Unleash the Power of Women’s Philanthropy at the
THE 19th ANNUAL SPRING LECTURE Featuring Alice Hoffman

Thursday, April 27, Temple Beth El

The Spring Lecture is the signature campaign and outreach event benefiting the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Women Division and the 2017 Annual Campaign. This multigenerational event brings together over 300 women for an inspiring and entertaining evening. Our past speakers have included bestselling author Jennifer Weiner and TV personalities Jill Zarin and Lisa Wexler from “The Real Housewives of New York.”

This year’s Spring Lecture will feature bestselling author Alice Hoffman. Hoffman is the prolific author of thirty works of fiction, including *The Marriage of Opposites*, *The Dovekeepers* and the Oprah’s Book Club selection *Here on Earth*. She is a master at forging miracles from the quotidian and the ordinary. While she explores life’s common struggles—people living in small towns in Massachusetts or Long Island puzzling through essential questions about relationships and intimacy, family and identity, love and survival—she sets her tales in a world that is at once wholly recognizable and at times fantastic. Hoffman’s fertile imagination extends well beyond the confines of adult literature, and she has enthralled children and teens with her many young adult books, which include *The Green Witch*, *Incantation*, and *Nightbird*, among many others.

Often drawn to the story of the outcast and the lonely oddball, Hoffman explains, “My theory is that everyone, at one time or another, has been at the fringe of society in some way: an outcast in high school, a stranger in a foreign country, the best at something, the worst at something, the one who’s different. Looking at it this way, being an outsider is the one thing we all have in common.” Hoffman will share the art of storytelling, her influences, and the experience of being a writer with our community on April 27.

A lavish dessert reception, book sale, and signing will follow the program.

Spring Lecture tickets are $36. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.jewishcharlotte.org or contact the Federation office 704-944-6757.
Commemorating and Celebrating Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut

By Inbal Ozeri

Two of the most significant days in Israel are coming up: the saddest day of the year and the happiest day. One followed by the other. These two days are attached to each other in meaning. The two days are Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day in Israel) and Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel’s Independence Day).

Independence Day, a day to celebrate the establishment of the Jewish state, comes right after Israel’s Memorial Day, a day to thank and remember the soldiers who gave their life for us to be able to have it, if not for those who lost their lives for us to have and keep our country.

Remembering its graduates or citizens who lost their lives. We pause our daily lives to get out and stand in silence (even in the middle of the highway). No one is moving, for two whole minutes. We pause our daily lives to acknowledge that we would not be able to have it, if not for those who lost their lives for us to have and keep our country.

At the end of the day, there is a closing ceremony followed by the opening ceremony of Independence Day – a beautiful, joyful parade celebrating our pride and love for Israel. It is a giant celebration that takes place all over the country with concerts, parties, and fireworks held in every city. Throughout the day parks, bases, and other attractions are open for the public and the biggest tradition of the day, is getting together with friends and family and barbecuing.

These two days, seem to not go together at all. One is agonizingly sad, full of grief and the other is exhilaratingly happy, full of joyful celebrations. But actually they are connected in the very core. One would not exist without the other. We would not have our Jewish state if not for all those who we commemorate. We owe it to them. And we owe to enjoy and have a fun, meaningful time in our amazing life for them.

Please join us to commemorate and celebrate here in the amazing community of Charlotte on Monday, May 1 beginning at 6 PM. For more information please contact at 704-944-6784 or shaliach@jewishcharlotte.org or see ad on page 22 of the Charlotte Jewish News.

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR APRIL 2017

Friday, April 7, 7:31 PM
Monday, April 10, Pesach Eve, 7:34 PM
Tuesday, April 11, 2nd night Pesach, after 8:31 PM
Friday, April 14, 7:37 PM
Sunday, April 16, 7th night of Pesach, 7:39 PM
Monday, April 17, last night of Pesach, after 8:37 PM
Friday, April 21, 7:43 PM
Friday, April 28, 7:49 PM

The Charlotte Jewish News

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Goal: $3,700,000

1115 Donors

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s impact can be felt here in Charlotte, in Israel and around the world. Our focus continues to be on enriching Jewish life, caring for the vulnerable, and building a Jewish community. And while every dollar and every donor always counts...your gift will be felt more than ever in the next few weeks as we approach our campaign goal.

If you have not already made your gift to the 2017 Annual Campaign, we are asking you to do so today. Make your investment in the future of our Charlotte Jewish community. We cannot get there without YOU.

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Other
Jewish Federation Lion-Pom Mini-Mission Journey to Alabama to Examine the Civil Rights Movement

As part of its ongoing efforts to offer women opportunities for engagement, involvement, and connection to one another, the Jewish Federation and our Jewish community, the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy offered a three-day educational journey to Alabama.

On March 6–8, 19 women traveled together on a Lion-Pom Mini-Mission to examine the historical events, issues, and eyewitness accounts that shaped the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. During our visits to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, we had many opportunities to discuss issues of racial justice as they exist today, and our role in moving these issues forward.

We thank Rabbi Judith Schindler, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte, for joining us as our scholar-in-residence during our trip. Rabbi Schindler wrote the following about our experience (see below).

The trip, which was the fourth of its kind, was offered to women who are Federation’s Lions of Judah and members of its Pomegranate Society – strong, dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women activists of all ages who care deeply about the Jewish future. To learn how you can become a member of one of our women’s affinity groups, please contact Sue Litauer, Director of Development, at the Jewish Federation at sue.litauer@jewishcharlotte.org; or 704-944-6758.

Reflections from a trip to Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma with the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

By Rabbi Judith Schindler

Birmingham, 1955.
Rosa was 42 years old.
“ ‘The only tired I was, was tired of giving in.’ ”

George Wallace:
An inaugural address saying:
“Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

Selma, 1965.
Bloody Sunday (600 marchers).
Turn around Tuesday (2,500 marchers).
A third march to Montgomery (Began with 2,000 and ended with 25,000).

Linked arms. Holding fast to one another.

The murdered and the martyred
Stolen from their parents, their children, their world and ours.

Jews and Blacks — At times together.
At times a world apart.

1619, the first slaves kidnapped from Africa chained and brought to our shores.
Our country’s wealth built upon their backs.
Building centuries of resentment and even, at times, hate.

The dream —
the American dream and King’s dream —
have left too many behind.

Racism killed then and racism kills now.
White supremacy remains...
Hate groups watched like hawks by the Southern Poverty Law Center who wait till they err and attempt to out and uproot them.

Racism killed then and racism kills now.
Voting laws burdening minorities. police profiling, implicit bias, poverty, mass incarceration.

King said in the name of the Biblical Amos,
“We are not satisfied, we will not be satisfied, till ‘justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like mighty stream.’”

Water purifies.
Water refreshes. Water renews.
Water sustains.
Waters of injustice don’t part themselves. We must part them or create bridges above them so that none continue to drown.

We march. We dream. We remember.
Their story. Our story. Still to be written. Still to be fulfilled.

Amen.

16th St. Baptist Church in Birmingham.

In Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham with Rabbi Jonathan Miller

Rabbi Judy Schindler at the Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial in Selma

At the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery

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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
SAM LERNER CENTER for Cultural Arts
Presentation of the slate of officers and board members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
Guest Speaker: KEN STEIN
The Six-Day War: Fifty Years Later
WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS
Havurat Tikvah to Host Shabbaton

Havurat Tikvah will welcome the return of Student Rabbi Danny Moss for a Shabbaton on April 1 for a warm and enlightening Shabbat service and adult education program that evening.

Student Rabbi Moss will lead services at 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, 2821 Park Rd., followed by a Kosher potluck veggie/dairy/parve/nut-free luncheon.

That evening at 7:30 PM, he will lead a discussion on social justice issues at the Crown residence, 1901 Sterling Rd.

Attendees are welcome to bring Kosher desserts and snacks to share.

Originally from Chicago, Student Rabbi Moss graduated from Oberlin College with degrees in Jewish Studies and Comparative Religion. He studied at the University of Haifa from 2007-08 and in 2012 began his rabbinical training at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. He is now in his fourth year. Most recently, he served as a rabbinical intern at Temple Israel in Boston. Previous internships were at Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple, Cleveland, Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, and Temple Micah, Washington, DC, and more.

While in rabbinical school, Rabbi Moss served as a teen tour guide in Israel and Europe. He has also completed a Clinical Pastoral Education unit. He has provided services in hospital chaplaincy, as well as in community organizing. Additionally, he has received diverse awards in areas such as Jewish entrepreneurship and Jewish history. He is listed in LinkedIn’s Top 25 Rabbinical Students. Student Rabbi Moss serves on the JStreet Rabbinic Cabinet as a rabbinic student.

Student Rabbi Moss has a plethora of musical talents. He is proficient in guitar, piano, trumpet, mandolin, and hand percussion instruments. He has lent his voice to congregational work by serving as a song leader and cantorial soloist.

In May, Student Rabbi Moss will graduate from Hebrew Union College and receive smichah (ordination).

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with Shabbat services and a full spectrum of holiday observances, as well as religious educational options for both adults and children. We are a diverse group of families, singles, and Jewish and interfaith couples who participate in projects that promote social justice.

We value and depend upon member participation and leadership for our religious services, spiritual growth and governance. Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, in Association with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

For more information on upcoming services, programs, membership, or other queries, call 980-225-5330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220, email membership@havuratattikvah.org or visit havuratattikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havurat-tikvah/.

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“Jews who have drifted from the faith of their fathers... are stirred in their in most parts when the old, familiar Passover sounds chance to fall upon their ears.”

—Heinrich Heine, Rabbi von Bacharach
Temple Kol Ami Celebrates Purim

“Purim was a huge hit once more hamantaschen. Needless to complete with a deli-style dinner, TKA congregation came together hamantaschen. Finally, the whole nival which included games, Religious School students en- and Morty Skywalker. The TKA Darth Haman, King Hanas Solos, and featured such characters as “Purim Wars: The Jews Awaken” due to the bravery of Queen Es-rated the defeat of the evil Haman and this year was no different. Anticipated holiday at Temple Kol Ami and many more. In the interim, Israel tripled its size, leaving the Jewish state battling吩liev ing victory over its adversaries. In 1967, a mere 19 years after gaining independence, the Jewish state appeared to be in mortal danger; its terrified popula- tion faced the prospect of a new holocaust. Egypt led a military buildup and propaganda war against its Israeli neighbor. Egypt's president, President Gamal Abdel Nasser, declared his intention to lead the Arab attack and “push the Jews into the sea.” Israel launched a preemptive strike against Egypt, Jordan and Syria quickly entered the fray— leaving the Old City of Jerusalem. Israel also found itself with over one million Arabs under its control, leading to considerable moral and political complications that persist until this day. The Six-Day War permanently changed the landscape of Israel and world Jewry—its identity, its political discourse, and its view of its position in the family of nations. To mark the war’s 50th anniversary, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) has produced a comprehen-sive six-week course, “Survival of a Nation.” This course investi-gates the momentous—indeed historic—implications of the events that led up to the war, the war itself, and its aftermath. The goal of this in-depth evaluation is to determine the ways in which the lessons gleaned from six Six-Day War continue to be relevant, and how the pertinent dilemmas it generated might be effectively tackled. “Survival of a Nation” ad-dresses the social, political, and religious issues with which mod- ern Israel grapples, and attempts to provide both clarity and an array of viewpoints. It discovers that many of the major dilemmas that faced Israel 50 years ago have not disappeared, though some have morphed into new forms. “Survival of a Nation” provides an opportunity for contextu-alization and clarification of modern Israel and its challenges.

