

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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February 2022

Main Event Kicks Off 2022 Campaign

In the aftermath of the terrifying hostage crisis in Texas and amidst a surge in the Omicron variant that has organizations scrambling yet again, this year's Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Main Event was more powerful than ever. Even with a smaller in-person crowd than past years because of COVID restrictions and with others joining virtually, there was a heightened, palpable sense of community.

Main event co-chair, Ana Bonnheim articulated what was on everyone's mind when she said, "It's a challenging time for all of us. But as Jews, we are used to making it through tough times. The sense of cohesion in the Charlotte Jewish community has never been stronger."

This year's Main Event kicked off a milestone campaign with a goal of \$5 million — funds that are necessary to support more than 70 unique agencies, programs, and initiatives.



Main Event co-chairs Ana Bonnheim (l), Lindsay Munds (r), and guest speaker Nancy Spielberg (c) at 2022 JFGC Main Event

grams, and initiatives.

As past chairs of allocations, Main Event co-chairs Ana Bonnheim and Lindsay Munds shared their perspectives of seeing firsthand the impact that Federation dollars can make, dollars made possible by donor gifts as an investment in our Jewish community.

During Ana and Lindsay's remarks, leaders from four of the beneficiary agencies shared the ways in which Federation allocations directly affect the work they do: Brook Amo, executive director of Charlotte Jewish Preschool; Jen Rosen, chief advancement officer of Moishe House, Bentzion Groner, ZABS Place; and Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut professor of Jewish studies and director of the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center.

Rabbi Schindler summed up perfectly what being a Federation beneficiary agency means when she remarked, "A Federation allocation is Jewish community stamp of approval. A

Federation allocation is a Jewish community affirmation of support."

The Main Event is as much about educating the community about the important role Fed-

eration plays as a community builder and planner as it is about raising funds. Ana noted that Federation does much more than allocate funds; it also provides vital programming and resources to address some of our community's greatest challenges, highlighting its role connecting and supporting Jews locally and globally.

The guest speaker for this year's Main Event was businesswoman, philanthropist, and filmmaker Nancy Spielberg. Nancy shared stories of growing up Jewish and the profound influence her Jewish community had in shaping her identity, and eventually her interest in telling stories of Jewish importance through her films and documen-

taries. Nancy shared trailers for four of her films, each more interesting than the last.

As the evening wound to a close, Ana summarized the purpose of the campaign perfectly when she said, "Federation is truly the engine behind all of what makes our lives as Jews in Charlotte so enriching. At its core, the Federation's Annual Campaign is about Jewish peoplehood, Jewish continuity, and ensuring a thriving Jewish future. It's about identity, belonging, and connections. In a word — it's about community."

There are three ways to make your pledge: 1) Go online at www.jewishcharlotte.org 2) Text (704) 327-0354, or 3) Call (704) 944-6757.



Nancy Spielberg speaks to audience as JFGC's Main Event guest speaker

Inaugural Jewish Book Festival Offers a Host of Author Events

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Center for Jewish Education (CJE) is proud to present Charlotte's inaugural Jewish Book Festival on March 22-27, 2022. A literary festival celebrating the written word with Jewish themes and authors, this event provides a unique opportunity to intimately engage with best-selling authors, learning about the people behind the books and the inspiration behind their work. The slate of events reflects our community's diverse interests, with authors representing a range of genres and content, from adult discussions to teen and family programming. Authors

include reader favorites such as Kristin Harmel ("The Book of Lost Names," "The Forest of Vanishing Stars"), Lisa Scottoline ("Eternal"), and many others.

The kickoff event on March 22 at 7 p.m. will be an interactive Zoom conversation with Brad Aronson, author of the nonfiction best seller, "HumanKind." Deemed "the most uplifting book of the year" by Forbes magazine, "HumanKind" is the festival's timely pick to lift all of our spirits and provide a refuge from the negativity that surrounds



(Continued on page 2)

Look Inside...



Levine JCC Butterfly Garden Flies Again, Page 4



Crossword Puzzle, Page 13



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From the Editor

We're Still Doomscrolling, And It's Taking Its Toll



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

We're a month into 2022, and it seems the bad news just keeps coming. New variants, new floods, new horrific acts of violence. A friend said the other day, "I've lost hope in humanity. Our country is a mess, and the world has become such an awful place to live in." And I confess, a cursory scroll of my news feed tempts me to agree with her. I also admit that I scroll far more often than I used to.

But is it true? Is the world really the scary, ugly place my

phone shows me each morning (and all day for those of us habitual scrollers)? I don't think it is. In no way do I want to minimize the seriousness of the concerns of the state of the world today. I am, though, confident that the select offerings on my feed do not reflect the greater reality.

I can trace my uncomfortable attachment to my phone back to early 2020 when I, like the rest of the world, was incessantly following news of an unfolding pandemic. That was when a great many of us became hooked on "doomscrolling," described by Rebecca Jennings, a contributing writer to Vox as "the masochistic practice of compulsively scouring the internet in search of evermore terrible information." Unfortunately, thanks to complicated social media algorithms, that particular behavior of seeking out stories that detail the very worst the world has to offer is what ensures that more terrible news will be served to us on a platter.

Not too long ago in my scrolling haze, I noticed only two types of stories were appearing in my news feed — COVID and true crime. True crime? Apparently

last year I'd taken a bit too much interest in a couple of high-profile cases. Thanks to Facebook's ever-changing algorithms, those stories slowly — insidiously — crept to the top of my feed while I hardly noticed, until they were the only stories offered. So I clicked — and ensured they would be all I would ever see.

Facebook's model is to determine what you will engage with to keep you scrolling. The more you scroll, the more ads you see. In 2017, Facebook added additional options for reacting to posts beyond the traditional "like." Emojis that conveyed emotions such as "wow," "love," "ha ha," "sad," and "angry" became part of the algorithm. Instead of being weighted equally though, an "angry" reaction was weighted as five times more valuable than other reactions! Facebook has concluded that content that generates the strongest reaction is far more likely to keep us scrolling and "engaged" longer. Consequently, we receive a steadily curated feed of more highly emotional, divisive content.

In their 2021 article in the Washington Post, Jeremy Merrill

and Will Oremus write, "[Facebook's] data scientists confirmed in 2019 that posts that sparked angry reaction emoji were disproportionately likely to include misinformation, toxicity and low-quality news. That means Facebook for three years systematically amped up some of the worst of its platform, making it more prominent in users' feeds and spreading it to a much wider audience."

This development's negative influence on our society as a whole is undeniable. But on a more personal level, it is part of what leads us to conclude, just as my friend has, that the world is a terrible place. Of a constant exposure to negative news Carolyn Gregoire says, "It can lead to a pessimism and world-weariness that leads us to perceive the state of the world in an overly negative light — leading us to ignore and overshadow the many things that are working. (What Constant Exposure Is Doing to our Mental Health, Carolyn Gregoire)

In Jewish Family Services' article on page nine, "Technology and Mental Health," Executive Director Howard Olshansky out-

lines some concerns about the relationship between both physical and mental health and the overuse of technology.

In our February issue (which can be easily accessed in the archives at www.charlottejewishnews.org), I wrote about doomscrolling and quoted Sam Harris, who says, "There is a war being fought for our attention, and most of us are losing." I believe with awareness and conscious intent, we can turn that tide. It begins by understanding the ways in which the news is selecting us, not the other way around, and engaging more consciously with the technology we are unlikely to give up. If you're in search of good news, I encourage you to follow The Charlotte Jewish News on Facebook. You can look forward to starting your week with a good news story every Monday morning.

I still believe there is more good than bad in the world; we just have to know where — and how — to look for it.

Shira

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

February 4 — 5:37 p.m.
February 11 — 5:44 p.m.
February 18 — 5:50 p.m.
February 25 — 5:57 p.m.

CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Shira Firestone, Editor

5007 Providence Road,
Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

(704) 944-6765

www.charlottejewishnews.org

charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

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Book Festival

(Continued from page 1)

us. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll be reminded of what really matters.

Other highlights include an in-person event for teens and their parents on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. with Liza Wiemer, author of the young adult novel, "The Assignment." Based on a real-life situation, the book is a powerful statement against bigotry, discrimination, and antisemitism.

Kristin Harmel, best-selling author of "The Book of Lost Names" and "The Winemaker's Wife," will join us virtually on March 24 at 7 p.m. to discuss her newest novel, "The Forest of Vanishing Stars." Based partially on incredible true stories of survival against staggering odds, "The Forest of Vanishing Stars" is a heart-wrenching and suspenseful novel from the internationally best-selling author whose writing has been hailed as "immersive and evocative." (Publishers Weekly)

On the afternoon of March 26, families with young children are invited to join the festival for a PJ Library program featuring hands-on crafts and a conversation with Todd Parr, best-selling author and illustrator of more than 50 books for children, including "The Thankful Book," "The Shalom Book," and "It's Okay to be Different," as well as "The Kindness Book."

Max Gross, author of the "The Lost Shtetl," closes out the spring festival on March 27 at 7 p.m. Winner of a 2020 Jewish Book Award from the Jewish Book

Council and the best Jewish fiction award from the Association of Jewish Libraries, this debut novel tells the story of a tiny Jewish shtetl in the Polish forest that is so secluded that no one knows it exists. It asks the question, "What if there were a town that history missed?"

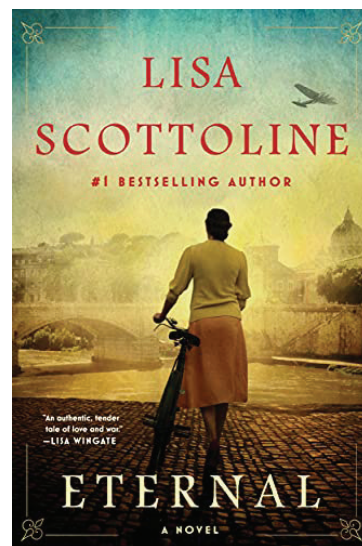
An encore event is scheduled for June 2 at 7 p.m. and will feature Lisa Scottoline, the best-selling and Edgar Award-winning author of 33 novels. Lisa Scottoline will discuss her 2021 best-seller "Eternal," a saga of loyalty and loss, family and food, love and hate, set in Rome during the 20 years of Mussolini's rise and fall. "Make a plate of fettuccine, pour a glass of red wine, and settle in with this captivating tale." (Library Journal)

The festival will feature a mix of in-person and live-streamed author appearances, with participants having the option to join virtually from home or attend limited capacity "viewing party" events at Shalom Park.

Planning the festival

Over the past year, when we were unable to meet in person, CJE found a way through, connecting online. CJE hosted lively conversations with authors, established and emerging, and was delighted to bring our programs to new audiences across the greater Charlotte area.

Successful as these programs have been, however, nothing beats live events. One of the lessons the pandemic has taught us is how much we need the com-



pany of one another. We have a universal need to connect. It is through that connection that we experience ideas forming, arguments that take an unexpected turn, and sparks that occasionally fly. The magic lives on even after the event ends, as we leave the room to compare notes, debate and relive our favorite moments with friends.

The staff at CJE is working hard to welcome people safely to enjoy the festival in person. That said, we appreciate that not everyone feels ready to return to a live venue. We are pleased to be able to offer both in-person and virtual experiences for all events, so ticket holders can attend based on their comfort level, while still

connecting with each other and with the books and their authors.

The other challenge in planning this festival was to offer a diverse, broad lineup of authors and topics during the weeklong festival. We believe this year's festival does this with several great novelists, teen night, family program featuring Todd Parr, and much more. In other words, it has something for everyone!

The festival strives to reflect and showcase recent literature and, in the process, expose our city and community to meaningful and captivating conversations about the written word in every shape and form. Most of the festival's authors and their books were selected from more than 300 participants at a three-day Jewish Book Council Network showcase held virtually earlier in 2021. The showcase attracts roughly 120 member organizations across North America, including JCCs, synagogues, Hillels, Jewish Federations, and cultural centers.

Whether you choose to join us in person or on Zoom, we hope you enjoy the many programs we have planned to keep you entertained, educated, and informed! Be sure to check out the website www.jewishcharlotte.org for all the details on the festival and to buy your tickets!

Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books

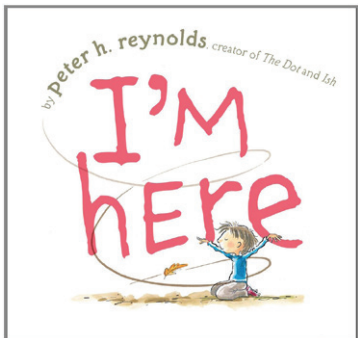
Children's Books About Persons With Disabilities



Debby Block

By Debby Block

February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). It is essential that every parent and grandparent help children empathize with others who have abilities that are different from their own. Fortunately, books provide a perfect jumping-off point for a discussion about persons with disabilities, and there are currently many quality children's books on this topic.



Peter H. Reynolds is one of my favorite authors because his books promote individuality, including his popular children's book "The Dot," "Be You," and "Ish." For JDAIM, I highly recommend "I'm Here," a charming picture book about a dreamy loner boy playing with a paper airplane. One little girl finally makes a connection and says,

"I'm here." The book clearly illustrates that it only takes one person to make a difference. Peter Reynolds wrote this book to help everyone "reach out, embrace, and appreciate children on the autism spectrum, as well as anyone who differs from us." Recommended for ages 2-6.

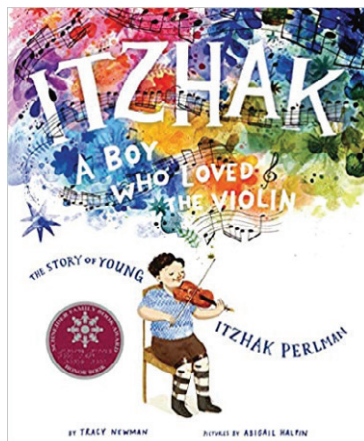
"Zero" by Kathryn Otoshi, recently recommended to me by Bentzion Groner of the Friendship Circle, is a simple rhyming book that delivers a powerful message about what it feels like to be different and inconsequential. In the book, the number Zero looks different from all the other numbers and believes that she does not count, and, of course, a zero, by itself, has no value! Zero realizes that she is not empty inside but rather "open," and Zero learns that combined with other numbers, they can help each other count a great deal. The message in this best-loved picture book is for all ages but is particularly geared for children ages 3-7.

