Jews in Charlotte will usher in the bright festival of Chanukah with a grand Menorah lighting at SouthPark mall on Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 PM.

The giant Menorah will be placed at Circle Court inside the mall. There will be holiday treats, special children’s program along with Chanukah games and music.

The Menorah will be shaped in a book case with 8 stands plus the Shamash. Participants will bring new children's books and toys to brighten the lives of underprivileged children in the Charlotte area. The books and toys will be placed in this unique Menorah before the lighting.

A great car Menorah parade will precede the lighting ceremony and will start at 5 PM from Ohr HaTorah on Sardis Road down Fairview Road. The parade will feature music, a Friendship Circle bus, unusual parade cars, and lots of fun.

This Chanukah event is an amazing opportunity for young and old to display their Jewish pride in a fun and exciting way.

To register for the parade (there is a $50 fee to have a Menorah outfitted on a car) and for more info on this special holiday event please visit our website at Chabadcenter.org. Or call our office at 704-944-6757.

The Federation’s mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations.

www.jewishcharlotte.org
One Book, One Jewish Community: Exploring Jewish History in the South through Fiction

Featuring Author Mary Glickman, Thursday, December 7, 7 PM

Our Jewish ancestors have a long and rich history in the Southern United States. Dating back as early as the mid-1700s, the South had two established synagogues. Since the inception of the United States as independent nation, the Southern Jewish community had a different American experience than the Northern Jewish community, which contributed to varying attitudes towards the Civil Rights Movement.

The differences between Northern and Southern Jews during the tumultuous 1960s are vividly portrayed in the novel Home in the Morning, the book selection of the CJE’s premier One Book, One Jewish Community. Author, Mary Glickman, will share her story with our community on Thursday, December 7 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts in Shalom Park.

Mary Glickman is the author of three books: Home in the Morning, which has been optioned for film; One More River, a 2011 National Jewish Book Award Finalist and 2012 WLCJ Oprah Selection; and her most recent, Marching to Zion, published in 2013. Her books, set in the South throughout the 20th century, explore the intersection of the Southern Jewish Experience, the Civil Rights Movement, and the confluence of Jewish and African American cultures.

We encourage our entire community to read Glickman’s book and then join the CJE on December 7 for an enlightening discussion. This event is free and open to all, however, RSVP is requested. For more information or to RSVP visit www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje.

SAVE THE DATE:
Shalom Baby “Shower”
Sunday, January 7, 10–11:30 AM
Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

Swaddle up your little one and drop in at our community “Baby Shower.” If your family welcomed a baby in the past year, we have a gift for you. Enjoy refreshments, collect swag bags, and meet other families and their babies.

CONTENTS

Federation News........................................p. 1
Center for Jewish Education........................p. 2
Sue’s Bookshelf........................................p. 3
Schools..................................................pp. 5, 6
Jewish Family Services..............................p. 7, 8
Community News...................................pp. 9-12
Women’s News.................................pp. 12, 13
Youth Visions.......................................p. 14
Synagogues/Cong..................................pp. 15-19
Jewish Community Center....................pp. 20, 21
Chanukah...........................................pp. 25-28, 30, 31
Dining Out..........................................p. 29

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Published monthly except July

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
I had the pleasure of meeting two of the authors whose books I am recommending this month: Julia Dahl and Ronald Balson. Their trips to Charlotte were co-sponsored by Tracy Brown, through her membership in the Jewish Book Council, and by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Julia Dahl spoke to a small group of women in an intimate setting at Tracy’s house. At the time, her first book Invisible City had just been published. Like Rebekah Roberts the central character in her books, Julia Dahl, who lives in Brooklyn with her husband, describes herself by saying: “I was born and raised in Fresno, CA. I stumbled onto the staff of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. I clearly could not put it down. Conviction is the third Rebekah Roberts mystery — although the story stands alone, many of the characters from her two previous books Invisible City and Run You Down are present. To fully understand the relationships, my recommendation would be to read all three in order.

The newest novel from Ronald H. Balson, the international bestselling author of Once We Were Brothers, finds private investigator Liam Taggart in Northern Ireland for an uncle’s funeral, only to discover his death might not have been natural.

When his uncle dies, Liam Taggart reluctantly returns to his childhood home in Northern Ireland for the funeral, a home he left years ago after a bitter confrontation with his family, never to look back. But when he arrives, Liam learns that not only was his uncle shot to death, but that he’d anticipated his own murder. In an astonishing twist of fate and testament, Uncle Fergus has left his entire estate to a secret trust, directing that no distribution be made to any person until the killer is found. As his investigation draws Liam farther and farther into the past he has abandoned, he realizes he is forced to reopen doors long ago shut and locked. Now, accepting the appointment as sole trustee of the Fergus Taggart Trust, Liam realizes he has stepped into the center of a firestorm. (Amazon)

We meet in the Center for Jewish Education the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 AM–12 noon. Everyone is welcome.

We wednesday, December 20: No Room for Small Dreams: Courage, Imagination and the Making of Israel by Shimon Peres

*For more information, contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org

What’s next on my list?

* Young Jane Young by Gabrielle Zevin, author of The Storied Life of A.J. Fitz
* Strand of A Thousand Pearls by Donit Rabinyan
* The Two-Storied House by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Stay tuned for reviews.

CJE Book Club News:

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From Sand and Ash, Amy Harmon
Italy, 1943 — Germany occupies much of the country, placing the Jewish population in grave danger during World War II.

As children, Eva Rosselli and Angelo Bianco were raised like many in need, Angelo and Eva face trial after trial, choice after choice, seeking to provide safety for their fellow man. From Sand and Ash is beautifully written historical fiction that puts the reader in the center of life in war torn Italy during the 1940s. Eva and Angelo’s passionate love story is the backdrop by which the reader learns of the courageous acts of kindness exhibited by many Jews and non-Jews alike as they sought to provide safety for their fellow man. From Sand and Ash is a story that will live within you for years to come.

Sue Littauer is CJE’s Book Club Coordinator.
Have a Happy Chanukah. And share what it means to you.
#ChanukahPublix
Why Choose the Jewish Preschool on Sardis?

By Dedee Goldsmith, Director, Jewish Preschool on Sardis

I’m not one to brag. I don’t like to draw attention to myself. But to the school I have the privilege of working for? Now that is a different story. Recently, the Jewish Preschool on Sardis inquired the big “WHY” question of current families and alumni. Why did you choose JPS? I could not resist sharing some of the heartwarming, enlightening, and purposeful reasons that our families shared with us, their why. Thank you to our families who gushed about what we know to be the best kept secret in Charlotte.

JPS Infant family: “...it was much easier to go back to work knowing that she was in such good hands. Nothing puts a bigger smile on my face than seeing her playing with challah dough or wearing a kippah for Shabbat.”

JPS Parent of a 1 year old: “…what stands out to me most is the sense of community, love, and family you feel from the moment you walk through the door. Every teacher knows my daughter and knows who I am.”

JPS Parent of a 1 year old: “We know that even though he is not with us during the work day, he is having engaging and valuable experiences.”

JPS Parent of a 2 year old: “To me, JPS means a heimish community. Some of us are very different flavors of Judaism, but we all value each other and the sweet relationships our kids have to each other.”

JPS Parent of 1 and 3 year olds: “JPS is fostering a community, not just a school. JPS for us epitomizes a school that is looking to bring people together, while also helping to provide a solid learning foundation for our children. We are so honored to be a part of the school community.”

JPS Parent of twin 4 year olds: “I am a single mother, living far from my family. Dedee and the teachers have literally helped me raise my twins; JPS is my village. The director, teachers, and the office managers go above and beyond to take a sincere interest in every child enrolled, recognizing their special gifts with pure acceptance.”

JPS Alumni: “JPS instilled a sense of empathy, kindness, and leadership in our kids that we witness every day. JPS solidified our connection to Charlotte and our children’s love of Judaism.”

JPS Alumni: “JPS was one of the best decisions we made when moving to Charlotte over three years ago. The warmth and quality of the school and its programs were apparent to us from the beginning. Our boys have fond memories, lasting friendships, and are active in the Jewish community. We feel so fortunate to have been a part of such a wonderful school.”

JPS Teachers are also feeling the love; here are a couple of their thoughts from the staff.

“The best part of our job is to witness the growth and confidence at graduation of these students as they complete their preschool journey. JPS gives us the resources we need to do our jobs to the fullest. We love JPS.”

“JPS exudes a level of love and unity that is felt the moment you enter, causing it to immediately stand out among other preschools. The celebration of each individual child is first and foremost, and you witness the interactions among the staff with children and their families. JPS shares the same qualities of a loving and giving family, which is why I consider it my pleasure and privilege to be a part of this school/family community. It’s my home away from home.”

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year begins January 8, 2018 for current JPS families and January 15 for the community at large. Please contact us at 704-364-8395 to schedule your tour or for more information about JPS programs.

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Two Families Explain Why You Should Check Out the Charlotte Jewish Day School

By Carolyn Stone

I have three sons, and I moved to Charlotte three years ago. I went through the Kindergarden search process when my middle son, Avi, was at CJDS a couple years back. The most important criteria for me was finding a school with stellar academics to keep Avi challenged. I was looking at Independent schools and gifted magnet programs. A friend of mine urged me to look at CJDS.

I vividly remember sitting down with Marashi Groner and Mandy DiFilippo, Director and Assistant Director at CJDS, for the first time. I think my jaw fell to the floor as they explained to me that through a combination of constant pre-tests and assessments, CJDS students are continuously challenged at their own level, with customized math, spelling, and reading curriculum.

And that this customization extends into their second language studies, where students develop an extremely strong command of the written and spoken Hebrew. Marashi casually mentioned to me that they have a spreadsheet that they are always updating to track where every single student is academically so that she, Mandy, and grade level teachers can work together every month to create learning plans to challenge and support every single student to reach their maximum potential.

That spreadsheet put me over the edge. Shortly after our meeting, Avi was enrolled in kindergarten at CJDS and my oldest son, who was at that time finishing 3rd grade at PDS, was enrolled for 4th grade at CJDS. Two years later I couldn’t be happier with my decision, and I cannot wait for my youngest son to start here soon.

Year after year, CJDS students outperform Independent school students in nearly every section of the CTP IV and ERB, a standardized national test given to 3rd-5th graders. Unlike other Independent, CJDS doesn’t use the cognitive or achievement exams to determine if a child will be admitted. They only use these assessments to guide them on the journey of educating the child.

So how can this be? How can the scores be so high? While we could potentially attribute this feat to a great gene pool, I think it is clear that CJDS’ investment in its teachers and faculty, and the endless attention to the individual student, results in exceptional academic success.

My husband and I place a great deal of importance on diversity and real-world experience. When we moved to Brazil nearly six years ago, we sent our oldest son to a Brazilian school, taught fully in Portuguese, over the American and British private options. It was a fantastic experience. I love the fact that CJDS uses Project Based Learning which involves hands-on problem solving, integrating art, technology, science, and social studies; I love that I can walk the halls of CJDS and interact with kids who fluently speak Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese and come from culturally diverse families; I love that 10 to 20% of our families are interfaith and that we are socioeconomically diverse.

CJDS teaches its students about what we all have in common while celebrating what makes us different. I encourage you to come meet our students and spend time with them. Every time I am in a classroom or at a lunch table, I am blown away by their confidence, kindness, and respect for one another. Good luck with your journeys and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

By Rose David

Choosing the right school for our children is such an important decision in many families’ lives. For those of us who are lucky enough to have school choices, we put so much weight into finding “the right” school for our kids. Some people say it’s all up to the parents, or the child’s ability, or the after-school programs you choose for them. I want to tell you that while those are certainly a huge part, the actual school they attend for seven or eight hours daily makes an enormous difference.