Drawing on ideas of great Jewish writers and thinkers from throughout the ages, “Survival of a Nation” presents the Six Day War as you’ve never experienced it before. Its six sessions confront the impossi-ble yet important questions of our time with affectionate and fervent patriotism, while also remaining realistic, and morally anchored. Some of the dilemmas the course will tackle are 1) Why does Israel perpetually raise the ire of the world? 2) What are the ethics of preemptive strike and collateral damage? 3) How should Israel defend itself against an enemy that hides behind human shields? 4) If Judaism is a religion of ideas, why do Jews care so much about land? 5) What lies at the heart of the Land for Peace debate? 6) Jerusalem of Gold, why is this city so important on the world stage? The six week course will begin in Charlotte on Tuesday April 25, through June 6, 7:30 PM for the evening class and April 26, through June 7, 11 AM for the morning class. All classes will be held at the Chabad of Charlotte.

Sweeping through history and the best of its traditions, this spellbinding course will wash you up in its narrative force and abiding love for our nation’s identity, its political discourse, and its view of its position in the family of nations. This pinata didn’t have a prayer with

Some stormtroopers play a game at the Purim Carnival.

Purim is always a highly antic-ipated holiday at Temple Kol Ami and this year was no different. Multiple celebrations throughout the month of March commemo-rated the defeat of the evil Haman due to the bravery of Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordechai. Star Wars was the theme this year. Our annual Purim shpiel, performed during a Friday night Shabbat service, was entitled “Purim Wars: The Jews Awaken” and featured such characters as Darth Haman, King Hanas Solos, and Morty Skywalker. The TKA Religious School students en-joyed the ever-popular Purim Carni-val which included games, prizes, a hamantas, a piñata, a costume contest, and hamantaschen. Finally, the whole TKA congregation came together for a fun Havadalah costume party complete with a deli-style dinner, crafts, karaoke, and what else but more hamentashen. No less to say, Purim was a huge hit once again at Temple Kol Ami. Temple Kol Ami has been blessed to have Rabbis Ana Bonnheim with us for Friday night Shabbat services in January, February, and March. She will be joining us again to lead services on April 7 and May 19. We hope you will mark your calendar to join us for these meaningful evenings of prayer.

Temple Kol Ami is a diverse and welcoming Reform Jewish congregation. We hold Friday night Shabbat services the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at the historic sanctuary of Unity Pres-byterian Church, 363 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC. We would love to have you visit our congrgre-gation and find out about our warm, family-oriented environ-ment. For more information, check out our website www.tem plekolamisc.org.

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There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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This pinata didn’t have a prayer with this swinger up at bat.

The Charlotte Jewish News - April 2017 - Page 5
New York Jewish Radio Show Host Visits the CTC for Shabbat

By Leah Taylor

The Charlotte Torah Center was recognized nationally with kudos from Jewish radio personality Nachum Segal (Nachum Segal Network, JM in the AM—Jewish Moments in the Morning). His visit happened to coincide with a fantastic CTC Shabbaton, and both parties edified the others with the visit.

The Nachum Segal Network has an international audience and is “committed to providing motivating, essential, and timely content to an international audience on a daily basis.” Programming features prominent organizations like the Jewish National Fund, and recognized personalities like Alli- son Joseph, “Jew in the City.” The network’s mission centers around “providing quality programming that appeals to a sophisticated and informed audience.” In addition, the NSN is Zionist and provides much Israel related programming that serves as an excellent resource for the various issues facing the Jewish state.

Initially visiting Charlotte to attend a NBA game between the Brooklyn Nets and the Charlotte Hornets, Segal disclosed, “One of the cooler things to do was spend Shabbat with the Oppenheims and the Charlotte Torah Center.” Before coming, we found out that Mr. Segal is a talented chazon (cantor). He generously agreed to lead services and from beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat to his heartfelt Musaf, it was a treat for all who attended. He was the featured speaker at all three meals and entertained us with his stories and overview of some of the issues facing the American Jewish community.

Before taking his network to the internet, Mr. Segal had been on New York radio for over 30 years and has met many interesting people over the years. When Segal’s father died, Mayor Michael Bloomberg came to pay him a shiva call. He noticed a tzaddakah container for the The Bialystoker Shule on Manhattan’s Lower East side, took out his wallet, threw a few dollars in and said, “If it was good enough for Bugsy Segal, it is good enough for me.” (It is said that the infamous Jewish gangster Bugsy Segal went there on occasion.) Whether it is a member of the Senate or Congress — even President Obama and Donald Trump — if someone is connected in any way with the Jewish community, chances are Segal has spoken with them and/or had them on the show. Every Friday morning, he conducts an interview with Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Mr. Hoen- lein speaks regularly to heads of Jewish Organizations. Mr. Hoenlein shared many of these fascinating conversations and every present was Spellbound. We all benefitted from his wealth of first-hand knowledge and experience with current events and prominent personalities.

After concluding Shabbat with Havdalah, Mr. Segal and his family were off to basketball game, where his beloved Nets lost to the Hornets.

Upon his return to New York, Segal commended the, “incredible warmth, amazing commitment to our tradition, and incredible hard work that is taking place” at the Charlotte Torah Center. He described Shabbat at the CTC as an “unbelievable sight and incredible experience to be part of.”

“I was honored that I was asked to speak on multiple times and share some thoughts about things going on in this world, and talk about this short [Shabbat] Segal related.

People who reside overseas and in other parts of the country may not know much about the Jewish presence in the Queen City and he felt obliged to speak about and his positive impressions of it. To his international audience, Segal con- cluded, “I don’t know how many of you make it to Charlotte or through out any other city, but you’ve spent a Shabbat down there.” Yes, there are great Jewish things happening in Char­lotte, NC. (He spent a few minutes of air time relating his experiences and was kind enough to send us the link, which is posted on the CTC’s website, www.charlottetora­center.com.)

We look forward to Nachum Segal and family returning soon. In the meantime, his warm personality and fluency in Jewish world events will be sorely missed.

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Temple Beth El Resolves to Assure Dignity for Aging Adults

By Temple Beth El’s Tzedek Council

During the post-World War II “baby boom,” American couples had relatively large numbers of children. This created a statisti- cally significant age cohort with a large number of members compared to previous generations and those that followed. Due to im- proved nutrition and healthcare this population is living longer and more actively, but a long-term caretaker issue is escalating and will increase and access to services decreases. The world will soon have more people over age 65 than it will have children under five years of age. In the United States, those aged 65 and older will increase from 35 million (12.4% of popu­ lation) in 2000 to an estimated 55 million (16.1% of population) by 2050. By that time, many of the communities in the United States will have more people over age 65 than those aged 17 and under.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Hes­ chel once said, “A test of a people is how it behaves toward the old. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But the affection and care for the old, the incurable, the helpless are the true gold mines of a culture.” For two years, Temple Beth El’s Tzedek Council and Board of Directors have reflected upon the teachings of our Jewish tradition to care for the elderly, the surprising statistics about the aging population in America, and the challenges the community will face in meeting their needs.

Temple Beth El recently reaf­irmed and deepened its commit­ment to the elderly by adopting a resolution entitled “As­ suring Dignity for Aging Adults.” This resolution will not only guide Temple Beth El’s policy and pro­gramming decisions, but it calls on Temple Beth El’s leaders to work with partner agencies for in­creased attention and resources to enhance the lives of the elderly in our community.

“Sustaining Jewish teachings from Leviticus 19:32 to the more recent words of Rabbi Heschel,” said Stephen Phillips, member of Temple Beth El’s Tzedek Council and lay leader responsible for senior ad­vocacy. “It builds upon the foun­dation of prior resolutions of the Reform Movement, involves pash­ionate leaders and individuals, and most importantly will trans­late into assisting seniors with ad­ditional transportation options and chronic illness education and sup­port.”

“Assuring Dignity for Aging Adults” is another step in Temple Beth El’s longstanding commit­ment to provide meaningful en­gagement of active seniors and outreach to elderly who need sup­port. For two years, Temple Beth El has been home to a vibrant group of seniors and boasts the popular Special Programs of Interest and Concern to Elders (S.P.I.C.E.) and Senior Sage, a Jewish education series targeted toward older con­

The Charlotte Jewish News - April 2017 - Page 6
Have a joyous Passover. And share what it means to you.
#PassoverPublix
Women’s News

Charlotte’s Most Influential Women

Mecklenburg Times has selected this year’s 50 most influential women in Charlotte. Congratulations to Sharon Lachow-Blumberg, Nancy Braun, Lisa Shpritz, and Alyssa Wilen.

The NEW Hadassah Community Directory for 2017

Hadassah needs your help. The Charlotte Area Jewish Community Directory is getting a “spring cleaning.” Our readers have noticed old addresses and missing information. To ensure accuracy for 2017 and beyond, we now require online submission of your information.

Don’t worry … the Directory itself will still be the high quality printed publication you’ve come to expect from Hadassah Charlotte.

Don’t miss out. Please spread the word to your friends. No one would want to be excluded from this important community resource.

Submit your information online at bit.ly/2mLD5JA or at Hadassah.org/charlotte by June 1.

Questions? Contact us at directorylisting@gmail.com.

Women’s Chocolate Seder

Temple Beth El Sisterhood will hold one of its most popular and fun-filled annual events, the Chocolate Seder, on Sunday, April 2 at 6:30 PM. We tell the Passover story from a women’s perspective – and we make some delicious substitutions: bitter chocolate replaces bitter herbs, herbs are dipped in chocolate sauce instead of salt water, and chocolatinis replace wine, as well as few more chocolate-y surprises. For more information and to register for this year’s event, go to www.templebethel.org/events/sisterhood-chocolate-seder. If you are interested in helping out with planning and/or set-up, please contact Caren Hill: levins92071@gmail.com. Join us to connect with friends of the past and build on relationships for the future through this annual Sisterhood gathering.

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Women’s Chocolate Seder

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SAVE $825 OR MORE*
Purim at CJP

By Becca Weiner, Judaic Specialist

At the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, our students love Purim because it is the silliest holiday of the year. But, it is also an opportunity to learn about the unity of the Jewish people and the way that we have always taken care of each other – and still do to this day.

To celebrate Purim, our students completed three of the mitzvot for the holiday: they heard the Purim story, donated food to tzedakah, and made shalach manot bags for their friends. In their classes and in Judaica, students listened as their teachers told the Purim story. Once they had heard it a few times, it was their turn to tell it. Using puppets, felt boards, costumes and masks our students of all ages acted out the Purim story and used blocks to build the palace in Shushan. They also used various instruments to see which one would make the best gragger so we wouldn’t be able to hear the wicked Haman’s name.

Some of our classes used Purim as an opportunity to do a mitzvah for Jewish Family Services (JFS). They asked their parents to send in donations for the JFS food pantry and then took a field trip to put the items on the shelf. Todah rabah to Roberta Rodgers at JFS for helping us coordinate our visits and teaching our students about giving to others. Our one-year-old and three-year-old classes loved the authentic experience and were able to meaningfully contribute food to members of our community.

In their classrooms, each student decorated a shalach manot bag. Some kids used paint, some used markers, others used stickers and gemstones. Once the bags were decorated they were filled with freshly-baked hamantashen (made by the students in their classrooms), candy, and a toy. Students traded them with friends in their classroom, and some students brought them home to give to their parents. They learned that our shalach manot bags are for treats and candy so that we can truly indulge in the holiday.

Our Purim experience culminated with our fabulous Purim Parade on Friday, March 10. Our students and teachers marched through the CJP hallways and the Levine JCC dressed in costumes and shaking graggers. The halls were filled with unicorns, cowboys, superheroes, firefighters – and even a Rabbi! – all booing Haman before celebrating a special backwards Shabbat.
CJDS Kids Connect with the Older Generation

First grade visited Oasis twice this year. First in December at Chanukah time, they entertained the seniors with some Chanukah songs and then played a special dreidel game.

