

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS

Celebrating Jewish Life

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Advocacy in Action: Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's JCRC Leading the Charge

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

Through strategic engagement with local representatives and active advocacy in legislative matters, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), the advocacy and public affairs arm of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte (JFGC), is effecting real change and garnering crucial support for bills that safeguard Jewish interests and promote humanitarian aid efforts in Israel.

A recent success for our Jewish community is the passing of the National Security Supplemental package. This legislation allocates \$26.4 billion to support relief efforts in Israel, with an additional \$400 million directed to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), providing funding to proactively safeguard places of worship and community gatherings from the rise in antisemitic incidents. In an unprecedented display of unity, the bill received overwhelming bipartisan support; all but one North Carolina representative voted yes.

Building on this success, the JCRC continues to advance causes vital to our community, including advocating for the Antisemitism Awareness Act and the Shalom Act, which will require the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism as the single, guiding definition to be used in legislative matters. The Antisemitism Awareness Act specifically aims to combat antisemitism in educational settings by establishing a clear framework for identifying



Members of the JCRC convened at the North Carolina General Assembly for the May 8 Day of Advocacy. Left to right: Sharyn Handelsman, Harrison Smookler, Douglas Greene, Steve Menaker, Amy Vitner, Tair Giudice, Eric Laxer

and addressing antisemitic incidents to be used by the US Department of Education. Similarly, on a state level, the Shalom Act seeks to redefine antisemitism within North Carolina's legal framework, aligning the state's definition with that of the IHRA and paving the way for more effective responses and interventions.

The IHRA definition states: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews..." and goes on to give several examples of antisemitism, including the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. It does, however, make the distinction that "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country

cannot be regarded as antisemitic." Both bills have passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the House and are now set to move forward to the Senate.

The "Day of Advocacy" in Raleigh was another pivotal moment for Jews in North Carolina. On May 8, JCRC members, alongside other North Carolina

Jewish Federations and advocacy groups, converged on the state capital to engage directly with lawmakers, including North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, and be present for the House vote on the Shalom Act. This event served as a powerful platform for amplifying the voices of our local Jewish community, ensuring that

our concerns are heard and heeded by the legislative bodies that govern us. "The passage of the Shalom Act with bipartisan support would not have happened without the combined efforts of Jewish Federations in North Carolina on our Day of Advocacy," said Douglas Greene, JFGC's government relations and public affairs associate. "Greensboro, Durham, Charlotte, and Raleigh all came together in one unified voice to urge our respective elected officials to give their support, showcasing the magnitude of our collective efforts."

At its core, the JCRC embodies a commitment to education, engagement, and mobilization. By advocating for the collective priorities and concerns of our Jewish community, they play a vital role in shaping public discourse and driving meaningful change. Through their unwavering dedication and proactive approach, the JCRC continues to make a lasting impact on issues ranging from antisemitism to Israel affairs. As events continue to unfold, the JCRC will continue to respond with the interests of our community at heart.

17th Annual Sam Strause Golf Tournament to Benefit Levine JCC Oasis Program

By Anne Douglas Miller

The 17th Annual Sam Strause Invitational Golf Tournament will be held on August 12 at Raintree Country Club. This event is one of the biggest fund-

raisers that the Levine JCC hosts every year, with 100% of the proceeds supporting the Levine JCC Oasis Program. The tournament is played in honor of Sam Strause, a founder of the tourna-

ment and a passionate advocate for adult programming. Sammy Strause's life revolved around four things: love of his family, Judaism, giving back to the Jewish community, and golf. As a long-term member of Raintree Country Club, it is an honor to be playing this particular golf tournament at a club that was so special to Sammy.

The Oasis program, which will benefit from the tournament, offers intellectual, social, and physical programming for adults 60 and older. It brings people together for activities such as exercise classes, kosher lunches, discussion groups, book clubs, and holiday celebrations. Oasis functions like a family, where participants form special



Oasis participants enjoyed an outing to Hot Glass Alley

(Continued on page 2)

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Editor's Corner

Finding Comfort and Courage in Our Shared Identity



Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

As I stepped out of my office at Shalom Park to attend our community's Yom Ha'Zikaron observance, the site of increased police presence, metal detectors, and bags being searched at the entrance to the building stopped me in my tracks. The solemn day to honor Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism had been on my mind, but for a moment, I had forgotten the harsh realities that prompt these security measures.

This juxtaposition — security intended to protect us but

simultaneously highlighting our vulnerability — captures the paradox we live with today. We live in a time when the Jewish community must balance the comfort of communal gatherings with the sobering reality of potential threats. While the presence of security is meant to make us feel safe, it can also serve as a stark reminder of the dangers we face.

Despite these challenges, one of the most striking aspects of this year's observances and celebrations — the first since October 7, was the number of people who still showed up. Even with the heightened risk, the undeniable increase in antisemitism, and the tensions from strengthening pro-Palestinian protests, our community still comes together in significant numbers. This commitment to our traditions and to each other demonstrates our resolve to stand together despite the threats we face.

I recalled the record-breaking turnout at last year's rally

to Washington, D.C — almost 300,000. It's not that people aren't afraid or that these issues aren't on their minds, but they seem to take a backseat to something more important. While it's uncertain how many might stay home due to fear, the large groups of people that continue to come together reflect a powerful sense of solidarity.

How do we reconcile these feelings? How do we find peace in knowing that while we are protected, the need for such protection exists? It's a delicate balance between living our lives fully and acknowledging the vulnerabilities that come with our identity.

As I looked past the sharp edges of the metal detectors to the softer warmth of the gathering of my friends, I realized that our strength and safety as a community doesn't lie solely in the physical measures we take to protect ourselves. It lies in our unity, in our ability to come together in the face of adversity, and in our unwavering commitment to our values and traditions.

The heightened security at our events is a testament to the challenges we face, but it also underscores our resilience. We gather, we remember, we celebrate, and we move forward—together. This unity is our greatest security.

For the second year in a row, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte hosted visiting Israeli soldiers through the Jewish Agency for Israel program,

"Instead of letting the antisemites decide who is Jewish and what defines us Jews, we step up and tell them otherwise. Only we will define what it means to be Jewish. Only we know how beautiful our values are. Only we appreciate to such an extent our rich history and all our people have gone through. That is what gives us strength to stand up through these difficult days. To stand up and together get through this."

Netanel, Israeli Soldier

"Soldiers in Uniform." From our Yom Ha'Zikaron observance through our Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations, they got to know our Charlotte community and we had the opportunity to hear from them about their experiences and perspectives. They presented to groups of children and adults and had countless one-on-one conversations.

During one such conversation with them in which I mentioned my initial my reaction to the police presence and metal detectors, one of them asked me what I thought about it. The conversation stuck with me, so later that day, I went back to them and asked them what *they* thought about it. Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) representative and reserve soldier, Netanel had these words to share:

"While discussing security issues, we differentiate between

actual security and the sense of security. We look for balance to reach the maximum level of both. Of course security is important, but we also need to feel safe and comfortable. Since October 7 both security and the sense of security have been affected. Many of us don't feel safe to walk around showing our Jewish identity. It's scary. But then another emotion rises. We sometimes feel a need to show our Jewish identity out and proud. How do these two feelings work together? I think after all that happened it's only natural that we connect in a stronger way to our Jewish identity. By doing so we take ownership over it. Instead of letting the antisemites decide who is Jewish and what defines us Jews, we step up and tell them otherwise. Only we will define what it means to be Jewish. Only we know how beautiful our values are. Only we appreciate to such an extent our rich history and all our people have gone through. That is what gives us strength to stand up through these difficult days. To stand up and together get through this. Because now more than ever we understand that if we hide our Jewish identity, we lose a big part of who we are. And it would be such a shame to give up on such a beautiful part of who we are."

Shira

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times

(28226 Zip Code. For other locations, visit www.charlottejewishnews.org.)

June 7 — 8:18 p.m.
June 14 — 8:21 p.m.
June 21 — 8:23 p.m.
June 28 — 8:24 p.m.
July 5 — 8:23 p.m.
July 12 — 8:21 p.m.
July 19 — 8:17 p.m.
July 26 — 8:13 p.m.

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS
THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Golf Tournament

(Continued from front page)

bonds and care for one another. They see each other outside of regular Oasis programming and check on each other when people are absent. One Oasis participant stated, "My family has lived in Charlotte for 22 years and the J has always been the hub of so much of the community, welcoming to everyone. Of all the wonderful programs, the one my husband and I consider the best of the best, the Oasis Enrichment Program."

Under the leadership of Jill Lipson, director of adult life, and Sharri Benjamin, adult life coordinator, the Oasis program has become a premier daytime enrichment program, welcoming participants regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or gender identity. The same participant added, "Once anyone meets Jill Lipson, you immediately understand why the program is beloved by every participant.

Along with her staff, Shari Benjamin and Mario, Jill continues, year after year, to deliver a very successful program. Jill directs Oasis with her heart. Everything she plans for her participants is done with intention that every person feels welcomed and included."

Lisa Strause Levinson, current board president of the Levine JCC and daughter of Sam Strause, shared the history of the Alene and Sam Strause Endowment for Senior Programming, which was created in 2017 to support the Oasis program. "The endowment honors the memory of my parents, my dad's love of golf, and my parents' dedication and gratitude of our Jewish community. It was an easy yes for me! Growing up in our home, I heard repeatedly from my parents, mostly my dad how it was our obligation and responsibility to always support and take

care of our Jewish community, because he believed no one else would if we didn't. Today I am proud to be a small part of supporting our senior population to provide vibrant educational and social programming along with hot kosher lunches."

Registration is now open for the 17th Annual Sam Strause Golf Tournament. To register as a player or find out more about sponsoring the event, visit charlottejcc.org/golf. If you have an item to contribute to the silent auction, please contact Anne Douglas Miller at (704) 944-6724 or email annedouglas.miller@charlottejcc.org. Thank you for your support in making this event a success!



