2017 Main Event
The Levine Leap Inspires Donors to Pledge the Most in Main Even History!

The Jewish Federation’s 2017 Main Event, held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at Temple Israel, was a night to remember.

Main Event co-chairs David and Debra Van Glish welcomed nearly 600 people to the event which featured guest speaker Joshua Malina, cast member of “West Wing” and “Scandal,” who described himself to our generous donors and community leaders as a performer second and a Jew first. In his speech “How to Remain a Mensch in Hollywood,” Joshua Malina linked his strong Jewish upbringing to his support for the great work the Jewish Federation does throughout the local and worldwide Jewish community. His solid Jewish identity and passion for Israel were key elements of his warm, witty, smart and very personal remarks. Following The Main Event, Joshua Malina was gracious and charming as he posed for endless photos with both devoted and new fans.

The Main Event is the official kick-off to the Jewish Federation’s 2017 Annual Campaign, and David Van Glish took the opportunity to announce the 2017 Campaign goal by saying, “To meet the needs of our entire community, Federation is working its way to a $4 million campaign with a goal this year of $3,750,000. Admittedly, that’s a lot of money….but it enables us to thrive in this amazing Jewish community we call home.”

David continued his remarks with the following exciting announcements, “And to jumpstart us on our way, I am honored to announce that The Leon Levine Foundation is making a gift of $706,000 to our 2017 Campaign! Please join me in thanking Leon and Sandra Levine for their cornerstone gift to our campaign which demonstrates their profound commitment not only to the Federation but to each and every one of us as well.

“In addition to their own generous gift, The Leon Levine Foundation is helping us ‘jumpstart’ the Campaign with a creative and motivating match – THE LEVINE LEAP! The Leon Levine Foundation will generously match the LEAP of any donors who increase their gift to the next giving level.”

And respond they did! The 2017 Main Event raised $330,281 which includes $23,336 from The Levine Leap! To learn more about how you can take advantage of this incredible opportunity, please call Sue Littauer at the Federation office 704-944-6758.

Special thanks go to David and Debra Van Glish and their hardworking Host Committee for making the 2017 Main Event a huge success! And we’re incredibly grateful to our sponsors Swimmer Insurance Agency and Impact Shift Media; and all of the Honorable Menschen donors who went above and beyond to support The 2017 Main Event.
The Charlotte Jewish News thanks our most recent donors for their generosity in helping us fulfill our mission to continue publishing the latest information about our community. Visit charlottejewishnews.org to see the most updated information.

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SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING FOR JANUARY 2017

Friday, January 6, 5:08 PM
Friday, January 13, 5:15 PM
Friday, December 16, 4:55 PM
Friday, January 20, 5:22 PM
Friday, January 27, 5:29 PM

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Shabbat Candle Lighting for January 2017

The Charlotte Jewish News.

CONTENTS

Mazel Tov

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

JCRC Speaker Series Continues on January 26

Please join the JCRC for the second session of our 2017 Speaker Series on Thursday evening, January 26 in Sam Lerner Center for the Arts at 7 PM. We will be joined by guest speaker, Yotam Goren, who will discuss “Israel and the United Nations: The Challenges and Opportunities.”

Yotam Goren is an Israeli diplomat currently pursuing graduate studies at the Harvard Kennedy School. Goren joined the Israeli foreign ministry in 2010, followed by service in the embassy in Amman, Jordan and then the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN.

In Amman, Goren focused on regional cooperation and political analysis. At the UN, Yotam was elected as Vice Chair of the UN’s Budget and Administration committee and was further responsible for peacekeeping policy.

African bilateral and multilateral relations. In his capacity as chair of the UN Committee of Conferences and as a delegate to the UN Budget committee, Goren led the campaign to establish Yom Kippur as an official holiday at UN Headquarters in New York.

Goren was born in Jerusalem in 1981 and spent much of his childhood in the Riverdale neighborhood of New York City. Upon completion of a BA in International studies at the Johns Hopkins University in 2003, Yotam volunteered as a lone soldier in the IDF and served as a combat officer. This event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. Please RSVP to Tal Stein, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs at tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6751.

The 11th class is scheduled to launch in April 2017. Applications are available online at: www.jewishcharlotte.org.

Applications Available Now

To learn more and obtain an application, please contact Tair Giudice at tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759.