Leo is different from all the other animals. Little tiger Leo does not write, speak, or even draw. "Leo the Late Bloomer" by Robert Kraus tells us in simple, yet comprehensible language that not everyone develops the same way and that is perfectly OK. The positive message accompanied by the bold illustrations by Jose Aruego makes this a classic children's tale. Recommended for ages 2-5.

"Beep Beep Bubbie" by Canadian writer and filmmaker Bonnie Sherr Klein tells the story of a Bubbie (grandmother) who recently started using a motorized scooter to get around. Granddaughter Kate is upset and thinks that Bubbie will no longer be able to share the same fun activities with her anymore. Happily, Kate's fears turn out to be unfounded! Recommended for ages 3-6.



"Itzhak: A Boy Who Loved the Violin" by Tracy Newman is a picture book biography of violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman. A PJ Library selection, this award-winning book tells the story of Itzhak Perlman contracting polio as a boy and having to wear leg braces for the rest of his life. The book beautifully tells how Itzhak followed and accomplished his dreams of becoming a musician despite his disability. Recommended for ages 5-8.



"The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin" is the first children's book written by Julia Finley Mosca. Written in rhyming text, this charming book tells the story of Temple Grandin, a young girl with autism who eventually becomes one of the most important voices in modern science. Temple's strength

as a visual thinker and innate connection to animals help her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms worldwide. I love the text and the accessible illustrations by Daniel Rieley. Recommended for ages 5-10.

Last, but certainly not least of my best-loved books about people with disabilities, is a new book by renowned children's author Maryann Cocca-Leffler and her daughter Janine called, "We Want to Go to School!: The Fight for Disability Rights." This picture book tells the true story of how seven children and their families fought to have the laws of the United States changed so that all children with disabilities could receive a free public education. Not only does this children's book teach about inclusion, but also it teaches

about advocating and fighting to change the law. I was inspired and moved by this book, and I think you will be too! Recommended for children ages 5-10.

Miss Debby's best-loved books and many other wonderful books can be found at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Books may be reserved by calling (704) 944-6783 or by emailing library@jewishcharlotte.org. You can pick up your requested item(s) by visiting us in the library. Hours are Monday-Thursday 9-4, Friday and Sunday 9-1, Saturday closed.

Curbside pickup is also available upon request.



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SAVE THE DATE

First Annual Jewish Book Festival; March 22-27; encore event June 2
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MARCH 22 | 7 PM
BRAD ARONSON: HumanKind



MARCH 24 | 7 PM
KRISTIN HARMEL: The Forest of Vanishing Stars



MARCH 27 | 7 PM
MAX GROSS: The Lost Shtetl

MARCH 23 | 7:30 PM
LIZA WIEMER: The Assignment

MARCH 26 | 4 PM
TODD PARR

JUNE 2 | 7 PM
LISA SCOTTLIN: Eternal



Jewish BookFESTIVAL 2022



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The Levine Jewish Community Center Butterfly Project Is Flying Again



By Julie Rizzo, LJCC Senior Director of Member Engagement

On December 2, 2021, for the first time in 21 months, the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) Butterfly Project hosted an in-person workshop for 120 masked seventh-grade students from Weddington Middle School. We were thrilled to once again be able to welcome a group of local students for a two-and-a-half-hour field trip, during which we use the lessons of the Holocaust to teach students how to identify and combat prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination and to promote activism.

Our workshops include listening to a local Holocaust survivor speak followed by Q&A; an educational activity using the ADL's "Pyramid of Hate" to demonstrate what can happen when individuals and governments fail to take a stand against injustice; a discussion to encourage thought about individuals' names and identities; and a tour of the Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial. Before leaving the workshop, each student paints a ceramic butterfly in memory of specific child killed in the Holocaust.

The Butterfly Project began in San Diego, California, by educator Jan Landau and artist Cheryl Rattner Price, with the goal of painting 1.5 million ceramic butterflies in memory of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. The LJCC expanded upon that idea by creating a full workshop. Since the inception of the project in 2008, more than 49,000 people have participated in a LJCC Butterfly Project workshop. The number of ceramic butterflies painted here represents approximately 17% of the worldwide total.

It is exciting to again have students from public, private, and charter schools in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties walking the hallways of Shalom Park between segments of the workshop, admiring the artwork on the walls and the pieces of art in display cases, engaging with staff and the many volunteers who help make the workshops happen, and sometimes marveling at the fact that a Jewish institution is no different from any other institution in many ways. We look forward to hosting another 3,000 students before the end of the 2021-22 school year.



Students viewing the Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial

The LJCC Butterfly Project was not immune to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our workshops came to an abrupt halt on March 13, 2020, when the LJCC, like so many other institutions, temporarily halted its operations. At that time, more than 1,500 students from 12 schools were scheduled to attend a workshop before the end of the school year.

Given the continuing rise in antisemitism, racial inequities, and other forms of discrimination, the lessons taught at the LJCC Butterfly Project seemed more relevant than ever. We decided to offer remote workshops, Zooming with students who were attending school virtually from home. Between March 13, 2020, and November 2021, more than 5,400 students participated in our online workshops, joined, in many instances, by parents and other family members who overheard the material at home and were drawn in by the content.

In addition to now welcoming back students, we are pleased to welcome back our amazing and invaluable volunteers. The workshops could not happen without the help of four to six volunteers each session. Volunteering is easy and satisfying, and we truly could use more help!

With only one dedicated staff member, the help of volunteers is crucial. There are many volunteer opportunities with each workshop, including setting up for the painting of the butterflies, facilitating small group activities, helping students read aloud the name of the child the student

is memorializing, and leading one of the educational discussions or the tour of the memorial.

Long-time volunteer Fran Schuler has said, "Every week is inspiring to me, just to listen to the questions the children ask and also to listen to the answers they give..." Lay committee co-chair, Judy August, one of the original volunteers who recently resumed volunteering at workshops says, "The ability to schedule my volunteer time on specific dates rather than making a regular ongoing commitment has allowed me to volunteer even though I work — it's really wonderful!"

If you are interested in volunteering for the LJCC Butterfly Project, please contact Emily Russell, Butterfly Project administrator, at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org. Our motto: "Our volunteers are not paid ... not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

The goal of the Levine JCC's Butterfly Project is to teach each participant to remember the past, to act responsibly in the present, and to create a more peaceful future.

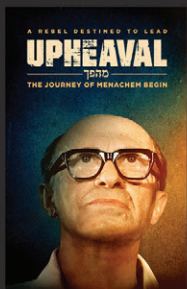


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JELF Loans More Than \$73,000 for Financial Aid in the 2022-2023 School Year

In 2021, Jewish Education Loan Fund (JELF) assisted 398 students with \$1,845,851 in interest-free loans. Of this total, 17 Jewish students from Charlotte were provided \$73,126 toward their educational journey.

Applications for JELF's interest-free loans for higher education (college, graduate school, and vocational programs) for the 2022-23 academic year will open to Jewish students beginning Jan. 3 and through April 30, 2022.

JELF provides interest-free last-dollar loans for higher education to Jewish students in need, bridging the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Since 1961, JELF has provided more than \$14 million to more than 5,000 students from JELF's five-state region of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (excluding metro DC). JELF is proud to boast a 99% repayment rate and strongly believes that money should not stand between a student and the education needed to excel in life. JELF, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and Jewish Family Services, helps Jewish students reach their academic goals.

To qualify, an applicant must be:

- A permanent resident of FL, GA, SC, NC, and VA (excluding metro DC) but can attend any U.S.-accredited school
- Enrolled full time in a program leading to a degree or certificate
- In good academic standing
- A U.S. citizen or have lawful immigration status
- Able to provide a designated cosigner
- Planning to accept federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans (2021 FAFSA application required)

JELF loans are designed to help cover costs associated with the educational and living expenses that other financial aid often does not cover, such as travel, rent, food, and books. JELF's 0% interest loans help save borrowers thousands of dollars in high interest-bearing debt each year. With 45 million Americans in some form of outstanding interest-bearing student loan debt, this savings is a significant benefit to the Jewish students JELF serves annually. The strength of the longstanding "free loan" model is based on



funds lent to those in need, and then paid back to serve the next student, and so on. As funds are recycled indefinitely, the organization's sustainability allows it to always help future students in need. In addition, hundreds of former JELF recipients continue donating to JELF each year after completing their repayment. "This is the only type of organization I know of that when I write a check, I know exactly where it's going, and it keeps going. My dollars never die," says Stan Lowenstein, former board chair and longtime JELF volunteer.

Many organizations provide interest-free loans, but JELF is distinct because it is the only Jewish organization in the U.S. focused solely on higher education.

For more information about JELF, please visit jelf.org. For more information about JELF in Charlotte, contact Rachel Green at (704) 364-6594 or rachel.green@jfscharlotte.org.



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A New Lens for 21st Century Holocaust Education: Greenspon Center Launches Certificate Program

By Talli Dippold, Director of Holocaust Education Fellowship Program, Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center

In 1945, the term “Holocaust” was not widely used to refer to the genocide attempted by the Nazis and their collaborators. The only “education” related to the event was the eyewitness testimony of the survivors, whether through courtroom testimony or written memoirs. Now, almost 80 years later, Holocaust education is a widely recognized and highly specialized field of study. Throughout those decades, the focus and intent of Holocaust education evolved significantly.

During the postwar era, the focus was on international law that could adjudicate those accused of genocidal crimes. Memorialization of the Holocaust took place mostly among the Jewish community. During the 1960s, the first basic lessons were introduced to the U.S. public. People became aware of the horrors perpetrated by the Nazi

regime through survivor testimony and the highly publicized Adolph Eichmann trial. During the 1970s, formal education programs emerged, with a focus on learning about the historical facts. A moral shift occurred in the 1980s with the introduction of the concepts “upstander,” “bystander,” “perpetrator,” and “victim.” During this time, the focus widened to include motivations and actions of “ordinary people.” Teachers asked students to consider motives and responses along with the history lessons. A more nuanced understanding of human behavior as “fluid” challenged rigid categories and complicated Holocaust pedagogy. Educators were not just teaching the history but also were asking students to explore social, political, and economic systems that contributed to the Holocaust.

In the 1990s, the international community began to advocate for mandatory education about the Holocaust. The field of Holocaust education continues to

evolve today. There are those who question its relevance and effectiveness in the American school system. As the space between the end of the war and the present day widens and eye witness survivors pass from our midst, the lessons of the Holocaust recede into the background for students and educators alike. There is a need for a pedagogy (a teaching practice) that meets the educational needs in a “post-survivor” 21st century.

In seeking to contribute to the exciting field of Holocaust education and pedagogy, the Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center is developing new methods by which to train teachers and increase their influence on student learning. Over the course of 2022, the Greenspon Center will be introducing a certificate program that will empower educators to ask questions and think critically about why the Holocaust happened, what it means for learners today, and how we can engage others in our schools and com-

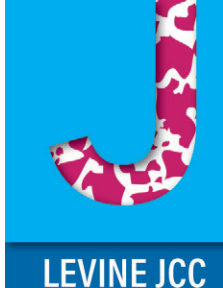
munities to do the same. It will meet the necessary educational standards in North Carolina and complement the recent mandate for Holocaust education in the state by engaging educators in conversations about the new “Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act.”

We will offer two tracks, namely, one for active classroom teachers and one for community educators. The certificate program will help participants learn skills that will engage students in the lessons and have students examine the intersections between events, geographies, individuals, and political relationships. It will elevate the use of historical artifacts to bridge the growing historical gap our youth experience while studying this topic. Crucially, the program will help educators and community members understand how to use avenues for social and civic engagement with their students.

We are excited to announce that we have engaged Dr. Christine Beresniová to assist in this

initiative. Dr. Beresniová is a sociocultural anthropologist specializing in education policy and teacher practice. She was the executive director of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, where she expanded Holocaust education initiatives across the state and helped revise the state standards for Holocaust education. As an educational program coordinator for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, she ran international and national Holocaust training programs for educators and members of civil society. Dr. Beresniová received fellowships and grants from the Mandel Center for Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Fulbright Association, among others. She has a Ph.D. in education policy from Indiana University and an M.A. in international education from George Washington University.

(Continued on page 7)



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Foundation of Shalom Park Task Group Focuses on Diversity and Equity

By Adam Bernstein

While confronting continuous operational challenges posed by the pandemic, the Foundation of Shalom Park (FSP) spent 2021 working on an issue of equal or perhaps greater long-term importance to the campus community, namely, establishing a common understanding and practice around principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The catalyst for this important work was a 2021 Adaptation & Transformational Fund grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. A task group of staff members and lay leaders from various Shalom Park organizations was formed to take on the assignment, led by Foundation board member Adam Bernstein and facilitated by Executive Director Terri Beattie.

"Shalom Park is a remarkably complex and increasingly diverse place, with hundreds of Jewish and non-Jewish visitors, members, employees, vendors, and others interacting here weekly if not daily," Bernstein said. "Given its oversight role, especially around risk management, FSP needed appropriate policy and systems in place to address DEI issues that could arise. We hoped the project also would inspire and aid other Park organizations in advancing their own DEI efforts."

The task force began by creating a DEI policy for the Foundation, which could serve as a

model for other organizations. As a complement to the policy, a value statement includes language that summed up the intent and importance of the project:

"Jewish text and tradition teach that all people are created B'Tzelem Elohim, in the image of God. As such, we strive to recognize and tend to that divine image in our encounters with each person. We are also commanded 'v'ahavta l'reiacha kamocho — love your fellow human as yourself,' from which we understand that it is up to each of us to care for each other ... We recognize that in society at large and on our campus, barriers to success and well-being exist for people of color and those who have been disadvantaged. Our organization is committed to acting as a catalyst to remove these obstacles for the benefit of everyone who works at and visits Shalom Park."

The foundation board approved the DEI value statement and policy in September. Several Shalom Park agencies are studying the policy to develop or augment their own. Beattie said DEI training for FSP staff will begin in early 2022.