NextGen Relaunch, Federation's Young Adult Community

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

After a long break, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is excited to relaunch NextGen, a vibrant group of Jewish young adults breathing new life into the greater Charlotte Jewish community. With a renewed vision, this dynamic network of Jews ages 21 to 45 is dedicated to creating a warm and inclusive environment for everyone.

NextGen is all about empowering Jewish young adults to live their values, pitch in to help, and step into leadership roles that are shaping the future of greater Charlotte. Through social events, hands-on volunteer experiences, professional development, and fundraising opportunities, NextGen members embody the principles of living, giving, and leading Jewishly.

With Rebekah Rubenstein and Rachel Friedman as the new committee chairs, NextGen enters a new era of innovation and



NextGen relaunch luncheon with visiting Israeli soldiers

growth. Rebekah brings with her a fresh perspective while Rachel brings a wealth of experience, both poised to guide NextGen towards even greater heights of success and impact. The committee recently held its first meeting, marking the beginning of their exciting journey. Members came together to brainstorm ideas and chart a course for the year ahead, beginning to outline a dynamic

calendar of events and programming.

Acting as their official relaunch, NextGen members were treated to a luncheon with three visiting Israeli soldiers as a part of Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Company Commander Matan and Reservist Commander Yuval, accompanied by Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) representative and

reserve soldier, Netanel flew into Charlotte as part of a new JAFI initiative, "Soldiers in Uniform." This luncheon presented a rare opportunity for NextGen members to engage with these brave individuals, hear about their army experiences, gain insights into the current situation in Israel, and forge meaningful connections with fellow young leaders in our community. The soldiers each shared their personal stories, including where they were on October 7, their losses and triumphs in combat, and their messages of hope for Jewish people worldwide: "Don't give up," they said. Remember that we are Jews. We have always had enemies, but no one can defeat us. It is through our Jewish

identity and understanding what it means to be Jewish that we will continue on.

As NextGen begins this exciting journey, they are actively shaping the story of Jewish life in greater Charlotte and paving the way for a bright future. No matter who you are, whether you're looking to make connections, attend events, give back, or step up, NextGen welcomes you with open arms.

If you are interested in joining NextGen, please contact Elina Mazo at elina.mazo@jewish-charlotte.org, or call (704) 944-6740.



Survivors Speak: The Emotional Screening of "Supernova" Documentary in Charlotte

By Jessica Goldfarb, JFGC Communications Specialist

In a moving event that drew over 300 attendees, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, in collaboration with the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC), recently hosted a screening of the documentary, "Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre." The documentary offered a minute-by-minute retelling of the harrowing events of October 7 through real-time footage and survivor testimonies. As the audience sat in rapt attention, there was not a dry eye in the room.

The true highlight of the event came after the screening, as attendees had the opportunity to hear directly from three survivors of the attacks: Gat Gonen, Yali Jacobovitz, and Sapir Sa'ar. Each survivor shared their personal story, offering a raw and human perspective on the tragedy. Gat Gonen, an Israeli mother, recounted her survival in a bomb shelter with her two-year-old son, while Yali Jacobovitz, a former soldier, spoke of his decision to leave safety to join the defense. Sapir Sa'ar, a festivalgoer attending with friends, shared her experience of the chaos and fear that engulfed the event.

"The LJCC community showed up in large numbers to bear witness to one of the most tragic events in recent history," said Michelle Rusgo, director of art and culture at the LJCC.



Viewers respond to the documentary, "Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre."

"The brave survivors who gave their testimonies following 'Supernova' made sure the audience was able to hear the names of their friends and family members who were murdered by Hamas on October 7. Although it was an emotional event to attend, it was very impactful and meaningful to coordinate the film with the three survivors."

The survivors' testimonies added a compelling dimension to the film, allowing attendees to connect on a deeply personal level. Their courage and resilience resonated with the audience, leaving a lasting impression of strength and hope in the face of adversity. "We will dance again," is a quote from the film that

seems to encapsulate the mood of the night.

Following the event, many attendees took to social media to share their thoughts and reflections. The consensus was clear: while "Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre" was undeniably heartbreaking, it was also a necessary and powerful film. The opportunity to hear from the survivors firsthand was a moving experience for all. As we continue to grapple with the aftermath of such senseless violence, events like these serve as a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of solidarity in the face of adversity.

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Israeli Independence

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a fantastic Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration! Your presence and enthusiasm made this day truly special. We are grateful for our vibrant community.



Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

The Charlotte Jewish News Celebrates Jewish Youth With Inaugural Showcase

The Charlotte JEWISH NEWS
Celebrating Jewish Life

The Charlotte Jewish News is excited to debut a new opportunity to celebrate the experiences of the Jewish youth in our community with our inaugural Celebrating Jewish Youth Showcase. The Showcase is an expansion of previous years' Celebrating Jewish Youth Essay Contest, in recognition that there are many forms of expression that excite our youth beyond writing.

Rooted in the understanding that engagement during these

formative years is crucial for fostering a strong sense of Jewish identity, the showcase seeks to create a meaningful and celebratory platform for young voices.

Recognizing that Jewish youth encounter many of the same challenges as adults in their Jewish lives, this initiative also serves as a supportive space for connection and resilience. It is a reflection of The Charlotte Jewish News's commitment not only to celebrate the present moments



in their lives, but also to empower them for the future. Research has shown that the teen years are critical years for engaging youth and strengthening a Jewish identity that will be expressed into their adult lives.

The Charlotte Jewish Youth Showcase is a multi-category competition designed to ignite the creative spark within Jewish teens in grades 8-12. Participants are invited to delve into the question "How do you celebrate your Jewish identity?" through essays, photography, or podcasts. This year's showcase offers more avenues for self-expression than ever before, encouraging teens to explore their identities through a wider lens.

Winners in each category will receive not only recognition in the December print and online issue of The Charlotte Jewish News, but also a \$100 Amazon gift card – a sweet reward for their artistic endeavors! Additionally, all qualified entries will be showcased on a dedicated page on The Charlotte Jewish News website, creating a digital exhibit that celebrates the creativity and perspectives of Charlotte's Jewish youth.

Parents and educators are encouraged to be champions for this initiative, inspiring the creative teens in their lives to participate. Consider integrating the showcase into your youth programs or curriculum as a way

to foster self-expression, identity exploration, and a deeper connection to the community.

The Charlotte Jewish News is eager to spread the word! Stay tuned for more details on how to enter the Celebrating Jewish Youth Showcase, with submissions opening between August 1 and September 16. For more information, visit www.charlottejewishnews.org and click on the "Celebrating Jewish Youth Showcase" icon in the top right corner.

Let's come together to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of our Jewish teens, and create a platform that empowers them to share their talents and perspectives with the entire community!

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We Stand With Israel

In response to the recent Iranian attack on Israel on April 13th, we have updated our Israel Resources page to include crucial resources, official statements, and updates from trusted sources. Our aim is to ensure that you have access to timely, accurate information and other educational assets during these challenging times.

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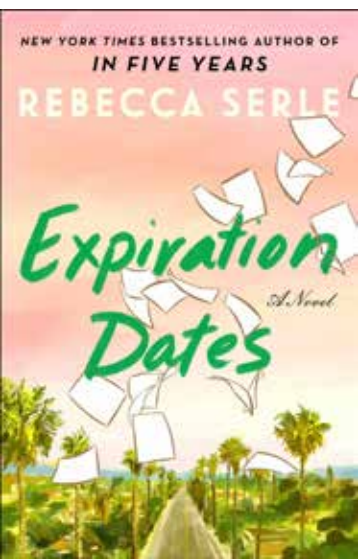
It seems we're in for another hot summer, and thankfully I can recommend a few books to keep you busy while relaxing in the comfort of your air-conditioned homes. "Blank" by Zibby Owens, "The Ghost Orchid" by Jonathan Kellerman, and "Expiration Dates" by Rebecca Serle are my top picks for the summer! A novel within a novel — Zibby Owens' "Blank" follows struggling author Pippa Jones, who, while suffering from a particularly bad case of writer's block, impetuously acts on a suggestion made by her twelve-year-old son: What if she wrote a book that was intentionally empty? Seizing the potential of an outstanding marketing campaign to generate excitement among readers and the media,

Pippa's publisher is intrigued and becomes intimately involved in the project. "A novel called 'Blank,' full of literal blank pages, could highlight the fakery of the publishing world and, if it became a bestseller, show how ridiculous it is that some books succeed regardless of their content while truly great books languish in obscurity." (Kirkus Review). Author Zibby Owens clearly understands the publishing industry and uses "Blank" to put forth some groundbreaking ideas. I see this book as a natural for book club discussions. "The Ghost Orchid," another well-written mystery by author Jonathan Kellerman, reconnects us with our beloved LAPD homicide detective Milo Sturgis and his best friend, the brilliant psychologist Alex Delaware. We become submerged in the dark side of Los Angeles as we tag along with Milo and Alex during their investigation of a double murder. Kellerman's novels and the Alex Delaware series are always interesting and intricate, but what I really like about "The Ghost Orchid" is that the "solution" is well-developed and not as out-of-left-field as his other works have been. "Expiration Dates" by Rebecca Serle is the novel we have been waiting for from this author



of magical realism. Her first two works, "In Five Years" and "One Italian Summer," were best-sellers. However, "Expiration Dates" is truly Rebecca Serle at her best. Every time the main character, Daphne Bell, meets a new man, she receives a prediction on a slip of paper with the man's name and an expiration date on it. Is the universe sending these notes? And what happens if she receives a note with a man's name but no expiration date? "Told with her signature warmth into matters of the heart, Rebecca Serle has finally set her sights on romantic love. The result is a gripping, emotional, passionate,

and (yes) heartbreaking novel about what it means to be single, what it means to find love, and ultimately how we define each of them for ourselves." (Barnes and Noble). All three of these books are guaranteed page-turners, perfect for your summer reading list. The next CJE Book Club meeting will be Wednesday, July 10, and the book we will be discussing is The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. (There will be no June meeting in observation of Shavuot.) For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.