In March, we visited again and for Purim they also sang songs and played a game of opposites. The students were able to show their knowledge of Hebrew with the game and to show the seniors that opposites are appropriate for Purim because our very sad day became a happy one thanks to Queen Esther.

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The second grade visited Oasis in honor of Tu BiShvat. They sang songs, decorated flower pots, and planted parsley seeds for the Seder.

(Continued on page 12)
Shalom Park Freedom School Presents Underwater Dreams at Its Annual Movie Fundraiser

Join the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) for a screening of Underwater Dreams, a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzio and narrated by actor Michael Pena, on Thursday, May 4, from 7-9 PM, at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. The film chronicles the inspirational story of four teenage boys, sons of undocumented Mexican immigrants, who entered a sophisticated underwater robotics competition, going up against the likes of engineering powerhouse MIT – and winning.

“The stories in this film are incredibly timely and speak to the mission of the Shalom Park Freedom School – that every child, no matter their background, deserves opportunities to reach their potential and experiences that ignite their passion for learning,” says SPFS Co-chair Lisa Garfinkle. SPFS serves 80 economically disadvantaged children every summer in our community, working to close the literacy achievement gap with a six-week literacy and character-building summer program. The scholars are selected from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary, the two schools in faith-based partnerships with Temple Beth El and Temple Israel.

The story of Underwater Dreams begins when two energetic high school science teachers, on a whim, decide to enter their high school, a Title I school where most of the students live in poverty, into the underwater robotics competition. It follows the boys’ challenges along the way and the creative solutions they come up with to compete against MIT and other engineering schools.

The SPFS annual movie event is the school’s biggest fundraiser. Tickets are $10 and will be on sale at the JCC front desk in early April. For more information on SPFS, visit spfreedomschool.org. Other ways to support SPFS this spring: Donate Swimsuits, Towels and Books. Scholars at SPFS enjoy swimming lessons twice a week. To help with this, SPFS is collecting new swimsuits and towels for the scholars from April 3-May 5. Sizes will be posted outside the LICC Childcare room along with a sign-up sheet. Swimsuits can be turned into the LICC Customer Service Desk.

The SPFS annual movie event is the school’s biggest fundraiser. Tickets are $10 and will be on sale at the JCC front desk in early April. For more information on SPFS, visit spfreedomschool.org. Other ways to support SPFS this spring: Donate Swimsuits, Towels and Books. Scholars at SPFS enjoy swimming lessons twice a week. To help with this, SPFS is collecting new swimsuits and towels for the scholars from April 3-May 5. Sizes will be posted outside the LICC Childcare room along with a sign-up sheet. Swimsuits can be turned into the LICC Customer Service Desk.

SPFS is also asking for donations of gently used children’s books, especially chapter books. Captain Underpants and the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series are the most popular among the scholars. Books may be dropped off at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library or in the library’s dropbox this spring.

Back issues of the Charlotte Jewish News are available online at charlotte-jewish-news.org
JPS Celebrates the 5-Star Renewal

JPS likes to be the best of the best and we’ve proven that once again with our 5-Star renewal. Not only did we achieve the five stars, we were also able to improve our scores. With new classrooms, new staff, and new families, that is an impressive feat. We are grateful for the support of our JPS families and the incredibly talented staff to help us achieve this honor.

So you’re wondering, what does 5-star mean? Every three years, JPS opts to participate in an environmental rating scale which rates every detail of the program. They observe and assess the teachers’ education, curriculum and lesson plans, materials and age appropriateness, interactions between children and teachers, parent and teachers, as well as professional development opportunities and the culture of the program at large.

As you can imagine, having your every word and every move assessed is nerve-wracking but once again, our teachers were shining examples of what high quality early childhood programming looks like. It is wonderful to hear from consultants and visitors, “isn’t this the best program you’ve seen?” or “you’re the highest rated program in this region” to “your program is a shining example of high quality early education.”

We are incredibly proud to wear our five stars for three more years as we live and breathe the high standards we know to be best practice in early childhood education. Thank you to our team for making it all happen each and every day: Kate Badger, Elizabeth Boyce, Ellen Clark, Tiffany Crocker, Cailey Kreitman, Jayme Kreitman, Galia Lapidot Boaz, Jessie Mazur, Tijara Miller, Wanda Vande Linde, Beverly Wakefield and the rock stars of assessment day: Jennifer Orsomarso, Jane Lee, Virginia Gentile, and Angel Chambers.

CJDS Visits the Older Generation
(Continued from page 10)

In preparation for Rosh HaShana, the 3rd graders went to visit the residents at Carriage Club. After singing some fun songs, the students designed “Shana Tova” cards with the residents. It’s always such a joy to see how much pleasure the residents have when interacting with the young CJDS students and the children feel lucky to be able to share their smiles and good cheer.

Each of our three groups of 4th and 5th graders visited Oasis during the trimester that they learned about Israeli history. Each group was challenged to interview the seniors about a major event in Israeli History: The vote for the establishment of the State of Israel in 1947, the reunification of Jerusalem after the Six Day War in 1967, and the Entebbe rescue of the hostages in 1976.
At any hour on any given day—in Charlotte, in Israel and around the world—there may be Jews calling out for help. So on Super Sunday - The Sequel, please answer our call with a generous donation. You’ll not only be helping Jews in crisis, you’ll be helping to strengthen our entire community.

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

APRIL 23, 2017

www.jewishcharlotte.org
April 2017

Early Childhood JCHILDCARE.
7 weeks – 7 years old
Children will enjoy a nurturing environment to explore and have fun with crafts and activities, while parents workout.

Mon-Fri AM............. 8am-1pm
Mon-Thu PM............. 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday.................. 12am-3pm
Sunday................... 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/34.50 NM/55.50
Reservations Required!
704-366-5007, or visit LJCC's customer service desk.

Authentic Tastes of Charlotte #2
21+
Join fellow “epi-curious” LJCC members for an adventurous taste of Charlotte. Price includes a 4-course tasting plus a glass of wine or Mediterranean beer, tax, and gratuity. (Special dietary restrictions cannot be accommodated for this event.)
Thursday, April 20 • 6:30-9pm
Pita Kabob Mediterranean Grill
131 E. John St., Matthews, NC
M/$32 B/$28 NM/$38
Register with payment by Thursday, April 13th. Register online or at the LJCC Customer Service Desk.

SPRING BREAK SOCCER CAMP
Ages 7-12 years
April 10-14, 2017
Mon-Fri, 1-5pm
(Weather permitting)
LJCC Ostrow Family Fields
The Levine JCC and Carolina Rush Soccer Club are partnering to offer this fun-filled soccer camp!

- For beginners to advanced players; designed with the individual player in mind to work on skill development.
- Learn soccer from qualified soccer coaches.

LJCC Members $590 • Non-Members $650
704-944-6743 • stephanie.garner@charlottejcc.org

KARATE
Ueshiro Shorin-Ryu
Karate USA (and Israel)
Learn traditional Karate-Do from Sensei David Tamir, who comes to us from Israel's 7th Degree Black Belt with Ueshiro Shorin-Ryu Karate USA. Sensei Tamir has been a karate practitioner for 40 years. The class is safe and closely controlled to eliminate possibilities of injury; accommodating both men and women, including teenagers, with no upper age limit.

Location: Upstairs Dance Studio
Price per month: M/$60 NM/$70

Sundays, 5:30-7pm
Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm
Thursdays, 8-9:30pm
704-944-6743
stephanie.garner@charlottejcc.org

Meet & Eat at...
Pita Kabab Mediterranean Grill
131 E. John St., Matthews, NC
M/$32 B/$28 NM/$38
Register with payment by Thursday, April 13th. Register online or at the LJCC Customer Service Desk.

Karate
Earth Day Festival: Spring Clean Event
Sunday, April 23
10am-2pm
Camp Mindy
Levine JCC
Questions?
Julie Rizio 704-366-6790
julie.rizio@charlottejcc.org

- Presentations
- Live Music
- Food available
- Kids' Crafts
- Family Activities
- Giveaways
- Recycling
- Paper Shredding
- Vendors

Pricing Codes: M=Member B=Benefactor NM=Non-Member

Get Ready For Summer!
NO JOINING FEE
Begins April 15th
Schedule a Tour Today – 704-944-6741
Let’s Dance!
Don’t be left off the dance floor at weddings and Bar Mitzvah parties. Come learn the latest dances and impress your family and friends!
Thursday, April 27 • 7-8pm
Dances: Cotton Eye Joe & The Wobble
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio
(Final class on 5/26)
Instructor: Jessica Weil
M/$10 B/$8 NM/$12 per class
704-944-6753 • shanm.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Historic Fourth Ward Walking Tour
21st
Wander past the colorful Victorian homes of Fourth Ward, Charlotte’s first official Historic District, and learn the colorful history of this Charlotte neighborhood with Community Historian Dr. Tom Hanchett.
Tour time: Approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes
Saturday, April 28 • 5pm
Meet at 301 E. 7th Street (First Ward Park outside the Google Fiber building)
M/$15 B/$12 NM/$8
Register with payment by Monday, April 24.
Register on line at the LJCC Customer Service desk.

SHIP Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program
Free Medicare Counseling Available year round! Please call Senior & Adult Director Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information.
This event benefits Levine JCC Oasis Senior Enrichment Program

Exploring Meditation
Our final meditation class of the series will focus on Metta Meditation, a Loving-Kindness meditation practice.
Tuesday, April 4 • 6-7pm
M/$12 B/$10 NM/$8 per class
704-944-6753 • shanm.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

LJCC Department Directory
Please contact us if you have questions!

Membership
Samantha Lerner 704-944-6741
samantha.lerner@charlottejcc.org

Early Childhood
Patty Torcellini 704-944-6891
patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org

K-5th Grade Programs
Mitch Ormand 704-944-6733
mitch.ormand@charlottejcc.org

Teen Programs
Jessie Cohen 704-944-6734
jessie.cohen@charlottejcc.org

Adults & Seniors/Oasis
Jill Lipson 704-944-6792
jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Sports
Stephanie Garber 704-944-6743
stephanie.garber@charlottejcc.org

Aquatics / Swim Team
Joshua Steinberger 704-944-6746
joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org

LJCC Tennis / CRUSH
Greg O’Connor 704-944-6748
gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

Visual/Performing Arts
Susan Gardner-Davis 704-944-6778
susan.gardner-davis@charlottejcc.org

J-Childcare
Amie Gray 704-944-6762
amie.gray@charlottejcc.org

Social Action
Julie Rizzo 704-944-6730
julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

Like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc

*An annual administration fee of $20 per individual or $35 per family is required for non-member participation in programs and services.
TEMPLE ISRAEL TO UNDERGO RENOVATION PROJECT

Phase one of Temple Israel's revitalization and reinvestment project will begin on Monday, April 3, and continue through the summer. During this time, the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary and Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall will be the only accessible portions of the building. We have already taken steps to relocate any scheduled meetings, classes, events, and programs to alternate locations for the duration of construction and connected with leaders of our auxiliary groups, committees and community partners to inform them of new meeting locations.

Over the coming months, please be sure to check the locations of all Temple activities you plan to attend, through our weekly e-blast, Shabbat announcements and online calendar.

The majority of the Temple building will be an active construction zone, which will not be open to visitors. If you have an appointment with a member of the clergy or professional team, or if you need assistance with any Temple matters in person, please plan to visit the staff in the Gorelick Family Education Building.