Additionally, the DEI task force facilitated participation by several community members in Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, an intensive two-day workshop provided by the Racial Equity Institute.

The task force has now turned



The task group created this logo to build awareness about DEI efforts on Shalom Park.

its attention to the next phases of its work: communications to raise awareness and education. It retained Darryl L. White Sr., assistant dean of Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement at Queens University of Charlotte, to survey Shalom Park organizations about their own DEI awareness and efforts. The task force will use White's findings to identify areas of interest and need in order to design ongoing education and training for lay leaders and employees of Shalom Park organizations. Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte recently approved a second year of Adaptation & Transformation Fund support for the task force's work.

"This is a dedicated and passionate task team that has done excellent work to date," Bernstein said. "In 2022, we hope to take great strides toward achiev-

DEI Task Force

Adam Bernstein – Chair and FSP Vice President, Board of Directors
Rick Glaser – FSP President, Board of Directors
Terri Beattie – FSP Executive Director (ex-officio)
Howard Olshansky – Jewish Family Services Executive Director (ex-officio)

Members

Ann Baumgartner – Moishe House / Global Human Resources Officer
Ginger Brock – Temple Beth El / Tot Shabbat Chair.
Jimmy Collins – Charlotte Jewish Preschool Board Member
Tamika Jackson – Levine Jewish Community Center / Chief Financial Officer
Joseph Machicote – Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer / Premier Inc.
Tara Spil – Artist – Charlotte Jewish Preschool / VP Development - Board of Directors
Ron Weiner – Temple Israel Past President

ing the goal of a sustainable DEI framework of policy and action that honors Judaic teachings and the principles on which Shalom Park was created."

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park.



Greenspon Center



(Continued from page 6)

For more information about the Certificate in Holocaust Pedagogy program, please contact Talli Dippold dippoldt@queens.edu.

Pop-Up History Sponsors Help Us Shine!

We are so excited to announce that the Greenspon Center, in partnership with Levine Museum of the New South and The Anne Frank Center at U of SC Columbia, is bringing to Charlotte the exhibit "Anne Frank: A History for Today." The traveling exhibit gives us glimpse into life in Amsterdam during the Nazi invasion and occupation through Anne's writings.

When you visit, you will be asked to consider the importance of keeping history alive as it unfolds and have the opportunity to leave your thoughts about the time in which we are living — the history of tomorrow!

Students from throughout Charlotte will be trained as docents for this exhibit, each creating a tour that is unique and personal. Docents will be available at different times to give you a one-of-a-kind experience.

Visit with us from March 4 through March 21 at the Levine Museum. For more information, contact Donna Tarney at tarneyd@queens.edu.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of this event:

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Traditional and Non-Traditional Therapy Services Offered at Jewish Family Services

By Rachel Green, JFS Director of Programs and Services

Promoting emotional health and well-being has long been at the heart of Jewish Family Services' (JFS) commitment to our community. JFS offers mental health services for individuals of all ages, working with children, teens, parents, adults, and seniors to address life's many challenges. JFS commits to serving each client individually, meeting them where they are and working with them as a team to bring healing and hope. During the past two years, this commitment has grown even stronger, and with good reason.

In late 2021, Dr. Vivell Murthy, U.S. surgeon general, issued an advisory to bring attention to the urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis. "Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide — and rates have increased over the past decade," he said. "The COVID-19 pandemic further altered their experiences at home, school, and in the community, and the effect on their mental health has been devastating. The future well-being of our country depends on how we support and invest in the next generation." (<https://www.hhs.gov>).

The COVID-19 pandemic has had sweeping effects on the mental health across other age groups as well. According to the Mayo



JFS' newest therapist, Sara Scheibner, is trained and certified as a "quality-rated" CPT provider and has practiced the model for several years.

Clinic, "Surveys show a major increase in the number of U.S. adults who report symptoms of stress, anxiety, depression, and insomnia during the pandemic, compared with surveys before the pandemic." (<https://www.mayoclinic.org>). JFS offers an array of services aimed at addressing these challenges.

Therapy services, also called "counseling" services, are offered both in person and via a private and confidential telehealth platform. For some clients, especially seniors, meeting in their home may be the best fit. For others with busy schedules or transportation challenges, or folks who continue to socially distance at a higher level, using telehealth continues to offer the flexibility and access they need.

Individual therapy involves the client working one-on-one

with the therapist, creating a plan, setting goals, and knowing they have a safe and confidential space to explore their experiences. Family therapy involves two or more family members working together to improve communication, address family challenges, and create more "shalom in the home" for everyone. Couples counseling involves members of the couple working as a team with their therapist to strengthen communication and build skills to work together as a cohesive unit. Parenting sessions focus on learning new skills and techniques to help children grow and flourish, no matter the circumstance.

JFS therapists are trained in several types of therapy practices, including Triple P Parenting, which is an evidence-based parenting program and can be used with parents and caregivers of children ages 18 months-18 years. JFS also has therapists specifically trained in trauma and trauma recovery. Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) is considered one of the most effective therapy treatments to help clients heal from traumatic events in their lives. JFS' newest therapist, Sara Scheibner, is trained and certified as a "quality-rated" CPT provider and has practiced the model for several years.

In addition to these more "traditional" therapy styles, JFS has recently been awarded a grant through Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA) to provide programming for senior adults who have experienced

"Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide — and rates have increased over the past decade. The COVID-19 pandemic further altered their experiences at home, school, and in the community, and the effect on their mental health has been devastating." Dr. Vivell Murthy, U.S. surgeon general

trauma. The JFS Senior Engagement Team has developed a series of interactive healing workshops, using trauma-sensitive providers, including therapeutic music, yoga, and creative arts classes to offer a non-traditional choice for seniors seeking support and healing after the last two years of isolation and difficulty. The program focuses on both recent trauma (as many experienced loss and isolation during COVID) as well as more traditional concepts of trauma experienced during the lifetime (wartime, domestic violence, accident, loss of a loved one through suicide or violence, Holocaust survival).

The workshops will be open to senior adults (60+) starting in May 2022 and include a "Healing Through Movement" series with a trauma-sensitive yoga instructor, a "Healing Through Music" series with a trauma-trained music therapist, and a "Healing Through Creative Arts" series with a healing arts facilitator. The workshops will be offered at the Levine Jewish Community Center and another community center in Charlotte, as the JFNA grant includes an expansion of services to a diverse population of seniors.

JFS' tagline is "Engaging, Connecting, Healing," and the range of traditional and non-traditional therapy services offered aim to do all three. If you or someone you know needs support or is interested in the upcoming healing workshops for seniors, please call JFS at (704) 364-6594 or email info@jfscharlotte.org.



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Shalom Green: Thank you to your volunteers who continue to plant and harvest produce for JFS.

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 December 2021

Happy Birthday to Bill Gorelick

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Happy Birthday to Burt Greenspon

Burt and Donna Greenspon

Happy Birthday to Gloria Lerner

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Happy Birthday to Harry Lerner

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Happy Chanukah to Mrs. L.B. Keller

Sandra Weinstein

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Amalia Warshenbrot

In Honor of Barney and Harriet Weinstock

Ralph and Sonni Besnoy

In Memory of Janice Berlin

Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

In Memory of Harry Berzack

Keith Greenspon

In Memory of Judith Coen

Ron and Jan Weiner

In Memory of Howard Dumont

Jeff and Janet Ganoung

In Memory of Richard Grifenhagen

Sandra Weinstein

In Memory of Jack Helfand

Elaine Eisenbaum for Hank Greenberg and his parents

In Memory of Jack Poznansky

Francine Poznansky

In Memory of Pam Segal

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Memory of Perry Sparks

Ron and Janice Weiner

In Memory of Carol Speizman

Margie Levenson

Gary Silverstein

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Mazel Tov to Teri and Bernie Ackerman on the birth of Samuel Wayne Ackerman

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Mazel Tov to Joel and Wendy Kveskin on the birth of Yardenne Michal Weiss

Alan and Madeline Aron

Wishing Jack Mendel a

Speedy Recovery

Sandra Weinstein

Technology and Your Mental Health

By Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

Over the past 10 years, mental health issues have been on the rise in our country, with one in five individuals currently experiencing some form. The past two years have been especially challenging, as the pandemic has increased stress, anxiety, and depression for many. We know that many of these challenges are the result of concerns directly related to COVID, such as concerns about job loss or getting sick and having friends and family with similar concerns or perhaps even becoming ill or dying. One factor, however, that has not been adequately addressed is the relationship between technology and mental health.

Prior to the pandemic, we knew that the use of certain forms of technology, especially social media and mobile devices, could directly contribute to increased stress, anxiety, and depression. In a February 2020 article in Medical News Today, author Jon Johnson acknowledges that though some forms of technology have improved our lives, there is evidence of



negative physical and psychological effects of technology and its overuse as well.

Overuse of social media and mobile devices can lead to eyestrain, difficulty focusing on important tasks, reduced sleep, and a reduction in physical activity. It is highly interesting that the physical effects of technology overuse, especially reduced physical activity and sleep, directly correlate to an increase in mental health issues.

It may also contribute to more serious health conditions such as depression. In the article, Johnson cited a February 2017 study

of young adults, ages 19-32, stating that people with higher social media use were more than three times as likely to feel socially isolated than those who did not engage with social media as often.

In addition, Johnson pointed out that the use of technology, especially during the pandemic, has reduced our ability to separate our work and home life. Increased access to work through technology, such as easy access to work emails and documents, has brought work stress into our home life. Without the natural transition of traveling from work to home, it takes a concerted effort to relax and separate ourselves from our work. (<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/negative-effects-of-technology>)

A 2021 infographic created by Etactics identifies both the positive and negative effects of technology on mental health. The infographic highlights how the use of technology enables many to access medical support, mental health counseling, entertainment, and social connections. On the other hand,

The bottom line is that balance in the use of technology is important. Some who cannot manage that balance, they may end up struggling with technology addiction.

the data also reveal that 73% of heavy social media users report feeling lonely compared with 52% of light media users, and 70% of people reported that they would feel depressed, panicked, or helpless if their phone went missing. (<https://etactics.com/blog/negative-effects-of-technology-on-mental-health>)

The bottom line is that balance in the use of technology is important. Some who cannot manage that balance, they may end up struggling with technology addiction. Similar to other addictions, addiction to technology results when its use begins to interfere with daily functions. Signs that someone might be at risk for addiction include a decrease in socializing, not eating or sleeping properly, and inability to complete regular chores and activities, and reduction in work productivity. The most obvious sign is the constant use of

an electronic device.

What we haven't fully acknowledged, however, is that during the pandemic, keeping balance with technology and staying connected with others do not easily go hand-in-hand. As our familiar forms of social connection were taken away from us due to isolation and social distancing, we were forced to increase our use of technology to connect. The result, however, was that those who were at high risk for technology addiction were at increased risk.

As we emerge out of the pandemic, it will be more critical than ever to assess our use of technology. We need to ensure that we are using our devices and social media for all of the positives they were intended and not as the obsessions they have become.

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Bal Taschit and Beyond: Shmita and Our Ecological Imperative

By David H. Rosenthal

The Jewish year 5782, which began on September 7, 2021, is a shmita, or sabbatical year, marking the seventh year during which we are to “let go” of the cycle that is ending and embrace the next. The shmita year marks several cycles: an agricultural cycle, when all farmers leave the

land fallow for a year so it can regenerate for the next cycle of production; a labor and financial cycle, when all loans are forgiven and slaves are set free; and a national cycle, when everybody reaffirms their commitment to their short past and short destiny. “Shmita does for the nation what Shabbat does for the indi-

vidual,” said Rav Kook, the first chief rabbi of Israel.

In the midst of everything else driving the world faster and faster, and with the disruptions of COVID-19 challenging everyone, this year’s Jewish calendar demands that everything planted and sown and growing until now must be stopped. It’s true!

That’s the short version of shmita, the sabbatical year, whereby every seven years, a bundle of legal restrictions dating back to biblical times require us to halt agriculture and allow the land to lie fallow.

Environmental responsibility seems to be one of the principles underlying the three great commands of periodic rest: Shabbat (every week), the sabbatical (shmita) year (every seven years), and the jubilee (yovel) year (every 50 years; however, it has not been observed for at least two millennia). On Shabbat, all agricultural work is forbidden, “so that your ox and your donkey may rest” (Ex. 23:12). It sets a limit on our intervention with nature and the pursuit of economic growth. We remind ourselves that we are creations, not just creators. For six days the earth is handed over to us and our labors, but on the seventh, we may perform no “work,” namely any act altering the state of something for human purposes. Shabbat is thus a weekly reminder of the integrity of nature and the limits of human striving.

What Shabbat does for humans and animals, the sabbatical and jubilee years do for the land. The earth, too, is entitled to its periodic rest. The Torah warns that if the Israelites do not respect this, they will suffer exile: “Then shall the land make up for its sabbatical years throughout the time that it is desolate and you are in the land of your enemies; then shall the land rest and make up for its Sabbath years” (Lev. 26:34). Two concerns underlie this. One is environmental.

As Maimonides points out, land that is overexploited eventually erodes and loses its fertility. The Israelites were therefore commanded to conserve the soil by giving it periodic fallow years, not pursuing short-term gain at the cost of long-term desolation. The second, no less significant, is theological: “The land,” says God, “is Mine; you are but strangers and temporary residents with Me” (Lev. 25:23). We are guests on earth.

Václav Havel made a fundamental point in “The Art of the Impossible”: “I believe that we have little chance of averting an environmental catastrophe unless we recognize that we are not the masters of Being, but only a part of Being.” That is why a religious vision is so important, reminding us that we are not owners of our resources. They belong not to us but to the Eternal and eternity. Hence we may not needlessly destroy. If that applies even in war, how much more so in times of peace? “The earth is Adonai’s and all that is in it” (Ps. 24:1). We are its guardians and guests, on behalf of its Creator, for the sake of future generations.

