

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

Vol. 44, No. 1

Tevet-Shevat 5782

January 2022

Nancy Spielberg Featured at Main Event as Federation Kicks Off 2022 Annual Campaign

This year's Main Event kicks off Federation's 2022 Annual Campaign with a milestone goal of \$5 million. Co-chairs Ana Bonnheim and Lindsay Muns are excited to announce that they will welcome Nancy Spielberg as our featured speaker on Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Please join us in person at Temple Israel or virtually as Nancy helps us celebrate the influence of Federation through personal anecdotes using stories of her own experiences.



Nancy Spielberg is the featured speaker at 2022 Annual Campaign Main Event

Nancy grew up immersed in filmmaking, working on her brother's (Steven Spielberg) early films as cast and crew. She attended Arizona State University and UCLA and, after moving to New York in 1978, studied film at Sarah Lawrence College and the New School. An accomplished businesswoman and philanthropist, she has turned her energy and talents to producing documentary and feature films. One of her priorities is to help preserve stories and make them into educational tools for the benefit of younger generations. Ms. Spielberg served as consultant on the Oscar-winning documentary, "Chernobyl Heart," and was executive producer of "Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals," which aired nationally on PBS.

In 2015, she produced "Above and Beyond," winner of the audience award at more than 20 film festivals. Spielberg is the

executive producer of Sophie Sartain's documentary, "Mimi and Dona," which was broadcast nationally on PBS in late 2015. She is executive producer of "Who Will Write Our History," which tells the story of the secret buried archive of the Warsaw Ghetto. "Who Will Write Our History" was screened globally, was broadcast on Discovery Network, and continues to be screened around the world and used in educational institutions.

Ms. Spielberg has worked on several other films, many of which have won awards.

Recently, she helped establish Jewish Story Partners, a film fund to assist in telling Jewish stories to help promote understanding and tolerance.

Nancy Spielberg is founder

and co-founder of several charities including Children of Chernobyl and Project Sunshine. She is particularly passionate about causes helping children, combating antisemitism and intolerance, and helping victims of terror globally.

Last year's virtual Main Event had its largest attendance ever. This year, with an in-person or virtual option, participation is limitless.

Co-chairs Ana Bonnheim and Lindsay Muns also have served as Allocations chairs. They have seen firsthand the impact that the dollars raised through

Federation's Annual Campaign have in our community. They are eager to share how Federation's role continues to be vital. This unprecedented \$5 million campaign will have a tremendous influence on the work Federation does.

Be a part of this moment and join us at the Main Event, where you will have the opportunity to make your pledge to the 2022 Annual Campaign. Tickets are \$36 and are available online at www.jewishcharlotte.org or by phone at (704) 944-6757.

The mission of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to

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



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Experience the 2022 Charlotte Jewish Film Festival in Person or Virtually

By Susan Cherin, LJCC Director of Cultural Arts and The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

The last 20 months have been quite the ride for everyone, with very few things you can count on to stay the same. One thing that remains constant is the power of the arts to inspire, heal, and bring communities together. Another constant is the commitment of The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival (CJFF), a program of The Cultural Arts Department at The Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC), to remain a premiere cultural event in Charlotte! We are pleased to announce our ex-

citing 18th festival that will take place Feb. 5-27, 2022; even more exciting is that you can choose an in-person or virtual format. We are thrilled that our marketing, our ticketing process, and any virtual viewing of the films, will be located on one single platform, Eventive. We used Eventive last year for our virtual festival, so many are already familiar with how it works. Whether you prefer to attend in person or from the comfort of your couch, we know this still involves big changes for everyone, and we

(Continued on page 4)



Charlotte Jewish Film Festival opens with "The New Jew" on Feb. 5

Look Inside...



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports programs and services that have real impact on Jewish life each and every day, in Charlotte, Israel and around the world. Turn to page 7 to see how your dollars impact our community!



Governor Cooper Signs Holocaust Education Act
Page 8

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From the Editor

Getting to Know Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

I have a confession to make. When I moved to Charlotte, I didn't know much about Jewish Federations, either around the country or here, with our own Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte (JFGC).

I have another confession. When I became the editor of The Charlotte Jewish News a year later, in June 2020, I still didn't know much about JFGC.

I knew even less about Char-

lotte's Jewish community as a whole. Now, as editor, my role in the community gives me the opportunity to see the big picture — to have a birds-eye view, seeing the landscape and mapping the connections, as I get to interact with almost every Jewish agency in one way or another.

In addition to speaking with representatives every day about what is happening in their agencies, I am increasingly able to witness it first-hand.

Just a few steps away from my office, I have witnessed volunteers tend Shalom Park's community garden, not only getting closer to the earth, but harvesting food for donation to the Jewish Family Services (JFS) food pantry.

Down the hall I've seen those same shelves transformed into a room and hallway full of bags to be distributed every other week to clients in need.

In the room next door I listened to a powerful presentation through the Butterfly Project about the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust. I watched the faces of the non-Jewish schoolchildren as they tried to comprehend what they were hearing and what the butterfly they were painting represented.

Further away from Shalom Park, I took the Jacobs-Jaffa Charlotte Jewish Heritage Tour, a program of the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center. Not only was I fascinated to learn about the 165 years of rich Jewish history in Charlotte, but also I was deeply moved while walking the grounds of the beautiful Hebrew Cemetery.

To name just a few.

And while I didn't realize it

as it was happening, it turns out that as I was getting to know these organizations and their profound importance to the community, I was also getting to know the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, because there is hardly a Jewish organization in Charlotte that the Federation does not somehow touch. Most of these organizations are able to do what they do, in part and to varying degrees, with the support of JFGC.

You can see it on almost every page of this paper, a paper that also receives support from JFGC.

For 2022 alone, JFGC allocated close to \$4.7 million to more than 60 agencies. You can see the details on page 7.

I've learned, however, that JFGC's impact goes beyond its role as the greater Charlotte Jewish community's central philanthropic organization. In its role as community convener, JFGC leads conversations among our local agencies and synagogues, keeping volunteer and professional leaders informed and connected and creating opportunities to leverage expertise, resources, and support. This was never more evident than during the past two years.

To help individuals in the area of Jewish identity, JFGC engages the local community in ways that are personally meaningful such as their Jewish @ Home initiative featuring PJ Library, Shabbat Unplugged and others. To strengthen our community's connection to Israel, JFGC works with overseas partners on several programs to educate and provide assistance where needed. These are just a few examples of the important work that Federa-

tion does.

When I started, I was editing articles related to Federation's Annual Campaign, but I can honestly say I didn't quite "get it" yet. After a year-and-a-half, I not only "get it," but I am firmly convinced of the critical role it plays in the community. That is why I not only already have my ticket to the Main Event on January 19, but have already made

my Annual Campaign pledge for 2022. Please join me in supporting Jewish of Federation of Greater Charlotte in reaching its milestone \$5 million Annual Campaign goal. For information and to make your pledge visit www.jewishcharlotte.org or call (704) 944-6757.

Shira

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

January 7 — 5:09 p.m.
January 14 — 5:16 p.m.
January 21 — 5:23 p.m.
January 28 — 5:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Published monthly except July
An affiliate of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte



Main Event



Featuring Nancy Spielberg



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Businesswoman
and Philanthropist

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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Sue's Bookshelf



Sue Littauer

By Sue Littauer

The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) Book Club is excited to announce its book selections and schedule for 2022. Criteria for book selection include having Jewish subject matter, having Jewish values, and/or written by

Jewish authors. Not only do we look forward to excellent selections for our book club meetings and discussions, but also we are excited about the fantastic lineup of speakers that will be joining us as part of our upcoming CJE Spring Book Festival.

Word has been spreading throughout the community about this warm, welcoming, and intelligent community of readers, and we've had the pleasure to welcome several new members during the past few months. The CJE Book Club is open to the entire Jewish community. If you'd like more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Shalom Park.

CJE Book Club 2022 Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held on the second of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Shalom Park.

- January 12** — "Marjorie Morningstar" by Herman Wouk
February 9 — "The Forest of Vanishing Stars" by Kristin Harmel
March 9 — "The Lost Shtetl" by Max Gross
Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m. — CJE Spring Book Festival speaker: Kristin Harmel
Sunday, March 27, 7 p.m. — CJE Spring Book Festival speaker: Max Gross
April 13 — No book club this month
May 11 — "Eternal" by Lisa Scottoline
Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m. — CJE Spring Book Festival speaker: Lisa Scottoline
June 8 — "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
July 13 — "Last Summer of the Golden Hotel" by Elyssa Friedland
August 10 — "An Observant Wife" by Naomi Ragen
September 14 — Guest speaker and local author Judy Goldman
October 12 — No book club this month
November 9 — "Morningside Heights" by Joshua Henkin
December 14 — "The Things We Cannot Say" by Kelly Rimmer
All books can be found at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library.
Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in 2022.



Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books
The Extraordinary Ezra Jack Keats



Debby Block

By Debby Block

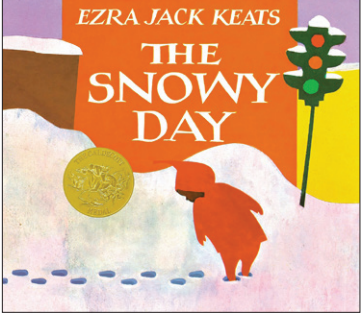
In practically every preschool classroom across North America at this time of the year, the classic picture book "A Snowy Day" is being read. The Caldecott-winning story, by Ezra Jack Keats, perfectly captures the pure childhood joy of making tracks and snow angels and playing in a world made new by snow, and it is most certainly one of my best-loved books.

"A Snowy Day" is remarkable not simply for its simple yet magical storytelling but also for its innovative illustrations created with paint, swatches of patterned materials, and homemade snowflake stamps. It is especially extraordinary because Keats is the first author to introduce multiculturalism into children's books. Keats made an African American the main character, something no other mainstream author or illustrator had done in the United States prior to the book's publication in 1962 — in the midst of the civil rights movement.

The New York Times says, "Ezra Jacks Keats started a quiet revolution that in its own way had as much influence as some of the decade's louder protests." (December 2011). When the United States Postal Service (USPS) launched commemorative stamps of "A Snowy Day," Roderick Sally of the USPS stated, "Before this book, children of color, African American children in particular, saw very little representation of themselves in picture books, and then came Peter. Through Peter, children of color found a positive representation of themselves, which instilled a sense of pride and self-acceptance, one that said, I both fit and I belong."

The character of Peter was inspired by photos that Keats clipped from Life magazine depicting a little boy in Georgia.

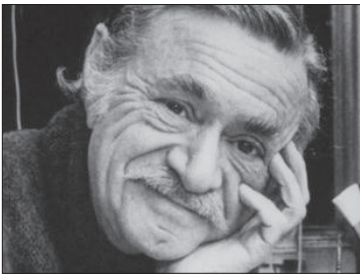
Keats's great success with "A Snowy Day" led to more than 22 children's books, which he wrote and illustrated. Many of the books, including "Whistle for Willie," "Peter's Chair,"



and "Pet Show," feature Peter as the main character. All of these books are included in my list of best-loved books for preschoolers.

Here is another extraordinary fact — Ezra Jack Keats was Jewish! Born in 1916 as Jacob Ezra Katz, a child of immigrant Polish Jews, he grew up in extreme poverty in East New York, then the Jewish quarter of Brooklyn. He was interested in art from a very young age and even painted store signs to make money at the young age of eight. As a young man, Keats was unable to attend art school despite having received three scholarships. Instead, he worked to help support his family by painting murals and even illustrating comic books. Nonetheless, his contribution to children's literature is enormous.

"A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day" by Andrea Davis Pinkney is a beautiful tribute to Keats and is a PJ Library selection that highlights Jewish heroes. (Recommended for ages 7-10)



Ezra Jack Keats

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Film Festival

(Continued from page 1)

are confident that silver linings will be discovered and enjoyed! We could not provide this cultural opportunity to our community without the generous and loyal support from The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Our corporate partners, especially Truist, Hearst Service Center, Hearst Entertainment and Syndication, and Pinnacle Financial Partners, as well as our individual patrons, and community partners have remained steadfast. A big thank-you to our screening committee members: Jeff Turk

(chair), Stephanie Bensinger, Limor Bregman, Lisa Davidson, Bob Ecker, Gene Kavadlo, Bob Kipnis, Ross Levin, Michael Lieberman, Candace Naliboff, Floyd Patten, Marcia Stern, and David Thalberg for their tireless dedication. We are excited to announce a diverse slate of 13 films and three shorts offered in person or virtually, and two different miniseries offered only virtually, for a grand total of more than 18 events for our 18th season! The All Festival Pass (in person or virtual) will be available for \$160 through Jan. 15 and \$192 from Jan. 16 through February 5. All Festival Passes, as

well as tickets to individual films (\$15 in person or virtual), can only be purchased online by visiting charlottejewishfilm.com. If you need assistance, there will be many choices available to you once you get to the site. For those who are comfortable viewing the films in person, you will enjoy Temple Israel, Regal Phillips Place, and Lerner Hall at Shalom Park again. Masks will be required. For those viewing the films from home, each film will be available beginning at the in-person screening time and for 72 hours following. Q & As with special guests, both live and on Zoom, and panel discussions will add a layer of understanding and bring our community together. More details will be on the site, but here are a few highlights of our exciting 18th season: The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is our largest sponsor, and we are grateful to collaborate with them on our opening night (February 5) film, "The New Jew." This four-episode TV documentary series showcases the cultural and political influence of the Jewish community in the United States, the variety of alternative models



"A Starry Night Above the Roman Ghetto" Feb. 23 at Regal Phillips Place



"Kiss Me Kosher" Feb. 12 at Regal Phillips Place

it offers for living a rich Jewish life, and the rifts in relations with the State of Israel. We will watch episodes one and two on opening night at Temple Israel, enjoy a Q & A with the creators of the series, and be able to watch episodes three and four virtually. Hadassah, the "mother" of the CJFF, is our community partner for our film on Sunday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel. "Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin" is a captivating documentary film that tells the incredible life story of the former Israeli prime minister, who never compromised when the survival of Israel and the Jewish people

were at stake. We will be fortunate to spend time with special guests from this film in a virtual Q & A. On Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m., Temple Israel will sponsor a double feature of two intriguing documentaries. "Space Torah" is an out-of-this-world journey of a Jewish-American astronaut who brought a small Torah scroll on board Space Shuttle Columbia in 1996. "Xueta Island" tells the little known story of Catholics on the Spanish island of Mallorca who have experienced discrimination for centuries because their surnames have a connection to a

(Continued on page 5)



THE LEVINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

18TH ANNUAL

FEBRUARY 5-27, 2022

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December 15 - February 27

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Film Festival

(Continued from page 4)

Jewish heritage. "Xueta Island" producer Paula Kweskin's family has been a member of Temple Israel for many years; we hope that she will join us, with other special guests from the film, for a virtual Q & A.