Daily minyanim and Shabbat and Yom Tov services will take place in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary, which will only be accessible from the Mosaic Wing entrance to the building. If you have any questions, please contact our administrative offices at 704-362-2796.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICES
JAVA 'N JEANS
Saturday, April 1, 10:00am
Location: Levinson Family Place, Levine JCC

Do you have questions about Jewish prayer? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Java 'n Jeans is the event for you! Join us on the 1st Shabbat morning of the month, when you can delve into and discuss the true meaning and purpose of prayer over coffee, while wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

TORAH TOTS
Israel Shabbat in honor of
Yom Ha'atzmaut
Saturday, April 22, 10:00am
Location: Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park

Our high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers typically takes place twice a month. Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with songs, Torah parades, movement, and stories or puppetry. A healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack is served after each program.

KAVANAH
Saturday, April 15, 10:00am
Location: Levinson Family Place, Levine JCC

Our Kavanah service meets on the 3rd Shabbat of the month, and combines meditation, reflection, joyous chanting and singing accompanied by musical instruments, to renew our spirits and connect us to the deeper spiritual meaning of Shabbat.

YOUTH
TI-YOUTH END-OF-YEAR PARTY
@ FREEDOM PARK!
(All Youth Groups)
Saturday, May 7, 4:30-6:30pm

Come and join your friends for a special year-end celebration! All members of Ti Youth Groups (MAHAR, BONIM & GESHER) are invited to join us for an End-Of-Year party at Freedom Park! We will be recognizing graduating seniors and thanking those who have made our youth groups amazing this year. We will be having a BBQ Cookout for dinner, and there will be fun, games & prizes for ALL! Drop-off and Pick-up at Freedom Park. RSVP by Wednesday, May 3.

SOCIAL ACTION
MEN'S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE
Sunday, April 9
Please consider working at either or both of the following two shifts:
10:30am to 12:30pm - Cook Lunch
12:30 to 1:30pm - Serve Lunch

Join us as we deliver clothing and toiletry donations and cook and serve lunch to individuals at the North Tryon Street Men’s Shelter (1210 North Tryon Street) on Sunday, April 9, 2017. This is the largest of the two Men’s Shelter facilities, and we plan to serve about 200 guests. We are in need of volunteers to cook and serve food at the shelter. For more details, please visit templeisraelnc.org or contact David Thrope at dthrope@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS
OUT WITH THE MATZO, IN WITH THE MOZZARELLA!
Tuesday, April 18, 7:30pm

We all love matzah, but enough is enough! So let’s nosh on some serious hametz right after Passover. Join Torah on Tap and Charlotte Moishe House for a Post-Passover Pizza Party! Feel free to invite all your friends, just let us know how many people will be attending so we can be sure to have enough pizza and beer. RSVP by Wednesday, April 12 to Heather at hgrusso@gmail.com, and email mochocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

UPCOMING EVENTS
PASSOVER PROGRAM
FOR PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
Monday, April 17
10:00 – 11:30am
Location: Sum Lermer Center, Shalom Park

This is a FREE event for preschool children and their families, and kindly RSVP to Monty Bennett at mbennett@templeisraelnc.org.

YOM HASHOAH COMMUNITY MEMORIAL
Sunday, April 23, 4:00pm
Location: Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary, Temple Israel

Please join us for a very special afternoon of music as we commemorate the lives and heroism of the Jewish people who died in the Holocaust, and celebrate the survivors. Featuring “Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps”

Music by Donald McCullough
Conducted by Monty Bennett
and Adam Ward
Andrew Pester, pianist
Presented by the combined choirs of:
Providence United Methodist Church
Temple Beth El
Temple Israel

DIPLOMACY DISRUPTED: THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION AND THE FUTURE OF DIPLOMACY
Tuesday, April 25, 7:45pm
(proceeds by Miyan at 7:15pm)
Casselberry Inn
Ido Aharoni, Israel’s longest serving Consul General in New York. Dessert reception

This event is co-sponsored by Levine Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, and Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

"LIFELONG LEARNING: THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN SYNAGOGU SUH" STUDY GROUP
From Zvedye's & Bubbie's Shul to OUR Shul...and into the Future
Wednesdays, April 19 & 26, 7:00-9:00pm
(with break for Miyan)
Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall
Join Cantor Rochbach as we examine, through live and recorded examples, the synagogue music brought over by the Eastern European immigrants, how it was influenced by American music & customs, the influence of Israeli pop music (charismatic troubadours like Debbie Friedman & Shlomo Calebach), the rebirth of Klezmer, the burgeoning recordings of Orthodox pop, and today’s Jewish music icons (Craig Taubman, Rick Recht, Dan Nichols and many others).

FROM KLEZMER TO “BUBBE MAYSES”: INFLUENCES AND GEMS OF YIDDISH MUSIC AND CULTURE
Wednesdays May 3, 10 and 17, 7:00-8:30
(with break for Miyan)
Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall
Have you ever wondered or marveled at the wide range of Yiddish culture and music available on American popular culture? Do you remember some of the most famous Yiddish songs, or do you have any personal favorites? This is the event for you! Hear the influence has had on modern Jewish music and culture.

*Lifelong Learning classes are FREE to all Temple Israel members. Cost for non-members is $5.60. To register, contact the Clergy office at 704-362-2796 or by email at efrapoff@templeisraelnc.org.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:
Sunday: 9:00am – 12:30pm
Tuesday – Thursday: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Friday: 11:00am to 1:00pm

Visit us in our temporary location in the Gorelick Education Building.

Stop by to see our selection of gift, clothing, and jewelry. All items selected for all ages! Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Cindy Jennes (704-433-7643) to make an appointment.
Jewish Family Services

JFS Friends Run

10K - 5K - 1 Mile

Lace up your running shoes and gear up for Jewish Family Services’ 7th annual Friends Run, Sunday, May 14. This year JFS is excited to be partnering with The Leukemia and Lymphoma society as their Moms In Training group is training specifically to participate in our race. Registration is open for the family-friendly event that has been bringing our community together year after year.

The Friends Run has now become a Mother’s Day tradition for many families in our community. Karen Knoble, one of JFS’ most passionate volunteers (a past-president and past-chair of the Friends Run), says, “Over the past seven years, the Friends Run has become our Mothers’ Day family ritual. What better way to begin my special day than exercising alongside family, friends, and community. Some years my husband and children all ran the event, and other times some of us have volunteered. But we are always together that morning. My husband and children honor me and my passion for the work that JFS does by participating in the Friends Run. We all look forward to the morning.”

Over the years, mothers have gone from running while pushing their babies in strollers to registering to race alongside their children. It’s an emotional moment to get to run alongside your child for his/her first 5K, especially on Mother’s Day. But don’t worry if you would rather run the race alone, the LJCC is opening their babysitting room at 7:30 (please call ahead to make reservations.)

There is fun for the entire family and all proceeds support Jewish Family Services continuum of programs and services. We have DJ Kevin back again this year (if you’ve been to any B’nai Mitzvah in Charlotte, you know DJ Kevin). The Friends Run has a great KIDS ZONE and the one mile fun run is fun for the whole family. And we will make sure there is some special treatment for mom on Mother’s Day, including MOMosas at the finish.

(Continued on page 24)

Donations to Jewish Family Services in February 2017

Thank you for allowing JFS to honor your friends and loved ones.

IN APPRECIATION OF
Rachel Davis, Stuart and Ellen Fligel, Gloria Goldberg, Margi Goldstein, Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, David and Marion Kronovet, David and Janet Letkowitz, Barry and Linda Marshall, Elise Menaker, Jack and Vera Mendel, Paula S. Musler, Edwin and Jill Newman, Mark and Linda Rothman, Mark and Harriet Perlin, Larry and Dale Polsky, Marvin and Anita Shapiro, Mattye and Marc Silverman, Leonhard and Judi Strause, Sandra Weinstein from Sam and Ollie Polk

IN MEMORY OF
Shirley Fytleson to David Fytleson from Bette Bober Ralph Robinowitz to Jeff and Marcia Gleiberman, Rhonda Gleiberman, Robert and Lynn Gleiberman from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Patty Gorelick to William Gorelick from David and Marion Kronovet, Sam and Ollie Polk, Richard Osborne, Allan and Marcelle Oxman

CLOF Rosenthal to Virginia Rosenthal from David and Sandy Brenner

Saul Gordan to Bernard and Susan Sandler from Edwin and Jill Newman

Ellen Myers Adelman to Lisa Vogel from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Mary Keiper to Barbara Zelickson from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

MAZEL TOV ON
The wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gordon from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Edwin and Jill Newman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Joshua Gorelick from Carol Gorelick

Michael Littauer from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Myron Slutsky from Celia Mandel

IN HONOR OF
Russell Greenfield from Austin and Roberta Rodgers

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO
Wendy Rosen from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Bernie Ambler from Bette Bober

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors


Hadasah Cooks: Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, June Hirschman, Sandy Hoggland, Fran Kaplan, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Harriet Meetz, and Phyllis Romane

Food Pantry Donations: David Lintz Cub Scout Pack 163, Judy Kaufman, Tracy Brown, John Marsh, CJDS, Jewish Pre-school on Sardis Mitzvah Munchkins, Matt Luftglass, Dan Coblenz, Stacy Baum, Ballantyne Torah Center Hebrew School, Family of Patty Gorelick, Temple Beth El SPIKE, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants, and Shalom Park Community Garden

Special Recognition: BBYO for baking Challahs

Summer is (already) Calling You Back!
Summer Camps for ALL Ages and Interests at Levine JCC

#1 IN SUMMER FUN!
Traditional Summer Camps – ALL Ages

*SPORTS CAMPS - Online Registration Only

NJCC SUMMER SPECIALTY SPORTS CAMPS*

Renaldo Turnbull Flag Football
7-12 yrs • June 12-16

Boys Turn and Burn Lacrosse
7-14 yrs • July 24-28

Ruff Cut Baseball
w/Chris Murphy
7-14 yrs • July 31-Aug 4

Dell Curry Basketball
8-16 yrs • August 7-10

Charlotte United Futbol Club (CUFC) Soccer Skills
6-12 yrs • August 14-18

JCC CRUSH Weekly Tennis Camps
6-16 yrs • Half or Full-day
June 12 thru Aug 11

*SPORTS CAMPS - Online Registration Only

Save your Spot...
REGISTER TODAY!
704-366-5007 • charlottejcc.org/camp
April Events for Moishe House

Moishe House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community among Jewish young adults in their 20s and early 30s. Moishe House looks to fill the void that often exists after graduating college and prior to settling down. The organization brings together groups of three to five Jewish adults who live together and plan local programs, both home-based and external, for other young Jewish adults. There are currently 93 Moishe Houses in 22 countries around the world.

Moishe House Charlotte began in August 2013 and since then has hosted 130+ events ranging from service projects to social events to Jewish learning and more. We are always happy to see new and returning faces, so be sure to join us. We are pleased to share with you our exciting events for this April:

Event 1: Young Adult Film Event - Saturday, April 1 at 8:30 at C3 Lab, 2525 Distribution Street
Join the Charlotte Jewish Young Adult community for this unabashedly politically incorrect romantic comedy, Serial (Bad) Weddings, that pokes fun at stereotypes in our ever-changing multicultural society. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Buy tickets now at charlottejewishfilm.com

Event 2: Happy Hour with The Porch - Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 PM at Workman’s Friend, 1531 Central Ave.
You have worked all day plus it’s hump day, so now you deserve a drink or three. Join The Porch and Moishe House for an excellent spring happy hour. Workman’s Friend has an excellent patio so fingers crossed it will be nice out.

