Imagine one of your dolls or plastic figurines coming to life. That is exactly what happens when Omri puts his new plastic figure of a Native American man into a metal box and turns a mysterious skeleton key. The interactions between Omri and the tiny being from a different time and culture are delightful, as is their growing friendship. This

book is at the top of my list to read to your child or grandchild. (*Appropriate for ages seven and older.*)

"Does God Have a Big Toe: Stories About Stories in the Bible" by Marc Gellman

One of my all-time favorite books to read to elementary-aged children is "Does God Have a Big Toe?" by Marc Gellman. Rabbi Gellman shares his amazing, and often hilarious, versions of creation and other Torah tales. I love all the stories, but "Adam's Animals" will delight any child. Do you know what Adam called the "large-gray-wrinkled-up-long-nosed-big-eared-white-tusked-tree-eating-stomper?" That's right ... "Hey You!" If you and your child enjoy this book, I would also recommend Marc Gellman's "God's Mailbox." (*Appropriate for children K-4th grade but great fun for adults as well.*)

"Jacob Two Two Meets the Hooded Fang" by Mordechai Richler

Jacob Two Two is two plus two plus two years old. He has two ears, two eyes, two arms, and two feet. He has two sisters and two brothers, but he is the littlest. Unfortunately, no one listens to Jacob Two Two the first time, so he has gotten into the

unfortunate habit of saying everything twice. When Jacob Two Two is finally allowed on his first adventure, he insults an adult by repeating himself and ends up in a creepy children's prison run by the purportedly frightful Hooded Fang. "Jacob Two Two Meets the Hooded Fang" is a delightful and darkly humorous adventure story written by the acclaimed Jewish Canadian author of "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz." (*Appropriate to read aloud to children ages five to eight*)

"The Lemonade War" by Jacqueline Davies

I recently discovered and was instantly impressed by "The Lemonade War" by Jewish author Jacqueline Davies. This story brings sibling rivalry to a whole new level when Evan and brainy younger sister Jessie compete to see who can make the most profit from their lemonade stand. This award-winning book is lighthearted yet emotionally charged as it explores how arguments can escalate beyond anyone's intent. "The Lemonade War" successfully weaves in lessons on math, marketing, and business in a child-friendly way. If you enjoy this book, look for the other books in the series as well. (*Appropriate to read aloud to children grades three through five*)

"Death by Toilet Paper" by Donna Gephart

Benjamin lives with his mother, his zeyde (grandfather), and a fish named Barkley. Benjamin does everything he can to help his family become financially solvent, from selling candy bars to attempting to win \$10,000 by writing a slogan for a toilet paper company. This PJ Our Way selection is in turns emotional, heartwarming, and humorous. Fun facts about toilet paper can be found in every chapter. (*Appropriate to read to children ages nine to twelve. Note: This book deals with the recent death of the character's father.*)

What was your favorite book? Why not share it with your child tonight?

Miss Debby's best-loved books are available at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Please stop in and pick up a copy to read to your child tonight. Alternatively, you may reserve a copy by emailing library@jewishcharlotte.org or calling (704) 944-6783.

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

TALMA

(Continued from page 2)

ence. The education system in Israel has many differences but also a few similarities to here in Charlotte. I am so happy I got to experience being a teacher in a completely unfamiliar environment. I hope I get to experience it again next summer!

Carmen Cardenas

Join Talma this year made me change my entire view in the classroom. This was the second time I visited Israel and it felt a totally new experience. Whatever your beliefs are, teaching is a profession that makes us see the world in a different way. My experience this summer was one of a lifetime, where you connect with the teachers and, if you are lucky, you get to know teachers who already lived in Israel or worked there previously and they will give a deeper understanding of whatever you would like to know. I was very fortunate to meet a teacher who I called "my personal translator." She spoke Hebrew and taught me some as well.

Any teacher who could have this opportunity will not regret it and would loved to come back. Just like me!

Rachel Winter

It was great partnering with an Israeli co-teacher. I learned a lot from her and believe she learned a lot from me. We both used our strengths to work together and build a great classroom community. We do come from different communities and cultures so had to meet in the middle. Learning the culture of an Israeli classroom was definitely an adjustment for me since it is very different from an American classroom. In addition, I taught in a religious, all girls school which was very new to me. The staff was very welcoming and made me feel comfortable immediately. I'm so thankful to have had this experience and look forward to it in the future!

Dr. Matthew John Wynne, Ed.D.

From my experience with TALMA, I learned about the history, religion, culture, and educational system of the nation of Israel. In addition, I had the opportunity to interact with educational specialists, administrators, teachers, and students within the northern region, where I was assigned to teach. I facilitated English instruction in Maghar and Afula to a diverse population, which consisted of Druze, Christian, Muslim, and Jewish students. This experience included engaging in professional development, which included a variety of first-class speakers, workshops, tours, and experiential learning opportunities.

Working with the students was truly my greatest joy. Each day we would learn from one another. As I would help them improve their ability to read, write, and communicate in English, the students would then teach me their language and customs. Every morning when I would arrive in the schools my students would huddle around me to practice their English. They would communicate the usual greetings such as "Hello, how are you, good morning, welcome, how are you feeling, etc." Following this we would engage in interactive English lessons. These consisted of games, skits, media presentations, and real-life simulations. Also, during the day we would complete a cultural exchange activity. I would share with them aspects of American culture, and they would share with me their unique cultures. One fond memory I have is when one of the students taught me their cultural dance called the Dabke. It involves dancing hand-in-hand in a circle, stepping, kicking, and hopping. At first it was a challenge for me, but eventually I got the hang of it.

This summer fellowship opened the door for me to develop lifelong connections to my students, teachers, and organizations within the state of Israel. As a facilitator of learning, I aspire to share the many instructional best practices and strategies acquired in teaching English, multiculturalism, diversity, and tolerance through this experience. It is my intent to enhance my fellow colleagues' knowledge of Israel's role in the global sphere through developing educational programs and professional development opportunities within my realm of influence.



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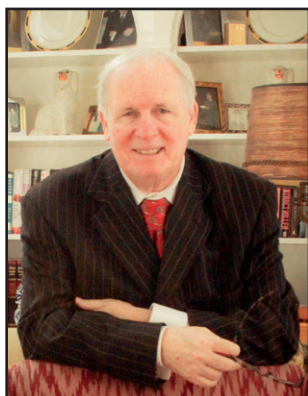
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Using My Judaism in Stand-Up Comedy

By Steve Hofstetter

I've been a stand-up comedian for almost 19 years. And every single time I've been on stage, whether the crowd likes it or not, I've also been a Jewish stand-up comedian.

Humor and Judaism go together like latkes and sour cream. And like latkes and apple sauce. Humor, like a latke, is subjective. But a good joke, like a good latke, is part of being Jewish.

Some of my early memories

of synagogue revolve around Purim, where part of the ridiculous celebration is getting drunk enough to mistake the hero of the story for the villain. As kids, we didn't drink. But we'd howl to see gags like our rabbi taking the bimah in several pairs of pants, always pretending that each one he removed was the last one.

One of my favorite stories is about the Baal Shem Tov, an 18th-century Polish rabbi and the founder of Hasidic Juda-

ism. While some people might assume the founder of Hasidic Judaism would be a person who took himself seriously, laughter was extremely important to the rabbi. The story I love (and relate to) is the one where the Baal Shem Tov said he felt the most spiritual when he saw people laugh.

My theory is that humor is intertwined with Judaism because a sense of humor is born from oppression, as it is a defense

mechanism. Jewish people have turned to humor over the years to cope. And, like comedians, Jewish people identify with the underdog.

Jewish culture also makes it easy to go into stand-up comedy. When my parents told their friends I was a comedian, the common response was "like Henny Youngman!" and then they'd wax poetic about seeing shows in the Catskills. But many of my non-Jewish friends didn't even tell their parents about their career choice. And when they finally did, their parents certainly didn't tell their friends.

Many Jewish comedians play today's non-Catskills circuit: synagogue fundraisers, on-campus events for Hillel and Chabad, and parents' weekends at summer camps. Most of these comics have entire acts based on their Jewish identity. Their jokes are about subjects like cleaning the house for Passover, feeling different from your non-Jewish friends on Hanukkah, and separate seating on Shabbos (if the show is at an Orthodox shul).

However, most of my act is not about being Jewish. I've done jokes about it over the years, sure. One of my first bits talked about stereotypes we deal with, and one of my favorite stories was explaining to a crowd that my grandfather used to take off from school for "Erev Yom Revii" (i.e., "Tuesday").

I've done entire albums where I don't mention being Jewish at all. But whether or not my heritage is in my material, being Jewish has always informed my perspective.

The early joke I did about stereotypes relied on Jewish people being told they are cheap. After a show, a woman approached me with a thick drawl and asked me

why that's true.

I wanted to explain to her that the joke was mocking stereotypes, and stereotypes are a form of prejudice. I wanted to blame the woman for her reaction. Her reaction was my fault; I wrote and said the words she was reacting to. An artist is never responsible for how someone reacts to their art. But an artist is always responsible for how they react to that reaction.

It was a tough realization, and I never told that joke again.

I still address stereotypes; I'm 6'4" with red hair, so I don't look like an extra from "Fiddler." In my current hour, I talk about some non-Jewish people's surprise when they find out I'm Jewish, and also some Jewish people's surprise when they find out I'm Jewish. The joke still discusses stereotypes, but it's clear where I stand on the matter. I learned from my mistake, and I am more careful with my words now than I was when I started.

My Jewish upbringing informs my perspective of being an underdog and provides me with a propensity toward gallows humor. But it also taught me to be a respectable part of community. From the mistake I made early on, I learned that the most important thing I can do with my comedy is not teach non-Jews what we traditionally eat each Hanukkah (though I do have a joke about it). The most important thing I can do with my comedy is set a good example.

I have received hundreds of messages over the years from people who had simply never interacted with a Jewish person before. Whether they grew up in towns without Jewish people or they were purposefully raised to avoid us, I was the first Jewish person they ever listened to. They let me know that by listening to me, they learned that stereotypes are a form of prejudice. Not because I told them that, but because I showed them their preconceived notions of who and what a Jewish person should be were false.

I am prouder of those messages than any joke I've written and any career goal I've accomplished. Those messages demonstrate that my approach to using Judaism in my comedy doesn't just work for a show at a Hillel. It works to reach people who would never attend one.

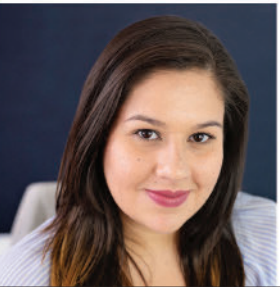
I've been a stand-up comedian for almost 19 years. And every single time I'm on stage, whether the crowd likes it or not, I am mindful that I am a Jewish stand-up comedian.

(First printed in Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle.)

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Charlotte is pleased to welcome comedian Steve Hofstetter to Amos' Southend on November 7, 2021. To purchase tickets visit www.SteveHofstetter.com.

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J

ADULTS

Fall 2021 Adult Programs

Color your days with an enriching new activity!