My daughter Sarah is in first grade - her first year at CJDS. Having come from an incredible program at The Jewish Preschool on Sardis, we were aware of the beautiful outcome of an integrated Judaic and academic program. However, we had made sure to purchase a home in an area zoned for one of the highest-ranked public schools, and we were committed to trying it out and just supplementing whatever (if anything) was lacking. We also wanted diversity, a touch of the “real world,” etc. She started kindergarten and did well. She is sensitive, a rule-follower, an avid reader, and a little shy. Her teacher always commented on what an asset she was to the class and what a great example to her peers (I suspect because she sat quietly and did her work, always worried about having consequences in the classroom discipline chart). She was happy enough and trusted along. She was a little bored but made friends and did her job. After many emails and requests on our part, she finally got her reading level assessed during the month of November, at which time they decided she needed to go to the Extra Challenge class for Reading and Math starting in December. She took a big yellow school bus every day and ate lunch at a bustling cafeteria. It was normal. It was fine. But we knew we wanted more for her and her little brothers.

When I ran into Gale, the Development Director for CJDS, and told her how we were feeling, she reached out and told us about the new confidential affordability program at CJDS and about the exciting new Vitner scholarship.

We decided to apply. We found that while it is a definite financial investment, there is nowhere we would rather put our money. Due to our involvement and volunteerism in the Charlotte Jewish community, we were given this generous award and we were able to make the switch without any hesitation. CJDS has a new affordability program for middle-income families, so I urge you to talk to Gale if that’s a concern that could prevent you from applying.

Before school even began, my husband Daniel and I met with Marashi Groner and Mandy DiFilippo (the Director and Assistant Director) to go over Sarah’s test results. (Continued on page 14)
Mental Illness is “Normal” – Yes, You Read That Right

Mental illness is so common that a recent study claims that it’s a life that has not been impacted by mental illness that is the real anomaly. According to a study of individuals ages 11-38, only 17% indicated no history of a mental health illness with 41% having had a mental health illness that has lasted for many years. And yet, people who are impacted by mental health issues often feel like they are different from everyone else.

According to the World Health Organization, depression, not cancer or chronic pain, has been the leading cause of disability worldwide for many years. Even more concerning is that rates of depression are not going down. From 2005-2015, the rate of depression actually increased by 18%. Why is that? If so many people are suffering and there are so many resources available why is that number not coming down? Could it be the shame and stigma surrounding a mental health diagnosis? If so, the question becomes: How do we change the way society thinks and responds to the issue of mental health?

Knowing that kids and teens, moms and dads, really “normal’ people, are suffering, was unacceptable, so the leadership of the Charlotte Jewish community got together and decided they needed to do something about it. “Every day at JFS we see people struggling with mental health issues. However, too many people live with the belief that it is a weakness to seek out help for emotional problems. Society has created this misconception that we should be able to manage our emotions on our own. We need to change that perception. Most mental health issues, like depression, have a physiological cause and need to be treated just like high blood pressure or diabetes.”

Encouraging conversation surrounding mental health and the impact it has on our daily lives is the first step in removing the shame and stigma often felt by those who experience a chronic emotional situation or a mental health crisis. Opening dialogue and arming parents and teens, professionals and non-professionals with information is one of the goals of a new Mental Health Initiative embraced by the leadership of the Charlotte Jewish community. This year-long learning campaign, that kicks off this month and really ramps up in early 2018 is aimed at not only raising awareness about mental health and emotional well-being, but it also provides real life tools so friends, neighbors and co-workers can guide someone to the resources available in our community.

Community forums, movie nights, events designed to encourage teens to open up and discuss what has generally been a taboo subject are slated for this campaign. Small group conversations offered in a comfortable, safe space, workshops giving parents the skills to be able to identify the warning signs of suicide along with many other trainings for the community as well as those working at Shalom Park are all a part of the plan. “It is our hope and goal to get people talking, to get people engaged and once they are engaged, empathetic and compasionate to ensure those that need assistance seek help.”

The message is that it is ok to talk about depression, anxiety, stress, or mood disorder. Mental health matters just as much as physical health and perhaps a greater understanding will lead to a healthier community.

With the support of the Jewish community leadership, JFS is collaborating with agencies such as the Mental Health Association to bring a diversity of events to this Mental Health Initiative to raise awareness and empower each other to strengthen the emotional well-being of our community.

Be on the look-out for scheduled trainings and events surrounding this Campaign. For more information about Mental Health and/or this Initiative check out the Mental Health Initiative page on www.jfscharlotte.org or call JFS at 704-364-6594 if you know of someone you are in need of services.

What Makes Levine Hearing Different?

By Madison Levine

Since opening in July 2015, Levine Hearing has experienced a warm welcome from South Charlotte. Across the street from the Arboratum Shopping Center, Levine Hearing is owned and operated by Madison Levine, a second generation Hearing Instrument Specialist. Her mother started her clinic nearly 30 years ago in Macon, Georgia, and Madison has modeled her own practice after her mother’s, as an independent operation, with the focus on patient care first.

Being independent means that Levine Hearing is not owned by any hearing aid manufacturer, allowing Madison to choose the best treatment plan and hearing devices to fit each patient's individual needs and budget. She has accounts with all major manufacturers, including Starkey, Resound, Phonak, Widex, Oticon, Unitron, Rexton, Siemens and others. This makes it very simple for patients to transition their care to her practice if they are moving to Charlotte from out of town or if they are just looking to switch providers locally. With the newest technology available, any of these brands can be sold through Levine Hearing, but Madison makes selections based on her patient's needs and budget.

Madison says that her goal is to be the most trusted hearing care practice in Charlotte and she believes that starts with straightforward advertising. Madison says, “I am building my practice on happy patients, not on advertising gimmicks or flashy spending.” Those savings are then passed on to her patients, who in turn refer others to the practice. Patients are referring their friends because the price, service and outcome have all resulted in that trust that Levine Hearing is working so hard for. She goes on to say, “People tell me all the time that they know someone who isn’t happy with their hearing aids and I just say...well, send them to me, because my patients are happy!”

Levine Hearing’s online reviews (they are 5 stars across all sites - just google “Levine Hearing”) reflect that Madison takes the time to educate the patient on their test results and also on the whole range of treatment options. She says that it is essential to get that transparent advice so that a patient doesn’t choose the budget option, only to realize it was a waste, or vice-versa, to overpay when a more affordable solution was within reach. Levine Hearing keeps the focus on good customer service, excellent clinical care, and reasonable pricing, to ensure that they will be around to serve Charlotte for a very long time!
Donations to Jewish Family Services in October 2017

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The birth of your grandson to Alan and Pearl Mann from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Allan and Marcelle Oxman
The birth of your grandson to Berta Straz from Allan and Marcelle Oxman
The birth of your great-grandson to Simon and Mary Wojnowich from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Allan and Marcelle Oxman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
Philip and Barbara Guller from Linda Ashendorf

IN APPRECIATION OF
Mezuzah Men to Barry Klemons and Marc Titlebaum from Adina Barkinsky
Your friendship to Margie Sigal from Adina Barkinsky

IN HONOR OF
Baby Jack to Becca and Jeffrey Stern from Austin and Marissa Karp

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors for October 2017


Food Pantry Donations:
Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, JCC Youth Soccer, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel High Holiday Food Drives, Shalom Park Community Gardens

Hadassah Cooks: Phyllis Berlin, Nadine Bernstein, Cathy Bogus, Ilene Cantor, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherry, Sara Friedman, Sharon Goretsky, June Hirschman, Sandy Hoagland, Fran Kaplan, Judy Kaufman, Penny Kneiger, Shelley Leibman, Andy McCleary, Phyllis Romaine, Lenore Rubin, Fran Schuler, Roz Snyder, Joyce Stoll

Special Recognition: Moshe House Staff for sorting pantry donations

“The commandment to be charitable is in its weight as much as all the rest of the commandments in total... Those who give charity in secret are greater than Moses.”
—Talmud: Bava Batra 9b
It is our role at the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) to collaborate with you and your professional advisors to assist with your planning. Our goal is to help you accomplish your goals. If you’re happy, we’re happy.

As we enter the month of December with 2018 lurking around the corner, many of us find this a good time for planning and often meet with our professional advisors. These meetings may involve a review of our investments or allow us to finalize our tax planning. It’s also a time when many of us review our charitable plans for the year understanding that it’s the last chance to make tax deductible gifts before the December 31 deadline.

There are many options available to you and perhaps even more than you are aware. FCJC can be of assistance by:

* Providing access to our philanthropic expertise;
* Offering a variety of vehicles; and
* Collaborating with our Foundation For The Carolinas colleagues.

“Opening our donor advised funds at FCJC was the first step in bringing clarity to our charitable planning,” says Barbara and David Goodman. “The ability to give appreciated investments and the ease in making charitable gifts from a donor advised fund drove this decision.”

Each of us has a unique set of goals and motivations. For this reason, we assist individuals and families in developing plans that are customized for them.

“My donor advised fund suits my needs in many ways,” says Laura Milgrim. “It allows me to consolidate my charitable giving and, at the same time, provides an opportunity to invest assets for growth. It’s very flexible for my current use, and it will provide my children with resources to support their favorite charities in the future.”

As the calendar begins to turn, please take the time to give us a call to assist you.

To learn more about FCJC and set up a time for us to visit with you please contact Phil Warshauer (704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org) or Nancy Kipnis (704-973-4554 or nkipnis@charlottejewishfoundation.org).

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“To give away money is an easy matter and in anyone’s power, but to decide to whom to give it, when to give, and to give for the right motive and in the right way, is neither in everyone’s power nor an easy matter. Hence, it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble.”

- Aristotle

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The 31st Annual Meeting of the Sandra & Leon Levine Jewish Community was held October 17. The evening began with a beautiful cocktail celebration honoring Capital Campaign Donors and Distinctive Members. Elise Kosofsky, event chair, welcomed everyone.

Peter Blair gave an inspiring D’Var Torah to over 130 guests and staff members, reminding them of all the things that bring our community, our kehillah, together, especially during the challenging times our JCC has faced over the past year.

The Outgoing Board Directors, Julia Greenfield, Scott Gorelick, Don Herbstman, and Robert Valenstein, were honored for their service to the LJCC. Elise thanked Nominating Committee members Judy August, Jennifer Collman, Julia Greenfield, Don Herbstman, Julie Levine, and Robert Valenstein for their success in selecting a strong slate of candidates.

The slate of Officers and Directors were presented to and unanimously approved by the general membership; Officers Jeff Turk (President), George Cronson (Treasurer), Rick Abrams (VP), Raizel Kahn (VP), Elise Kosofsky (VP), Gabe Mathless (VP), and Jon Simon (Past President) and Directors Lauren Althofer, Brian Bernhardt, Ellen Goldberg*, Todd Gorelick, Jon Kulbersh, Lisa Strause Levinson*, Staci Mond, Michelle Perlmuter, Andrew Rosen, Steven Rogelberg, Andrew Rosen, Rebecca Stern, David Van Glish, Chip Wallach, and Evan Weiss (*New Directors).

Jon Simon, outgoing President, thanked his family, Board, LJCC Staff, and CEO for their support and welcomed the “changing of the guard.” He noted his two-year goal to position our agency to carry on the values that guided past leaders of our community - community mindedness, integrity, accountability, innovation, and sustainability. Jon celebrated the accomplishments of the LJCC Board of Directors during his term as they transited a new CEO, successfully completed a Capital Campaign, established a Governance Committee, completed the new Outdoor Aquatics Complex, enhanced donor stewardship, updated the LJCC bylaws, re-established a standing Finance Committee, strengthened partnerships with Charlotte community, broadened outreach through the Butterfly Project and CJFF, and established a new Cultural Arts Department. Jon also celebrated that LJCC membership has eclipsed 10,000 individuals for the first time.

