

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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Cheshvan-Kislev, 5783

November 2022

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Exceeds \$5 Million Annual Campaign Goal

Amid a spike in antisemitism and ongoing challenges, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte (JFGC) has exceeded a milestone of \$5 million in funds raised to meet the pressing needs of the Jewish community in Charlotte. The generous support of the Charlotte Jewish community allows Federation to enrich Jewish life in the greater Charlotte region and around the world through allocations to more than 70 local and global organizations that work to consistently support and provide for community needs.

"We are deeply thankful to our close to 1,600 donors who have generously given to our annual campaign and who continue to contribute to building a thriving Jewish community in greater Charlotte," said JFGC chief development and marketing officer, Sam Bernstein. "These funds are essential in rallying our community against the rise in antisemitism and in supporting the safety-net organizations that keep our community moving forward. Federation plays a critical role in maintaining vibrant Jewish life and we are looking forward to the impact this campaign will make."

The 2022 Annual Campaign, which was led by campaign chair, Sara Kulbersh, will support the Charlotte Jewish community in the following ways:



Sue Worrel, Sara Kulbersh, Risa Miller, Jake House, and Sam Bernstein

- Supporting JFGC's more than 70 beneficiary agencies that engage Jewish youth, support Jews in need, build Jewish identity, and promote Jewish education

- Meeting the needs of Jews in Israel and around the world

- Funding JFGC's newest initiative, Outshine Hate: Together Against Antisemitism, to combat antisemitism and anti-Israel hatred and educate the wider Charlotte community

JFGC is proud to work with many visionary individuals and families who have helped to build Charlotte's strong Jewish community through their generous support of the Annual Campaign.

JFGC is especially thankful for the support of The Leon Levine Foundation. Their \$950,000 gift is the largest in the partnership's history. "Enhancing vibrant Jewish communities is a core part of The Leon Levine Foundation's mission, and few do that better than Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte," said

Tom Lawrence, president of The Leon Levine Foundation. "Their work as a convener and collaborator is critical, and their fundraising prowess continues to benefit the entire Charlotte Jewish community. Reaching this significant milestone is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Federation's team and the generosity of the Charlotte Jewish community." The Leon Levine Foundation supports programs and organizations that improve the human condition through investments in education, healthcare, human services, and Jewish values. They have been a vital partner of Federation for many decades.

"Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is committed to fulfilling its mission as a community builder and convener for the Jewish community in our region and around the world," said Sue Worrel, JFGC CEO. "Our \$5 million annual campaign is an incredible investment in Jewish life here on behalf of our donors. We could not have reached this

milestone without the hard work of our staff and the benevolence of our supporters."

To learn more about Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's local and global impact, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org. To make a gift, contact chief development and marketing officer, Sam Bernstein, at sam.bernstein@jewishcharlotte.org.

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



A New Chapter for the Charlotte Jewish Archives

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's (JFGC) Center for Jewish Education (CJE) is pleased to announce that the archives of the Charlotte Jewish community, housed at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library since 2005, are now part of the archival collection at UNC Charlotte's J. Murrey Atkins Library.

The creation of the archives started in 1983 when Richard Klein proposed to JFGC the compilation of Jewish archives to collect and preserve the city's Jewish history. Curated by members of what was then the Charlotte Jewish Historical Society, the archives included photographs, artifacts, oral histories, and other items that reflected the Jewish community in Charlotte. Now, these archives are entering a new chapter, with dedicated teams who are passionate about serving the present Charlotte



Special Collections and University Archives at J. Murrey Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte

Jewish community by preserving the past.

A new partnership with UNC Charlotte will allow these materials to be more accessible and available to Charlotte residents through the Special Collections and University Archives Department at the J. Murrey

Atkins Library. The collection will be available to students, researchers, and general community members seeking more information on the history of the Jewish community in Charlotte.

(Continued on page 2)

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From the Editor

Hakarat Hatov: Noticing the Good



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

of synthesis,' the idea that Judaism and Americanism reinforce one another." So here we are, about to celebrate yet another holiday. (It's a busy time of year, having just concluded more than a month of significant Jewish holidays.)

The name of this particular holiday suggests that we are called on this day to *do* something, namely to give thanks. In Judaism, we don't wait for a special day on the calendar to offer thanks. Judaism teaches that even before getting out of bed in the morning we are to offer our thanks – Modeh anee lefanecha melech chai vekayam, she-he-chezarta bee nishmatee b'chemla, raba emunatecha. I offer thanks to You, living and eternal God, for You have mercifully restored my soul within me; Your faithfulness is great.

However, there is a state of being, an awareness, that precedes the act of giving thanks – and that awareness is known as *gratitude*.

Though gratitude and thankfulness are often used interchangeably, the Hebrew, hakarat hatov hints at a distinction between the two that appeals to me. Hakarat hatov, often loosely



View of Blue Ridge Mountains from our deck. Photo credit William Ballantyne

translated as "gratitude," literally means "noticing the good." We might focus on the part of that phrase that emphasizes that which we are to recognize — *the good*. As a habitual worrier, I know my instinct is to first notice what I don't have or what I fear I will lose. I wish I could say it is either in my nature or that I've developed the practice to first notice the good. It's not, but it's something I aspire to.

But when I consider the phrase hakarat hatov, I am drawn to the word *notice*. Noticing, or recognizing, reminds me that the good for which I'm thankful already is — with or without my awareness, with or without my attention.

My friends and I rented a cabin in the mountains this past weekend. It was remote and we

had to carpool in the vehicles that could handle the rocky, steep terrain to get there. We were rewarded with a breathtaking view of the Blue Ridge Mountains from our deck and the absence of any man-made sounds. After a busy summer drowning in noise pollution, this is what I most looked forward to.

Each morning I took my coffee to the deck and sat in the quiet and watched the moon set and each evening I drank my tea to the setting sun. I familiarized myself with the shapes on the horizon and with the tallest, oldest tree closest to where I sat. Each time I sat on the deck, the shapes on the horizon were the same. The tree, which had been there since before I was born, was still where I had last left it just hours before. I became

aware that those mountains and that tree did not set themselves up for my pleasure prior to my arrival. They were already there. They were there when I was back home, unaware of them, caught up in my own fears, anxieties, and dramas. Even as I sit here now on my computer, again hearing the cars outside my window instead of the wind through the leaves — that mountain ridge and that tree are doing what they did when I left them. Shifting my attention to other things did nothing to alter their presence.

It reminds me of what the Haida Indian said to me as he taught me woodcarving, and what has been said of sculptors and poets across the ages. Art, like gratitude, is often not about creating something, but removing that which isn't the thing itself. So it is for me with hakarat hatov. It is in the chipping away at the thoughts, beliefs, and habits that distract me that I can begin to recognize the good that was already there underneath.

Not surprisingly, November is National Gratitude Month. So as I enter into this month, I'll try yet again to do what I so often fall short of. *Pausing*. *Pausing to notice*. Because when I pause to notice, the good can't help but reveal itself to me, because it has already been there all along.

Shira

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

November 4 — 6:08 p.m.
November 11 — 5:02 p.m.
November 18 — 4:58 p.m.
November 25 — 4:55 p.m.

Archives

(Continued from front page)

"We are excited that the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library is able to collaborate with UNC Charlotte to allow more people access to the Charlotte Jewish Archives and ensure the contents are maintained in the best possible condition," said Tair Giudice, chief impact officer at JFGC. "The professional staff, facilities, and expertise at the university will help make the archives an even more valuable resource for our community and the generations to come."

As of now, the collection has over 1,870 items cataloged, including more than 1,000 photos, as well as oral histories, Haddassah directories, yearbooks, scrapbooks, and historical interviews. The university will continue to catalog all the items in the collection, taking care to ensure their appropriate preservation and storage.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library to preserve these valuable materials documenting the Jewish community in Charlotte," said Dawn Schmitz, associate dean for Special Collections and University Archives. "These artifacts contribute immensely to our shared understanding of the history of so many of the individ-



J. Murrey Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte

uals, families, and organizations that have shaped our city. They will take their place among our long-established collections of notable Charlotteans and influential organizations."

In addition to being physically accessible through the J. Murrey Atkins Library, some items in the collection will also be available digitally on the Atkins Library website.

"Our existing collections related to the Charlotte Jewish community include the papers of Harry Golden, the Blumenthal family, Mark Bernstein, and Morris Speizman," added Schmitz. "Our oral history collections include interviews with prominent Jewish Charlotteans, which are a testament to the

long-standing relationship between the Levine-Sklut Library and Atkins Library."

Materials are available for use by the public in the Dalton Reading Room on the 10th floor of the Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte. The library asks that researchers make appointments in advance to ensure the best service while the library continues to add materials to the catalogs.

To make an appointment or inquire about the collections, email spec-coll@unc.edu or call (704) 687-1170. For more about Special Collections at Atkins Library, please visit <https://library.charlotte.edu/archives-rare-books>.

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte - Center for Jewish Education

Sue's Bookshelf

Fall Reading

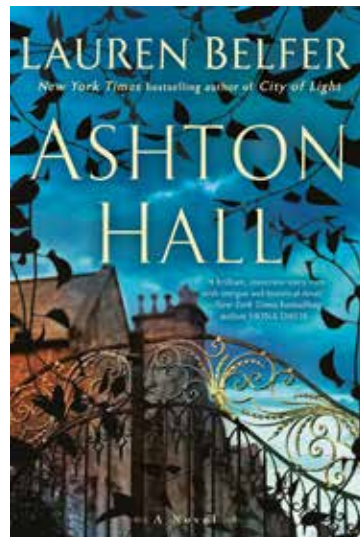


By Sue Littauer

As I'm eagerly reading the new crop of books that came out this fall, I am happy to share some thoughts on three of the books that intrigued me over the summer. The first, "Ashton Hall," is historical fiction, the second, "Sadie on a Plate," is a delicious rom/com, and the third, "Left on Tenth" is a memoir fit for the AARP generation (this isn't a slam, it's actually meant to identify its audience of which I am a part.)

"Ashton Hall," a novel from "New York Times" bestselling author Lauren Belfer, is about an American woman and her son who stumble upon the dark history of a rambling English manor house. In this interesting novel, I learned a great deal about researching the Middle Ages and applying that information as a means to uncover present day mysterious findings. But "Ashton Hall" is also a very personal story about a woman and her relationships with her family — her difficult but endearing son, problematic husband, and loving uncle, as well as the close friends she cultivates in England. It is a satisfying read by author Lauren Belfer, who received the 2016 inaugural Book Club Award from the National Jewish Book Council for "After the Fire."

"Sadie on a Plate" by Amanda Elliot is "a delicious love story and heartfelt ode to Jewish cuisine." (Rachel Lynn Solomon, national bestselling author of "The Ex Talk") When Sadie is selected to be a contestant on

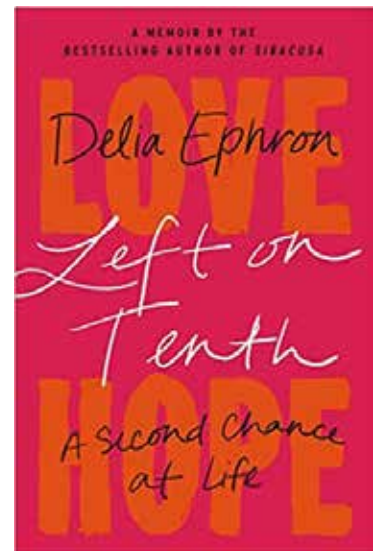


"Chef Supreme," a reality cooking show, she travels to New York to prove herself as a "top chef." Her first competition is to present "Sadie on a Plate" which gives her the opportunity to showcase her Jewish identity and her dream of opening a restaurant showcasing her beloved grandmother's old-style Ashkenazi food presented with a trendy twist. Oh, and did I forget

to mention that it is also a love story that will keep you turning the pages well into the night?

I was so eager to read "Left on Tenth," because I thought it would be both witty and entertaining. After all, the memoir was written by Delia Ephron, bestselling, beloved writer of the romantic comedy "You've Got Mail." As it turns out, it is witty but also sad and emotionally raw - memorable and uplifting at the same time. We pass through life-changing events with the author: the illness and death of her beloved husband Jerry, the memories of her famous sister Nora Ephron's illness and death, the discovery and thrill of a second chance at love, and the courage and determination to face and conquer a serious illness of her own. "Delia Ephron tells her own late-in-life love story in her 'resplendent memoir,' complete with a tragic second act and joyous resolution." (Adriana Trigiani, bestselling author of "The Good Left Undone")

What's ahead for the Center for Jewish Education Book



Club? Mark your calendar for our November and December meetings.

November 9 — "Morningside Heights" by Joshua Henkin

December 14 — "The Things We Cannot Say" by Kelly Rimmer

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

Miss Debby's Best-Loved Children's Books

The Power of Choice



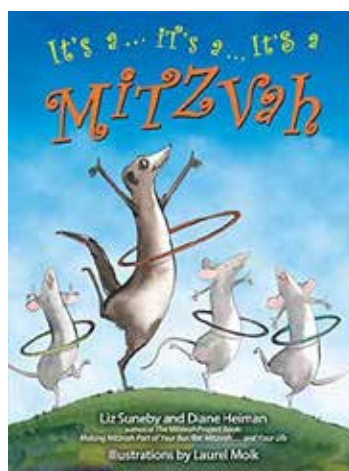
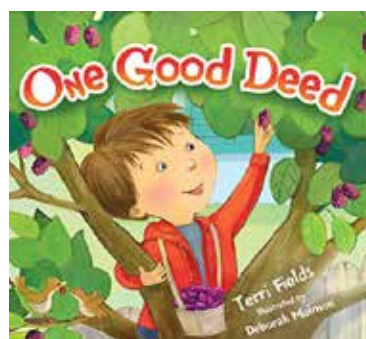
By Debby Block

Adults and children have the power to choose — to choose our reactions to the many situations we encounter daily. Sometimes we make the correct choices and sometimes we make inappropriate choices. Either way, the choices we make certainly affect our experiences in life.

I have recently discovered the children's book authors Ganit and Adir Levy, who have written a series of books about the "power of choice." This married couple, who are originally from Israel, have written "What Should Danny Do?" and "What Should Darla Do?" with the mission of teaching children that no matter what happens, they can decide how to react. The books are designed like a "choose-your-own-adventure," with the main characters making a variety of decisions and experiencing the consequences of those selections. As you read these books, your child also gets to make choices and discover the outcomes. Each

book includes at least eight interactive storylines, which illustrate behaviors such as sharing, taking turns, being kind, and respecting parents, to name just a few. The series of books, which also includes "What Should Danny Do? On Vacation?" and "What Should Danny Do? School Day," is recommended for Jewish and non-Jewish children ages 4-years old.