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Growing Pains: Young Jew Experiences Israel

By Michelle Brint

I never really experienced growing pains. I am 5’5” and my vertical prowess came slowly. But, no other words come to mind when I try to explain what it’s like for me to be a young Jew in Israel. Growing pains.

I am participating in a program called Tikun Olam through BINA Secular Yeshiva. I spend three days a week volunteering in a home for adults with lifelong disabilities, teaching English in a High School with a diverse student body, and working for an NGO called Windows Channels for Communication. I spend the other two weekdays in classes: talking about Torah, modern and historic Zionism, cultural Judaism, Israeli politics, and whatever else happens to be on the minds of those in the program with me. Aside from volunteering and learning I am participating in a MASA-GLI Fellowship focused on understanding different narratives of the conflict.

Without the Lerner Subsidy I wouldn’t be here. There is never a moment when I don’t have something to think about. Where I spend my time helps me consider what it means to be Jewish. My classes and volunteer placements help me to build a healthy relationship with Israel; one built on understanding and willingness to question. They have given me a greater appreciation for the communities, which helped, shape me. I am left with questions, and I am left questioning answers I used to have. I don’t always wake up well rested, but I do feel strength in parts of my identity, which have become stronger. Growing pains; so far, they seem to be worth it.

Michelle (on left) with some friends in the Old City.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University Community Trip to Germany and Poland

Embracing the opportunity to travel with the Charlotte Jewish community to Eastern Europe will connect you in a powerful way to the past, present, and future of our people. This summer, join the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice as we travel together through one thousand years of Jewish history.

Explore how Berlin has confronted its painful Holocaust memory through visits to the Holocaust Memorial, the Book Burning Memorial, and the Topography of Terror which was a documentation center where Nazi persecution and terror were located during the Third Reich. Experience a guided visit of the villa in Wannsee where plans for the Final Solution were solidified. Be moved at Gleis 17 (Track 17), a memorial commemorating the main deportation site of Berlin Jews.

In Warsaw, walk the path of remembrance through the Warsaw Ghetto, view the remnants of the Ghetto, visit the Nahim Rapoport Ghetto Memorial, and follow the footsteps of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes. At our stop in Krakow, connect to Jewish life that once thrived with an interactive program in the Kazimierz Jewish Quarter with stops at the Rema Synagogue and Cemetery, the Altshul (the oldest synagogue in Poland), the Temple (the first “Modern” Orthodox synagogue), the Galicia Jewish Museum, and the Oscar Schindler Factory Museum. Take time to figure out you affirm your commitment to moving forward and building up Jewish life by spending the better part of a day with a guided visit through the Auschwitz-Birkenau Complex – the infamous concentration and extermination camps that witnessed the depths and horrors of human tragedy.

A trip through Eastern Europe has many high points. Explore the Jewish life that existed in Berlin through a tour of the center of Berlin Jewry and the Jewish Cemetery. Awaken your awareness of the historic Jewish life of Warsaw through the Genszta Cemetery - one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in the world. Take in the beauty of Nozyck Synagogue, the last remaining pre-Holocaust synagogue in Warsaw. Discover your family roots at the Jewish Genealogy Center and explore the newly opened and award-winning Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Take some time to appreciate the historic and modern sites that each city has to offer from Berlin’s Checkpoint Charlie and Eastside Gallery (with outdoor paintings on the Berlin Wall) to Warsaw’s Palace of Science and Culture to Krakow’s Wavel Royal Castle and historic Market Square.

Celebrate the renewed Jewish life that is flourishing by enjoying a first Shabbat with the Berlin Jewish Community and a second Shabbat with members of the Krakow Jewish Community. Take pride in Germany’s Jewish revival as we visit Abraham Geiger College, the first liberal rabbinic seminary in Continental Europe since the Holocaust.

The trip will depart on June 15 and return on June 25. Da’at Educational Expeditions, our tour provider, has twenty-five years of experience in creating transformative Jewish travel. Learn from knowledgeable educators, historians, guides, and community leaders in each city. Talli Dippold’s experience in Holocaust education, Sue Worrell’s understanding of Jewish communities across the globe, and Rabbi Judy Schindler’s passion and skill for creating meaningful Jewish connections will make this a trip of a lifetime.

There will be an information session January 30 at 7 PM in the FSP Boardroom at Shalom Park. For more information contact Talli Dippold 704-847-3427.