Center for Jewish Education Book Club Schedule

July 10	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
August 14	The Marriage Box	Corie Adjmi
September 11	Family Family	Laurie Frankel
October 9	The Wolf Hunt	Ayelet Gundar-Goshen
November 13	Leaving Eastern Parkway	Matthew Daub
December 11	Stockholm: A Novel	Noa Yedlin

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM • All community members are welcome to attend.

For more information about the CJE Book Club, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

FEDERATION IMPACT: BENEFICIARY AGENCY SPOTLIGHT LEVINE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

As a means of bettering our greater Charlotte Jewish community, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte allocates donation funds to local Jewish organizations who embody Jewish values and overall better our community. In recognition of their work, we at Federation wish to bring attention to these organizations and the good that they do. At the core of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's (JFGC) mission is a dedication to enriching lives and nurturing community bonds through high-quality Jewish experiences. The partnership with the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) is integral to achieving this goal, as they collaborate on programs and events catering to children and adults alike. With summer in full swing, the Levine Jewish Community Center is busier than ever. While the LJCC is bustling with activities year-round, the warmer months bring a surge of excitement as two of the LJCC's summer camps, Camp Mindy and Camp Katan, kick



off in June. Camp Mindy and Camp Katan, embody the essence of the LJCC and Federation's shared values of community and Jewish identity. What sets these camps apart is their dedication to integrating Jewish values and traditions into every aspect of camp life, alongside the usual fun and games. Through engaging cultural programs exploring Jewish heritage, campers are fully immersed in a rich and

meaningful Jewish experience. In addition to making friends, learning new skills, being outdoors, and having a good time, it is also about fostering a sense of pride and belonging in one's community that lasts long after the summer ends. With activities tailored to every age and stage of life, the LJCC ensures that no one is left behind. From toddlers taking their first steps to seniors staying active and mobile, there truly is something for everyone. The impact of programs like Camp Mindy underscores the LJCC's commitment to preserving and bolstering Jewish identity in the next generation. Together, Federation and the LJCC will continue to support and uplift one another, nurturing a vibrant legacy of community and shared values.



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Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte Expands Reach and Impact

By Julie Loftis, JFS Marketing Specialist

Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte (JFS) has reached a significant milestone in its ongoing mission to serve the community, evidenced by a substantial increase in both community support and program participation. This growth is not merely a recent phenomenon but is indicative of JFS's continuous efforts to expand its reach and impact in response to evolving community needs.

JFS's expansion is evident across all facets of its operations, from increased program attendance to a surge in demand for services. This expansion reflects both the growing recognition of JFS's crucial role in the community and the urgent need for its services amid shifting societal challenges.

Year-round, JFS collaborates with various agencies to enhance staff capabilities on topics such as developmental milestones, strategies for managing emotional and behavioral stressors, and recognizing signs of anxiety or depression. This training is essential as it equips our staff with the knowledge to better support our community members throughout the year.

As summer approaches and schedules shift, JFS is strategically adapting to meet the changing needs of its constituents. Recognizing the importance of flexibility during this period, JFS has adjusted its program schedules to ensure that everyone can continue to access the support and resources they need.

One notable area of development is the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) Summer Camp "Camp Social Worker" program, which has recently been expanded to provide 10 hours of weekly support to campers. This initiative is a significant advancement in fostering inclusivity and support within the camp environment, aligning with JFS's commitment to breaking down barriers to access and ensuring equitable opportunities for all participants. Mark DiDonato, senior director of youth and camp services, states, "We pride ourselves on providing the best possible experience for our campers and counselors. In previous years, counselors received basic training in social/emotional support. We are thrilled to enhance our mental health support this summer with the addition of a licensed JFS therapist available to provide professional assis-

tance."

Looking ahead, JFS remains committed to leveraging this momentum to further its impact and reach within the community. As the organization continues to expand its programs and services, it aims to address the ever-evolving needs of its constituents and foster a more resilient and empowered community for generations to come.

The recent developments at Jewish Family Services of Charlotte are a testament to the collective efforts and dedication of the entire community, including donors, volunteers, and supporters. With a firm commitment to its mission and an unwavering focus on service, JFS is poised to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those it serves, solidifying its position as a cornerstone of support and compassion within the Charlotte community. If you or someone you know is looking for support, contact JFS at info@jfscharlotte.org or (704) 364-6594.



Jewish Family Services Volunteers & Donors April 2024

Volunteers: Jessica Alfandary, Marcia Arnholt, Mike Arnholt, Daniel Benjamin, Andrew Bernstein, Dan Coblenz, Jonathan Collman, Andrea Cronson, Julie Dermack, Joni Deutsch, Sheryl Effren, Rachel Friedman, Robert Friedman, Meredith Gartner, Richard Goldsmith, Jennifer Golynsky, Gail Halverson, June Hirschmann, Rebecca Hockfield, Oren Hubara, Tara Hubara, Dawn Hubbs, Bob Jacobson, Rikki Kinitsky, Etti Krause, Jennifer Koss, Elliot and Stephanie Kreitman, Marcia Lampert, Eric Lerner, Lisa Levinson, Kim Levy, Adina Loewenstein, Matt Luftglass, Gabby Maltz Frada Mozentzer, Wendy Petricoff, Barbara Rein, Nina Rose, Marilyn Schuster, Cindy Seisel, Stuart Singer, Harry Sparks, Lorin Steifel, Steve Teich, Nancy Wielunski, Amanda Zaidman

Special Thanks: Harry Cole for baking cookies for food pantry, YAFO kitchen for Passover meal donation

Passover Volunteers: Jessica Alfandary, Jacob Cohen, Estee Gelband, Jodie Joseph, Rikki Kinitsky, Marcia Lampert, Alison Lerner, Eric Lerner, Wendy Levinson, Gabby Maltz, Wendy Petricoff, Ana Silverstein, Lauren Stark, Amalia Warshenbrot, Charlotte Jewish Day School

Food Drives: Shalom Club at Carolina Orchards, Womens Club at Temple Beth El, SPICE at Temple Beth El, LJCC youth sports, Ellie Loewensteiner

Mitzvah Basket Donations: The Klingberg Family in honor of Natalie and Haley's b'not mitzvah, The Roginsky Family in honor of Ethan Fosnaugh's bar mitzvah

Hadassah Meal Preppies: Tess Berger, Gina Bonfiglio, Jenny Boxer, Leslie Goldfarb, June Hirschmann, Paul Hirschmann, Yvette Jacobson, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Andrea McCleary, Jered Mond, Johnson and Wales, Judy Nascimento, Betsy Olinger, Mary Jane Rosenthal, Elisa Ross, Andrea Schewitz, Debbie Siltan, Elissa Vining

Shalom Green: Thank to all Shalom Green volunteers for providing fresh produce to our pantry clients

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 at Shalom Park.

Jewish Family Services Tributes April 2024

For a speedy recovery of

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Stanley Greenspon
Fred Hirsch
Stanley Greenspon
Keith Greenspon
Stanley Greenspon
Michael Scharf
Stanley Greenspon
Mike Diamond
Stanley Greenspon

Get Well Soon

Sarise Breidbart
Leonard and Karen Fox

Happy Birthday to

Ed Newman
Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Leonard Marco
Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Appreciation of

Rabbi Rachel Smookler
Andrew and Julie Dermack

In Honor of

Cantor Jessica Roskin
Melissa, Natalie, and Haley Klingberg
Nathalie Friedlander
Melissa, Natalie, and Haley Klingberg

Rabbi Lexi Erdheim
Melissa, Natalie, and Haley Klingberg
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Melissa, Natalie, and Haley Klingberg

In Memory of

Devon Hughes
Carole Strauch and Family
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Lori Trapani
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Women's News

Hadassah Hospitals Serve More Than One Million Patients Each Year

By Aileen Greenberg-Kriner

In the history of humanitarian operations, it is rare to find a volunteer organization like Hadassah, founded by Jewish activist Henrietta Szold in 1912. After a visit to pre-state Israel, distressed by the health conditions there, Szold led a small group of women in New York to establish and fund Hadassah to help alleviate

the suffering. From Hadassah's first small clinic in Palestine in 1913, the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) has grown to include two world-class medical and research hospitals in Jerusalem – Mt. Scopus and Ein Kerem.

Mt. Scopus

Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus opened in 1939. On April 13, 1948, following the 1947

UN decision to partition Jerusalem, a medical convoy traveling through a hostile Arab neighborhood to Mt. Scopus Hospital was ambushed, killing 78 people. Following the massacre, Hadassah could not ensure the safety of its health personnel or patients and was forced to leave Mt. Scopus. After the 1967 war, when Jerusalem was reunited under Israeli control, Hadassah

committed to rebuild its Mt. Scopus hospital.

Today, Mt. Scopus serves needs in the Jerusalem area, including specialized facilities for mothers and children, pediatric chronic disease, cardiac care, and cancer treatment. The new Gandel Rehabilitation Center provides soldiers and civilians with cutting-edge robotics, mental health, and advanced medical care.

Ein Kerem

Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, opened in 1961, and shares a campus with the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine. Scientists and doctors from both institutions work together to treat patients and develop new medical protocols. The 19-story Davidson Hospital Tower has underground surgical suites, safeguarded from earthquakes, and conventional, chemical, and biological warfare. Both the Tower and the Round Building, the original inpatient center, have a safe room on every floor, built to withstand attacks. The Round Building, opened in 1962, is being modernized. Every Hadassah chapter in the United States has a fundraising goal for a specific project in the Round Building. Hadassah Charlotte Metro met our multi-year goal of modernizing the dermatology department nurses' station and is now raising money for the pediatric wing's equipment needs.

Hadassah Hospital has been called a "hospital for all." and was created with a very clear mission of social justice. The two Hadassah hospitals serve more than a million patients each year, regardless of religion, race, nationality, or ability to pay, earning Hadassah a Nobel Peace

Prize nomination in 2005. In the complex world of the Middle East, doctors and staff at Hadassah's hospitals serve as a model for coexistence.