"Whatever is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man." According to Hillel, this is the essence of Torah, and this famous quote is the source of what is more commonly referred to as the golden rule. The adorable children's book "Do Unto Otters," written and illustrated by Laurie Keller, shows how a funny rabbit wants to be treated by his new neighbors, the otters. Mr. Rabbit soon realizes that he needs to make the right choices about how he treats his neighbors. "Do Unto Otters" has lively illustrations and provides a truly fun way to explore choices and manners. I recommend this PJ Library selection for children 3-6 years old.



The book "One Good Deed" is about paying it forward. Jake chooses to share the berries he has picked with his next-door neighbor. Jake's mitzvah (good deed) sets in motion a series of kind and helpful gestures that change the whole neighborhood. I absolutely love this book written by Terri Fields and beautifully illustrated by Deborah Melmon, and I recommend it for children 3-6 years old.

If you love baseball, you may like this book by Miriam Rinn about Jason's choice to play baseball, even against his parents' wishes. In this PJ Our Way selection, "The Saturday Secret," ace pitcher Jason decides to sneak out of the house to participate in his favorite sport. His secret plan backfires and Jason ultimately hurts his teammate's feelings and jeopardizes his relationship with his family. Though Jason's inappropriate

choices could provide great discussions between parents and children, "The Saturday Secret" is definitely a compelling read for children 9-12 years old.

Finally, for our youngest children, I thoroughly recommend the book "It's a... It's a... It's a Mitzvah," by Liz Suneby and Diane Heiman. Join a variety of adorable animals as they choose to do positive things for others. Children of all ages will enjoy

saying the refrain found on every page "It's a... it's a... it's a mitzvah!" I recommend it for children 1-5 years old, but beginning readers may also enjoy this book.

All the above books may be found in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Please come in and pick one up today! Or contact us to put your copy on reserve at library@jewishcharlotte.org or (704) 944-6783.



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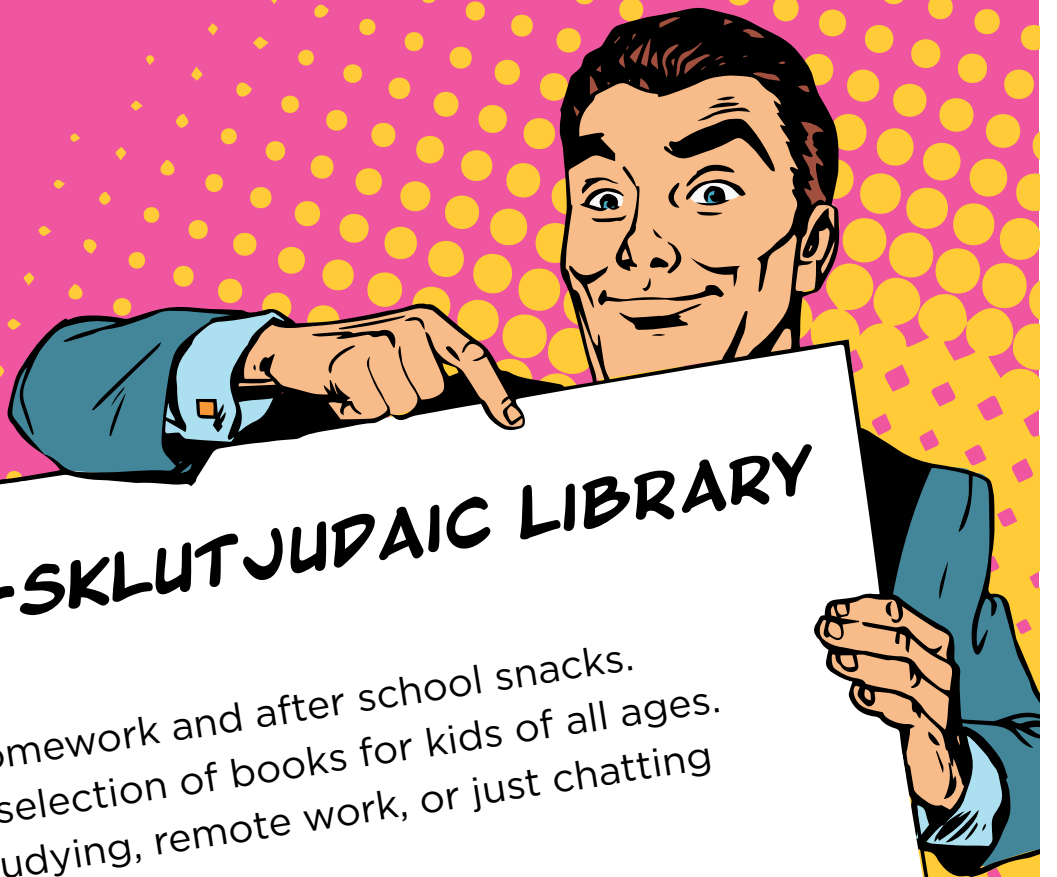
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1. Located in Shalom Park.
2. The Library is a great place for homework and after school snacks.
3. Our Children's Room has a huge selection of books for kids of all ages.
4. We have the perfect space for studying, remote work, or just chatting with friends.
5. Library cards are free, and we don't charge overdue fees!
6. We have many new bestsellers available for check out without a wait.
7. Our collection of E-books and Audiobooks is constantly updated and available 24/7.
8. Take a walk down memory by paging through our collection of historical Jewish publications.
9. Make us your one stop shop for Jewish holidays with our fun-filled activity kits.
10. Our Blumenthal Educator Resource Center is a top of the line teacher resource for schools and educators.

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Foundation of Shalom Park Security Campaign Supports Four Pillars of Action

Safeguarding Shalom Park, for today and for the future, is one of the primary responsibilities of the Foundation of Shalom Park security. Protecting and safeguarding the people who visit, worship, learn, and play at Shalom Park and the buildings that house them, rests on four pillars of action: child safety and abuse prevention, combating violent extremism and domestic terror threats, incident response and management, and community support.

Since ancient times, structural pillars have played an important role in providing a stable and long-lasting foundation. But if the pillars are not designed correctly, they will not be strong enough to support the weight placed upon them. Although each security pillar has its unique challenges, each is currently designed to be an integral part of the whole, resulting in a support system able to handle the weight of today's challenges and threats. This can change, however, if threats strengthen and community support weakens.

The following are only a few of the almost daily actions that Foundation of Shalom Park security takes to provide a strong foundation.

Child Safety and Abuse Prevention

- Manage pre-employment background checks for all Shalom Park staff and volunteers
- Train staff on child abuse procedures and prevention techniques
- Manage the Shalom Park child abuse prevention policy acknowledged by all staff and volunteers
- Oversee monthly active shooter and fire drills
- Train staff in CPR/AED/first aid procedures
- Oversee and manage daily car-pools
- Design and manage facility access

Combat Violent Extremism and Domestic Terror Threats

- Closely work with local, state, federal law enforcement agencies, and the local fire departments, along with national security groups such as Secure Community Network
- Monitor local and national threats in real time
- Train staff, volunteers, vendors, and community members on a variety of threat related incidents - active shooter/assailant, kidnapping, bomb threats
- Monitor Shalom Park entrances, exits, building interiors, and grounds for threats and incidents
- Patrol Shalom Park with Shalom Park security and CMPD officers
- Recruit and manage qualified Shalom Park security officers, off-duty CMPD officers, and special event emergency management staff



Michael Philbeck, director of safety and security, and Officer Merrill Hunter, security supervisor officer

- Develop and communicate applicable Shalom Park Security policies
- Plan, coordinate, and manage High Holy Day security and traffic activities

Incident Response and Management

- Respond to all incidents on Shalom Park. Incidents can vary in size and scope, including disabled vehicles, medical emergencies and injuries, suspicious persons, and inclement weather, to name just a few.
- Maintain incident management database
- Manage annual insurance provider programs
- Train all staff and volunteers on incident response, reporting, and de-escalation techniques
- Coordinate with local law enforcement and first responders for training and establish best practices
- Design and manage Shalom Park-wide monitoring system
- Respond 24/7 to Shalom Park alarms and bomb threats
- Design, manage, and operate Shalom Park emergency management communication systems

Community Support

The most important pillar of action is community support. Not everything is preventable, but as a community we are safer together, and we are stronger together. The actions we need the Shalom Park community to take to make its pillar strong, are the following:

- Donate to the 2023 Shalom Park Security Fund — security and safety are not expenses, they are investments in today and the future.
- Adhere to Shalom Park security policies and procedures.
- Respond to the requests and guidance of Shalom Park Security and CMPD officers.
- If you see something suspicious, say something to Shalom Park security.
- Do your part and be security smart.

Safeguarding Shalom Park's future through a strong foundation of security and safety is not

complete without our community — without you. Only you can help us continue to build strength and resiliency into our security pillars of action. Please generously donate to the 2023 Shalom Park Security Fund.

How to Donate

1. Mail a check to Foundation of Shalom Park — 5007 Providence Road, Suite 102, Charlotte, NC 28226.
2. Donate online — www.shalom-charlotte.org — Donate Online — Security Fund.
3. Use our QR Code.



The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew Cemetery Association, B'nai Brith Youth Organization, The Charlotte Jewish News.



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JFS Gives Thanks for Partner Organizations

By: Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

We kick off November with high expectations for a cozy and festive time of year, a time when the spirit of generosity and gratitude is perhaps most evident. At Jewish Family Services (JFS) we are blessed and thankful, year-round, for our partners that help us provide programs and services to meet the needs and enhance the quality of life for members in our community.

JFS has a long history of collaborating with our community partners. Whether directly referring clients to JFS services, promoting our programs and services to their constituents, or working together to offer programs to the community, it is only through our partnerships that JFS can provide more than 4,000 touches each year to members of our community.

These collaborative efforts address all aspects of our community's needs, from children to seniors. Programs such as the recent collaboration with the Teen Coalition to screen "Upstanders," a documentary on cyberbullying, help respond to teen mental health's rise. One More Thing I Wish You Knew,

a collaboration with Friendship Circle, helps reduce the stigma around accessing mental health treatment. Food drives through our schools and temples help seniors and families with food insecurity have the staples they need and a home cooked meal or two. Collaborative programming with Oasis brings cultural programs and engagement to our aging community. Activities such as JFS's Dreidel Drive, with assistance from all of our community partners, brightens Chanukah by ensuring that every family has the opportunity to light the menorah and give a gift to their children or to themselves.

But JFS doesn't only collaborate with our partners in the Jewish community. Our relationships with partners in the greater Charlotte community bring resources to the Jewish community and enable JFS to carry out the value of tikkun olam in the greater Charlotte community as well. Our partnership with Mental Health America brings evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention training to our community. JFS helps support Pineville Neighbors Place and Sterling Elementary School, a sister school

of one of our temples.

JFS's involvement in the County Child Abuse Prevention Collaborative helps to promote the safety and well-being of every child in our community and our partnership with the domestic violence service delivery system helps members of our community affected by family violence.

It is through these partnerships and collaborative efforts that JFS can meet our vision that every member of our community will have their physical, social, and emotional needs fully met.

As we embark on the holiday of giving thanks, JFS is grateful for the outpouring of support from our partner organizations and individuals that enable us to provide the programs and services the community has come to depend on.



JFS Monthly Volunteers & Donors Month of September 2022

Volunteers: Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Amy Baden, Andrew Bernstein, Suzy Catenazo, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Joni Deutsch, Sheryl Effren, Terri Fishman, Rachel Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Marty Goldfarb, Richard Goldsmith, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, Rebecca Hockfield, Oren Hubara, Tara Hubara, Dawn Hubbs, Bob Jacobson, Jodie Joseph, Michael Kaplan, Jennifer Koss, Rikki Kinitsky, Etti Krause, Elliot and Stephanie Krietman, Marcia Lampert, Adina Loewensteiner, Matt Luftglass, Gene Marx, Frada Mozenter, Beth Rose Oxman, Barbara Rein, Steven Rogelberg, Nina Rose, Marilyn Schuster, Lynne Sheffer, Janice Shubin, Cindy Siesel, Louis Sinkoe, Lorin Stiefel, Steve Teich, Amalia Warshenbrot, Nancy Wielunski, Amanda Zaidman

Special Thanks for helping to facilitate the "Taste of the Holiday" Rosh Hashanah bags for seniors:

- Baking rugelach and honey cake: Madeline Aron, Suzy Catenazzo, Jennifer Koss, Beth Rose Oxman, Beth Thrope
- Making Rosh Hashanah cards: Hebrew High, PJ Library
- Donating challah: Ron Nadal Golden Grains Bakery
- Donating apples: Charlotte Jewish Day School
- Assembling holiday bags: Lynne Sheffer and Amalia Warshenbrot
- Delivering holiday bags to seniors: Marko Alkan, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Irene Dynnikov, Marty Goldfarb, Richard Goldsmith, Jodie Joseph and Lester, Michael Kaplan, Kimberly Kaufman, Rikki Kinitsky, Jennifer Koss, Miriam Levenson, Wendy Levenson, Matt Luftglass, Beth Rose Oxman, Janice Shubin, Lauren Stark

Hadassah Meal Preppies: Sara Friedman, Karen Futersak, June Hirschmann, Yvette Jacobson, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Kim McGuire, Helene Schillian, Elissa Vining

Shalom Green: Thank you to your volunteers for harvesting fresh produce for the JFS pantry

Food pantry donations: Thank you to our generous community for continuing to donate to the food pantry. We continue to collect donations every other Wednesday at the portico entrance to the Blumenthal Center for Jewish Education Building on Shalom Park.

Jewish Family Services Tributes Month of September 2022

Happy Anniversary to Jill and Ed Newman

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Memory of Harry Cronson

The Bockenek Family

Rissa and Reed Coplan

Howard and Alison Cronson

Gary and Laura Kaplan

Joan Kirschner

Marcia Lampert

Eric and Susan Lerner

Bob and Mary Rothkopf

Richard and Janis Silverman

Adam and Sheila Spitz

Steven Teich

Carol Williams

In Memory of Alan Goldberg

Michael and Leslie Goldberg

Florence Jaffa

Sandra Weinstein

In Memory of Steve Kaufmann

Ed and Debora Pizer

In Memory of Marty Kestin

Judy Rosenfeld, Rita Smith, Amy

Raz and Families

In Memory of Ronnie Maniloff

Michael and Elaine Denenberg

In Memory of Jill Newman's Sister

Linda Marshall

In Memory of Leonard Strause

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Stanley Greenspon

Ed and Debora Pizer

Gary Silverstein

Mazel Tov to Sam and Nancy Bernstein on the birth of their grandson, Owen

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Mazel Tov to Sara Bernstein on the birth of her great-grandson, Owen

Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Mazel Tov to M.E. and Ted Hessberg on the birth of their great-grandchild, Poppy

Bob and Mary Rothkopf

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Thank you!