Event 3: Pizza Party with Torah on Tap - Tuesday, April 18 at 8:30 PM at Moishe House
We all love matzah, but enough is enough. So let’s nosh on some serious hametz right after Passover. Join Torah on Tap and Moishe House for a Post-Passover Pizza Party. Feel free to invite all your friends, just let us know how many people will be attending so we can be sure to have enough pizza and beer. RSVP by Wednesday, April 12 to Heather at Hgrousso@gmail.com, and email mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

Event 4: Sunday Brunch - Sunday, April 23 at 10 AM at Tupelo Honey Cafe, 1820 South Blvd.
Who doesn’t love Sunday brunch? Join us at Tupelo Honey Cafe in South End to start the week off right with friends. There are limited spots on the reservation, so email mohocharlotte@gmail.com to lock down your spot. For those interested in burning off some calories after brunch, Shalom Park will be hosting an Earth Day Festival until 2 PM.

To learn more about Moishe House Charlotte, visit us at www.moishehousecharlotte.org/houses/charlotte or check us out on facebook: www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte. To contact us, please e-mail mohocharlotte@gmail.com.

Teacher Workshop Returns to Charlotte

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust continues its work with a series of Spring teacher workshops that they are calling “Workshop 2.0.” These new workshops are for teachers who may have already completed the original workshop, but now require new material to present to their students. This workshop featured propaganda, including an exhibition of Theodore Geisel’s (Dr. Seuss) anti-fascist posters from the 1930s.

Local survivor Suly Chenkin spoke to the group at the conclusion of their day.
Legacy Profile
Toby and Dan Ruda

Toby and Dan Ruda are among the 363 individuals and families in our community who have created 746 unique legacy gifts to support its future. Please take the time to read their story and thank them for their generosity. It is our hope that you will be inspired and encouraged to join them and others who have created legacy gifts to help sustain our Jewish community.

By Dan Ruda

Many may consider me to be the “Wandering Jew,” who found his home, his wife, and his family in Charlotte. We have also found here a spiritual home that has become one of the focal points of our lives.

Born in New Jersey, in an area known as “The Shore,” I was a member of a Reform congregation. My religious life was more cultural, centering on holidays at my grandparents’ home. During early adulthood, I spent time as a chef and musician, two passions that continue to be important in my life. I earned a degree in electronics and, in 1993, moved to Charlotte, where my daughter, Carly, was born and raised.

Here, I met the love of my life, Toby, an identical twin, who grew up in Metuchen, NJ. Our religious upbringings were quite different. Toby’s family belonged to a Conservative synagogue. She and her siblings, who all became B’nai Mitzvah, have maintained a strong familial bond, celebrating traditions and holidays together and promoting continuity. She graduated from Emory University and moved to Charlotte in 1995 with her son, Jonathan. They quickly became part of the community through the Levine Jewish Community Center and Temple Israel.

We met in 1997. Toby regularly attended a Torah study luncheon hosted by Rabbi Ezring. I was invited to attend and enjoyed the experience, “hitting it off” with the Rabbi, who shared my connection to “The Shore.” I started attending services at Temple Israel as a way to expose Carly to our faith and share Toby’s experience. I had not been to a temple for many years and was surprised by how much I enjoyed it. I began attending services together and continue to do so.

What made it work was how welcoming and supportive everyone was. I felt that my membership was valued. I was invited to join a committee at the Temple, and while reluctant, I quickly found myself being helpful. Eventually, I became temple president. Being Jewish is a very important part of our lives. At Temple Israel, we found each other, friendship, and community. We have celebrated, mourned, and created a life that sustains us in many ways. We believe it is important for each of us to accept personal responsibility to maintain the needs of our community. We all must help to guarantee our future. That is why we have decided to make a legacy gift. We believe it is truly important.

Let Freeeee Drum Ring!

DRUMSTRONG 2015 May 20 will be free and hosted by Free Range Brewing in NoDa.

Come, bring the family, enjoy. Get yer YaYas out, groove with us, support important health initiatives with your per-hour-drumming sponsorship pledges and your HeartBeat, win Prizes (including drums), great raffles, participate in the world’s longest and most collaborative event ever.


DS 17 will continue to make a profound impact on the communities’ health. www.facebook.com/events/278825888875150/
Lake Norman Jewish Council to Hold a Deli Day

May 7, 11:30 AM-2:30 PM at Temple Kol Tikvah, 605 South Street, Davidson

For those of us transplanted Yankees, a common topic of conversation is how we miss the authentic, traditional, delicious New York deli. The council will make it possible to indulge in some of those favorites. The council is made up of Congregation Emanuel in Statesville, Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson, the Lake Norman Chapter of Hadassah, and a few independent board members, along with generous funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte to bring Jewish cultural events to the area.

A little background history of why Jewish deli became so popular.

Pastrami, corned beef, and other kosher and kosher-style deli meats (salami, bologna, tongue, even some forms of roast beef) are meat products that are cured in various ways to preserve freshness in the absence of refrigeration. This was particularly important, generations ago, for Jewish people who lived in Eastern Europe and in precarious circumstances. As families were constantly prepared to leave in a hurry, it was of prime importance to create an inexpensive protein that lasted a long time and traveled well.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, when many of us from Eastern Europe emigrated to the United States, they quite naturally brought their dietary preferences with them. Thus was born, in New York City and elsewhere, the kosher Jewish delicatessen, where pastrami, corned beef, and similar delicacies would be thinly carved and piled high on Jewish-style rye bread, with a few dollops of yellow mustard, of course, and a pickle on the side. (Maybe even some sauerkraut.)

Many volunteers are adding their preferences for favorites as this day is being planned. A kosher-style deli day would not be complete without potato knishes and hot dogs.

The sisterhoods are already volunteering to add their baking expertise to the day. And special interest for our competitive bulla busters; a noodle kugel tasting competition will be part of the event.

To pre-order online, visit: www.jewishcounciloflakenorman.org

Pre-orders must be placed by April 23. Orders by April 16 will benefit from a 10% discount. You can either eat-in or take-out your deli delights. There will be other surprises to make the day complete. Save the date and have fun with your family and friends.

You can act now by pre-ordering, to avoid sandwich-related disappointment later.

Planning Ahead

By: Sandra Goldman

“Grief is the price we pay for love,” said Queen Elizabeth in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attack in New York. And as we move through life, we realize again and again the truth of those words. Life is composed of opposites, different sides of the same coin. Darkness is also light; sadness is also joy; evil is also good; beginnings are also endings; love is also loss. Whether planning for ourselves or our loved ones we can deal with our grief and ease that pain by not having to plan a funeral immediately after someone has passed.

The Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association makes preplanning a funeral easy. It’s a process that we help you with from start to finish. Whether it’s assisting you with a budget, selecting a gravesite, or referring you to a funeral home, our Cemetery Director is there to help you.

One way you can help yourself is by becoming a member of the cemetery. For annual dues of $72.00 you become eligible for member pricing and can save up to 30% on cemetery costs. As a member you can purchase a site for $1800, saving one thousand-dollars over non-member pricing. You can pay in-full, or interest free over a two-year period. The additional perpetual care fee and the actual burial costs may also be pre-paid or taken care of at the time of need.

Call our director for additional information or to schedule an appointment and/or a tour of the cemetery.

Now is the perfect time to make your preplanning arrangements. In February, we opened parts of our newest two sections: a continuous traditional all Jewish section and a community inter-faith section. Choose your preferred location from over 200 grave-sites. You may select a resting place that is closer to shade trees, next to the path leading to the memorial building, near the hillside or toward the back of the property. Act now while premium sites are still available.

To schedule an appointment or to receive further information about preplanning, please contact Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org. ♦
Films, Playwriting Contest, JCabaret - Check Out Brand New Cultural Arts Events in April

Mazel Tov and huge thanks to the many volunteers, donors, and patrons of the 13th annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival. As the festival came to a close at the beginning of March, plans were already underway for new Cultural Arts offerings in April.

The CJFF, The Porch, Torah on Tap, and Meische House are very excited to be hosting our first Young Adult Film Night, on Saturday April 8 at 7:30 for an evening of new Jewish plays, refreshments, and drinks will be served. Two additional great films, Once in A Lifetime and To Life, will be shown at The UNCC International Film Festival and at CPC’s Sensoria, on Wednesday, April 5 at 5 Sunday, April 9 at 7. These films are free and will be the last JIFF events until Fan Appreciation Day in July - don’t miss out. Please visit charlottejewishfilm.com for more info and to purchase tickets.

JSTAGE, in collaboration with The Jewish Plays Project, is thrilled to bring The Jewish Playwriting Contest to Charlotte for the first time. The contest is the nation’s largest competition for new Jewish plays, which gives you the chance to be the one to choose the winner. Twenty-one leaders from Charlotte’s Jewish and theater communities selected the top three plays, from the JPP’s top 10. Please join us on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 for an evening of 20 minute sections from each play and vote to select Charlotte’s best new Jewish play of 2017. Three new plays, refreshments, and discussion will make an evening you won’t forget. For more info and to purchase tickets, please call 704-366-5007 or visit charlottejcc.org/jpp.

Finally, JSTAGE brings you its 3rd JCABARET, on Saturday, April 22 at 7. Enjoy food, drinks, and musical performances by special guests from the Charlotte theater community, as well as JSTAGE participants, performing a few special surprises. Tickets are only $10 for a wonderful evening of entertainment and can be purchased by calling 704-366-5007 or online at charlottejcc.org/jcabaret.

Add a little culture to your life - we hope to see you at these great events in April.

Greater Charlotte Chapter of Carolina Jews for Justice Formed

A group of members of the Charlotte Jewish community, representing a cross section of Jewish life in Charlotte, recently formed the Greater Charlotte Chapter of Carolina Jews for Justice. Carolina Jews for Justice (CJJ), a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in March 2013 in Raleigh-Durham, combines advocacy and education to organize a non-partisan Jewish voice in North Carolina. CJJ works to influence policy at the local and state level and encourages individuals and Jewish institutions to take a stand on important issues in their community.

CJJ Greater Charlotte Chapter steering committee member Michael Baum noted at the chapter’s recent meeting that the three main areas of focus at the CJJ state level are to fight prejudice - specifically HB2; work to promote a living wage; and correct gerrymandering through fair and equitable redistricting.

The first action taken by the newly formed Greater Charlotte chapter was to send a carefully-crafted position statement in opposition to HB2 to each member of the NC Senate and House urging them to repeal HB2. As the letter to the elected officials in Raleigh stated, “It is your responsibility to do whatever you can to make North Carolina a desirable economically-viable and socially-responsible place to live. That includes defending basic human dignity and civil liberties of all North Carolinians, including those who don’t look, believe, worship, or express sexual identities the same way they do.”

The North Carolina Jewish community is on record opposing HB2. Over 40 rabbis across the state signed a letter opposing the law, and numerous congregations and organizations have opposed HB2 as well.

The CJJ Charlotte Chapter meets regularly and will develop goals and strategies to promote justice for all, based on the core principles of Brit’zel Elohim (all human beings are created in the Divine image); V’ahavta L’reacha Kamocha (love your neighbor as yourself); Tikun Olam (repairing the world); and Kehillah (community).

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 18 at 7 PM in the Cisco office at Tompkins Toolworx, 1900 South Boulevard (just south of East Boulevard). New members are welcome.