*Gloria and Harry Lerner Family Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish young adults between the ages of 18-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

For more information, please contact Tal Stein, Director of Israel Affairs and Community Relations, 704.944.6751 or talstein@jewishcharlotte.org.

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Gloria & Harry Lerner Family Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish young adults between the ages of 13-19 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program.

Special thanks to Bill and Patty Gorelick and Harry and Gloria Lerner for their ongoing support and generosity.

For more information, please contact Tal Stein, Director of Israel Affairs and Community Relations, 704.944.6751 | talstein@jewishcharlotte.org

The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.
Main Event

Honorable Menschen

Bob and Ann Abel, Amy Augustine, Craig and Jill Balick, Sam and Rubina Batt, Michael and Meredith Baumstein, Milton and Arlene Berkman, Alan Kronovet and Cary Bernstein, Andrew and Elka Bernstein, Sam and Nancy Bernstein, Alan and Lee Blumenthal, David and Bonnie Bornstein, Stuart and Sarise Breidbart, Elliot and Melanie Brown, Larry and Tracy Brown, Steven and Olivia Cohen, Michael and Jill Dinerman, George and Stephanie DiPaolo, Slade and Stacey Goldstein, Jeff and Bari Gorelick, Todd and Stacy Gorelick, Russ and Julia Greenfield, Neil and Sharyn Handelsman, Thomas and Jeanne Huber, David Jacobson, Brian and Raizel Kahn, Harry and Gloria Lerner, Mark and Alison Lerner, Jerry and Barbara Levin, Ross and Jennifer Levin, Howard Levine and Julie Lerner Levine, Hal and Holly Levinson, Adam and Kimberly Levy, Harrison and Annie Lord, Gabe and Stephanie Mathiess, Gary and Jodi Michel, David and Rita Miller, Jeremy and Liz Naman, Rich Osborne, Floyd and Brenda Patten, Guy and Audrey Pearlman, Harold and Lyba Rousso, Michael Rousso and Chelsea Schilling, Jason and Jen Schwartz, Larry Schwartz, Zack and Sarah Schwartz, Linda Seigel, David and Julie Sheffer, Marc and Mattye Silverman, Eric and Lori Sklut, Oscar and Shana Suris, David and Debra Van Glish, Mark and Amy Vitter, Ron and Janice Weiner, Kim and Sue Worrel, Brian and Martha Yesowitch, Bill and Angie Zimmern

More from Federation’s Main Event
(Continued from page 1)

BBYO volunteers Kate Hader, Sophie Marx, Abby Meyers, and Eliza Weidner.

Joshua Malina and Sarah and Zack Schwartz.

Kim Wojnowich, Joshua Malina, and Marc Wojnowich.

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- Land-only cost includes one-way flight from Berlin to Warsaw (estimated rate)
- Train ticket from Warsaw to Krakow, with separate luggage transfer
- 1 group transfer and assistance to and from the airports
- All site entrance fees and program fees as per itinerary
- Meals: daily breakfast, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Porterage at the hotels

For more information contact Talli Dipppold
704.847.3427

Search by your tour name at daattravel.com to view full trip itinerary and highlights
True Friendship Knows No Distance or Boundaries

By Jessica Weil, Leadership2Gether Participant

A journey that started with an open mind and a new adventure, designed to pair American and Israeli Jewish counterparts initially through Skype. Not really knowing where this would lead, and what the end game was, it slowly developed into a deep friendship, and a different perspective on important Jewish topics and life itself. The focus of these discussions through Skype, scheduled once a month, was to encourage open dialogue around every day Jewish topics in our lives, a modern day “Pen Pal.”

After ten months of skinny and deep conversations about our very personal life experiences with our partners in our sister city, Hadera-Eiron, we developed a spiritual connection and friendship. The culmination of the program was a retreat in Chattanooga, TN where all the American and Israeli participants from the Southeast had an opportunity to meet in person for the first time. Before meeting, I had no real expectations other than finally having a chance to meet Maia, an amazing woman that I admire, and with whom I wish to continue developing our relationship. Upon arrival, Maia and I finally met in person and got to embrace each other as if we had been friends beyond the last ten months. We then had the opportunity to mingle with the rest of the group, have a drink and some food.

Next came our accommodations, not exactly what we were expecting. The room was a bunch of bunk beds that I thought I would love but instead was how little privacy we were going to have as such strangers, not to mention communal bathroom rooms. However, what happened in the next four days was magical. We learned each other’s sleeping habits, some chatted late nights, some went to bed early, others came in late from the bar giggling, we even shared some clothing and other things. It was just so beautiful to take a step back and watch us all blossom as a group.