Being Thankful Can Improve Your Mental Health

By Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director

At Thanksgiving, we are accustomed to acknowledging what we are thankful for, but did you know that November is also National Gratitude Month? Did you know that gratitude can improve your physical and mental health? Multiple studies have demonstrated that people who are grateful sleep better, are less anxious or depressed, exercise more, and are physically healthier.

An article from Harvard Medical School points out that people who practice gratitude throughout the holiday season, which begins at Thanksgiving, actually experience fewer depressive symptoms at a time when the risk for depression is higher. The article goes on to state, "In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships."

Another study, conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University, showed that level of gratitude predicted a significantly lower risk of major depression, generalized anxiety disorder,

phobia, nicotine dependence, alcohol dependence, and drug abuse. The study also showed that gratitude influences self-esteem. "Gratitude helps people focus less on social comparison — those who practice are less likely to be envious of others and less likely to judge their own success in relation to the success of others. When you compare yourself to others rather than appreciate what you have, you're not only expending more energy but your self-esteem is left to hang in the balance of 'who's better.'"

The idea that being grateful improves your well-being is actually pretty logical. Being grateful naturally means you are thinking positively, and if you are thinking positively, you are going to feel positive. So why do we tend to only think about being grateful at special times like Thanksgiving?

According to researchers, human beings are "hard-wired" to focus on the negative as opposed to the positive. A recent article in "Verywell Mind" identifies this phenomenon as negative bias. "The negative bias is our tendency not only to register negative stimuli more readily but also to dwell on these events. As humans, we tend to:

- Remember traumatic experiences better than positive ones.



riences better than positive ones.

- Recall insults better than praise.

- React more strongly to negative stimuli.

- Think about negative things more frequently than positive ones.

- Respond more strongly to negative events than to equally positive ones.

The article goes on to suggest that factors such as the news and politics reinforce our tendency to focus more on the negative than the positive. Interestingly, according to researchers, our tendency to focus on the negative is likely a result of evolution. "Earlier in human history, paying attention to bad, dangerous, and negative threats in the world was

a matter of life and death. Those who were more attuned to danger and who paid more attention to the bad things around them were more likely to survive. This meant they were also more likely to hand down the genes that made them more attentive to danger. The evolutionary perspective suggests that this tendency to dwell on the negative more than the positive is simply one way the brain tries to keep us safe."

Therefore, the dilemma is that though we know being grateful will make us feel better, our brains do not naturally take us in that direction. This means that we need to work at being grateful. Throughout the literature, there are many suggestions about physically writing down your

feelings of gratitude including keeping a "gratitude journal" or writing letters to friends or family expressing your gratitude to them, even if you don't actually send the letters. Other activities include spreading gratitude by thanking folks for their support, and friendship, or performing service and giving back to the community, such as volunteering. One of the easiest ways to keep gratitude at the forefront of your mind is to think of one thing that you are thankful for each morning. It could be as simple as being thankful for a good cup of coffee. The act of thinking of something you are grateful for every day will start your day with a positive feeling.

This year when you're at the Thanksgiving table and expressing what you're grateful for, don't make this the one time of year that you express gratitude, but your first step in beginning a routine of expressing gratitude ... it just might improve your happiness.

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Board of Directors 36th Annual Meeting

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Election of Officers and Directors and Staff Recognition

Nominating Committee

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Article VI of the bylaws of the Sandra & Leon Levine Jewish Community Center, Inc. states: Section 1.D.2 - Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall select, and present to the Board for approval, a slate of candidates to fill Director and/or Officer positions currently occupied by Directors and/or Officers in the final year of their term(s) as a Director and/or Officer. The immediate Past President (or, if the current immediate Past President is not able/or willing to serve, a previous Past President of the Board selected by the Executive Committee) shall serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee (the "Chair of the Nominating Committee"). The Nominating Committee shall consist of: the Chair of the Nominating Committee, three (3) members of the Board selected by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, none of whom may be in their final year of their term as a Director and/or Officer; and three (3) additional Members of the LJCC selected by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, none of whom may be members of the Board. Within ten (10) business days after the Chair of the Nominating Committee appoints the members of the Nominating Committee, the Chair of the Nominating Committee shall cause the names of the members of the Nominating Committee to be publicized to the Membership in order to afford the Membership an opportunity to make recommendations to the Nominating Committee for membership on the Board as a Director and/or as an Officer. The President shall not serve on the Nominating Committee.

Jewish Social Singles of the Carolinas Off to a Great Start

By Roy Weinberger and Robin Spivock

Jewish Social Singles of the Carolinas was organized six months ago to offer individuals over the age of 45 who were born Jewish, converted to Judaism, or have a reasonable connection to Judaism, an easy and safe way to connect for fun activities. The group uses the free Meetup.com app to publicize its upcoming events and to communicate. Organizers Roy Weinberger and Robin Spivock have been more than gratified with the response

to date. The group has already hosted more than 15 events, including walking, biking, and kayaking outings; music concerts; museum visits; community service activities; a Shabbat in the park with The Ruach, and the most popular (not surprisingly) — monthly dinners and brunches. Membership has grown to approximately 70 men and women, and attendance per event has varied between three and 15. We have more than six events currently scheduled or in the planning stage, including a

Chanukah get together.

Some events that are coming up are: A Special Evening with Rhiannon Giddens and the Charlotte Symphony, Candlelight with The Charlotte Strings — A Tribute to Adele, brunch at Optimist Hall, a morning walk on the greenway, dinner out, and more. We love getting ideas from our members.

Why did we start the group? Because when you are of a certain age, single, and have friends who are married, you tend to be a “third wheel.” It’s hard to find friends in today’s world, especially friends who are like-minded and interested in the same things as you. That’s why Jewish Social Singles of the Carolinas just makes sense. We are bringing singles together — to have other singles to go out with, to do the things you want, and to never be a “third wheel.”

We would love to have you join us on this journey, so check us out. Now that COVID is on the wane, it’s clearly time to get out, do some fun things, and make new friends. Joining Jewish Social Singles is simple. Just register on Meetup.com and sign



Members of JSS volunteering at Promising Pages, a non-profit organization that supplies new and donated books free of charge to teachers and families living in Charlotte area “book deserts”



Getting ready to bike on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway

up for Jewish Social Singles of the Carolinas. We’ll ask you to answer a few simple questions online to confirm you’re a reasonable fit for the group and your membership will then likely be

quickly approved. Jewish Social Singles charges no dues, but if we host events that charge an admission fee, you will be responsible for those.

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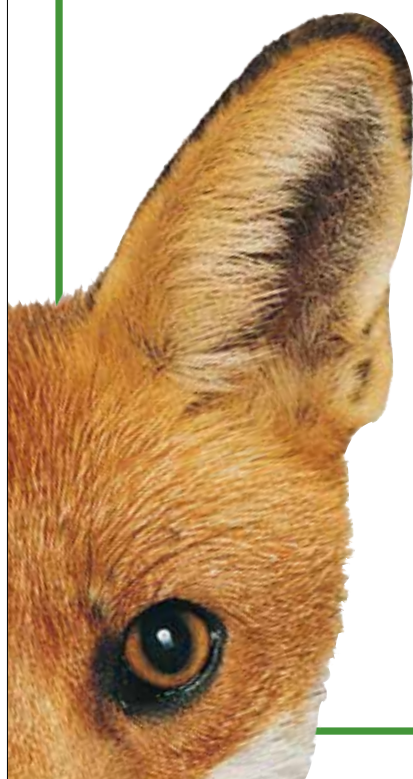
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A New Study Explains Why Starbucks Can't Spell Your Jewish Name

By Andrew Silow-Carroll, September 11, 2022 (JTA)

My parents, children of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, were named Irving and Naomi. They named their three sons Stephen, Jeffrey and Andrew. My kids' names are Noah, Elie and Kayla.

Our first names capture the sweep of the American Jewish experience, from the early 20th century to the early 21st. At each stop on the journey, kids were given names — sometimes “Jewish,” sometimes not — that tell you something about how they fit both into Jewish tradition and the American mosaic.

A new study from the Jewish Language Project at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion charts how Jewish names have evolved over that history and what they say about American Jewish identity. For “American Jewish Personal Names,” Sarah Bunin Benor and Alicia B. Chandler surveyed over 11,000 people, mostly Jews, asking about the names they were given and the names they were giving their children. (They also consulted several databases, including the indispensable Jewish Baby Names finder from my colleagues at Kveller.)

The results suggest my family's first names were typical: In the century since my grandparents (Albert, Sarah, Sam and Bessie) arrived at Ellis Island, and after an era of Susans and Scotts, American Jews became more and more likely to give their children Biblical, Hebrew, Israeli and even ambiguous names that have come to sound “Jewish.” “The top 10 names for Jewish girls and boys in each decade reflect these changes,” the authors write, “such as Ellen and Robert in the 1950s, Rebecca and Joshua in the 1970s, and Noa and Ari in the 2010s.”

It's a story about acculturation, say the authors, but also about distinctiveness: Once they felt fully at home, Jews asserted themselves by picking names that proudly asserted their Jewishness.

I spoke with Benor, vice provost at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles, professor of contemporary Jewish studies and linguistics and director of the Jewish Language Project. Our conversation touched on, among other things, today's most popular Jewish names, the Jewish names people give to their pets and the aliases many people give to Starbucks baristas. Mostly we spoke about the ways Jewish tradition and American innovation are expressed in our first names.

This interview was condensed and edited for clarity.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency: I want to start with the big take-away from your study: “Younger

Jews are significantly more likely than older Jews to have Distinctively Jewish names.” Does that sound right?

Sarah Bunin Benor: Definitely. The thing that I think people are going to be most excited about is the chart showing the most popular names by decade. If you look at the 1950s, you have girls' names like Barbara, Linda and Robin. These are not distinctively Jewish and not biblical. And then by the 1980s, it's very biblical: Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca. By the 2000s the top three names are Hannah, Maya and Miriam. And by the 2010s you get these names that are either biblical or modern Hebrew or coded Hebrew: Noa, Eliana, Naomi.

JTA: You note that today most of the top 20 Jewish girls' and boys' names are English versions of Biblical names. But that doesn't account for all the “Jewish” names in the study, which range from “Hebrew Post-Biblical,” like Akiva, Bruria and Meir, to the “ambiguously Jewish,” like Lila and Mindy. How did you decide which names are distinctively Jewish?

SBB: We based our judgment on our respondents' judgments. We had them rate their own names, and ask, If you met someone with your name, how likely would you assume that they were Jewish on a scale of zero to 10? And we had them do the same for a sample of, I think it was 13 male names and 13 female names.

JTA: By which you discovered that there are currently “names of no Jewish origin” that have come to be seen as Jewish.

SBB: Definitely. And the ones that I find most interesting in that category are the coded Jewish

names like Maya and Lila and Eliana, and other names that are popular in America, like Emmett. They have these coded Jewish meanings. [“Maya” is thought to relate to mayim, the Hebrew word for water; in Hebrew, “lilah” means “night” and “emet” means “truth.”] And Evan [“rock” in Hebrew and “John” in Welsh] is another example where we American Jews interpret these American names as Jewish names because they have homologous interpretations in Hebrew.

Eliana, for example, is not of Jewish origin, but it sounds exactly like “Eli ana,” my God answered. And so it's a beautiful name. And it's become pretty popular among Jews.

JTA: I think about my father's generation — the generation of Irvings and Stanleys and Sylvias. And they became distinctively Jewish names without being Jewish names, right? Was that about people wanting to assimilate, but also not wanting to disappear into the mainstream?

SBB: When immigrant parents gave their children names like Irving and Stanley, it was an attempt to Americanize, but also they chose names that their neighbors or friends were giving their babies, and so it ended up that some names turned out to be seen as Jewish names.

JTA: I'm just trying to think what was inside my grandmother's head when she named my father Irving — perhaps she wanted the child to sound like an American but not necessarily like a gentile.

SBB: She might not have thought of it as sounding like a gentile name. She might have thought of it as sounding like an American Jewish name.

JTA: You compared the names of your respondents and the names of their children. What does this tell us about naming trends?

SBB: Across generations, groups increased in their Jewish distinctiveness over time. Take, for example, names we categorize as “of no Jewish origin,” like Richard and Jennifer. There is a significant drop between the older generation and the younger generation when it comes to such names.

JTA: Meaning the Richards and Jennifers are not naming their kids Ellen and Steven but Maya and Ezra.

SBB: Yes. Although there are still many Jews who do use names of no Jewish origin, it's

much less than it was before.

We have data on name changing, and I was surprised at how few people reported changing their name to one that sounds less Jewish. The name changes that we heard were more about changes in gender presentation and changes for various other reasons but not to sound less Jewish.

JTA: You talked about 1970 as a sort of pivot point, in which a decline in Jews changing their last names is replaced by an increase in baby names considered more Jewish. Remind us of that history.

SBB: There's a great book about this, “A Rosenberg by Any Other Name,” by Kirsten

(Continued on page 27)

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Greenspon Center Kicks off New Year With Conference and Program Launch

By Judy LaPietra

The Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center at Queens University of Charlotte kicked off the new academic year with two dynamic community programs providing a peek at what is in store this year.

Sacred Threads Conference

On September 11, the Greenspon Center and Myers Park Baptist Church hosted “Sacred Threads: The Complex Tapestry of Interfaith Relationships,” a half-day conference which brought together a unique gathering of theologians, academics, and students from around the country. The discussion was about “Nostra Aetate,” Latin for “In Our Time,” the groundbreaking document issued by the Catholic Church in 1965 - a Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions – and its application in modern times. This event included music, study, and small group discussion which underscored the desperate need for present-day engagement in interfaith dialogue.

“Nostra Aetate” is the most transformative document to emerge from the Catholic



Beth Schafer, Imam Anis Haque, Reverend Ricky Manalo and Rabbi Judy Schindler led a Sacred Threads Interfaith Worship on September 11.

Church’s Second Vatican Council, better known as, Vatican II. It called upon Catholics to recognize and respect that there are “true and holy” teachings that “often reflect a ray of Truth” in non-Christian religions. It opened formal interreligious dialogue at the highest and lowest levels of the Catholic Church. In several areas, yearly conferences were established to ensure the progress made during Vatican II did not fade with history.

Inspired and encouraged by “Nostra Aetate,” Jews, Catholics, and Protestants came together during the “Sacred Threads” con-

ference for dialogue and healing. A panel of interfaith leaders discussed the challenges and implications of the present-day interpretation of “Nostra Aetate.” The keynote speaker was Dr. Peter Ochs, the Edgar M. Bronfman Professor of Modern Judaic Studies at the University of Virginia, an influential thinker in Jewish philosophy and theology.