On Saturday Feb. 12, we move to Regal Phillips Place for a hilarious and risqué double feature. "A Shabbos Goy" is a short about an Orthodox woman who searches for someone else to turn off her vibrator because God has commanded her not to. "Kiss me Kosher" is a comedic love story between clashing cultures and families, following two generations of Israeli women, one who falls for a German woman and the other a Palestinian man, exploring the age old question of lovers who don't fit but belong together.

"A Starry Night Above the Roman Ghetto" will be shown at Regal Phillips Place, sponsored by Temple Beth El, on Wednesday Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. Past and present meet with the discovery of an old, mysterious photograph that will end up tying together Christian and Jewish students in search of the truth about the raid of the Roman Ghetto.

Closing our run at Regal Phillips place will be yet another fun and frivolous double feature, brought to us by our new Community Partner Generations at Shalom Park. "Pops" is a dark comedy short centering on a feud that breaks out between two siblings over their late Jewish father's eccentric last request — to have his ashes sent to space. In "Greener Pastures," when a broke widower who is stuck in a nursing home notices that all his fellow residents smoke legal medical cannabis, he realizes that selling weed will be his salvation.

Back on Shalom Park for our closing day, we are showing one of Ed Asner's final films, "Tiger Within," in Lerner Hall on Sunday Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services, this moving film follows an unlikely friendship between a troubled, homeless teen, and a Holocaust survivor, sparking larger ques-



"Space Torah" Feb. 10 at Temple Israel

tions of ignorance, fear, lies, family, love, forgiveness, and our divided world.

Our final film will be "Glickman" on Sunday Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in Lerner Hall, sponsored by Pinnacle Financial Partners. Marty Glickman, a Jewish American athlete who was denied the chance to represent the U.S. at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, went on to become one of the most revered and influential sportscasters in history. We are thrilled to welcome producer James Freedman for a virtual Q & A following the film.

We are very excited about our 18th CJFF season, and we plan to make the most of the opportunities that a hybrid festival will bring. CJFF is a wonderful community event that is not to be missed. Please think of some new friends or family that you can invite to the film festival, either in person, or to join you on your couch! We can't wait to laugh, cry, think, and feel — together in person or in spirit — this year!



"Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin" Feb 6 at Temple Israel

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Jewish Family Services Welcomes New Board Members and President

By Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

Jewish Family Services (JFS) is excited to introduce five new board members beginning terms in 2022 along with our new president, Jennifer Golynsky. Jennifer joined the JFS Board in 2016 and has been a longtime JFS supporter. "JFS provides a wide array of services to so many people. The span of offerings and numbers of people it touches is impressive. I am honored to be part of such a dynamic and engaged board and to offer my support to the talented professionals who live the organization's mission, vision, and values by engaging, connecting, and healing our community."

As we begin 2022, we would like to thank our outgoing president, Louis Sinkoe, for his many contributions during his two-year term. Louis served on the board from 2011 to 2013, re-joined in 2015, and has served JFS for many years in a variety of capacities prior to joining the board. "What first drew me to get involved with JFS was the food pantry. I appreciate the necessary services that JFS provides to the community. JFS has a great board; people work together to solve issues to help the Jewish community be a better place."

A warm thank-you and best wishes to two of our outgoing board members. Jan Weiner joined the board in 2015 and



Jennifer Golynsky, new president and active JFS board member since 2016

served as president from 2018 to 2019. Over the past six years, she has served on the executive, finance, personnel, and board development committees. Adam Levy served on the board from 2019 to 2021 and was a major initiator for the Live, Laugh, Give event. Adam and his wife, Kim, have been the entertainment underwriter for all three years of this event.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Suzy Catennazzo, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Rachel Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Marcia Lampert, Matt

Luftglass, Gene Marx, Nina Rose, Louis Sinkoe, and Steve Teich who will continue to serve on the board this year. We appreciate all of the ongoing time and effort you give to support JFS.

We are excited to welcome the following new board members:

Andrew Bernstein, a Charlotte native and lifetime member of Temple Beth El, his family's membership spans four generations. Since 1992, he has worked with Johnson Control Fire Protection as territory suppression leader. Andrew has long been involved in the Jewish community, including teaching at Hebrew High and Temple Beth El and working at Camp Mindy.



Louis Sinkoe, outgoing board president and longtime supporter of JFS

Dan Coblenz has been a resident of Charlotte since 1965. He successfully operated a janitorial business for more than 50 years. He has volunteered with several of the agencies on campus, including the Butterfly Project, the Social Action Committee at Temple Israel, and JFS. In 1968 he married his wife, Nancy, in Temple Israel and is looking forward to celebrating his 54th wedding anniversary in 2022.

Joni Deutsch is active within the media community, currently serving as vice president of podcast marketing and audience development at Podglomerate, overseeing audio strategy for clients, including PBS and NPR stations, Stanford University, and Expedia. Joni most recently was podcast manager for WFAE where she received several awards, including The Webby Awards (called "the Internet's Highest Honor" by The New York Times).

Jennifer Koss, a social worker, has diverse experience providing community-based services to a broad range of clients. She currently serves as social action co-chair and board member for Women of Temple Israel and volunteers with the Federation's Annual Campaign, Shalom Green, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at Marvin Elementary, and in classrooms tutoring and as room parent for

her daughter's class.

Adina Loewensteiner served as co-chair of Live, Laugh, Give last year and will co-chair again at the 2022 event. She has volunteered as secretary of the Temple Israel board, board member and PTO co-president at Charlotte Jewish Preschool, and at the JFS Food Pantry. She has taught her children the importance of the food pantry by collecting donations in lieu of birthday presents and letting her kids deliver donations to JFS and help stock the pantry shelves.

Each member of the board is committed to the success of JFS's full range of programming, counseling, and social service assistance. JFS helps those facing daily challenges, life's transitions, new hardships, and unexpected crises. Programs provide education, engagement, counseling, food, care management, financial assistance, resources, and referrals. For more information, visit jfscharlotte.org.



**Jewish Family
SERVICES**

JFS Volunteers & Donors November 2022

Volunteers: Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Suzy Catennazzo, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Sheryl Effren, Terri Fishman, Rachel Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Rebecca Hockfield, Hubara Family, Bob Jacobson, Michael Kaplan, Etti Krause, Elliot and Stephanie Krietman, Marcia Lampert, Adam Levy, Kim Levy, Matt Luftglass, Gene Marx, Frada Mozenter, Barbara Rein, Nina Rose, Lynne Sheffer, Cindy Siesel, Louis Sinkoe, Lorin Stiefel, Ken Stern, Steve Teich, David and Beth Thrope, Susan Webber, Nancy Wielunski, Jan Weiner, Amanda Zaidman

Hadassah Meal Preppies: Sharon Cavanaugh, Karen Fattersak, June Hirschmann, Yvette Jacobson, Johnson and Wales, Penny Krieger, Andy McCleary, Helene Schillian, Marcia Stern, Elissa Vining

Shalom Green: Thank you for continuing to harvest fresh produce (radishes)

Food Drives: Charlotte Jewish Preschool

Mitzvah Baskets: The Siegel Family in honor of Madeline Siegel's bat mitzvah

Food Pantry Donations: To our generous community: thank you for continuing to donate to the food pantry. We continue to collect donations every other Wednesday.

JFS Tributes November 2021

Happy Birthday Michael Goldberg

Alan and Ruth Goldberg

Happy Birthday Julie Sheffer

Angie and Bill Zimmern

In honor of Jason and Sarah's Wedding

Phil and Marci Goldberg

In Honor of Noah Alexander

Jason and Karen Spiegler

In Honor of Zoey Alexander

Jason and Karen Spiegler

In Honor the birth of Mason Joseph Rubin

Phil and Marci Goldberg

In Honor of Kevin Levine and Louis Sinkoe

Michael and Jill Siskind

Memory of Harry Berzack Stanley Greenspon

In Memory of Lloyd Diaz

The Buxbaum Children

In Memory of Norma Katzman

Myron and Lynn Slutsky

In Memory of Shirley Jaffe Moskowitz

Sam and Abbe Greenfield

In Memory of Jack Perlmutter

Ken and Lynn Sass

In Memory of Marilyn Swimmer

Jerry and Barbara Levin

In Memory of Donna Witikka

Helene Levine

Wishing David Block a speedy recovery

Phil and Marci Goldberg



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

2022 Allocations

You Impact All Things Jewish

Record Allocations \$4,688,123*

*total amount net of campaign shrinkage and reserves

2022 LOCAL BENEFICIARY AGENCIES \$3,656,950

Anti-Defamation League	\$2,000
<i>Our nation's premier civil rights/human relations organization.</i>	
BBYO	\$16,000
<i>Youth-led, worldwide organization, promoting Jewish identity and personal growth among Jewish teens.</i>	
Ballantyne Jewish Center	\$15,000
<i>Provides one week of Jewish winter camp and three weeks of Jewish summer camp to children in the greater Ballantyne area.</i>	
Birthright Israel	\$7,500
<i>Young adults traveling to Israel.</i>	
Butterfly Project	\$10,000
<i>Educates the community on the lessons of the Holocaust.</i>	
Center for Jewish Education	\$199,978
<i>Promotes the advancement of lifelong Jewish education, learning and literacy.</i>	
Chabad Lake Norman	\$7,000
<i>Create a dynamic family oriented center to enhance the Lake Norman Jewish Community.</i>	
Charlotte Community Agencies	\$10,775
<i>Crisis Assistance Ministries, Mecklenburg Ministries, Loaves and Fishes, Hospice Charlotte, Safe Alliance, Roof Above (formerly Urban Ministries) and CBI.</i>	
Charlotte Jewish Day School	\$177,000
<i>Quality Jewish day school serving students from Kindergarten through 5th grade.</i>	
Charlotte Jewish Film Festival	\$8,000
<i>illuminates global Jewish experiences through film.</i>	
Charlotte Jewish Preschool	\$65,000
<i>Quality Jewish preschool educational program and full day childcare facility.</i>	
Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies	\$29,000
<i>An enriched Judaic program for Charlotte-area teens.</i>	
Foundation of Shalom Park	\$446,605
<i>Provides rent and security subsidies for Jewish agencies in Shalom Park, helping to keep operational expenses to a minimum.</i>	
Friendship Circle	\$27,000
<i>Creates lasting friendships between Jewish teens and children with special needs.</i>	
Hebrew Cemetery	\$25,000
<i>Provides a dignified final resting place for the Charlotte Jewish community.</i>	
Hebrew Cemetery Funeral Assistance Fund	\$6,352
<i>Provides dignified burials for Jewish families in need.</i>	
Jewish Community Relations Council	\$148,114
<i>Promotes the interest of the Charlotte Jewish community by creating working relations with our neighbors and serving as the collective voice of the Jewish community.</i>	
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	\$1,000
<i>Serves as representative voice of the American Jewish community.</i>	
Jewish Council of Lake Norman	\$16,000
<i>Community programming to enrich and strengthen Jewish life in the Lake Norman area.</i>	
Jewish Educational Loan Fund	\$3,600
<i>Provides interest-free loans to college students in the Southeast.</i>	

2022 ADAPTATION AND TRANSFORMATION FUND \$59,500

The Adaptation & Transformation Fund provides grants that support programs, services, and initiatives focused on the most pressing issues of the day, with an emphasis on strategic, creative and bold thinking. The JFGC Board designated priorities for 2022 to include an organizational commitment to educate, engage, and act on issues of racism and racial justice.

Racial Justice

Foundation of Shalom Park	\$25,000
Stan Greenspon Center For Peace and Social Justice	\$12,000
Temple Beth El	\$22,500

Jewish Family Services	\$307,000
<i>Professional counseling, family education programs, and social services.</i>	
Jewish Family Services Tzedakah Fund	\$9,000
<i>Emergency financial assistance and loans to assist local Jewish families in need.</i>	
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte	
Development	\$592,119
Administration, Operations, Finance, and Marketing	\$445,190
Education and Engagement	\$105,888
Jewish Preschool on Sardis	\$30,000
<i>Quality Jewish preschool educational program.</i>	
Moishe House	\$23,000
<i>Provides meaningful Jewish experiences for young adults in their 20's as they create a vibrant home-based Jewish community.</i>	
North Carolina Council on the Holocaust	\$20,000
<i>Holocaust educational workshops and displays for public and private school teachers.</i>	
North Carolina Hillel	\$63,000
<i>Promotes Jewish life on college campuses across North Carolina.</i>	
PJ Library	\$25,258
<i>Strengthen the identities of Jewish families and their relationships to the Jewish community by offering free, high quality Jewish books and music to families raising Jewish children ages six months through eight years.</i>	
Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center	\$320,000
<i>Enriches Jewish lives through cultural, educational and athletic programming.</i>	
Shalom Green	\$7,000
<i>Shalom Park Environmental Initiative promoting Jewish values through sustainable living, a community garden, and educational programming.</i>	
Shalom Park Freedom School	\$17,000
<i>Embraces Jewish values and builds Jewish Identity by providing a summer enrichment program for children of poverty in CMS schools.</i>	
Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice	\$27,500
<i>Provides educational programs based on lessons of the Holocaust as well as current events with a focus on antisemitism.</i>	
Supplemental Gifts and Special Distributions	\$367,071
<i>Provides customized giving opportunities over and above Annual Campaign gifts, enabling donors to maximize their giving potential and fulfill their philanthropic goals. Includes American Jewish World Service, Birthright Israel, Blumenthal Educator Resource Center, CJE Campaign, Gorelick Teens to Israel, Women's Philanthropy Event Sponsorships, Community Building Initiative, Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, PJ Library, Speaker Sponsorships.</i>	
Temple Beth El	\$12,000
<i>Provides Jewish Identity and engagement opportunities for the baby boomer and empty-nester populations.</i>	
Temple Kol Ami	\$6,000
<i>Strives to be a voice for the diverse Jewish community of the greater York County, SC area.</i>	
Temple Kol Tikvah	\$7,500
<i>Provide a spiritual home and strengthen the Jewish community in the Lake Norman area.</i>	
Temple Solel	\$7,500
<i>Sustains future generations of the South Carolina Jewish community with expanded programming for adults and children.</i>	
The Ruach	\$4,000
<i>Through Jewish musical experiences, helps inspire positive connections with Judaism.</i>	
Tikvah Charlotte	\$7,500
<i>Jewish education for children with special needs.</i>	
Uptown Chabad	\$17,500
<i>Provides networking and Jewish connections for Jewish young adults.</i>	
ZAB'S Place	\$15,000
<i>Provides workplace training and experience for Jewish young adults with special needs.</i>	

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✧ Chabad Chesed Center	✧ Israel Religious Expression Platform	✧ Technoda
✧ Educating 4 Excellence	✧ Jewish Federations of North America	✧ TALMA
✧ Ethiopian National Project	✧ Jewish Agency: Aliyah Services	✧ Yerucham Association
✧ Friends of the IDF	✧ Jewish Agency: MASA	
✧ Gidon Association/Maksam	✧ JDC: FSU Welfare	
✧ Hadera Young Adult Center	✧ Krembo Wings	
✧ Hand in Hand: Jewish-Arab Education	✧ Partnership2Gether - Hadera Eiron	

The Greenspon Center Facilitates Exploring Identity

By Greenspon Center Staff

Every person's identity begins with a story. At the Greenspon Center, we support community members in exploring identity and creating powerful bridges between people. It has been said that the greatest distance between two people is a story. Through traveling exhibits, an interfaith conference, courses delving into Jewish peoplehood, and even through housing our neighbors experiencing homelessness, in partnership with the Muslim community, you can share your story and learn from the stories of others.