For additional information, contact Michael Baum (Michaelsbaum@gmail.com 612-910-1957).
Commemorate and Celebrate

Monday, May 1

YOM HAZIKARON
Israel Memorial Day
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
6:00 pm
Memorial Ceremony

YOM HA’ATZMAUT
Israel Independence Day
Gorelick Hall
7:00 pm
Special Performance by

Bringing the love of Israeli music to the stage
(Back by popular demand from 2014)

For more information visit www.jewishcharlotte.org or call 704.944.6757
A Jewish Musician’s First Trip to Israel

By Monty Bennett

The pipe organ is typically known as a Christian instrument in modern times, but the predecessor of the modern instrument, the hydraulis, is thought to have been played in liturgical celebrations in the Temple. The hydraulis was a series of flutes on a chest with air compressed by means of water, developed by the Greek-Alexandrian engineer, Ctesibius. The Talmud mentions a magrepha (rake) that could play 10 notes, and according to the Mishnah (Tam. 3:8), it was audible to “all Jericho.” Spreading through the Greek and Roman empires it served in a purely secular role, as an accompaniment to outdoor festivities and other community gatherings. Eventually, the Church adopted the organ as a religious instrument, and the synagogue dismissed it as being a Christian instrument. As the Reform movement grew in strength in mid-1900s Germany, the organ regained its place of prominence in Reform Jewish liturgy.

In modern times, the pipe organ has both an identity as a liturgical and concert (secular) instrument, finding a home in many churches, liberal synagogues, and concert halls. Israeli composers have started writing music for the organ, or organ and other instruments and voices.

About a year ago, I was contacted by the Israel Organ Association to see if I would be interested in performing as part of the 2017 International Organ Festival. Many of you know, by my journey or should I say my return back to Judaism, as my Italian family has Jewish roots in Vittorio Veneto. The planning committee of this festival knew about me through some of my videos on YouTube, but was interested in having me play since I am Jewish. Along with the director of the Festival, Yuval Raban, I would be the only Jewish organist performing. Most of the performers are European and all are Christian, playing in some of the churches in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. My performance was at the University of Haifa, Hecht Auditorium, where the organ was built by the only Israeli pipe organ builder, Gideon Shami. A surprising coincidence is that Yuval Raban and I live parallel lives. Both of us work full time at synagogues, play at churches on Sunday morning, and have careers as concert musicians on the side. A native of Haifa, he now lives in Basel, Switzerland, where he serves as the Education Director at the largest congregation in the city and is the organist for a Protestant church.

Once a date was confirmed, they asked if I would have a theme for the concert, rather than just random pieces. My specialty has become music of black composers, because it is little known, rarely heard, and must be promoted. Among the works I played were the Middle Eastern premiere of Nigerian Suite, by the contemporary composer, Godwin Sadoh, the Sonata for Organ, by Florence Beatrice Price, and the virtuosic setting of Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho, by American composer Fela Soncade. I thought that it was only fitting that I use a work by a black composer with the Jewish story.

Arriving in Haifa on a Monday afternoon, I was on the side. A native of Haifa, Hecht Auditorium, where he serves as the Education Director, was interested in having me present a packed hall and was brought back for three curtain calls. People in attendance thanked me for bringing new music to them, because as one person told me, “we always hear Bach.” Most of the pieces I played were written in the 20th century, but in styles from Victorian to post-Romantic.

After staying in Haifa, I moved on to Jerusalem. While in Jerusalem, I had the opportunity to work with the Israeli composer, Menachem Zur, on a new organ piece he is writing. He asked me to edit it with him, as his other compositions are for orchestra and he has not written for the organ and needed technical advice. Once finished, I will record it for him and play the premiere of the work.

I davened several times a day at the Wall, and every time I was there, I wept because the power was overwhelming. I attended Shabbos morning services at the Main Synagogue in Jerusalem, where it just happened to be a day that their choir was singing. Shabbat hospitality provided by the cantor and the harmonies provided by the all-male choir were mind blowing. While in Jerusalem, I had Shabbat hospitality by former Charlottetownians who made Aliyah. This just made my first Shabbos in Israel even more special.

My final four days were spent in Tel Aviv, where I spent time with several different relatives of people from Temple Israel. I am currently in talks with Brigham Young University’s Jerusalem campus to present a recital on their concert series. I have told people before that music has taken me around the world, but this trip didn’t only take me to Israel, it brought me home. For information about the Israel Organ Association, please visit www.organ.co.il and to see some of my music videos, please visit https://www.youtube.com/user/rmb10.
The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice will commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, by welcoming two of Charlotte’s most respected actors, Charles LaBorde and Dennis Delamar. The actors will perform a staged reading from Kressman Taylor’s “Address Unknown.”

This powerful work, capturing the correspondence between two German businessmen, was first published in 1938 and served as a wake-up call to Americans about the dangers and inevitable consequences of the growing European conflict. Today, it serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of intolerance.

As to why she wrote the book, Kathrine Kressman Taylor said, “A short time before the war, some cultivated, intellectual, warmhearted German friends of mine returned to Germany after living in the United States. In a very short time they turned into sworn Nazis. They refused to listen to the slightest criticisms about Hitler …”

The timeliness of the piece is also demonstrated by this excerpt from a letter by the German character, Martin Schulse: “I have never hated the individual Jew – yourself I have always cherished as a friend, but you will know that I speak in all honesty when I say I have loved you, not because of your race but in spite of it.”

**Event Details**

April 24, 7:30-9:30 PM
Ketner Auditorium, Skyes Learning Center, Queens University of Charlotte

**Registration Information**

This is a free event. A dessert reception will immediately follow the performance.

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**JFS Friends Run**
(Continued from page 17)

Whether you walk, run, stroll, cheer, volunteer, or sign up for “Breakfast In Bed,” when you participate in the JFS Friends Run you’re making a difference. Make Mother’s Day a memorable and meaningful day.

Sign up to run, volunteer, or sponsor the race.

www.FRIENDSRUN.com

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“Spring represents rebirth, the rains are over and gone, the blossoms have appeared on the land … Arise my darling. My fair one, come away.”

– Song of Songs 2:11-13

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**SURVIVAL OF A NATION**

Exploring Israel through the Lens of the Six-Day War

1907 1967 2017

HISTORY DEBATE CONTROVERSY

A new six-week course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute

SIX TUESDAY EVENINGS
STARTING APRIL 25, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
FEE: $59 PER PERSON - $180 PER COUPLE

DAYTIME OPTION - WEDNESDAYS 11-12:30
Location: 6619 Sardis Road Charlotte, NC 28270

Register today: MYJLI.COM
Youth Visions

Why Hebrew High?

So what’s so important about Hebrew High? What makes more than 130 overworked, stressed to the max teens want to be a part of something that seems like more school, more structure, and more scheduling? Hebrew High is the only place in Charlotte where teens can forge strong Jewish identities while learning the skills needed to live a full Jewish life. It is a community that encourages Jewish students to express their opinions and concerns in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Our teachers are trained to facilitate open dialogue in all classes. All of our students are encouraged to make decisions based on Jewish values, and to develop strong ties to the land and people of Israel. On any given Wednesday evening, at Hebrew High, you can see poetry being written, mitzvot being done, sacred texts being studied, and delicious Jewish delicacies being created. All of that while lifelong friendships are being solidified. At the end of every week we ask the teens if they learned anything and if they had fun. The answer to both is always yes.

For more information, please join us at our annual Open House on Thursday, April 27 in Gorelick Hall. From 7-9 PM.

Who is invited? All rising 8th graders and their parents, and any rising 9th-12th graders who would like to be a part of the Hebrew High community.

What for? An evening of fun and learning about the Hebrew High Program.

Why attend? To find out what you will miss if you don’t register for CHS.

How? By trying out classes and meeting our teachers.

RSVP to … Roz Cooper 704-944-6782 or rcooper@shalom-charlotte.org.

Hebrew High is the Place to be on Wednesday nights! (except this time it’s on Thursday)!

To advertise in the Dining Out, Catering & Hospitality section of The Charlotte Jewish News, contact one of our sales representatives:

Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950

Pam Garrison, 704-906-7034
FESTIVAL WORSHIP
April 11 at 11:00 am

FESTIVAL WORSHIP WITH YIZKOR
April 17 at 11:00 am

Join us for Passover

TO RSVP: WWW.TEMPLEBETHEL.ORG

Community Second Night Seder
APRIL 11 at 6:00 pm

A multi-generational, traditional Passover Seder filled with wisdom, music, and warmth.

Families with Young Children SEDER
April 11 at 5:00 pm

Join The Porch for this Passover meal, geared toward families with infants through second graders. We will sing and laugh our way through a fun and kid-friendly seder.

Men's SEDER
April 4 at 6:30 pm

TBE’s Brotherhood invites men to a remarkable evening of camaraderie, tradition, and a festive Passover meal. All men are invited, regardless of membership or faith.

Sisterhood Chocolate SEDER
April 2 at 6:30 pm

TBE’s Sisterhood invites its members and guests to a Chocolate Seder, reminding us that freedom is sweet and delicious.

S.P.I.C.E. SEDER
April 3 at 11:00 am

Our senior adults share a delightful program rooted in tradition and the spirit of Pesach!
Ten Easy Tips to Avoid a Boring Seder

By Rebecca Rosenthal

(Kveller via JTA) - If your Passover Seder is anything like mine, it can resemble the world’s most difficult classroom: different ages, ranging from 3 to 93, and varying levels of interest. Someone wants to eat, someone else wants to read and discuss every word in the Haggadah, some just want to get to the food - and everything in between. Designing a Seder that can work for everyone can feel like a challenge for even the most seasoned educator, let alone a busy parent.

But there is magic in the Seder. Having loved ones around a table together can feel like a luxury in this day and age, so here are some tips for making the most of the festive meal. I hope these ideas will inspire you to be creative in a way that feels authentic to your Seder.

The Seder’s purpose is to get people to ask questions, so the more you break the mold of the way you have always done it, the more likely you and your guests will be able to access the true meaning of the holiday.

Here are 10 tips to perk up your Seder this year.

1. Put out some food earlier. Food is always important in Jewish events and never more so than in the Seder. It can feel like a long time until you get to dinner, but after karpas (the green vegetable that comes right at the beginning), you can serve appetizers. Veggies and dip or fruit are good healthy options, but my family also puts out candy, which keeps the kids busy for a little while. If you want to be thematic, there is fair-trade, slavery-free chocolate that is kosher for Passover.

2. Play with your food. Along the same theme, there are fun ways you can incorporate food into the heart of the Seder. One friend of ours attaches the parsley to mini fishing rods and uses them to dip the parsley in the salt water. Another friend chops up lots of fruits and nuts (and even some chocolate) and allows the guests to make their own charoset, as long as it resembles the mortar. When events take place outdoors in the plague of hail, I have heard of families throwing mini-marshmallows at each other. Finally, there is a Persian custom of lightly (or not so lightly) slapping your neighbor with scallions during the song “Dayenu” as a reminder of slavery.

3. Use the table. Put something interesting on the table, either in the middle or at each individual plate. We have used different kinds of frogs, puppets, and masks. Perhaps it will inspire a guest to ask a question about Passover, the story, or the traditions of your family. At the very least it will entertain those at the table when they need a break.

4. Don’t be a slave to the Haggadah. The Haggadah is meant as a guide, and you don’t have to read every word to fulfill your obligation to tell the story. Get many different Haggadahs and look for readings and retellings that speak to you and share those at the Seder. Or get the kids to write a play about the Passover story and perform it. Or ask your guests to bring something that represents freedom and tell the story of why. As long as your guests are engaged in the story of slavery to freedom, you have done your job.

5. Move around. This is the most difficult classroom: different ages, ranging from 3 to 93, and varying levels of interest. Some want to read and discuss every word in the Haggadah, some just want to get to the food - and everything in between. Designing a Seder that can work for everyone can feel like a challenge for even the most seasoned educator, let alone a busy parent.