"Better Breathing" Series with Cindy Capwell

Tuesdays, 7-8pm
October 5 - November 23
Lori Sklut Recreation Hall
Cost (entire series): M/\$120 B/\$100 NM/\$140
Questions? Jill.Lipson@charlottejcc.org

**RSVP for series by Wed, 9/29*

International Flavors of Central Avenue

Thursday, October 7th - 5pm
Meet at Jasmine Grill (2920 Central Ave; free parking)
Cost: M/\$35 B/\$25 NM/\$45
Questions? Sharri.Benjamin@charlottejcc.org

**RSVP by Thu, 9/30*

Learn to Play Canasta

Thursdays, 1-3pm
October 7, 14, 21, 28
Holly and Hall Levinson Family Place
Cost (all 4 classes): M/\$60 B/\$50 NM/\$70
Questions? Sharri.Benjamin@charlottejcc.org

**RSVP for all 4 classes by Fri, 10/1*

Photo and Media Storage Workshop Series

> **WORKSHOP #1:** "Understanding Ways to Get Your Photos and Media Organized"
Thursday, October 21st - 6:30-8pm

> **WORKSHOP #2:** "How to Preserve Your Photos for Future Generations"
Thursday, October 28th - 6:30-8pm

> **WORKSHOP #3:** "Are Your Phone Photos Driving You Crazy?"
Wednesday, November 3rd - 6:30-8pm

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Senior Center
Cost (all 3 workshops): M/\$30 B/\$25 NM/\$35
Questions? Sharri.Benjamin@charlottejcc.org

**RSVP for all 3 workshops by Thu, 10/14*

Ladies' Night Out: Pickleball Social (w/Coach Stephanie)

Wednesday, November 3rd - 6:30-9pm
Howard R. Levine Gym
Cost: M \$18 B/\$15 NM/\$25
Questions? Robin.Stier@charlottejcc.org

**RSVP by Fri, 10/29*

WALK-IN FLU SHOT CLINIC

CVS pharmacy at Levine JCC

No Appointment Needed!

Monday, October 4th
9am-3pm
Sam Lerner Center

OASIS Jewish Federation CFJS CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

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Jill Lipson 704-944-6792
Sharri Benjamin 704-944-6753

OASIS Jewish Federation

**RSVP for Fall Programs online at:*
www.charlottejcc.org | Or call: 704-366-5007

Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Rd, Charlotte
704-366-5007 | charlottejcc.org

Aging in Place at Generations at Shalom Park

By Karen Knoble, Community Outreach, Generations at Shalom Park

In a 2010 poll the AARP conducted, 88% of respondents over age 65 indicated they intend to “age in place.” But what exactly does it mean to age in place? For most, it means remaining autonomous and having control over day-to-day decision-making. It means living in a familiar setting close to family and friends. While many adults want to age in place, they need to consider where they can most affordably and safely live in the long term.

Molly G. Martin, director of Aldersgate at Home, advises, “In order to plan for the future and what can come, ask yourself, What are my options?”

Gerontologists also espouse aging in place. These experts focus on the social, emotional, physical, and financial benefits. As we age and face the potential for decreased mobility, our connection to community becomes more important. Yet seniors who live alone or with a spouse in a single-family dwelling often become isolated because of physical limitations and transportation issues. A life plan

community can provide seniors with the privacy they seek, the community they want, and the opportunities for social engagement and participation that support cognitive and emotional health. Stronger mental health promotes all-around health, including better physical function and decreased symptoms of depression. As a culturally Jewish living community, Generations at Shalom Park will provide a senior living alternative that offers familiarity and comfort by respecting and honoring Jewish traditions.

Cognitive and emotional health are supported by living among people of all ages and the stimulation stemming of those interactions. Because Generations at Shalom Park is an extension of the Shalom Park campus, its residents can be fully integrated into the vibrant Shalom Park community. Every day, residents can choose to be with children and adults of all ages, an opportunity not common in any other senior living community in Charlotte.

Physical ailments and limitations are the primary reasons older adults cannot continue to live comfortably or safely in

their homes. Homes specifically designed with the needs of seniors in mind enable aging in place by removing physical barriers. These design elements can include better lighting, well-designed bathrooms with roll-in showers, appropriate counter heights, open concept living spaces, state-of-the-art technology, and flex space for family and caregivers. Because Generations has been thoughtfully designed for the aging-in-place concept, it will be built with the latest and best features.

The Generations campus is also designed for convenience. Generations has a smaller footprint than most life plan communities, which makes it easier to get around. Concierge golf cart service will be readily available to take residents to the synagogues, the Levine Jewish Community Center, and other organizations on campus. There will be a wellness clinic on site for regularly scheduled appointments or urgent care needs. Transportation to doctor appointments off campus and shopping will be available at no additional cost to residents.

Aging in place costs less than assisted living or skilled

nursing alternatives, but access to reputable in-home care services is essential to comfortably age in place. These services include help with daily tasks like bathing and grooming, light housework, and organizing medications. Residents of Generations receive significant-

ly discounted services from Aldersgate at Home, including the option to use services for a minimum of 15 minutes (most other home health-care services require a minimum of two hours of service per visit). Although statistically most people will not require assisted living or skilled nursing for an extended period, Generations will also offer discounts on these services provided to residents at Aldersgate Shamrock campus.

The benefits of aging in place are well-established, but it requires a multifaceted approach with innovative design options and a supportive community to



create a community where it is truly possible to age in place. The integration of design and community is what differentiates Generations at Shalom Park from other senior living communities in Charlotte.

At Generations at Shalom Park, you will live in a home that you design, surrounded by things, people, and traditions that are familiar to you. You can age in place nestled within your community.



Because you can never have too much of what's good for you.

It's a vibrant lifestyle in a gorgeous modern residence on a welcoming multigenerational campus.

It's fine dining, art, culture, and access to the Levine JCC next door.

Welcome to Generations at Shalom Park, a new vision in Jewish senior living, opening in 2024. Founded on the principles of Jewish life and tradition, Generations offers everything and welcomes everyone.

Why settle for less?

Reserve your residence at preconstruction pricing while opportunities remain.

To learn more, call **(704) 736-3343** and take a closer look at generationsatshalompark.com.

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Legacy Spotlight: Laura and Stephen Philipson

By Laura Philipson

I grew up in a small town outside of Philadelphia. My father is from an Orthodox Jewish background, and my mother's family is Christian. While my parents didn't closely observe their faiths, I fondly remember celebrating holidays with both sides of our family. Stephen was born and raised in New Orleans. His family belonged to a Reform congregation and typically attended services twice a year for the High Holidays. They celebrated Hannukah and Passover at home with their extended families.

Stephen and I met at Washington and Lee University. Stephen was Hillel president, and I often attended events with him. Only about 20 Jews were on campus at the time. In 2001, we graduated, moved to New York City, and were married two years later. I converted to Judaism, as it was important to me that we would raise our future children with one religion. Stephen and I began attending Friday night services at Congregation Emanuel and Central Synagogue. We were working extremely long hours and found it to be a nice way to slow down and share time with one another. In 2005, we moved to Charlotte where our two daughters, Isabel and Lila, were eventually born.

We were impressed by the strength of Charlotte's arts culture and its Jewish community. We joined Temple Beth El and immediately became involved in the arts. This wasn't something we could easily do in a larger city like New York. Besides our Temple Beth El activities, we became involved with the Mint Museum, Opera Carolina, Charlotte Country Day School, and several other service-based nonprofits. Through our engagement with some of these organizations, we developed friendships with other Jewish donors and learned from their giving philosophies.

Giving back is a human and Jewish value that resonates with us and is something we communicate to our daughters. We volunteer on Mitzvah Day and encourage our girls to give selflessly at a young age. Their piggy banks have three sections: save, spend, and share.

We've been fortunate to be in a position to give back to the community we care about. Many of the opportunities we've had were because of the people who came before us. We have seen firsthand the impact on nonprofits by the loss of donors. It is difficult to suddenly replace the gifts of those who have passed on or moved away.

“We've been fortunate to be in a position to give back to the community we care about. Many of the opportunities we've had were because of the people who came before us.”

Legacy giving ensures that financial support will continue. It is particularly important in the Jewish world, as levels of engagement change from one generation to the next. There is a “pay it forward” component to a legacy gift, and it is

an important final statement to our children that indicates how much their parents value the importance of giving back and sharing with others.

For more information on legacy giving, visit www.charlottejewishfoundation.org.



Laura and Stephen Philipson

Thank You LEGACY DONORS



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

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

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Jewish Family Services Expands Outreach to the Senior Community

By Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

The senior engagement team at Jewish Family Services (JFS) has been busy with recent expansions to programs and service offerings for our senior community. Grants and community partnerships have enabled our dedicated, specialized staff to support more seniors, connecting them to resources in our community. According to Sheryl Gerrard, senior engagement manager, "Growth in our department couldn't come at a better time. We have seen an increase in requests for services, whether the needs are related to financial assistance, food insecurity, planning for housing transitions, lack of transportation, or social isolation or mental health support. Our continued growth makes it possible to meet the increase in demand for a variety of services and ensure we are able to support senior adults."

JFS received a Mecklenburg County grant that provides funding to support all individuals ages 60+ in our community. Services include connecting seniors to resources that can help with individualized life care planning,

food pantry referrals, housing and living arrangement transitions, transportation information, resources for social connections, senior health-care resources, and additional referrals.

JFS has been able to expand the holiday gift bag delivery program thanks to a grant from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS). This grant provides funding to deliver birthday bags to seniors, many of whom are isolated. The bags contain several items, including a sweet treat, a pair of LED tea lights, a large print puzzle book, a water bottle, and a reusable cloth tote. Volunteers began delivering bags in August and will continue delivering each month.

Community partnerships have also contributed to the expansion of JFS programming. A new, monthly, hybrid in-person and virtual program is the product of a partnership with the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) Oasis program. Each month will feature a different topic, with the goal of enriching and engaging our senior community. In addition, JFS has partnered with the Levine Jewish

Community Center to offer a Parkinson's caregiver support group funded by CFJS. This new group, facilitated by JFS staff, will offer support and connection and is a valuable addition to the support groups currently in place.

These new grants enhance the continued support JFS receives from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the philanthropic community to build on our established continuum of programs and services for seniors that include:

Friendly outreach: JFS staff and trained volunteers provide friendly visits to seniors that offer regular social interaction and can reduce feelings of isolation.

Case management: Also supported by a grant from CJFS, JFS assists in planning and coordinating care for older adults. Our staff helps develop an individualized plan to connect seniors to services such as meals, transportation, housing, financial support, health options, and social activities. With an emphasis on maintaining dignity, the JFS Food Pantry provides food. During holidays, like Rosh Hashanah and Passover, JFS delivers bags

with holiday treats to those who might otherwise go without enjoying a bit of tradition.

Counseling: The aging process presents various issues and challenges. Our counselors are experienced with these challenges and can help with life's transitions, grief and loss, stress, depression and anxiety, family relationships, and other life decisions. JFS therapists can help maintain and/or improve emotional quality of life.

Holocaust survivor services: The senior engagement staff has the knowledge, expertise, and sensitivity to enhance quality of life and address the unique needs and interests of survivors and their family members. Regularly scheduled programs are designed to connect, engage, and support the survivor community.

Caregiver education and support: JFS recognizes the unique needs of caregivers and offers a variety of support to those who often must show up for duty 24/7 when caring for a loved one. JFS staff is knowledgeable about the challenges of caregiving and the community resources that are available for caregivers and their

loved ones.

Programs and celebrations: JFS provides relevant and meaningful educational programs and coordinates Jewish holiday and cultural celebrations throughout the community. These experiences touch the lives of seniors living on their own or in a residential community, often becoming the one connection our Jewish seniors have to their culture, heritage, and traditions.

JFS is dedicated to ensuring that older adults feel supported, engaged, and connected and can live as independently as possible for as long as possible. JFS's team is sensitive and responsive to the special needs of all seniors regardless of faith, race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. If you know a senior who could benefit from support, please contact JFS at info@jfscharlotte.org or (704) 364-6594.



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Dreidel Drive 2021

October 11th – November 10th

Help us bring connection, smiles and light to children, grandparents, seniors, and survivors to celebrate this joyous holiday.