Today, shmita is observed in the land of Israel, which creates some challenges for a modern nation of more than nine million people who still need to eat. An innovative legal workaround, known as the “heter mechira” (“sale permit”), allows the land to be worked by selling it to a non-Jew for the duration of the year. In recent years, a growing movement of thinkers and activists have pointed to shmita as a means of addressing the global environmental problems and economic instability of the 21st century and of challenging contemporary expectations of continual economic growth, development, and individual gains.

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

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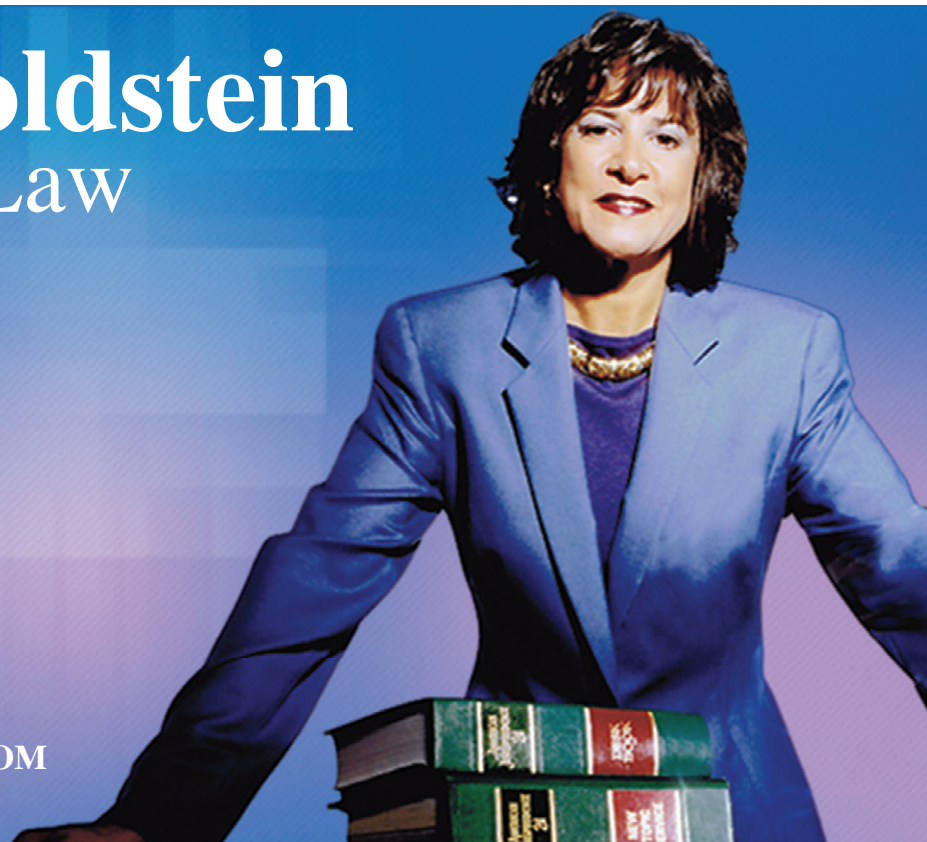
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SHALOM GREEN

What Now for the Afghans Who Have Arrived in Charlotte?

By Amy Lefkof

By chance, Temple Beth El (TBE) member Samantha Foodman's husband, Adam, owns a huge truck. That truck proved critical to Foodman's induction into the world of refugee resettlement. In late fall of 2021, TBE sent out an all-points bulletin to its congregants listing various ways to help Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRA), the local affiliate of HIAS (formerly, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), including a request for a truck to haul furniture to apartments for newly arrived Afghans. Enter Adam, Samantha, their three teenage boys, and a visiting house guest. After they helped haul furniture and set up an apartment, Foodman was asked if she could drive a few Afghans to an English language assessment and maybe on another day take that family grocery shopping. That Afghan family of seven, with children ranging in ages from 7 to 21, has now become a second family to Foodman. They've played soccer together and shared video games. The Foodmans were dinner guests at the house of their new Afghan friends (a house that, incidentally, is being rented to them by Temple Israel).

Since October 2021, CRRA, has received 105 Afghans who were evacuated out of Afghanistan in August. Approximately 70% of these Afghans are now housed in permanent housing. Family units range from four single men who will live as roommates to larger families of five or more. Volunteers prepare culturally specific hot meals for new arrivals, pick up donated furniture, and set up apartments complete with dishes, linens, toiletries, and furniture.

Betsy House, co-chair of the Income and Inequality Committee at TBE, which stepped up to assist with Afghan resettlement, reflected on how she accompanied CRRA staffer Annesley Banks to five Jewish homes in one day to pick up furniture donations: "CRRA is not Two Men and a Truck! It uses volunteers — some age 55 and older." In addition to furniture, supplies needed include: shaving cream, umbrellas, bath mats, fire extinguishers, liquid hand soap, and can openers.

And in another effort to welcome Afghans to their new homes, Temple Israel's Social Action group, chaired by Jonathan and Tess Berger, participated in a Greater Charlotte Community initiative welcoming Afghan Allies and Refugees to their new homes by providing 20 "welcome tea baskets."

In the last six months, in addition to resettling Afghan evacu-



Samantha Foodman's family enjoying the hospitality of a recently arrived Afghan family

ees, CRRA has received 71 refugees from many other countries, including Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, Burma, Central African Republic, Congo, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Welcoming so many Afghan evacuees in such a short period while simultaneously resettling refugees from so many other countries, has been a Herculean task, especially given Charlotte's affordable housing shortage. "We at CRRA really appreciate the outpouring of support for Afghan evacuees in recent months," said Marsha Hirsch, executive director of CRRA, adding, "however, we still need two more rental houses or three-bedroom apartments for two larger Afghan families who are in temporary housing but are ready to sign a lease and move into permanent housing." Six members of the Jewish community have stepped forward to serve as guarantors on leases if that proves necessary, and the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative (JCRI) raised close to \$40,000 for CRRA's Afghan Emergency Fund. To assist with volunteering, donations, or housing, please visit CRRA's website or contact CRRA Donation and Volunteer coordinator Annsley Banks at Annsley.banks@carolinarefugee.org.

Lindsay LaPlante is executive director of Refugee Support Services (RSS), an agency that provides refugees with many programs, including classes that promote self-sufficiency (e.g., financial literacy, family literacy, first-aid), and a walk-up help center to assist with understanding bills and communication with schools. RSS also has a Fruitful Friend program that pairs refugee families with American friends, who act much like the Foodman family mentioned at the beginning of this article, building lasting relationships that enhance the lives of all parties involved. RSS requires Fruitful Friends go through a general volunteer onboarding process (application, completion

of a Refugee 101 session, and a background check). For information, visit www.refugeesupportservices.org.

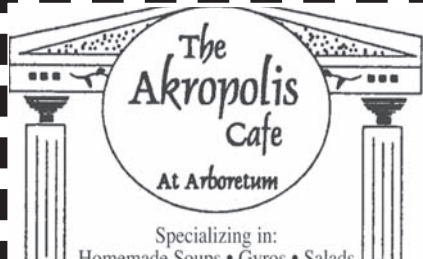
Laplane implores members of the Charlotte community to understand that delays that some Afghan evacuees have faced in receiving permanent housing and necessary documentation (e.g., SNAP, Medicaid and health-care, and employment authorization documents) is part and parcel of the rushed manner in which 70,000 people were put on planes and brought to the United States and that "everyone is working through an established process as best they can at the moment." LaPlante expressed frustration with a recent Charlotte Observer article that was critical of Catholic Charities (the other local resettlement agency in Charlotte, which have agreed to resettle over 200 Afghan evacuees) instead of noting the need for systemic advocacy work in the area of affordable housing and health-care: "I have been working in refugee resettlement in Charlotte for 14 years, and people have always been moved into the same unacceptable living conditions because roaches, bed bugs, and faulty appliances are included in the rent at that price range in the City of Charlotte. There are no other options. If we believe it to be unacceptable for these Afghan evacuees, what about everyone who came before them and everyone who will follow afterward, immigrant or otherwise?"

Rabbi Judy Schindler encourages anyone interested in advocacy in the areas of affordable housing and immigrant justice to contact the Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center at Queens University. <https://www.stan-greensponcenter.org>

JCRI Jewish Community Refugee Initiative
CHARLOTTE

Save the date: Tuesday February 8th- HIAS Call in Day of Action on the Afghan Adjustment Act

HIAS leaders are asking members of the Jewish community to call their Representative and Senators on Feb. 8th urging them to take action on the Afghan Adjustment Act which has not yet been introduced into Congress, but which may be included in a larger omnibus spending bill.



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Tu B'Shevat: Planting a Legacy

By Philip Schreiberman

On a recent Tu B'Shevat holiday, my children and I planted trees at the Hebrew Cemetery. What more powerful symbol of legacy than trees? The sun was shining, we muddied our hands with dirt, and we handled large baby trees. I will remember the hours watching my children smile and play, helping me do something good to honor our family and honor the community we cherish.

One tree was special. We buried a ball, pictures, and a pocketknife in its hole. Someday, my grandkids will sit in the cool shade of that tree their parents helped me plant years earlier. Such are the meaningful traditions and rituals handed down by Jewish families for centuries. I suspect with some good work, our family will differ very little.

I've been thinking a lot lately about growing up as a Jew here in Charlotte and all the drips of water over 40 years that have helped polish my stone. My family was active in the Jewish community, and I grew up in the Jewish Community Center (JCC)

and at Shalom Park. I remember The Hebrew Academy, splinters from the old wooden playground, and games of hide and seek. I remember game room bumper pool and quarters from the front desk, hours of pickup ball, sleepovers, Dad playing tons of racquetball, and lots of Sunday bagels.

Funny what is sticky from my past. Sure, most childhood memories are selective and rose colored, but I still get to touch the same brick in the JCC hallways, sit in Gorelick Hall, see banners in the rafters, or get truckin' down Providence Road, again, on my way to synagogue — many times with the same albums playing on the player.

One big difference is that when I get home, I won't ever hear the soft Alabama drawl of my dad saying my name. Those days have ended.

Dad, or our Papu, died in February 2016 from Parkinson's disease, and technically he stopped saying my name years before he passed away. I thought I bared my soul giving his eulogy, but lately I get pretty choked up when I think about the beautiful



Families plant trees at Hebrew Cemetery for Tu B'Shevat 2019

family and life I've made that he will never know. He was a family man, and I think he'd be proud. That doesn't keep me from wiping away the tears. Random songs and daydreams can break me quickly. Recently it happened on the way to a family portrait photoshoot, and Renee wasn't too happy with my swollen eyes (the pictures will be amazing). The song, nothing too sentimental, was "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." It's a lovely ballad, but Papu was more of a Neil guy.

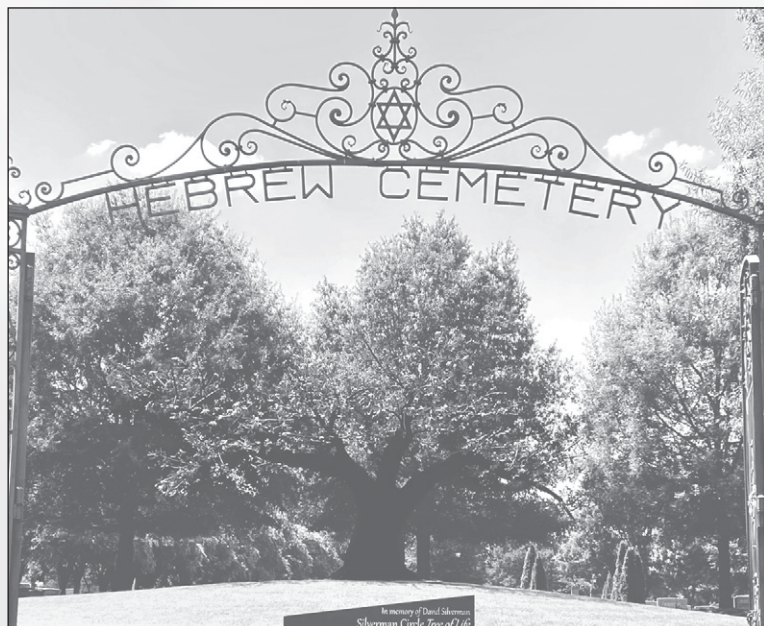
These days I humor the kids with stories of Dad's peccadil-

loes and favorites and wistful reflections of how I, and they, are like him in so many ways. We feel Dad's presence when we hear crickets and cicadas sing at night by the fire. The kids cannot look into his eyes anymore, but I see him in their eyes all the time. It's a beautiful tribute — like the pocketknife buried in the hole of the tree we planted at the cemetery by his grave. For my kids and for the next 50 years, Papu's legacy is visits to his grave and hugging that tree.

Another holiday season of joy, service, and gratitude has passed. If you're not in that mindset, I

wish it for you soon. We reflected on a year well spent and look forward to a fresh slate of decisions to make. We'll slip, trip, and fall, but we will learn and grow too and surely laugh and smile. Without ever knowing, we will make memories that could be sticky for someone we really care about, who one day will not be able to look into our eyes anymore. Isn't that how traditions are born? Isn't that why we go to plant trees? Our Jewish mothers and fathers inherited that legacy ages ago.

Fifty years into the future sounds long, but it's not. Hopefully you were able to plant a tree this Tu B'Shevat; we didn't. Tree planting is the long game, and I will not wait to fill my hole with Lego's or Led Zeppelin CDs! I will enrich every moment of my living legacy with smiles, songs, and love, especially at the dawn of each year.



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Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13					14						15		
16					17						18		
19						20				21			
22					23	24				25			
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28	29	30			31	32	33		34		35	36	37
38					39				40				
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			44		45			46	47				
	48	49				50	51				52	53	54
55					56				57	58			
59					60				61				
62					63					64			
65					66					67			

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 pre-ceder
58. Woody Allen animated film
60. Advanced law deg.
61. Some text messages, for short



(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

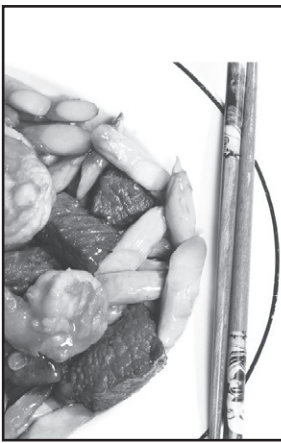
Down

- 180 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
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. Stimp's pal
30. Mary Todd's guy
32. "...and the bush ___ not consumed" (Ex. 3:2)
33. Summer drink
35. Nytol alternative, Sleep-___



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A Jew Betrayed Anne Frank's Family, Cold-Case Investigators Conclude

By Cnaan Liphshiz, January 17, 2022 (JTA)

A team of researchers said they have identified the person who betrayed Anne Frank and her family to the Nazis 80 years ago: a Jewish notary forced to work for the Nazis.