Jeff Turk, incoming President, thanked his family for their encouragement and faith in him. He spoke of his excitement to work with everyone to deepen and broaden the community impact of the J and his belief that we are stronger as a community when we have robust programming for all members of our community. He noted the value of dialogue and respectful conversation, community, growth of our physical, mental, and spiritual health and our shared values.

(Continued on next page)
Levine JCC Annual Meeting

(Continued from previous page)

Peter Blair, CEO, thanked South State Bank for their title sponsorship of the Annual Meeting and the community for their guidance in helping him achieve his vision noting that we have an even stronger JCC because of the time we have taken to develop shared values for the future. He noted the community challenges we faced and how we responded by gaining resolve from one another - saying “no” to hate and “yes” to diversity.

Program Service Awards were presented to Bob Ecker, Ellen Goldberg, Michael Lieberman, Jeff Turk (CJFF), and Janette Schwartz, Linda Schwartz (Butterfly Project). Dale and Larry Polsky, Volunteers of the Year, were recognized for their leadership of the 2017 Levine JCC Kids Triathlon in support of the Levine Children’s Hospital ASAP and Pediatric Rehabilitative Services programs. The Kids Tri has grown from raising $39,000 (2012) to $93,000 (2016). Dale and Larry agreed to become Honorary Chairs and set their sights on making a much deeper and broader impact. Through their leadership, fundraising efforts in 2017 topped $180,000. Dale and Larry’s impact will be felt for many years across many families.

Gabe Mathless, Board Director, received the coveted President and Executive Director’s Award for laying the groundwork for a sustainable and meaningful tomorrow. Gabe was the consummate leader this past year. If there was a task to be completed, a charge at hand, a difficult decision to be made, or a challenging conversation to take place, Gabe was at its center. He did a masterful job chairing the Governance Committee and championed the re-writing and updating of the bylaws. His tireless efforts and dedication were unsurpassed and his commitment will ensure our community’s strong future.

Peter expressed his appreciation for the value and commitment of the staff and presented awards to the following:

- Outstanding Employee 2017: Kristi Fallowes, Member Account Services.
- Anniversaries: Jessie Cohen, Marisa Jackson, and Susan Gundersheim (five years) and Linda Dabak (10 years).
Pre-Planning is Easy and Affordable

By Sandra Goldman, Director, Hebrew Cemetery Association

We are creatures of habit. Each day we wake up on the same side of the bed, we eat the same type of breakfast, we sit in the same car, and we take the same route to work. As the season is changing once again, we are reminded that the year is nearly over and soon we will be entering a new one that is full of opportunities. But life throws curveballs and sometimes it gets us really good and unprepared. So as the months move on, there is one thing only few like to talk about: end of life decisions and the preplanning of a funeral. Many of us continue to procrastinate to make these final arrangements and not too many remember that Jewish Law actually emphasizes that we should pre-arrange our final resting places and be buried in a Jewish cemetery.

We cannot underscore enough how important it is to make those arrangements. We seek to honor the traditions of your family by providing a deeply personal experience. Planning your burial or making your loved one’s burial arrangements is a responsible, yet difficult decision. We guide families through the Jewish burial planning process in order to provide a meaningful and personal funeral service that carries cultural, religious, and familial tradition to honor the deceased.

First of all for $72 per year one can become a member of the cemetery – yes, there is a membership fee because we are a community cemetery that is not attached to one specific temple. For two cents a day, one becomes eligible for member pricing and is able to save nearly 30% on the price of plots and service fees.

Members pay $1,800 for a plot. The grave site can either be paid in full or over two years, interest free with a minimum of quarterly payments. This alone is a savings of $1,000. The additional perpetual care fee and the actual burial costs may also be pre-paid or taken care of at the time of need.

Now is the perfect time to make your preplanning arrangements. Nine months ago we opened parts of our newest two sections; a continuous traditional Jewish section and a community inter-faith section. Choose your preferred location from over 200 grave-sites. You may select a plot 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. Keep in mind that the price that you pay now through pre-planning will be guaranteed no matter when you actually will need your final resting place.

Give the final gift and plan ahead so that your family can focus on the one and only thing they should concentrate on when a loved one passes: grieving.

We are here to assist with creating a budget, selecting a gravesite, or referring you to a funeral home or monument company. We will help you throughout the entire process to personalize the funeral service, whether it is a modest, intimate gravesite gathering or a service in our memorial building to bring together friends and the entire family.

To schedule an appointment or to receive further information about preplanning, please contact Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org.

Larry Horowitz, CLU, ChFC
L² Financial
15720 Briarcliff Hall Ave., Ste 575
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-609-7505 larry.horowitz@skype
www.L²financial.com

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Gail Weinstein Halverson at gailandnorman14@gmail.com.

Mathilde’s Mentionables Project

In Conjunction with Support the Girls

In 2017 the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) began a new social action effort called Mathilde’s Mentionables (in honor of their founder Mathilde Schechter) which collects new and gently used undergarments for women in need through the Support The Girls organization.

Temple Israel Sisterhood is supporting Mathilde’s Mentionables by collecting new and nearly new bras (must be washed) of all sizes and types as well as packages of new women’s underwear and feminine hygiene products. They will be sorted and bagged during Yom Gemilut Hasadim (A Day Performing Acts Of Loving Kindness) at Temple Israel on Sunday, January 14, 2018. This project will benefit the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope Shelter and Crisis Assistance Ministry in Charlotte.

Donation drop offs can be made at Temple Israel the Week of January 8 or prior to, by contacting Chair, Hilary Rosenbaum at 704-321-0625 or e-mailing Co-Chair, Gail Weinstein Halverson at gailandnorman14@gmail.com.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Women's News

Order Your 2018 Mah Jong Card Now Through Hadassah

Hadassah is making it easier than ever to order your 2018 card.

New: This year you will receive an email confirmation of your order by February 1, 2018, direct from the National Mah Jong League, if you include your email address with your check.

New: Your check must be accompanied by a separate piece of paper that includes the following information: name, address, phone number, and email address (for order confirmation). If you simply enclose a check in an envelope, we have no record of your order after your check is deposited.

We process your order, but your card and newsletter come directly from the National Mah Jong League. In return for our help, the NMJL makes a donation to Hadassah.

You can order your card now. No need to wait for the Mah Jong League paperwork.

Remember: Make your check out to Hadassah and include the information below on a separate piece of paper

Regular Print Card: $8; Large Print Card: $9

Print Card: $9

Two ways to order: Mark your order envelope to Madeline Aron and drop off at the JCC front desk, or mail in to Madeline Aron, 4940 Hardison Road, Charlotte, 28226.

Orders must be received by January 15, 2018.

The following information must be included on a separate piece of paper, in addition to your check: name, address, telephone number, email address, number of large print or regular size cards ordered.

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We greatly appreciate your support!
Celebrate the Tatas: Events, Programs, Information, and Fund Raising for Women

By Dana Kapustin, President, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Celebrate the TaTas includes the Mammovam at Shalom Park, The Painting Days, the Soccer Tournament, and a Little Reveal Luncheon. On September 17-18, we painted TaTas, at the The Mc Dowell Center. On October 7-8, we gathered in Winston-Salem for the Women’s Soccer Tournament (see TaTa’s recap below). We welcomed the Novant-Mammovam to Shalom Park on October 16. We are thrilled to reach out to our community and help provide this service, as it is a quick, easy, and convenient way to take care of our TaTas. On October 25, Amy Rosewater welcomed us into her home for a beautiful evening of education, friendship, and wine and cheese. We learned about Hadassah Medical Organization, recognized our donors, and shared in a beautiful evening. (See Heidi’s recap below.) On October 26, we enjoyed lunch at our Little Reveal Luncheon and auction, where we were thrilled to exceed our fundraising goals and catch up with our friends, as the luncheon was sold out. The photographs of our painted TaTas were beautifully created by local artists who donated their time to this worthwhile cause. (See Marcie’s recap below.)

Celebrate the Tatas Soccer Tournament

By Talia Goldman, Co-Founder of Celebrate the TaTas

They said Hurricane Nate would make it pour, and it did. They said it would be humid, and it was.

We said the tournament would be amazing, and it was.

The Fourth Annual Celebrate the Tatas Soccer Tournament for Women Champions took place October 7-8 in Pine Park Soccer Fields, Winston-Salem. Eight teams representing three southern states arrived on the wet fields clad in the uniforms that they hoped would win them the coveted Pink Bra Kick Ass Award, given to the team with the most spunk.

The competition, fierce and competitive, evoked much cheer from the sidelines as the athletes slid, tackled, and scored goals. Lunches were served to everyone on the field including coaches, referees, players, and their families. The donations from Chick Fil A, Whole Foods, Brixx Pizza, and Mozzarella Fellas were responsible for keeping everyone’s bellies full.

Dr. Chere Gregory, President of Women’s Health and Wellness, Novant Health, delivered opening remarks. Novant Health secured a breast feeding room for nursing women and Novant Physical Therapists tended to multiple injuries.

For the third year in a row, our incredible photographer, Andrew Bowen from Greensboro, volunteered his time and talent to capture the women on and off the field. And the weekend just kept getting better. Saturday night, over 150 folks dined together in celebration of the tournament and in sheer determination to raise funds for breast cancer research.

A big thank you to NC Adult Soccer for having the faith to join forces with Charlotte Hadassah, to the hotel where we all stayed, to the restaurants that allowed us to share meals and stories, to Dr. Gregory for her opening remarks and closing ceremony, to the few, but powerful volunteers who set up tents and goals and lined the fields, to the referees who traded donations, to the Wake Forest contingency that arrived early and stayed late, to Novant Health whose incredible employees asked if there was more they could do, to the husbands and partners that cheered for the athletes, and to the amazing children who had the opportunity to watch their mothers be superstars on and off the fields.

With wishes for a happy, healthy, and cancer free year.
**Hebrew Highlights**

Our “Better2Gether” intergenerational class is in full swing again this year, under the expert leadership of veteran teacher Amy Montoni. The focus this season, is on Jewish liturgy as poetry and artistic inspiration. Students (both teen and adult) have tried their hands at reimagining the prayers that are the foundation of our faith. Below is one sample of their inspired and perceptive work.

On Rosh HaShanah it is written ...  
On Yom Kippur it is sealed ...  
Who will thrive and who will strive  
Who will hear and who will be deaf  
Who will see and who will be blind  
Who will be part of the miracle of the sky and  
who will be in the dark of a dark night  
Who will be touched by spirit and who  
will be passed over  
Who will find meaning in their life and  
who will still be lost  
Who will the music reach and who will not be reached  
Who will stagnate and who will create  
Who will believe and who will lose faith

This beautiful and thoughtful version of the “Unetaneh Tokef” prayer written by Jeff Schwartz (one of our seniors) is a perfect example of the quality of work produced by the group.

To make the class even more exciting, the group is once again being mentored by the “Black Ink Monks,” a spoken word poetry team sponsored by Johnson C. Smith University. We thank them for bringing their enthusiasm and expertise to our Hebrew High poets.

Exciting initiatives like “Better Together” and great Jewish opportunities are the hallmark of Hebrew High. It’s not too late to have your teen join the fun and learning that is Hebrew High. For more information call 704-944-6782 or email rcopper@shalomcharlotte.org.

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**Choosing the Charlotte Jewish Day School**

(Continued from page 6)

results. The amount of information they were able to glean from this was astounding to us, and is testament to the level of experience and skill these incredible educators have. They already knew her before school even started. It is not an exaggeration to say that each child gets a tailor-made educational program to maximize their strengths and develop their weaknesses in any aspect - academic, social, etc. Staff have weekly discussions about the children, and parents get progress reports every three weeks.