Participation is Easy

Purchase a gift card and please indicate amount on gift card. Preferred types:
Target, Walmart, Grocery Store, Amazon (hard copy please – no e-cards)

Donations must be received by November 10

Deliver or mail it: Jewish Family Services, 5007 Providence Rd., Suite 105, Charlotte, NC 28226

Drop it: JFS Food Pantry drop off days at the Portico/Library entrance (10/13, 10/27, 11/10)

We will make sure that each family or client receives the most appropriate gift for their situation.
Please contact us with any questions at info@jfscharlotte.org or 704.364.6594.

JFScharlotte.org

Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence

By Rachel Green, JFS Director of Programs and Services

October brings a change in seasons and the beginning of a new Jewish year. And while for many this is a time of renewed opportunities to look to the future, this is not the case for everyone. Victims experiencing domestic abuse often can't see past getting through each day. October is national Domestic Violence Awareness month, and this year's campaign asks you to "Take a Stand" for zero tolerance for domestic violence in our community.

In the Jewish community, when we think of "domestic violence," the term may conjure an image far from our reality or a problem that happens to others outside our daily lives. According to Jewish Women's International, "...for so long the idea of domestic abuse in a Jewish home was unimaginable. There was the myth of the perfect Jewish home. Shalom Bayit — the ideal home — is a very important Jewish value, a harmonious

home where all are nurtured and respected. But Jews are people, and ideals are not reality."

Domestic violence occurs in every community, regardless of race, class, gender, culture, sexual orientation, economic status, or level of education. According to the Jewish Domestic Violence Coalition of (JDVC) Greater Boston, domestic abuse occurs in Jewish families, in all streams of Judaism, at about the same rate as it does in families of other religions — between 15% and 25%.

In addition, according to studies, Jewish women stay longer in abusive relationships than non-Jewish women do — seven to 15 years versus three to five years. (JDVC) This means Jewish women and their families may be at even higher risk for the damaging consequences of abuse.

The "Take a Stand" campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding that domestic violence is not only the problem for the few experiencing this in their

own families but also is an issue that each of us can take action to address.

How can you take a stand in our community? Jewish Family Services (JFS) has created some simple ways to participate in the "Take a Stand" campaign during the month of October.

Get Informed: Visit the Domestic Violence Month page at www.jfscharlotte.org. JFS has posted helpful videos created by our program staff with information about domestic violence prevention so you can better understand the problem and how to take a stand. You can also check out links to the websites for National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website (NCADV.org) and Jewish Women International (JWI.org) to learn more. You can find links to fact sheets about specific types of abuse and vulnerable populations such as teens, seniors, and the LGBTQ community.

Join JFS in taking a stand against domestic violence: Visit the "JFS Take a Stand Table"

during the month of October, located in the Levine Jewish Community Center lobby, where you can add your name (or stay anonymous) and your commitment to taking a stand with others in the community.

Spread the word: by using the #takeastand and posting about what you have learned on social media, you will be helping get out the message that domestic violence has no place in our community. You can also find sample social media quotes and sharable graphics on the Domestic Violence Month page at www.jfscharlotte.org.

We know that domestic violence happens in our community. It occurs in every type of Jewish home, regardless of denomination or affiliation, and it has serious impact on every member of the family, whether they are physically hurt or witness the abuse. It is essential that we send a message that domestic violence is not OK, that it is safe for survivors to speak up and speak out, and that as

a community we are willing to listen and provide support.

According to NCADV, survivors and family members are more likely to disclose abuse to someone in their faith community than they are to seek help from the police. So as a Jewish community, it is more important than ever that we #takeastand for each and every one of them. Join JFS in the month of October to "Take a Stand" against domestic violence.

If you are a victim of domestic violence and need assistance, contact JFS at (704) 364-6594 or call the Safe Alliance Crisis Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).



JFS Tributes August 2021

Get well soon to Jill Newman

Michael and Judie Van Glish

Happy anniversary to Michael and Ashley Goldberg

Alan and Ruth Goldberg

Happy birthday to Barbara Langbert

Roslyn Husney

Happy birthday to Robert Stoll

Rebecca Usadi

In appreciation of Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Austin and Roberta Rodgers

In memory of Martin Bernstein

Daniel and Nancy Coblenz

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Stanley Greenspon

Gary Silverstein

Eric and Lori Sklut

In memory of Andrea Wiener

Matthew Luftglass and Meg Goldstein

JFS Volunteers & Donors August 2021

Volunteers: Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Suzy Catennazo, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Sheryl Effren, Terri Fishman, Rachel Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Marty Goldfarb, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Rebecca Hockfield, Bob Jacobson, Etti Krause, Elliot and Stephanie Krietman, Marcia Lampert, Linda Leviel, Adam Levy, Matt Luftglass, Gene Marx, Frada Mozenter,, Lisa O'Brien, Barbara Rein, Nina Rose, Lynne Sheffer, Janice Shubin, Louis Sinkoe, Lorin, David and Alex Stiefel, Ken Stern, Steve Teich ,Gail Vogel, Susan Webber, Nancy Wielunski, Jan Weiner, Amanda Zaidman

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Shalom Green: Thank you those who made homemade fig spread for our clients and harvested fresh produce!

Food Pantry Donations: To our generous community: thank you for continuing to donate to the food pantry. We could not run the pantry without your incredible donations.

Domestic Violence Statistics

On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.

One in four women and one in nine men experience severe intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, use of victim services, contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, etc.

One in three women and one in four men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. This includes a range of behaviors (e.g., slapping, shoving, pushing) and in some cases might not be considered "domestic violence."

One in seven women and one in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.

On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.

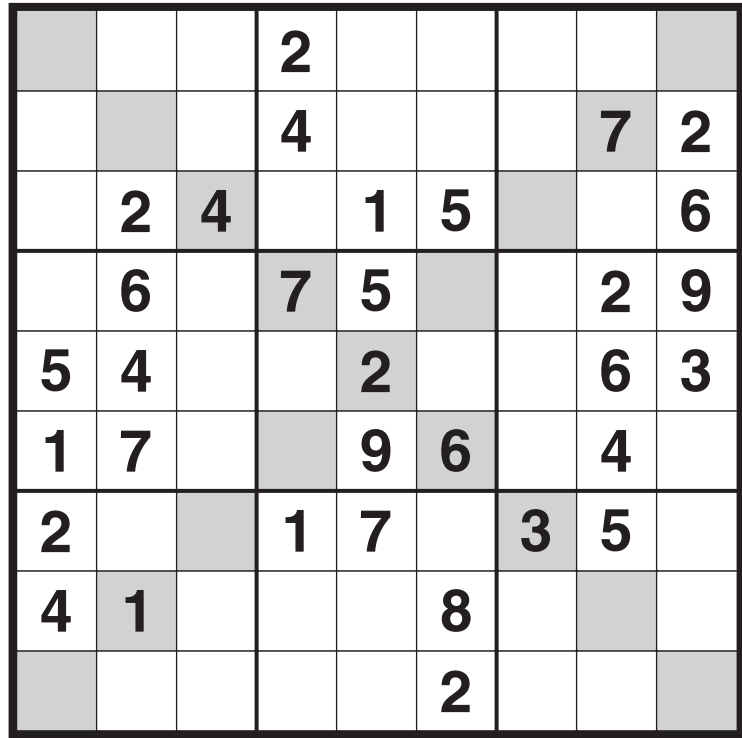
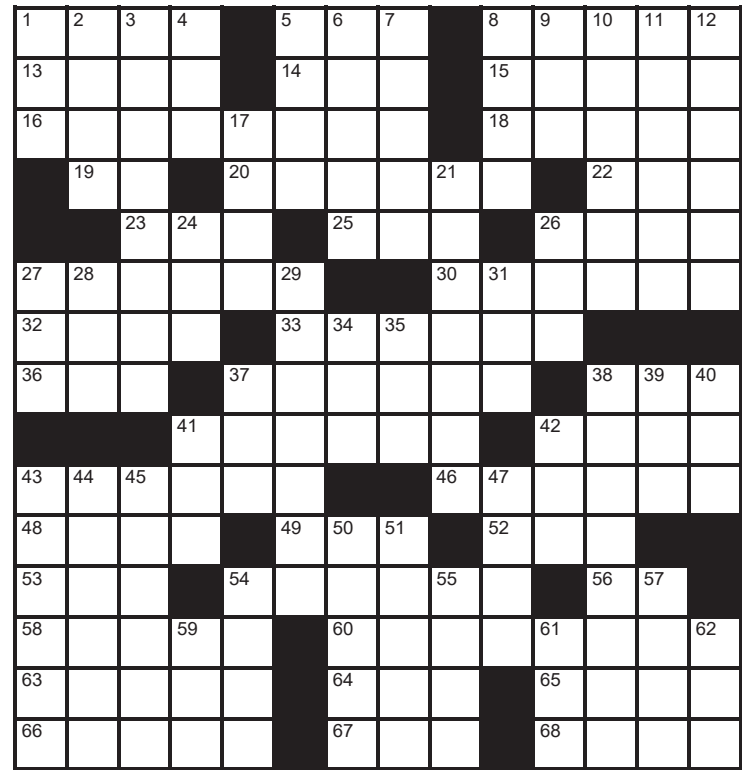
The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.

Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.

19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.

(Statistics from National Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

**The National
Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)**



Crossword Sponsored by Phil's Deli

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Open for Dine In and Take Out (704) 366-8811

- Across**
- 1. What some call Navi
 - 5. LGA letters
 - 8. Dr. Henry Jones Jr. might search for one
 - 13. "Dodi" preceder
 - 14. Debits' counterparts: Abbr.
 - 15. Shulchan
 - 16. "B'yad ___uv'zroa netuya..."
 - 18. "Know" Hebrew?
 - 19. No Clue
 - 20. Bronco-riding events
 - 22. ___-Boy (furniture)
 - 23. Theater co. whose stock has been a major story
 - 25. Mess up
 - 26. Writer Victor
 - 27. Afternoon gathering, for some Jews
 - 30. Astuteness
 - 32. Pair on a slope
 - 33. Like a hitter you want up down one run in the ninth
 - 36. Metaphor for a no-hitter, e.g.
 - 37. Big kashrut no-no
 - 38. Number cruncher, briefly
 - 41. State capital on the Colorado River
 - 42. Iconic literary captain or Israelite king
 - 43. Arrives a la the Iceman
 - 46. Use a Hula-Hoop
 - 48. Painter's picks

- 49. Letters in an APB
- 52. Big name in cheese balls
- 53. An ocean: Abbr.
- 54. "Come for ___" (what a guest does)
- 56. No Clue
- 58. Word between "eretz" and "chalah"
- 60. What yeshiva students do when going over previously learned material
- 63. Like many athletes in Tokyo right now
- 64. Novelist Follett or Kesey
- 65. 1984-2008 Olympic legend Torres
- 66. Lake Victoria country
- 67. Python's warning
- 68. Ding-a-ling

- Down**
- 1. No Clue
 - 2. Post-workout feeling
 - 3. Some shul VIPs
 - 4. ___-mat (dangerous cargo)
 - 5. Clothing designer Marc
 - 6. Kind of deadline in sports
 - 7. Portion of Israel, once
 - 8. Some catch them on a nice summer day
 - 9. "Din" or "ranch" ending
 - 10. Robert who wrote about Jason Bourne
 - 11. 2002 animated film with four sequels
 - 12. Shabbat before Tisha B'Av
 - 17. Part of the foot
 - 21. Sermonizing
 - 24. Hosts, in brief

- 26. "Say what?"
- 27. Notable arena that's gone decades without a championship team, for short
- 28. First name in jelly beans
- 29. "Now!", to Naftali
- 31. "Down on the Corner" band, for short
- 34. Rowing muscle, for short
- 35. Israeli weapon
- 37. Ripped
- 38. Yiddish "junk"
- 39. One way to stand
- 40. Big name in America and Western religion, for short
- 41. '50s Dem. candidate
- 42. Garfunkel, for one
- 43. Word repeated when reading the end of a sefer in synagogue
- 44. Cause of a flashing alarm clock, perhaps
- 45. Ingram or Gordon of the NFL
- 47. Nincompoop
- 50. Plays soccer
- 51. Remnants of a bonfire
- 54. "I ___ lot and boy am I full!"
- 55. Holm and McKellen
- 57. Fruit-filled confection
- 59. Raisman who was the captain of two Olympic teams
- 61. Bring on
- 62. No Clue

(Solutions to puzzles page 14)

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The Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery: A Spiritual Sanctuary

By Noah Goldman, Coordinator of Jewish Life at Queens University of Charlotte

Death is a natural part of life, said Yoda, the Master Jedi. It is a tragic reality of life that, when thought about, should have us pause to reflect. We are only here for so long, and while we all hope for 120 years, even such a lifespan as that is not so long. As of this publication, we are nearing the end of Deuteronomy and of Moses's life. No matter how great or flawed a person is, death will always serve as an ultimate, saddening equalizer.