In addition to hearing compelling discussions from the panelists, attendees of the conference had the opportunity to continue discussions in smaller breakout groups. They explored strategies for combatting forms

of hate such as antisemitism and Islamophobia today using this enduring document which was created almost 60 years ago, acknowledging that combatting such hate requires ongoing engagement between many diverse groups.

The program concluded with a performance of an original composition by Jewish and Catholic musicians, Beth Schafer and Reverend Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D., respectively, who were inspired by this important document.

Dr. Adrian Bird, a scholar, and Queens University’s new Interim Chaplain, noted that this interfaith collaboration was an actualization of the vision of both “Nostra Aetate” and the Presbyterian and Pluralist Statement created by Queens University of Charlotte leadership several years ago which promotes conversation and collaboration across religious differences.

Beth Schafer, Imam Anis Haque, Reverend Ricky Manalo and Rabbi Judy Schindler led a Sacred Threads Interfaith Worship on September 11.

Scholars Dr. Alessandro Rovati, Dr. Adrian Bird, Dr. Hadia Mubarak, Dr. Malka Simkovich,

and Dr. Matthew Tapie led an engaging panel on the influence of Vatican II’s “Nostra Aetate.”

Greenspon Center’s Holocaust Pedagogy Certification Program Launch

September 17 marked the launch of The Greenspon Center’s Holocaust Pedagogy Certification Program (CHP), which provides educators in grades 6-12 intensive training on methods and strategies for teaching about the Holocaust. One of the first of its kind nationally, this certification program brings together deep content knowledge with a strong pedagogy to help students consider what Holocaust and genocide education might look like across diverse settings. This unique program empowers participants 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 communities to do the same. Specifically designed for the Greenspon Center by leaders in the field of Holocaust education and history, completion of this six-month certification program provides

(Continued on page 11)



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Greenspon Center



Scholars Dr. Alessandro Rovati, Dr. Adrian Bird, Dr. Hadia Mubarak, Dr. Malka Simkovich, and Dr. Matthew Tapie led an engaging panel on the influence of Vatican II's *Nostra Aetate* groundbreaking document.

(Continued from page 10)

participants with the tools they need to not only implement the required educational standards in North Carolina but to engage with confidence in the changing landscape of Holocaust education today.

A group of twenty regional educators convened at Queens University for the kick-off event of the Greenspon Center's Holocaust Pedagogy Certification Program with enthusiasm and excitement for the journey they were about to begin.

The Greenspon Center is just

one of many community organizations doing remarkable work in the arena of teacher training. In November, the Greenspon Center will celebrate the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust for sponsoring last summer's educator's tour to Washington, D.C. and for their commitment to prepare our state's educators for the implementation of the North Carolina mandate for Holocaust education with the passage of the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act in 2021.



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Religious Life

Temple Solel Focuses on Tikkun Olam

By Dale Rivers

Temple Solel was formed 11 years ago to provide a nurturing community for the spiritual growth of South Charlotte and the Northern York and Lancaster County Jewish families. We have always believed that prayer, learning, and community are participatory. People are social — interaction helps us grow and be happier. We believe this so strongly that we have eliminated membership dues. We are happy to accept donations, but we value involvement and enthusiasm much more.

Tikkun olam — repairing the world — is a key component of this participation. Our joining of hands with Grace Presbyterian Church increases the effectiveness of both congregations' outreach projects. Both communities are quite interested in many of the same organizations and in helping make people's lives better. We can do more with more hands and more hearts.

Since our beginning, one of our first tikkun olam projects was the support of the Fort Mill Care Center (FMCC). This is a wonderful nonprofit that provides a food pantry, rent and utility assistance, dental care, and other services for Fort Mill citizens in need. We invite you

to bring food donations to our "Second Friday" food drives. In addition, during the Days of Atonement, we offer food and monetary donations to support the FMCC. This has added up to 2,500 pounds of food over the years. We were delighted to learn that FMCC is also an organization of interest to Grace Presbyterian's congregants. By working jointly, we will be able to provide more support than ever before. Learn more about supporting the FMCC at www.fortmillcarecenter.org. That website lists suggested food items for the month.

In this new year of 5783, we are committed to increasing our community impact. We welcome the presence, enthusiasm, talents, and involvement of all our members and guests. Let us grow together by doing good works. Personal involvement reaps personal reward!



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Religious Life

Rabbinic Leadership Complements Lay Leadership at Temple Kol Ami

By Shari Baum

Since Temple Kol Ami (TKA) began twelve years ago, we have had amazing lay leaders to officiate at Shabbat services, b'nei mitzvahs, Passover seders and

more. We are so grateful for the time and dedication that these individuals have selflessly given to the Jewish community of York County. In addition to this leadership, the board of Temple

Kol Ami has felt it important to bring rabbinic leadership to our congregation. During the pandemic, we had High Holidays, Shabbat services and even a bar mitzvah officiated by a rabbi on Zoom. As we enter the year 5783 and gather in our beautiful sanctuary again, Temple Kol Ami has made it a priority to increase the frequency of rabbinic leadership.

The weekend of November 4, we are pleased to welcome Rabbi Bruce Aft to lead us in Kabbalat Shabbat service and Torah study. Rabbi Aft is wonderfully engaging and has spent many Shabbats with Temple Kol Ami in the past. He most recently officiated at our fantastic High Holiday services. He recently retired from Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield, Virginia after 29 years of service. Rabbi Aft is currently a visiting scholar at George Mason University in the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. He is also the president of the community board for Operation Understanding D.C.



Rabbi Ana Bonnheim

A huge baseball fan (and former college player), he and his wife Sue will be volunteering for the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy. Please check our website www.templekolamisc.org for more information.

On December 16, Rabbi Ana Bonnheim will be joining us for our annual Chanukah Shabbat. Rabbi Bonnheim has been joining us at TKA for more than five years and always brings an inter-

esting and innovative twist to her services. She is warm, energetic and engaging, and dedicated to Jewish learning as well as instilling a Jewish identity in our next generation. We look forward to welcoming her back to our bimah.

We invite you to join us for these services and more at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill. Our annual Friendsgiving Shabbat on November 18 is always a wonderful mix of food and prayer and a great time to meet our congregation. We generally meet on the first and third Fridays of each month, but it is always best to check the TKA calendar on our website to verify. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope to see you soon!



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Religious Life

Temple Kol Tikvah Youth: Where Jewish Teens Make Friends and Become Leaders

By Alexis Rowles

My name is Alexis Rowles, and I am a senior at the Community School of Davidson. Kol Tikvah Temple Youth Group is where I nurture the faithful part of my personality. Being raised as a Jew in Davidson, North Carolina, is hard since we are a minority in a predominantly Christian community. My family has always been a part of a temple, and as I got older, I was able to join the temple youth group. This opened my eyes to a new world socially and helped me develop my identity. During my youth group's first couple of years, I watched how leadership was modeled. I was interested in being more involved on a leadership level because I wanted to give back to the rising youth group members and ensure they had the same fantastic introduction I had. Creating an environment where more Jewish kids could express themselves freely and celebrate together became my focus. I've been on the youth group board as membership vice president for the last three years, which has allowed me to make lifelong friends and take advantage of opportunities to develop as a leader in my Jewish faith community.

In my position, I connect with all members of the youth group by recruiting upcoming members and retaining current members. I am a friendly face that anyone can reach out to. Being the membership vice president opened me up to new ways to approach people. Our youth group consists of about 20-25 kids from different middle and high schools. I had to learn to step out of my comfort zone and talk to people I had never met. One of my fondest memories was introducing myself to the group's younger members. They all seemed so meek and quiet. One boy acted like he didn't want to be there at all. I made an effort to talk to him, and he gave me very vague responses. I started thinking about how to connect with him. As I looked down at the ground and saw him fiddling with a soccer



Members of Temple Kol Tikvah youth at their first event —Amazing Race around Davidson

ball between his feet, it hit me! I asked him about soccer: if he played, what club he played for, what position he played, and who was his favorite major league team; the answers poured out of him. As a soccer player myself, I was able to connect in so many ways with him. Throughout the rest of the day, I caught him smiling and having fun with the other kids. After the camp ended that day, I checked in with him, and it was like he was a whole new person. We had a great conversation and even kicked the ball around together for a bit. To this day, I am friends with this boy and love talking to him about soccer when we are both in youth group. Not only have I made lifelong friends at Temple Kol Tikvah, but I also developed leadership skills.

As membership vice president, I sit on a six-person board working with fellow board members to brainstorm and execute meaningful events. Before this happens, we have an election at the end of the school year that dictates who will serve on the following year's board. The election process is a lot of work. There are four main components to be considered as a candidate. The process includes writing a letter of intent, creating a platform sheet, writing a speech, and executing one's speech. As the board looks at the calendar for the upcoming year, we have an extensively long meeting to plan what we want to do. Each

and feedback and then using that information to change is something I've worked on and will continue to do so. Being a youth group board member has brought me fellowship and taught me valuable leadership skills. I will take those skills and my Jewish identity with me wherever I go.

Editor's Note: Last month's CJN printed a misspelling in the

TKA headline, "Kehilah Kedosha, Sacred Community: Temple Kol Tikvah's Religious School Theme." The mistake was CJN's.



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Hebrew Cemetery Honors Veterans

By Steve Russak

I would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt greeting to my fellow Charlotte-area veterans. As Veteran's Day approaches, perhaps you are filled with a mix of emotions. I certainly have those feelings. We answered a call to serve our nation because

we were able to do so.

In today's world, where many do not seem to appreciate the concept of self-sacrifice for the "good of the nation," we may be asking ourselves a question: How do we communicate this sense of duty, honor, and country to our friends and family? What can we

do and how can we engage our family in something communal that has meaning? What would foster interest in our service and be the spark of conversation about what the United States means to us and why?

One way is to participate in the placing of flags at the graves of buried veterans at our own local Jewish cemetery. For those who are not familiar, the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte has been in existence for more than 150 years and is the final resting place of many veterans. On Sunday, November 6, at 1:30 p.m., the cemetery will honor living veterans in the community by hosting a brief program. Attendees and their extended families will then be invited to assist with placing flags at the graves of buried veterans. There is no cost, light refreshments will be served, and you are encouraged to bring children and grandchildren.

If you have never been to the Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte, I encourage you to attend. Improvements over the past decade have expanded the property greatly, adding a permanent chapel, and a new sculpture at the entry. Combined with other improvements, the facility offers an opportunity for reflection, and



this event could facilitate conversation about what it means to be a veteran and what it means to be an American citizen. Please consider joining us. For more information, please contact Sandra Goldman, Hebrew Cemetery executive director, at director@hebrewcemetery.org,

brewcemetery.org, or call (704) 576-1859. RSVP is requested.

If you have an interest in fostering camaraderie with local Jewish veterans, please feel free to contact me, Steve Russak, about the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. I may be reached at CLTJewishvets@gmail.com, or by phone at (704) 241-5826.

On behalf of veterans everywhere, I wish you all the best for Veteran's Day 2022. May there be a time in the future when war will be no more.



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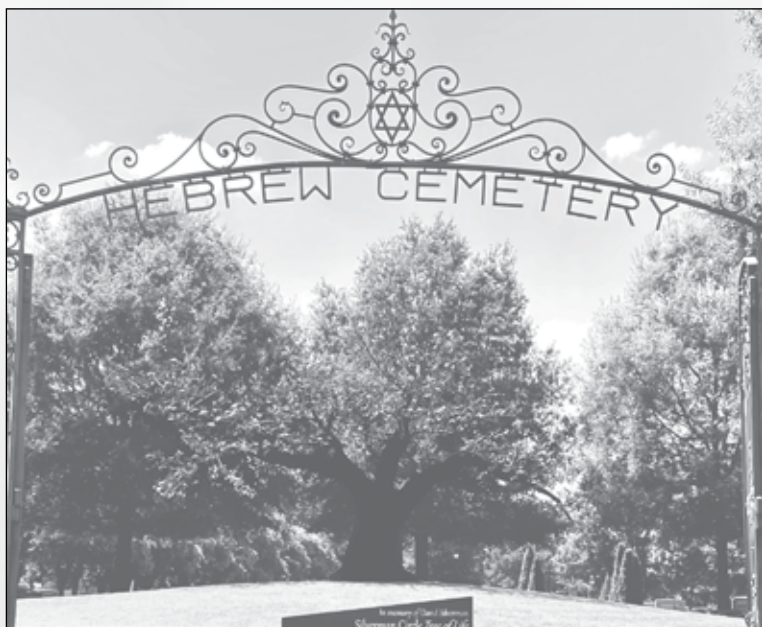
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The Hebrew Cemetery joins with the community in remembering the names of those who have been buried at the Hebrew Cemetery in the month of September.

Bob Fink	11-23-1926	8-30-2022
Jay Helfgott	6-26-1944	9-2-2022
Leonard Strause	6-30-1935	9-9-2022
Harry Cronson	5-31-1937	9-14-2022
Bette Bober	7-27-1928	9-17-2022
Kim Worrel	2-20-1955	9-26-2022



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Around the Table: Chef Shai Fargian Brings Israeli Flavors to Charlotte



By Charlotte Rouchouze

The Jewish community of Charlotte knows Shai Fargian as the head chef of Yafo Kitchen and as an involved parent of three little girls who are moving through Charlotte's Jewish schools. It was at my son's preschool, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, where I first met the Fargians and heard about Yafo Kitchen, which has since become one of my favorites in SouthPark. During COVID, Shai even walked our preschool community through an authentic hummus recipe over Zoom, and of course, I followed along studiously, churning out the best hummus I ever made — almost as good as Yafo according to my kids.

Shai grew up in a small town in the Northern Galilee region of Israel called Karmiel. Like Israel itself, his family is a blend of Eastern European Holocaust survivors and immigrants from elsewhere in the Middle East, in his case Iran. On his mother's side, both of his grandparents reached the end of World War II with devastating losses, his grandmother having lost a husband and his grandfather a wife and young son. After the war, they picked up the pieces and built a new life in the United States, where they raised Shai's mother, Miriam, in Portland, Maine.

After attending Brandeis University, Miriam decided to make Aliyah, and it was in Israel that she met Shai's father who was from an Iranian Jewish family. His father's parents moved from Tehran in the mid-1950s and settled on a moshav specializing in stone fruits. Shai grew up about ten minutes from the moshav and remembers visiting his grandparents there often. Some of his earliest culinary memories are of cooking Iranian-style dishes alongside his grandmother: various grilled kebabs; stews; lamb dishes; a drink called faloodeh, which combines shredded apple and rose water and is traditionally served at the end of Yom Kippur to break the fast; and variations of the famous tahdig, a uniquely Persian way of serving rice in which an oily bottom layer, occasionally lined with potatoes or even matzo, is brought just to the brink of burning. The

goal with tahdig is to achieve a double delight of fluffy rice on the bottom (once the whole thing is flipped) and a shell of crunchy, browned rice on the top. Shai also remembers a distinct fusion way his family had of making chopped liver, using the more Middle Eastern lamb fat instead of schmaltz.