The man identified by a cold-case team that has been working for six years to identify the persons responsible for the discovery of the Franks by Nazi authorities in occupied Amsterdam was Arnold van den Bergh, a notary and a member of the Jewish Council, which the Nazis established to better control Dutch Jews.

The accusation is outlined in "The Betrayal of Anne Frank," a book published Monday by the Canadian author Rosemary Sullivan.

It is eliciting criticism from Dutch Jewish leaders who say the accusation unconvincingly and possibly unfairly lays the blame for one of the most famous betrayals in history on a Jew who cannot defend himself.

The book details the work of a team led by Vince Pankeoke, a retired FBI agent, that set out to answer a question that has confounded research-

ers since Otto Frank, Anne Frank's father, first published her diary in 1947 and turned his daughter into an international symbol of the destruction of the Holocaust.

The cold-case team discovered a letter sent anonymously in 1945 to Otto Frank, the only member of the family who survived the Holocaust, according to the book.

"Your hiding place in Amsterdam was in that time partly shared with the Central Agency for Jewish Emigration in Amsterdam by A. van den Bergh, who had lived near the Vondel Park," the letter said.

A researcher probing collaboration between the Dutch and the Nazis received the letter from Otto Frank in 1963, but its existence was not widely known, the Amsterdam newspaper Het Parool reported Monday.

Frank had said in the past that his family had been betrayed by Jews, the newspaper reported, but never publicly named van den Bergh.

The Jewish notary survived the Holocaust, making him part of a small minority of Dutch Jews to survive, and died in 1950.

Over the years, researchers

have presented various hypotheses on who may have betrayed the Franks to the Nazis, though none of the suspects were accepted as consensus.

A 2015 book identified Nelly Voskuijl, a niece of the Dutch resistance activist Elisabeth "Bep" Voskuijl, as the person who likely betrayed the Franks. The book alleged that Nelly Voskuijl was a Nazi collaborator who may have revealed the whereabouts of the hideout where her sister was helping the Franks hide.

In 2016, the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, a museum devoted to the memory of the family, published a study alleging that the raid in 1944 on their house may have been over illegal trade in food rations and other issues and not the result of betrayal.

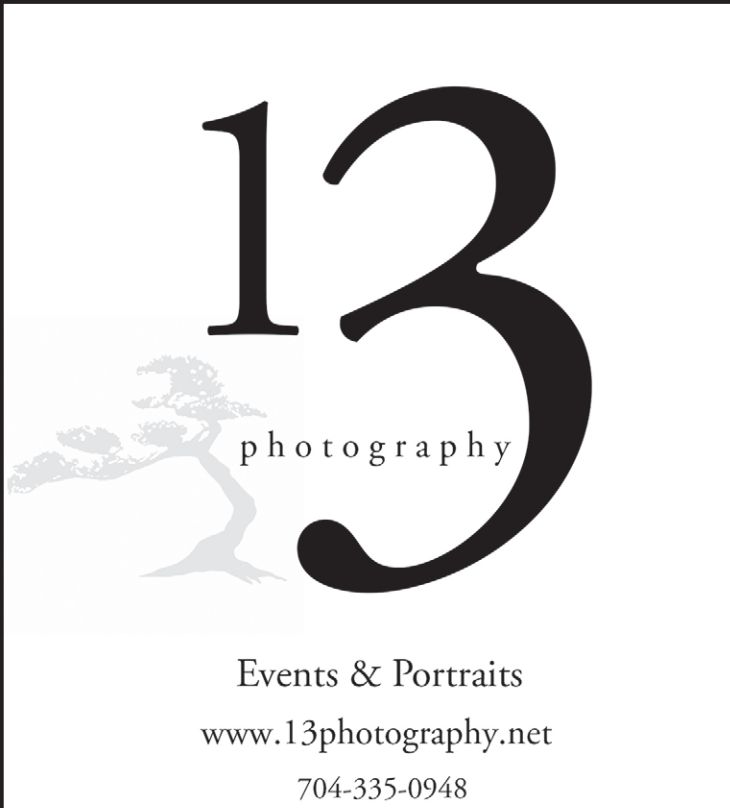
The cold case team cannot ascertain with certainty that van den Bergh betrayed the Franks, but did say that the theory involving him is the only one backed by evidence.

A handful of leading Dutch Jews responded to the new investigation by saying its conclusion should not be trusted — and might even be inappropriate to allege.

In a column published Monday in the conservative Dutch newspaper Reformatorisch Dagblad, Dutch Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs condemned the accusation, saying it was "unethical" because it was not certain that van den Bergh committed the acts attributed to him and is unable to defend himself.

"It's remarkable how the betrayal of Anne Frank and her family was laid at the feet of a member of the Jewish Council who can no longer defend himself," Ronny Naf-taniel, chairman of the Central Jewish Organization of Dutch Jews, wrote on Facebook. He added, "The assertion that Otto Frank knew about it but said nothing seems like speculation."

Meanwhile, Bart van der Boom, a Leiden University historian who has written extensively about the Jewish Council, dismissed the findings of the cold case team as "libelous nonsense." The letter sent to Otto Frank was written amid a "swirl of rumors about who betrayed whom," the Historisch Nieuwsblad quoted van der Boom as saying.



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Fight Antisemitism by Building Interfaith Relationships



By Rabbi Asher Knight, Temple Beth El

Last year, our Hanukkah was brightened by Glacier, our extremely large puppy. I'd like to say that I take Glacier on walks every day. But the truth is, she walks me. One morning this past summer, we were out for our morning walk when I saw a swastika spray-painted on a sign in my neighbor's yard. Eight houses down from ours. A swastika. I wish that this was a unique experience, but increasingly it is not. My neighbors sprang into action and painted over the vandalized sign.

In recent years we have seen white supremacists wearing shirts emblazoned with the message 6MWE – "6 Million Weren't Enough." The ADL is now reporting well over a thousand antisemitic incidents a year, along with an uptick in assaults, vandalism, and hate speech. Following the events in Gaza this past summer, American Jews were targeted, harassed, and physically attacked by people who want to delegitimize Israel. We have seen growing trends of antisemitism in our schools and public spaces.

There are many things we can do in our community to build strong and resilient Jewish lives. And our Jewish community must continue to build strong bridges of relationship with the multi-religious community in Charlotte. Why? Because those who peddle in hate try to stoke fear that divides and consumes us. If we in the Jewish community retreat into safe cocoons, afraid to engage with the non-Jewish world,

we will become more "otherized." It's why I have recently joined the board of Mecklenburg Ministries, the Interfaith Council for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and am working with a cohort of Muslim imams and evangelical pastors.

Temple Beth El (TBE) is committed to interfaith work as a congregation and community, to build bridges of partnership and relationship and understanding. Because real partnerships means showing up for others and having them show up for us. At Temple Beth El, we do this through learning and through partnerships of social action and justice, dialogue, and conversation.

We have many opportunities to partner across lines of faith and to help make Charlotte a better city. We lead volunteer projects and advocacy efforts that address income inequality, access to quality health care, public education, and climate justice. We strive to keep racial justice at the center of our work

There are many things we can do in our community to build strong and resilient Jewish lives. And our Jewish community must continue to build strong bridges of relationship with the multi-religious community in Charlotte. Why? Because those who peddle in hate try to stoke fear that divides and consumes us. If we in the Jewish community retreat into safe cocoons, afraid to engage with the non-Jewish world, we will become more "otherized."

and are always seeking to partner and collaborate with other organizations, institutions, and individuals whose efforts we might support or bolster. We build relationships of depth through learning. We recently held a series focused on the Hebrew Bible with Myers Park Baptist, with Rev. Mia McLain speaking from the bimah for our Justice Shabbat.

On Tuesdays in February, TBE is hosting our annual Com-

parative Religion Series, titled: In the Beginning: Exploring the Origin Stories of Faith. We will explore the origin of many of our world's religious traditions, not just of how different faiths describe the way the world came to be but also how those origins contribute to the faith, culture, and beliefs of each religion. Religions offer rich and fascinating dimensions of the human experience. Together, we will look at both similarities and some of the beautiful distinctions and differences offered by various faiths.

The Charlotte Jewish community has a role to play in constructing even more bridges with the non-Jewish world. We can live up to the values and ethics of prophetic Judaism by building relationships of depth and meaning across our city. When we do this well, antisemites will never succeed with their divisive tactics of hate.



2022

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Religious Life

Chabad of Charlotte Offers Multiple Jewish Educational Opportunities for All Ages

By Rabbi Yossi Groner, Congregation Ohr HaTorah

Chabad of Charlotte has been engaged on all levels in providing excellent quality Jewish educational opportunities for the Jewish community in the greater Charlotte area. The key to Jewish growth and vitality is knowledge and passion. The successful Jewish formula for thousands of years has been the careful and diligent transmission of Jewish knowledge and passion to the younger generation.

That means that the older generation needs to have gained both the knowledge and passion of Torah, Jewish theology, and Jewish values. Our generation is witness to a knowledge deficiency among Jewish adults. This can translate into a woeful level of ignorance or apathy in the younger generation.

The good news is that this condition is quite reparable. All it takes is a bit of commitment and diligence. Chabad of Charlotte has made the commitment to provide the avenues of knowl-



CTeen seniors experiencing tefillin

edge and to do it in a way that creates passion and joy in Jewish observance.

There is an abundance of educational opportunities, beginning with adults engaging through the highly acclaimed and popular Jewish Learning Institute, daily Talmud classes, weekly Torah studies, and much more.

In this article, we focus on the

senior teen program we have at Chabad of Charlotte.

Our Charlotte CTeens organization provides exciting and meaningful opportunities for Charlotte Jewish teens of all ages. CTeen juniors are provided for by the Ballantyne Jewish Center in coordination with Chabad of Charlotte. CTeen seniors are engaged by Chabad of

Charlotte.

"There's this stereotypical notion that teenagers are just reckless, immature, and difficult," says Rabbi Bentzion Groner. "That could not be further from the truth. Teenagers have insurmountable energy. At CTeens, we believe in the power of youth, and what we offer is a means of channeling that power in a positive and uplifting way."

CTeens offers several programs with the goal of educating adolescents about the role of Jewish practice in daily life. One such program is "Kosher Food Club" (KFC), wherein participants learn about traditional Jewish foods and living a healthy lifestyle. Another is CTeenXtreme, a summer travel camp where campers challenge themselves both physically and spiritually by partaking in extreme sports, observing a complete tech-free Shabbat, and keeping kosher on the road.

To inspire the members to give back to their community, CTeen engages its members in a wide

range of humanitarian efforts, such as preparing care packages for soldiers in the I.D.F. and distributing food to the needy.

CTeens seniors meet every Monday at Chabad for engaging Jewish experiences. Some of the teens are signed up for CTeenU Jewish Business School earning two college credits. Six Charlotte teens are signed up to represent Charlotte at the CTeen International Shabbaton, which will take place in New York.

For those interested in building their Jewish knowledge base and improving their appreciation of Jewish values, please contact Chabad of Charlotte at Chabadnc.org and open the door to the vast and deep world of Jewish knowledge opportunities that await.



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Religious Life

Temple Solel Speaks About Hope

By Shelley Pawlyk

How do we start a new calendar year with hope when we have been through so much over the past two years. The majority of us are trying to keep a positive outlook, but it's still challenging even when some days can be better than others. There are people who are genuinely navigating this new world success-



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fully. A neighbor just returned from a wonderful vacation in Mexico and family gathering back at a joint location in the United States. They had a good experience, which is probably a result of meticulous, cautious planning, but this isn't what we typically see on the news. Many of us cannot imagine traveling yet and live somewhat vicariously through those who do.

Most of my conversations, whether with family, friends, or even a random stranger, reveal the depth to which we have been affected. Recently a friend told me she was discouraged by seeing multiple people's social media posts that gave the impression their world was normal compared to what she was experiencing. Deeper conversations, however, revealed many of the same people sharing those positive posts were struggling similarly to those who read them.

Proverbs 13:12 reads, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life." The longer a person goes without seeing their hope real-

ized, the more likely they are to become discouraged. What we need, especially now, is hope to encourage us. We need to rewrite some of our own stories to embrace that hope. It will inspire us, cultivate gratitude, and give us reason to help others and perform acts of kindness.

We are human. No matter how outgoing or positive we are, there are going to be days we feel alone, misunderstood, or just miss someone in our lives we haven't heard from in a while. It took many years, but now whenever I miss someone I wish would call me, I pick up the phone and call them. They always express how grateful they are for my call, and often they tell me that they, too, missed me and were hoping I would call. Making the time and taking initiative to be the first one to reach out requires effort and courage, but comes with reward often enough that it is well worth taking that chance.

What inspires us to live? Is it seeing a friend? Reading a good book? Going on a hike? Creat-

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.
Proverbs 13:12

ing art or engaging in a creative project? Helping someone else?

Maybe it is helping someone else. There is much truth in the wisdom that helping someone else actually helps both people involved. Even if someone doesn't ask, bringing a meal to someone who has just had surgery or offering them a ride, for example, can make a difference. I recently thanked a friend who took me to the doctor five years ago, because I was reminded of that kind gesture. That led to me thinking about more people I might want to thank, no matter how long it's been. I saw a man on the news who decided after 25 years to give his wife a more romantic proposal — they were in tears as the event unfolded. That's hope!

The national anthem of Israel, based on text written by

Naftali Herz Imber in 1878, is called "Hatikvah," meaning "the hope" or "our hope" in English. It has a proud and complex history, as do our people who have struggled no matter where we live on the globe. The interpretation that seems to fit our current situation best, however, is "Our hope is not yet lost." In 2022, let's do whatever we can to increase our ability to experience more hope.