The amazing Jewish community that we have in Chattanooga today has been a result of young leaders before us, coming together to provide a place for Jews where they can feel at home. With the hectic lives that we all lead, and in a society full of instant pleasures and ego-centric needs, we need to make sure we take care of our community. If there is one thing we can do today, it is to strengthen and nourish our community, a community where our children and grandchildren can excel and be proud of our collective Jewish history, and continue to share it with others.

Thank you to our Leadership2Gether Charlotte participants: Yael Osovski, Philip Schreidman, and Jessica Weil. Leadership2Gether is a program geared for young professionals, and just one of many that are part of The Jewish Agency’s Partnership2Gether program, which creates a living bridge between Charlotte as well as nine other Southeastern Jewish communities and the Hadera-Eiron region of Israel. Thanks to this partnership, the future of Charlotte’s relationship with Israel is stronger than ever.
A Year of Holidays with Jewish Family Services

As we wrap up the holiday season and begin the New Year, we can reflect on Jewish Family Services’ year of holiday programming. Jewish Family Services is proud to help our community celebrate Chanukah, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Thanksgivukkah.

This year is the eighth year of JFS Chanukah Gift Drive. Our community helps grant wishes to families in our community who would have difficulty purchasing gifts for their loved ones. The gifts that our clients are wishing for this season are written on dreidels and Jewish stars and distributed to our Shalom Park partners. When someone’s needs are barely being met, even receiving the smallest “just-for-fun” present can be pretty phenomenal. It is like the Angel Trees you may see around town … but with a Jewish “spin.” This year we received 171 gifts for 35 families. In addition, our Senior Chanukah party is an opportunity for our community’s seniors to celebrate together.

For Rosh Hashanah, our Jewish New Year, JFS distributes “taste of the holiday” bags. These bags include a honey cake, an apple, a little jar of honey, and a small round challah. The bags are given to isolated seniors in the community and some of our case management clients. Rabbi Weiss also visits some of our community seniors to blow the shofar each day of the High Holidays, assuring that they get to take part in the mitzvah. For seniors who can’t drive to temple and are too frail to close by to celebrate with this, this is the only opportunity they have to celebrate one of our holiest days.

Yom Kippur marks the end of the High Holidays when our community truly comes together in support of JFS. Temple Beth El’s LIBERTY youth group does a food drive for Second Harvest with some of the food coming to JFS, while Temple Israel does a congregational food drive solely for our pantry. Our pantry is never as well stocked as after these drives. At the end of Yom Kippur Rabbi Weiss visits our seniors and blows the shofar one final time for the High Holiday season.

Our “taste of the holiday” bags are given out again for Passover. This time the bags include: matzah, gefilte fish, Kedem grape juice, and a sweet that is Kosher for Passover. Many of the recipients of these bags would have no other way of receiving the kosher for Passover foods necessary to celebrate the holiday.

At Thanksgiving, JFS helps families in need celebrate a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. This year, thanks to Dale and Larry Polisky, we supplied 20 families with Thanksgiving meals that included a turkey with dressing, creamed corn, mashed potatoes, gravy, and cranberry sauce. Our community members were truly touched to have the help providing Thanksgiving to their families.

As the heart of our community, JFS is truly appreciative of our donors and supporters who help us to ensure members of our community are able to continue to celebrate holidays as traditions.

Jewish Family Services received the following donations for Tribute Cards in November 2016. Thank you for allowing JFS to honor your friends and loved ones.

IN MEMORY OF

Marvin Bernstein to Erlaine Bernstein from Adriane Hirsch
Kevin Klein to Gerry Yancy from Temple Solel of Fort Mill, SC
Gerd Ditesheim to Jeffery and Dana Ditesheim from Allan and Marcelle Oxman and Jonathan and Stephanie Simon
Ellen Dubin to Adina Barkinsky from The Askin Family, Douglas Kent Gentile, and George and Lois Schneider
Ted Goodman to Carol Goodman from Marion and David Kro-novet
Nancy Hodes to Jeffrey and Karen Turk from Gary and Donna Lerner, and Allan and Marcelle Oxman
Abe Lukis to Berta Strait from Lee and Alan Blumenthal and Amalia, Avi, Ory, and Ruthie Warsenbrot
Douglas Mann to Elliott Mann from Daniel and Nancy Coblenz Paul Ostrow to Paul and Carole Ostrow from Allan and Marcelle Oxman
Golda Schwartz to Eileen Schwartz from Ruth Brandt and William case
Rabbi Robert Alan Seigel to Tammy Seigel and Adam Bernstein from Marion and David Kro-novet
Harvey Tittel to Lori Tittel from Temple Solel of Fort Mill, SC
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Tara Benson from Jennifer Koss