After finishing high school, he began a seven-year military career and reached the status of major, serving in both infantry and special forces in the IDF. While he never officially cooked for his unit, he recalls a time while stationed in Gaza when the team got in a bit of a jam between dwindling chametz supplies and not-yet-delivered kosher for Passover provisions. For that night's dinner, they had little more than some flour, eggs, and a hot water urn. Shai recalls improvising a homemade pasta dish that he cooked right in the Shabbat urn and then sauteed with soy sauce to make an impromptu chow mein that was enjoyed by all.

When Shai decided to leave the military he began a university program in economics at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan. Around this time, he also worked for Birthright Israel Excel, a program that offers students specialized fellowships in business. While out to dinner at the swanky Tel Aviv restaurant, Adora, Shai made contact with a hometown friend who was the manager of the restaurant and decided to take a job there. This job allowed him to get his foot in the door of the restaurant scene and to get to know Israeli celebrity chef Avi Biton, whose cuisine at Adora was French/Middle Eastern Fusion. At this point, however, there was a new factor in his



Shai Fargian

planning — his American wife, Sharon.

When Sharon was accepted into UNC business school in Chapel Hill, Shai applied to a variety of high-end restaurants in North Carolina. Over the next few years, starting as a line cook, Shai worked his way up the restaurant ladder. At the same time, he sought out any opportunities to meet and learn from experienced chefs and restaurateurs including Jamie Lynch, David Burke, and Balaboosta's Einat Admony. It was a connection with Frank Scibelli, however, that ultimately led to the creation in 2016 of Yafo Kitchen, where Charlotteans now enjoy his Israeli cuisine in a fast-casual setting.

When I asked Shai what it has been like selling Israeli food to North Carolinians, he said at times there is a tricky balance between authenticity and familiarity. But he has found that sometimes a simple name change can help bridge the gap. Where a customer might be intimidated by schnitzel with laffa, they feel more at home with a hot chicken sandwich, even though the sand-

wich itself is the same. "I will sometimes see a customer who waits in line for 20 minutes only to ask what a falafel is." "It's a hush puppy!" he answers, "a Middle Eastern hush puppy."

At the end of the day, everyone understands the language of delicious food, and Shai knew he could deliver that. Charlotte has proved an enthusiastic home to his food, and as Charlotteans, I would say we are lucky to call this dynamic culinary personality our own.

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



Shai's Chopped Liver

Ingredients

- 1 lb. chicken liver
- 3 eggs
- 2 quarts of boiling water
- 2 lb. onions
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- ½ cup schmaltz or lamb fat
- 1 tbsp. kosher salt
- ½ tbsp. black pepper

Over medium/low heat, caramelize the onions with half of the fat until golden brown. This should take 45 minutes to an hour. It's low and slow but that makes all the difference. Once done, cool down with the fat.

Add the eggs to the boiling water and reduce to a simmer. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Place into ice water and cool down for 10 minutes. Peel and set aside.

Heat up a heavy large pan and add the olive oil. When the oil starts to smoke add the liver and sear on one side. Add half of the salt and pepper. Cook for 3-5 minutes and flip the livers in the pan. If you need more oil, you can add more of the chicken/lamb fat. Cook for another 3-5 minutes and cool down.

In a food processor, puree the eggs, onions, and the rest of the salt and pepper until smooth. Add the cooked livers and the rest of the fat. Pulse until the livers are chopped but not completely pureed. Taste and add more salt and pepper if needed.

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Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Bringing National Recycling Day Home

By Rochelle Carney

America Recycles Day (ARD), also known as National Recycling Day, was first celebrated on November 15, 1997. The goal of ARD is to educate people about the importance of recycling properly, which presents a great opportunity to talk about some of the easy ways you can increase your recycling activities at home.

At our house, the most difficult part of this process is simply resisting the urge to throw everything in the garbage and forget about it! While this is tempting, some estimates place the amount of solid waste that Americans throw out every year at 250 mil-

lion tons. That's enough to reach the moon and back 25 times!

In Mecklenburg County, only the following items can be recycled in your curbside recycling container: aerosol cans (empty), aluminum cans, cardboard (flattened), cereal boxes, glass bottles and jars, magazines and phone books, metal cans, milk and juice cartons, paper, junk mail and newspaper, pizza boxes, plastic bottles and jugs, (leave the caps on), and spiral paper cans. Placing items outside of this list into your recycling in the hopes that they can be recycled, also known as wish-cycling, can contaminate a whole batch of recyclables and/or break machines, slowing

down the recycling process.

The list of items that can be recycled curbside in Mecklenburg County is limited, but there are some unique ways to reuse or recycle other items with a little extra effort. Here are some examples:

Egg Cartons

We are fortunate that Charlotte hosts many farmers markets on the weekends, and many of the hardworking farmers there are constantly in need of empty egg cartons to package the eggs they sell at these markets. We collect our empty cartons and then drop them off at the market at Ather-ton Mill on South Boulevard, which is open on Saturdays from

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. One of the stands there has a box out in front for easy drop off.

Takeout Containers

While we are at the farmer's market, we also bring along our #5 plastic takeout containers, which are collected in a drum by the information stand in the middle of the market. This one is a little trickier as they specify they can only take clean #5 plastic with no stickers or food residue and no "similar" plastics. These items are not currently recyclable in Mecklenburg County, so they end up in a landfill even if you put them in your recycling bin. These items are converted into filament for 3D printers which

are then used to make personal protection equipment, including face shields for healthcare workers.

If you miss the farmers market hours on Saturday, you can also swing by the Innovation Barn located at 932 Seigle Avenue and drop them in the pink recycling bin there. Just remember to only drop off the specified plastics — no wish-cycling here!

Bubble Wrap

While you are at the Innovation Barn, bring along the plastic bubble wrap from home deliveries to drop off as well. There is another pink bin for these items, but take note, they do not accept "bubble mailers," only plastic air-filled bags and wrap. The Innovation Barn is also home to the bar, RePour, which will take empty wine bottles and corks for reuse or recycling.

Plastic Bags, Mailers, and Wraps

Most of us already recycle our plastic grocery bags in the bins at Target or Harris Teeter, but other plastics can go in those bins as well. Look for the "How2Recycle" logo on plastic mailers and other plastic wrap. This logo consists of three recycling arrows and a description of the material. For the plastic mailers, bags, and wrap, look for the words "store drop-off" inside the arrows and then include these items with the plastic grocery bags you drop off at the store.

Contact Lenses and Bubble Packs

If you are a contact lens wearer, especially if you use the daily ones, the used lenses and their

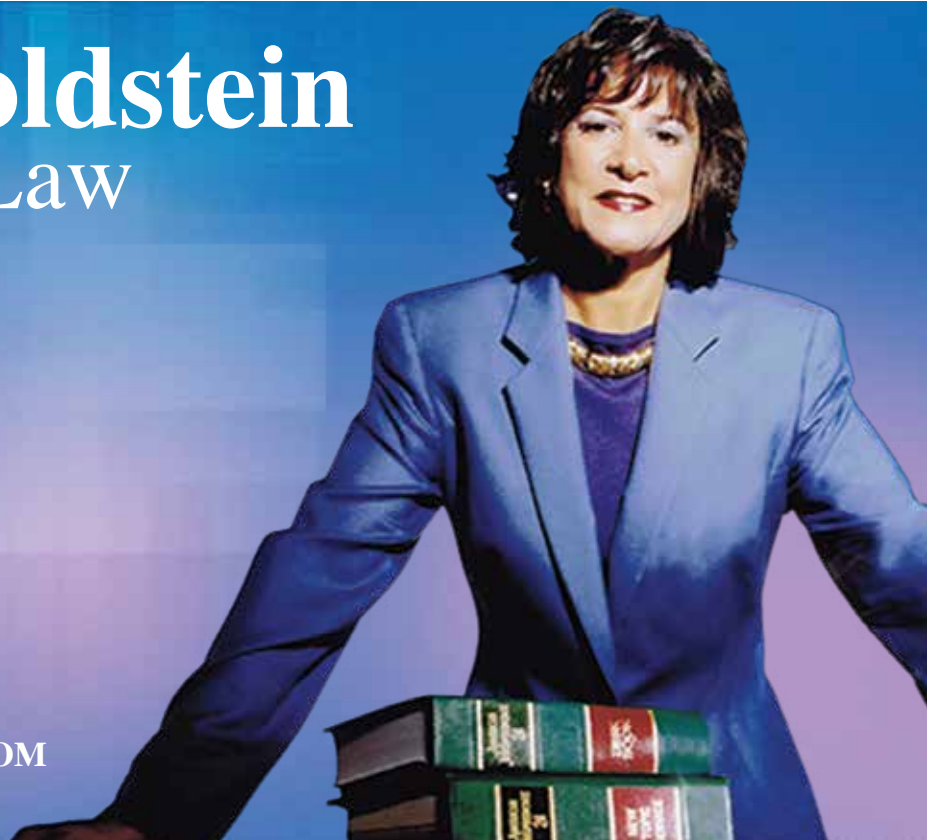
(Continued on page 19)

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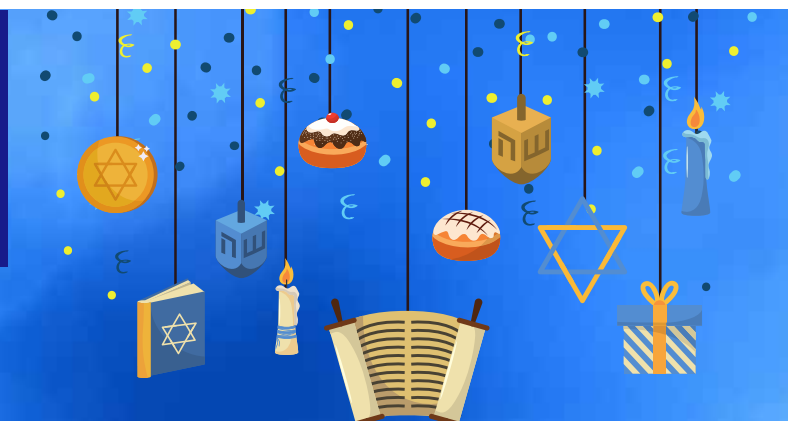
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Bal Tashchit and Beyond

(Continued from page 18)

bubble packs can be recycled at eye care retail outlets in the area. We learned this through one of our favorite resources: www.TerraCycle.com. On their website, you can search in your area for a shop that participates in the program and simply drop them off. We found one just around the corner from our house in Dilworth.

Other
TerraCycle also provides a variety of free programs to join in order to send back hard-to-recycle items. You can request a mailing label once you have accumulated a sufficient amount. One interesting note is that though the program may be sponsored by a specific company, many of the programs will accept similar items from other brands. For example, we use the GoGo squeeZ Free Recycling Program for our kids' snack packs, but that program will accept all brands of squeezable snack plastic pouches and caps.

In addition to the many free programs, TerraCycle also allows you to purchase zero-waste boxes that you can fill with a variety of items and send back. You can also shop at TerraCycle for items that have been made from

the trash that has been sent back and diverted from landfills.

As I mentioned at the beginning, it can be hard to decide to accumulate these recyclable items at home when it is so much easier to simply put them in the trash. However, the lessons we teach our children about taking care of the Earth and being aware of how we dispose of our used items will help the next generation become better stewards of our planet. Happy America Recycles Day!

Connect with us on Facebook at Shalom Green: Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Instagram and Twitter @shalomgreen_CLT. If you are interested in donating your time or dollars to Shalom Green, please visit our website at <https://shalomgreenc.lt.org/> and email us at info@shalomgreenc.lt.org. Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation.



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- ✓ **Tuesday, November 8:** Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters should go to their designated Election Day polling place. Absentee ballots received after 5 p.m. November 8 must be postmarked by Election Day and received by mail by 5 p.m. Monday, November 14. Ballots without a postmark must be received by November 8.
- ✓ **Friday, November 18:** County canvass day; results are certified at the county level.
- ✓ **Tuesday, November 29:** State canvass day; final results are certified statewide.

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How Thanksgiving Helped Jews Carve Out a Piece of the American Story

By Yael Buechler, November 22, 2021 (JTA)

Thanksgiving seems to have all the right ingredients for a holiday that most American Jews can embrace: It doesn't fall on Shabbat, its roots and message are nonsectarian, and its only real ritual is a multi-course meal.

That's why prominent Orthodox rabbis of the mid-20th century, including Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik and Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, gave Thanksgiving their *hechsher* (seal of approval). Shari Rabin, associate professor of Jewish studies and religion at Oberlin, told me that American Jews are comfortable with Thanksgiving for the most part because "it's not as directly connected to Paganism or Christianity as Halloween or Christmas."

And yet like so many aspects of the American-Jewish experience, Jews didn't accept Thanksgiving — and Thanksgiving didn't accept the Jews — without some struggle. As a 19th-century skirmish between Jewish leaders in Pennsylvania and their state's governor demonstrated, Jews made sure that Thanksgiving was a day they could celebrate on equal standing with Christians.

Well before President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a federal holiday in 1863, there were national and local "proclamations" that officially established a day of gratitude each year. In the first year of his presidency, on Oct. 3, 1789, George Washington issued a Thanksgiving proclamation by the new government, designating "Thursday the 26th day of November next" as Thanksgiving.

The proclamation calls for



Gershom Mendes Seixas (January 15, 1745 – July 2, 1816) was the first native-born Jewish religious leader in the United States.

"a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God" — religious, but not specifically Christian. Gershom Mendes Seixas, the cantor of New York's Congregation Shearith Israel, welcomed the president's declaration in what is regarded as the first Jewish sermon about Thanksgiving.

Washington goes on to urge gratitude "for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed" — a message consistent with his letter, one year later, to Seixas's brother Moses, of Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, promising "liberty of conscience" to all people, regardless of religious belief.

Other Thanksgiving proclamations did not communicate Washington's nonsectarian message. Many were, in fact, filled

with Christian language.

According to Laura Yares, assistant professor of Religious Studies at Michigan State University, when the United States was in its nascent stages, "there was no blueprint for creating a non-sectarian public holiday." Yares told me that "in the long evolution of customs and language for celebrating Thanksgiving, we shouldn't be surprised to find that there have been public figures who have used the cultural resources of their own traditions to describe Thanksgiving, including Christian theology."

And it was that kind of theology that set off a number of Jewish Philadelphians in what can only

be described as a 19th-century version of a Twitter war.

In 1848, Gov. William Johnston of Pennsylvania issued a Thanksgiving proclamation calling for the day to "be set apart, by all denominations of Christians within this Commonwealth."