Pop-Up History around town with the Levine Museum of the New South

All of history is stories. When we realize that personal narratives shape and define that larger history, individuals and the community gain perspective. Our newest initiative "Pop-Up History" is centered on this goal. In partnership with the Levine Museum of the New South and the Anne Frank Center at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, we are bringing the traveling Anne Frank exhibition, "Let Me be Myself," to the Levine Museum from Jan. 14 to 31, 2022. The exhibit will be staffed by student docents from several schools throughout Charlotte, trained to create their own personalized tour of the exhibit. An interactive component for visitors will focus on the complexities of identity and society today.

Sacred Threads: The complex tapestry of Jewish-Christian relations

Professor Diana Eck, of Harvard Divinity School, opens her world religions courses with the statement: "If you know one re-

ligion . . . you don't know any." Although this may sound a bit strange, it makes sense once you sit with the idea. To truly know one religious tradition is to investigate how that tradition has connections with or relates to other religions. In exploring the similarities and differences, we come to appreciate each tradition in a deeper and more meaningful way.

On Jan. 20, from 1 to 6 p.m. we will gather in person at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Charlotte, and *virtually*, to delve into the complex relationship between Judaism and Christianity. Our day is focused on the seminal Vatican II Council document, *Nostra Aetate*, which changed the way the Church approached the Jewish religious tradition. We will discuss this text with one another in small groups and enjoy music, poetry, and reflection.

As our society grapples with the effects of division along so many lines, the vision for this day is to create beauty from the many threads of our sacred traditions.

A course on Jewish identities

One can find immense diversity of faith expressions even within Judaism. Jewish identity is not monolithic; there are many Jewish identities. The Greenspon Center's Spring Signature Jewish Studies Course offered in partnership with Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte titled "Together and Apart: The Future of Jewish Peoplehood" will explore that notion in depth. Through this 14-week program using a curriculum designed by the Shalom Hartman Institute, we will explore the challenges to our unity, including nationalism, antisemitism, dual loyalty, and identity politics. We will

consider what it means to be a member of the Jewish people, the core values that animate Jewish peoplehood, and the contemporary challenges to Jewish unity. Our course will imagine new conceptual frameworks that can help sustain and grow the story of our people for a new millennium. Rabbi Judy Schindler, Skut professor of Jewish Studies at Queens University, and Tair Giudice, who has more than a decade of experience in Jewish communal leadership and Jewish education with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, will co-lead this class, which will be offered on Wednesdays, 12:30-2 p.m., from Jan. 12 to May 4.

Abraham's Tent Room in the Inn

Beyond study, the Greenspon Center offers opportunities to explore identity through volunteerism and interfaith engagement. Abraham's Tent: A Shared Muslim Community and Jewish Community Room in the Inn at Queens University enables Jews and Muslims in Charlotte to live their shared values of hospitality and welcoming the stranger. Just as Abraham's tent was open on all sides to welcome friends and strangers passing by his desert dwelling, the Muslim and Jewish communities want our neighbors in Charlotte to feel that spirit of welcome. For any Tuesday night in March, you can

sign up to work with our Muslim counterparts in hosting this program. From setting up beds to cooking a meal to getting up early on a Wednesday morning to ensure our neighbors have a warm breakfast and hot coffee as they start their day, you can do an amazing mitzvah for others while building interfaith bridges that will strengthen our collective future.

To journey with us as you explore your identity, contact Talia Goldman, goldmant@queens.edu.



Stan Greenspon
Holocaust and Social Justice
Education Center

North Carolina General Assembly Passes Holocaust Education Act

By Michael Abramson, Chairman, NC Council on the Holocaust

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is pleased to report the passage of the Holocaust Education Act. The Holocaust Act was part of the composite \$25.9 billion state budget passed by both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly and signed by Governor Cooper in November.

The Holocaust Council took the lead in shepherding the bill through the state legislature.

The Holocaust Education Act will assign responsibility to the

North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, the North Carolina Board of Education, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching to create a Holocaust curriculum for middle and high school students. Money has been allocated to write the curriculum. Funding is also available for one year to train teachers to teach the curriculum.

The Holocaust Council has been training North Carolina teachers to teach the Holocaust through in-person teacher workshops since 1990. The council

initiated teacher webinars beginning in the fall semester of 2019. Since 1990, more than 10,000 teachers have been trained by the Holocaust Council.

Michael Abramson, chairman of the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust said, "What is most important to me is my sincere hope that Holocaust teaching will change a student 'bystander' into an 'upstander' and will turn a student away from pro-Nazi literature and propaganda."

North Carolina is the 21st state in the country to mandate Holocaust education in the public schools.

"This is a very momentous event for Holocaust education and awareness in North Carolina," Abramson concluded. "We are the only organization with a mandate to educate all public school teachers and students on the Holocaust. We on the Council have many challenges ahead, such as how to continue our teacher training for decades to come. Funding is always an issue. I have no doubt that the educators engaged by the Holocaust Council will do an excellent job developing the curriculum and implementing the training."

For more information on the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, please access www.dpi.nc.gov/holocaust-council and <https://ncholocouncilworkshops.org>.



The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust

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Generations at Shalom Park: Designed With Innovation and Intention



By Karen Knoble

Generations at Shalom Park hasn't even been built, and it is already being recognized as one of the most innovative senior living communities in the United States. A finalist in the 2021 Environments for the Aging Showcase, Generations is hailed as groundbreaking for its intergenerational concept and for the advanced solutions that will enable aging in place.

Generations is purposefully designed to support the emotional well-being of its residents. According to the lead architect on the project, Craig Kimmel at RLPS Architects, "Generations will not be an island. So often, continuing care retirement communities are isolated and internally focused. Generations will have an external focus that promotes emotional health. The residents will want to be a vital part of the Shalom Park social system, and Generations at Shalom Park has been designed with this in mind." The design celebrates this link to Shalom Park with complementary architecture and pays homage to Jewish traditions through subtle and beautiful Judaic imagery.

The buildings are laid out for quick and easy access to the ex-

isting structures on the Park via short walking paths or a concierge golf cart ride provided by Generations staff. These "two-way streets" will encourage connection by enabling the broader Shalom Park community to use common areas at Generations, such as the bistro. Moreover, the multigenerational energy of the Park, where children and families come and go, will empower Generations to live up to its name as a place where people of all ages can be introduced to and enriched by one another.

The "chevron-shaped" architecture of the independent living buildings is significant. This unique structure will maximize natural light in each apartment. It allows for only five to seven apartments to be built on each floor, which will create small neighborhoods and eliminate institutional-feeling hallways.

Over the past 18 months, we have all gained an appreciation for outdoor space and the benefits of social distancing. Generations will offer four dining venues, each with outdoor dining options. In addition, all four dining venues will have flexibility to be set up for common meals with expanded seating to allow residents to come

together, but with separation if needed. Generations will also offer a spacious roof-top dining and gathering area with different settings that include trellises, awnings, or full sun. In the common areas, residents will be able to enjoy outdoor grills and firepits.

Security is a concern that affects the emotional and physical well-being of everyone. The architects of Generations have taken security very seriously and implemented safeguards.

Emotional well-being goes hand in hand with physical well-being. The innovative use of technology and design is responsible for newer features, that will support physical health and allow residents to age in place. For example, residents will be able to manage daily activities with features like voice-activated blinds and appliances. The thermostats will be easy to read and program. In the kitchens, ranges will all have front controls for easy access and safety. Throughout the apartments, counters and wall cabinets will be at heights more appropriate for aging adults; drawers with pull-outs will be used whenever possible because they create more accessibility than cabinets. The shelves in all

closets will be adjustable for full flexibility and customization.

We want residents to feel safe in their homes as they age. Although residents may not need grab bars when they move in, blocking in the walls will enable residents to customize their homes for maximum functionality and allow bars to be easily added later. Finally, every layout is thoughtfully designed with built-in clearances to enhance mobility.

Hearing loss can lead to social isolation. To combat this, hearing aid loops will be installed in certain areas, like the theatre, to allow residents to hear more readily. In addition, each of the homes will be constructed to minimize certain frequencies that commonly affect seniors with hearing loss.

The architects of Generations are constantly looking for innovations that will allow residents to stay in their homes. They have designed ways to accommodate a wide range of services that will enable most residents to stay in their homes as they age rather than move to assisted living. Every apartment home will have a flex space to accommodate home support assistants, if desired.

This added functionality does not mean that homes cannot be

beautiful and upscale. Every Generations home will be designed with sophisticated elegance. Features such as gourmet appliances, high ceilings, and walk-in showers that are standard at Generations are considered "upgrades" for most senior living communities. In addition, residents who make their deposit prior to construction not only receive substantial financial benefits but also get to add their personal touches to the design of their apartment homes. Early depositors choose their apartment layout and location and choose the finishes that reflect their personal style.

Communities throughout the United States are paying close attention to the distinctive design of Generations at Shalom Park because of its unique focus on the emotional and physical well-being of residents and the ways that it embraces Jewish culture and traditions.

If you would like to learn more about how the architecture, innovation, and amenities at Generations at Shalom Park can enhance your life, go to generationsatshalompark.com or call (704) 532-5400.

Proper planning is a mitzvah.

Not planning is meshuga.

Generations AT SHALOM PARK
L'dor V'dor. FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
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Plan to join us for this special event.

Generations at Shalom Park is pleased to invite you to a presentation and discussion on the financial wisdom of having a plan in place for the future, featuring noted financial advisers Eric Wisotsky, ChFC, CASL, MBA and Judy H. August, MBA, CFP.

Offering senior living like you've never seen it, Generations will be opening in 2024 on the multigenerational campus of Shalom Park.

WHEN:

Sunday, January 9th at 10:30 a.m.

and

Tuesday, January 11th at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE:

Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

RSVP: (704) 736-3343 or online:
generationsatshalompark.com/events

Please specify which date you plan to attend.
Food will be served, and seating is by reservation only.

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West Side Story: Seven Jewish Facts



Ariana DeBose as Anita and David Alvarez as Bernardo in "West Side Story" (2021). (Niko Tavernise/20th Century Studios)

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller (Aish.com)

West Side Story, Steven Spielberg's remake of the 1961 movie classic, is focusing attention on this iconic American musical. Here are seven little known Jewish facts about "West Side Story."

1. It was supposed to be about Jews and Catholics.

Choreographer Jerome Robbins was the first person to propose making a Broadway musical based on the classic Romeo and Juliet theme of star-crossed lovers who fall in love despite the hatred their families and communities feel for each other. The original title was "East Side Story."

In 1949, Robbins approached composer Leonard Bernstein and playwright Arthur Laurents with his idea: a musical about a Jewish

girl and an Italian Catholic boy living in the Lower East Side of Manhattan who fall in love. The story was to take place against the backdrop of Easter and highlight anti-Jewish feelings in the Catholic community. An Italian gang in this version was to be named the Jets and a Jewish gang was to be called the Emeralds. (In the final form of "West Side Story," the Emeralds are mentioned once in the context of a previous fight with the Jets.)

The project went nowhere for years, until Bernstein and Laurents found themselves staying at the same hotel in Los Angeles. While sitting by the pool, they perused a newspaper which described a Puerto Rican youth gang. They decided to pursue their Romeo and Juliet-like project, but this time with Puerto Ricans squaring off against Ital-

ians in New York. The musical debuted on Broadway in 1957. Four years later it was adapted for the silver screen and won Oscars for best picture and best director.

2. Its playwright was known for tackling antisemitism.

Playwright Arthur Laurents wrote the book for "West Side Story." Laurents was born into a Jewish family in Brooklyn in 1917. His original name was Arthur Levine; he later explained that he changed it to the less Jewish sounding Laurents because having a Jewish surname made it all but impossible to find work.

During World War II, Laurents joined the army and was assigned to write training films for the army and plays for army radio. Inspired by his time in uniform, in 1945 he wrote the play "Home of the Brave" about a Jewish soldier who experiences antisemitism and betrayal at the hands of antisemitic soldiers in the American army.

"Home of the Brave" ran for over a year on Broadway, reminding audiences of the antisemitism present in the US. (In a 1949 movie based on the play, the protagonist was changed to an African American soldier who faces racism in the forces.) When he started working on "West Side Story" in its original form, describing prejudice against Jews, he wrote about experiences that he himself had lived.