Summer Events

Rosh Hashanah will be here before you know it. Beginning June 3, order a sweet New Year's gift of Honey from the Heart for friends and family. Each 8-ounce jar of kosher honey is \$14 and comes with a personalized card for the recipient. Order online by Aug. 8 for free shipping. Orders from Aug. 8 to Sept. 12 (the last day to order for delivery by Rosh HaShanah) will be charged \$8 shipping fee. Order at www.orthoney.com/HCM. See our ad in this month's CJN.

Unwind at Hadassah's *Wine & Schmooze* on June 4 and July 2 at 7 p.m. at Vintner Wine Market in the Arboretum. This is a great event to attend if you are a new member or thinking about joining Hadassah.

Short Story Discussion Group is reading stories from "Frankly Feminist: Short Stories by Jewish Women." Summer meetings are tentatively scheduled for 11:45 a.m. on Friday, June 14, to discuss "1919: At the Connecticut Shore" by Jane Lazarre, and on July 12 to talk about "The Curiosa Section" by Harriet Goldman.

Join *Hadassah BookTalk* on June 25 to discuss "Hotel Cuba" by Aaron Hamburger, and on July 23 to talk about "The Third Daughter" by Talia Carner.

Upcoming *Hadassah CLT Metro Board meetings* are at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 17 at the Levine JCC and on July 15 via Zoom.

Save The Date for...

Two *Celebrate the TaTas* events: *Painting Days*, Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 19 and 20, and the *Reveal Gala*, Saturday evening, Nov. 16.

A new *Hadassah Charlotte Metro Area Jewish Community Directory* is coming in 2025. Watch for info about how to be included and advertise with us.

Helpful Info

To learn about membership, contact Laurie Sheinhaus at the phone number or email below, or come to one of our events.

Our website, www.hadassah-cltevents.org, has details and registration links for our events. If you need additional information, email HadassahCLT@gmail.com or call our general phone number, (980) 553-1880. Follow us on Facebook (Hadassah CLT Metro) and Instagram (Hadassah Charlotte Metro).

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LJCC's Art & Culture Department to Host Juneteenth Commemoration Event Featuring Simon Deng



Simon Deng, South Sudanese-American human rights activist will share his personal story of enslavement.

By Michelle Rusgo, Director of Art & Culture

The Levine Jewish Community Center is proud to announce a special event in honor of Juneteenth, the day commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. A day of celebration of freedom and African American Heritage. This event, organized in collaboration with the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel aims to bring awareness to the enduring impact of slavery and celebrate the resilience and strength of those who have endured it.

The evening's event will be facilitated by Olga Meshoe Washington, CEO of Defend, Embrace, Invest in and Support Israel (DEIEI) and Speakers Bureau Chief of Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel. The highlight of the evening will be a powerful speech by Simon Deng, a South Sudanese-American human rights activist who will share his personal story of captivity. Simon was abducted at the age of nine and endured almost 5 years of enslavement. His story of survival, resilience, and eventual freedom is both heart-breaking and inspiring. Simon will share his personal experiences with the Jewish Community and the wider public, offering a unique perspective on the horrors

of slavery and the importance of solidarity and support across communities. After the horrors of October 7, Simon flew to Israel to meet with the hostage families. In December 2023, Simon led a solidarity walk from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem to "Illustrate the solidarity of the Sudanese and many Africans with the Jewish people and the State of Israel."

In addition to Simon's keynote address, the event will feature a panel discussion with individuals who will share their own familial histories of slavery. These

stories will span across different regions, including Mecklenburg County and various countries, highlighting the widespread and persistent nature of slavery and its lasting effects on generations.

This Juneteenth commemoration at the LJCC is not just a remembrance of the past but a

call to action for unity, understanding, and continued efforts toward freedom and justice for all. It is an opportunity for the community to come together and reflect on the importance of standing against oppression in all its forms.

Join the Art & Culture De-

partment at the LJCC on June 18 at 7 p.m. in Gorelick Hall for an evening of profound stories, thoughtful discussion, and a commitment to making the world a more just and equitable place for everyone.



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Celebrate the TaTas
PAINTING DAYS

MONDAY, AUGUST 19TH 9-5 PM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH NOON-8 PM

Hadassah Charlotte Metro's Celebrate the TaTas raises funds for Hadassah Medical Organization's cancer research. Painting Days are the heart and soul of Celebrate the TaTas. Women ages 21-121 are invited to have their TaTas painted and photographed by female volunteers. The camaraderie shared by all participants makes this a truly special day. A collage of all paintings will be displayed at The Reveal on Saturday evening, November 16th.

Email celebratethetatas.Hadassah@gmail.com
or visit www.hadassahcltevents.org/tatas

Scan to register 

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Cost: TI Members - \$7/person; non-TI members - \$11/person.
No charge for children under 1 year of age.

Thank You!

Through the generous contributions of our community to American Friends of Magen David Adom, Temple Israel was able to donate an ambulance to Israeli first responders. On April 7, the ambulance stopped at Temple Israel for a dedication before making its journey to Israel. *Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts and attended the event!*



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Religious Life

Meet Cantor Danielle Rodnizki, A New Chapter in the Temple Beth El Story

By Madeline White

We are thrilled to introduce Cantor Danielle Rodnizki as the newest addition to our Temple Beth El family, bringing her wealth of experience and passion for Jewish music and prayer leadership to our community. With more than fifteen years of song leading and worship-leading experience, Cantor Rodnizki's journey has instilled in her a deep understanding of the transformative power of music in shaping spiritual experiences within a congregation. Her dedication to creating innovative prayer experiences, strengthened through her studies at the prestigious Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), sets the stage for wonderful opportunities in our services and programming. We are honored to welcome Cantor Rodnizki to Charlotte and eagerly anticipate the dynamic contributions she will make at Temple Beth El.

Temple Beth El: Can you tell us a bit about your background and what drew you to become

a cantor?

Cantor Rodnizki: I grew up at a Temple B'nai Israel in Clearwater, Florida, where music became a meaningful access point for engaging with Judaism at an early age. When I was preparing to become bat mitzvah, Barbara Mazer was serving as our cantorial soloist. I thought she was the best person in the world, so when she asked if I'd like to take guitar lessons with her, the answer was a resounding yes! She was wise, giving me guitar chords to popular Jewish songs so I could learn how to play. I quickly became involved in religious school music at my synagogue and in The North American Federation for Temple Youth (NFTY), and I signed up to attend the summer song leading program at the URJ Kutz Camp. By the time I reached my senior year at Washington University in St. Louis, I was leading services, religious school music, and teen song leading workshops five days a week at local congregations, and I was a regular attendee at many Reform movement conferences, including Hava Nashira



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki

and Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial. I was consistently moved by the magic created when people gathered in community to sing. It was less about hearing my own voice, but rather

discovering what holiness we could create together. After graduating from college, I returned home to serve as the cantorial soloist in Clearwater, as a trial run to see if becoming a cantor

would be the right path for me, and the rest is history.

TBE: What inspired you to join Temple Beth El in Charlotte?

CDR: From the moment I arrived in Charlotte, I felt the goodness — the true *menschiness* — that emanates from everyone in this community, from the clergy to the staff, lay leaders, search committee, and the entire congregation. I was moved by the spirit of innovation and community engagement that Rabbi Knight has helped cultivate at TBE, and it felt like the possibilities of what we could build together would be endless.

TBE: How has your musical journey influenced your approach to leading congregational singing?

CDR: I am a song leader at heart, so communal singing with a guitar in my hand will always feel like home. I am consistently trying to be attuned to the fluctuating energy in the room and to the larger arc of the service — the readings, music, and spoken words that flow in and out of

(Continued on page 17)

TEMPLE BETH EL



Temple Beth El is thrilled to welcome Cantor Danielle Rodnizki to our team beginning July 1, 2024

Cantor
**DANIELLE
RODNIZKI**

Her vision for the cantorate skillfully balances the diverse needs of our congregation with the richness of Jewish spiritual practices and music. Her innovative approach, merging a wide range of musical styles to elevate the community's voices, aligns perfectly with our dynamic and diverse congregation. She has remarkable talent and an ability to create an inclusive and engaging environment that resonates with congregants across all ages and stages. Additionally, her successful experience developing family-oriented programs and lifelong learning initiatives is inspiring. She is an ideal leader to partner with our clergy and staff to help guide our community towards a vibrant and promising future.

We are so excited to enter this next chapter and for all the warmth and joy Cantor Rodnizki and her beautiful music will bring to our congregational family.

Religious Life

Temple Solel's Support for Our Widowed Members

By Steve Yaffe, President, Temple Solel

Imagine facing the unthinkable: the sudden loss of your spouse. Where do you turn? A Temple Solel member, newly widowed and grappling with isolation, craved support and guidance in navigating this unwanted new life. She envisioned a peer group for friendship and shared experiences, a source of strength as she moved forward.

She wasn't alone. Several Temple Solel members faced similar challenges, some recently widowed, others navigating life on their own for longer. While loved ones offered support, a shared experience was missing – a space to connect with others on this same path.

The solution was clear: a support group. Discussions with partners at Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill revealed a similar need among their members. Thus, Temple Solel and Grace Presbyterian joined forces to create the Widowed Folks Support Group.

We meet bi-monthly on Mondays at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Grace's Pastor, Reverend Dr. Joanne Sizoo (affectionately known as "Joanne"), expertly

facilitates the group. The group welcomes participants from both congregations and the wider community.

Food is an important part of our gatherings, a necessity for some of us who haven't mastered the art of cooking alone! We've enjoyed a variety of cuisines, from American to Thai fusion, catering to all tastes. This social time also fosters networking, with opportunities to volunteer for our joint outreach project, serving meals to older adults in the community.

Our discussions delve into our lives with our spouses, the circumstances of their passing, and the challenges we face – whether years of supporting a spouse through illness or an unexpected loss. We share resources like helpful books, funny stories, and the invaluable support we receive from family, friends, and our congregations. We also navigate the practical and emotional challenges of solitude, including holidays and other difficult times.