The project-based learning approach (PBL) is so refreshing to hear about, especially after piles of daily worksheets with very little context, or talk about rankings derived from stressful standardized tests. All the kids at CJDS work under a “gifted” curriculum in grades 3-5 and most end up matriculating in honors and talent-identification programs afterwards. They are immersed in a dual-language curriculum, learning a second language that produces truly bilingual children.

During the first few weeks of school, when friends and family asked about how Sarah was doing at her new school, I would get goosebumps and a get a little choked up just explaining the difference in her. She had been happy enough before, but now she is beaming. She is challenged, rewar ded, and nurtured. She has made some sweet little friends and reconnected with some of her preschool buddies. She absolutely adores her teachers. She is getting the “more” that we wanted for her. Our after-school discussions are now about what fun things they did in class, or what game they played at recess or in math. It is never about which color she managed to wear under a “gifted” curriculum in grades 3-5 and most end up matriculating in honors and talent-identification programs afterwards. They are immersed in a dual-language curriculum, learning a second language that produces truly bilingual children. Our “Better2Gether” intergenerational class. 

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**BBYO Shabbat Experience with Alina Gerlovin Spaulding**

Join Charlotte BBYO for the community Shabbat event of the year. Teens and families are invited for a Shabbat experience led by our teen leaders and song leader, Rachel Wolman. We will also hear from Alina Gerlovin Spaulding, one of the most sought-after speakers in the Jewish community. This event is open to all 8th-12th graders and their families. Please email charlotte@bbyo.org to let us know you are coming. We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, December 8 from 7-9 PM in Gorelick Hall.

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**Youth Visions**

Students of all ages come together in Hebrew High’s Better2Gether class.
SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Join Temple Kol Ami for Shabbaton and Chanukah Celebrations

Get ready to celebrate Chanukah with Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC. At TKA, we believe that the Festival of Lights deserves a whole lot of love. We will start off with a Shabbaton weekend December 8-9 when Rabbi Matt Dreffin from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life will be with us to lead us in a weekend of prayer, study, and cultural enrichment. A Florida native, Rabbi Dreffin grew up at Camp Coleman, the Reform movement’s summer camp in Georgia. He attended Tulane University, earning a degree in studio arts and winning the award for most outstanding glass art student. After graduating in 2005, he had to leave for a few months because of Hurricane Katrina, then returned to New Orleans as assistant studio manager for Studio Inferno. Two years later, he went to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in California, earning a Master’s in Hebrew Letters in 2010 and a Master’s in Jewish Education in 2011. He received his ordination in May 2013 and has served at the ISJL in the rabbinic ordination in 2013. Rabbi Dreffin will lead Friday night Shabbat service starting at 7 PM at Philadelphia United Methodist Church in Fort Mill, followed by Torah study at PUMC at 10:30 AM on December 9. That evening, the community is invited to join us for an Israeli Chanukah Havdalah, complete with Israeli food and sufganiyot. Festivities start at 6 PM and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at PUMC. For more details, please consult our website at www.templekolamisc.org. Temple Kol Ami is pleased to be able to sponsor the Shabbaton through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact and Innovation Fund. All events are free and open to the public.

The following week, Rabbi Ana Bonnheim will be with us on December 15 to lead our congregation in a Chanukah Shabbat. We will light our menorahs together as a community and commemorate the miracle of Chanukah. A delicious oneg will follow featuring everyone’s Chanukah favorite, latkes. Once again, all are welcome to join us for an evening of meaningful prayer and celebration.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope to see you soon at our new home, Philadelphia United. For more information about TKA, please check out our website or give us a call at 803-701-0149.

Jewish Studies at Queens University of Charlotte Invites You Back to School

English 251: Topics in Cultural Studies – “Secret Identities: Diversity and Popular Culture”

Professor: Dr. Mike Kobre, MFA, PhD
The Dana Professor of English
Wednesday, 6:00-9:30 PM
January 10 through April 18
Cost: $300

“It wasn’t Krypton that Superman really came from,” the cartoonist Jules Feiffer once wrote, “it was planet Minsk or Lodz or Vilna or Warsaw.” The creation of first-generation American Jews whose parents had emigrated from Eastern Europe, Superman (who’s an illegal immigrant himself) is only one example of how diversity shaped American popular culture. In this course, we’ll examine how American culture reflects—sometimes in disguised ways—the diversity of American society. Our primary focus will be that most despised and unruly of junk mediums, the comic book, but we’ll also consider Hollywood films and rock ‘n’ roll music. Our cast will include Superman, Captain America, various Hollywood film-makers, and Chuck Berry’s “Brown-Eyed Handsome Man.” This course counts for the Jewish Studies minor.

The Bible: Who’s In and Who’s Out
Spring Semester

Professor: Rabbi Judy Schindler, MAHL
Sklat Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice
Wednesday, 12:30-2:00 PM - Eight week community course
January 24 through March 21 (No class on March 7)
Cost: $136 Please feel free to bring your lunch to class!

This class is a continuation of the fall semester, however newcomers are welcome! Optional review of fall semester on January 17

What does the Bible say about identity and diversity, inclusion and exclusion, power and privilege, rights and responsibilities, exile and home? How are modern issues of socioeconomic, sexual orientation, race, and age? While people from many walks of life make claims to what the Bible says, the Bible is not univocal.

Registration is open. Seating is limited.
For information please contact Talia Goldman at GoldmanT@Queens.Edu

Charlotte Jewish News - December 2017 - Page 15
FIND YOUR LIGHT

And share it with those who need it most. You have the capacity. Just like the candles you add to the menorah, you can bring light, warmth and comfort to those who are struggling without them. * Your gift to Jewish Federation delivers relief and brightens the lives of thousands of people at home, in Israel and in more than 70 countries worldwide. * Find your light. Federation will help it shine.

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG
Havurat Tikvah Gets Crafty and Set for Latkes

Havurat Tikvah will welcome artisan Kate Kaplan for an afternoon of jewelry crafting on December 3, 1 PM, at Strawberry Hill Clubhouse, 5101 Strawberry Hill Dr.

Kaplan will bring all the elements for participants to use to create a Chanukah gift item for someone special. Snacks will be provided. Seating is limited to 12 and an RSVP is required. Email info@havurattikvah.org to learn more.

Enjoy the Chanukah holiday with Havurat Tikvah as it celebrates the Festival of Lights with a Chanukah party on December 17, 4 PM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, 2821 Park Rd., followed by a Kosher/dairy/veggie/parve/nut­free catered supper. Participants are asked to bring their candles and menorahs to light. A Chanukah party on December 20 at the Saxe residence.

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.

The Goodness of the Light

By Rabbi Asher Knight

Go outside and look at the moon on the first night of Chanukah (the night of December 12). If the weather cooperates, you will notice the moon beginning to look like a crescent. If you look at the moon on the following nights, you will see it getting smaller and smaller. There will be no moon in the night’s sky from the 5th through 7th nights of Chanukah.

The rabbis of Talmud taught that the proper way to light the chanukiah is to kindle one candle on the first night and progressively increase the number of candles on the following nights. As our world gets darker we purposefully replace the mounting gloom with the illumination of the chanukiah. As Jews, we add our own light in place of the vanishing glow of the moon.

In today’s world, it is a rarity to just stop and look at the phases of the moon. There is the light of our smartphones, computers, television screens (sometimes on at the same time), chores to accomplish, lunches to pack, dinner to prepare or clean­up, laundry to fold, and off to bed. Chanukah invites us to slow down and to bring some joy and spiritual focus to our lives. How so?

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@havurattikvah.org or visit havurattikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havurattikvah.

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Go outside and look at the moon on the last night of Chanukah (the night of December 19). If the weather permits, you will notice a small sliver of light from the new moon. On subsequent nights, you will see the moon getting fuller. This should remind us that darkness is temporary and that we can partner with God. We have the power to light our lives and souls and to bring blessing into a darkened world. And God’s gift of Shalom, of peace, will ultimately illuminate our lives and the lives of those we love. Happy Chanukah.

The same rabbits that encouraged us to increase the light of the chanukiah, also taught us that we can’t multi­task with the lights of the chanukiah. The Chanukah lights are not to be used for anything other than celebrating the holiday. In our world of beeping and buzzing distractions and multi­tasking upon multi­tasking, the ancient rabbis encourage us to give ourselves the gift of our focus and presence.

Take time to put away or silence that which disturbs you from being most present with yourself, with your family and with your friends. Give yourself the gift of your undivided attention and presence. Chant the blessings. Light the candles. Look into the bright goodness of the light. Sing some songs – even if you aren’t that great at singing. Taste each bite of oily deliciousness. Take notice of the blessings of life and appreciate the miracles you have in your life. Even amidst the darkness of the December nights, the possibility of Chanukah is that each night, our lives may grow in joy, holiness, and gratitude.

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CELEBRATING HANUKKAH IN CHARLOTTE

Support our community-wide gift drive to benefit families in need during Hanukkah. The gifts collected will ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to celebrate the traditions and culture of Hanukkah. Gifts are provided for children, adults, seniors and families who would otherwise not have the resources to participate in the Hanukkah traditions of giving, Menorah lighting and traditional holiday foods. For look and dreidels with requested gifts on Shalom Park at the LICC, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel and CIP. All gifts should be delivered to JFS for proper distribution. For additional information please contact Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 8

- Torah Tots Hanukkah Celebration
  5:45 pm | Temple Israel
  For more information, visit templieselainc.org

- Social Club Hanukkah Luncheon
  12:30 pm | Temple Israel
  For more information, visit templieselainc.org

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10

- JPottery Holiday Sale
  10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Main Street at the Levine JCC
  For more information, visit charlottejcc.org

- Sisterhood Hanukkah Brunch & Gift Exchange
  11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Temple Beth El
  For more information, visit www.templebethel.org

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 12

- Grand SouthPark Menorah Lighting
  5:00 pm - Program
  5:30 pm - Menorah Lighting
  SouthPark Mall
  (circle near Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom)
  For more information, go to chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 14

- Waxhaw Menorah lighting
  5:30 pm
  E North Street in Downtown Waxhaw
  (by the Overstreet Bridge)
  For more information, visit www.jewishballantyne.com

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16

- The Porch Southern Fried Hanukkah
  5:00 - 8:00 pm | Temple Beth El
  For more information, visit www.templebethel.org

- Hanukkah Dance Celebration
  6:00 - 10:00 pm (dinner @ 6:30 pm) | Temple Israel
  For more information, visit templieselainc.org

- Torah on Tap's Vodka's & Latkes
  7:30 pm | Corden Galerie Southend
  For more information, visit templieselainc.org

MONDAY
DECEMBER 18

- S.P.I.C.E Hanukkah Program
  11:00 am - 1:30 pm | Temple Beth El
  For more information, visit www.templebethel.org

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9

- JQuest Menorah Making
  3:00 - 5:00 pm | Camp Mindy (RSVP required)
  For more information, visit charlottejcc.org

- 5th Annual Hanukkah, Hornets & Hoops
  7:00 pm | Spectrum Center
  Sponsored by Charlotte Jewish community agencies

MONDAY
DECEMBER 11

- W.O.W! Women of Wisdom Hanukkah Party
  7:00 pm
  For more information visit the WOW FB page

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 13

- StoneCrest Menorah lighting
  5:30 pm | The StoneCrest Shopping Center
  (at the Fountain Plaza)
  For more information, visit www.jewishballantyne.com

- Drinks and Dreidels
  Uptown Chabad Hanukkah Party for Young Professionals
  8:00 pm | 222 S. Church Street
  For more information, visit theuptownchabad.com/dreidels

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 15

- Community Shabbat Service and Hanukkah Celebration Dinner
  6:00 pm Shabbat Service, 7:00 pm Dinner (RSVP Required)
  Temple Beth El
  For more information, visit www.templebethel.org

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17

- 5th Day of Hanukkah with PJ Library
  11:00 am | Cotswold Village
  Contact Debby Block at 704-944-6780 or debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org
  For more information, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org

- Jewish Council of Lake Norman Hanukkah Celebration
  12:00 - 3:00 pm | Davidson College Presbyterian Church
  Congregation House (200 Concord Road, Davidson, NC)
  For more information, visit www.jewishcounciloflakenorman.org

- Friendship Circle Family Hanukkah Party
  3:30 pm | Friendship Circle (6619 Sanford Road)
  For more information visit friendshipcirclenc.org

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 19

- Sun City Hanukkah Party and Dinner
  6:30 pm | The Lodge (2055 Sun City Blvd)
  For more information visit www.jewishballantyne.com

Hanukkah 2017 begins at sunset on Tuesday, December 12, and ends at sundown on Wednesday, December 20
NFTY-SAR Winter Kallah is Coming to Charlotte January 12-15

On January 12-15, the Queen City and Shalom Park will have over 250 Jewish visitors. Hosted by Temple Beth El and LIBERTY (Temple Beth El’s Senior Youth Group), 9th-12th grade Jewish teens and youth professionals from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, will spend Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend in Charlotte. As hosts of the North American Federation of Temple Youth - Southern Area Region (NFTY-SAR) Winter Kallah, Temple Beth El’s 8th grade youth will also have the opportunity to experience the true meaning of community.