Here in Charlotte, we are incredibly fortunate to have a beautiful and professionally maintained cemetery for the Jewish community. In May of 2018, I went to Poland with the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center. We visited cemeteries in Warsaw, in Krakow, and in former shtetls across the country. We spent three days working in and cleaning the Jewish cemetery in Brzesko. We cleaned headstones, moved branches, and with frustration cleaned out trash dumped on the grounds. I will never forget uncovering an old tombstone that had probably been hidden from the sun for years. Most of these cemeteries are barely maintained and usually just by volunteers. They are also the frequent sites of vandalism.

In the time since my return from Poland, I have gained a deepened appreciation for the Hebrew Cemetery we have here in Charlotte. It is a beautiful facility and a crucial component of the Charlotte Jewish community. It establishes our connection to our Jewish heri-

tage and to Charlotte. Over the past few years, I have come to see the importance of both the Hebrew Cemetery and Judaism's approach to mourning those who have passed.

My involvement in funerals over the past few years has allowed me to see firsthand how the Jewish approach to death has helped people in mourning. We have a system that acknowledges the raw emotions of the moment and encourages us to go through them rather than battle them. Our system of mourning encourages us to allow the authentic expression of the pain we feel from our loss.

My involvement with the Hebrew Cemetery and other Jewish burial processes has instilled in me a deeper gratitude for the beauty and sanctity of life. Not only are we reminded that our time here is limited, but also that we should hold what is dear to us close to our hearts. Because of my involvement with the cemetery, I have a greater appreciation for all the people in my life. It truly is a blessing to have people around you — to be part of a community and to support and uplift each other.

The Hebrew Cemetery is an institution that enables these meaningful encounters. Certainly it is a place where people say their farewells to a departed soul, but it is also a place where you can reflect and simply visit. The Hebrew Cemetery is not just for burying the dead; its ultimate purpose is the affirmation of the dignity of life. Every funeral is approached with the highest level of dignity and respect.

But it is not just the funerals that are respected; it is the well-

kept maintenance of the cemetery as well. When you visit the Hebrew Cemetery, you will see the beautiful greenery across the property. You will see that all gravesites are regularly cleaned and well-kept. This type of environment was not one I saw in the old Jewish cemeteries in Poland.

At the Hebrew Cemetery, you are encouraged to visit those who have departed in an environment that supports reflection. Even if you don't know anyone buried there, I encourage you to visit. The cemetery will teach you much about Charlotte's Jewish history and how it connects with our present and future.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery, people who take care of it, and community members who care about it. That is why I encourage everyone in the Charlotte Jewish community to become a member of the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery. The cemetery is a part of the community you are in, and it is an institution we should all support.



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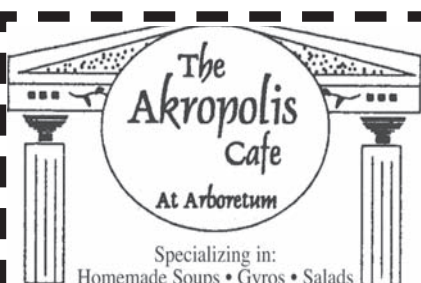
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Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Taking Climate Action Personally

By Summer Minchew

According to the latest Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released in August 2021, climate change is intensifying. UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the Working Group’s report was nothing less than “...a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable.” The report, prepared by 234 scientists from 66 countries, underscores the urgency of strong, sustained cuts in greenhouse gas emissions necessary to preserve a livable climate.

Code red for humanity. During a pandemic that is still raging globally. It is a lot to process. And it is easy to think, “I am only one person; what difference can I make?” Without a doubt, immediate and comprehensive action needs to be taken by governments and businesses. But the transition to a low-carbon world also requires citizen participation. Did you know that around two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to private households? From the electricity we use, to the food we eat, and the way we travel, individuals can make a difference.

Jewish tradition teaches us to care for our planet, to act as partners in preserving creation. Because our sacred texts teach that humankind has an obligation to improve the world for future generations, we need to take our own swift and wide-ranging action to live within the environmental limits of the earth so we do not compromise the lives and livelihoods of those who come after us.

We all need to start taking



climate change more personally. Whatever your motivations — your faith; the future your children and grandchildren will inherit; enjoyment of nature, animals, and time spent outdoors; concern for the long-term health of the global economy — there is something you can do to limit global warming and take care of our planet.

Challenge yourself to be more climate conscious:

Be a smart consumer. We all need stuff, but we really need to rethink our consumer habits to protect our climate. Buy fewer things, shop second-hand, repair what you can, and recycle or donate what you can’t. Everything we buy affects the planet, and you have the power to choose which goods and services you support. Look for sustainable packaging, look for environmentally conscious brands, and buy local.

Eat less meat. Reducing meat consumption and emphasizing diverse plant-based ingredients is better for your health and better for the planet. Animal agriculture, especially cattle production, is among the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. If you have already reduced meat, why not try a vegetarian or vegan diet? Try it for a month and see what works best for you.

Be energy aware. Use less energy by lowering your heating and cooling, switching to LED light bulbs and energy-efficient electric appliances, and washing your laundry with cold water. If you plan to buy a car, consider going electric. Change your home’s energy source; see if you can switch to renewable sources such as wind or solar. Duke Energy customers can check out Duke Energy’s Renewable Advantage program: <https://www.duke-energy.com/home/products/renewable-advantage>. Through this program, you can support renewable energy in blocks of 250 kWh (kilowatt hours). Each block you support will add \$3 to your monthly bill, and for each block of renewable energy you support, 50 cents will be donated to support solar installation and education at NC K-12 schools through NC GreenPower.

Speak up! Appeal to local and global leaders — urge your city, region, and community to take actionable steps to curb climate change. Ask tough questions and encourage businesses and leaders to take urgent action toward net-zero emissions.

Get social. Want to join others on your sustainability journey or need more accountability? There’s an app for that. Check out ecountabl, Love Food Hate Waste, Sustainability Aware, HowGood, Refresh Go Green, and UN ActNow in your app store.

The will of the people will determine our ability to rapidly transition to a climate-resilient future. It is not in the hands of one individual but in the hands of us all. Through our choices, we can be part of the solution and influence change. I am reminded of a quote by Anne Frank, “How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world.”

Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment. If you are interested in supporting Shalom Green or have ideas for educational programming, please contact us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreenCLT, and visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org.



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(Puzzle on page 12)

1	N	A	C	H		5	E	T	A		8	R	E	L	I	C			
13	L	C	H	A		14	C	R	S		15	A	R	U	C	H			
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27	M	I	N	C	H	29	A			30	A	C	U	M	E	N			
32	S	K	I	S		33	C	L	U	T	C	H							
36	G	E	M		37	C	H	A	Z	I	R			38	C	P	A		
				41	A	U	S	T	I	N		42	A	H	A	B			
43	C	O	M	E	T	H				46	G	Y	R	A	T	E			
48	H	U	E	S		49	A	K	A		52	U	T	Z					
53	A	T	L		54	A	V	I	S	55	I	T		56	E	57	T		
58	Z	A	V	A	T			60	C	H	A	Z		61	A	R	A	62	H
63	A	G	I	L	E			64	K	E	N			65	D	A	R	A	
66	K	E	N	Y	A			67	S	S	S			68	D	I	T	Z	

(Puzzle on page 12)

8	9	3	2	6	7	4	1	5
6	5	1	4	8	3	9	7	2
7	2	4	9	1	5	8	3	6
3	6	8	7	5	4	1	2	9
5	4	9	8	2	1	7	6	3
1	7	2	3	9	6	5	4	8
2	8	6	1	7	9	3	5	4
4	1	5	6	3	8	2	9	7
9	3	7	5	4	2	6	8	1

Religious Life

Jewish Learning Institute to Explore Antisemitism

Coming this November - JLI of Charlotte Explores Underpinnings of Hate and How to Respond to Rising Antisemitism

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) of Charlotte will offer a new four-session course starting Tuesday November 2, titled *Outsmarting Antisemitism*.

Using history, Talmudic sources, Jewish mysticism, and contemporary expert analysis, the course addresses some of the troublesome questions we grapple with as individuals and as a community. Why does antisemitism persist? How can we make hate go away? How can we counter Israel-focused antisemitism and prevent our own youth from unwittingly lending their voices to antisemitic agendas?

"Many Jews are anxious about rising antisemitism today and worry about how to respond to it," says Rabbi Yossi Groner of Chabad of Charlotte. "By exploring the mechanics of antisemitism and probing historical strategies for reducing it, this course offers a framework for confronting it head-on with purpose, positivity, and pride."

Informative, interesting, and empowering, *Outsmarting Antisemitism* is well-suited for community leaders and laypersons alike. "All those who care about religious freedom, both Jews and others, confront a disturbing increase in antisemitism worldwide," said Cary Nelson, past president of the American Association of University Professors. "It is no longer enough just to be opposed to antisemitism. We all have to be knowledgeable about its history and current manifestations if we are to be equipped to combat its spread. That is why this course matters."

"What distinguishes the present moment is the rise of antisemitism simultaneously on all fronts," said Natan Sharansky, former refusenik and chairman at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. "To succeed in the struggle against these dangerous phenomena, we have to confront antisemitism on all fronts simultaneously. Therefore, this course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute is very important."

The four-week course begins Tuesday, November 2, 7:30 p.m. for the evening class and Wednesday, November 3, 11 a.m. for the morning sessions. Like all JLI programs, it is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or

other house of worship.

The course will be offered in person, at the Epstein Family Chabad Center on Sardis Road, as well as over Zoom. Sign-in information will be provided upon enrollment. All students will receive their own textbooks. Registration fee for the course is \$99 per person or \$180 per couple.

This special course on antisemitism is cosponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, which will help us provide scholarship registrations as well.

Interested students may call our office at (704) 366-3984 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information.

Rationale of this new course: To rise above the hate

We cannot let antisemitism define our Judaism, but we cannot ignore it either. As direct memory of the Holocaust fades, Jews around the world are wondering whether the patterns of past centuries are returning, in both the Old and New Worlds, where Jews experience more hate crimes than any other religious group. Are Jewish people doomed to be stuck in this cycle forever? Is there a way to escape this history of hate?

Outsmarting Antisemitism takes on this dark subject squarely, with a sense of unabashed optimism, profound faith, and a distinctly Jewish approach.