Laurents remained active in Broadway and addressed antisemitism in later plays too. In 2010, at the age of 90, he directed a revival of West Side Story on Broadway. For that production, he hired a Puerto Rican artist to translate the songs "A Boy Like That" and "I Feel Pretty" into Spanish. (The artist was none

(Continued on page 11)

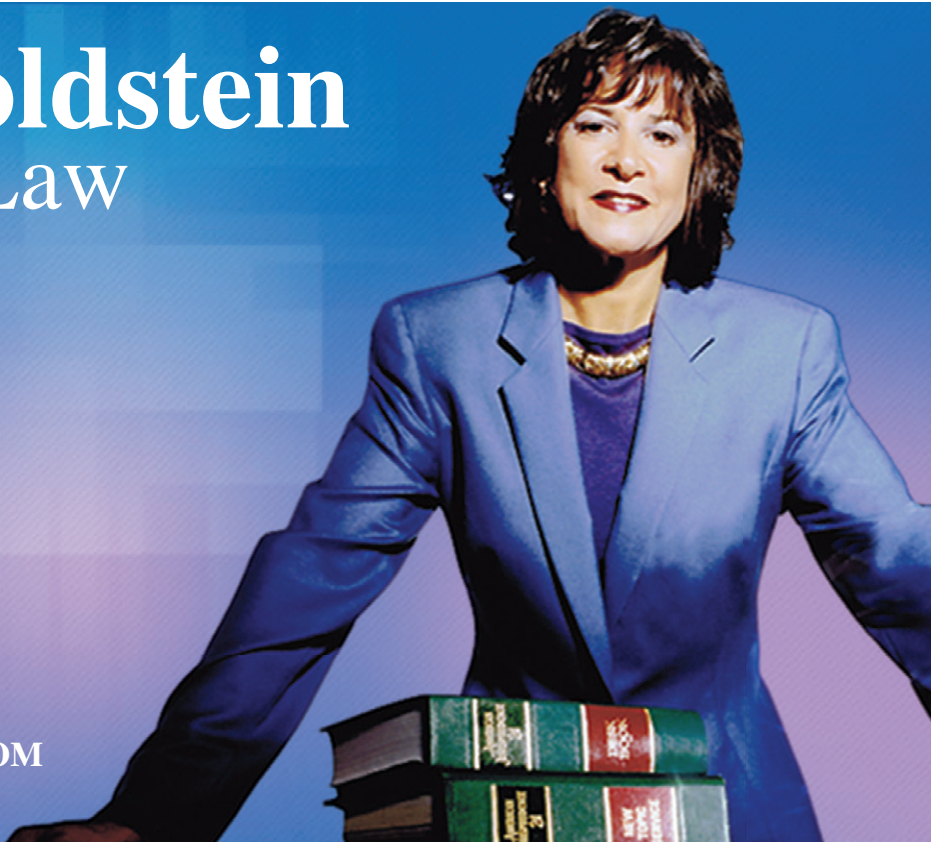
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The New Year: A Time To Focus on Mental Wellness

Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

I cannot think of a better time to pay attention to your mental health than in the new year. Many create goals related to physical health for the new year, but as important is a focus on mental health. In fact, they go hand in hand; your mental health significantly influences your success in achieving the goals you set around your physical health.

What many people don't realize is January is a time mental health issues often become exacerbated. While December and the holidays often result in increased anxiety, stress, and depression, the lull following the holiday season can also result in deepened depression. Post-holiday blues can make it more difficult to readjust from the change in routine that happens between Thanksgiving and New Year's. In addition to the letdown after the holidays, seasonal affective disorder (SAD), which corresponds with the darker, shorter days of winter, can have its greatest impact during the months of January and February.

Whether you struggle with post-holiday depression, SAD, or ongoing mental health issues, or just want to plan for "total wellness," the new year is the perfect time to incorporate activities into your life to support mental wellness. "Proactively taking care of your mental wellness can prevent more serious problems from developing,"



said Sheri Dawson, director of the Division of Behavioral Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. "Everyone has unique circumstances that contribute to maintaining mental wellness. Take some time this January to focus on personal wellness. Simple, no-cost strategies can improve your quality of life and increase your years of life."

According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, there are eight dimensions of wellness:

Emotional: coping effectively with life and creating satisfying relationships

Spiritual: expanding our sense of purpose and meaning in life

Intellectual: recognition of creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills

Physical: recognition of the need for physical activity, sleep, and nutrition

Environmental: good health by occupying pleasant, stimulating

environments that support well-being

Financial: satisfaction with current and future financial situations

Occupational: personal satisfaction and enrichment derived from one's work

Social: a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system

Here are some tips to enhance your mental wellness:

Create a mental health wellness plan. Create a guide of coping skills, people to talk to when you are in a stressful situation, and enjoyable activities to ensure that you maintain the balance between your thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.

Practice self-acceptance. Use the new year as an opportunity to practice self-acceptance.

Put yourself first. Self-care isn't selfish. It's important to take time every day for yourself and your mental health. This might include enjoying a hot bath, treating yourself to a movie or spending time with family or friends. Do what helps you relax and recharge, and seek out experiences that have a calming effect.

Engage in social activities. Join a club, social group, or volunteer group, or find a community with a spiritual outlook you share.

Be mindful of your resources. Be creative about budgeting and spending your time, energy, and finances.

gy, and finances.

Exercise. Exercising for at least 30 minutes every day can help alleviate symptoms of depression and anxiety. Go for a walk, take a fitness class, or play a sport with friends and family.

Be grateful. Practicing gratitude every day can invoke feelings of thankfulness and optimism that make managing challenges easier. Don't beat yourself up when you make a mistake—everyone makes them.

Eat well. A balanced diet contributes to both physical and mental health.

Get enough sleep. Most health authorities recommend that adults get between seven

and nine hours of sleep each day.

Finally, if you find you are unable to counteract the post-holiday blues and you are having difficulty managing your daily functions, ask for help. Contact Jewish Family Services at (704) 364-6594, or for more information, visit jfscharlotte.org.



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West Side Story

(Continued from page 10)

other than a young Lin-Manuel Miranda.)

3. Jewish composer Leonard Bernstein saw "West Side Story" as a plea of tolerance.

The inspired music that makes West Side Story so compelling was written by Leonard Bernstein, a son of Jewish immigrants from Ukraine who moved to Massachusetts. Bernstein was born in 1918 and his parents hoped he'd become a rabbi. Instead, Bernstein was drawn to music. He showed musical brilliance at a young age. By 25 he'd already been appointed conductor of the New York Philharmonic, an unheard of opportunity for such a young man; he was the very first American-born conductor to lead a major orchestra.

Bernstein was always proud of his Jewish identity. During World War II, the Jewish composer Serge Koussevitzky, his friend and teacher, tried to per-

suade Bernstein to change his last name to Burns in order to hide his Jewishness and have more professional opportunities. Bernstein "lost a night's sleep over it" he later recalled, then went back to Koussevitzky and said, "I had decided to make it as Leonard Bernstein or not at all."

Bernstein first travelled to Israel in 1947, before the establishment of the state, and conducted the Palestine Philharmonic (later called the Israel Philharmonic). He returned to conduct in Israel many more times. One of his most memorable concerts took place in the Israeli city of Beersheba in 1948. Weeks after Israeli soldiers had captured the town in the Negev Desert, the United Nations ordered them to withdraw. The Israeli troops refused and stayed in the town, now a major cultural center in Israel. Bernstein performed for a packed crowd of soldiers, playing a program of Mozart, Beethoven and (Jewish composer)

George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

The US Library of Congress owns Bernstein's copy of "Romeo and Juliet," the Shakespear-

(Continued on page 13)



Stephen Sondheim listens to music in the recording control room during the original cast recording of the Broadway musical "Into The Woods," in New York, 1987. (Oliver Morris/Getty Images)

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Hebrew Cemetery Observes Mitzvah of Tree Planting on Tu B'Shevat

By Brian Yesowitch

In 1942, Hannah Senesh, a paratrooper who served in the British army, wrote a poem called "A Walk to Caesarea." The poem has the lines "I pray these things never end: the sand and the sea, the rush of the waters, the crash of the heavens, the prayers of man." Some of us may know this poem from the Hebrew song "Eli Eli." The poem speaks of permanence — things that are absolute. One thing we can probably all agree on is that the last two years have been very fluid. Things change by the month and, in some instances, weekly or daily. Many of us may yearn for the days there were absolute truths, like in the '40s during Hannah Senesh's time.

One constant that embodies permanence is the natural world around us, especially our trees. Charlotte is well suited for many beautiful trees like Crepe Myrtle, Magnolia; our neighbors in South Carolina grow Palmetto trees, and who can forget the aromatic Bradford Pear trees that surround us with their white beauty each spring? You have an

opportunity to contribute to our beautiful community and to add some permanence and normality to your lives by joining us on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. for our annual Tu B'Shevat tree planting. The event will take place rain or shine, and you can sign up (if you haven't already) by visiting the Hebrew Cemetery Association website at hebrewcemetery.org or our Facebook page @HebrewCemetery or by contacting me at byshalomch@gmail.com.

We have held many tree plantings at the cemetery since 2015. Our partners at TreesCharlotte love coming to the Hebrew Cemetery because with all the development in the area, including Camp North End across the street and the Michael Jordan Health Clinic at the end of Statesville Ave., there are few opportunities to plant trees and help improve the air quality in West Charlotte. Our Hebrew Cemetery volunteers who observe the mitzvah of planting trees of Tu B'Shevat are providing a greater community service to the West Charlotte community as well.

This fall, the Hebrew Cem-



Rabbi Ana Bonnheim teaches the cemetery volunteers about the Tu B'Shevat holiday.

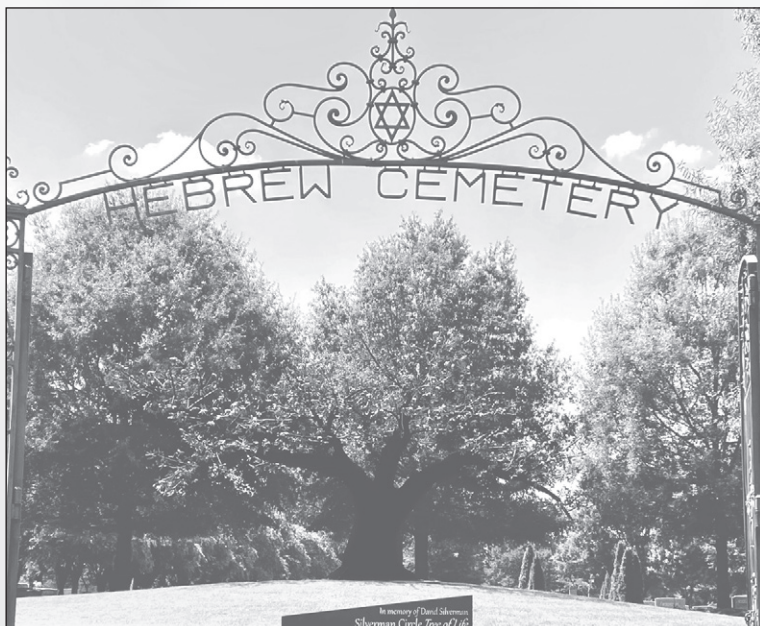
etry was awash in color. The Hawthornes planted along the south gate near the old section made a glowing line of bright yellow. The maples adjacent to our Orthodox burial area and lining the community area were a brilliant red. Our Nuttall and Pin Oak trees that highlight the berm between the Blumenthal Memorial Garden, our Section Three Memorial Park, and our community section hold all of the traditional fall colors — browns, golden yellows, oranges, dark greens, and dark reds. Our Land-

scape and Grounds committee, led by Robert Valenstein, meets many times each year to plan and plant appropriate tree species and ensure our cemetery grounds are beautiful to visit all year long.

Another exciting component of our Tu B'Shevat tree planting on Jan. 16 is the return of the TreesCharlotte "Tree Store." All participants, regardless of affiliation or Cemetery Association membership status, will be able to sign up and take home a young tree and bag of mulch to plant at their Charlotte home. My family

has received six trees since the beginning of this annual tradition, which we have planted in two yards. TreesCharlotte limits Tree Store recipients to Charlotte city residents only. I look forward to seeing many of you at the cemetery in January!

The Hebrew Cemetery Association is Charlotte's oldest Jewish agency. We are a Jewish Federation beneficiary agency and have served the Jewish community in Charlotte and the surrounding region for more than 150 years. For more information on joining the Hebrew Cemetery Association, pre-planning funerals, or general questions about Jewish burials in Charlotte, please contact our association director, Sandra Goldman, at director@hebrewcemetery.org or at (704) 944-6854.



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West Side Story



The Jewish creators of "West Side Story," Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents, on the opening night of the original Broadway musical, September 26, 1957. (Ben Martin/Getty Images)

(Continued from page 11)

can play on which "West Side Story" is based. Bernstein's book is heavily annotated, sketching out a Jewish version of the famous love story on the inside cover. "An out and out plea for racial tolerance," Bernstein wrote in his copy of "Romeo and Juliet." "West Side Story" seems to be a version of that plea, calling on American audiences to eschew prejudice and hate.

4. Jewish composer Stephen Sondheim wrote the lyrics.

Bernstein brought the Jewish composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim on board to write the lyrics. It was the first major show that Sondheim (who recently died at the age of 91) ever worked on. Sondheim never had much Jewish education - he later said that Leonard Bernstein had to teach him to pronounce "Yom Kippur".

5. Choreographer Jerome Robbins, a closeted Jew, captured the spirit of 1961 dance.

Born in 1918 as Jerome Rabinowitz, Jerome Robbins grew

up in a warm Jewish home and became a dancer. One of his first performances was in the Jewish-themed piece "The Brothers Ashkenazi," at the Yiddish Art Theatre in 1937. Robbins became deeply conflicted about his Jewish identity, hiding it for years and changing his name to the non-Jewish sounding Robbins.

When he was choreographing "West Side Story," he went undercover to a high school dance in a Puerto Rican neighborhood in Harlem to gain inspiration. On the set of "West Side Story," he enforced a strict method acting protocol: dancers were to remain in character even when they weren't rehearsing; dancers playing Sharks and Jets were never to mix. This led to some real-world resentment, with dancers who were playing Sharks playing practical jokes on those who were playing Jets. (At least two actors broke this rule: Chita Rivera - the star who played a Shark - fell in love with Tony Mordente, who played a

Jet, and they married each other.)