The group's diversity is a source of strength. Some members are new to their loss, while others have been on their own for a longer period. Some were never the handy ones in the relationship, leading to a crash course



Members offer support to one another.

in fixing things. Some relocated, while others stayed put. Dating is a personal choice, and the group offers a safe space to discuss these sensitive topics openly.

One participant reflects, "After losing my husband of 40 years, joining a Widowed Folks' Group was unimaginable. I was also new to Temple Solel and hesitant about groups. But participating has helped me navigate life's challenges, share my journey with others, and appreciate the group's diversity. I'm grateful for the friendships, volunteer opportunities, and laughter we share."

Another member says, "The Widowed Folks' Group is comforting and loving. The discus-

sions help us navigate the present and future, and the group offers constant support."

We've become a family, sharing openly and supporting each other. New members integrate seamlessly, and our most recent meeting doubled as a birthday celebration. While the group has more women than men, men also find this group valuable. Our discussions are a safe space for everyone.

This Widowed Folks Support Group exemplifies Temple Solel's commitment to a caring and nurturing community. Together, we support each other through life's challenges. If you're seeking a welcoming Jewish Temple, we

invite you to visit and experience the warmth of our community. We value friendship, learning, giving back, and having fun.

If we sound like a Jewish Temple you might find attractive, come by and meet us. We welcome the presence, enthusiasm, talents, and involvement of all members and guests. We grow with friendship, learning, doing good, and having fun. We are a Reform Jewish congregation that has eliminated the barrier of annual membership dues in favor of gratefully accepted donations determined by each individual family. Active participation is an important part of our make-up. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the Grace Presbyterian Church at 2955 W. Highway 160 in Fort Mill. For more information about our services and other events, please visit <https://templesolelsc.org> or call (803) 610-1707. We would love to meet you.



Religious School

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Around the Table: Elevate Simple Ingredients, Pantry Recipes for Summer



By Charlotte Rouchouze

For a number of years now, I have been on something of a personal mission to compile a roster of great recipes for those days when you want to put off

going to the store for another day or two. Of course, we all know how to boil a pot of pasta, but sometimes I come across a more genius idea.

In my opinion, far too many cookbook authors focus on hard-to-find and expensive ingredients that just aren't practical for the home cook. You might have seen the many hilarious spoofs of Ina Garten telling us to just add four pounds of fresh lobster from your fishmonger or two freshly grated truffles, preferably Italian. I love Ina and her recipes, but if I had a side of sushi-grade salmon or three pounds of baby spring artichokes sitting in my refrigerator, I probably wouldn't be googling for a recipe at 5:53

p.m.. I love recipe writers who give me a smart way to use an ingredient that is sitting in my fridge or pantry.

Treasure troves for this kind of recipe are the traditional home recipes that all cultures have. Like the "stone soup" from the famous children's story, many of them seem to make something out of nothing, or are at least much greater than the sum of their parts. I've learned a few things by reading a lot of these recipes, and one is that every cuisine in the world has certain basic building blocks that can help elevate any ingredients you might have around. I will share three of these with you today, but there are many others. These are the kinds of techniques that I promise will make you a better cook.

First, in French cuisine, there is a beautiful combination called "mirepoix," which is a broth made from a trio of carrots, onions, and celery. Despite the aristocratic mouthful of a name of its supposed namesake, Duke Charles-Pierre-Gaston François de Lévis, duc de Lévis-Mirepoix, it is about as humble and cheap as one could ask of the foundation of one of the great sauce traditions of the world (oh, yes, France has a sauce tradition!). When chopped and sautéed in a bit of oil or butter, these three ingredients can turn any liquid into a flavorful sauce or soup. Simply add salt, pepper, a bit of wine or broth, and any other ingredients you have. Add more liquid and vegetables to make a soup, or pieces of any protein to make a stew. Use cream and add frozen fish or seafood for a fantastic simple dinner. The brothy bean dish below can be its own light dinner with crusty bread.

Moving further east to Eastern European Jewish cooking, deep flavors are mined from caramelizing onions until they get rich and sweet. Traditionally, schmaltz (rendered chicken fat, often using onions) also adds a beautiful savory flavor to anything from potatoes to chicken to egg salad. Put them together, and you could pretty much make anything taste amazing. I also consider Osem seasoning a core building block of Jewish cooking. Recipe #2 will show you how to use fried onions in a traditional, comforting cabbage and noodle dish.

The last technique I'll share comes to us from Indian cuisine and involves frying spices in hot oil or butter before adding them to your dish. This adds far better flavor than just adding spices and can be done with anything from curry spice to simply paprika and garlic. Elevate a cup of cooked lentils into a curry or give a pot of soup extra oomph.

Here are 3 recipes that will allow you to experiment with these techniques, but use your imagination from there!

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.



Savory White Beans in Brothy Sauce

1 onion, chopped
2 ribs celery, chopped
1 carrot, chopped
3 tbsp. butter
2 cans of white or other beans
1 bunch parsley, stems chopped very finely (dried herbs can be subbed)
1 cup of wine or broth
Extra virgin olive oil for drizzling

First, make your mirepoix. Heat the butter or oil in a frying pan over medium heat and add onion, celery, and carrot. Sauté until they begin to soften. Next, add herbs and liquid and simmer for 10 minutes. Finally, add the beans and simmer for an additional few minutes. Drizzle with olive oil and chopped parsley before serving.

Cabbage and Farfel

1 medium onion, thinly sliced
½ head thinly sliced cabbage
½ cup farfel or egg noodles (farfel, also called egg barley, is available on Amazon)
3 tbsp. butter (or schmaltz if you have it!)
1½ cups broth (or water with Osem seasoning)
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat the butter and add the onion. Fry the onions for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Add the cabbage and noodles and fry on high until brown bits appear on the cabbage as well. Add 2 cups of broth and simmer, covered, until the farfel is done. Season to taste.

Pumpkin Coconut Curry Soup

1 can pumpkin
1 can coconut milk
1 box of chicken broth
1 tsp. Osem bouillon or your favorite all-purpose seasoning
3 tbsp. ghee, butter or oil
2 tbsp. curry spice plus hot pepper if desired

In a medium saucepan over low-medium heat, add pumpkin, coconut milk, chicken broth, and bouillon. Bring to a simmer. In a small saucepan, heat butter until bubbling. Add spices and stir with a wooden spoon. Watch carefully to make sure spices don't burn but just become fragrant. When this happens, after a minute or so, add the butter directly to the pot and stir. Season soup to taste.

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Cantor Rodnizki

(Continued from page 14)

one another to create something that is ideally dynamic, moving, and whole for the congregation. During my studies at HUC-JIR, I wanted to fill my toolbox with other skills I did not yet have, like traditional cantorial chanting (nusach and hazzanut), art songs from the Classical Reform tradition, and more. My master's thesis focused on the intersection and the potential partnership and synergy between these various styles of Jewish music, and I aim to create a rich tapestry of repertoire and musical textures whenever I craft prayer services.

TBE: Can you share a memorable experience or moment from your career as a cantor that has had a significant impact on you?

CDR: Singing at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and on stage at the URJ Biennial were cool experiences, but when I think of truly memorable moments in my career, it always comes back to meaningful relationships. I am eternally grateful to mentors, now friends, who helped cultivate my skills and checked in on me as I learned

and grew, from my teen song leading days to today, and I burst with pride watching former students flourish.

TBE: What are you most looking forward to as the new cantor at Temple Beth El?

CDR: I cannot wait to build meaningful relationships. The best part of being a cantor is watching others grow and getting to be present for some of the most important and special moments in their lives, and I really look forward to doing just that.

TBE: What is something about you that readers might not know?

CDR: My parents were both born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Spanish is my first language! When I was two years old, my mom dropped me off at Temple B'nai Israel for my first day of preschool and informed my teachers that I spoke no English. Luckily, I picked it up quickly.



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Human Rights for All: Yarden Gonen’s Powerful Message at the J Street Convention

By David de Groot

In early April I attended the annual J Street convention in Washington, DC. I have been attending for several years, and the most rewarding experience is coming into close, sometimes personal, contact with influencers such as politicians and journalists from different backgrounds including Americans, Israelis, and Palestinians. In one way this year was no different in that I found myself at a table chatting with a delegation from The Abraham Initiatives, an organization that promotes cooperation between Jews and Arabs within Israel, only to find out later that one of them was Shahira Shalabi, a former Deputy Mayor of Haifa.

But this year was different. Meirav and Yarden Gonen, mother and sister of Romi, who was taken hostage from the music festival on October 7 addressed the opening plenary session and later that evening, I was able to have a brief individual conversation with Yarden. In the aftermath of October 7, I had seen the interviews with hostage families, read the articles, and thought I had a good understanding of what they were going through, but nothing can



Romi Gonen, taken hostage from the SuperNova Musical Festival

be compared to the experience of talking directly to a family member. For me personally this was truly transformative. The family lives in Kfar Vradim in Northern Israel, an area that includes several Arab towns, and Yarden attended an integrated regional school for Jews, Arab Christians, Druze, and Muslims. She emphasized that the first people to offer their support after her sister was taken hostage were her friends and classmates from those communities.

Yarden also framed what was happening to her family not only as their trauma or as a plea for a release of all hostages held in Gaza, but as a plea for human rights anywhere in the world. She explained that her parents taught her to take care of her younger sister, as well as anyone who needs help, and so chose nursing as a profession. We recorded a clip that she asked to distribute as widely as possible, in which she said: “We are all human beings, human rights are for all, humanitarian aid is for all. So when you are saying ‘ceasefire now’, in the same sentence, you must demand the immediate release of all hostages. Human rights are not just for one side, if we distinguish between the sides, no one is safe anymore.” By the time this article is published, the situation may have changed, but the underlying message stays the same. Please visit the Hostages and Missing Families Forum at bringthemhomenow.net. For more information about J Street, visit www.jstreet.org.