Through illuminating source texts and captivating case stud-

ies, this course considers the sources of this ancient scourge, along with the appropriate strategies for overcoming it. It's time to find the confidence to fight hate with hope and to stand tall against antisemitism with positivity, purpose, and plenty of Jewish pride!

Lesson One: The Eternal People

By taking another look at the statistics, studying our people's remarkable perseverance, and exploring the concept of Providence, we can find eternal cause for confidence and optimism while we implement plans to secure ourselves and our communities.

Lesson Two: No Apologies

We look at some of the explanations for antisemitism that have been offered throughout the

ages to emerge with an important understanding: the problem with hating Jews lies not with the Jews but with the haters. Internalizing this hate is not a healthy response.

Lesson Three: The Promised Land

Today, hatred of Jews commonly manifests itself as antagonism toward the Jewish state. This class distinguishes all-out antisemitism from some more nuanced sub-strains. It also examines the state of Israel educa-

tion and the very nature of Jewish nationhood.

Lesson Four: Change of Heart

Psychology, neuroscience, and recent history show us that neither friend nor foe should ever be taken for granted. With a bit of subtlety and conviction, and always with trust in G-d, we find that the dark days of the past are no cause for pessimism ahead.



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Religious Life

Temple Beth El Is Organizing for Justice, One Story at a Time

By Nicole Sidman and Rabbi Dusty Klass

We thought this would be a post-pandemic fall, and so we sought to learn what the pandemic had taught us, not realizing that its lessons were still unfolding. Yet here we find ourselves, heading toward 2022, still in the midst of a pandemic, wondering what we learned in 2021.

Nevertheless, we are filled with hope because we have heard Temple Beth El (TBE) congregants' stories, which are full of beauty, strength, and perseverance. Mixed in with all the pain and loss, there is so much love and community, and we know this because we took the time, as a community, to listen.

It was an audacious plan conceived during what we then hoped was the beginning of the end of the pandemic. With the support of a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Temple Beth El was able to hire our first professional dedicated to organizing and

social justice, Nicole Sidman. In March of 2021, we (Nicole, Rabbi Klass, and a dedicated core team of congregants) began organizing a listening campaign to hear what our congregants had endured and what they had learned. Calling it "From Social Distance to Social Justice," we sought to give people a place to connect and reflect after so much isolation and national upheaval. We wanted to understand not only their pandemic experience but also how our community's perspective of social justice had changed in the wake of the pandemic.

The team's first success was in gathering almost 150 congregants over Zoom to reconnect, inspire each other, and share the following goals as we launched our listening campaign:

- Bring congregants together to share stories and begin to process their pandemic experience
- Create a comprehensive and diverse campaign that is representative of all TBE members

- Gather lessons that inspire us to build a better community
- Identify issues that matter to the greater congregation and develop a shared vision for how to address them in our larger Charlotte community.

Over the course of the next two months, our congregants gathered and shared. In the more than 20 house meetings, some held in person and some over Zoom, we heard stories of fear and loneliness, of family and neighbors, and of inequity and increased awareness. Our community members, time and again, described the ways in which the pandemic opened their eyes to the realities of racial injustice and income inequality. Congregant after congregant reflected on our education system and the varied, and often unequal, educational experiences of children, particularly children of color. And the pandemic laid bare who had support and who didn't — financially, emotionally, and socially. People were tired of

feeling outraged and helpless. It was time to come together to act.

Members of our team read the notes from every one of those meetings. We analyzed the data, and we heard the concerns. Using that input and information from our congregants, we uncovered themes that informed our decision to form three task forces:

- Income Inequality
- Access to Health Care and Mental Health
- Education and the Technical Divide.

In mid-August, more than 50 congregants committed to joining one of these three teams to begin the work of discerning which slice of each of these three immense problems we might tackle as a community. We seek to do this work in partnership with other houses of faith and community organizations, recognizing that those already deep into the work are the leaders in this movement and that we are all stronger together.

Our work has just begun, and our goals are bold. At the time of submission of this article, we have only begun the research process for each of the above topics and have not yet homed in on the actions we might choose to take as a temple. By the time you read these words, we may well be close to announcing those actions — stay tuned!

In time, through partnerships and friendships, Temple Beth El aims to be part of a large coalition that can stand together when needed, advocating for those who are often left behind, and standing beside our community as we fight for a more equitable city. Yet at its core, it all comes back to connection, sharing, and coming together. It all comes back to those simple meetings — sometimes over Zoom, sometimes over coffee — always with the intent of listening, telling stories, and building bridges.



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Religious Life

The Ruach Expands

By Marissa Brooks

Four years ago, I could never have imagined I would check “singing in a band” off my bucket list. In 2017, I sustained a vocal cord hemorrhage because, of all things, trying to hold in a sneeze. As part of my treatment, I was put on vocal silence. My doctor cautioned me against making any sounds with my voice at all so that my vocal cords could have a chance to heal. This meant no talking, no laughing, and no singing. It was devastating and scary, especially the no singing because this is something that gave me great pleasure and that I did all the time.

I love talking and connecting with people and immensely feared permanently losing my voice. Because of this I complied 100% with the speech therapist’s orders to stop working, start using a white board, and begin using a computer text to speech generator. (I had a lot of fun playing around with my “accents” on this app.)

After about a month, my doctor gave me permission to speak. I was excited to use my voice again. However, periodically it would become hoarse. I worried this was signaling a relapse, so I

spoke sparingly. I didn’t sing for a long time, and even when I did, it was intermittent.

In 2019 I attended The High Holy Days Experience at The Fillmore for Rosh Hashanah. The service was joyous, uplifting, and meaningful. I loved it! It reminded me of camp and the Jewish songs of my youth. Growing up in San Diego, my favorite connections with Judaism revolved around the music. For me, services lead by guitar-playing song leaders were the best part of being at Hebrew camp. The music was moving and filled with promise.

A few months ago, Peter Levinson, co-founder and lead guitarist of The Ruach, contacted me to say that the band was looking for singers to join it for The High Holy Days Experience this year. He asked if I’d be interested. Without hesitation I jumped at the chance even though I wondered if I could hold my own vocally. (There is nothing like knowing your debut with a band will be during the Days of Awe!)

At our first rehearsal, I wasn’t sure what to expect and was a little nervous. It turned out that my fear was totally unfounded. Everyone in the group warm-

ly welcomed me and the other two new members of the band, Stephanie DiPaolo and Emily Chatham. Even before I sang a note, I felt embraced by and connected to everyone there.

The skill set of the band members is impressive. Everyone plays and harmonizes so beautifully. Several band members play and sing professionally. All are so generous with their support of each other. It is easy to see why the band has stayed together for more than 13 years.

During each of our practices, a sense of camaraderie filled the room. Being a part of creating music for something as powerful as The High Holy Days Experience has been more than just a check off my bucket list. I agree with Stephanie DiPaolo’s sentiments, “The High Holidays are important to me, and being immersed in them this way brings a new level of meaning.” Being a part of The Ruach has moved me spiritually, and I look forward to joining The Ruach for many more Experiences.

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through modern worship experiences that are filled



Kneeling left to right: Marissa Brooks (vocals), Eric Marder (vocals and rhythm guitar), Standing left to right: Dan Ruda (bass and vocals), Stephanie DiPaolo (vocals), Jill Levinson (vocals), Peter Levinson (lead guitar), Emily Chatham (violin and vocals), Nancy Good (lead vocals), Howard Swartz (congas), Tommy Willhelm (drums)

with new uplifting, spiritual and joyous meaningful music. Experiences are supported solely through voluntary contributions together with a small grant from The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Follow The Ruach on Facebook (www.facebook.com/theruachband), Instagram (www.instagram.com/the.ruach.new).

jewish.music) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/@TheRuachSpirit). Watch virtually any time on YouTube (www.youtube.com/hband).



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Temple Solel High Holidays in Israel



By Shelley Pawlyk

Temple Solel joins our hearts with our sister synagogue, Kehilat Birkat Shalom in Gezer, Israel, in hoping you had a very pleasant Shana Tova — the start of a year filled with health, peace, happiness, and prosperity. May we recognize the spark of

the divine in each other and ourselves, and may we all be written and sealed for life.

Rabbi Steve Burnstein recently shared, “The key is not to be afraid. Last year many of us were nearly overwhelmed with fear and anxiety as we struggled with constantly changing restrictions and plans for the High Holidays. Balancing tradition, health, community, safety, loneliness, and other issues empowered and compelled our communities to find creative ways to connect to one another as a supportive community. Even virtually, we behold the sweetness of God.”

Rabbi Burnstein encouraged us to add a verse from Psalm 27 to our daily prayers that reads, “One thing I ask of Adonai, that I seek, that I will dwell in Adonai’s house all the days of my life and behold the sweetness of Adonai and visit Adonai’s sanctuary.”

Rabbi Burnstein recalled learning in his religious education that God is present everywhere and added, “This simple lesson has been reinforced by life experience through this period of the global pandemic. Together with you, I have experienced the holiness of community and connection to Adonai in unexpected places. While the doors to our synagogues have at times been closed because of COVID-19, Adonai’s sanctuary has been open and welcoming. Necessity has forced us to learn to use technology in ways we’d never imagined. While not ideal, it has nonetheless enabled us to not only maintain, but in some ways even expand and strengthen our communities.”

Our spirits were then lifted

higher because of the passion with which he described the High Holidays taking place in Israel. He described the “all too familiar” forthcoming rituals in the United States and other parts of the word in the form of Christmas music, decorations, and phrases that, though dear to others, may feel isolating to Jewish people. However, with delight, he continued to say, “It is important to recognize our own holidays and lives in a similar encompassing way — the sanctuary — we think of God as being everywhere we are, whether at Shabbat services, in person, or on Zoom, as we are now again.”

He reminded us that in Israel, people’s senses are immersed with signs of the holidays — the smells of holiday dishes and the sounds of the shofar and, more recently, of the influx of musicians reviving Mizrahi styles of worshipful music. There are walking tours throughout Israel and stops in Israeli, Turkish, Egyptian, or Kurdish synagogues where visitors are greeted by the cantorial soloist singing to set the mood for the holidays based on the synagogue’s customs. And the weather is beautiful through Sukkot, just as Adonai planned.

It is the time of year when Israel is rich with fresh pomegranates. People place mesh or paper bags around the fruits to protect them from bugs and birds. Even the flower on the pomegranate takes shape of the Magen David, and its seeds are said to add up to 613, the number of the commandments. Yom Kippur has become a day when there is a significant measurable decrease in pollution — nobody drives anywhere. It has also become known as the bicycle holiday. Even regular weekly Shabbat has a similar feeling.

I hope you will consider contributing to Kehilat Birkat Shalom in honor of the new year. You can make a U.S. tax-deductible donation at <http://kbyonline.org/synagogues/kehilat-birkat-shalom>. During these difficult days, they are doing everything in their power to serve more and more people seeking spirituality, connection, and community. It’s critical that we are there for them, and our support makes a difference!

Rabbi Caroline Sim, director of rabbinical services at the ISJL, is booked to visit us October 8 and 9 for a Shabbaton via Zoom. Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month via Zoom and hopes to resume services when appropriate at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707.



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Butternut Squash and Sage Challah

By Shannon Sarna

In the category of autumn challah flavors there is pumpkin challah and even sweet potato challah. But I wanted to try my hand at combining another favorite fall flavor into challah bread: butternut squash and fresh sage.

Admittedly I was a bit nervous to see how the addition of butternut squash would affect the challah. I have made pumpkin challah many times, but never before had I added butternut squash. I am happy to report that not only is consistency of this dough just perfect, but the color is beautiful and the taste even more incredible.