That did not sit well with some Jews, and they made their displeasure known in the pages of *The Occident and American Jewish Advocate*, a Jewish newspaper published in Philadelphia.

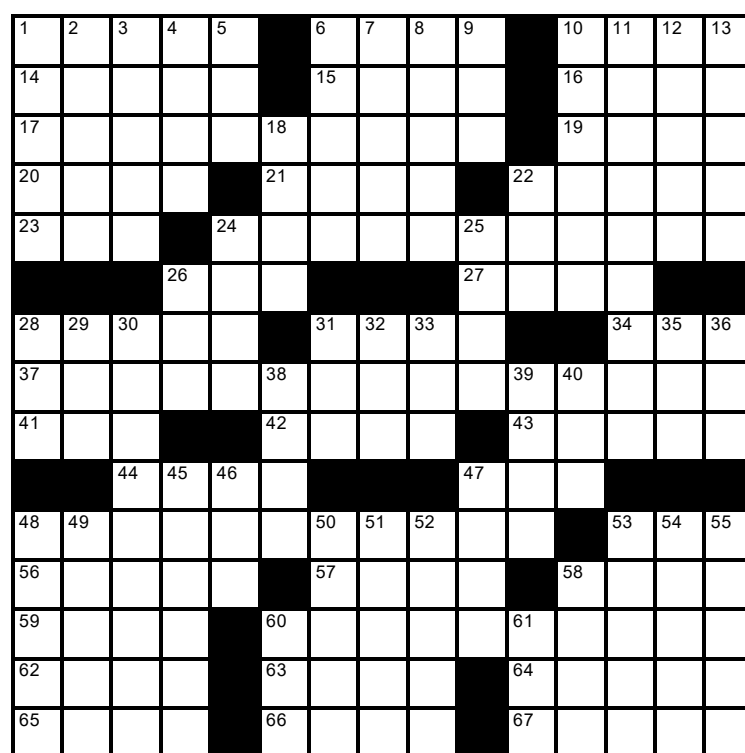
The November issue of the paper quoted A.T. Jones, a Jewish Philadelphian, who complained to the governor that "Israelites never forget to pray for their rulers — yet your excellency

seems to have no recollection of their existence... treat[ing] them as though they were not worthy of it." Jones lamented that Jews "fought and bled" with their fellow American citizens and expressed great disappointment in a proclamation that clearly omitted Jews in the celebration of Thanksgiving.

The North American and United States Gazette, a secular Philadelphia newspaper, noted that a similar dustup had occurred a few years earlier over a proclamation by then Gov. Francis Rawn Shunk. In a forgiving tone, the Gazette suggested that such proclamations "are seldom writ-

(Continued on page 23)

November Crossword



(Solution on page 32)

Across

1. Major first name in Jewish/Israeli music
6. Blubber
10. Where 12-Down is located
14. Jerusalem or Rosetta
15. "About ____" (2002 movie)
16. Desk items
17. Judah's portion in Israel?
19. Some hockey gear
20. "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" singer Paul
21. Count's counterpart
22. Make another knot
23. Isr. bigwigs
24. Like the mob during the last hours of Sodom
26. Former NBA star Manute or his son
27. Like undecorated walls
28. Welles of "The War of the Worlds"
31. Arthur with a stadium that recently hosted 1-Across
34. Alternative to Inc.
37. David, when Samuel

comes to anoint a son of Jesse

41. Blue Jays, on scoreboards
42. Blue Jays rivals
43. Lippy
44. Hocus-pocus opening
47. Left leaning news agency
48. Words from one who has stolen a Korban Pesach?
53. Aviator's org.
56. Levi to Ephraim
57. Wail
58. Perch for a speaker
59. Where Samson wielded a jawbone, in Judges
60. Those violating interest halachas?
62. Port in Yemen
63. Sit at a red light, say
64. Start
65. Horror movie staple
66. Former stock regulating org.
67. Blood lines

Down

1. Religion that restricts

non-members from entering its holy city

2. Make like a diaper
3. Fish catchers
4. "Frozen II" princess
5. Word before "dear" or "sir"
6. Notable Gardens in Haifa
7. "Were you raised in ____?"
8. Wide opening?
9. Drano component
10. Materialize suddenly
11. Travel restrictions?
12. Home of Cochin Jews
13. Cash or stock, e.g.
18. Cash stock?
22. Johannesburg's land: Abbr.
24. He plays with an Edge
25. "A keeper of sheep" in Genesis
26. ____ choy
28. Accept, with "in"
29. Brazilian metropolis, for short

30. Kind of lottery ticket
31. Baruch follower
32. Hardly gregarious
33. Fellows and gentlemen
35. Musical Paul
36. Weep
38. "Haus" wife?
39. "____ that special!"
40. Temporary beach souvenir
45. Print credit
46. Big name in the news of late
47. Baltimore's Ripkens
48. Soviet forced labor camp
49. "Which ____ you want?"
50. "Mary Tyler Moore" spin-off
51. Hat-trick trio
52. Had the deed to
53. Language of Persian Jews
54. "American Idol" alum Clay
55. NBA stats
58. "Great" growler
60. He wrote music about Alexander and Bruno
61. Car-pool abbr.

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Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 22)

ten by governors themselves.”

The most powerful exchange, published in the same paper, was between a prominent Jewish lawyer in Philadelphia, Joseph Moss, and the governor himself, a few weeks prior to the holiday. Learning that Gov. Johnston was in town, Moss immediately wrote, complaining that in a commonwealth with over 15,000 Jews, the proclamation “seems entirely to have lost sight of these undeviating followers of the Holy Bible.”

The governor responded the following day with an epic apology: “I cannot permit you to suppose that the spirit of intolerance has a place within my bosom,” he wrote. “The terms of [the proclamation’s] composition or its phraseology were not designated by me. It was issued by the Secretary of State during my absence, and I presumed [it] would be in the usual form.”

The governor concluded his response by officially inviting the Jewish community to observe Thanksgiving and signed

it, “Truly your friend, Wm. F. Johnston.”

This crisis-averting resolution — and the new “friendship” it supposedly created — sounds almost quaint after 170 years. But these Thanksgiving proclamation mishaps, which occurred throughout the 1800s in various states — including Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Carolina — turned into opportunities for Jews to assert and insert themselves into the national narrative.

To paraphrase the late 19-century Jewish philosopher Ahad Ha’am’s maxim about Shabbat: More than the Jewish people have kept Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving has kept the Jews — and enabled them to consistently affirm their rightful place in these United States.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

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Women's News

Shop, Learn, Read, and Be Healthy with Hadassah

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner
How is it November already? Election Day (please vote!), Thanksgiving, and Chanukah will all be here soon.
Time for Chanukah shopping! On Sunday, December 4, from 12 to 3 p.m., Hadassah is hosting a shopping party at Discovered Traditions Gift Shop at Temple Beth El, 5101 Providence Road. Enjoy brunch munchies and cof-

fee while you shop. Hadassah members receive a 10% discount on their purchases and 10% of total sales will be given to Hadassah. The first night of Hanukkah is Sunday, December 18.
Charlotte's Jewish History
Sign up for a special Jacobs-Jaffa Jewish Heritage Tour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 13. Meet at Queens University and drive your own

car on the tour. The price is \$36 and a dairy lunch is included. The program is open to women and men.
Participants will visit historic sites and enjoy a unique, entertaining, and educational walk through Charlotte's 165 years of Jewish history. Hear stories that can't be found in history books, and personal gems of wisdom from the voices of our commu-

nity's leaders. Registration link is on our website.
Your Health Is Important!
Walk, run, or wobble to advocate for Women's Health! Support pioneering research about women's heart health by the Hadassah Medical Organization. Sign up for the Turkey Trot. For the entire month of November, walk or run, solo or with a team, anytime, any distance, anyplace, inside or outside.

If you'd like to walk with your Hadassah sisters, meet on Sunday, November 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the Four Mile Greenway (5803 Bevington Place, near Trader Joe's). Lace up your sneakers and get ready to burn some of those Thanksgiving calories, while getting out into the beautiful Carolina autumn air. \$36 includes a fun swag gift from Regional.

Register at www.hadassahsouth.org/turkeytrot2022.

Have you scheduled your mammogram yet? Please do. The Mammovan (aka Novant Health Breast Center mobile unit) will be onsite at the Levine Jewish Community Center on Nov 30, 2022. Call Novant at (704) 384-7226 to make an appointment.

Fun & Games & Books
Want to learn about Hadassah, enjoy some wine, meet fabulous women, and have a fun night out? Come to "Wine & Schmoose" on Tuesday, November 1. Join us at 7 p.m. at Vintner Wine Market in the Arboretum Shopping Center on the first Tuesday of each month.

It's time to order your 2023 Mah Jongg card. Small cards are \$15 and large cards are \$16. The price includes a \$5 increase from National Mah Jongg League (NMJL) because of increased

printing/mailling costs, their increased donations to charity, and \$1 admin fee from Hadassah. Why order through Hadassah? NMJL donates proceeds from the sale of their official cards to charitable organizations, including Hadassah. It is a big fundraiser for our chapter. To order, send a check made out to Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA) and send to Hadassah, 5007 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226, Attention: Merril Schenkel. Write "Hadassah Charlotte Metro" in the note on your check. Order by January 13, 2023.

Hadassah BookTalk kicks off 5783 by discussing "Mary Jane" by Jessica Anya Blau on Tuesday, November 15 (note new date) at 7 p.m. Please join us on Zoom.

Beverly's Book Nook meets on Friday, November 18 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss "Saving the Music" by Vincent B. "Chip" LoCoco. LoCoco writes of the efforts undertaken by common villagers, priests, and even a Pope to protect Jews from the Nazis.

The Short Story Discussion Group is discussing stories from Israeli author Amos Oz's collection, "Scenes from a Village Life." Stories in the novel depict the fast changes in Israeli society and in the state's scenery. Mark your calendar for November 18, and for future meetings on December 16 and January 20. The Short Story Discussion Group meets monthly on the third Friday at 11:45 a.m. via Zoom.

Helpful Hadassah Info
The next Hadassah Charlotte Metro Board meeting is on Monday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the South County Library, 5801 Rea Road, Community Room B. A Zoom link is available if you cannot attend in person.

Interested in joining Hadassah or learning more? Contact Anik Harrison at the phone number or email below or come to one of our events. We would love to meet you!

Our website, www.hadassah-cltevents.org, has details about our events. If you have questions, email HadassahCLT@gmail.com or call our general phone number, (980) 553-1880. Your message will be forwarded to the correct person.

Follow us on social media: Facebook (Hadassah CLT Metro), Instagram (Hadassah Charlotte Metro) and Twitter (@HadassahCLT).

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Wednesday, November 2	Friday, November 11	Wednesday, November 16
Chamber Music Performance by Tanja Bechtler & the Bechtler Ensemble 11:00am	SPICE Potluck! 6:00pm	The South in the Funny Pages with Dr. Tom Hanchett 11:00am
Clergy Discussion with Cantor Mary Thomas: Gratitude in Jewish Tradition Menu: Deli Lunch	Shabbat Evening Service Honoring Our Veterans 7:30pm	Clergy Discussion with Rabbi Lexi Erdheim: Sweet Tea and Glezel Tea Menu: A Touch of Italy

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Register for Events at www.templebethel.org/calendar



Women's News

W.O.W. Fall Events

Join W.O.W. as we move forward into 5783 with many ways to have fun, learn and meet new women! Between getting together to celebrate a holiday shmooze, or talk about a great book, we are here! See our list of events for November below, but always find us at www.charlottewomenofwisdom.com or our Facebook page at W.O.W. Inspiring, Empowering and Connecting Jewish Women.

Soup in Sara's Sukkah

Many Jewish women joined together with friends for the Annual W.O.W. sukkah party in the Oppenheim sukkah. We held a Build-your-own model sukkah out of corks contest, played interactive group games, noshed, and enjoyed refreshments. Past event — Join us next year!

Book Club Discussion Event

"Chasing Freedom" by Ella Miriam. Join us in person at the Charlotte Torah Center for our

first book club of the year. The author will be joining the discussion. When Ella Miriam made the terrifying decision to leave the Soviet Union for Israel on a search for freedom and to escape generations of haunting, painful memories, she never expected to suffer the devastating loss that would lead her, through a succession of unlikely occurrences, to America. *Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m.*

Israel Trip Information Event

Congratulations! Our 2023 Mom's Trip to Israel is happening in April! Join us for an informational night and reunion with past "trippies."

Give yourself and your family the gift of a lifetime! Join other Jewish women for a women-only educational opportunity culminating in a highly subsidized trip to Israel. Don't miss this opportunity to join other Charlotte Jewish Women explore the

details of the trip, engage with past trippies.

Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m.

Chanukah Gift Box Sale

Order your Chanukah gift boxes filled with Chanukah treats and surprises. Perfect to give as a gift, send to your child in college or use to celebrate Chanukah with your family. The boxes will be easy to ship to friends and family. Limited supplies, order early.

Order by noon Friday, November 18. Pickup by Monday, December 19.



Ballantyne Jewish Center Women's Circle Paint and Sip

The Jewish Women's Circle is a night out just for you. Relax, socialize, and meet new friends while exploring the practical and mystical aspects of our heritage. Through innovative workshops and creative activities, we will explore contemporary Jewish issues and discuss subjects related to our tradition. Come together in this warm and inviting setting to share and celebrate our Jewish experience.

Join us for a Ladies Night Out! A fun evening with old and new friends, painting beautiful Shabbat-inspired art and sipping on delicious wine and cocktails.

Tuesday, November 8, 7 p.m. Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish Life 6619 Sardis Rd. \$20

Refreshments, non-alcoholic drinks, wine and cocktails will be served.

RSVP: Leah Levin at Leah@JewishBallantyne.com, text Bluma (973) 558-0403, or register online www.Chabad-nc.org/paint.

The Ballantyne Jewish Center is dedicated to serving all Jews throughout Ballantyne and surrounding areas with Ahavat Yisrael — unconditional love and concern for every Jew, regardless of background and affiliation. We aim to help foster a deeper sense of pride and appreciation of our Jewish heritage; and

to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people. The unique programming we offer includes creative educational projects, designed to advance Jewish knowledge, awareness and practice. Most of all however, we offer Judaism with a smile and a home away from home for everyone who walks through our doors.



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Jewish Names

(Continued from page 9)

Fermaglich. She found that Jews in the middle of the 20th century were changing their names — because of antisemitism, because they weren't able to get into universities or stay at hotels or get certain jobs because of their names. It was a way of integrating into American society, not necessarily as a way of assimilating. Just because they changed their names didn't mean that they were now not identified with Jewish communities. They tended to still be engaged.

And then in the '60s and '70s, it became more acceptable to have a distinctive ethnic identity. Antisemitism diminished significantly, but it was also part of a broader American trend to highlight your ethnic distinctiveness. Jews participated in that in numerous ways, including a tendency to give their babies distinctive names.