The LIBERTY Board and NFTYSAR Board are planning justice-themed programs for this weekend while the Youth Engagement Committee is supporting this effort with their time and energy. Many Temple Beth El families will open their homes to host teens while others will donate time to volunteer throughout the weekend. This event will require full community involvement and we appreciate all participation to ensure that NFTY-SAR teens leave Charlotte with a memorable, lasting impression.

Light a Chocolate Menorah at Stonecrest

Join us for an unbelievable experience and help us light a giant Chocolate Menorah at Stonecrest. Bring your family and friends for an amazing Chanukah night including games, activities, crafts, hot drinks, doughnuts, and latkes.

Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 PM
The Fountains Plaza at Stonecrest Shopping Center
Children’s activities will begin at 5 PM
This event is Free.


Giant Gelt Drop and Menorah Lighting in Waxhaw

Yes! Jewish people live in Waxhaw, too! Join us for our third annual menorah lighting in Waxhaw. This year we have a new twist with a giant chocolate gelt drop.

Thursday, December 14
Downtown Waxhaw, E. North Main St. at the Overhead Bridge
5 PM Children’s Activities begin, 5:30 PM Menorah Lighting and Gelt Drop
This event is free and open to the community.

For more info visit www.JewishBallantyne.com

Register for Winter Camp
www.CGIBallantyne.com
December 25-29
Choose your days or the entire week.

knish-a-licious
Order Knishes For:

- Holidays
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Comfort with every bite!

www.knish-a-licious.com (919)473-6080
December 2017

J Tacoma
Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road | Charlotte, NC 28226
704-366-5007 | charlottejcc.org | facebook.com/levinejcc

LEON JCC

Cultural Arts

PRESENTS

PlayPlay!

Theatre for the Very Young

WINTER/SPRING 2018

Program Registration
Going On NOW!

charlottejcc.org or call 704-366-5007

NO JOINING FEE BEGINS DEC. 15

LEON JCC

Cultural Arts

PRESENTS

Children of Eden

TEAM CAROLINA

JSTAGE.

PRESENTS

2018 MACCABI GAMES
Orange County, California
August 5–10, 2018

2018 SPORTS OFFERINGS

* Basketball  * Golf  * Flag Football
* Soccer  * Swimming  * Dance  * Lacrosse
* Volleyball  * Tennis  * Track & Field
* Softball  * Table Tennis  * Star Reporting

Join the team! More information at charlottejcc.org/teamcarolina

LEON JCC

Cultural Arts

PRESENTS

December 9 & 10 @ 2pm & 7pm
December 16 & 17 @ 2pm & 7pm

GORELICK HALL at Shalom Park

Tickets available at charlottejcc.org/culturalarts
or LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

DECEMBER HOLIDAY HOURS

Sunday, December 24: 7am–5pm
Monday, December 25: 10am–5pm
Sunday, December 31: 7am–5pm
Monday, January 1: 10am–5pm

J CHILDCARE.

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 .................. 12pm-5pm
Sunday ...................... 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/$4.50  NM/$5.50

Grades K-6th
A great, supervised space for your elementary age child to have fun and hang out with friends, while you workout!
Sundays, 8:30am–1pm
Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service
M/$2/hour  NM/$3.50 per hour

Reservations Required! 704-366-5007, or visit LJCC Customer Service.

704-366-5007 | charlottejcc.org | facebook.com/levinejcc

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

Ceramic Pottery Sale at Levine JCC!

Take a stroll down Main Street, and find unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list, while supporting our LJCC ceramic studio.

Sunday, December 10
10am-2pm
A FREE EVENT
Levine JCC Main Street
(cash or checks only)

www.charlottejcc.org | 704-366-5007
Teens

Mitzvah Program
6th–8th Grade
Join other teens as we volunteer to do our part in Tikkan Olam, "healing the world". We will collaborate with community service organizations and other Jewish Agencies to promote community engagement and build partnerships. This is a great way to earn community service hours. Pizza lunch is included. Drop-off and pick-up at the Teen Lounge. Registration required.
December 20, 10am–1pm
Making holiday baskets for our community workers and Bright Blessings
M/$5  B/Free  NM/$8

Judaism for the Curious
Are you curious about Judaism? Throughout the coming year the Oasis Senior Enrichment Program will be offering monthly classes on Judaism designed to educate, motivate, and inspire you to live life with the use of timeless Jewish wisdom. Rabbi Oppenheim will explore a different topic each month.
December: What Judaism says about Money
Monday, December 4 • 1-2pm
FSP Board Room  • FREE
704-944-6753 or shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Escape Room Adventure
Your group has only sixty minutes to explore the space around you, find items and use logic to solve puzzles, uncover secret doorways, overcome obstacles and reach your goal. RSVP and pay by Mon, 12/4, via online registration, or call 704-366-5007.
Thursday, December 7
6:30pm  • Light Dinner
7:30-8:30pm • Codescape Escape Room
933 Louise Avenue, #201, Charlotte, NC 28204
M/$34  B/$32  NM/$36
704-944-6753 or shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival
in conjunction with the Oasis Senior Enrichment Program presents: Jewish American Soldiers: Stories from WW II
This documentary tells the stories of Charlotte-area Jewish American World War II veterans. It explores their unique experiences of being Jewish soldiers at a time when Jews were outcasts around the world, including in America.
Monday, December 11
1pm • Lerner Hall
FREE, but you must register to attend by calling and leaving a message at 704-944-6755.
704-944-6753 or shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Tai Chi/Qigong
Adults 50+
Improve your strength, balance and flexibility through this gentle form of exercise.
Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm (all levels)
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio
Oasis/M/$30  B/$20  NM/$42 per month
Drop-in fee: M/B/$12 p/class  NM/$14 p/class

SHIIP
Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program
Free Medicare Counseling Available year round! Please call Senior & Adult Director Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information

Senior Enrichment
Monthly Field Trips  •  Game Days
Painting & Exercise Classes
Educational Seminars  • Kosher Lunches
Monthly newsletters with activities
704-944-6792  • jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

20 Classes in 30 Days!
20 Classes in 30 Days!

JAN 1  →  JAN 31
JAN 1  →  JAN 31

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Congratulations!

Erol Eskinazi - 2017 Men's United States Tennis Association's North Carolina State men's 45 years + Singles Champion.

Kevin Potts - Currently ranked number #10 in the United States of America in the men’s singles 50 years + division.

Richard Williamson/John Haviland - Men’s USTA 3.5 level 2017 city of Gastonia doubles champions and currently ranked #5 in the State.

Daniel Belows - former protégé of Greg O'Connor is now a current member of the 2017 University of North Carolina, chapel hill men's tennis team ranked #6 in the United States of America.

Cheryl Murray - one of our very active tennis members competed in the 2017 world swimming championships in Budapest where she won the gold in the 65-69 year old 800m freestyle division, while setting a new championship record of 11m 42s.

One Rule (Age 18+)
You MUST take at least 4 different types of Classes

Qualifying Classes include:
• Group Exercises Classes
• J-Force Fitness Sessions
• Pilates Studio Classes  •  Personal Training
• Swimming Lessons  •  Tennis Lessons

More info at charlottejcc.org
07@charlottejcc.org

Like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc

LJCC Department Directory
Please contact us if you have questions!

Membership
Susan Lerner  704-944-6741
susan.lerner@charlottejcc.org
Early Childhood
Patty Torcelini  704-944-6891
patty.torcelini@charlottejcc.org
K-5th Grade Programs
Mitche Ormand  704-944-6733
mitche.ormand@charlottejcc.org
Teen Programs
Jessie Cohen  704-944-6739
jessie.cohen@charlottejcc.org

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

Sports
Stephanie Garner  704-944-6743
stephanie.garner@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 Gundersheim  704-944-6778
susan.gundersheim@charlottejcc.org

J-Childcare
Amie Gray  704-944-6726
amie.gray@charlottejcc.org

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

JAVA N’ JEANS
Saturday, December 2, 9:30am
Do you have questions about Jewish prayer? Are you seeking a deeper meaning behind the prayers? Join Rabbi Klirs on the 1st Shabbat morning of every other month. We will delve into and discuss the true meaning and purpose of prayer in an informal setting. Coffee is provided, and we welcome everyone regardless of background. Wear your favorite pair of jeans or whatever you like! After the study session, everyone is encouraged to join the congregation for the remainder of the service in the main sanctuary and stay for the kiddush lunchen afterwards.

SHABBAT BLESSINGS
Saturday, January 6, 9:30-10:30am
Searching for a more personal, spiritual connection to Judaism? Want to find a way to tap into the gifts of Shabbat and Jewish prayer through your own life and experiences? Shabbat enables us to step back from our busy lives and focus on our values, blessings and purpose as individuals and Jews. Join Rabbi Klirs on the 1st Shabbat morning in January (alternating with Java ‘n Jeans every other).

EVENTS

HANUKKAH, HOOPS & HORNETS!
Sunday, December 10, 2:00pm
(Morris & Sylvia Speitzman Sanctuary)
Join Cantor Rochochav (with accompaniment by Adam Ward) as he presents one of his final two Cantor & Friends concerts before his retirement - a special holiday program, featuring music by the great George Gershwin. Music for the concert hall, Broadway, Hollywood and Tim Pan Alley: Gershwin did them all! People are still performing his music 80 years after his death. Come hear why!

TEMPLE ISRAEL HANUKKAH CELEBRATION & DANCE
Saturday, December 16 (Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)
6:00pm - Celebration begins
7:00pm – Dinner: Buffet Dinner featuring Briskeet, Fish, Latkes, Kid-Friendly options [Bring your own Kosher wine]
8:00pm – DJ, Dancing, and Dessert Raffles, Kids’ Games, and a Craft $20.00 per person / $40.00 maximum per family. Please RSVP/Register online at templesraelnc.org no later than December 6. (Space is limited)

TEMPLE ISRAEL REDEDICATION CEREMONY & HANUKKAH CELEBRATION
Sunday, December 17, 9:30am (Morris & Sylvia Speitzman Sanctuary)
All are welcome to join us for a Hanukat HaBayit (“Rededication of the house”) when we gather for both a celebration of Hanukkah with our religious school students and a rededication ceremony marking the completion of the temple’s recent renovation. Afterwards, we’ll join for brunch at the Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall while the students continue Hanukkah activities and learning back in their classrooms.