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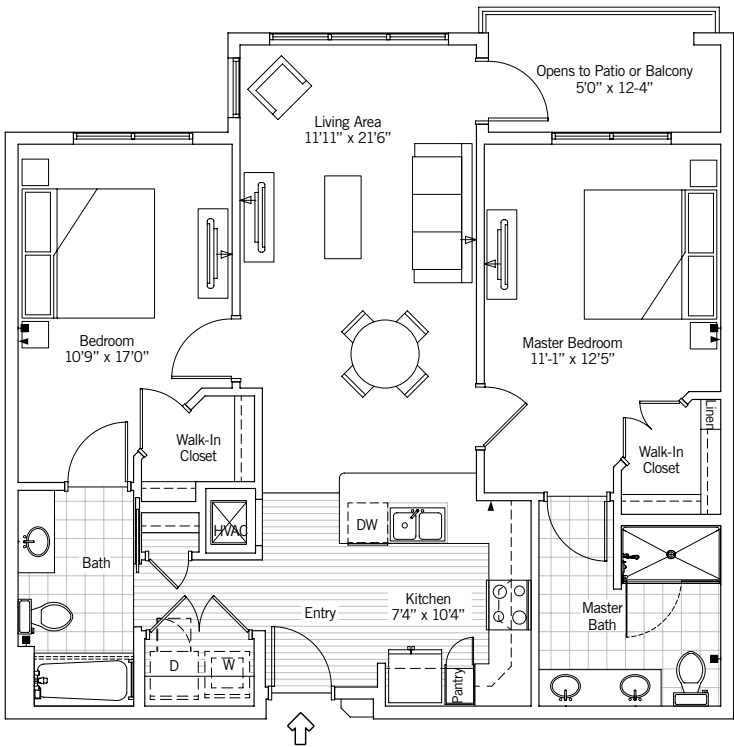
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Chapel at Hebrew Cemetery Rededicated

By Sara Schreibman

The Hebrew Cemetery of Charlotte, founded in 1867, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Jewish community in the region. Nestled within its serene grounds lies a historic chapel, built in 1926, which has witnessed the passage

of time and the evolution of the community it serves. The small chapel sits on the original eleven acres of the Hebrew Cemetery. In April, this cherished chapel was rededicated, reaffirming its historical and spiritual importance. The restoration of the chapel was not merely a physical en-

deavor but a labor of love infused with historical significance. Fred and Marcy Dumas honored Fred's mother, Charlotte Dumas, by making this restoration possible. Charlotte Dumas died on Dec. 25, 2022, at the age of 104. Charlotte was a beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who instilled in her family a commitment to community. Fred and Marcy have been leaders in our Charlotte Jewish community and have been committed to the importance of our Jewish organizations and institutions. By restoring this original chapel, they honor those who established our community and laid the groundwork for our vibrant community. As Robert Valenstein, vice president of the Hebrew Cemetery Association Board of Directors, said, "These grounds represent the past, present, and future memories of those who have or will depart. The way we as a community take care of these memories is a reflection of us. Thank you to the Dumas family and others for their contribution in honoring and respecting these memories."

The rededicated chapel stands as a beacon of hope and remembrance. It also serves as a call to action for future generations. It beckons them to cherish their



Alice Bors, David Dumas and Fred Dumas hanging a mezuzah

heritage, to preserve the stories of those who came before, and to forge new pathways guided by the principles of compassion and justice. In doing so, they honor the legacy of the past while building a brighter tomorrow for all who call Charlotte home.



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

Iris Friedlander	12-11-1938	- 3-28-2024
Joel Safran	7-9-1939	- 3-25-2024
Terry Waldinger	8-17-1957	- 4-10-2024
Ronald Weller	6-20-1940	- 4-18-2024
Sara Matthews	11-20-1957	- 4-21-2024
Henria Zoe King	4-12-1944	- 4-19-2024

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Greenspon Center’s Historic “Seeing Auschwitz” Exhibit Leaves Lasting Legacy

By Judy LaPietra

The Greenspon Center began the bittersweet work dismantling the nine-week “Seeing Auschwitz” exhibit in late April. The powerful images that were so meticulously placed for impact were wrapped up with care and remain stored at the Greenspon Center in the hopes that they will educate in the future. The audio guides were packed up and shipped back to Amsterdam. The rented exhibit space at the VAPA Center was restored to its pre-exhibit state, with walls coming down and holes being patched, as if nothing ever took place there.

But something very powerful that will endure did take place in that space over nine weeks this past spring. Our community was afforded an opportunity to witness a unique photographic exhibit that asked us to look beyond photos of the Auschwitz camp and reflect on what the images mean for us today. The Greenspon Center quantified the impact of the exhibit: over 15,500 visitors representing all segments of the area population attended. This included over 6,700 students of all ages and



From early February through mid-April, 15,500 visitors viewed the historic “Seeing Auschwitz” exhibit in uptown Charlotte.

senior adult groups who required visit assistance. Each morning, school buses arrived at the VAPA Center from throughout our region to deliver thousands of students to the exhibit, resulting in maximized capacity. Such numbers are exceptional in our local museum community, surpassing attendance figures of similar exhibits. We can measure feedback as visitors ranked the exhibit as 4.9/5 and reported that they would highly recommend “Seeing Auschwitz” to others. In fact, many returned to the exhibit to engage with it more than once.

While these numbers are impressive and exceeded expectations, it is perhaps in the qualitative responses that we see the true impact of this exhibit.

How do we begin to evaluate emotional responses to such a powerful exhibit? Many visitors’ experiences culminated in tears. Many people looked to immediately discuss what they saw with the exhibit attendants as a means of processing the content. For others, words did not come easily. Some verbatim comments from visitors included:

“The exhibit left one speech-

less, but that was the issue, wasn’t it...when good people said nothing ...one of the best exhibits in CLT...harrowing.”

“Thank you for this exhibit!! Wow!! I took lots of pictures. I will be sharing them on Facebook this week.”

“It was a very powerful experience! I observed my students being really engaged and deeply reflective. I particularly appreciated how the exhibits were curated to juxtapose the lackadaisical attitudes of the Nazi guards with the evils they were perpetrating; it brought home to students the importance of awareness of humanitarian issues.”

“Incredibly put together, an experience far more emotional than I could have ever imagined.”

Such outcomes speak to the power of Holocaust education. However, the more complex question is whether such emotional responses will translate into action. Did “Seeing Auschwitz” provide visitors with a call to conscience? Is being moved enough to inspire change? These difficult questions are not easily answered; however, it is in the asking of them that we begin

to understand the Holocaust as a warning and confront the challenges of our time.

Although the exhibit was neatly dismantled, its impact will remain. Studies have concluded that exposure to Holocaust history has the potential to encourage upstander behavior and a willingness to confront hatred in all its forms. While “Seeing Auschwitz” provided visitors with only a small snapshot of Holocaust history and the ramifications of unchecked hatred, we can be assured that many visitors were prompted to reflect on our world today and to consider the power of the individual in the face of antisemitism, violence, and indifference. In a time when Holocaust history is trivialized and distorted, the Greenspon Center remains committed to ensuring that historical truth is not compromised and that we continue to grapple with difficult questions in our changing world.

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Bal Tashchit and Beyond: The Sound of Silence

By David H. Rosenthal

A growing body of research makes it clear that noise pollution can have severe harmful impacts on our health, with ailments tied to heart disease and thousands of premature deaths around the world. Noise is an underestimated threat causing several short- and long-term health problems, such as sleep disturbance, cardiovascular effects, poorer work and school performance, and hearing impairment. Still, our communities seem to get louder and louder.

Noise, defined as any unwanted or harmful sound, is unavoidable. Whether it's the rumbling of a freight train as it moves along the tracks in your backyard or the constant drip of your leaky faucet, we are surrounded by noise. Qualities of sound, like frequency and loudness, impact how our bodies respond to a particular source of noise. Noise has emerged not only as a leading environmental nuisance but also as a health risk, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), and the public complains about excessive noise more and more often. The European Environmental Agency reports that noise ranks second only to air pollution as the environmental exposure most harm-

ful to public health. A growing body of research indicates that chronic noise exposure is putting nearly one-third of Americans at heightened risk of hypertension, stroke, and heart attacks.

How loud is too loud?

WHO guidelines for community noise recommend less than 30 A-weighted decibels (dBA) in bedrooms during the night for a sleep of good quality and less than 35 dBA in classrooms to allow good teaching and learning conditions.

WHO guidelines for night noise recommend less than 40 dBA outside of bedrooms to prevent adverse health effects from night noise.

How many people are affected?

According to several U.S. studies and publications (data is limited, dated, and inadequate):

- Estimates indicate 104 million individuals experienced annual decibel levels > 70 dBA (equivalent to a continuous average exposure level of >70 dBA over 24 hours) in 2013 and were at risk of noise-induced hearing loss.

- In 1981, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that nearly 100 million people in the U.S. (about 50% of the population) had annual expo-

sure to traffic noise high enough to be harmful to health.

- More than 30% are exposed to levels exceeding 55 dBA at night.

Who is most affected?

Some groups are more vulnerable to noise. As children spend more time in bed than adults, they are more exposed to night noise. Chronically ill and elderly people are more sensitive to disturbance. Shift workers are at increased risk because their sleep structure is under stress. In addition, the less affluent, who cannot afford to live in quiet residential areas or have inadequately insulated homes, are likely to suffer disproportionately.

Nuisance at night can lead to an increase in medical visits and spending on sleeping pills affecting families' budgets and countries' health expenditures. The gap between rich and poor is likely to increase if governments fail to address noise pollution.

Children, noise, and health

Impairment of early childhood development and education caused by noise may have lifelong effects on academic achievement and health. Studies and statistics on the effects of chronic exposure to aircraft noise on children have found:

- Consistent evidence noise



equivalent, yet it conveys a deep and broad range of meanings: to listen, to hear, to pay attention, to understand, to internalize, and to respond through action.

Take a moment to consider noise pollution, how you can reduce your contribution to it, and how to enhance your listening skills. Additionally, take time during Shabbat to appreciate the power of silence.