6. Assign homework. People always do better if they are prepared, so ask your guests to participate in the Seder. Send a question in advance, ask them to bring something or even make decorations for the Seder table. Guests, bring a reading or an object that speaks to you. I guarantee your host will appreciate not having to carry the weight of the entire evening.

7. Give everyone a job. Before the Seder, make a list of everything that has to be done during the evening, from pouring the wine to serving the soup to clearing the table. Then, assign away. You guests will be happy to help, and you will be happier if you come out of the Seder not feeling enslaved.

8. Sing (or watch videos). There are tons of songs for kids and adults alike for Passover. Google around to find tunes or songs that you like and teach them at your Seder. Providing song sheets helps everyone sing along. And if singing is not your thing, a quick search on YouTube for Passover song parodies turns up videos that would be fun to watch before or during the Seder.

9. Make something. When I was about 10 years old, I spent hours creating a chart that outlined the order of the Seder. I made a small arrow that could be used to show where we were in the progression of the evening, and since then it has been used every year. My mother still brings out Elijah’s cups that my sisters and I made in Hebrew school, and my kids proudly show off their Seder plates, Kiddush cups, and matzah covers. If your kids don’t make them in school or Hebrew school, these are easy crafts to make at home.

10. Let loose. The point of the Seder is to engage people in the questions, both ancient and contemporary, of slavery and freedom. The way you do that is up to you. Try to find a balance between preparing for the Seder and obsessing about every detail. And if your kids run screaming circles around the table while everyone else is trying to talk, as mine have done on more than one occasion, those are memories, too. Don’t beat yourself up about it. It’s the director of youth and family education at Central Synagogue in New York City. Rosenthal and her husband live in the city with their three children.)

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Sunday, April 23
10am–2pm
Camp Mindy
at Levine JCC
5007 Providence Rd, Charlotte
Questions?
704-944-6730 • Julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

EVE NT

DETA I LS

• Four 15-20 minute Presentations
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• Lunch available by Izzy’s Catering
• Kid’s Crafts & Activities
• FREE canvas bags to first 100 attendees!

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Like us on Facebook: Charlotte Jewish News
Three Popular Humorists Write a Haggadah for the “When Do We Eat?” Crowd

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(JTA) - Of making many Passover Haggadahs, there is no end.

If the Maxwell House version doesn’t cut it for you, there are Haggadahs for vegans, for children, for chocolate lovers, and even for Christians. There’s the “Santa Cruz Haggadah” for hippies and the “New American Haggadah” for hipsters. There are annotated Haggadahs for those who want to extend the Seder into the wee hours, and the “30 Minute Seder Haggadah” for those who want to eat, pray, and bolt.

Now three well-known American humorists have written a Haggadah for an overlooked crowd: the wise guys, cutups, and punsters who frankly have a hard time taking the whole thing seriously.

“For This We Left Egypt? A Passover Haggadah for Jews and Those Who Love Them” (Flatiron Books) is a collaboration of Dave Barry, the son of a Presbyterian minister, as the odd man out in this trio, except that he and his Jewish wife belong to a Reform temple in Miami and he served as sandek - honorary baby holder - at his grandson’s brit milah.

Barry recalled the family Seder where his father-in-law and family patriarch, a Cuban Jewish immigrant named Harry Kaufman, liked to recite the complete Haggadah in at least three languages. The other guests tried to trick Harry into “skipping huge chunks of it and then pretend he fell asleep.”

Looking back on those marathons, Barry said, “No wonder this religion is in trouble.”

In fact, the target audience for “FTWLE” are those who approach the annual Seder as a bit of an ordeal - an endurance test of biblical storytelling standing between them and their meal. A 2013 Pew survey of American Jews found that attending a Seder is the most commonly observed Jewish practice, but it didn’t seem to ask if anyone is actually enjoying the proceedings.

In recent years, there’s been a slew of Haggadahs meant to enliven the typical Seder, with discussion questions for the adults and games to distract - I mean engage - the kids. Those efforts come in for ribbing in the “FTWLE” as well. Following the section on the Four Sons, one of a series of “discussion questions” asks, “Vito ‘The Godfather’ Corleone had four children: Sonny, Fredo, Michael, and Connie. At Corleone family Seders, who do you think asked each of the four questions, and why?”

(Yes, “FTWLE” follows traditional Jewish practice by spelling the Almighty’s name as “G-d,” as in “Then G-d spoke from inside the cloud. At least he said he was G-d; there was no way to tell for sure because of the cloud.”)

(And weirdly enough, it doesn’t have a parody of the Four Questions. Why is this Haggadah parody different from all other Haggadah parodies - of which there are examples, according to Yiddish scholar Eddy Portnoy, as far back as the 13th century?)

“I’m a product of the “Seders don’t have to be boring” generation, and at our table keep a stack of modern commentaries and supplements on hand to keep the evening lively. This year I’ll add “FTWLE” for the times when things begin to flag. And I’ll toss out questions from it like this one: “How come the Angel of Death needed lamb’s blood to know which houses the Israelites lived in? You’d think that would be the kind of thing the Angel of Death would just know, right?”

For a parody Haggadah, that’s a seriously good question.
The Five (or So) Habits of Successful Seder Leaders

By Edmon J. Rodman

Los Angeles (JTA) - What kind of leadership style works best for a Seder? During a period when we are experiencing a shake-up in national leadership, you may want to re-examine the relationship that exists between leader and participants at the Passover meal.

Though Seder leaders and participants are not elected, there is still a Seder mandate that governs your relationship: Everyone present - the wise, the wicked, the simple, and even the one who does not know how to ask a question - are all involved in the evening’s proceedings.

Attending a Passover Seder remains an “extremely common practice” of American Jews, according to Pew Research Center, with approximately 70% participating. Despite its broad mandate, however, meaningful Seders rarely function as true democracies. The Seder is a complicated undertaking with symbolic foods, actions, and storytelling, and on this night that is different from all others, the call is for an assertive leader who can guide a tableful of guests through a sea of ritual.

Since Passover is an eight-day holiday of freedom, and the Seder a celebration of the going out from Egypt, you may think the people are clamoring for a democratic free-form kind of dinner — from chanting the kiddush to singing “Chad Gadya.” But after leading a family Seder for over 30 years, my experience has been that if I give everyone a free hand to comment and question, and the Seder runs long, revolution erupts, with the guests vigorously chanting “When do we eat?” And if I try to rule the table with an iron Kiddush cup, my poll numbers plummet, especially among the restless, 20-something contingent, who start texting madly under the table, presumably plotting a resistance.

Defying typical political alignment, I have found that on the nights when the Seder works - when most every question has been asked, and tradition and innovation have been shared - my style of leadership has fallen somewhere between being a benevolent dictator and a liberal talk show host.

I say “benevolent dictator” because it is part of the leader’s job to find a way for everyone to retell the Passover story and ultimately exit the slavery of Egypt - even though they may not necessarily feel the need. Going around the table urging guests to share the reading is one way, and calling up guests beforehand to discuss and assign a specific section of the Seder is another.

Especially for whoever is going to lead the Four Questions - at our table, usually the youngest who can read Hebrew - it helps to ask them personally beforehand rather than springing the task on them on the night of the Seder. Such quiet lobbying helps reorient one from being an audience member into one, as the Haggadah says, who can see themselves as if they had left Egypt.

As “liberal talk show host,” I get that the Haggadah is filled with questions that must be questioned as well. I once opened a Seder by asking, “What does it mean when the Haggadah says: ‘Let all those who are hungry come and eat us’?” Especially in a year such as this one, where even benign conversation is abuzz with politics, there are going to be varying responses, from the bitter, like maror, to the sweet, like charoset.

At the time, you may not think that these opposing points of view are what binds a Seder together, but recall that in the Haggadah, when the five rabbis are sitting in Bnei Brak telling and interpreting the story of the Exodus, each has something different to add, and it is the whole of their interpretations taken together that heightens our understanding of the text.

Those not leading but participating in the Seder, don’t think that you are off the hook in setting its tone. In his book “Keeping Passover,” Ira Steingroot points out that being a Seder guest “doesn’t mean that you have to be the life of the party or a maven (authority), and you certainly do not want to monopolize the conversation, but you have a role to play in the drama of the Seder.” In fact, it is your responses and feelings that determine whether everyone at the table makes it past the plague of ennu. To aid in that quest, be sure you are following along, asking questions and responding to the leader’s prompts.

I have also learned that regardless of leadership style - some of us are like Moses pointing the way, others are more like Miriam, leading through interpretation and song - you will still need to do your homework. Whichever your style, Steingroot’s book is a great source, as well as “Passover: The Family Guide to Spiritual Celebration” by Dr. Ron Wolfson with Joel Lurie Grishaver, and “A Different Night, The Family Participation Haggadah,” by David Dishon and Noam Zion.

Taking my own advice, a few nights before our first encounter with all things matzah each year, I go through the Haggadah and annotate, searching for my afikomen: a way to connect the story of traveling from slavery to freedom to the lives of my guests. One year I held up a Passover chocolate bar and referred to it as “the bean of our affliction,” calling attention to the children who are sometimes exploited to harvest cacao beans and as a way to discuss if we, too, were participating in slavery.

This year to provoke discussion, before we open the door to Elijah, I plan on asking guests to imagine what would happen if the prophet, as we imagine him - a robed and perhaps turbaned man from the Middle East - was detained at airport customs? (Edmon J. Rodman is a JTA columnist who writes on Jewish life from Los Angeles. Contact him at edmojace@gmail.com.)

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Create Peace of Mind for Yourself and Your Loved Ones

We are excited to announce that Sections 5 and 6 are available for purchase. This is your opportunity to choose preferred plot sites in our new sections.

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Sandra Goldman, Director
director@hebrewcemetery.org | 704-576-1859
By Jennifer Reinharz
(Keveller via JTA) - Born into a Catholic family with a Jewish surname, I should have expected I would one day find myself leading a Passover Seder.

To date, my husband Larry and I have hosted Seder nights, right in which I’ve had the honor to lead. This role was bestowed upon me after my Jewish husband confided in that in light of my organized, creative, teacher-like nature, I was the right person for the job. The tradeoff was food prep, which he happily agreed to tackle. Not one who enjoys cooking, I acquiesced. Besides, the man makes a mean brisket.

I love a good Passover Seder. But I didn’t always feel that way.

In the beginning, I found it a tough ceremony to swallow. I felt like the token Christian, the stranger in the wrong outfit eating the matzah out of order. The structure of the service confused me, and the intensity associated with staying on task gave me the perfect excuse to keep quiet. I felt excluded by the deluge of Hebrew and the intensity associated with it all. But I didn’t always feel that way.

I love a good Passover Seder. For the Caesar Salad, making a dressing was open to the idea and respected my effort to design a Haggadah that made sense for me, but also maintained traditions he felt strengthened the Jewish identity of our sons — and encouraged new and experienced guests to discuss important Passover themes like freedom, rebirth and “tikum olam,” healing the world.

It took a few years to earn our hosting chops, but we eventually found a balance. “You Haggadah puts me in a position to think about what matters,” Larry concluded. “See? Marrying outside my faith is making me a better Jew.”

Fast forward to Passover 2014. Walking by a local church the morning of Passover, I noticed a passage carved into the steeple: “How wonderful it is! How pleasant for God’s people to live together in harmony.”

I thought about our Seder guests. That evening, 16 people — Jews, Catholics, Muslims, a son of Methodist missionaries, family, old friends and new faces — would gather around our table like a bona fide interfaith, inter-generational jamboree.