FAMILY DINNER & MOVIE NIGHT
Thursday, December 28
5:00pm – Dinner (Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall) 6:00pm - Movie
Take a Break from the Cold...Bring a Friend and Enjoy the Show! Temple Israel presents Family Movie Night: How Long Have We Been Frozen. Come join us for food and fun for the whole family. Enjoy pizza, salad and “frozen” treats for dessert! The night will also include frozen drinks and hot toddies for the adults. After dinner we will warm up with everyone’s favorite movie, Frozen. $9/adults; $6/child (6-12 year old); $5/little one (1-5 year old) RSVP online at templesraelnc.org by Tuesday, December 26.

LIFELONG LEARNING

TORAH CHAI: The Living Torah Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 – 9:00pm
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Psalm 82
In reaching out to other faiths in our community to respectfully learn from them, we invited ministers of four churches in Charlotte to engage with Rabbi Eirzing and Temple Israel to explore how the teachings of the Torah continue to provide inspiration. The Program addresses how the Hebrew Bible and Prophets guide and provide a common bond of values, ethics and community responsibility. Don’t miss our final class with special guest James Howell, Senior Pastor, Myers Park United Methodist Church.

TORAH TOTS SHABBAT SERVICE
Friday, December 8, 5:45pm
Join Temple Israel and Miss Nancy as we welcome in Shabbat on the second Friday evening of each month with songs, prayers and movement followed by a healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack.

SOCIAL CLUB

ANNUAL SOCIAL CLUB HANUKKAH LUNCHEON
Sunday, December 10, 12:00pm
(Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)
Please join the Social Club at their annual Hanukkah luncheon! Cantor Elias Rochochav will lead guests in the Hanukkah blessings and songs at the luncheon. After lunch, we will adjourn to the Morris & Sylvia Speitzman Sanctuary for a 2:00 pm “Cantor and Friends” George Gershwin concert. $20/members; $24/non-members and guests
*Please send payment to Temple Israel (c/o Social Club) and make checks payable to: Temple Israel Social Club. Questions? Contact co-presidents: Ruth Goldberg (704) 366-8903 or Irving Bienstock (704) 542-0094.

SOCIAL ACTION

MEN’S SHABAT LUNCH
Sunday, December 16
This December Temple Israel is running three collection drives to benefit Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, Shelter Health Services and Huntington Farms Elementary School. Donations may be dropped off in the Temple Israel lobby, and should indicate the collection your donation is for. For details on items needed, please visit templesraelnc.org.

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THE ROOFSROOM – TISISTERHOOD JUDAIKA GIFT SHOP
HANUKKAH BEGINS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
Gift Shop Hours
Sunday: 9:00am -12:30pm Tuesday - Thursday: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Friday: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please call Tess Berger at 704-488-3842 or Cindy at 704-447-463.
Stop by to see this year’s new Hanukkah gift selections in our newly designed gift shop! Proceeds support Temple Israel, Sisterhood, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.

TORAH TOTS SHABBAT SERVICE
Friday, December 8, 5:45pm
Join Temple Israel and Miss Nancy as we welcome in Shabbat on the second Friday evening of each month with songs, prayers and movement followed by a healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack.

YOUTH

GESHER: SECRET HANUKKAH HARRY LOUNGE NIGHT
(8-11 Year Olds)
Wednesday, December 13, 6:00-7:00pm
Come celebrate the 2nd Night of Hanukkah as we light the Hanukkah and eat a delicious dinner including homemade latkes and donuts. We will also have a Secret Hanukkah Harry gift exchange (white elephant style). To participate you must bring a gift of $5-$10! Location: Levine ICC Teen Lounge. $5/Members; $10/Non-Members (for dinner) RSVP by Monday, December 11 to addidonato@templesraelnc.org.

SOCIAL CLUB

ANNUAL SOCIAL CLUB HANUKKAH LUNCHEON
Sunday, December 10, 12:00pm
(Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)
Please join the Social Club at their annual Hanukkah luncheon! Cantor Elias Rochochav will lead guests in the Hanukkah blessings and songs at the luncheon. After lunch, we will adjourn to the Morris & Sylvia Speitzman Sanctuary for a 2:00 pm “Cantor and Friends” George Gershwin concert. $20/members; $24/non-members and guests
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LIFELONG LEARNING

TORAH CHAI: The Living Torah Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 – 9:00pm
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Psalm 82
In reaching out to other faiths in our community to respectfully learn from them, we invited ministers of four churches in Charlotte to engage with Rabbi Eirzing and Temple Israel to explore how the teachings of the Torah continue to provide inspiration. The Program addresses how the Hebrew Bible and Prophets guide and provide a common bond of values, ethics and community responsibility. Don’t miss our final class with special guest James Howell, Senior Pastor, Myers Park United Methodist Church.
See Atlanta Fine Artist Steve Steinman’s latest metal sculptures at Gallery 72, Marietta Cobb Museum of Art and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

Where others see trash, Steve Steinman sees the potential for fine art. Re-finding beauty in recycled industrial machine and automotive parts, his unique sculptures—many three to seven feet or more in height—make a statement on the negative impact resulting from man’s pursuit of manufacturing for mass consumerism, which continues to threaten the planet. Drawing on individual shapes from all manner of metal junkyard scraps, each piece provides a metaphor on the need for recycling and reuse to reduce pollution.

The culmination of two years of prolific work, Steinman’s “recycled” sculptures can be seen in multiple venues beginning this fall, with one-man shows at Gallery 72 until January 19, 2018; and the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, January 13–March 25, 2018. Select pieces will also be on display in the “Georgia Artists Exhibition” at Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, January–December 2018.

“Pathfinder.”

“Abstract Fountain.” photography

“We are excited about Steve Steinman’s upcoming show at Gallery 72 as it aligns with Atlanta’s interest in becoming a more sustainable community. It’s a win-win for the city,” said Kevin Sipp, project coordinator, Gallery 72. “City of Atlanta, Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs. Steve has contributed so much to the art culture in Atlanta. This is a prime opportunity to showcase his work and his legacy.”

Steinman explains that his latest work is all about educating and creating awareness on the need to recycle what would otherwise be considered debris. “As a disposable society, it is easier to throw things out than to fix them,” he said. “Recycling is a positive way to offset the damage. My work focuses on the art of reuse, renewal, and recycling to reinforce this message.”

Straddling a tension between finished and unfinished, he notes that each of his “Trash” sculptures convey an energy that pulses through the bent and crusted metal scraps. “The art is energetic, emerging out of twisted chaos into three dimensional drawings in space. Each conveys a feeling of its past life, with the metal joining together into visual excitement. This energy is felt by each object’s position relative to another, often in large unified circles to illuminate the transition from junk to beauty while examining society’s demise into a disposable culture based on wastefulness and urban sprawl.

“Counterpose.”

“As a sculptor, I’m fascinated by the challenge of creating an entirely unique piece of art from a random collection of discarded and often commonplace objects,” he explained. “My work speaks to our current culture, which is as immensely rich in trash as it is treasures. As society overwhelms its landfills with items that could be reused we squander the opportunity to make new items, placing a sizeable strain on resources and mankind’s quality of life.”

Well-known in the Atlanta art scene, Steinman has created numerous highly-visible, thought-provoking sculptures throughout the city over the course of his career. For the 1996 Atlanta Olympics he was commissioned to design and create “Endless Journey,” a colorful, intricately-textured wall sculpture that lines the Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) Buckhead rail station and platform. A series of repeating patterns, it covers the equivalent of two football fields and took five years to complete. In addition, he was commissioned by the Atlanta Bar Association to create a “Monument to Slain Police Officers,” which is located in Atlanta’s Woodruff Park.

Along with sculpting, Steinman also is a fine art photographer, capturing images that often reflect the ironies of life. For instance, a recent exhibition titled, “China: Tradition and Change,” included images of Buddhist monks on cell phones, illustrating the juxtaposition between old and new Chinese culture.

For more information on the work of Steven Steinman, contact the artist at artzone234@yahoo.com or call 404-808-3343.
**WORSHIP**

**Chanukah Shabbat Service followed by Chanukah Dinner**
Friday, Dec. 15 at 6:00 pm

**Congregational Shabbat Service**
Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11:00 am

**First Fridays:**
5:30 pm Songfest, 6:00 pm Family Shabbat, 8:00 pm Community Shabbat

**All other Fridays:**
5:00 pm Community Shabbat Service

**Saturdays:**
11:00 am Shabbat Morning Worship

Please check our website for weekly service times and details.

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**COMMUNITY**

**Global Day of Jewish Learning**

10th Grade Confirmation Class is a year-long exploration of what it means to be a Jewish teen. At a special Shabbat service this spring, an outstanding Jewish ambassador from the class will be presented with the Michelle Miller Award for Jewish Commitment.

**Youth Roadshow**

**HAPPY CHANUKAH!**

**LEARNING**

**Navigating Aging with Understanding: Fundamentals of Caregiving**
Sunday, Dec. 3 at 10:30 am
Join us for an informative class covering issues related to aging with a panel of experts.

**Temple Beth El Book Club**
Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11:00 am
This discussion of A Horse Walks into a Bar, by Israeli author David Grossman, will be facilitated by Dr. Racalle Wolman, Scholar on Holocaust, Genocide and Global Studies.

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**DISCOVERED TRADITIONS**

The Gift Shop at Temple Beth El

Discovered Traditions is the place for unique Chanukah gifts for all ages. We have a tremendous selection of menorahs and dreidels, in addition to beautiful accessories to set the perfect holiday table. Gift wrapping is always free!

Discovered Traditions is open 10:30 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday, before and after Friday night services, and 2:30 pm to 1:30 pm on Religious School Sundays. Proceeds support the Temple Beth El Religious School.

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**Brotherhood Brunch**
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10:00 am
Join us for this breakfast program with Charlotte City Council member, Edmund H. Driggs. RSVP by Dec. 6.

**Sisterhood Chanukah Brunch & Gift Exchange**
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 11:00 am
We will provide the latkes, all the trimmings, and drinks; you bring a potluck item to share and a gift to exchange! RSVP by Dec. 5.

**The Porch: Southern Fried Chanukah**
Saturday, Dec. 16 at 5:00 pm
Celebrate Chanukah with delicious foods, holiday fun and games. Havdalah is at 6:30 pm. RSVP by Dec. 13.

**S.P.I.C.E. Chanukah Program**
Monday, Dec. 18 at 11:00 am
Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas will talk about “Light and Darkness in Jewish Music,” followed by a luncheon and a S.P.I.C.E. surprise. RSVP by Dec. 13.

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Stay up to date with everything at Temple Beth El – follow us on Facebook and visit our website.

5101 Providence Road  |  Charlotte, NC 28226  |  704.366.1948  |  templebethel.org
By Edmon J. Rodman

Los Angeles (JTA) — In the weeks before Chanukah, with anticipation of the holiday brightly filling my mind, the darkening news of rising anti-Semitism in the U.S. began to filter in. As I pictured our menorahs burning in their usual place — the front windows of our home — a warning light began to blink.

Though Chanukah represents a victory of light over darkness — by the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, which resulted in the rededication of the Second Temple — recent events were causing me to rethink our window menorah lighting, turning me toward sharing our menorah kindling with only family and friends.

But, surprisingly, like finding a picture that resonated with you, I was reminded of a photo I had found of a postcard depicting a lit menorah in a window. Was this a wise time to let our light shine?