JTA: That theme runs through your discussion: the back and forth between acculturation and distinctiveness.

SBB: That has been the case throughout Jewish history. Wherever Jews have lived, they have had to come up with a balance between acculturation and distinctiveness, and in some

cases, it was much more on the acculturation side. In some cases, it was much more on the distinctive side.

JTA: You describe how the distinctiveness of Jewish baby names rises with the parents' engagement in Jewish life, including visits to Israel, synagogue attendance, denomination. You also note that "rabbis and cantors have the highest rates of children with distinctively Jewish names, followed by Jewish educators and Jewish studies scholars," and that Orthodox Jews are more likely than non-Orthodox Jews to pick names high on the scale of Jewishness. Let's talk about how these trends increase across levels of engagement.

Another really striking image to me is the time spent in Israel. Having a distinctively Jewish name and especially having a modern Hebrew name increase with how much time the parents have spent in Israel. And you get similar spreads for other things like denominations. Something like 69% of haredi or "black-hat" Jews give their children distinctively Jewish names, compared to 35% of Modern Orthodox. So there is a huge split even among the Orthodox. And then you

know, for other denominations, it is even lower than that.

I was surprised how many people still have Jewish ritual names in addition to their given "English" names — in my case, I am Avrum on my wedding contract and when called up for synagogue honors. Wasn't it over 90%?

SBB: Yes, 95% of the respondents say they have a ritual name, but a lot of those are the same name as their non-ritual name, like "Sarah." That does reflect our sample being more engaged in Jewish life than the average random sample of Jews. What's interesting here is the Orthodox versus non-Orthodox children, where 64% of Orthodox children have exactly the same ritual name as their given first name, which means that they're giving their children distinctively Jewish names, and non-Orthodox children only 30%.

The ritual names convention, which for a long time was reserved for boys, opens up a whole discussion of gender — including the fact that there are just so many more male biblical names than female names.

If you look at the names that are most popular among Jewish

respondents by decade of birth, you see that the girls' names include some modern Hebrew names and some biblical names that Israelis reclaimed, like Talia and Noa.

JTA: The study discusses "Starbucks names." Is that a term of art in the social sciences?

SBB: It refers to the idea of a name that you use for some service encounters [such as buying coffee] that's different from your own, because your own name is hard to spell or you don't want to hear your name called in a public place. I found that Jews with distinctively Jewish names were much more likely to use a Starbucks name sometimes than those who don't have distinctively Jewish names. But I was also surprised that some people who don't have distinctively Jewish names also use a Starbucks alternative that's more Jewish because they want to identify in public as Jewish.

JTA: And then there is the Aroma name, named after the Israeli coffee chain. That's where Americans give a Hebrew spin to their English name that they know the Israeli barista is going to mispronounce.

SBB: Yeah, exactly. That was

fun. I hadn't heard that term, but some of the respondents use it. A Kelly said she uses "Kelilah" in Israel.

When you look at this data set, what does it tell you about American Jewry at this moment?

There are two ways to answer that. One is through the acculturation and distinctiveness lens. I think the data show that Jews have become more distinct over time in the last 60 or 70 years or so. You can also look through the lens of tradition and innovation. Are American Jews using naming practices that have been parts of Jewish communities for centuries, or are they coming up with new traditions? Most of the naming practices reflect traditions that have been part of Jewish communities for centuries, with some modern spins. Even the Starbucks name: When Hadassah goes by Esther in the Purim story, you can think of that as a historical Starbucks name.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.



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Education and Youth

CJP Annual Fund Supports Technology, Professional Development, and More

By Rebekah Rubenstein

This is my eighth year as a Charlotte Jewish Preschool (CJP) parent and I currently serve as the CJP PTO president. My husband and I have three daughters — our two oldest are CJP graduates and our youngest is in the threes. I love this school and the community that we create. CJP and its teachers have truly changed our lives. My girls woke up excited every day to come to CJP and the teachers laid the foundation for their Jewish education as well as their secular education. And that is all thanks to these amazing people who come here every day to love on our kids, to teach our kids, and to make a difference in their lives.

Did you know that tuition only covers 92% of the cost to educate a child at CJP? The Annual Fund and grant funding make up the rest.

The Annual Fund is a campaign that allows us to take CJP to the next level. Beyond tuition dollars, this campaign allows us to ensure that CJP continues to stand out as one of the best pre-

schools in Charlotte and it has a direct impact on the preschool experience for our children.

Annual Fund dollars in past years have allowed us to bring technology into the classroom (which allows parents to get photos and updates of their children during the day), helped provide additional equipment on the playground (I know my daughter loves the slide, and as a parent, I appreciate the additional shade structures), and allowed us to create the Maker's Space.

Annual Fund dollars also help to allow our teachers the time for classroom planning, so that they don't have to do this on their own time, and provide enough funds to decorate classrooms and buy supplies, so they don't have to use their own money. My mother taught for 34 years, and I remember all the time and money she poured into her classroom — anyone who teaches will know what I mean.

One of CJP's best assets is our team of wonderful educators. The Talmud states, "Parents bring a child into this world, but a teacher can bring a child



Harry and Rebekah Rubenstein and family

into the world to come... into a world of spirit, creativity, and self-worth."

CJP strives to be a competitive employer of choice. We want to attract the best of the best in educators — you can look at our teachers and know we have succeeded. Annual Fund dollars also allow us to invest in professional development for our teachers. When we send staff to the North American Reggio Emilia Alli-

ance Conference or the NAEYC Conference (National Association for the Education of Young Children), these opportunities are afforded by generous donations to the Annual Fund made by you.

Our Annual Fund goal this year is \$60,000. It is our sincere hope that we can reach this goal by having 100% parent and educator participation. Whether you can give \$5 or \$500, your dona-

tion matters. We are pleased to announce that we already have 100% CJP Board of Director's participation!

We recently raised \$7,000 in one week! To celebrate that milestone, we had a Pajama and Popsicle Shabbat Extravaganza for our students.

Please join me in making a donation to the Annual Fund, and in continuing to make a difference at CJP. Donations can be made online: <https://charlottejewish-preschool.org/annual-fund/> or by scanning:

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Education and Youth

Jewish Preschool on Sardis

By Mary Gross

When I first saw two pink lines on a pregnancy test in February 2020, I immediately imagined sitting in the perfect, Instagram-worthy nursery with a bundled-up baby in my arms. I didn't stop to consider how we would juggle childcare while both my husband and I worked full time. I definitely didn't consider how we would juggle childcare during a global pandemic.

A few weeks later, a friend told us we needed to get on some daycare waiting lists as soon as possible. (Who knew you were supposed to sign-up when your baby was the size of a blueberry?)



Joanie with her "second mom," Ms. Liz



Joanie making challah with friends

I put my #nurseynspo on hold and we set out to find a school with small class sizes and a great staff.

When we visited the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, they immediately checked all our boxes. And, luckily, they had a spot for us.

On my daughter's first day, the

mom guilt was strong. Would I regret going back to work? Would she think I was abandoning her?

But by the end of Joanie's first week, I knew we had made the right choice. I was looking through photos of her finger painting, making challah, and playing instruments. The last photo was of Joanie cuddled into her teacher's arms as peacefully as if they were my own. I knew it then — these teachers loved my baby. Realizing this was what helped me go back to the career that I loved.

My sweet baby is now a confident, silly two-year-old. It's amazing to see her grow, mastering new skills that I wouldn't have thought to teach her until she was much older. And now, when the mom guilt creeps in, I remember that Joanie doesn't spend her school days with teachers and staff. She spends her days with family.



ZABS Place To Open Furniture Shop



ZABS Place signed a lease on a space right next to its existing location in downtown Matthews, which will be home to the future ZABS Place Furniture Shop.

The ZABS Place Furniture Shop will enable an additional 15 young adults with disabilities to begin job training and eventual placement in an interest-based career.

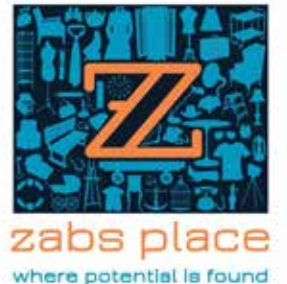
ZABS Place is a nonprofit thrift boutique in Matthews, North Carolina, that trains and

employs young adults with special talents to help them realize their potential. ZABS Place strives to be a stepping stone for specially-talented young adults who don't yet have the polished skills to pursue their aspirations.

To learn more and Shop ZABS Place visit ZABSPlace.org/Shop.

To request a furniture donation pickup, send an email to donationz@zabsplace.org.

ZABS Place is affiliated with Chabad of Charlotte and the Friendship Circle and a proud beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.



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Education and Youth

A S.T.E.A.M.y Way of Thinking at CJDS

By Rick Isham, CJDS S.T.E.A.M. Instructor

This year, Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) has begun to incorporate S.T.E.A.M.-based instruction in science and social studies for students in third through sixth grades. The S.T.E.A.M. acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. This approach allows students to solve real-world problems, also called Problem-Based Learning (PBL), using a structured set of procedures called the engineering design process. In the engineering design process, students first identify a problem that addresses something happening in their local or broader community. Once they identify the problem, they conduct guided and independent research, mostly online, to learn anything and everything they can, which will allow them to design the best solution possible. During this stage of research, students can also reach out to local community members that specialize in their selected topic and may invite them to the school to share their knowledge and expertise. Once the students conclude their research, they move into the planning stage.

In this stage, students draft their ideas using as much detail as possible. They are taught that plans are a way of communicating their thoughts and ideas to another person. If their plan lacks detail, the message will not be received or interpreted accurately. The fourth step in the engineering design process brings their plan to life. They construct and build their solution using the plan that they created. This stage also allows students to test their solutions, identify problem areas, and make corrections, if needed. The final step is self-reflection. Students reflect on their successes, failures, work habits, time management, and what they have learned.

The greatest benefits of the PBL model are that students learn to problem-solve, apply critical thinking strategies, communicate effectively with others, understand that failure will happen, and how to use that failure as an opportunity to improve upon their ideas and, most importantly, themselves. In today's world, students tend to believe that there is only one right answer to a problem and when they fail the first time, they immediately need assistance from a peer



CJDS students building shofars

or adult. The PBL approach allows students to understand that failure is going to happen, that there is more than one right answer, and that when they do not succeed, they need to open their minds to other possibilities and try new ideas. Giving up should never be an option.

Another key component of the PBL model is teaching students 21st-century skills that they will need in the future. The four targeted skills are communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.

The 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years had a negative impact on the ability to teach these skills because of the need for quarantine and isolation. Students in kindergarten through second grade lost the direct instruction of these skills. Older students also regressed, as these skills were not used effectively, if at all, during virtual instruction. At CJDS, we intend to create a hierarchy of soft skills that will teach our students these skills in incremental stages, starting in kindergarten. Students should

be learning collaboration and effective communication strategies when working with others during their first years of school, and these skills should develop and advance as they get older. The goal of teaching these skills is to ensure that students are prepared to be innovative problem solvers, team players, and effective communicators.

The S.T.E.A.M. model also exposes students to a variety of digital programs and software that are used in the real world. Students learn to code computer programs, use 3-D drafting programs, build in virtual reality, learn appropriate online behaviors and safety, and more.

As an example, here is an understanding of a sixth-grade PBL project. A few years ago, Shalom Park allowed CJDS to build a community garden on the property. It was soon discovered that there was a problem with water irrigation and runoff, since the garden is located near a downward hill. The sixth graders would identify one of these problems. Let's say they want to identify the water runoff problem. They would conduct

(Continued on page 33)

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Choosing CJDS has been a fabulous decision for our children and our family, and I suspect we have not begun to realize the rewards.

- Josh and Elissa, 4th and 6th

The Judaic curriculum at CJDS has started many conversations within our family that allow us to pass along our own core values to our children - I am truly thankful for this.

- Heather, 2nd, 5th and 7th

CJDS teaches its students about what we all have in common while celebrating what makes us different.

- Carolyn, Kindergarten and 4th

After our first year of CJDS, the school became a home away from home... We watched our daughter thrive in confidence, academics and spirituality.

- Ilana and Curtis, 1st, 3rd and 5th

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Education and Youth

Hebrew High Kicks Off a Great New Year

By Megan Harkavy

Gorelick Hall was buzzing again on the first night of Hebrew High. After a three-month hiatus, the room was filled with more than 70 teenagers eager to be back together. We started our year a little differently than in previous years. We planned an all-school program where the teens participated in competitive games, all with a theme of Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur.

After the students fed their bellies with delicious baked ziti, garlic knots (a fan favorite!), and Oreo cookies, the teens split up into 12 different color groups. They were instructed to introduce themselves and come up with a team name. Some team names were as creative as "The Purple People-Pomegranate Eaters," "The A-Toners," or "Johnny Appleseed," and then there were some not so creative names such as "On Wednesdays, We Wear Pink," "Team Orange," or "Blue Jew Crew."

Once teams decided on their names, the teens went to Lerner Hall to compete in activities at six different stations. At the end of each activity, teachers awarded the group points for how well



Avery Jurusik, Cabell Philpott and Frida Secrist are playing the Tashlich Toss game.

they played or contributed and for sportsmanship. The six stations were:

Race – A – Shana — Teens had potato sacks and participated in different relay races.

Tashlich Toss — Similar to the ritual of tossing breadcrumbs (or anything dissolvable) into a flowing river during Rosh Hashana, the teens had ping pong balls and had to toss them into baskets that were on their partners heads.

Sweet New Year — Teens had the opportunity to make their own honey-flavored ice cream.

It was a sweet treat for a sweet New Year.

Tower of Babel — Teens used giant Jenga blocks to build the tallest tower without them falling down.

Mitzvah Project — Teens created Rosh Hashanah cards to send to Jewish Family Services for its clients' holiday baskets.

Yom Kapara — Teens threw (plastic) chickens into a pot to represent an Orthodox custom of kaparat, where white chick-

ens are waved over a person's head and then slaughtered as a symbolic gesture of atonement. These slaughtered chickens are then donated to those who are less fortunate. It is believed that one transfers one's sins from the past year into the chicken, so this is customarily done right before Yom Kippur.

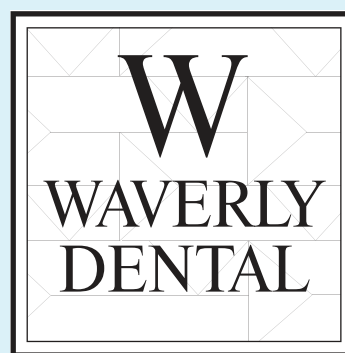
The activities at each station lasted for about six to eight minutes and the teens switched stations after they heard a sho-

far being blown. They were very competitive and, in the end, everyone won a caramel apple lollipop and a honey stick. The members of the Purple People-Pomegranate Eaters also won a \$5 Starbucks gift card! Everyone had a great time, old friendships were rekindled, and new friendships were formed.