As suspected, it turned out to be just that. We wanted to kick off the festivities so my Muslim neighbor could run home to say her afternoon prayers.

My father, a good ol’ boy and the son of Methodist missionaries who has a mezuzah affixed to his doorstep out of respect for our Jewish ancestors, joined us for his first Seder and my first holiday with him since I was a baby.

Adults and young people alike wore sunglasses to symbolize darkness, the ninth plague, and enjoyed an enthusiastic food fight of marshmallow hail.

Twentysomethings and teenagers were just as jazzed as the under-10 population to hunt for the afikomen.

The widow and sister of a dear friend, a devout Irish Catholic who always attended our Seders but passed away a few years ago, recited the concluding poem to gather, a job historically reserved for him.

And when the Seder ended, that same retired high school special education teacher, mother of four, grandmother who attends daily Mass and a Passover new comer — stood up and addressed the group.

She shared: “We are a society of self-absorbed immediacy. It seems that all anyone cares about today are the latest trends, the hottest stars and themselves. It is important to pass on traditions, talk about ancestry, tell stories, and make connections to the past. Doing this creates a necessary foundation for our children. For me, the Seder represents hope and a renewed determination to keep all the traditions we have alive and fun.”

Then she took home our Haggadah to use as a teaching aid in her classroom.

Last Passover, this friend’s theory became practice when my son, then nine, asked to do more. He read the story of Exodus and recited the 10 plagues along with a couple of blessings in Hebrew.

And on the second night, when we held an intimate Seder with family, I set out on a mission to create an interfaith-friendly Seder.

To live together in harmony — would gather around our table — stood up and addressed the lead.

I was not raised Jewish. I did not convert to Judaism. But watching my son embrace his Jewish identity made this inter-faith mama proud.

Larry and I will soon welcome the usual crew to our pleasant Passover. Should Elijah slip through the open door, I hope he’ll stay for a sip or two of wine. There are 16 people who value tradition, freedom, inclusivity, harmony, and humanity he’s going to want to meet.

Jennifer Reinharz writes for children and blogs for grown-ups. A BlogHer 2015 Voice of the Year and author of the book Red Said what?, Reinharz’s writing has also appeared online at Inter-Faith-Family, Scary Mommy, Mamalode, and Brain Child, as well as other publications.

Rabbi Israel Lipkin Salanter was most meticulous in the baking of matzahs for Passover. To make certain that everything was done according to the strictest interpretation of Jewish law, he personally undertook to supervise the baking.

“One year Rabbi Salanter was bed-ridden and unable to go to the bakery. He instructed two pupils to go in his stead.

“As the pupils were about to depart for their assigned task, they asked their teacher: “Is there anything special which we should watch?”

“Yes,” the rabbi replied. “See that the old woman who does the mixing is paid sufficiently. She is a poor widow.”

— from Philip Goodman, Rejoice in Thy Festival

**Passover Recipes: Lighten Up with Fish and Veggies**

By Megan Wolf
(JTA) - I love serving light fare on the naturally kosher for Passover. With so much matzah, vegetable and fish dishes are often a welcome addition in my home.

In this holiday menu, my Con­cout Carrot Soup is a creamy soup at its finest. The combination of carrots and coconut is so warming and really delicious. Not a ginger fan? It’s easy enough to leave it out.

**COCONUT CARROT SOUP**

Ingredients:
- 1 lb. carrots, peeled and thinly diced
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 lemon, zested
- 1/2 t. Dijon mustard (can be omitted for Passover)
- 3 cloves garlic
- 3/4 c. low fat Greek yogurt
- 1/2 c. vegetable stock
- 1 Vidalia onion, thinly sliced
- Parmesan cheese and red pepper flakes.

Preparation:
- In a large stock pot, heat 2 T. olive oil over med. low heat, then add the onions and celery, and ginger. Cook till soft, about 18-20 min. In a sm. skillet, heat the last 1 T. olive oil and place on grill pan, then season with salt and pepper. Serve with remaining sautéed onions and optional coconut yogurt on top.

**CAESAR SALAD**

Ingredients:
- 2 lg. Hearts of Romaine lettuce leaves
- 3/4 c. low fat Greek yogurt
- 2 T. olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/2 t. Dijon mustard (can be omitted for Passover)
- 1 lemon, juiced
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 c. shredded Parmesan cheese

Preparation:
- In a blender or food processor, combine yogurt, olive oil, garlic, mustard, and lemon juice. Taste, then season with salt and pepper and set aside. Halve each lettuce heart and dice, then place in a lg. bowl. Toss the greens with half of the salad dressing and add the remainder of the garnishes and mozzarella cheese. Serve with remaining Caesar dressing.

**LEMON SALMON**

Ingredients:
- 1 lb. salmon, sliced into 4 fillets
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 1/2 t. kosher salt
- 1/2 t. pepper

Preparation:
- Preheat oven to 400 F. Coat each piece of salmon with olive oil, then sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place lemon slices on salmon and roast till cooked to your liking, about 10 minutes or more. Serve on a platter with rosemary springs.

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Passover Books for One Kid — or Many

By Penny Schwartz

JTA — Afikomen hunts, a rambunctious pup and the catchy classic “Dayenu.” All are featured in a half-dozen new Passover books for children that will inform and entertain even the littlest kid — or a whole herd of ‘em.

The eight-day holiday kicks off this year on the evening of April 10.

Why not pick up a new tome for the tyke in your life? Prices are about two zumbuz and up.

Passover is Coming

Trace Newhouse, illustrated by Vi­viana Garofoli
Kar-Ben; ages 1-4; $5.99

This colorful board book is the latest addition to a lively series that introduces young kids to the Jewish holidays. Here, the green buds of spring are the first hint that Passover is coming. Readers follow a family as it prepares for the holiday, from spring cleaning and using home-grown parsley for the Seder plate to learning the Four Questions and anticipating the hunt for the afikomen. The joyful refrain — “Passover is coming!” — repeats at the end of each verse and is sure to build excitement as the date approaches.

Hachai!; ages 3-5; $9.95

Hachai continues to create lively, interactive books appealing to haredi Orthodox families. Young kids will enjoy the rhyming clues to “who am I” questions — “I’m a food that’s baked in a hurry, but I still taste great, don’t worry!” — in this lift-the-flap book about Passover. The whole mishpacha — mom, dad and the five kids — all lend a hand to sweep and clean the house. They watch as workers bake handmade matzah and speak with startled faces as they bite into the bitter herbs.

The end page poses a series of holiday observation questions (the answer key is found at the back of the book, number-coded) and there’s a glossary, too.

ABC Passover Hunt

Tilda Balsley; illustrated by Helen Poole
Kar-Ben; ages 3-8; $17.99; hardcover; $7.99, paperback

A lively alphabet hunt is on in this large format, brightly illustrated board book that introduces young kids to Passover themes, customs, and foods. The clever clues, from A to Z, are thought-provoking and range from easier spot-the-answer picture puzzles to more challenging questions. (“At last the Jew had found their home, how many long years did they roam?”) that will keep kids engaged and entertained. Balsley keeps things interesting with a variety of activities, including colors, mazes, riddles, and maps. There’s an illustrated answer key at end, along with a brief explanation of the holiday.

Kaya and Kugel’s Almost Perfect Passover

Ann Koffsky; illustrated by apples & honey press
Passover; ages 3-5; $9.95

In this second “Kaya and Kugel” book, the fun starts right away as the young girl and her dog invite readers into their home for a Seder. When Kayla makes her own Haggadah, the rambunctious Kugel gets tangled in the ribbon simple, easy-to-follow, flexible activity. Kaya tells young readers some of the basics of a Seder. She smiles at the sweet taste of charoset, but her braids stand on end and she scrunches her face at the bitter taste of maror, symbolizing slav­ery. Kids will enjoy the mayhem when the mischievous Kugel sets the family off on an adventurous hunt for the afikomen. The end pages include a search-and-find activity. The author’s note from Koffsky poses open-ended, engaging questions to spark family conversations, such as “Why do you think many holidays have songs to go with them?”

A Place for Elijah

Kelly Easton Ruben; illustrated by Joanne Friar
Kar-Ben; ages 3-9; $17.99

This endearing story — the first Jewish picture book from the acclaimed author of “The Out­landish Adventures of Liberty Ames” — opens on the first night of Passover as a young girl named Sarah is anxiously setting the table, making sure to include a place for Elijah. As the Seder un­folds, a rainstorm and cold winds threaten Sarah’s neighborhood, and there’s a power failure. The lights stay on in Sarah’s home, however, and one by one, the neighbors appear at the family’s door and Sarah sets another place. First it’s Mrs. Fatz, the florist, then Bagel Ben and Doughnut Dan. Kids will take notice when Music Man Miguel and his mis­chievous monkey Manny join the growing crowd. But when the young boy who sells magazines arrives, Sarah is worried that there is no longer a seat for Elijah. Kids will be surprised by the story’s satisfying end. The large illustrations match the gentle tone of the story and capture the multicultural life of the neighborhood. Ruben told JTA she was inspired by the Haggadah passage “Let all who are hungry come and eat.” She wanted to evoke the sense of to­lerance and welcoming strangers — a prominent theme of the Seder.

With Our Freedom from Slavery, What Are Jews Free to Do?

By Rachael Bregman

(Rabbis Without Borders via JTA)­ At Passover, Jews over the world gather to celebrate “zman chireuitu,” the season of our freedom. We will read all about freedom from slavery. We drink four cups of wine to rejoice in the four freedoms given to our ances­ tors by God. We eat charoset, a mixture of fruits, nuts, juice, or wine that represents the mortar used with the bricks we no longer have to place as slaves. Freedom from bondage, from Egypt, from Pharaoh.

The idea of being freed from slavery by God is a central tenet of Judaism. We say, remember how God freed you from slavery and took you out of Egypt every Friday night in blessing of the wine and throughout the Torah even when speaking about seem­ ingly unrelated things.

But what do we mean, upon finding freedom from slavery are we now free to do?

Primarily, we are free to serve God and not Pharaoh. Spiritually speaking, the Seder gives us the opportunity to check in with our­selves to see if we have become enslaved to Pharaohs of moder­nity like power, money, and ego. God didn’t work so hard to bring us out of one Egypt just to replace it, for good or ill.”

At the Seder, that voice calls a little bit for good or ill.”

God didn’t bring us out of Egypt to serve God (Dayenu, it would have been enough). Rather, through our service to God we are meant to eternally bring freedom to others. Our service to God is our service to humanity. Our serv­ice to humanity is God’s work in action.

So when you sit down to your Seder, I hope you ponder not just your freedom from slavery but also your freedom to help others.

Kugel

(Dvorah Buhr is an award­win­ning, parent­cared chef with a speciality in chocolate and candy production.)

GANACHE

Ingredients:
6 oz. semi­sweet chocolate
1/4 c. cream or non­dairy creamer
Preparation: In a double boiler, melt choc­olate. Once the chocolate has melted, whisk in cream and pour over cake.

(Dvorah Buhr is an award­win­ning, parent­cared chef with a speciality in chocolate and candy production.)

Fudgy Flourless Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:
9” springform or high­side cake pan
8 T. butter or margarine
3/4 c. sugar
2 lg. eggs
1/2 c. cream or non­dairy creamer

Preparation:
Melt chocolate and butter or margarine in a double boiler. Whisk in cream, sugar, and then the eggs. Pour into greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees in the center of oven with a pan of water below till the cake is set. (Cake is set when side of pan is tapped and a cake tester comes out clean with wet crumbs attached. Note that crumbs should be wet, but not liq­uid.) Remove carefully from oven and cool. Invert and drizzle with ganache (see recipe follow­ing). Enjoy!
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