Jennifer Golinsky from Jill Blumenthal, Rita Carey, Jennifer Koss, and Melissa Van Gish
Maddie Gorelick from Carol Gorelick
Michael Van Gish from David and Aileen Epstein
Celia Mandel from Audrey Bor- genicht
Dr. Barry Marshall from David and Aileen Epstein
Harriet Perlin from Elise Menachen and Marvin and Anita Shapiro
Ollie Polk from Marion and David Kronovet, Carolyn and Stuart Hennes, Marc and Mattye Silverman, Elise Menaker, Jack and Vera Mendel, Ed and Jill Newman, Larry and Dale Polsky, Mark and Linda Rothman, and Marvin and Anita Shapiro
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Dr. Barry and Linda Marshall’s anniversary from David and Aileen Epstein
Michael and Judy Van Gish’s anniversary from David and Aileen Epstein
IN APPRECIATION OF

Karen Knoble’s many years of leadership at JFS from Anna Bo-brow

Thank you to the following people who contributed their time to Jewish Family Services in November.

Volunteers: JoAnn Abdo, Rick Abrams, Leigh Altman & family, Chaim Burke, Jennifer Collman, Andrea Davenport, Sheryl Effern, Mel & Caren Frank, Robert Friedman, Jennifer Golinsky, Gail Halverson, Bob Jacobson, Eric Lerner, Matt Luftgass, David Miller, Frada Mozenter, Allan Oxman, Barbara Rein, Louis Sinkoe, Harry Sparks, Sara Stinemesser, Abd & Stacy Struck, Liz Walter, Adam Seigel, Jeff & Stacy Stroop, Mike Weinberg, Jan Weiner, Mary Wenny, and Nanci Wielenski
Food Pantry Donations: Temple Israel & Temple Beth El Congress-gants, Frada Mozenter, Dawn Huﬀs, Marilyn Schuster, and the Gan Class of Temple Israel Religious School
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Donations to Jewish Family Services in November 2016

Jewish Family Services recently sold more businesses in the world than anyone.*

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- David Swimmer

Photos (L to R): Harry Swimmer, founder of Swimmer Insurance and Mitzy Rider | Swimmer Insurance Today

*Source: Home Business Magazine & Accountant.com
Hebrew Cemetery Association: New Leadership, Same Commitments

By Mike Littauer, president, Hebrew Cemetery Association

Two short years ago it was my privilege and honor to join the professional and passionate board of trustees of the Hebrew Cemetery Association of Greater Charlotte. And it is with a profound sense of humility that I accept the honor of serving as President of the Hebrew Cemetery Association of Greater Charlotte for the next two years. I would like to thank the board and as such our community for their trust. They have placed in me and I will do all within my power to be worthy of their mandate.

Please join me and congratulate Brian Yesowitch, our immediate past president for his leadership and accomplishments during his tenure. Brian brought a unique passion and tremendous energy to the board that will he continue on executive committee.

Our plans for 2017 are focused on continuing to provide a respectful and solemn place of interment for our departed, a place of comfort for the bereaved, and a place of beauty and serenity for those visiting the graves of their loved ones or friends. We will continue to work closely with clergy from all of our area congregations to ensure their congregational needs are met. With the financial help of the Norman Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund and Greater Charlotte Jewish Federation’s Funeral Assistance Fund we will continue to provide for the funeral and burial needs of Jewish families in financial crisis. Our new Orthodox section is dedicated to providing the strict requirements of Orthodox burial laws, and we have opened a separate and dedicated section to provide the interment needs of our interfaith families.

Additional goals this year include building on our beautification process including partnering with Trees Charlotte and community volunteers to plant an additional 50 trees in the memorial park. This annual event is scheduled for February 12 and we look forward to seeing you there. Look for more information in the CJN as we get closer to that date. We also have plans for two new gardens and the planting of larger trees in the newer section. And through the generosity of Marc and Mattye Silverman we will dedicate the Silverman Circle that will include an awe inspiring sculpture and garden that will welcome visitors to our memorial park for generations to come.