The official start of Hebrew High classes is on Wednesday, October 12. It is not too late to sign up for the second or third trimester. We are a joint venture between Temple Beth El and Temple Israel and powered by Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. We are open to all Jewish teens in grades 8-12 in the greater Charlotte area. To learn more or to register, please visit www.hebrewhigh.org or contact Megan Harkavy at mharkavy@hebrewhigh.org.



Ben Gran, Jaden Auslander, Charlie Sidman and Miles Humphrey race to the finish line in "Race-A-Shana"



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Education and Youth

Answers to Your Questions About Friendship Circle’s Teen Friends

What is Friendship Circle?
Friendship Circle is an organization focused purely on friendship. We support children, teens and young adults with special needs abilities, our Special Friends who often experience loneliness and isolation because of lack of social opportunities. Our innovative social programming is designed to foster enduring and meaningful friendships between typically-developing teens, our Teen Friends, and our Special Friends from the greater Charlotte community. Our core program pairs Teen Friends and

Special Friends for weekly visits - the basis of our genuine friendships. Through a broad range of activities and events, Friendship Circle creates an atmosphere of acceptance, recognizing that all people, regardless of the obstacles and challenges they may experience, are sacred, and have something to contribute.
Who are Teen Friends?
Teen Friends are high school students who are interested in building a more inclusive community by having fun and sharing experiences with children and young adults with special



Aliyah and Nate at Rosh Hashanah program

What do Friendship Circle Teen Friends do?
There are two ways Teen Friends can participate. As part of the Friends Together program, Teen Friends meet with their Special Friend weekly at the Friendship Circle Building. Their mission is to build great friendships by sharing interests and spending time together. We also have weekly group programs on Sundays, where all of our friends come together to share friendship and fun.



Alexa and her friend, Savannah

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abilities, (Special Friends). When they are brought together through friendship and trust, our Special Friends and Teen Friends form a warm and welcoming community.

What does it mean to be a Teen Friend?
“Being a Teen Friend means making a positive difference in another person’s life. When I see my friends smile, it makes me happy to know they feel like they belong.” Justin, Myers Park High School

“To me, being a Teen Friend means putting time and energy into developing new friendships. Assuming this position has allowed me to create wonderful relationships with wonderful people that I probably would not have crossed paths with on my own. These friendships have brought me joy, comfort and laughter and I could not be more grateful.” Alexa, Charlotte Latin

What is your favorite part of being a Teen Friend?
“My favorite part of being a Teen Friend is that you connect with different people despite your differences.” Lulu, Providence High School

How old are Teen Friends?
Teen Friends are high school age, 9th-12th grade. A Junior Teen Friend program for 7th and 8th graders is also being offered.



Alexa

What is the commitment to be a Teen Friend?
Teen Friends who sign up for the “Friends Together” program must commit to weekly, hour-long, visits with their Special Friend for the duration of the CMS school year. Teen Friends who sign up for Sunday programs must commit to attend consistently for the duration of the CMS school year. (Friendship Circle programs don’t meet on Shabbat, during school breaks, or on Jewish holidays). Make sure you are ready for this

year-long commitment before you sign up.
What skills do teens gain by becoming Teen Friends?
“I think that teens become more tolerant and gain problem solving skills.” Jordan, Providence High School
“I think that we gain the ability to not spend so much time focusing on how to fix ourselves and instead focus on appreciating what we have and the people around us. Aliya Providence High School
“I’ve learned from my time working with Friendship Circle that with patience and an attitude to learn, real friendships can be built with anybody. To me, being a Teen Friend means to approach everybody with open arms.” Zach, Charlotte Latin
FriendshipCircle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more, visit Friendshipcircle.org

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14,500 blankets have been donated to the Levine Children’s Hospital, Hemby Children’s Hospital and the Shriners Hospital (Greenville, SC) and 10,000 chemo hats have been donated to facilities for cancer patients around Charlotte.

Join Us!

Wednesdays 8-11 AM at the Levine Jewish Community Center
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(Puzzle on page 22)

Education and Youth

Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne Winter Camp

By Leah Levin

After our ninth incredible and successful summer, Camp Gan Israel (CGI) Ballantyne is back and offering an amazing winter camp experience for your children. CGI is part of the largest and fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world. CGI enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trend-setter in Jewish camping with innovative ideas and creative programs being introduced continuously. Campers enjoy a wide range of exciting activities in a warm, caring environment, cultivating pride and love for the Jewish heritage. With activities, games, exciting Jewish themes, trips, crafts and much more, your children will have a blast every single day. Our handpicked staff are experienced, energetic and fun-loving camp counselors who love working with children.

Here's what some parents had to say about CGI:

Thank you or any other words will not do justice to this experience. – Elinor Miller

The only camp a 13 year old begs to go to! You run an amazing program!!! – Limor Bregman

Thank you for everything at camp...the kids had the absolute best time. So sweet to see the counselors and kids all come together like a little family. Thank you for that gift of pure joy all around! – Heather Rasowsky

You do such an incredible job- every detail. My kids love it and can't wait for next year. – Carrie Moran

Camp Gan Israel Details

- Monday through Friday, December 26- 30

- 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Extended care available upon request)

- For children ages 3-11 (Children will be split by grade: preschool, K-3, 4-6)

- Pricing per child (Register for one day or for the entire week): Early Bird: \$70 per day or \$295 for the week. After December 5: \$80 per day or \$340 for the week. Cost includes daily snacks and a hot kosher lunch.

- To register or for more information, contact Leah Levin Leah@JewishBallantyne.com, (704) 408-1116 or visit our website www.CGIBallantyne.com.



Ethan and Nadav Avin enjoying Winter Camp 2021

A special thank you to Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for their support!



CJDS

(Continued from page 30)

research by visiting other community gardens, bring in landscape experts to discuss strategies, and find other examples of water runoff problems online to learn how they were addressed. Once they are fully educated on the problem, they would then make attempts to generate a plan that they believe would solve the problem. They could plan for irrigation pipes that would allow for excess water to flow into a nearby creek, lay down materials that would slow down the flow of water so that it could be absorbed into the ground, or design a shield that would prevent the water from flowing down the side of the hill. Once planned and thoroughly thought through, they would gather the materials that they need in order to make their plans operational. Their designs would be tested to gauge the level of their functionality and any errors would be addressed and corrected. When this is completed, the students would share their learning with others and then spend time reflecting on their project and efforts.

We believe that student-driven education will engage our



A student with their design and material plan for a shofar

students on a deeper level, building global competencies and problem-solving skills for challenges they will face throughout their lives. Design thinking and S.T.E.A.M. will be the focus of student-centered learning in grades six through eight, but will be incorporated into the curriculum of all the grades at CJDS. The addition of a state-of-the-art design lab will be introduced in the fall of 2023. For more information, visit www.cjdschool.org or call (704) 366-4558.



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Education and Youth

Charlotte BBYO Kicks Off Another Year

By Heather Mirman

Charlotte BBYO is back together after a fun-filled summer when so many of our Charlotte teens participated in BBYO summer programs at Perlman Camp in Pennsylvania or had the adventure of a lifetime doing International Leadership Seminar in Israel (ILSI) or a BBYO Passport trip across Europe. As a way to celebrate the start of the new year and welcome new

prospective members to BBYO, the AZAs and BBGs took a trip together to Carrigan Farms to go swimming and cliff jumping in its picturesque rock quarry. The weather ended up being beautiful and all the teens had fun enjoying a day in the water and playing volleyball on the quarry's beach. The Charlotte chapter boards have also been busy planning their Tuesday night programs. Mickey Barak Aberman AZA,

led by Godol (president) Trevor Lan, held a man vs. food program and a 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament and had some AZA bonding during wing night at Buffalo Wild Wings. Hank Greenberg AZA, led by Godol (president) Christian Smith, had a fun time making pizzas with unique fast food toppings, enjoying some pancakes at an IHOP dinner, and playing fruit baseball with their sibling chapter, Ohavim. Ohavim BBG, led by N'siah (president) Daria Lapidot-Boaz, has also been busy hosting a field day fundraiser and mixing up ingredients during their honey bake program. Chai Chaverim BBG, led by N'siah (president) Ella Zolot, decorated their own tote bags, had a Minnie Mouse picnic, and pampered themselves during their Treat Yourself program. Each chapter has also been busy welcoming new members into BBYO and teaching them the traditions and rituals that have been passed down from generation to generation. New Members in 9th grade and above were able to go to New Member Weekend in October at Camp Weaver in Greensboro, North



Charlotte BBYO kickoff at Carrigan Farms in Mooresville, NC



Charlotte BBG's enjoy floating in the quarry at Carrigan Farms (Pictured from L to R: Evie Salam, Sara Cohen, Daria Lapidot-Boaz, Hayley Nachshon)

Carolina. The weekend was full of meeting new friends from around Eastern Region, learning about BBYO, creating a mock chapter, and acquiring leadership skills that they can bring back to their own chapters and use. The teens were excited to enjoy a weekend together, celebrating their Jewish identities, culture, and friendships. Charlotte BBYO has some incredible programming and events lined up this year, and we want you to be a part of it. BBYO is for teens in grades 8-12 who are interested in making lifelong connections with

other Jewish teens in Charlotte and around the globe. Charlotte BBYO meets on most Tuesday nights at the Levine Jewish Community Center from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, please e-mail charlotte@bbyo.org or go to www.bbyo.org. We look forward to welcoming you into our BBYO family!



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Education and Youth

CTeen Opens New Lounge



Chabad of Charlotte just launched another year of CTeen, a worldwide club aimed at engaging Jewish teenagers in Jewish practice and identity.

New this year: CTeen's very own lounge!

"I am very excited about the opening of our new CTeen Lounge," said Maya Bakondi, from Cuthbertson High. "I love CTeen because it helps me connect with other teens who are also Jewish and it's super fun."

"There's this stereotypical idea that teenagers are just reckless, immature, and difficult," says Tonya Tessler and Breindel Piekarsky, the CTeen coordinators. "That could not be further from the truth. Teenagers have insurmountable energy."

At CTeen, we believe in the power of youth, and what we offer is a means of channeling that power in a positive and uplifting way."

CTeen of Charlotte offers a number of programs with the goal of educating adolescents about the role of Jewish practice in daily life.

To learn more about CTeen visit ChabadNC.org/CTeen



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Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following article is from The Charlotte Jewish News, October, 2000. To read other issues of The CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

Looking Back: September 2007

Charlotte Jewish Archives Comes Full Circle

By Cynthia Chapman

Judaism teaches that the past is important. Remember Abraham welcomed the stranger and do likewise. Remember you were a slave in Egypt. It helps us understand where we started and where we are now.

Lenora Stein, director of the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) believed Charlotte Jewish history was important and interesting. So did Richard Klein, who addressed the Charlotte Jewish Federation Board of Directors in 1983 and proposed the formation of a Jewish Archives to collect and preserve Charlotte Jewish History. (Much of the Jewish community's collective history was destroyed by the fire at the Jewish Community Center building in 1983.) Other individuals, such as Herman Blumenthal, Sam Eneman, Minnie Sutker, and Ben Jaffas, Jr. shared the interest. In 1988, Lenora launched the Charlotte Jewish Archives as a project of CJJE, and the first Day for History was held in 1989. People in

the community enthusiastically brought in photographs and material to give to the archive.

By 1990 the project became known as the Charlotte Jewish Historical Society. A major focus was to document and record history. With committed volunteers and little funding, Hilbert Fuerstman hosted A Walking Tour of the Hebrew Cemetery, which included graves of those who fought as Confederates in the Civil War. Videotapes were created to document the history of the temples and the creation of Shalom Park.

Longtime residents of Charlotte such as Faye and Gerald Sinkoe, Sam Wallace, Aaron Gleiberman, Florence Jaffa, and others brought photographs to be copied and made a permanent part of the archive collection. Video oral history interviews were made so individual stories and the collective story of Jewish life in Charlotte would not be lost.

Exhibits showcased photos and interviews contained in the archive collection. In 1993, a

wonderful exhibit was held at the Main Library of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County called "From 7th Street to Shalom Park." The exhibit drew the largest crowd of any exhibit the library had hosted. That exhibit is now back at Shalom Park. Over the years, exhibits at the Jewish Community Center, the Levine Museum of the New South and the Charlotte Museum of History and programs created at WTVI and UNC-Charlotte have used our archive. In 2002, excerpts from several video oral histories were included in UNC-Charlotte's "New South Voices" project.

The historical collection grew over the years from a few photographs and a few video interviews to a collection that filled to overflowing the large metal cabinet in which it was housed.

In 1997, the North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board awarded a grant to recommend how to preserve the archive collection. The CAJE trailer sometimes had roof

leaks, and temperature fluctuations changed with the seasons — not ideal conditions in which to store irreparable historical photos and documents. What was needed was the proper storage environment. But that dream seemed a long way off indeed.

In the year 2000, the Arts and Science Council awarded a "History and Heritage Program" grant to Lenora and the project. With that funding, Lenora hired me as temporary archivist to help organize the archival material, transfer it into archival quality storage boxes, and create a computerized index to make research easier. Lenora's smiling face became part of the ASC's fund drive the next year in its "One for All" campaign.

By 2001, 13 Days for Jewish History had taken place and more than 173 people had completed oral history interviews. Sadly, many of those people are no longer alive, but their stories live on in the archive. Besides the video oral histories, more

than 40 other videotapes are part of the archive.

With the expansion of Shalom Park, a new vision emerged. The collections of the Speizman Jewish Library and the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) — and its project for the Charlotte Jewish Historical Society — would merge to create a new state-of-the-art center. Plans included a space especially designed for optimal archival storage. The Levine Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center was built and within its walls a dream became a reality — a room with environmental controls to protect the historical collection for years to come. The collection is now once again called the "Charlotte Jewish Archives," a name that brings it back to its origins back in 1988.

We at the Levine Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center are happy to have the Charlotte Jewish Archives as part of our collection.

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Safeguarding Shalom Park and all of its visitors is one of the primary responsibilities of the Foundation of Shalom Park Security organization. **Our mission for campus safety rests on four pillars of action.**



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FACT:

In 2019 through 2021, there were 18,809 incidents of extremism or antisemitism in the United States.

2019: 4,490 2020: 6,978 2021: 7,341

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- Trains staff, volunteers, and vendors on variety of threat related incidents such as active shooter/assailant, kidnapping, bomb threats
- Monitors entrances, exits, interior, and exterior areas for threats and incidents
- Maintains constant security presence and patrols on campus

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



- Donate to the 2023 Shalom Park Security Fund - security and safety are not expenses, they are investments in today and the future
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