Helping to banish my second thoughts, however, was that new stamp. The design — a traditional, branched menorah shown burning in a window against a background of falling snow — seemed numerous enough, even unseasonably fanciful if you live in California, like me. But there it was, a government-issued reminder that in the window, where your neighbors can see it, is the place from which your menorah should send out its glow.

Even so, a statement released by the Postal Service with the issue of the new stamp renewed my concerns when it reminded me that “at times in history when it was not safe for Jewish families to make a public declaration of faith, the menorah was set instead in a prominent place inside the home.” Though the statement went on to say that “today in the U.S., many families have renewed the tradition of displaying the menorah in windows during the holiday,” I still wondered if “today” was one of those “not safe” times in history.

Was it a good time to draw the light safely in and bring the flickering candles into the kitchen? After all, that’s the way my mother, who grew up in the Bronx, did it in our home.

What was I afraid of? It wasn’t as if I’m expecting a replay of the now-famous Billings, MT, incident in 1993, when, according to JTA, “a brick was thrown through the bedroom window of a five-year-old Jewish boy, Isaac Schnitzer, who was displaying a Chanukah menorah.”

But in an Anti-Defamation League report about anti-Semitic incidents issued before the presidential election, California was cited in 2015 as the state with the second-highest level of anti-Semitic incidents. Adding to my sense of Jewish déjà vu, after the election, in mid-November, the ADL’s national director, Jonathan Greenblatt, had announced at the organization’s yearly conference that the American Jewish community had “not seen this level of anti-Semitism in mainstream political and public discourse since the 1930s.”

What these statistics challenged, I realized, was not my faith that miraculous things can happen, like a single cruze of oil burning for eight days, but my faith in another kind of miracle — freedom of religion and American pluralism.

After national calls to deport Muslims, a recent spike in hate crimes in New York — with the majority of incidents directed at Jews — and closer to home, reports last year of a Jewish student at UCLA being harassed because of her identity, I realized that the menorah burning in the window isn’t just a message to fellow Jews — it’s a signal to any person that this was a free and safe place for anyone to openly identify and show his or her beliefs. If I, or anyone, were to light one candle at Hanukkah in full view of neighbors, it wouldn’t be, contrary to the song, not just for the Macabee children — it would be for all.

It doesn’t make any difference which side you were on in the recent election. What must be decided is how to light, with candles, oil, or electric bulbs we would vote now. Recalling that my mother’s parents, Joseph and Rebecca, had been straying here about a century ago, I felt that the welcoming menorah light represented the freedom for which they had left everything behind. Plus, the act of putting our menorahs in the window would be an opportunity to rekindle the core Jewish belief of welcoming the stranger.

To push back the shadows, won’t you join me in a Chanukah show of light? Help light the way for us, and for others: During the eight nights of Chanukah, place your menorah where passers-by can see it. Take a photo or selfie, and post it on social media with the hashtag #menorahinthewindow. Share the city, town, or place where you are, and let us know why you are doing it.

The strength of what we can do as a community — that is a miracle, too.

(If you’re not a community member, you can still join us by signing up for their newsletter or events. For more information, contact them at edmojace@gmail.com.)
In Warsaw, Students Flock to Chanukah Event Following Classmate’s Anti-Semitism

By Cnaan Liphshiz

Hebrew, though she is not Jewish.

“stand,” said Asia Bakon, 19, who

event the following day.

ment into the spotlight — garner­

the university’s Judaic Depart­

xenophobia and hatred.”

a “criminal ideology” of “racism,

niewski inveighed against “Jew

rise to power last year, the anti-Se­mitic views expressed by Smu­niewski were accepted as having been perpetrated by Poles, “were the Germans, who used in their own name of ter­ror a group of Poles.”

Meanwhile, Jan Gross, the Pol­ish-American Jewish historian, is under a criminal investigation opened against him this year for saying that Poles killed more Jews during the Holocaust than Poles killed Germans. The probe was opened following complaints against Gross that alleged he "devoted as having been perpetrated by Poles,” were the Germans, who used in their own name of terror a group of Poles.”

Amid rising tensions over im­migration into the European Union by Muslims and fear over Russian expansionism, racist inci­dents recorded this year in Poland included the beating of a Syrian man on a Warsaw street; the bar­ring of a black child from a play­ground in a town southeast of the capital and the formation of vigil­ante patrol groups to guard against possible illegal immi­grants in Lodz, according to the Financial Times.

Government data show that 962 hate crimes were investigated in Poland last year - a 38% in­crease over 2014, the Financial Times reported in September.

“All too often we are disap­pointed by the lack of reaction to anti-Semitism,” said Michael Schudrich, the chief rabbi of Poland, who also attended the Chanukah event at the university.

This time the reaction was quick and very clear in its con­demnation of anti-Semitism. I am moved by the reactions of the uni­versity and of the students. All of Europe can learn from this re­spect if we are not only statements but demonstrations, hate speech, increase of hate on the internet,” Bodnar said.

These included remarks by Jaroslaw Kaczyński, a former prime minister and leader of Duda’s party, who warned that ac­cepting Muslim refugees would “threaten Poland’s security.” This was a refined version of his re­marks from before last year’s elections — that migrants could bring “parasites” and “diseases.”

Zbigniew Ziobro, the country’s justice minister, meanwhile has said the Law and Justice party is the only defense against “Islamic districts in Poland.”

In July, Duda said at the con­memoration of the Kielce pogrom, an outbreak of violence against Poland’s Jewish commu­nity in 1946, that in Poland “there is no place for any kind of preju­dice, no place for racism, xeno­phobia, anti-Semitism.” Also last year, he said anti-Semites are “an insult” to non-Jews who risked their lives in Poland to save Jews from the Holocaust — a group also known as Righteous Among the Nations.

His government is responsible for directing unprecedented atten­tion and honors for thousands of righteous gentiles, of which Poland has the highest number of any other country. Under Duda, Poland “has pursued even friendlier ties.”

But also under Duda, Holocau­st revisionism has taken root in some of the country’s highest of­fices. Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz, whom the Anti­Defamation League last year said demonstrated “profound and vir­ulent anti-Semitism” by defending the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” forgery, claimed in July that Russians were responsible for the killings of Jews that mainstream historians attribute to Poles and Ukrainians.

And Jaroslaw Szares, the pres­i­dent of Poland’s Institute of Na­tional Remembrance, said over the summer that the perpetrators of the Jedwabne massacre of Jews, which has been widely ac­cepted as having been perpetrated by Poles, “were the Germans, who used in their own name of terror a group of Poles.”

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Chanukah Sweaters are Now a Thing — and I Love Them

By Lior Zaltzman
New York (JTA) — Ever since I moved here from Israel, every late November felt like the beginning of a month-long assault. Every store, business and doctor’s office blared Christmas songs, streets were decorated with ostentatious light shows and seemingly everything became green and red — which, as an art school grad, I found personally offensive to my design sensibilities.

Then there were the Christmas sweaters. I admit I have a love of tacky knitwear — but I couldn’t get behind these garish monstrosities that flaunted a holiday that I didn’t celebrate but couldn’t escape from.

So I was thrilled when, three years ago, I saw a friend at a holiday party wearing a cozy sweater with a familiar pattern on it — dreidels with Hebrew letters, perfectly if garishly designed. I ran across the room and accosted her.

“Where did you get that sweater?”

That was the beginning of my love affair with Chanukah knitwear. I now have about half a dozen Chanukah sweaters. My favorites are a cardigan called “The Spinster,” the same one I saw at that party, with big, nostalgic copper buttons. Yes, I have way more sweaters than I probably need, but I treasure them. They feel like my armor in the war that Christmas seems to be waging against me every time the holiday season comes around.

Since then, the Chanukah knitwear market has grown significantly. While there are fewer Chanukah sweaters than the Christmas variety — for obvious reasons — nowadays you can find everything from cute cardigans at Target done up with chanukiot and boxed gifts to more controversial pieces, like the borderline misogynistic one sold (and later pulled) at Nordstrom. There’s an abundance of cheap, cheerful Chanukah options on Etsy — heck, even Whoopi Goldberg jumped on the Chanukah sweater bandwagon last year with a cutesy, bejeweled octopus design.

The Chanukah sweater, like American-style Chanukah itself, is a custom that expanded in a “what about us?” reaction to Christmas celebrations. “Ugly Christmas sweater parties” have been a thing since the early 2000s, although it wasn’t until a decade later that Time magazine noted the trend in an article declaring that “the tops are bigger than ever, but in a very hipstery, oh-so-ironic way.”

That first Chanukah sweater I spotted was the brainchild of Carin Agiman, a graphic designer in California. In 2012, she launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund Geltfiend, a sweater line featuring “Santa’s first Chanukah, as told by Whoopi Goldberg.”

“I felt proud of it,” she added. “I didn’t want to be that person who just waited for someone else to make the thing that I really wanted, so I took the money from my tax refund and had samples made at this factory in L.A.”

Agiman then put together a photo shoot with the sweaters called Santa’s first Chanukah, assembled a video and launched her Kickstarter campaign. She got full funding, over $20,000. She worked with a California-based manufacturer, making sure every little detail was perfect.

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“Making sweaters is a complicated business. Unlike t-shirts, which you can design and manufacture in a matter of days, knitwear is usually manufactured overseas and in big quantities. There are mandatory minimums. It’s hard to get a business off the ground. But one Jewish sweater maven managed to get it done.

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“You’re dealing with these huge machines, if you want the pattern to land in the right place, that takes a lot of work,” she said. Many of the sweaters were inspired by mid-century designs, and everything from the fit to the names, like “Spinnmaster,” were meticulously crafted.

Agiman saw her ideal client as “Someone who cares about the quality of the things they buy and they wear,” she said. “They want something that’s clever and not so obvious, someone who is really into being Jewish and the cultural aspect of it, not necessarily religious.”

But her customers ended up being more eclectic than she expected — she got quite a few orders from Orthodox Jews, and from non-Jews, too. Even Matisyahu reportedly has a sweater, she said.

Agiman kept the business going for four years — three years as a side gig, and then, in 2015, as a full-time job. But despite the positive response to her designs, she couldn’t make Geltfiend a viable business.

By the end, Agiman said, “I think we sold over 5,000 sweaters, over $400,000 worth of sweaters,” yet “we barely broke even.”

“I felt proud of it,” she added. “I gave it all that I had. It felt like a good note to end things on. I’d rather do something that I love and then let it go.”

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A year before Agiman launched her line, Evan Mendelsohn, a lawyer, and his friend Nick Morton, an endodontist, founded a sweater company called Tipsy Elves.

“We’d always enjoyed dressing up and wearing fun holiday clothes and we realized there was no one making fun apparel,” Mendelsohn said. So, they decided to launch their own holiday clothes company. That year, they sold 5,000 sweaters, he said.

The next year, Mendelsohn quit his job. You may have guessed by the name — Tipsy Elves doesn’t just peddle Chanukah wares. It sells Christmas sweaters — lots and lots of ridiculous Christmas sweaters. But they make Chanukah sweaters, too. This season, they have about six of them. Including one that you might recognize as the one Seth Rogen wore in the film “The Night Before.”

Unlike Agiman and me — who are Chanukah purists — Mendelsohn has a much more lighthearted approach to the holiday sweater dilemma.

“My dad is Jewish and my mom is Catholic, so I was raised with the Christmas sweater dilemma.”

As for Agiman — who’s still shipping leftover Geltfiend stock via Amazon — she’s kept the Chanukah spirit alive: “The food is my favorite, the sufganiyot, the latkes, the gelt!” she said. “I think I’m just really really in love with that.”