You can swap out fresh sage for dried sage, but I really enjoyed the flecks of sage leaves throughout the challah dough, and the addition of some fresh chopped sage on top along with thick sea salt really makes this bread even more special. This challah would also translate for a wonderful savory stuffing.

Ingredients

- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 5-6 fresh sage leaves
- 1 ½ Tbsp dry yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 ¼ cups lukewarm water
- 5 ½-6 cups all-purpose unbleached flour (I prefer to use King Arthur)
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ Tbsp salt

- ½ cup butternut squash puree (fresh or frozen)
- 2 eggs
- 2 egg yolks + 1 tsp water
- Additional fresh sage leaves for garnish
- Thick sea salt

Directions

Place vegetable oil and fresh sage leaves in a small saucepan over low-medium heat. Heat through until sage becomes fragrant, around 5 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to sit 25-30 minutes. Strain sage leaves but do not discard. Finely chop leaves.

In a small bowl, place yeast, 1 tsp sugar and lukewarm water. Allow to sit around 10 minutes, until it becomes foamy on top.

In a large bowl or stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, mix together 1 ½ cups flour, salt, butternut squash and sugar. After the water-yeast mixture has become foamy, add to flour mixture along with oil and chopped sage leaves. Mix thoroughly.

Add another 1 cup of flour and eggs and mix until smooth. Switch to the dough hook attachment if you are using a stand mixer.

Add an additional 3 cups of flour, 1 cup at a time, until dough is smooth and elastic. You can do this in a bowl with a wooden spoon, in a stand mixer with the

dough attachment, or once the dough becomes pliable enough, on a floured work surface with the heels of your hands. Dough will be done when it bounces back to the touch, is smooth without clumps and is almost shiny.

Place dough in a greased bowl and cover with damp towel. Allow to rise at least around 3 hours.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Braid challah into desired shape. Allow challah to rise another 45-60 minutes, or until you can see the size has grown and challah seems light. This step is very important to ensure a light and fluffy challah.

In a small bowl beat 2 egg yolks with 1 tsp water.

Brush egg wash liberally over challah. Sprinkle with chopped fresh sage and thick sea salt.

If making one large challah, bake around 27-28 minutes; if making two smaller challahs, bake 24-26 minutes.

Printed with permission from My Jewish Learning. For other great recipes visit: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh-er/butternut-squash-and-sage-challah/>

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Jewish Women

Hadassah and the Connection of Friends

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

When I moved to Charlotte three-and-a-half years ago, I didn't know anyone. My husband and I moved here for his job and, other than for his interviews, we had never been in the city except to change planes at the airport. I had no knowledge about "the South," where to live, the Jewish community, or local shopping.

Fast-forward to today. I have

friends from Hadassah, my neighborhood, my (fabulous) mah jongg group, and other organizations where I volunteer. I have stores I frequent, favorite restaurants, and doctors friends have recommended. Getting acclimated to a new city, in a new area of the country, was not easy, but my newfound friends helped me fill in the blanks and find the resources I needed in Charlotte.

I've found Charlotte to have

a strong, connected Jewish community. As in other cities, people know each other from growing up together, worshiping together, and participating in community projects and organizations. Charlotte Jews support businesses, especially those that support the Jewish community.

When we began to publicize a few months ago for the 2022 Hadassah Charlotte Area Jewish Community Directory, I

was initially surprised that we received calls from people who had moved from Charlotte but still want to purchase a directory. They want to keep up with friends and have an easy way to contact local businesses. As I think about it now, it doesn't surprise me anymore. Connections to Charlotte run deep, which I am now privileged to experience and appreciate firsthand.

We are busy at work on Hadassah's 2022 Directory. This year, in addition to the print directory, we are adding a digital version you can access via an app subscription. The phone app is easy to use and lets you look up people or businesses while you're on the go.

Moving? The app will let you update your personal listing at any time. No need to wait until the next directory is printed. Own a business? Your ad will be both online and in the print version and can be changed every year. Premium advertisers can change their ad up to four times per year.

Stay tuned for information about including your personal listings. Advertising opportunities are available now. If you are a business owner and have not been contacted yet about placing an ad, write to Laurie at clthadassahdir@gmail.com.

Please note: The Hadassah Boutique originally scheduled for Sunday, October 17 is postponed due to concerns about COVID-19. The items you generously donated will be stored until we can plan the boutique for a later date, we hope in Spring 2022.

Save the Ta-Tas

The Novant Heath Breast Center mobile unit will be on-site at the Levine Jewish Com-

munity Center on November 1, 2021, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The mobile breast center has state-of-the-art 3D digital mammography and an expert team of female technologists. The mobile unit provides on-site convenience with the luxury and privacy of a traditional imaging center. Screening mammograms are covered as preventive care under most insurance plans. Appointments are not required but recommended. To reserve a time slot, call (704) 384-7226. For other questions, contact Lori at lptrap@aol.com.

In other Hadassah news

The Short Stories Discussion Group reads stories each month from different eras, authors, and cultures. The next meeting is 11:45 a.m. on Friday, October 15 via Zoom. All future meetings will be held on the third Friday of the month at 11:45 a.m. Location or Zoom TBA each month. To receive the stories, RSVP to Amalia at amaliaima@ATT.net. For additional information, email Amalia or contact Linda Levy at levyollie@aol.com.

Looking for rewarding volunteer work? Help the Hadassah Preppies, part of our chapter's Sunshine Committee, provide much-needed meals for Jewish Family Services. For November, they need latkes, cookies, and individual containers of applesauce for Hanukkah and Thanksgiving meals. To help purchase supplies, cook, or assemble meals, use the sign up genius at [HadassahCLTevents.org](https://www.hadassahcltevents.org). Contact Elissa at svining@aol.com if you have questions.

Looking ahead — I know it seems like we haven't played much on this year's card, but it's almost time to switch to some new hands. The 2022 National Mah Jongg League card orders begin in November. Watch this space.

The next two Hadassah Charlotte board meetings are on Monday, October 18 and November 15 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All members are invited. Contact Marci at marci333@gmail.com for the link.

Want to join Hadassah or learn about membership? Contact Lori at lptrap@aol.com.

For up-to-date Hadassah information, check our website ([HadassahCLTevents.org](https://www.hadassahcltevents.org)), like our Facebook page (Hadassah CLT), follow us on Instagram (Hadassah Charlotte) or Twitter (@HadassahCLT), or send us an email at HadassahCLT@gmail.com.

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HADASSAH



Jewish Women

W.O.W.: The Holidays Are Over, What's Next



By Andrea Gamlin

Late every summer, I start looking forward to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as a time to reflect and to decide on a mitzvah I can add to my life. Once Yom Kippur ends, it's time to build the sukkah, and for my favorite of all holidays, Jewish and secular. My parents built a sukkah when my brothers and I were growing up, and even today my siblings and I can still smell my mom's delicious tzimmos as we ate outside with coats on in our sukkah on Long Island. Once my parents moved to an apartment, they came to us for Sukkot and cooked our favorite Sukkot meals. The memories fill me with warmth and happiness.

Now the holidays are over, regular life continues, albeit with great resolution to be better and to do better in 5782. What about you? Think about some memories you've created for yourself, your family, and your friends recently. Did you connect with someone who was far away? Did you take on a new mitzvah? Were you able to make amends with anyone? Did you forgive another? Were you forgiven by another?

We at W.O.W. wish the best

for you in 5782! We hope to see you at our FUNdraising event this November; it promises to be enlightening and invigorating! If you'd like to meet other Jewish women interested in learning and having fun, come join us at any of our events. Visit W.O.W.'s website at www.charlottewomenofwisdom.com for more information about W.O.W. and our 5782 events. W.O.W. is a nondenominational group for Jewish women to engage, learn, and connect. No synagogue affiliation is necessary.



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Education and Youth

Charlotte Jewish Preschool Kicks Off a New School Year

By Becca Green, CJP Director of Education

Each summer, teachers from Charlotte Jewish Preschool (CJP) experience a week of orientation prior to the start of a new school year. This year, part of that orientation included a workshop with Maxine Handelman, author of “Jewish Every Day.” She dove into Judaic values and integration with our staff in a unique and energizing way, exciting our staff for the year ahead.

Handelman started the workshop with Torah study as we set our intention for the day and then led us in multiple activities, integrating Jewish values into secular themes that teachers often use in the classroom. We explored what those values look like in action and how they can be made

more conspicuous in learning centers and provocations.

Handelman then curated an activity showcasing our new Maker Space, an atelier (studio) in our school built for exploration and innovation for our students. At this activity, Handelman had teachers explore the materials and choose anything that spoke to them as she gave them one simple direction: Create. Teachers chose clay, wood, Play-Doh, loose parts, paintbrushes, and other materials within reach to make things they found meaningful. It was then that Handelman gave them their next instruction: Join with another person and make your creations make sense. Groups joined again and again until there were just a few large groups working together. Teachers



Teachers about to start the low ropes course at the White Water Center

ers were able to be the students and feel what it was like to have creative freedom while negotiating with a partner (or partners), but it didn’t end there! While the teachers were working, Handelman took photos of the groups. We printed the photos, and at our final activity, teachers formed groups to document the learning they had just engaged in.

Our workshop with Handelman was made possible by the generosity of the Center for Jewish Education (CJE). We extend our sincerest thanks to the CJE, especially Elina Kurakin, for all of its work in organizing this incredible workshop for our teachers. We are also grateful to Temple Beth El for the use of the Silverman Social Hall, which al-

lowed us to socially distance and enjoy the workshop in a responsible way.

While our workshop with Handelman encompassed Jewish values and documentation in the classroom, we also participated in other essential parts of orientation. Our teachers spent a day at the White Water Center on the low ropes course participating in team-building activities. Skilled leaders at the center took our teachers through obstacle courses and problem-solving activities as we got to know new members of our team and reconnect with returning staff members.

During orientation week, teachers were also able to participate in trainings and meet essential staff members around

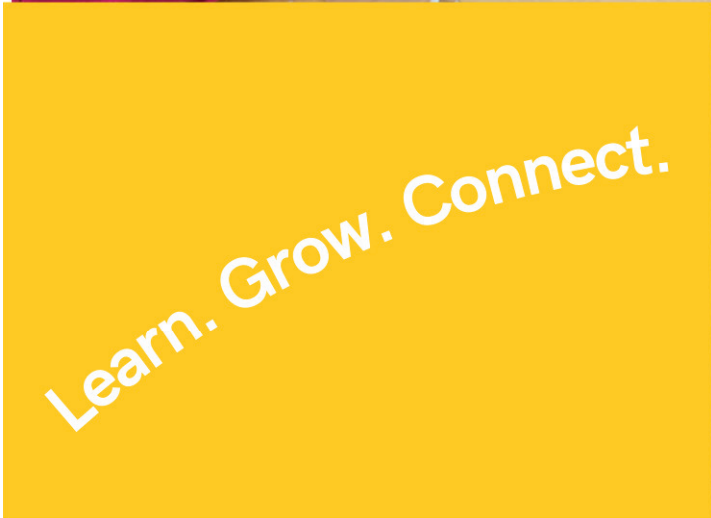
Shalom Park. The director of security, Mike Philbeck, led our teachers in safety and security training and recertified them in infant, child, and adult CPR and first aid. Executive Director Brooke Amo facilitated training for our teachers in state licensing and sanitation requirements and onboarded eight new staff members to our team of 50. Teams of teachers spent hours preparing their rooms for the new school year, resulting in a successful “Meet the Teacher” the day before school started.

We’ve had a great month back at school, and now that the half-day team has joined us, our kehillah is complete.