6. Today, New York's West Side is home to robustly Jewish neighborhoods. The West Side of Manhattan today has a sizeable Jewish population. One 2013 study found that 43,900 Jewish families lived in the Upper West Side, the area between about 59th Street and 110th Street on the west side of Central Park. (That's larger than the number of Jewish households in all of Cleveland.)

7. Steven Spielberg's 2021 version brings together today's Jewish movie heavyweights.

The 2021 version of West Side Story has some serious Jewish talent behind it. It's directed by Steven Spielberg, who also made Schindler's List in 1993. The story has been updated by Jewish playwright Tony Kushner (who previously worked with Spielberg on the 2005 movie Munich about the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972).

Spielberg has noted that "As a Jew I am aware of how important the existence of Israel is for the survival of us all. And because I am proud of being Jewish, I am worried by the growing antisemitism and anti-Zionism in the world." Like Leonard Bernstein before him, hopefully Spielberg will bring a measure of tolerance and beauty into the world with his own acclaimed version of West Side Story.



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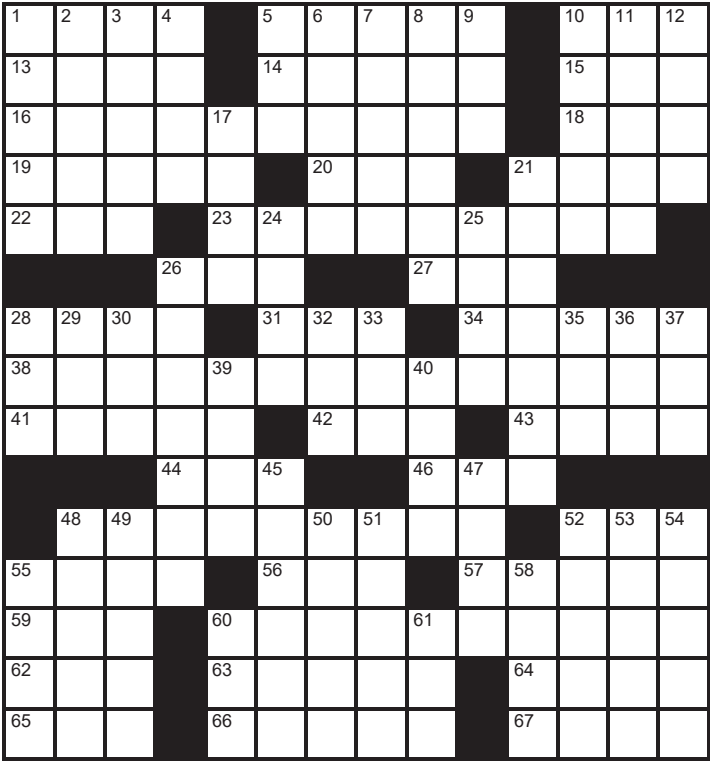


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Crossword



(Solution on page 31)

Across

- 1. Bronzes
- 5. Certain salad green
- 10. Some comps
- 13. Agnon of note
- 14. Feels pain
- 15. Feel pain
- 16. Muppet who’s a spoof of Borscht Belt comics
- 18. “Give ____ break!”
- 19. 1979 sci-fi classic
- 20. Train depot: abbr.
- 21. Put in an overhead bin, say
- 22. “Pick six” INT results
- 23. Some synagogue leaders (seen in 60-Across)
- 26. HBO rival, in listings
- 27. One in Vegas, maybe?
- 28. Modern name of the country that once housed the center of Jewish life
- 31. Former Delta rival: Abbr.
- 34. Accepts advice from
- 38. Jerusalem destroyer credited with writing a chapter in Daniel
- 41. Displeased expression
- 42. Saltwater body
- 43. You don’t want to catch them if you’re fishing for a kosher diner
- 44. Italy’s loc.
- 46. Palindromic family member
- 48. Kosher ones wont have real pepperoni
- 52. Nile serpent

- 55. Batman villain
- 56. Rubbish rummager
- 57. Barbara or Monica
- 59. Peacock network
- 60. Historic 1927 Jewish film...or its less historic 1980 remake (with “The”)
- 62. Menu phrase
- 63. Kettle’s output
- 64. Tip to one side
- 65. iPad platform
- 66. Workplaces
- 67. What many catch up on on Shabbat...or another name for this puzzle

Down

- 1. Holy city with an artist’s colony
- 2. “Get ____ of yourself!”
- 3. Villains of all villains
- 4. M or L
- 5. Cuba’s Guevara
- 6. ____ magic lamp (lets Genie out)
- 7. Kind of derech
- 8. Poem division
- 9. One of 15 until 1991: Abbr.
- 10. Port-au-Prince place
- 11. It can determine an etrog’s worth
- 12. Beans alternative
- 17. Bit of measurement
- 21. Made in-person co-workers nervous, nowadays
- 24. Planet where Luke gets captured by a wampa

- 25. Feel the burn, perhaps
- 26. Tight situation
- 28. Those who can hook you up
- 29. Stimpy’s pal
- 30. Mary Todd’s guy
- 32. “...and the bush ____ not consumed” (Ex. 3:2)
- 33. Summer drink
- 35. Nytol alternative, Sleep-____
- 36. Indian cousin of cholent
- 37. Next yrs. Shana Aleph students, now
- 39. Rays slugger Nelson
- 40. Efes
- 45. Appraise once more
- 47. Contemporary of (Rav) Ami
- 48. First name among legendary 20th century artists
- 49. Machu Picchu architects
- 50. Tears down
- 51. Perlman who inspires
- 52. Harmon of “Law and Order”
- 53. Merneptah or Tel Dan that prove aspects of the Bible
- 54. Aspects
- 55. Akiva or Yaakov preceder
- 58. Woody Allen animated film
- 60. Advanced law deg.
- 61. Some text messages, for short

Fun Facts About Pomegranates

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) Pomegranates have existed for 50 million to 70 million years. They were domesticated about 5,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent and 2,500 years ago in Armenia and the Crimea. Pomegranates were first carried beyond those areas by military conquerors who brought them home as booty. Silk Road traders brought the fruit to Egypt, and then to Carthage in the ninth century BCE. They arrived in Italy in the second century BCE. The Phoenicians and later the Moors brought pomegranates to Spain, and the early Conquistadors brought them to the Americas. About one million pomegranate bushes grow wild today in Eurasia, from the Balkans to the Himalayas. About 100,000 are on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Pomegranate plants live 100 to 150 years in the wild, 300 years or



more in cultivated gardens. They bear fruit in their second or third year, and can produce 440 to 660 pounds of fruit annually. The world’s largest pomegranates grow in Afghanistan’s Kandahar oasis. Pomegranates were prized by many ancient cultures as symbols of beauty and fertility. King Solomon had a pomegranate orchard, and pomegranate flowers and fruit were embroidered on the robes of the Temple priests. The

Torah mentions it as one of the “seven fruits” of the Land of Israel, and its Semitic root was found in many city names in ancient Canaan by the conquering Israelites, such as Rimmon, Gaf-Rimmon and En-Rimmon. Today it is traditional to have pomegranates on the table at Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot and Tu B’Svat, the New Year of trees. (Information taken from “Pomegranate Roads” by Gregory M. Levin)

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Religious Life

The Problem We All Live With

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim,
Charlotte Torah Center

The title of the iconic Norman Rockwell painting, "The Problem We All Live With" came to mind after receiving a disturbing text from Daniel (not his real name), a person who began attending one of my classes. Norman Rockwell is known for his depictions of a serene America, but this picture showed an ugly side and was meant to commemorate the brave six-year-old Ruby Bridges, who was the first student to attend a recently desegregated school in New Orleans. Daniel was helping a neighbor, a widow, who was moving and giving her house to her children, who would rent it for income. Daniel and his neighbor had known each other for years and had a good relationship. He told her not to hesitate if he could help in her in any way. He received the following text from her son.

"Stop harassing my mother. You are not a good person and if you continue, you will not be happy. BTW, we would never rent to your shady kind. We know what you are up to. Salam Alaikum... You should meet your new Palestinian neighbors we're thinking of renting to or maybe some Afghan refugees."

This was one part of a larger text with no shortage of obscenities or antisemitic overtones.

Daniel was shaken and felt unsafe encountering "the problem we all live with."

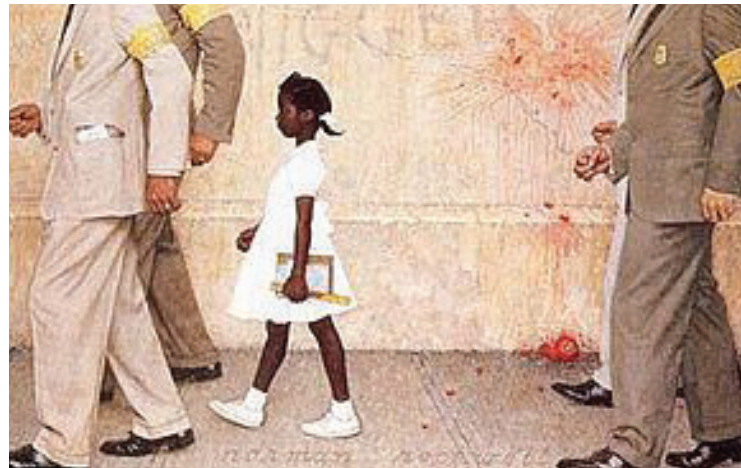
Local and national organizations do their best to monitor and address antisemitism, which has been on the rise in recent years.

Here's one small example. Palestinian supermodel Bella Hadid has 45 million Instagram followers — that's more than twice the world's total Jewish population! Her posts are filled with lies and hatred toward Israel and Jews. (For the record, she was born and bred in California to a wealthy family who have neither lived in Israel nor spent any significant time there.) She's just one person, but can influence millions of people to hate Jews.

In a recent opinion piece published in the Atlantic, "Cancel Mel Gibbons: Why is Hollywood Still Hiring This Raging Antisemite?," author Joshua Malina discusses why some anti-racists seem to tolerate and even promote antisemitism and those who are on record with deplorable speech and actions. (Atlantic, December 2, 2021)

It's a problem we all live with but don't seem to find a solution for.

But is it new? Anyone familiar with Jewish history knows that hatred of Jews is ancient. Bari Weiss spoke at the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Main Event in 2019, and spoke



"The Problem We All Live With" Norman Rockwell, 1964

clearly of the fact that we are not experiencing anything new. Until the modern era, Jews were denied the basic rights of their non-Jewish neighbors and bore the brunt of hatred and persecution. The larger Jewish national institutions do their best to address the issues, but what can the rest of us do?

Although she wasn't speaking from a religious point of view, her answer was almost verbatim what any traditional rabbi would say, "Do more Jewish." Go to services, attend a class, learn about our history, and engage in meaningful Jewish conversations with others. This is basically the message I gave to Daniel.

It's not logical to hate Jews

or Israel, who have given so many gifts to the world. Anne Frank pondered why we are hated. "Who knows, it might even be our religion from which the world and peoples learn good, and for that reason and that reason only do we have to suffer now. We can never become just Netherlanders, or just English, or representatives of any country for that matter; we will always remain Jews, but we want to, too." (Diary entry April 11, 1944)

The Franks were not a religious family, but 16-year Anne understood that it might be what we stand for. "It might even be our religion from which the world and all peoples learn good..." As Ernest van den

Haag, a non-Jewish 20th century sociologist, wrote in "The Jewish Mystique," "Jews gave the world the concept of God, and the world has never forgiven them for it."

Jewish food, culture, theater, and literature have their place in Jewish life but we can't forget what that "we can never become...representatives of any country...we will always remain Jews."

Now more than ever is time to engage with your Jewish identity. That might mean attending a Shabbat dinner, or even trying to make your own. It might mean seeking relevant Jewish content and becoming comfortable experiencing Jewish practices, even though you don't observe them yourself. It might mean taking a trip to Israel or learning about our collective history and where we fit in the 21st century.

Many noble people and groups are fighting global antisemitism. If you are not one of them, fight it by discovering your Jewish identity and realize there's something worth fighting for. That, in essence, is the Hanukkah story and it has been the Jewish story ever since.



Hanukkah, Spirit, and Hope



The Ruach joins Temple Solel for Hanukkah celebration

Temple Solel joyfully celebrated Hanukkah with The Ruach again this year, featuring a d'var Torah from our lay leader, Russ Cobe. The Ruach led our Friday evening Shabbat service on Dec. 3, bringing light and their spirit to our service as well as beautiful Hanukkah songs. The d'var Torah about Mikeitz, Genesis 41:1-44:17, is almost always read on Hanukkah, and centers on hope. As is appropriate for our Festival of Lights, we light our menorahs to shine and show that there is hope in this world.

You can watch the entire service on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/VZb->

VnjuF8_I.

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



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Religious Life

Temple Kol Ami Thankful for Loving Neighbors

By Shari Baum

Love thy neighbor. It is one of the major principles espoused by all Judeo-Christian religions but unfortunately seems to be one of the hardest to live by. Sadly, there are many examples of not so neighborly behavior, as antisemitic, anti-Asian, anti-Muslim, and racist crimes are on the rise. Every once in a while, however, something happens that reaffirms your faith in humanity. Temple Kol Ami (TKA) had one of those moments recently. Mr. Gary Wickham of MorningStar Church in Fort Mill contacted TKA right before the anniversary of Kristallnacht in November. He said he wanted to present our congregation a gift on behalf of his church in commemoration of the Night of Broken Glass and to show solidarity with his Jewish brothers and sisters. Michael Vinnik, TKA president, met with Mr. Wickham and his wife to receive the gift, a beautiful crystal bowl. "I was just so blown away and incredibly touched," said Michael. "We are so thankful to the Wickhams and MorningStar Church for their thoughtfulness."

To paraphrase the words of Anne Frank, in spite of everything, people are really still good at heart. The community at Morningside Church is living



those words, and for that we are so grateful. Your gemilut chasadim, acts of loving kindness, are appreciated by Temple Kol Ami as well as the whole Jewish community.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprising Jews from diverse backgrounds. We are currently having in-person Shabbat services on the first and third Friday nights of each month at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill (please check our calendar at www.templekolamisc.org for any updates). We hope you will join us soon and find your Jewish home in our neighborly community.



Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne Summer 2022

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

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

This year we will be offering four weeks of nonstop fun: June 20–July 15. Sign up for single weeks or all four and save!



Stella, Michelle, Jaclyn, and Daniel enjoy glow-in-the dark glasses at the Stonecrest Menorah lighting.

Our campers are divided into three groups: Mini CGI (Preschool) Ages 3-5, Junior CGI Rising K-Rising 3rd grade, and Senior CGI Rising 4th-Rising 6th grade. We are bringing back our wildly successful CGI EXTREME for rising seventh and eighth graders for the first two weeks only: June 20–July 1

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

Hanukkah with the Ballantyne Jewish Center

Hanukkah 2021 was one of

our busiest seasons ever. We began with three days of more than 400 adults and children enjoying our magical Hanukkah Wonderland, followed by our annual menorah lightings at Stonecrest and in Waxhaw. This year we added an additional menorah lighting in Weddington. Thanks to Rachael Weiss and Chabad of Charlotte for making that happen.

We were thrilled to be back in Sun City on the fifth night for our Annual Hanukkah Party with 75 attendees. We ended Hanukkah with a grand Hebrew School Disco Hanukkah Party and Lights N Strikes Bowling party for Cteen Jr.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers for all of their help, our donors for their support, and our warm and welcoming community for making this Hanukkah the most joyous one yet.



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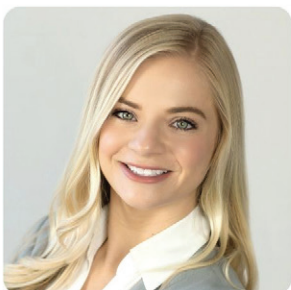
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- 9 - Shabbat: A Palace in Time
- 23 - When Do I Bow? And other questions about Jewish prayer
- 30 - Passover: The Jewish Master Story

APRIL

- 6 - God: Encountering the Holy
- 13 - Talmud: Arguments for the Sake of Heaven
- 27 - Starting Over: The High Holy Days

MAY

- 4 - Kashrut: The original soul food
- 11 - Philosophers, Poets, & Mystics: The Jewish Middle Ages
- 18 - Love, Marriage & Kosher Sex
- 25 - Birth to B'nai Mitzvah: Raising a Mensch

JUNE

- 1 - A Time to Mourn: Traditions for Death, Grief, and Healing
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- 15 - Israel: Dreaming of Deliverance
- 22 - The Jewish Mission to Heal the World

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Religious Life

Choose To Engage: On Egypt, Exodus, and Marching Together

By Rabbi Dusty Klass, Temple Beth El

A few years ago, after a screening of the film “13th,” which explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States, I sat processing the film with a group of clergy. We named how tired we all were, how devastating it felt to do this work — without tangible signs that we were getting anywhere. Racism and race-based injustice ran rampant as ever, and the Black and Brown members of the group expressed their very real and ongoing fears for their own lives and the lives of family members and loved ones.

In the midst of that conversation, Reverend Malu Fairley-Collins shared an insight I will forever hold on to. Unlike her, a Black person, white people “get to drop all of this at the door anytime you choose.” Those of us who live in white bodies and thus are not viscerally confronted with the daily reminders of racism’s insidiousness have to



Reverend Mia McClain

choose to engage in racial justice work, over and over again. In other words, my whiteness gives me the freedom, at any moment, to decide I don’t want to do the work anymore.

It is hard to fight what feels like an uphill battle, especially for those of us (read: white people) who have the privilege of pretending that the battle isn’t ours to fight. Spoiler alert: the battle most assuredly is indeed ours to fight. Reverend Fairley-Collins was right — I frequently want to run away from

the often long, hard, slow, painful pursuit of racial equity and justice. If I am honest, there have been times I have chosen to do just that. Yet there are people for whom this “hard” is not a choice. For Black and Brown people, it is a perpetual, lived experience.

Each year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us to engage, that the work is not finished, and that, as the poet Michael Walzer writes in words we find in our prayer book, “Wherever we are, it is eternally Egypt; that there is a better place, a Promised Land.” I was studying these words with a co-worker recently, and she mentioned that while the message of the text can seem depressing, it is also incredibly hopeful, that is, wherever we are, it’s not the end. There is a future, and it is better.

At last year’s Community Building Initiative Stakeholder’s Breakfast in December, Clint Smith, author of “How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America,” spoke about monuments and the way they celebrate and lift

“It is hard to fight what feels like an uphill battle, especially for those of us (read: white people) who have the privilege of pretending that the battle isn’t ours to fight. Spoiler alert: the battle most assuredly is indeed ours to fight.”

up individuals and noted: “Social change happens because of large groups of people working together.” It’s not that he doesn’t admire the work of individuals, he clarified; he is just more excited by the idea of monuments — literal statues — that celebrate and honor multiple people, that recognize the “communal nature of change.”

Of course we honor Martin Luther King Jr. on the day named after him, but at Temple Beth El, we also choose to honor the communal nature of change he represents. And in the spirit of his legacy, we remain committed — as a temple community, a “large group of people working together,” if you will — to

the pursuit of racial justice. This year, we are honored to welcome Reverend Mia McClain of Myers Park Baptist Church to the bimah for Justice Shabbat to offer her perspective on Egypt and exodus and to share some of the work she and Myers Park Baptist Church are doing in their pursuit of racial justice.

Additionally, as Temple Beth El’s issue teams conclude their research around what actionable change we might pursue in the areas our congregation lifted up as most centrally important right now (health, education, and income inequality), we will call on the Jewish community to join us in taking action. Because the pursuit of justice will indeed require every single one of us. After all, as Walzer’s words in our prayer book conclude, “There is no way from here to there, except by joining hands, marching together.”



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Religious Life

800 People Usher in Hanukkah at Chabad's Concert at Symphony Park

By Rabbi Yossi Groner, Congregation Ohr HaTorah

More than 800 people came together in Charlotte's Symphony Park on the first night of Hanukkah, in an atmosphere that was festive and charged with energy, to celebrate the light and joy of the holiday. Hanukkah lights illuminated the Charlotte night, and Jewish music filled the air.

The feature of the evening was the energetic and entertaining performance by 8th Day, a Jew-

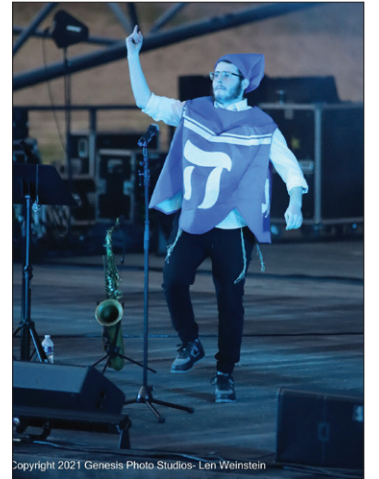
ish pop band from California, which energized the crowd and had young and old dancing the night away to the rhythm of its enchanting music.

The program began with introductory words from Rabbis Yossi Groner and Shlomo Cohen, followed by the lighting of a giant menorah by Rabbi Binyomin Weiss and a dance by the Dreidel Dancers.

A highlight of the concert was when the band invited the fourth and fifth graders at Char-



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8th Day entertains at Hanukkah celebration in Charlotte's Symphony Park

lotte Jewish Day School to join them as they jointly performed their famous "Miracle of Light."

8th Day, a Jewish Rock group co-founded by brothers Shmuel and Bentzi Marcus, is one of the most sought-after Jewish music acts. With its latest hit album, "Lucky," the group has now released nine studio albums that get air play regularly on the radio and have been top sellers on the folk music, alternative rock,

world music, and Jewish music charts. The band has played hundreds of sold-out concerts across the globe with stops in Australia, Europe, Israel, Asia, South Africa, Canada, the Caribbean Islands, and all over the United States.

Charlotte was the group's first Hanukkah event for 2021, and it was done in professional style, with light and sound that lifted the spirit and delighted the soul.

The group had been scheduled to play in 2020 to celebrate Chabad of Charlotte's 40th anniversary and to inaugurate the new Epstein Family Chabad Center on Sardis Road, but unfortunately that event was canceled because of the pandemic.



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Religious Life

JLI of Charlotte to Introduce Meaningful New Jewish Meditation Course in the Beginning of February

By Rabbi Yossi Groner, Congregation Ohr HaTorah

Mindful, medicinal, mantra, and movement — today’s society offers an abundance of popular meditations, turning the term “meditation” into a familiar byword. Nevertheless, many are still less familiar with the practicalities of meditation as a

routine and, most critically, with the how to productively and organically merge meditation with daily living.

In today’s tumultuous times, many people are turning to meditation as a way to bring calm and tranquility into their lives.

Judaism embraces meditation. It even insists on it and provides

its own brand of meditation that is entirely independent of the famous systems, many of which were distilled from Eastern cultures. Authentic Jewish meditation is deeply profound and, at the same time, highly practical. It is equally ancient as it is remarkably relevant.

That may come as a surprise. For millennia, Jewish scholars, philosophers, ethicists, moralists, and theologians leaned on mindful awareness to enhance their personal relationships with G-d and to sharpen their understanding of the surrounding world, but this knowledge and practice remained largely their exclusive property. In the modern era, however, perceptions continue to shift rapidly and radically, and there is an unprecedented thirst for authentic Jewish insight and guidance translated into relatable terms for practical consumption.

To meet this need, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is delighted to deliver “Meditation

from Sinai,” a fresh and reflective course on authentic Jewish meditation for today.

The course is divided into a six-part series of groundbreaking spiritual ideas, alongside classical insights of Jewish wisdom, which demonstrate the tremendous power of our mental faculties and our mind’s aptitude, to amplify spiritual achievements and everyday well-being and success.

“Meditation from Sinai” is a transformative, empowering offering that unveils meditation and mindfulness as the bedrock upon which all meaningful life is built. It synthesizes extensive research from both the spiritual and scientific communities, forging a practical path to fully realizing life’s potentials. This is done by mastering the art of pausing, gazing inward, and harnessing our contemplative powers to uncover the profound significance of life’s every moment.

This new JLI course will begin on Tuesday Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m. for the evening class and Wednesday Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. for the morning class. The sessions will be held at the Epstein Family Chabad Center. (Please inquire at our office about Zoom options.) The cost for this course is \$180 per couple and \$99 per person. Each participant will receive a user-friendly textbook. To register, please visit myJLI.com and search for the Charlotte location, call our office at (704) 366-3984, or you can email rab-bicohen@chabadnc.org.



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Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Connecting Tu B'Shevat, Carbon, and Climate

By Summer Minchew

Tu B'Shevat, or the "New Year of the Trees," is a holiday observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shevat. In 2022, Tu B'Shevat will begin the evening of Sunday, Jan. 16 and end the evening of Monday, Jan. 17. In ancient times, Tu B'Shevat marked an important date for Jewish farmers, and in recent years, it has evolved to become a symbol of attachment to the land of Israel and an example of Jewish concern for the environment.

To understand why trees and the land are worthy of their own celebration, we must consider their environmental and Jewish significance, and we must also understand how they relate to carbon and climate. Here's a brief science lesson:

All living things on Earth contain carbon. Carbon is in carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that traps heat close to Earth. Carbon dioxide helps Earth hold the energy it receives from the Sun and keeps our planet from getting too cold. However, carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for a long time and directly contributes to the rising temperature of the planet.

How does carbon get into living things? Carbon is the core of trees and grasses, mammals, and birds. Green plants use carbon dioxide to generate food. Their leaves absorb the gas and then release oxygen to the air and release carbon through their roots into the soil. Animals then breathe in the oxygen plants release and breathe out carbon dioxide. Plants and animals depend on each other.

How does carbon get out of living things? By burning fossil fuels. All the carbon that has been stored in plants and animals over hundreds of millions of years has been rapidly pumped back into the atmosphere over the last hundred years.

Our fossil-fuel-burning ways are releasing too much carbon into the atmosphere, which is causing the climate to change in dramatic ways. We need to use every approach and tool we can to mitigate and reverse climate change as soon as possible — there is no time to waste.

Land is a critical component of the climate system because it can be a powerful carbon sink, returning atmospheric carbon to living vegetation and soils. According to Project Drawdown, the world's leading resource for climate solutions, land sinks currently return 26% of human-caused emissions back down to Earth.

How can we help sequester more carbon through trees and land?

Plant more trees. In Judaism, trees have always occupied an honored and critical role. So it should be no surprise that the act of planting trees for Tu B'Shevat has become a tradition. Jewish National Fund, a nonprofit organization and United Nations NGO (non-governmental organization), which has planted more than 250 million trees in Israel since 1901, puts it best: planting a tree "connects us to the land, it celebrates our joys, and it literally plants a stake of hope and optimism." According to the Arbor Day Foundation, as trees grow, they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. You may also want to consider donating to a local or-

ganization working to increase the tree canopy in your area, such as TreesCharlotte. Whether you plant trees around your home and property, in your community, in national forests, or in Israel, they help fight climate change.

Prevent deforestation. Deforestation is happening everywhere on the planet. Being mindful of what and how we eat are critical ways to prevent deforestation. Two ideas:

Reduce meat consumption. Animal farming has become one of the leading causes of deforestation because animal agriculture requires much larger areas of land compared with plant-based farming.

Don't buy products containing palm oil. Though a small amount of palm oil may be sustainably produced, the majority



comes from recently cleared land. Palm oil production has become one of the main causes of tropical rainforest destruction around the world today.

Protect and restore ecosystems. Protect existing ecosystems. And where ecosystems have been degraded, restoration can help them recuperate. Con-

sider volunteering your time or donating to a local, national, or global conservation organization. Conservation International, National Audubon Society, Oceana, Rainforest Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, and The World Wildlife Fund are just a few.

Shift agriculture practices. What and how we grow can be a means to cultivate and regenerate soil carbon. Support "regenerative agriculture" by purchasing products from farms whose methods raise yields sustainably. Simply search "regenerative farms near me" and you will find several options. Near Charlotte, check out Hodges Family Farm, Joyce Farms, Slow Farm, and Wild Hope Farm.

(Continued on page 22)

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How to Repair the Doctor-Patient Relationship



Lorrie Klemons, MSN, RN, CDP, EOLD

By Lorrie Klemons, MSN, RN, CDP, EOLD

Upon graduation from medical school, doctors take the Hippocratic Oath in which they pledge to “do no harm.” These young doctors subsequently spend the rest of their careers with their patients’ best interests at heart and with the intent of causing no harm.