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



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Around the Table: Remembering a Jewish Southern Matriarch



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

This month, I'd like to pay tribute to my 97-year-old grandma Betty Smolen, who passed away on January 4, 2022. Gramma Betty was born to a middle-class Jewish family in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1924. A second-generation American whose grandparents had come from Europe in the 1890s, she was already among those American Jews who had adapted and

assimilated into American, and specifically Southern, culture. They embraced new technology (the family was one of the first in Atlanta to own an automobile) and fashion; they owned a clothing business and did well for themselves.

The family's approach to being Jewish strikes me as a conflicted one. Betty's mother, Fannie, had been eager to loosen some of the Jewish customs and, so I've been told, gave up keeping kosher soon after her own mother's passing. Of course, at the time, antisemitism was also a constant reality of life, and blending in with the non-Jews must have seemed like an appealing option. Betty's children were turned away from the Girl Scouts, and it was her congregation, the Temple in Atlanta, that was bombed in 1958, just hours before my mom and her siblings would have been at Sunday school. Whether out of a desire to assimilate or perhaps out of personal preference, the family slowly let many of the traditions fall away. And yet Gramma always retained a majority Jewish social life, a synagogue member-

ship, and a proud sense that she was Jewish.

The family of six later moved to New Jersey for many years, but she never really felt at home there, and so when she got the chance to move back down south to Charlotte, North Carolina, to be with her son Paul's family after my grandfather died in 1983, she took it. I think in Charlotte, she felt that she could return to her Southern Jewish roots. She remained secular and modern, but always with a proud Jewish flair. When I think about what she liked to eat, it seemed like a perfect blend of Southern and Jewish, just like her. In most of her married years, she had a live-in housekeeper and nanny named Hattie B. Jones, who according to my mother was also a tremendous cook. Roasts, fried chicken, biscuits, paper-thin crispy cornbread, and German chocolate cake were among the favorite dishes Hattie brought to their table. Betty and her husband also had a soft spot for Ashkenazi classics: borsht, tongue sandwiches, gefilte fish, chopped liver, mushroom barley soup (she called it 'butter bean and barley



Betty Smolen in her kitchen in Atlanta, Georgia, around 1958

soup'), and mandelbroit. She told me she had fond memories of nibbling on gribnes when her grandma Sarah would render schmaltz and eating tender swirls of cinnamon shnecken (a small pastry) on Shabbat. I recall her also being likely one of the few regulars of Phil's Deli at Strawberry Hill to always request the tongue sandwich. "Have you got tongue today, Denise?" She would ask. It was always a treat for her when it was available..

This comfortable combination of Southern and Jewish will always be how I remember her.

In that spirit, I'll give you the very Atlanta Jewish recipe for Coca-Cola Brisket. This is great served as a traditional brisket or as pulled beef. I love mine with corn tortillas that I've quickly toasted over my gas flame using tongs. You can use the oven, stovetop, or instant pot. If using the instant pot, try cooking on high for about 1 hour.

Coca-Cola Brisket

2-3 lb pot roast or brisket
1 can of regular Coke
1 large vidalia onion, sliced
½ cup ketchup
1 tbsp crushed garlic
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp olive oil

Heat the olive oil in a Dutch oven or heavy, lidded pot over high heat. Add the meat and sear on both sides until lightly brown. Add the rest of the ingredients and stir gently. Simmer over low heat for about 2-3 hours or until tender. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cool for about 30 minutes before slicing or shredding, and then return to the pot with the sauce.



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Baby Boomers Are Redefining Senior Living

By Karen Knoble

Nearly 50 million people in the baby boomer generation are entering their retirement years. This wave of “new seniors” is driving the senior living indus-

try to rethink its offerings and physical designs.

Baby boomers are defined as the generation born post-World War II, from 1946 to 1964. In the United States, about 10,000

people a day turn 65 (*census.gov*), and the oldest boomers are turning 76 years old in 2022. By 2030, all baby boomers will be at least 65 years old and the need for senior housing will be at an all-time high. Throughout their lives, baby boomers have significantly influenced popular culture and changed societal norms. This generation grew up during the turbulent ‘60s, experiencing and sometimes leading an era of reform. Boomers learned to question the status quo and challenge authority. They are a generation of independent-minded people, and they value individual choice. Baby boomers grew up during a time of heightened focus on health and fitness. They have experienced unprecedented economic prosperity and technological advancements. Combined, these circumstances have created a generation with high expectations for independence and quality of life. As they move towards retirement, boomers are redefining the ways we view aging and the senior living industry.

As beneficiaries of advancements in medicine and health, baby boomers expect to live lon-

ger than their parents and with more vitality. Boomers have the longest life expectancy of any generation in history. When the first boomers were born, the average life expectancy was 63 years old. Today, boomers can expect to live to nearly 79 years. They expect to remain active as they age, rejecting the stereotype of a wrinkled person in a rocker, and they are a generation that does not want to be stereotyped by gender, age, or socioeconomic status. Unlike the prior generation, which moved to utilitarian continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) because they provided safety and security, boomers do not want to retire to these traditional models of CCRCs. Instead, they want to create a more customized lifestyle. They want communities that look more like college campuses and offer a wide variety of activities and opportunities that enable residents to pursue their interests and passions.

Post-World War II, the United States economy expanded rapidly. Boomers reached adulthood during the late 1960s and 1980s during this economic expansion. While the economic gulf in the United States has left many boomers struggling financially, many others have benefitted from the unprecedented wealth creation, building their savings and incomes. Currently, 35% of baby boomers have annual incomes of at least \$100,000 (attributed to Angell Marketing in Senior Living, October 4, 2020). The Wall Street Journal reported that at the end of the first quarter of 2021, Americans 70 and older had a net worth of nearly \$35 trillion — holding 27% of all U.S. wealth. More than 7.7 million people 65 and older in the U.S. are millionaires (Spectrem, July 25, 2021). Boomers have lived

very comfortably, and in retirement living they want the same upscale living features, amenities, and integrated technology they are used to.

Baby boomers do not want to feel like they are living in a retirement community. Dining is an important consideration. The boomer generation values healthier meal options and wants a variety of dining venues. The traditional CCRC offers meals at a set time, but this “one-size fits all” approach will not satisfy the boomer generation that is looking for more experience-based dining venues and outdoor dining options.

Although baby boomers may be changing stereotypes and expectations around aging, given the natural decrease of dexterity and mobility over time, even the healthiest boomers will eventually require health-care and/or assistance with day-to-day activities. The concept of aging in place is a response to boomers’ desires to live independently, even when they may require day-to-day help. Similarly, with age can come isolation and loneliness. Senior living communities are tasked with creating opportunities for boomers to socialize effortlessly, build personal relationships, and create community organically. One way to achieve this is to integrate the senior living community into the wider community, which provides opportunities for intergenerational socialization.

In response to baby boomers, the senior living industry is changing the look and feel of senior living communities and offering more customized services to satisfy the expectations and desires the boomer generation. Generations at Shalom Park is at the forefront of this movement. As a brand-new community, Generations will be able to fulfill the needs and expectations of the discriminating baby boomer generation. In addition to satisfying a variety of dietary preferences and experiential dining on site, Generations at Shalom Park will offer customizable apartments and amenities like a theater, premium gym, bistro, salon, and educational opportunities. Being located on Shalom Park, Generations will offer easy access to the LJCC, the many other activities and offerings at Shalom Park, and a uniquely intergenerational lifestyle.

To learn more, visit Generations at Shalom Park: generationsatshalompark.com or call (704) 532-5400.

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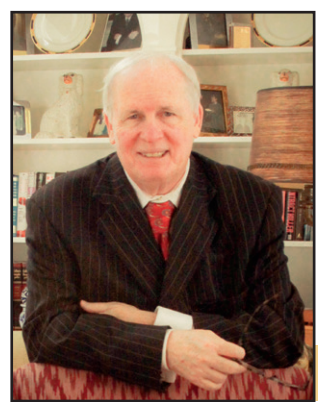


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How To Know if You're Having Heart Attack



By Lorrie Klemons, MSN, RN, CDP

Many of us will be thinking of hearts on the 14th of February. Rightfully so. We all want a joyful heart. We all want a loving heart. We all want a healthy heart.

Much has been written about the signs and symptoms of a

heart attack, but would you really be able to tell if you were having one? According to Dr Mehmet Oz of Oprah fame, 50% of people having a heart attack have no symptoms, especially women. Post-menopausal women are at higher risk but are often misdiagnosed. They are told it is acid reflux or stress. Women whose symptoms are dismissed by one doctor should be sure to get a second, and if necessary third, opinion until someone can determine the cause.

The medical term for heart attack is myocardial infarction, or MI. It actually means "irreversible damage to or death of heart muscle when blood flow to a section of the heart muscle becomes blocked." When a person has an MI, part of their heart muscle dies or is badly damaged. The extent and location of that

damage will determine what the patient's expected outcome will be. Some heart attacks are mild. Some are "widow-makers."

Some heart attacks have a sudden and intense onset, and there is no doubt what is happening. However, most MIs have a more gradual onset, and people tend to wait longer (on average three hours) before seeking help because they are not sure what is happening. They can't tell if they pulled a muscle, are having heartburn, or getting the flu. They just don't feel well. Men tend to deny symptoms, and therefore they delay early diagnosis and treatment that can be lifesaving. As a result, they have higher rates of morbidity (sickness) and mortality (death), which are often directly related to the denial of symptoms.

Symptoms include, but are



not limited to: chest discomfort (uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain), discomfort in other areas of the upper body (pain, burning, aching, or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach), shortness of breath (with or without chest discomfort). Other signs include break-

ing out into a cold sweat, nausea (feeling sick to your stomach), vomiting, lightheadedness, indigestion, or a feeling of fullness, weakness, rapid or irregular heartbeat.

Women may have different symptoms than men. The most common symptom experienced by women who are having a heart attack is chest pain. However women are more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms such as shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

Keep in mind that symptoms may come and go or may be constant. The discomfort may be in one or more areas of your body or it may start in one area and move to another. You may have just one symptom or multiple symptoms. If you have had a previous heart attack, the symptoms of a second attack can be exactly the same or totally different.

When to call 911: If your symptoms do not completely disappear in less than five minutes, call 911. Calling 911 is the fastest way to get life-saving and heart-muscle saving treatment. Emergency personnel begin treatment as soon as they arrive at the scene, up to an hour sooner than if someone is being driven to the emergency room by car. Time is precious when you are having a heart attack — every minute counts. Many heart attacks are accompanied by dangerous heart rhythms that can be treated by trained EMS personnel if they occur on the way to the hospital. Always call 911 if you suspect you are having a heart attack.

As with most medical conditions, the earlier the diagnosis and treatment, the better the outcome. Do not ignore or deny symptoms. Communicate with your primary doctor if you are experiencing any sort of symptoms and have them checked out immediately. Be aware that diagnostic tests cannot always predict future heart problems. You can reduce your risk for heart attack by losing belly fat, stopping smoking, controlling high blood pressure, exercising, and controlling cholesterol levels. You owe that to yourself and to your family.

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 health-care advocacy or empowerment needs you might have at lorrieklemons@gmail.com; www.klemonshealthcareconsulting.com.

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Jewish Women

Women of Wisdom Plans for 2022

By Sara Oppenheim

As we welcome 2022, COVID, is still here. What else will there be for us to deal with this year? Do we get together in person for events, or do we stay on Zoom? These were some of the issues that were behind the deliberations for Women of Wisdom (W.O.W.). this past year as we were planning and reimagining 2022. For a group whose mission is to connect Jewish women from across the spectrum of backgrounds and observance through social events, education, and unique experiences, how are we able to navigate these challenges?

Due to state and county regulations, we did what many others have done by remaining flexible; some events were in person, some on Zoom, and some were a hybrid. It was wonderful to finally get together again, especially for events such as our fundraiser, where Disney animator Saul Blinkoff presented his artistic and Jewish journey. Together we enjoyed workshops, such as a glass jewelry workshop led by professionals and another about using meditation to forgive the people we can't seem to get out of our minds — people who live in our

head rent-free. Finally, shortly before the COVID numbers started rising again, we were able to sneak in a wonderful year-end Hanukkah party. As our membership has grown in 2021, it was a wonderful to see old friends and meet new ones.

The year 2022 promises to be one of exciting and novel events. Although having a book club might not sound like a unique happening, our Jan. 11 book club, featuring "Nestling Dolls," was. We had the unique opportunity to have the author join us. New York Times best-selling author, Alina Adams, agreed to facilitate the discussion on her captivating book. I look forward to sharing more about the book club and takeaways in the next CJN edition.

Our meeting was a few days before Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day for Jews). After the book club discussion, we talked about Jewish family roots and what we can do to plant them firmly so they weather some of the storms our children and grandchildren might face.

Speaking of roots, how would you like to connect with yours? W.O.W. is pleased to announce our biennial (before COVID)

birthright for Mom's trip to Israel. We will be partnering with Momentum Unlimited (<https://momentumunlimited.org/>) for this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Did you ever dream of going on a highly subsidized trip to Israel as an adult and bonding with new and old friends? When was the last time you gave yourself the gift of having time to get in touch with yourself while at the same time meeting Jewish women from all over the world? This trip will deepen your appreciation and pride for our homeland, our heritage, and shared Jewish experiences, which you will be able to bring back to Charlotte and share with your family and community.

Want to hear more? Please join us on Feb. 1 for our "A Night in Israel" event, which will bring together women who took part in these incredible trips since 2012 along with potential candidates for this year's fall trip and other future trips. Even if the dates don't work for you this year, please join us and plant a seed of possibility for a future trip for yourself. Please visit <https://charlottewomenofwisdom.com/momentum-israel-trip/> or send an email to WOW@charlottetorah-center.com for location and other details about this event or additional questions about the trip.

center.com for location and other details about this event or additional questions about the trip.

Corks and Purim? On March 13 at 7 p.m., the talented artist Fran will lead us in a creative, fun evening using corks to create cork trivets, coasters, bulletin boards, and table runners in honor of Purim 5782. Save the corks! If you do not have enough corks, we have corks for you. Join us for some Purim celebration and cork crafting.