For more information on the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, check out our website at www.charlottejewishpreschool.org or contact our office manager, Alyson Kalik, at Alyson.Kalik@charlottejewishpreschool.org.



Teachers participating in a problem-solving game at the White Water Center



Education and Youth

Jewish Preschool on Sardis Unveils Legacy Mural

After months of brainstorming, researching, and lots of hard work, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis Legacy Mural is finally here! On August 29 we held a lovely ceremony and unveiled the mural that is now proudly displayed for all to see. Come by to check it out, and find your name if you participated. Thank you to the wonderful JPS community for coming together and for the amazing volunteers who made this possible.



Rabbi Yossi & Mariashi Groner, founders of the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, unveil the mural



The Legacy Mural is proudly displayed on the exterior of the JPS building



Left to Right: Hats off to Heather Rasowsky, Charlotte Rouchouze, and Donna Lerner, and Devorah Gorkin for their incredible dedication and hard work which made this project a reality



Seth points to his tile — he has left his mark at JPS!

JPS Family Spotlight

“JPS is more than a school, it is a family and a community. When Ben would miss his twin brother Sid (of blessed memory), the staff and teachers would talk about Sid and encourage him to look through the photo album he brought in. Sophie’s independence and vocabulary has blossomed. JPS includes not only the children but the entire family in their growth. We know that they are in great hands because the staff and teachers are welcoming and encouraging. As Ben said on his first day “I like my teachers, my friends and the playground”.

Jessie & Yoni Cohen

A photograph of a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) standing outdoors in a grassy area. A dog is also present. The photo is held by a white paperclip.

The Cohen Family

Join our family

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

The logo for Jewish Preschool on Sardis, featuring a stylized menorah and the text "Jewish Preschool on Sardis".

Education and Youth

Transitional Kindergarten at CJDS Helps Children Prepare for Elementary School

By Alison Lerner

Back in January when I accepted the new role of Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) admissions counselor, the staff at CJDS was doing their best to keep up with dozens of new inquiries and applications, while at the same time doing an outstanding job of educating their students during a global pandemic. I hit the ground running in the middle of the admissions season and was able to connect with prospective families who were interested in kindergarten for the upcoming school year. I was also speaking with families who had heard what an outstanding job CJDS was doing and wanted to move their kids into the upper grades at the day school, so they wouldn't need to make another transition after fifth grade. As a parent of two CJDS alumni, I was able to share my personal experience of the strong foundation that the school gave my children, instilling in both of them a love of learning, a strong sense of Jewish values, and an understanding and pride in their Judaism and Jewish history.

Fortunately for these new

families, we had something else exciting to share with them — beginning next school year (2022-2023) Charlotte Jewish Day School will offer transitional kindergarten (TK) through 6th grade classes, and by Fall of 2024, we will be a TK through 8th grade school. We already have 27 current students who have signed agreements and made tuition deposits to ensure middle school enrollment continues for those three school years.

We shared that our secular academic curriculum will meet national and state standards and be comparable to other independent schools in the area, much like our elementary school. Judaic education will be a seamless continuation of the current K-5 curriculum of Hebrew language, Jewish lifecycle, and Torah studies. Studies have shown that students in K-8 schools perform better than students in stand-alone middle schools. In addition, students will participate in community service, student advisory, and have choices of elective classes. Electives will take advantage of the communi-

ty at large, sometimes taking our students to off-campus locations and other times bringing experts into the school.

The new CJDS middle school will be open to students from other public and private schools while providing a seamless transition for the students who start in younger grades. Because the school boasts a very low student to teacher ratio, the challenges that come with many middle school experiences will be managed in a much smaller setting and with attention given to each individual student's needs. CJDS middle school students will be the "big kids" on campus and be a part of a supportive and safe place for these developmentally unique years.

At the same time that CJDS is growing our upper grades, we are filling a need that we see in our community for a transitional kindergarten. When many young children finish their four-year-old preschool year their teachers or parents recognize that they may not be quite ready for kindergarten. There are a variety of reasons a child might not be ready for kindergarten, anything

from not being able to sit still or wait their turn to not being able to hold a pencil or scissors. In many of these cases, TK is truly a "gift" of one more year — a smooth transition between preschool and kindergarten. Back in the early 2000s when my kids were in preschool, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis director suggested we give my son the "gift of a TK year." In all honesty, I did not see it as a gift at that time. I felt like he was smart and engaging and as a four-year-old, was truly an "old soul." But what his teachers saw was different. He was physically small and his sensitivity made him prone to crying in the classroom or on the playground. They believed that giving him an extra year before kindergarten would allow him to mature enough to handle the new challenges that he would face. Looking back, I realize it was the best thing I could have done for him.

If you think that your child could benefit from a transitional kindergarten year, I encourage you to come take a tour of the school and talk to us about our TK program. The CJDS TK class

will have a very small student to teacher ratio and focus on social and emotional growth, encouraging independence, and cognitive and fine motor skills.

At the time I am writing this, we have been back in the classroom for about a week and are looking forward to a somewhat normal, albeit still masked, school year. The students, teachers, and staff are all working hard and are excited about what this new year will bring. We look forward to our growth and hope that you will consider becoming a part of it.

To take a tour of CJDS or to learn more about our school, email me at alerner@cjdsschool.org or call at (704) 366-4558. Join us for Open House on October 14 and schedule a tour at your convenience. If you'd like to discuss how CJDS can be affordable for most families, email Gale Osborne at gosborne@cjdsschool.org.



Find out what we are **all** about!



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Education and Youth

Top 10 Reasons Hebrew High Students Take Hebrew for High School Credit



Hebrew for High School Credit, offered at Hebrew High since 2013, provides our teens with a unique opportunity to strengthen their Jewish identity through language, culture, land, and peoplehood. Students learn Hebrew not only to satisfy their high school language requirement but also to further develop their Jewish identities. Our Hebrew for Credit program whereby students will receive one year of a foreign language credit for every two years of Hebrew for Credit class, has been approved by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and Union County Public Schools (UCPS). We currently have 17 students enrolled, from 13 middle and high schools. In fact, we have students who drive over an hour each way from Hickory or Lake Norman to take Hebrew for Credit. We even have several non-CMS or UCPS students who just want to learn Hebrew for its own sake.

Students acquire a basic proficiency in modern Hebrew, developing their ability to perform all four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The goal of our Hebrew for Credit program is for students to acquire the ability to communicate in modern Hebrew in meaningful ways. Through active learning, we motivate teens and help them develop their interest in the culture and people of Israel, which continues beyond Hebrew High and throughout their lives.

As we are entering our eighth year of Hebrew for Credit, read what our students have to say about why they choose to take this class:

Top 10 Reasons Hebrew High students take Hebrew for Credit

#1 "I enjoy Hebrew for Credit because I can still be a part of the Jewish community after my Bar Mitzvah. I also enjoy learning a language I can use in temple and

when I go to Israel."

#2 "I joined Hebrew for Credit to learn Hebrew, which is something I've always dreamed of. I am really enjoying the program so far, and I am happy that I have already made friends."

#3 "I chose to take Hebrew for Credit for a few reasons, the main one being that I had teachers who spoke Hebrew at religious school, and I wanted to be able to talk to them. I hadn't really thought about learning Hebrew when I started Hebrew High until I went on a trip. I heard a family speaking Hebrew, and I thought, 'Hey, I know that word!' It was great to be able to connect with people on the other side of the world through a shared language that we both know for different reasons."

#4 "The reason I wanted to join Hebrew for Credit is that I was not impressed with the language options at my high school."

#5 "I signed up for Hebrew High School Credit because I had always been curious whenever I would hear my sister, friends, or teachers speak it. Eventually, I got excited about wanting to learn, so I signed up. I have so much fun, and on top of learning a new language, I have made friends as well. I am so glad I signed up because the challenge and learning are my favorite part of my Wednesdays."

#6 "I've made a lot of memories and amazing friends in my Hebrew for Credit class. I have also grown more confident with my Hebrew. Although I still have a long way to go, I look forward to the journey."

#7 "I like the way we get to work collaboratively in small groups. This allows us to both work at our own pace individually and to help each other when necessary. I appreciate that the workbooks came from the Ministry of Education in Jerusalem

and were written specifically for teens."

#8 "I am studying Hebrew for high school credit. Also, I am doing it because I have been learning Hebrew since I was in kindergarten, so I thought it would be nice to continue it."

#9 "My favorite thing about Hebrew for Credit is probably how close those in my grade are to each other as well as the amazing teachers. There have been three of us who have been in class together for all four years, and I don't think we would have met and become friends if it weren't for this class."

#10 I came to learn Hebrew because it differs from all the languages we can learn in school. Also, it helps us gain a deeper understanding of our faith.

It is not too late to sign up! Please visit www.hebrewhigh.org to learn more.

Calling All Teens in Grades Seven and Eight

Cteen Jr. is developed specifically for students in grades seven and eight. Our goal is to inspire the young teens of today to become the leaders of tomorrow! Cteen Jr. will harness the incredible potential of these boys and girls through outstanding programs that will include: educational classes, debate sessions, community action, kosher cooking, social and humanitarian experiences, exciting games, and more.

This is a great opportunity to have a fun time with local Jewish teens while making a difference in your community. This club is open to the entire local Jewish community. Cteen Jr. is the Jewish place to be!

All programming will adhere to COVID-19 safety and guidelines. Check our website for upcoming events and registration information. www.JewishBallantyne.com/cteenjr.

Gan Izzy Club – YOU Scribe

Gan Izzy Club is open to all Jewish children ages 5-11. Whether you are a CGI Camper missing camp, or just enjoy fun and exciting Jewish experiences, this is for you.

At this club the children will go behind the scenes to experience the mystical art of Torah

making. They will learn the calligraphy of the scribes, write on their own scrolls, and get a letter of their very own in the Children's Unity Torah.

Sunday, October 24
4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

At the Ballantyne Jewish Center 8632 Bryant Farms Rd.

\$10 per child

RSVP Leah@JewishBallantyne.com (704) 408-1116

Cteen Jr. Fall Schedule

October 3 – Outdoor Laser Tag

October 17 – MasterChef

November 7 – Game Night

November 21 – Attitude of Gratitude

December 5 – Chanukah Party

December 19 – Movie Night

Cteen Jr. is a joint project of Chabad of Charlotte and The Ballantyne Jewish Center

For more information contact Leah Levin Leah@JewishBallantyne.com (704) 408-1116.



Pajama Walk at Freedom Park to Support Friendship Circle and ZABS Place

The Pajama Walk on November 14 is a community walk to raise awareness and funds for Friendship Circle and ZABS Place, two local nonprofits that help children and young adults with special needs and special talents realize their dreams of living purposeful lives.

Friendship Circle provides social opportunities and peer mentoring for children and teens. ZABS Place is a thrift boutique offering on-the-job training that can lead to a fulfilling career.

Here are some highlights at this year's Pajama Walk:

Ability Fair

A display of unique creations of local crafters and artists with some seriously special talents! These unique items make great gifts and support inclusion and ability awareness (and of course, the artist!)

Pajama Catwalk

Yes, you heard that right! You'll have an opportunity to finally show off those supercool pajamas you've been hiding away.

Special Talent Drum Circle Led by the talented David Drum, our Friendship Circle Friends and our ZABS talent will lead an interactive drum circle to kick off the Pajama Walk.



A drumming parade leading the Pajama Walk

Dreamland

Think of Candyland in a dream, moon bounces, obstacle courses, races, pajama games, face-painting, and more! There will also be a designated area for preschool-age kids with their very own bubble show. Opening ceremonies begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Freedom Park Amphitheater.

To learn more and sign up, visit www.PajamaWalk.com.