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In England, Christmas Week of Jewish Study Means Outreach to Sikhs and Muslims

By Andrew Silov-Carroll
Birmingham, England (JTA) - If you think the United States overdoes Christmas, you haven’t been to London in December.

The main drags are a riot of Christmas lights and gewgaws, the pubs overflow with midday revelers starting the week before and the Christmas shopping is no less intense at Selfridge’s and Primark than it is at WalMart and Macy’s.

And unlike the United States, the country — including public transportation and most attractions — shuts down on Christmas Eve, even the day before that.

All of which leaves a Jewish resident or visitor with two choices: Happily indulge in all the frenzy of the Dickensian holiday, or get out of town.

The 3,000 or so Jews attending the Limmud Conference in Birmingham chose the latter.

The weeklong festival of Jewish learning features hundreds of classes taking place in a vast hotel space, and discussion, study sessions and performances going on into the night. I’ve described it as a sort of Jewish Brigadoon, an intense shtetl that pops up once a year in the British hinterlands (sorry, Birmingham) and is seemingly over as soon as it begins.

The U.K. version is the flagship of a largely volunteer-run network that stages conferences in 84 communities in 44 countries. I’ve met Limmud organizers here from Chile, Russia, China, and at least three big U.S. cities - New York, Miami, and Seattle. It’s a crazily heartening enterprise, allowing one to imagine that if thousands and thousands of Jews of all ages and backgrounds and ideologies all over the world can gather under one roof to celebrate with and learn from one another, things can’t be all that bad.

Of course, nothing is as good as it seems. Far fewer Orthodox Jews than liberal and progressive Jews attend Limmud, and hardly any rabbis representing Britain’s dominant Orthodox United Synagogue, let alone its growing haredi population, take part. It was big news a few years ago when the current chief rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, agreed to attend, and this week he gave two well-received presentations. His predecessor, Jonathan Sacks, declined to take part when he was chief rabbi, and other Orthodox rabbis have complained that Limmud’s open door policy lets in heretical ideas.

The irony, of course, is that in a country in which Jews are less than 1% of the population, some build bridges, some put up walls, and some have boundaries that they won’t cross over.

In the new era of Brexit and Trump, talk of walls and bridges was prevalent throughout the week. A full day of classes and events was devoted to the U.K. Jewish community’s role in relief for refugees, including Afghans, Syrians, and Yazidis. I was a speaker at three sessions where worried audiences wanted to know more about Trump and his threats to disengage from global affairs and free trade. Liberal Jews here are as agitated over Brexit and their country’s retreat from Europe as their counterparts in the United States are over Trump.

Mirvis articulated the emerging new world order in a lecture titled “Inward or outward? Judaism in our divided world.” The chief rabbi insisted the new political fault lines are not left versus right or East versus West, but particular versus universal. Trump, Brexit, and the emergent European nationalists represent a tendency to throw up walls when it comes to immigration, trade, and culture. The debate, Mirvis said, is ultimately about whether societies are willing to embrace other cultures and allow them to permeate their own, thereby creating something new.

Jews, meanwhile, have always personified the struggle between the particular and the universal.

“We Jews, he said, is to ‘swim against the current’ and maintain distinctions by “doing our own thing.” At the same time, tradition enjoins us to engage with the wider world, under the essential Judaism teaching that “every sin­ gle thing that being is created in the image of God.”

The impulse to reach out was celebrated on a field trip Wednesday to a mosque, church, and Sikh temple in Birmingham’s famously multicultural Lozells, a neighborhood with a high Muslim population.

And at the imposing Lozells Central Mosque, a guide named Hussein spoke of the immigrants who made Birmingham a center for Pakistani and Muslim life in England. The region has some 1,000 mosques, he claimed, by contrast, Birmingham has 2,000 Jews and three main synagogues.

Each of the houses of worship was a haven of calm in what looked like a gritty part of town; each of the guides spoke of the inevitable racism and distrust they have encountered as immigrant communities and religious and racial minorities. Each insisted that religion was the answer, not the cause, of what ails this “divided world.”

When asked, inevitably, whether they were as been as an immigrant, he said, “It’s been done enough to denounce the jihadists, Hussein quietly deflected the question.

“That’s why people like us are so committed to building bridges,” he said.

In his talk Monday, Mirvis also spoke of bridges, saying voters in Europe and the United States are being given the choice between “drawbridge up and drawbridge down.” He suggested that political leaders learn from the Jewish imperative to cultivate one’s own culture and distinctiveness while learning to look outward.

But he also took aim at his own community, and any Jewish community, that includes exclusionists who are only pious in the ways they deal with each other.

“If your hesed (lovingkindness) only extends to those within your inner circle,” Mirvis said, paraphrasing the founder of the Gerrer Hasidic movement, “or God forbid you are racist, that is a treif [unkosher] way of life.”

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Eight Books for Eight Nights of Chanukah

By Victor Wishna
(JTA) — What better time than Chanukah to curl up with a good book than when the weather outside is frightful, but the latkes are so delightful?

So, in the spirit of Chanukah, whether you’re looking to rededicate yourself to literature or just find the right gift (or eight) for a favorite fervent reader, here is the only wish list you need.

You’re welcome.

The Bed Moved (Knopf)
By Rebecca Schiff
Sex and death? Just two of the topics that Schiff explores with wit and warmth in what the New York Times Book Review has called a “stellar” debut short story collection that reads like “an Amy Schumer sketch as chewed up by Andrea Dworkin.” Twenty-three pithy selections overflow with Schiff’s fictionalized, millennial observations and sometimes pain-induced humor from situations as diverse as geology camp, a “clothing optional resort,” a funeral, and an old bat mitzvah video — not to mention more than one reflection on what it means to be “Jewish-ish.”

Flying Couch: A Graphic Memoir (Black Balloon Publishing)
By Amy Kurzweil
Another debut — this one with illustrations and plenty of heart. With words and images, Kurzweil weaves her own coming-of-age-as-an-artist tale into the stories of her psychologist mother and her grandmother, a survivor who escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto. What results are portraits — literally — of three remarkable and very different women linked by a common legacy. As Holocaust literature goes, this is a bold and creative addition to the cannon, as well as an original reflection on the power of memory and the meaning of family.

Judas (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
By Amos Oz, Translated by Nicholas de Lange
The newest novel from the 77-year-old icon of Israeli literature provocatively revisits the story of the Crucifixion in a way that removes the stain from the title character and embeds within it a mid-20th century narrative about a young Bible scholar. Oz’s prose, as captured in English by de Lange, illuminates an exquisite coming-of-age romance that also manages to comment on the origins of Zionism, the perception of the Israeli left, and what it truly means to be a traitor.

Moonglow (Harper Books)
By Michael Chabon
Inspired by his own grandfather’s deathbed recollections and confessions, the best-selling author of Telegraph Avenue has crafted what the book’s own blurbs tout as “a work of fictional non-fiction, an autobiography wrapped in a novel disguised as a memoir.” Via the narrator — a fictionalized version of himself — Chabon propels readers from the prewar Jewish slums of South Philadelphia through the darkness and light of a rapidly advancing 20th-century America. It’s a meticulously researched but completely imagined tale that is ultimately about the power and danger of keeping secrets and telling lies.

My Own Words (Simon & Schuster)
By Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams
Long before she became “The Notorious RBG,” Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a relentless legal trailblazer. My Own Words is a collection of writings and speeches — dating all the way back to eighth grade — by the first Jewish woman appointed to the Supreme Court (in 1993), and includes her thoughts on everything from gender equality and her Jewish identity to her relationship with her colleagues and passion for opera. Ginsburg penned a new foreword for the book, and each chapter is introduced by her official biographers, Hartnett and Williams — whose own volume won’t be released until after Ginsburg leaves the court.

The Resistible Rise of Benjamin Netanyahu (Bloomsbury USA)
By Neill Lochery
Lochery, a professor of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean studies at University College London, offers the first book-length profile in English of Israel’s current and potentially longest-serving prime minister — if he can hold out until 2018, that is. If there is a central premise to the narrative that traces Netanyahu’s career and the issues he has confronted, it’s that his often polarizing leadership is marked not by successes but by...
Eight Books for Eight Nights

(Continued from previous page)

survival. Based on 25 years of re-
search and reporting, the book
also examines how the nonstop
news cycle has transformed Is-
raeli politics, how the U.S. role
has changed in the Middle East
and the critical part the telegenic,
Americanized Bibi has played in
it all.

The Undoing Project (W.W.
Norton & Company)

By Michael Lewis

We human beings like to trust
our gut. But thanks to the research
of Israeli psychologists Daniel
Kahneman and Amos Tversky,
our assumptions about our deci-
sion-making processes in uncer-
tain situations have been radically
undone, changing how we think
about how we think.

Kahneman and Tversky’s work
have given rise to the field of beha-

eric economics, advances in medicine

gave rise to the field of behavioral
psychodrama, as Dina finds her-

The Waiting Room (Harper
Perennial)

By Leah Kaminsky

Yet another spectacular fiction
debut: Kaminsky’s first novel re-
lates a not-so-typical day in the
life of a young Australia-born Is-
raeli doctor named Dina, the
daughter of two Holocaust sur-

vivors whose ghosts have, it

seems, passed their trauma onto
her. What unfolds is a moving

story of Israeli politics, how the U.S. role
has changed in the Middle East —
also examines how the nonstop
news cycle has transformed Is-
raeli academia. [182x941]

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From The Charlotte Jewish News -December 2017 - Page 31

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Jewish Bow Tie Cookies: An Old World Treat of Fried Dough

By Ronnie Fein

(The Nosher via JTA) - My
mother was a first-class baker, and
there were always homemade
goodies for dessert at our house.
So when I went away to college
and needed a nosh to remind me
of home, I went to a nearby bak-

er for a little something.

It was mostly good: Chinese
cookies, hamantaschen, babka.
But the kichels? Not so much. Not
only were my mother’s kichels
world class and nearly
impossible to top, but
what the bakery called
kichel wasn’t at all what
I was used to.

Bakery kichels, as I
learned, are thick, bow

tie-shaped pastries that
are sometimes sprinkled
with sugar. They can be

bready and dry, or hard
and dry, depending on
the bakery. They are the
kind of cookie a kid, es-

specially one who’s
homesick, would never
choose. Especially a kid
whose mother made
world-class kichels.

Here’s why my mom’s
kichels were so amazing: They
were soft and crispy at the same
time, and they would melt in your
mouth before you even had a
chance to chew or even realize
they were on your tongue. They
were paper thin but developed air
bubbles that were fun to pop with
my front teeth, especially because
a feathery dusting of confection-
ers’ sugar would fall from the top
of the bubble into the crevice and

give a faint but definite sweet to
all parts.

We didn’t need milk to dunk
and soften these kichels. They
were as light as a helium balloon;
fried (it is Chanukah, after all) but
never greasy, sugar sprinkled but
never cloying.

The big trick for fabulous
kichels is rolling the dough as thin
possible. It takes some time and
patience, but the result — crispy,

puffy, delightfully light cookies
are as light as a helium balloon;
fried (it is Chanukah, after all) but
never greasy, sugar sprinkled but
never cloying.

The ingredients:

1 c. all-purpose flour
1/8 t. salt
2 lg. eggs, beaten
1/4 t. white vinegar
Vegetable oil for deep frying
Confectioners’ sugar

Directions:

Place the flour and salt in a
bowl. Add the beaten eggs and

vinegar and mix thoroughly till a
smooth dough has formed (you

can use an electric mixer
or food processor). Let the
dough rest, covered with
plastic wrap, for at least 30

mint. Roll out portions of
the dough on a lightly
floured surface till the
dough is very thin, almost
like paper. Cut the dough
into squares or rectangles
or odd shapes. Heat about
375 degrees (a bread


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