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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Welcoming Lake Norman Hadassah Jewish Film and Book Lovers

Byline: Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

We have big Hadassah news! On Jan. 1, the Charlotte and Lake Norman Hadassah chapters merged to form the new Charlotte Metro Chapter. We are excited to learn, laugh, and work together while raising funds for the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel and other Hadassah causes. We extend a warm welcome to our Lake Norman Hadassah sisters!

Jewish Film Festival

Love movies but tired of Netflix? Join us at the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival on Sunday, Feb. 6 as Hadassah sponsors “Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin.” The film will be shown virtually at 7 p.m. For ticket and virtual screening information, see www.culturalartsljcc.eventive.org.

Directed by Jonathan Gruber, this documentary tells the incredible life story of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. A proud, yet scarred, leader haunted by the Holocaust and decades of war, Begin struggled to balance history and heroism to make peace with his greatest

enemy and cement a legacy long misunderstood. With evocative imagery, rarely seen archival materials, and revealing interviews, we get a closer look at this brilliant, tough, complex, loving, and proud man who never compromised when the survival of Israel and the Jewish people were at stake.

Membership Event

Want to know more about Hadassah, enjoy some wine, and meet fabulous women? Join us for a membership event at Vintner Wine Market on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. Check hadasahcltevents.org for details and COVID update or contact membership co-VPs Lori at lptrap@aol.com or Merrill at red2467@earthlink.net.

Purim Bingo

On Sunday, March 6, join us for virtual Purim Bingo on Zoom. This was so much fun last year that we’re bringing it back by popular request! For additional information and to sign up for the event, please go to hadasahcltevents.org.

Jewish Community Directory

Thank you for supporting Hadassah’s 2022/5782 Charlotte Metro 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, as 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, sign up at hadasahcltevents.org. If your personal information has changed since your original submission and you have access to the app, please log in and update your information. If you do not have access to the app, use the update form on our website. You can subscribe to the app at any time for only \$18.

Love to Read?

Now we have three opportunities for you to discuss books or short stories with other Hadassah readers:

Hadassah’s BookTalk 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, Feb. 22. We will discuss “Home in a Hundred Places” by Sarah Dayan Mueller. The book for our March 22 meeting is “The Song of the Jade Lily” by Kirsten Manning. For more information and the Zoom

link, email Karen at kfuttersak@gmail.com or Aileen at mom3ai-leen@msn.com.

Lake Norman also has a book club that we are adding to our Hadassah calendar. The meetings are on the second Friday of the month at 1:30 via Zoom. The next meeting is Friday, Feb. 11 to discuss “People Love Dead Jews” by Dara Horn. RSVP at www.jewishcounciloflakenorman.org/book-club or email Beverly at h204choc@gmail.com.

The Short Stories Discussion Group reads stories from different authors, cultures, and periods. The next meeting is Friday, Feb. 18 via Zoom. Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 11:45 a.m. Future meetings are March 18, May 20, and June 17. If you plan to attend, email Amalia at amalaima@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 levyollie@aol.com.

Hadassah Sunshine Committee

Every month, Elissa Vining and her “Hadassah Preppies” prepare about 120 meals for Jewish Family Services. In December, they even included handwritten holiday cards with each meal. If you don’t cook, you can always donate supplies or grocery store gift certificates. Email svining@aol.com for more information.

The next Hadassah Charlotte Metro Board meeting is Monday, February 21 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All members are invited. Contact Nina at nachenbaum@gmail.com for the link.

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

Social and Emotional Learning Is a Priority at CJDS

By Gale Osborne

As adults, we often struggle to control our thoughts, actions, and emotions. Imagine how our children are feeling. Navigating school routines and responsibilities, friendships, and the added stresses of COVID all create challenges for our students. At Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS), we believe that education extends beyond academic basics. We understand it is our job to give our students social and emotional skills that carry beyond the classroom and allow them to be successful in all areas of their life.

This year, CJDS has a dedicated teacher and space for social and emotional learning (SEL). Ms. Jadyn, our former K and



first-grade teacher, will provide a safe, nurturing school environment where students can learn about themselves and others. It will be a place where students can gain skills in working toward their unique goals, understand and manage their emotions, and learn how to nurture positive relationships by making informed choices and feeling and exhibiting empathy.

Ms. Jadyn will use a K-8 SEL curriculum called Fly Five developed on the belief that for

students to be academically, socially, and behaviorally successful in, out of, and beyond school, they need to learn a set of social and emotional skills. Fly Five focuses on five core traits: cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control (C.A.R.E.S). The curriculum also includes a mindfulness component.

Ms. Jadyn will work with each class once a week. The students will participate in group discussions, partner work, and self-reflection. She will meet with students in smaller groups to help resolve conflicts and one-on-one with individual students to address specific challenges or issues.

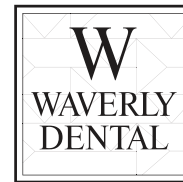
The SEL classroom is an oasis of calm, complete with soft lights and quiet music. When the lights are off, the students can even gaze at stars. The walls are covered with pictures, words, and phrases to focus the students on recognizing differ-

ent emotions and their responses. Social and emotional learning is one of the many gifts of a CJDS education. To see the classroom,

visit the CJDS Facebook page or the YouTube channel for a short video.



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- Matt, Kindergarten

CJDS's investment in its teachers and faculty, and the endless attention to the individual student results in exceptional academic success.

- Carolyn, Kindergarten and 4th

All aspects of Judaism were woven into the fabric of their everyday education; the girls did not even notice that they were building character while learning about science, social studies and music.

- Jill and Michael, 3rd and 5th

I have experienced a true partnership with CJDS teachers, administrators and staff built on mutual respect and love for my children - this partnership has been a gift.

- Heather, 2nd, 5th and 7th

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Education and Youth

Stereotypes That Non-Jews Believe



By Lillie Auslander

Many people in our society do not want to learn about people who are different from them. One of those groups are Jews. Being Jewish is cool, but there are many things people don't think about; they often assume, which leads to stereotypes and falsehoods. Here are some of the stereotypes I have heard expressed:

Appearances: Jews have big noses, dark curly hair, and dark eyes and are short and pale. Stereotypically, we can't have blond hair, blue eyes, or dark skin. A lot of stereotypes

are based on appearance, and these are all false. A great majority of these stereotypes come from what Hitler used to describe as a perfect person. I am participating in Hebrew High's Rosh Chodesh program, and we recently discussed that no definition of a perfect person exists. We are all different in our own ways. Those are some typical European traits, but not everyone has them. There are so many Jews who have different colored eyes, not just brown. We all have different hairstyles and color or texture of hair other than dark brown or curly and have different nose shapes, and that's okay. We are all different.

Another common stereotype people think or ask about is if we can speak perfect Hebrew or ask, "Do you speak Jewish?" For one, being Jewish is a way to describe being a part of a religion; it is not a language. I wish I could speak perfect Hebrew, but just as with any other language, speaking Hebrew takes a lot of practice. It's not something that just happens.

Yes, it is the language that a lot of traditional things are written in, but that doesn't mean we are going to be able to speak it right away. When I say "no" to this question, people often seem very confused, so I try to compare it to the language that they speak or what they are trying to learn. Then people start to understand we don't speak perfect Hebrew.

What a sad era when it is easier to smash an atom than a prejudice.
Albert Einstein

Another stereotype is that we are all from Israel or have a parent from Israel. Not all Jews are born in Israel. There are Jews all over the world, which leads to another common assumption that there is only one way to be Jewish. In fact, there are many. Over the past few months, I learned about many of them in my Hebrew High class "The Many Faces of Israel." There are many ways to practice Judaism. Most

people only think of Orthodox and Reform Judaism or just Judaism in general, but there are so many more types of Jews, such as the Ashkenazi Jews, Yemeni Jews, even Crypto Jews. There are so many forms of Judaism all around the world.

A stereotype that I've experienced is that Jewish teens are told that they should not be friends with non-Jews. In my opinion, that is wrong. People should be friends with others we are different from. That is how we grow and learn. If we don't, there would be no change in the world. We would all just stay in our own groups. No one would see each other or be exposed to differences. We learn from others, and more specifically others that are different.

Finally, a common stereotype is that all Jews are very smart. We are expected to go into jobs that are meant for "smart people." We get asked, "Are you going to be a doctor or lawyer?" Jobs like those are great but are not for everyone and we should not be pres-

sured into doing things we do not enjoy.

To sum things up, there are a lot of stereotypes that are not true. Especially now when we are growing up with technology, teens have access to more and more false information. On social media, on television, in magazines and books, people are exposed to so many things that are false perceptions of reality. We need to do a better job at educating our peers and spreading Jewish pride.

My name is Lillie Auslander, and I am an eighth grader at Cuthbertson Middle School. A few interesting things about me are that I am in the Cuthbertson band and I play percussion, I am a catcher for softball, and my favorite color is purple.



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Education and Youth

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Thanks to Friendship Circle's many partners and supporters, construction on the 6,000-square-foot Friendship Circle Inclusive Fun Zone has entered the final phase. Our new center, the first of its kind in the area, is designed with our special friends in mind, ready to offer recreational, therapeutic, and fun social and educational opportunities for children, teens, and young adults with special

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To schedule a tour, email bentzion@friendshipcirclesnc.org

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



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The New Florida? Record Number of U.S. Retirees Relocate to Israel in 2021

By Larry Luxner, January 18

TEL AVIV — A few weeks ago, Joel Tenenbaum, 81, and Marilyn Berkowitz, 84, arrived in Tel Aviv on an El Al flight from New York ready to start their new lives in Israel.

They had met through JDate five years earlier. Each was widowed; Tenenbaum had been married for 47 years, Berkowitz, known as Lyn, for 49.

A retired New York trial lawyer raised in Brooklyn, Tenenbaum always had felt an affinity for Israel — fueled since childhood by Hebrew school and the movie “Exodus.” Berkowitz, a former university dean’s assistant in New Jersey, had been a frequent visitor to Israel ever since her son moved here in 1991.

Both are longtime volunteers for the Israeli nonprofit organization Sar-El. They now share a rental apartment in Tel Aviv’s trendy Florentin neighborhood, close to the ulpan where they will soon enroll in an intensive Hebrew language program.

“A lot of our contemporaries have gone to Florida,” Berkowitz said. “But I think they should become sandbirds, not snowbirds.”

In fact, more and more older American Jews are opting to spend their golden years in the Jewish state.

Of the 4,478 new immigrants who arrived in Israel from North America last year, 762 — just over 17% of the total — were 55 or older. That’s up nearly 23% from the 580 who came in 2020, according to Nefesh B’Nefesh, the nonprofit agency that coordinates the aliyah process for U.S. and Canadian citizens.

“Israel is becoming a more attractive place, specifically for people at the age of retirement,” said Marc Rosenberg, vice president of Diaspora partnerships at Nefesh B’Nefesh. “With increasing technology, cellphones and internet use, Israel is much more international now, especially with apps that allow people to get around, navigate and do their banking online.”

The pandemic, Rosenberg said, has prompted people of all ages to recalibrate what’s important to them.

“The pandemic really shifted how many people connect and stay close to family without being in close physical proximity,” said Rosenberg, whose organization works in partnership with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael and the Jewish National Fund-USA. “And they know the healthcare system in Israel is excellent. Is-

rael handled the pandemic pretty well, and that’s been a significant factor.”

The pandemic was a big factor in the aliyah decision of New York natives Howard and Mina Millendorf, who moved to Israel last July. The couple in their 70s settled in Jerusalem’s Katamon district, moving into the same building where their daughter, Sharon, lives with her husband, Shlomo, and their three sons.

“I think the pandemic kind of pushed us into making a decision,” said Mina, a retired elementary schoolteacher who had lived in the Bronx neighborhood of Riverdale since she and Howard were married 41 years ago. “Normally, we’d come to Israel several times a year and rent an apartment here. But with COVID, we were missing all the birthdays and anniversaries. It was not easy for us.”

Six months after their arrival, Howard lists his main goals as “finding ways to do good, playing daily with our grandsons, cultivating new friends, restaurants and wines, and enjoying Mina’s special cooking and baking with family.”

But he also aims to give back to Israel through his work with the telecom company IDT and the Howard Jonas Foundation. Proj-



Joel Tenenbaum, 81, and Marilyn Berkowitz, 84, enjoy the beach just north of Tel Aviv. (Courtesy)

ects include the construction of a new cancer center at Jerusalem’s Shaare Zedek Medical Center as well as initiatives for severely disabled youngsters, autistic and hearing-impaired children, and people with terminal illnesses. In addition, Howard is involved in a long-term networking program, choosing his 27,000 LinkedIn connections to open doors and help secure job opportunities in Israel and elsewhere.

Yossie and Joanie Ziff of Los Angeles arrived in Israel as new immigrants on Dec. 27, 2021. Both retired elementary school teachers, Yossie, 71, and Joanie, 67, had lived in Venice Beach in California for years, and then the heavily Jewish L.A. neigh-

borhood of Pico-Robertson, but they decided recently it was time to make the move to Israel.

“The situation in America really made us feel we wanted to come to Israel and be with the Jewish people,” Joanie said.

Between the two of them, they have five children and 15 grandchildren.

The couple already has bought an apartment in Modiin, which is a 25-minute drive from the beach at Rishon Le’Zion, where Yossie likes to surf.

“We’ll probably go back and forth to America, but this will be our primary home,” Joanie said. “Modiin has such a beautiful Anglo community here. When we got here, there was a sign on our door from our neighbors welcoming us. We’ve been smothered by love wherever we go.”

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with Nefesh B’Nefesh, which in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah, The Jewish Agency, KKL and JNF-USA is minimizing the professional, logistical and social obstacles of aliyah, and has brought over 65,000 olim from North America and the United Kingdom for nearly two decades. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team.

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Jewish Museums Team Up To Create New Tool for Researching Holocaust Victims

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

January 11, 2022 (New York Jewish Week via JTA) — In a boon for scholars and amateur researchers, records from Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust authority, are now publicly available through JewishGen, the largest online Jewish genealogy resource of its kind.