Friendship Circle and ZABS Place are both beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



Education and Youth

BBYO Plans for the Year and Welcomes New Members

By Ellen Goldstein

Charlotte BBYO is off to a great start. The phone calls and emails keep coming from teens and parents who are excited to have the chance to connect, have fun, and be teens again. Charlotte BBYO is so excited to welcome new teens and members back to in-person programs. It's not too late to get involved. Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to join the fun on Tuesday evenings at the Levine Jewish Community Center.

Charlotte teens had a fantastic time at their first in-person convention in over a year and a half. Teen leaders from Charlotte and all across the eastern region gathered in late August to plan for the year. Highlights included an opportunity to reconnect with friends, enjoy Shabbat, have chapter planning time, and

develop team building. Saturday evening the teens enjoyed a kick-off carnival that included playing games, tie dying, and enjoying delicious snacks.

This month new members will have their first opportunity to attend a BBYO convention. New member weekend is October 22-24, 2021. Our older members (trainers) will lead our newest members through a beautiful Shabbat experience, teach them everything they need to know about BBYO, and build a community of lifelong friends. Teens will meet other Jewish teens from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, and Southern Georgia during the weekend. For information about this event or about becoming involved in BBYO, email charlotte@bbyo.org, call (704) 944-6834, or visit www.bbyo.org.



BBYO teens rekindled friendships and planned for the upcoming year at the Eastern Region Exec's Convention 2021



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Moishe House Celebrates Importance of Flexibility in Global Community Building With Second Virtual Training Conference

By Loán Lake, Moishe House Senior Communications Manager

On August 22, Moishe House, the world's leader in engaging Jewish young adults around the world, recognized the achievements of its global community builders during their annual resident training conference, currently dubbed CouchCon because of its virtual nature for the second year in a row.

More than 400 individuals gathered together on over 200 screens to celebrate "The Ultimate 'Us' Time," commemorating a year of hybrid programming. The program opened with a tikkun olam ritual and reflection led by Moishe House director of Jewish service learning, Jessica Herrmann, and opening remarks by founder and chief executive officer, David Cygielman. Cygielman shared the new initiatives being implemented within the organization and its

expanded community-building efforts. "We are about building community and providing welcoming spaces for young adults to find their tribe and celebrate who they are at their core," said Cygielman during his address to conference attendees. "If each of us commits to some little impactful thing each time we come in contact with someone, thousands of little things will change the way we act, talk, and live."

One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation of the Michael H.K. Cohen award, by Moishe House Board Secretary Stephen Cohen. The annual award and travel fellowship is given in memory of Cohen's son, Michael, a former active participant in Moishe House programming in both China and Boston, and an avid world traveler, whose life was tragically cut short in 2018 at age 29. The 2021 recipients are Alessandro Gai,



Alessandro Gai (middle), co-recipient of the 2021 Michael H.K. Cohen award, pictured with his roommates and founding residents of Moishe House Rome, the first Moishe House in Italy

a founding resident of Moishe House Rome, the first house in Italy, and Chaya Bar-Chaim, a founding resident of Moishe Pod Crown Heights in Brooklyn, New York. "It is an honor to be receiving this award in Michael's memory," said Bar-Chaim. "I'm humbled to be the recipient of the

Michael H.K. Cohen award, and I hope I can embody Michael's spirit of friendship, curiosity, and adventure."

Each award recipient will be able to visit any Moishe House community around the globe. They will also each receive a custom piece of Judaica, commissioned by artists Hillel Smith and Mia Schon, who participated in Moishe House's Expedition Maker virtual art contest.

View a video recap of the conference at vimeo.com/592777242/55fe448109, or to learn more about Moishe House, visit www.moishehouse.org.



Chaya Bar-Chaim, founding resident of Moishe Pod Crown Heights and 2021 co-recipient of the Michael H.K. Cohen Award



Continuing My Jewish Journey at Queens University of Charlotte



By Noah Goldman, Coordinator of Jewish Life at Queens University of Charlotte

Jewish tradition and peoplehood revolve around community. We are not meant to be alone. The Torah teaches not only that we are not meant to be alone but also that we should be joyous with a community. Six years ago, I not only began my university journey but also joined a special community. In four years at Queens, I was privileged to be involved in growing Jewish life and interfaith engagement on campus. Two years after my graduation, when an opportunity to return presented itself, I quickly accepted the position of coordinator of Jewish life.

The pandemic squelched much of Jewish life on campus-

es across the country. Although programs were offered on Zoom, they did not offer what face-to-face engagement could. Now we have the opportunity to reinvigorate Jewish life on campus as we work to nurture and develop our close-knit, supportive Hillel. We provide opportunities for students to engage in leadership roles and to create meaningful programs that will enrich campus life.

My vision is to support Jewish students as they grow in their Judaism by helping them engage with the wider Charlotte community. Our Queens Hillel offers a large Jewish umbrella. We have space for all Jewish students to be part of our community and learn from each other. We have space for non-Jewish students to join us as they grow on their interfaith journey.

Over the past few years, Queens has been encouraging interfaith cooperation and dialogue. This enables Jewish students to meet and work with organizations both on and off campus. From volunteering and service projects to participating in other events on campus, the interfaith work at Queens is extensive. One of my favorite programs I led during my tenure as Hillel president was the Soul Food Shabbat. This program brought Black and Jewish



Noah Goldman, coordinator of Jewish Life at Queens University and current Hillel president Lia Federbusch give out Hillel treats to students on the first day of classes.

students together to learn about our shared history in this country and the different and similar challenges both communities face and to share in each other's cultures and cuisines.

Leadership is also a critical skill we seek to develop in our Hillel students. I want to enable Jewish students to explore their passions and creativity and to express them in the community. The opportunities for internships, travel, and high-quality education are available at Queens, and I strongly encourage our Jewish

students to take full advantage of those opportunities. Queens took me to three countries and allowed me to take on an international internship. These opportunities existed for me, and they will be available for our Jewish students now and for some time to come.

I am a proud Jewish Royal graduate from Queens University, and Jewish Life at Queens was an integral part of my Jewish journey I look forward to passing on to others. As part of the lifting up of future classes of Hillel leaders, I sat down with Lia Federbusch to learn about her passion for Queens Hillel.

Interview with 2021-2022 Hillel President Lia Federbusch, a Queens Royal triathlete from Tel Aviv:

Lia Federbusch is a native of Tel Aviv, captain of the woman's triathlon team, and president of Queens Hillel. She is pursuing a major in business administration with a minor in computing and data analytics. She chose Queens based on its values. As a Jewish international student, she looked for a school that embraces diversity. Queens caught her eye as an institution that seeks to learn

from different points of view.

As Hillel president, she is excited to bring her perspective as a Jew from Israel. She sees it as an honor to represent her religion and create a community at Queens. Lia noted that she has big shoes to fill following Morasha Winokur's tenure as president of Hillel in previous years. "I hope that I will serve as a great leader and friend as she was for other Hillel members and myself."

Lia's favorite Jewish tradition is a Shabbat dinner. After a long week of school or work, the whole family gathers, stress-free, to appreciate each other. She said, "I'm looking forward to spending Shabbat with my Queens Hillel family and creating new traditions together."

Queens Hillel is excited to welcome college students to their Shabbat and holiday table. We extend an invitation to students at colleges across our city. If you know a Charlotte college student who wants to expand the circle of connections, or if you want to support our work, please contact Noah Goldman, coordinator of Jewish life at Queens University, goldmann@queens.edu.



Stan Greenspon
Holocaust and Social Justice
Education Center

Looking Back

Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following is an excerpt from March, 2005. To read the whole issue or other issues of CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

The Story Behind the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center

As you enter the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center at Shalom Park, you will notice portraits of the founders and supporters of all the libraries and institutions that are integrated into this exciting facility.

Continue your stroll to the left into the Teachers' Resource Center and you'll notice not a portrait but a plaque, which is smaller, but no less significant, dedicated to Lenora Stein, of blessed memory, the unforgettable executive director of the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE).

Do you remember the former Jewish library facility, housed in a Leon and Sandra Levine small room in the Education Building at Shalom Park — the Speizman Jewish Library? Have you wondered what happened to the CAJE trailer adjacent to the JCC entrance? The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center (JLRC) contains the collections of that "cozy" library room, the CAJE trailer, as well as those of the Charlotte Jewish Historical Society, and the Charlotte Jewish Day School library.

Although the JLRC facility is brand new, its walls speak of the dedication and creativity of all those responsible for its creation.

Those walls, doors, windows, and furnishings are the result of the Levine and Sklut families stepping up to meet the needs of the Jewish community for an enhanced Jewish library. Speaking as a spokesman for the families, Eric Sklut said that Leon and Sandra Levine, Howard and Julie Levine, and Eric and Lori Sklut are honored to make the new Judaic Library and Resource Center at Shalom Park possible. "Our families made the commitment to the Shalom Park Expansion and

Endowment Campaign long ago. Now this commitment to the Judaic Library and Resource Center is for the education and enjoyment of our children and adults and the many future generations who will use it," he explained.

This expanding treasury of Jewish culture, knowledge and information had its origins with Sylvia Speizman's mother, Annie Valenstein, of blessed memory, who organized the Jewish library at Temple Israel on Dilworth Road and served as its first librarian. Morris and Sylvia Speizman, both of blessed memory, kept the library growing at Temple Israel and then founded the library at Shalom Park in 1986. In remembering his parents, Bob Speizman commented, "Morris had a passion for all things Jewish and a lifelong love affair with the written word. It was not surprising that he and Sylvia founded the Speizman Jewish Library at Shalom Park."

While the CAJE trailer, which served as a resource center for Jewish teachers in the Carolinas, is no longer standing, its dazzling array of learning materials is an integral part of the JLRC. It was Herman Blumenthal's vision that was the drive behind the formation of the CAJE. Back in the early '80s, acting on his strong belief that a separate agency was needed to enhance Jewish religious school education statewide, he sent Robert Seigel, former rabbi of Temple Beth El, and Cy Jacobs (of blessed memory) to a conference of Jewish educators in San Antonio, Texas, with directions to learn how to "run an agency for Jewish education and to purchase materials, so that in Herman's words, "The Carolina Agency for Jewish Education

would be second to none!"

Originally established in Cy Jacob's hometown of Greensboro, the CAJE offices soon moved to Charlotte, with the purchase of materials funded 100% by Herman Blumenthal.

Within a year, CAJE became the largest Jewish education resource center in the southeast. Lenora Stein took over as executive director soon after. Over the years, she developed the archives of the Charlotte Jewish Historical Society, a project of CAJE. Lenora worked with others in the Jewish community and the Charlotte area to make the history of the Charlotte area Jews known. However, the main focus of Lenora's efforts at CAJE was education. She brought nationally recognized experts in Jewish education to Charlotte for workshops and programs. Under her leadership, Herman Blumenthal's visions of a resource center for Jewish teachers in the Carolina's found fulfillment.

Lenora participated in the planning of a Judaic library and resource center at Shalom Park. As a founder of Shalom Park and benefactor of its Education Building, Herman Blumenthal saw to it that CAJE was moved into the new education facility, so that the resources would be conveniently located for all Jewish schools.

Adults, children, and educators are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the JLRC. By taking advantage of the resources that are "shelved" at the JLRC, the vision and support of the founders of all the institutions now part of this intriguing facility are being realized.

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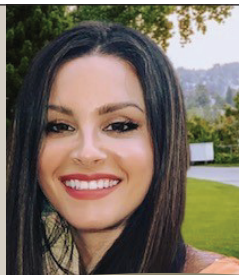

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On behalf of our entire community, THANK YOU!



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