Jewish tradition teaches and commands responsibility, and the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in supporting Shalom Green, by volunteering your time or making a donation, please visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org or email us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. Connect with us on Facebook at Shalom Green: Shalom Park Environmental Initiative and on Instagram and Twitter @shalomgreen_CLT.



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&
none of the chores

A photograph of three elderly people (two women and one man) smiling and laughing. They are surrounded by colorful balloons (pink, blue, yellow) and confetti, suggesting a festive party or celebration.

On any given day, you'll find a range of options to fuel your passions, meet new friends and enjoy a lifestyle rich with interesting and exciting educational and engaging programs. Learn more about our rental senior living community at TheBarclayatSouthPark.com or schedule a visit at 980.825.4211.

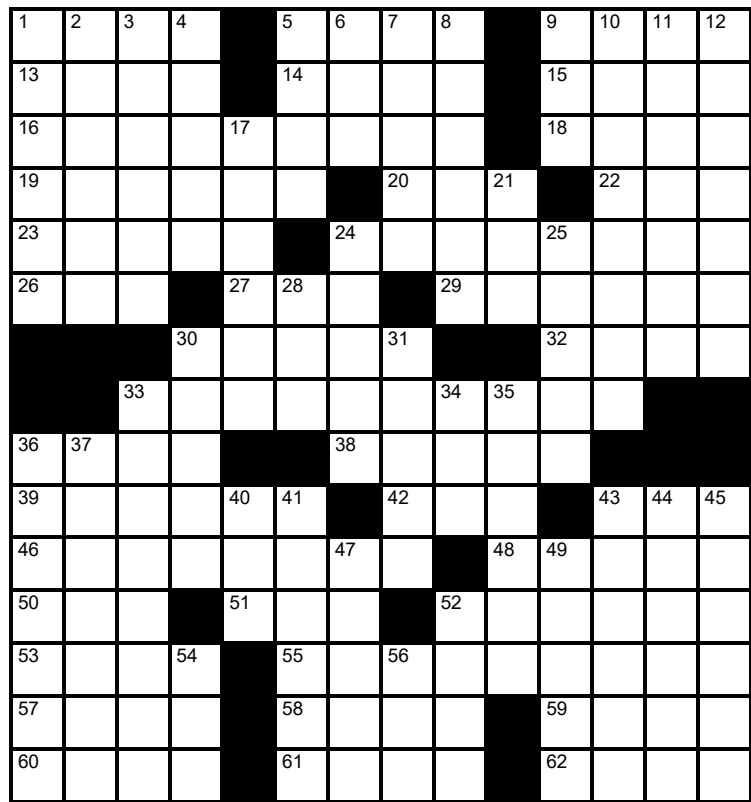
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 - 1. Approximately 1,600 feet, for the Brooklyn Bridge
 - 5. Edinburgh girl
 - 9. Some JFK guesstimates
 - 13. “Leading With My Chin” author Jay
 - 14. Important talmudic Rav
 - 15. After-dinner confection
 - 16. Notable Jerusalem
- locale often visited by foreign dignitaries

 - 18. Actor Sharif of “Funny Girl”
 - 19. Off the mark, as a throw
 - 20. Alternatives to a 27-Across
 - 22. Bigeye tuna, in Hawaii
 - 23. Driving hazard, in winter
 - 24. Notable Chaim Potok character
- 26. TLV search party?
 - 27. Kind of comp.
 - 29. 2001 Audrey Tautou title role
 - 30. Promises
 - 32. The Jewish High Priest wore several on his chest
 - 33. Notable Jewish holiday treats
 - 36. Rubik of “cube” fame
 - 38. Finish in the top three, in the Olympics
 - 39. Former Mets’ star Céspedes
 - 42. Beat or peace ender
 - 43. Tsp., e.g.
 - 46. Notable song by Shalshales
 - 48. Shemonah ____
 - 50. Pub
 - 51. Software for a 27-Across
 - 52. Cause genetic anomalies
 - 53. Pitchers’ assets
 - 55. What can be found in 16, 24, 33, and 46-Across...or an alternate title for this puzzle
 - 57. “In ____ of...”
 - 58. Jewish daughters
 - 59. “The Wizard of Oz”
- surname

 - 60. Bonanza vein
 - 61. “____ Tikvah” (Ben-ny Friedman hit)
 - 62. French for “summers”
28. Hit the shmorg

 - 30. Important layer
 - 31. Second aliyah
 - 33. Like the drummer of Def Leppard, amazingly
 - 34. “Jeweled” Israeli name
 - 35. Like some exams and dates
 - 36. Evaluate visually
 - 37. Dawson who plays “Ahsoka”
 - 40. A crowd, for Caesar?
 - 41. Elitist
 - 43. Har where the ark was parked
 - 44. Courage and fortitude
 - 45. Advanced-degree writings
 - 47. United
 - 49. Performance location
 - 52. The Maharal’s golem is one (so it would seem)
 - 54. Basketballer Bird
 - 56. Spanish for “two”

(Answers on page 29)

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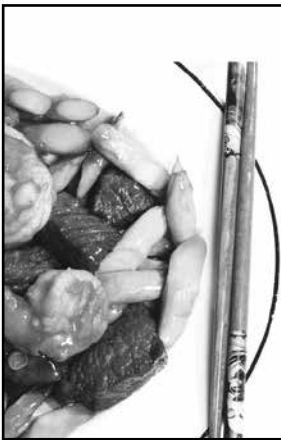
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Education and Youth

Charlotte Jewish Teens Can Do Something About the Headlines

By Rabbi Ya'akov Walker,
Co-Director Club Z Charlotte

Since the leadup to Passover, Anti-Israel activists have coordinated intimidation campaigns in public spaces, airports, and

more than 30 college campuses. These protests, occurring during our season of freedom, have left many Jewish students feeling vulnerable and targeted. The rise in antisemitic incidents

has raised concerns about safety and free expression for Jewish students.

As the campus unrest continues, Club Z Charlotte remains committed to ensuring that Jewish teens, regardless of affiliation, can have the self-knowledge and self-defense skills to turn the tide. By advocating for their rights in high school and fostering a sense of pride in their heritage, our alumni have gone on to build allies of all faiths at UNC Charlotte, UNC Chapel Hill, and Duke University to refute anti-Israel proposals and propaganda. How do we do it? We use our Jewish Students Bill of Rights as a way to unite our voices at school and in city hall:

1. Free Expression of Jewish Identity: Jewish students should feel confident expressing their heritage, culture, and connection to Israel without fear of reprisal or discrimination.
2. A Fair Education: Club Z advocates for an education that includes accurate information about Israel, its history, and its contributions to the world. Students deserve a balanced perspective that fosters critical thinking.



3. A Safe Learning Environment: Campuses must actively combat antisemitism and create an inclusive atmosphere where all students feel secure. Club Z encourages schools to address incidents promptly and effectively.

4. Comprehensive Definition of Antisemitism: To combat hatred effectively, students need a clear understanding of what constitutes antisemitism. Club Z promotes education about the various forms of prejudice and discrimination.

5. Fair Protections: Jewish students should have the same rights and protections as their

peers. Club Z encourages schools to adopt policies that safeguard Jewish students from discrimination and harassment.

Through seminars, trips, guest lectures, conferences, and hands-on activism, we empower nearly 200 high schoolers across the U.S. to embrace their Jewish identity and advocate effectively. You are not alone. Visit www.ClubZ.org or email Charlotte@ClubZ.org to learn more about how we can help your family and your congregation.





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Annabelle
Benjamin
Caleb
Cameran
Elijah
Eliza
Graham
Jenaviv
Logan
Noah L.
Noah P.
Nora
Phoebe

The Owls

Ms. Emily & Ms. Claire

Amelia
Anthony
Benjamin
Bodhi
Callie
Hallie
Hillary
Margot
Matteo
Maya
Mia
Millie
Robin

The Cardinals

Ms. Jenna & Ms. Marcia

Caroline
Eleanor
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Evan K.
Hailey
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Brody
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Isla
Liam
Liora
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Luca
Lyla
Mia
Penn
Pnina
Rene
Robin
Sammy
Sophia



Education and Youth

New Toddler Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on June 9



Join us as we celebrate the opening of our new Toddler Playground @ JPS! We want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this possible — our donors and wonderful community members. There will be snacks, coffee, and the option to pre-order hot dog lunches through Kosher Charlotte. Come ready for lots of fun with water play, bubbles, balloon twisting, face painting, and of course we'll test out the new playground! It's going to be a fantastic day, and we'd love to have you there with us! See a sneak peek below.



Our looping trike path is the perfect spot for preschoolers to hop on riding toys and cruise around the playground. The paved pathway features traffic signs and bridges to inspire play as they work on coordination, balancing, and building leg muscles.



Musical instruments surround the drama deck. We can't wait to see the children form little bands and perform for their audience!



Welcome to the Kosher Playhouse, where kids can cook and host meals, care for baby dolls, and let their imaginations run wild.

Toddler Playground @ JPS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Sunday, June 9th @ 10am
6619 Sardis Rd.

Playground open for families to enjoy! Activities will include water play, balloon twisting, face painting, snacks, and more



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Education and Youth

Charlotte Jewish Day School Performs “Honk Jr.”

By Gale Osborne

Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS) was proud to have our first dramatic performance in April, playing to an audience of more than 200. The play, “Honk Jr.” is a musical adaptation based on Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Ugly Duckling.” The story follows the journey of an odd-looking baby duck, and his quest to be reunited with his mother.

The cast was composed of CJDS students in second through fifth grade. They practiced after school twice a week for three months. The cast built all the

props and worked together to create their costumes. Ms. Hinkelman, the fifth-grade teacher, was the production director.

The week after the performance, the cast was able to attend a workshop for school performers at the Blumenthal Center. They also performed one of the songs on stage in the Belk Theater in front of a full house of students from other schools.

Mazal tov to the cast for a wonderful performance!