The agreement announced Tuesday by Yad Vashem and New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage/A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, an affiliate of JewishGen, provides easy access to millions of names commemorated in Yad Vashem's database.

"Pages of Testimony," documents collected by Yad Vashem since the 1950s, include the names, biographical details and, when possible, photographs of some 2,700,000 men, women and children killed in the Holocaust. Yad Vashem's Names Database commemorates over 4,800,000 Jewish victims in total. Researchers will now be able to retrieve these records through a direct search within JewishGen.

"Yad Vashem's Pages of Testimony might contain the only information about someone who was murdered in the Shoah, yet researchers might not know to look on their website," JewishGen Executive Director Avraham Groll told the New York Jewish Week. Under the new agreement, the Yad Vashem search results will automatically appear within JewishGen.

In 2020, JewishGen announced a similar partnership with the USC Shoah Foundation, integrating data from nearly 50,000 Jewish Holocaust survivor testimonies.

"By making available these precious records via JewishGen, the broader Jewish community can more easily research names of family and friends who were murdered during the Holocaust," said Museum of Jewish Heritage President and CEO Jack Kliger.

While the material may help individuals identify missing relatives or restore a truncated family tree, Yad Vashem is also hoping researchers will help fill in the gaps in its own records.

"More than one million Holocaust victims have yet to be memorialized at Yad Vashem," said Alexander Avram, director of Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, in a statement. "By widening



The Hall of Names at the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem. (David Shankbone/Wikimedia Commons)

the exposure of our endeavor through JewishGen, the genealogical community will be able to play an important role in helping us add a large number of Pages of Testimony in the years to come."

The records can be accessed via the JewishGen Holocaust database.

Why are Universities Becoming Hotbeds of Antisemitism?

A Conversation with Scott Shay,
Author of "Conspiracy U"

Feb 10, 2022, 7pm
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A Musician's Project Sheds New Light on Artistic Life in the Terezín Concentration Camp

Jonah Goldman Kay, January 13, 2022 (JTA)

Over the past several decades, the Terezín concentration camp has come to be synonymous with the music of the Holocaust because of the number of performers who were imprisoned there.

Now, in the latest production associated with a foundation devoted to preserving the camp's legacy, a new book reveals how one prominent musician thought about music at the camp at the time, offering fresh insights about the complicated nature of life in Terezín.

Austrian composer Viktor Ullmann came from a Jewish family and studied under the storied Jewish composer Arnold Schoenberg, who fled the Nazis in 1933. The Nazis deported him to Terezín, known as Theresienstadt under their rule, in 1942.

While incarcerated there, Ullmann wrote a series of essays on musical life, painting a portrait of a vibrant artistic scene in the depths of an oppressive ghetto and offering his views on the works composed at the camp. In 1944, after producing a camp opera satirizing Hitler, Ullmann was murdered at Auschwitz, where tens of thousands of his fellow Terezín prisoners died.

Ullmann's perspective is preserved in "Our Will to Live," a new compilation of his critiques edited by Mark Ludwig, a former violinist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and professor of Holocaust Music at



Detail from "Entertainment," a drawing of the Terezín concentration camp by Bedřich Fritta, from 1943. Collection of Thomas Fritta Haas. ("Our Will to Live" by Mark Ludwig, published by Steidl)

Boston College. It was released by the high-end German art book publisher Steidl on Tuesday.

"Ullmann is like our Virgil, taking us back into Terezín by virtue of his critiques," Ludwig told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Life in Terezín was as brutal as any other concentration camp. Food was scarce, overcrowding was rampant, and disease spread rapidly. Out of the 141,000 prisoners in Terezín, 90,000 were sent to Treblinka and Auschwitz where they were murdered.

But Terezín was also a major part of the Nazis' propaganda machine and they went to great lengths to make the camp appear luxurious. "Theresien-spa," as the camp was informally called, appeared frequently in propa-

ganda films and was the location of choice when international delegations came to inspect the camps.

To aid that propaganda effort, the Nazis ensured that the Reich's wealthiest and most famous Jews ended up in Terezín. At different points, its prisoners included Leo Baeck, the Berlin rabbi who would go on to lead the Reform movement; Dutch-Jewish artist Joseph Spier; and Alfred Flatow, the Jewish gymnast who represented Germany in the first Olympic Games.

Among the camp's prisoners were dozens of musicians and composers from across Europe. Using instruments smuggled into the camp, they formed choirs, cabarets, and other musical groups, who then performed for their fellow prisoners — and, at opportune moments for their Nazi captors, for guests like the Red Cross.

To Ullmann, the austere conditions in Terezín were not barriers to production but an opportunity to focus on producing art. By imprisoning some of Europe's finest artists and musicians together in the same camp, the Nazis had unknowingly created a conservatory of sorts, a "true school for masters" as Ullmann called it.

"I would only like to emphasize that my musical work was fostered and not inhibited by Theresienstadt," he wrote.

"Our Will to Live" is the culmination of more than three decades of work by Ludwig's Terezín Music Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of Terezín's musicians. Since the 1990s, the Terezín Music Foundation has

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(Continued on page 31)

Looking Back

Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following is from February, 2012 To read the whole issue or other issues of CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

Partnership Program Sends Firefighters to Israel Delegation Meets with Safety Officials, Tours the Country

By Marissa Brooks

It's a "rare opportunity" to go to Israel, said Fire Chief Jon Hannan. For nine days in early November, Hannan, Deputy Chief Rob Kinniburgh and Capt.

Jerry Rodgers represented the Charlotte Fire Department on a professional delegation to Israel. Corey Riddley, director of safety and security for the

Foundation of Shalom Park, accompanied the three firefighters. They were joined by six firefighters from Florida and three firefighters from Tennessee.

"This professional delegation occurred through a joint initiative between the Jewish Federations of North America and the Jewish Agency for Israel called Partnership 2Gether or P2G," said Raela Levine, Director of Community

Relations and Israel Affairs, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

"P2G pairs global Jewish communities with Israeli communities building living bridges through people-to-people connections, sharing of ideas and personal and professional collaborations," said Levine, 26.

This cross-cultural exchange has happened with other disciplines, such as educators and police officers.

This time, P2G sent a delegation from the Charlotte Fire Department.

This was Hannan, Kinniburgh, and Rodgers' first trip to Israel.

Hannan, 55, was looking forward to meeting the Israeli firefighters, especially the ones from Hadera who had visited Charlotte last March for technical rescue training. Hannan also wanted to visit historic holy sites like Jerusalem and Masada.

Rodgers, 46, said that his wife was worried about him going, but then she realized it was no more dangerous than his rescue work.

Going to Israel "was incredible, one of the things on the bucket list," said Rodgers.

The delegation spent the first few days in Israel bonding with the firefighters in Hadera, visiting their station

and seeing how they operated.

"The (Israeli) fire service is small with a huge volunteer base," said Kinniburgh, 50. "They have 1,700 employees and 12,000 volunteers." Hannan and Kinniburgh explained that in Charlotte the minimum staffing for 730,000 people is 255 firefighters on duty. In Jerusalem, the minimum staffing for 780,000 people is 40. "Those guys work hard. You can tell," said Kinniburgh.

Hannan explained that in some rural areas, there were fewer resources to fight fire.

The Charlotteans noticed signs on fire trucks that read that they were sponsored by Jewish Federations or individuals from the United States.

"They benefit from generosity of the global Jewish community," said Levine.

The delegation visited Mount Carmel, the site of a huge fire in 2010 that had a large loss of life. "I believe the Carmel Forest fire woke Israel up to recommitting to firefighting," said Hannan.

Next, the men traveled on the Sea of Galilee and to Jerusalem where they met with the Jerusalem fire department, the police department, the bomb squad and the video surveillance unit.

Hannan noted differences between building construction in Israel and in the U.S. "It's stone or masonry...almost no wood," said Hannan. "Their construction has to withstand blasts."

In the evening, eight of the 13 men went on a self-led tour through Jerusalem. As firefighters, they are used to going into all different kinds of neighborhoods.

"We are aware but not really scared of anything," said Kinniburgh.

"Israel is a complicated place," said Hannan.

They were briefed to expect cultural differences. Rodgers said they were "received and welcomed so pleasantly" everywhere they went, Jewish and Arab areas alike.

I felt safer there than in a lot of American cities," said Hannan.

The delegation also went to the Holocaust museum, the Dead Sea, Masada, and

Tel Aviv to visit the National Firefighting and Rescuing School.

Visiting Israel helps people understand the dynamics.

"Everyone around you hates you," said Kinniburgh. "The Sea of Galilee feeds four countries. You have to make agreements with enemies to get fresh water."

Hannan would love to train Israeli and Palestinian firefighters together. "They absolutely should support each other as things get better," he said.

Hannan hopes to continue long-term relationships with exchanges and technical rescue trainings.

"Southern hospitality is what we do well," said Kinniburgh.

From the P2G's perspective, the trip was a success.

These exchanges "humanize one's relationship with Israel," said Sue Worrel, Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. "They are real people, and we have more in common with them than different."

Marissa Brooks is a freelance writer for South Charlotte News who lives in the Arboretum area. Reprinted with permission of South Charlotte News, a Charlotte Observer publication, January 2012.



From left, Deputy Chief Rob Kinniburgh, Corey Riddley, Capt. Jerry Rodgers, and Fire Chief Jon Hannan, of the Charlotte Fire Department, visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Photo courtesy Corey Riddley.

Terezín

(Continued from page 30)

researched the works of these musicians and commissioned new performances of works by Ullmann and other Jewish prisoners at Terezín, including Pavel Haas and Hans Krása.

In 2013, the Terezín Music Foundation organized a concert at Boston's Symphony Hall featuring George Horner, a Holocaust survivor who played piano in the Terezín cabarets, and famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma. A few years later, the foundation organized a performance of works by Terezín artists during the Prague Spring Festival.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc-aMADGxqU>

"For a number of these pieces we're putting down the first recorded interpretation of the work," Ludwig said. "That's exciting, but it comes with its own sort of responsibilities."

One of those responsibilities, Ludwig said, is ensuring that the audience understands the conditions of the work's production. For "Our Will to Live," Ludwig worked with German artists who were alive in the middle of the 20th century to understand the people and events Ullmann references in his critiques. These insights are documented in extensive footnotes at the end of each critique.

Ludwig is not alone in his interest in the artists of Terezín. A host of other classical musicians including Japanese pianist Izumi Shimura and Italian pianist Francesco Lotoro have found themselves drawn to the music of the camp. In 2013, conductor John Axelrod revived one of Ullmann's operas with the Kammerphilharmonie Berlin.

Where the Terezín Music Foundation stands apart is in its interdisciplinary approach, which is an attempt to evoke the atmosphere in the camps.

"At Terezín, the art and music were really intertwined," says Jim Schantz, a painter who has worked with the foundation on several performances.

Commissioning visual artists to work with musicians on these performances brings out the original spirit of these works, Schantz added. One performance of a string quartet by composer Hans Krása featured Schantz in the background, painting in response to the music.

Similarly, for "Our Will to Live," Ludwig paired Ullmann's critiques with posters from the Heřman Collection, a collection of more than 500 items documenting cultural life in Terezín. A prisoner named Karel Heřman hid the documents in the walls of the camp's barracks, recovering them after he was liberated from Auschwitz in 1945. The items in the collection range from sketches of Ullmann and his friends to posters for concerts in the camp and sheet music for the original compositions.

In recent years, the foundation has also commissioned more than 40 new works that build on the work of Terezín artists or are inspired by the same principles that guided these artists. It has also helped provide resources for musicians in war-torn communities in Syria and Bosnia.

By working on contemporary projects that preserve the spirit of perseverance and dedication to creating music under the most difficult conditions that animated musicians like Viktor Ullmann, Ludwig said he hopes to keep the memories of the Terezín artists alive.

"Perhaps that's the ultimate homage to them," he said. "Helping to uplift new voices of today and tomorrow."

(Puzzle on page 13)

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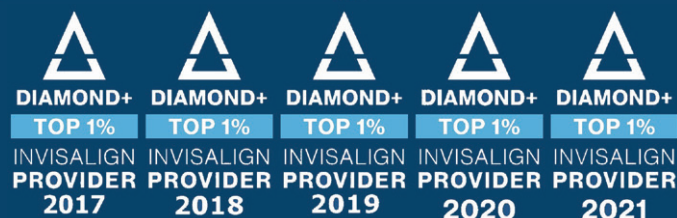
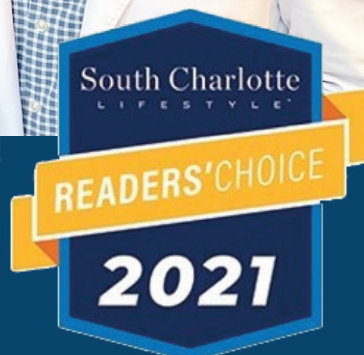
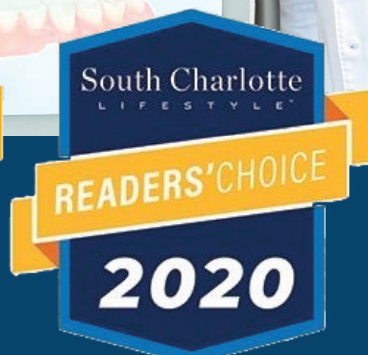
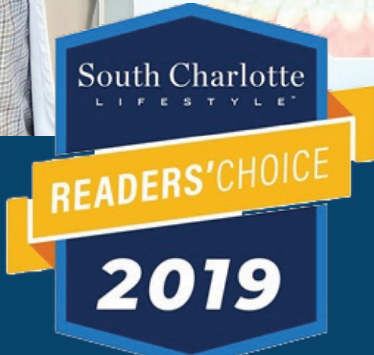
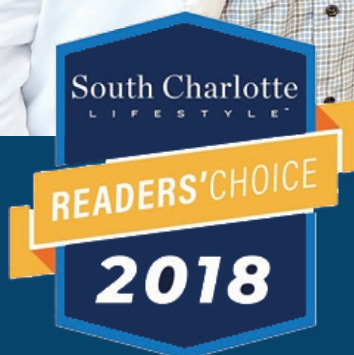
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