A major initiative for 2017 is the implementation of a new cemetery management system that will allow our community better access to our database and grounds, more efficient management of cemetery assets and records, better access and GIS mapping, and remote access and back-up. This system will allow our cemetery staff to more efficiently serve our community and provide seamless processes and transitions as we all move forward.

My parents are interred in a Jewish Cemetery on the edge of the Everglades, home to peacocks, herons, osprey, eagles, and other wondrous wildlife. And yes, to alligators and snakes. I pass through the gates and I get anxious the way I did when I was about to see them when they were alive. I approach their tomb and read the familiar names on the other stones. My anxiousness turns to anticipation. I kiss their stone and begin the conversation. The conversation turns to Sue and my brother’s and sister’s families and for the first time in a long time the stress that’s accumulated since my last visit is gone. The conversation turns to me and I tell them I miss them and pray for their rest and peace every day. I think back to the good times and the lessons they taught me and my tears turn to sobs. I look up at the trees, gaze at the wildlife, I listen to the birds, I stare at their stone and I pray. I hate to leave. I fight leaving but I know it’s time to go. As I get up from the bench I’m overcome by a wave of tranquility, peace, and comfort as if they had enveloped me with their love. I promise I’ll be back.

I know that many in our community experience those some of those same emotions as they visit their departed. It is my hope that our cemetery provides that same comfort, serenity, and tranquility for all of our community and to know that our cemetery is as much for the living as it is for those departed.

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the Hebrew Cemetery of Greater Charlotte. I wonder what those handful of devout Jews who purchased this 11 acres in 1867 would think about our wonderful Jewish community and its cemetery today? Look for more information on our commemoration events and dedication of The Silverman Circle later in the year. And please contact Sandra Goldman, our director or me with your comments or suggestions as we move into 2017.
January Events at Moishe House

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

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

Event 1: South End Gallery Crawl + Food Truck Friday - Friday, January 6 at 7 PM at the Intersection of Camden Ave. and Park Rd. Charlotte, NC 28203

South End is always a buzz on the first Friday of every month as there is a Gallery Crawl and Food Truck Friday. Join your fellow Moishes to explore all of the galleries that South End has to offer. We’ll start at Food Truck Friday at the intersection of Camden and Park to fill our tummies, and then peruse the galleries.

Event 2: College Football National Championship Watch Party - Monday, January 9 at 8:30 PM at the Moishe House

Are you ready for some football? Join your fellow Moishes at the Moishe House for the climax of the college football season. The winners of the two semi-final games will face off and we will be watching with drinks and snacks. You may be tired Tuesday morning but a wise man once said, “you have to stay up late to roll with the big dogs.”

Event 3: Wine and Cheese - Thursday, January 12 at 7:15 PM at the Moishe House

Join us at the Moishe House for a super classy evening of wine and cheese. Moishe House Endorsed Realtor Andrew Rosen will also be doing a short presentation about a special young adult home ownership program.

Event 4: Trivia Night at Kennedy’s - Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 at Kennedy’s Premium Bar, 366 N. Caswell, Charlotte,

(Continued on page 26)

March For Love

By Linda Levy

Several hundred people of various faiths, ethnicities, and races participated in a “March for Love,” on Saturday, December 3 at Marshall Park. The event, which started at noon, began with a brief program of songs, poetry, and prayer. Speakers urged participants to take a pledge to be leaders, to associate with others that are different from you - forming a community that promotes extra compassion and leans into hope for a brighter tomorrow. Speakers included Rabbi Judith Schindler of the Stan Greenspan Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University; Susan Chernyak-Spatz, representatives from several churches, the gay community, and organizations such as Carolina Jews for Justice, and One Meck - an organization working to promote school diversity.

Following the presentations participants marched to lay flowers at the statues of Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and the Holocaust Memorial, all within or near Marshall Park. The flowers were left as a “tribute to those whose loving footsteps we continue to walk in today.”

Several representatives from the media, including The Charlotte Observer and television channels, covered the event. “Love, unity, compassion and hope” were the guiding themes of the grassroots March for Love. Organizers described the march as “a moving, tangible expression of the commitment to love in our community going forward.”

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What Makes Levine Hearing Different?