(Back row L to R) Ben Mathless, Jacob Fox, Bayla Rosen, Ms. Christy Hinkelman, Penelope Rubenstein, Noa Giudice, Leilah Yaquian (Front row L to R) Emma Khodak, Bodhi Nicholson, Klara Rose Wolk, Parker Pollack, Amit Ratovsky, Sofia Khodak, Kory Kirchenbaum, Greylyn Jordan,



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Education and Youth

A Reflection on Another Successful Year at Hebrew High

By: Megan Harkavy

As another school year wraps up, I have been reflecting on the last six years of Hebrew High. As director, I ask myself: What are we trying to accomplish? Are we meeting these goals? Do our teens really want to spend their Wednesday nights at Shalom Park?

And the answer is absolutely yes to all of the above. On any given Wednesday night, you will find over 70 eighth through-12th graders gathering for dinner and to take a class. They might be overwhelmed or stressed out with upcoming school papers or exams, but they still show up. During our final night of the year, I asked a few teens about why they come or about their favorite memory of the past year and the answer I heard over and over again was "friends." One teen shared, "My favorite thing about Hebrew High is hanging out with my friends." Another teen said "I love Hebrew High because of the relationships and friendships that I've made." When it was asked why others should sign up, they said because it is "so fun to talk



Hebrew High seniors receive a beautiful blessing from Rabbi Beth Nichols.

to your friends and learn new things in class. You get to hang out with friends and learn about being Jewish." Not only can you hang out with your friends, but you can make some new friends, too. One student commented, "My favorite thing about Hebrew High is all the memories that I got to make with my friends and the new people I've met". And let's be honest; one student said, "My favorite thing about Hebrew High is the food!".

What is the secret sauce that

makes our teens want to come back each week? First, they have the first 30 minutes to grab dinner and socialize with their friends. They can truly be who they are with no one judging them. We have created a safe and welcoming space for all. Secondly, our teachers are approachable and make class time fun.

This year, we offered a diversity of classes to accommodate our teens' interests. For those who like movement and hands-on activities, (instead of sitting

in a classroom), we offered a cooking class and a class where students connected their mind, body, and soul through moving meditation, ecstatic dance, grounding practices, and more. For those who are interested in music or TV we offered a class on Broadway's Jewish Composers, exploring modern Israeli music to examine the history of the Jewish homeland, and a Jews and Judaism Onscreen class. If you are into sports, we offered a Jews and Sports class and if you are a more studious type, we offered Theology 101, Trivia Mania and Hot Topics courses that focused on the history of Israel and antisemitism. And that is not all – there was a Mussar class, a photography class, a class to plan our mitzvah night, a class on Jewish identity pride and Jewish wisdom on sex and relationships.

And the year culminated with a celebration of our seven graduating seniors and a "Summer in Israel" party with opportunities to play gaga, shesh besh (backgammon), matkot (badminton that is frequently played on the beach in Tel Aviv), Taki (an Is-

raeli bestselling card game with over 5 million sold worldwide), Israeli Mad Libs, and to make Israeli Shrinky Dinks. We had cake and ice cream and one last night for our teens to simply hang out with their friends in a Jewish space. Our teens left this final night of Hebrew High full of delicious sweets and memories that will last a lifetime.

Mazel Tov to the Class of 2024:

**Lucas Atkins
Jaden Auslander
Deborah Henry
Emma Miller
Emily Schenkel
Shayla Siegel
Asher Yesowitch**



The Charlotte Jewish News invites students in grades 8-12 to explore and express their Jewish life in the Celebrating Jewish Youth Showcase 2024.

Answer the question, "How do you celebrate your Jewish identity?" through your creative lens in three categories:

Essay, Photography, and Podcast.

Eligibility: Open to Jewish teens in grades 8-12. Whether you're reflecting on personal experiences or exploring the broader Jewish experience, we want to hear from you!

Submission Period: August 1 - September 16. Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary showcase of Jewish youth creativity.

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Education and Youth

Friendship Circle and PJ Library Make Matzah



Friendship Circle, together with PJ Library's PJ Our Way, hosted a special Matzah Making event on April 14th, celebrating Passover with an inclusive twist. Friends from the Friendship Circle and their peers from PJ Library came together to learn the Passover story and create and decorate their own matzah. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to creatively turn a matzah into a delicious work of art.

This event wasn't just about baking; it was a celebration of shared traditions and rediscovering what brings us together while celebrating our differences.

Special thanks to the PJ Library Team for their partnership in making this unforgettable event possible.



Rabbi Levi Cohen leading the Model Matzah Factory



Decorating matzah together



Learning how to separate the wheat grain from the chaff

ZABS Place Chosen To Premiere "Ezra" Movie



Guest panel addresses audience after "Ezra" screening.

In a heartwarming display of community and cinema, ZABS Place was chosen as the North Carolina non-profit selected to host the premiere of the touching film "Ezra," thanks to the dedicated efforts of Caren and Charlie Gale.

The premiere, which took place on Tuesday, May 7, at the Independent Theater House of Charlotte, was not only a night

of entertainment but also one of purpose, as all proceeds from ticket sales were generously donated to support ZABS Place.

The film "Ezra," set to hit theaters on May 31, follows the poignant journey of Max, a comedian, as he grapples with the complexities of co-parenting his autistic son, Ezra, alongside his ex-wife, Jenna. Audiences were treated to an emotional roller-coaster, filled with moments of laughter and tears, all while being immersed in the strong sense of community that the film evokes.

Adding to the impact of the evening, a panel of guest speakers took the stage following the movie premiere, offering their insights and further enriching the experience for those in attendance.

ZABS Place is a non-profit thrift boutique dedicated to providing meaningful employment opportunities for young adults with special talents.

ZABS Place was founded by Chabad of Charlotte and is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more visit ZABSPlace.org.



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(Puzzle on page 23)

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Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories, providing a snapshot of our history. The following is an excerpt from the article in The Charlotte Jewish News, August, 2001. To read the rest of the article and other issues of The CJN, visit the archives at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/charlotte-jewish-news-charlotte-nc/>.

Looking Back: Year 2001

Swimmer Maccabi Golf Tournament Results

The 14th annual Harry Swimmer Maccabi Golf Tournament (in support of Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel and the Jewish Community Center of Charlotte) was held at Raintree Country Club on April 30. A record number 122 golfers came to participate in this annual special event and to pay honor to the tournament's host and one of the community's most beloved and influential leaders, Mr. Harry Swimmer.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center under the expert leadership of Alan Rosenberg and David Van Glish, the tournament featured thirty foursomes (two were fivesomes) participating in a "shotgun" star on the picturesque north course.

Players played "captains choice/best ball" throughout the event. The winning team of Bob Buttermore, Gib McCall, Bob Singer, and David Van Glish posted a score of 53.6 and the third place team of Larry Farber, Mickey Gold, Brian Griffin and Scott Kellermeyer was not far off with a score of 54.2.

In addition to the record number of golfers this year, there was tremendous participation both from a sponsorship standpoint and a prize standpoint. Patron sponsors included The Hartford Insurance Company, Travelers Insurance Company, Gleiberman Shepherd-Spears & Menaker, Republic Textile Corporation, The Hearst Corporation, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, Lerner & Company, Swimmer Insurance Agency and The Palm Restaurant. Hole Sponsors included Alene and Sam Strause, Alto, Benefit Design Group, David and Jeff Epstein, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sklut, Goodman Gable Gould Co./Adjusters International, iReadyWorld, Jim Montag, Lee-Nichols-Hepler Architecture, The Leon Levine Foundation, Mann Travel & Cruises, Ostrow Wholesale Company, Paul Lavitt Mills, Paddock Pools, Phil's Deli, Phil Guller & Gerson Asrael & Raley Miller Properties. Contributors included Action Plus Sportswear, Don & Bobbie Bernstein, Sam Bernstein, Blake & Hollister (Roger

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Special thanks go to Phil Levine for once again providing the lunch for all the golfers, to Coca-Cola and Sunrise Assisted Living on Providence for supplying the drinks for all the golfers and volunteers, to Infiniti of Charlotte for the hold-in-one 2001 Infiniti (no winners) and tournament insurance, to Brad Anderson and all his terrific staff at Raintree Country Club for all of their hard work and cooperation to insure the success of the event (not to mention their gift certificates for golf lessons), to Miro Spanish Grille, Mama Ricotta's, Manzetti's, Man-

giones, Firebirds Rocky Mountain Grille, Cuising Malaya and Riccio's for their very generous donations of gift certificates, to Eric Lerner of Action Plus Sportswear for his generous donation of golf shirts and for being "Mr. Cluth" at the last minute, to Michael Grey of MGB Accessories Inc. for his generous donation of Nike sunglasses and the Ken Rothmel for his very generous donation of golf balls, golf umbrellas and expandable bag.

Our "closes to the pi" circle contest on hole #9 attracted over 100 of the golfers and helped raise additional monies for the event. Thank you to Jerry Fisher and Sam Strause for the concept and follow-up.

Many "thank yous" to the tournament volunteers for all of their time and efforts including Sheila Fisher, Bernice Roberts, Elaine Schefflin, Linda Sloan, Alene Strause, Denise Whitney and staff from Sunrise Assisted Living on Providence Road and of course the one and only Sam Strause. Also, "thanks" to tournament chairmen Alan Rosen-

berg and David Van Glish and committee members Jerry Fisher, Robert Gleibermann, Craig Katzman and David Swimmer for all their hard work recruiting golfers and prizes.

The day's highlight came about six hours after it all started when last year's honoree, Sam Strause, introduced Bob Spivack, President of Maccabi USA/Sports for Israel who spoke some heartfelt words about this year's honoree, Harry Swimmer, and awarded him a beautiful commemorative plaque. Scott Menaker, President of the JCC, also addressed the crowd and presented another plaque honoring Harry's tireless philanthropic efforts on behalf of the Jewish community.

Congratulations to all of the golfers for coming out to support the event and to honor its "founding father," Harry Swimmer. Mark the date down for next year, April 29, 2022, same place and time.



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