A patient chooses a particular doctor for many reasons. That doctor may be the best diagnostician in town or have the best bedside manner. Whatever the reason behind the why of the relationship, there is also the how-to.

Relationships are not always

easy to maintain. Egos, personalities, needs, and expectations come into play. When these can be negotiated in a successful manner, the relationship can be a mutually satisfying one. When one or more of these factors can’t be negotiated, it can have a negative effect on the relationship — sometimes harming it beyond repair.

If you find yourself becoming uncomfortable in the doctor-patient relationship that was once very satisfying, you need to reflect on what might have caused the change. Like any relationship, the relationship you have with your doctor goes both ways. If you don’t perceive the relationship to be a positive one anymore, ask yourself what has changed and why. Has the doctor changed, or is it you who has changed? Is it your imagination? Is it something you did or said? Or something you neglected to do or say? If you really like the doctor and feel you want to continue the relationship, you must take measures to fix it. How do you do that?

Being up-front and honest is always a good way to begin. Ask the doctor if you have done or said anything offensive. If the an-

swer is yes, be sure to apologize for what you did or said. Follow up that verbal apology with a hand-written note of apology. Perhaps you can afford to hand deliver or send a plant or box of treats to the staff.

You always get more in life with “sugar” than you do with “salt.” Be aware that to have good interpersonal relationships with people, it is not always what you say but how you say it that truly counts. If you put people on the defensive because of your behavior or your attitude, you will not experience a positive outcome. Everyone has feelings. The doctor and staff are no exception.

If the doctor says that all is well, but you still have a sense that things have changed, ask the tough questions. If you are uncomfortable asking the questions, start off by being open and honest. The key is to be calm, warm, non-defensive, and caring when you ask these questions. You’ve always liked the doctor. You want to continue the relationship. You need the doctor, and the doctor needs you to maintain a professional practice.

You can say things like “I sense that all is not well between us.” “While I find this very un-

comfortable, I need to ask you if there is something I have done to make you not want to treat me anymore?” “Is there a reason our relationship has changed?” “Would you rather I switch doctors, and if so, why?”

The bottom line is that you want to be able to count on your doctor to be passionate about your life or the life of your loved one. If you feel this is not the case, it is time to switch doctors.

Lorrie is a Nurse, Certified Dementia Practitioner, Patient-Senior-Caregiver Advocate, End of Life Doula, Educator, Speaker, Author & Warrior Mom. Reach out to her for any healthcare advocacy or empowerment needs you might have at lorrieklemons@gmail.com; www.klemonshealthcareconsulting.com.

Shalom Green

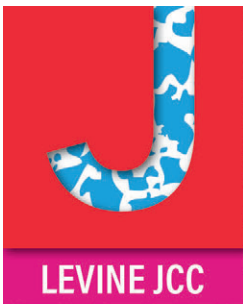
(Continued from page 21)

Celebrating Tu B'Shevat and honoring the trees and the land has never been more vital or significant than it is today. Tu B'Shevat is a great time to start anew, whether it is planning for your spring garden or tree planting, making a commitment to support conservation efforts, or making changes to the way you purchase and consume.

Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in support-

ing 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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Jewish Women

Tu B'Shevat Book Club and Other Dates to Mark on Your Calendar



on Jan. 11 with "The Nesting Dolls" by Alina Adams. The book is a historical novel that follows three generations of women in a Russian Jewish family from the 1930s through today. Each of the women makes choices that have profound effects on future generations.

Follow us to a Night in Israel on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. What is it like to go on a trip with Momentum? Find out and enjoy a Night in Israel! On March 13 at 7 p.m., join us for our Purim 5782 event. Yes, the corks, save the corks! If you don't have enough corks, we have corks! Fran Dordick will lead us in a creative, fun evening using corks to create cork trivets, coasters, bulletin boards, and table runners.



By Andrea Gamlin

You are reading this article in 2022, but let me bring you back in time for a moment. Not too far back, only to November, 2021 to W.O.W.'s fundraising event starring animator, director, and producer Saul Blinkoff. I'd like to thank the sponsors of the event: Sherry Blenner, Barbara and Jerry Levin of Lebo's Shoe Stores, Ellen and Steve Engelhardt of Scope Architectural Consulting, Dr. Melissa Karp of Audiology & Hearing Services of Charlotte, and Helene Rosen of Allen Tate Realty along with those who assisted our volunteers in making this evening truly lovely. W.O.W. past president Bonnie Bornstein chaired the event. Kosher Charlotte catered in the delicious way that only it can, and Queens University was a lovely setting.

Saul spoke to us about his childhood and teenage dream, or perhaps obsession, of becoming an animator for Disney. His mom took him to Disneyworld when he was in high school and

asked every Disney employee she met to tell her how her son could work for Disney as an animator. Those of you moms out there, you know what he's talking about! He said that he wasn't the best at drawing, but he worked the hardest at it. He applied to Disney a few times before finally being accepted into the internship program. Bottom line, if you want something badly enough, and you're willing to put in the effort, the prize can be yours.

Moving forward in time, our Book Club returns with a special Tu S'Shevat gathering on Zoom

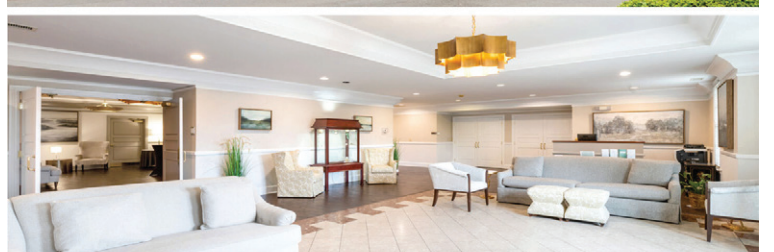


Saul Blinkoff, Bonnie Bornstein, and Sara Oppenheim

For more information about W.O.W., please see our website at www.CharlotteWomenOfWisdom.com and follow W.O.W. Inspiring, Empowering and Connecting Jewish Women on Facebook. We are

a nondenominational group for Jewish women to engage, learn, and connect. No synagogue affiliation is necessary, just an interest to learn more about our beautiful heritage!

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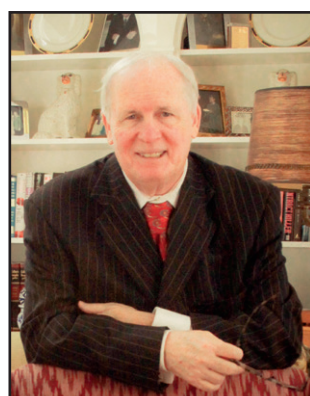
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Jewish Women

Hadassah Women Look Forward to 2022

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

As this new year begins, we say thank you to our 2021 chapter leaders and hello to a new 2022 slate of officers.

We would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Laurie Sheinhaus and Marci Goldberg, co-presidents of Hadassah Charlotte, for everything they accomplished in the past year. It's a long list.

Laurie, our Rosh Hashanah

honey sale champion and online bingo host (along with her husband, Bruce), and Marci, technical expert and creative extraordinaire, steered us through a difficult pandemic year, keeping our members engaged and enthusiastic. Marci and Laurie led the charge (and are still working on) our new 2022 Hadassah Community Directory, where they had to research, identify, and learn new technologies for our first online

directory app. They partnered with new vendors, created new processes, and sold and designed advertising. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

We recently learned that we have fulfilled our chapter's significant financial pledge to remodel and bring state-of-the-art equipment to the dermatology nurse's station in the Round Building at Ein Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. This campaign

started during past president Sharon Goretzky's term and has successfully concluded during Marci's and Laurie's presidency. Mazel tov!

As Laurie and Marci become immediate past presidents, we thank them both for their dedication and labor of love for our Hadassah Charlotte chapter.

We are happy to welcome Nina Achenbaum as our new chapter president. Nina brings her experience, leadership skills, and her own style and flair to Hadassah Charlotte. Nina has been a Life Member of Hadassah since 1994. Hadassah Charlotte is fortunate to have Nina and her 2022 board lead our chapter into the new year.

Jewish Community Directory

Thank you for your support of Hadassah's 2022/5782 Charlotte Area Jewish Community Directory. While the deadline for including new information in the print directory has passed, there is no deadline for the online app since it is updated in real time. It is free to put your personal information in the directory. If you would like to add a personal or business listing, or place an ad, please go to hadassahcltevents.org to sign up. If your personal information has changed since your original submission, there is an update form on our website. You can subscribe to the app at any time for only \$18.

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Mark your calendar for G-d, Israel and our Hearts: A Seder for Tu B'Shevat. Experience how the seven species can promote a healthy heart. Join your Hadassah Charlotte sisters as we celebrate Israel, our hearts, and the New Year of the Trees on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at the home of He-

lene Schilian (address provided upon registration). For our safety, registration will be limited to the first 18 guests. Go to www.hadassahcltevents.org to register.

Mah Jongg Cards

The last day to order your 2022 Mah Jongg card is January 15. Small cards are \$9. Large cards are \$10. To order, send a check and your name, address, phone number, email, and the size card you want to Merrill Schenkel, 3315 Mannington Drive, Charlotte, NC 28270. If you have questions, Merrill's email is red2467@earthlink.net.

Love to Read?

Hadassah's BookTalk book club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.. Join us and share your opinions about the month's book. The next BookTalk is Tuesday, Jan. 25, when we will discuss "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict. The book for our Feb. 22 meeting is "Home in a Hundred Places" by Sarah Dayan Mueller. For more information and the Zoom link, email Karen at kfuttersak@gmail.com or Aileen at mom3aileen@msn.com.

The Short Stories Discussion Group reads stories from different authors, cultures, and periods. The next meeting is on Friday, Jan. 21 via Zoom. Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 11:45 a.m. Future meetings are on Feb. 18, March 18, May 20, and June 17. If you plan to attend, email Amalia at amaliaima@ATT.net and she will send you the stories at least two weeks before the meeting. For additional information, email Amalia, or Linda Levy at levyol-lie@aol.com.

The next Hadassah Charlotte board meeting is Monday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All members are invited. Contact Nina at nachenbaum@gmail.com for the link.

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

For up-to-date Hadassah information, check our website (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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Education and Youth

Charlotte Jewish Day School: It's More Than the Latkes and Sufganiyot

By Mariashi Groner, CJDS Head of School

Have you seen the dreidel magnets on cars around Charlotte? This past month, Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) students learned about the directive from our sages to publicize the miracle of Hanukkah. To help the students participate and experience this directive, we created a paint and stencil art project with large pieces of magnet in the shape of a dreidel. The children chose the background and stencil for their dreidel and created their own pieces of art. Lots of Jewish and personal pride was in evidence as the children left school on the first day of Hanukkah and placed the dreidels on their family cars.

This activity, of course, was not the only celebration of Hanukkah. Each day, the school met to light the menorah, led by the Student Council president, vice president, and class representatives. Sufganiyot, latkes, glow-in-the-dark dreidels, robot dreidels, and Hanukkah gelt were all treats the children received.



CJDS students show off their painted dreidels

To top it all off, we were visited by Atomz Lab to do a glow-in-the-dark slime program!

To understand why this directive to publicize Hanukkah even makes sense, the Talmud explains it further. When Jews are thankful for their physical survival, they do not have to communicate it to the public, because physical self-survival is a common instinct among humans and animals. It is understood that we will fight for our physical safety. This type of miracle does not require us to ensure that everyone knows about it. We are not instructed to publicize the miracles

of Purim and Pesach even though we were rescued from physical annihilation, because everyone knows it is human instinct to protect one's physical existence.

On Hanukkah, however, the Jew's spiritual survival, not their physical survival, was at stake.

The Syrian-Greeks endeavored to detach the Jews from Torah study. However, they were not satisfied with this evil plan but also demanded that the Jews write on the horn of the ox that they were denouncing their share in the G-d of Israel (Midrash Rabbah, Bereishit 2:4).

They made the strange request



that the Jewish people use the horn of the ox because in those days, it was customary to travel on wagons and chariots driven by oxen. The oxen would span the roads and go from place to place, and the horn is the most prominent and visible part of the ox. Therefore, they demanded that the Jews' denial of G-d be written on the ox's horn so that it would receive the widest publicity possible.

To counteract this, our sages required that when we fulfill the mitzvah of lighting the menorah, which commemorates the miracle from G-d, it is to be done in a manner to attract the most public attention possible.

The message we wish to convey to the world is that we are willing and able to fight for our spiritual existence, just as much as for our physical well-being. And after Hanukkah, the Jewish people returned from the brink of total assimilation and adopted the Torah and reestablished their unique relationship with G-d.

It was amazing to see the cars, with their magnets prominently displayed, pull up at morning drop-off after the magnets went home.

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Education and Youth

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

Circle, ZABS Place, and individuals with special needs. Together, we're shattering the stigma surrounding special needs and mental health. Together, we're breaking the invisible barriers. A huge thank-you to all the or-

ganizers, volunteers, corporate partners, dreamers, and donors! Friendship Circle and ZABS Place are beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more, visit FriendshipCircleNC.org



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Education and Youth

Latkes, Games, Contests, and More: Fun at the Hebrew High Hanukkah Party

By Liza Simon and Megan Harkavy

Latkes, games, and contests were just a few of the activities at the Hebrew High Hanukkah party. It was so much fun to celebrate together in person as one community of teens. The evening started out with a delicious assortment of traditional Hanukkah foods — latkes and

sufganyot (donuts). After we ate, we sang the candle lighting blessings and sang Maoz Tzur.

The teens then had options of several rotations: paper bag dramatics, building menorahs or dreidels out of LEGOS, a service project to make blessing bags for the homeless, or playing dreidel. And of course, the photo booth was open the entire night to take



Eighth grade boys having fun at the photobooth



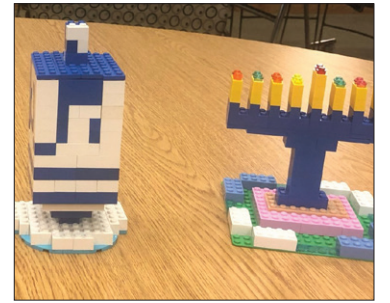
Ninth Grade students love being together at the Hanukkah party

silly selfie pictures with several Hanukkah-themed props.

Prizes were given to the people who had the best Hanukkah outfit, built the best LEGO menorah, and had the best Hanukkah skit. One group performed a skit about the miracle of Hanukkah. Another reenacted the war between the Maccabees and King Antiochus. Everyone came

dressed in their best Hanukkah outfits! These included menorah sweaters, funny socks, and dreidel headbands. At the end, the judges made the difficult decision of which group had built the best LEGO menorah. There were so many beautiful creations, but the winner was the dreidel — it even included the letters!

Everyone had a great time at



Teens were challenged to make a menorah or a dreidel out of LEGOs

the party. One teen said, "I had a lot of fun! I really enjoyed being able to do the skit and the photo booth." Another said, "It was so much fun, and the latkes were delicious." Next year Hebrew High is hoping to have more teens involved in planning, so be sure to start brainstorming some ideas!



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New CJN Feature, “Around the Table,” Features Local Food Blogger, Charlotte Rouchouze

We’re excited this month to introduce you to a new CJN feature, “Around the Table,” by local food blogger, Charlotte Rouchouze. You may have read her article in December in the digital edition of CJN online about bugnes (French-inspired sufganyot). Each month Charlotte will be sharing with us her stories and recipes either in our digital edition or in print (especially around the major holidays!).

We hope you'll enjoy her story and recipe this month for Tu S'Shevat on page 29. But first, we'd like to introduce you to Charlotte. Here is what she has to say about her background, interests, and intentions for this new column.

Charlotte Jewish News: Tell us a little about your background

CR: My husband and I moved to Charlotte about seven years ago, although I came here regularly as a child to visit family. We lived in Chicago for 12 years before that, although I grew up in Pittsburgh and he in St. Etienne, France. My two boys are four

and ten and both went to Jewish Preschool on Sardis, which we love! I have a variety of little gigs that I do including teaching adult French courses, translating, selling homemade challah, and running a small Etsy shop with beaded jewelry. Basically, I have lots of creative energy and lots of desire to contribute to the Charlotte Jewish community.

CJN: What are your interests?

CR: I've been fascinated by world cultures and languages since as far back as I remember. When I was about 10, a French family moved in down the street and I fell in love with the French language. I started learning French with books and tapes and as the years went by, started doing more formal study. I went to Emory University in Atlanta and studied cultural anthropology and French, with an additional minor in religion. I went on to spend an amazing year at Columbia University's Paris program and then completed a PhD in French at Northwestern University in Chicago. After my older son was born, I decided not



Food blogger Charlotte Rouchouze begins new monthly feature in Charlotte Jewish News

to pursue a career in academics, but I feel privileged to be able to follow my interests and do so many different things. One of my big interests over the years has been developing my cooking skills.

CJN: How did you get interested in cooking?

CR: I have always liked watching cooking shows, and

inadvertently learned quite a bit about cooking by watching them throughout the early 2000s. One of the things I liked about cooking shows (a genre I feel has declined quite a bit since those years) was the nostalgia that they created in the space of the show. Whether or not your grandmother actually made apple pies, you could still enjoy the thought of it. Someone like Ina Garten understands this well. Everyone knows that the lavish Hamptons herb garden, local fishmonger, and all the rest is a bit of a fantasy, but we're here for it! I began cooking more seriously when I was in my late 20s and just enjoyed playing around with recipes. I also love the idea that I could find a recipe for a dish I would never find in a restaurant or home near me, but my kitchen could cook it up all the same. The world is my oyster!

When my oldest was born, I needed a creative outlet and began blogging about cooking. My idea was to talk about childhood foods in different cultures, but it kind of morphed into a blog about nostalgic foods more gen-

erally. I've also used the blog to explore my own family history which is Eastern European Jewish, and that of my French husband.

When the pandemic hit, and everyone was in a bread-making frenzy, I had an idea to share challah with my neighbors. It was soothing to make, and the ultimate comfort food for me. My neighbors enjoyed it and then I decided to try selling take and bake loaves. It's been very popular!

CJN: What is the new column in CJN all about?

CR: This column is an opportunity to talk about Jewish food in our Charlotte community! My goal in my blog writing has always been to connect recipes to memories and family traditions, so that's what I plan to keep doing. I hope to hear from a variety of community members about the foods that help them feel connected to their Jewish traditions.

Read "Around the Table" on page 29.

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Honoring the Mediterranean for Tu B'Shevat

By Charlotte Rouchouze

"For the Lord your G-d is bringing you to a good land, a land with brooks of water, fountains and depths, that emerge in valleys and mountains, a land of wheat and barley, vines and figs and pomegranates, a land of oil producing olives and honey... and you shall bless the Lord, your G-d, for the good land He has given you." This glorious passage in Deuteronomy tells us of the seven sacred species of food-bearing plants, which

are the blessings of the Land of Israel: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, dates and olives. These are the foods that come to mind as we celebrate the 15th of Shevat, the "birthday" of the trees — the time in the ancient world when the annual cycle of trees, with all of its economic and halachic implications, was considered to begin. Celebrated at the end of winter, it marks the first moment when we begin to turn our attention to the new life about to begin in the natural world.

Tu B'Shevat is a day to remember the importance of all trees and plants, but especially the ones native to Israel. We plant trees, eat fruit, and take time to appreciate the greatness of the land. For your Tu B'Shevat celebration, I propose a cheese appetizer that brings together smooth goat cheese flavored with sweet honey and encrusted in a mixture of nuts, figs, and dates. As a final touch,



I drizzle the top with honey and olive oil, for a beautiful and abundant taste of the Mediterranean.

Charlotte Rouchouze, PhD is a local French teacher, food blogger, and beaded jewelry designer. Her blog about food traditions from around the world can be found at www.thechildrenstable.com. Contact her at charlotte.rouchouze@yahoo.com.

Milk and Honey Cheese Ball Appetizer for Tu B'Shevat

For the crust:

- Approx. 10 dates (7-8 if they are the larger medjool)
- Approx. 10 dried mission figs
- 1 cup nuts (a blend of pecans, pistachios, and/or hazelnuts is good), toasted in a dry pan
- 2 tsp of your most fragrant extra virgin olive oil
- Dash of salt

For the cheese ball:

- 4 oz regular cream cheese
- 4 oz soft goat cheese
- 1 tsp honey

To serve:

- Crackers
- Extra olive oil for drizzling
- Honey for drizzling

Cut the dates and figs in half and add to the bowl of a food processor. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ of the toasted nuts (set a few nuts aside for serving) and pulse for 20 seconds or until you get an even chunky blend. Put the mixture aside in a bowl, add a pinch of salt (or more if nuts are unsalted) and 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil and blend with a fork.

In a separate bowl, blend the cream cheese, goat cheese and honey with a fork until well blended. Form the cheese into a ball and then press the date mixture into the outside. This gets a bit messy, but the ball should be well covered with the mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate immediately. To serve, surround the ball with extra nuts, drizzle with honey and olive oil and serve with crackers.



The New York Times Updates Style Guide to "Antisemitism," Losing the Hyphen

By Shira Hanau (JTA, December 8, 2021)

The New York Times has updated its style guide and now favors the use of the spelling "antisemitism" over "anti-Semitism."

The change was made in August but was not announced publicly at the time. Jewish Insider reported the change Tuesday.

The spelling of the term has been the subject of debate for years. One of the loudest voices for dropping the hyphen has been Deborah Lipstadt, the historian who was recently nominated by the Biden administration as the State Department's antisemitism envoy. Lipstadt has argued that keeping the hyphen and capital "S" implies the existence of a racial category called "Semite" that obscures actual hatred of Jews. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and the Anti-Defamation League also support the hyphen-less version.

Earlier this year, the Associated Press updated its style guide, which is used by media around the world, including this one, to adopt the hyphen-less version of the word. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency followed suit and The Times adopted the change in August, which it announced in a memo to editors at the paper.

"We are dropping the hyphen

and lowercasing the S, which is now the style of The Associated Press and is preferred by many academics and other experts. Those who favor antisemitism argue that the hyphenated form, with the uppercase S, may inadvertently lend credence to the discredited notion of Jews as a separate race," the memo stated.

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Looking Back

Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following is from January, 2011. To read the whole issue or other issues of CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

A Home Away From Home: The Levine JCC Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

“What does the Levine JCC mean to you?” This question was posed to Levine JCC members in a video that premiered at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The answers were surprisingly consistent... community, connection, belonging, and family.

This year those traditions continue as the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center celebrates its 25th anniversary. In the spring of 1986, the Levine JCC opened its doors on Shalom Park. When the Amity Club, the forerunner of today's LJCC located in Cotswold, was destroyed by fire in August 1983, community leaders developed plans for a new community center off Providence Road. The result was what many refer to as their “home away from home.”

At a recent gathering, a founding Levine JCC member, Harry Lerner, urged the community never to forget “the Levine JCC’s crucial contribution to our families and that it is “the core of our Jewish lives here in Charlotte.” Raising his daughter here inspired Harry to help create a “place called home in which we can all take tremendous pride.”

That pride continues in the hearts of many families. Stacey Slomka, who grew up in Charlotte and returned in 2004, shared in the



The Mindy Ellen Levine Day Camp celebrated its 10th season in 2010

recent video, “I marvel every time I see my kids walk in and know that they have a place to go, where they are safe, where there are friends, where there's just the warmth and haimish that the J offers.”

And thanks to 25 years of community support, that won't be changing anytime soon. The year 2010 was a tremendous one for the Levine JCC. Camp Mindy, the Levine JCC's premier summer day camp, created fun, friendship, and memories for over 600 campers in its landmark 10th season. Another highlight of the year was the groundbreaking for The Butterfly Garden and Sculpture. The Butterfly Project, a worldwide educational effort brought to Charlotte by Levine JCC volunteers, commemorates the 1.5 million children lost in the Holocaust.

The Levine JCC's extensive facility investments allowed for program growth. For instance, the Pool Bub-

ble made it possible to double the number of swim lessons and to expand youth swim team and lap swim. Also in 2010 the LJCC developed a second pilates studio.

Those facility investments in staff need to meet the needs of the Levine JCC's growing population, now 2,500 families strong. In 2010, firecracker Casey Bogarad, who learned to swim at the LJCC, returned to head the LJCC JAWS Swim Team. And in July 2010 the Levine JCC brought on board nationally-recognized trainer and Aussie native, Ian Briggs, as the Director of Personal Training Services.

Most recently from the Manhattan JCC, Ian has not only trained world level athletes, but even contestants for “America's Next Top Model.” Since his arrival at the J, seasoned athletes as well as those just hoping to shape up without injury have found Ian's new programs to be challenging, varied,

and...fun. In December 2010, Ian rolled out J Force Swim (Wednesdays, at 7:45 AM and 8:30 AM) which incorporates a low impact aerobic workout with bursts of power and strength training.

In 2010 Lyn Addy and Jenna Betram expanded the Levine JCC's group exercises offerings to over 55 classes per week. Group Exercise is included in membership. A new cycle/yoga combo is a hit, and Saturday afternoon babysitting makes it easier for parents to squeeze in a workout. And don't forget Tim Whitner's wildly popular kettlebells.

Last year also saw the kick-off of the Levine JCC's “Biggest Loser” tem weight loss program and Boot Camps. Be on the lookout for their return in early 2011.

Connecting to members is a top priority for the Levine JCC. If you recently haven't checked out the Levine JCC website ([www.](http://www.charlottejcc.org)

charlottejcc.org), you'll be impressed with the redesign. And the J's foray into social media has been fun and informative. Become a Fan on Facebook by searching Levine JCC.

Since its inception, the Levine JCC has stayed true to its mission of Enriching Lives and Building Relationships, through Quality Jewish Experiences. It remains committed to making the “J” your home away from home this year, and for the next 25.

Thank you to Morry Alter, Glenn Fishkin, and Steve Kahn for producing the 2010 Levine JCC video. It is now available online at www.charlottejcc.org/donate. Your contributions make a difference.

Now through January, there is no joining fee for Levine JCC membership. Visit www.charlottejcc.org or call 744-944-6741 to schedule your tour today.



Kate Vassallo, Ian Briggs, and Elissa Levine give a thumbs up for the Levine JCC's new program, JForce. Fitness professionals encourage and challenge participants every step of the way.

Gabrielle Giffords Just Celebrated Her Bat Mitzvah at Age 51



Gabrielle Giffords speaks during a demonstration with victims of gun violence in front of the Supreme Court, Nov. 3, 2021. (Joshua Roberts/Getty Images)

By Shira Hanau (JTA, December 22, 2021)

After former House Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head outside a supermarket in Tucson in 2011, it wasn't clear if she'd survive, let alone be able to speak. Giffords' injuries, which led her to resign from office, left her with partial paralysis and aphasia, which makes it difficult for her to speak.

But last Saturday, Giffords chanted her Torah portions, becoming a bat mitzvah at Temple Chaverim in Tucson at the age of 51, the Forward reported.

The milestone was the culmination of 20 years of study with Rabbi Stephanie Aaron, as well as two close friends. Aaron delivered a speech that Giffords wrote and Giffords performed the song "Amazing Grace" on the French horn.

"My Torah portion is from Genesis, from the story of Joseph,"

Giffords told the Forward in an email. "If you know Vayeshev you know it begins 'And he lived.' Any story that begins 'and he lived' is good with me. I lived. Everything afterwards is a gift."

Giffords and Aaron first began studying together when Giffords was a member of the Arizona legislature in the early 2000s. While the two discussed Giffords becoming a bat mitzvah multiple times, it wasn't until two years ago when Giffords recruited two friends to study with her that they began preparing for the moment in earnest. The four women studied the weekly Torah portion together before beginning to study Gifford's portion, which Giffords chanted along with Aaron.

"I am a person who is always looking for ways to grow, to keep moving and find new paths," Giffords wrote to the Forward. "I am proud and honored to become a bat mitzvah as an adult. It is never too

late to explore faith, to learn the stories of the past and reflect on their meaning today."

Giffords' grandfather changed

his surname from Hornstein in the 1940s to avoid antisemitism. She was raised by a Jewish father and Christian Scientist mother in Tus-

con but has practiced only Judaism since the early 2000s. Giffords represented Arizona's 8th District in Congress from 2007 to 2012.



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(Puzzle on page 14)

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