Music. A joy that we sometimes don't fully appreciate. I spend so much of my day explaining to patients why they aren't understanding words clearly, but rarely get past that topic to relate the joys and stimulation of hearing music correctly. A new patient reminded me this week of how satisfying it can be to hear a musical instrument with all the fullness that the crisp treble notes bring. In his own words, he was in "denial" for many years. He was “getting by” in his opinion, though his family felt very differently. At his checkup, he was impressed by how much easier it felt to be included in his family’s conversations, and he beamed as he told me he was communicating better with his grandchildren.

Still, it was his experience with music that left him in awe. Our brains are flexible and able to help us cope with many situations. When a person begins to lose their hearing, their brain starts to do double duty to cope with the world around it. When it is hard to understand someone, the brain goes on defense, saying, “they were mumbling and not looking right at you when they spoke”.

As environmental sounds become harder to hear, like footsteps on carpet, or the new, little birds in the nest outside your door, you don't miss them. They went so slowly and gently that you did not even know they were gone. But when a friend shares that a family member is ill and you smile and nod because you misheard what they said, the embarrassment finally brings the realization home. Missing soft sounds is not benign. In fact, even a mild hearing loss may increase the risk of falling and of dementia as your brain’s focus and energy are pulled away from other parts of the brain.

Hearing aids are worn by all ages, discreetly, and happily. Today’s hearing aids are tiny and can connect to a smartphone for Bluetooth phone calls, or they can connect to the television to stream the sound directly to both ears. The solution must fit the person and their needs. I love my job. I love helping people hear better. I invite you come in for a free hearing consultation in my privately owned, local practice to see what better hearing care looks like.
The Wing Span of the Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project

More than eight years have passed since the Levine JCC embarked on the wonderful journey of the Butterfly Project, between 2008 and the time the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial was dedicated at Shalom Park in May 2011, approximately 3,000 butterflies were painted by the Charlotte community in memory of children who died in the Holocaust.

Now in its sixth year of presenting its in-house workshops, the Levine JCC Butterfly Project continues to be successful in so many ways.

As of today, more than 25,500 ceramic butterflies have been painted in Charlotte – meaning that more than 25,500 specific children have been remembered. While the number of people participating in some form of the workshops is impressive, as is the impact the project is making on its participants, it is the far reach of the Butterfly Project workshops that is truly notable.

Since its inception, the Levine JCC Butterfly Project has reached people in every corner of the greater Charlotte area – in both North Carolina and South Carolina from so many different types of organizations. The 128 organizations that have participated in the workshop to date are broken down as follows: 37 schools in CMS 19 religious organizations (temples, churches, Hebrew High, etc.) 12 LJCC Programs (camp, teens, seniors, etc.) 11 Independent Schools 9 schools from Union County 8 schools from Fort Mill 8 Charter Schools 7 schools from Gaston County 6 miscellaneous organizations (preschool, university, library, museum, etc.) 4 senior residences 3 schools from Cabarrus County 2 schools from Lincoln County 1 school from York County 1 school from the Rowan-Salishbury School System

While the greatest number of participants comes from the geographical area of the school district in which the Levine JCC is located, the reach extends far beyond that. Four of the participating organizations are located more than 100 miles from Shalom Park, including campers from Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA (215 miles away), who participated during four consecutive summers.

Groups that have participated are located in Belmont, Charlotte, Concord, Cornelius, Cramerton, Dallas, Davidson, Fort Mill, Greensboro, Harrisburg, Hendersonville, Huntersville, Indian Trail, Iron Station, Lake Wylie, Landis, Lincolnton, Marshallville, Mint Hill, Monroe, Rock Hill, Sanford, Tega Cay, Waxhaw, and Weddington.

The Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project has been so successful due to the generosity of so many community members. Holocaust survivors Irving Bienstock and Suly Chenkin donate hours upon hours of their time each year. During the 2016-17 academic year, one of the two of them will speak at each of the 74 workshops currently scheduled. Their shared experiences are often the highlight of the workshops for many students.

After students learn about the story they tell, they ask many thought-provoking questions, all of which are enthusiastically answered in detail. There are not enough ways to thank Irving and Suly for their dedication to the Butterfly Project.


Due to the generosity of our many financial donors, we are pleased to announce that, this spring, butterflies will be applied to the remaining two sets of “wings” of the Children’s Holocaust Memorial Sculpture in the Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden.

The purpose of the Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project is to help today’s youth examine the past in order to understand what can happen when individuals and governments fail to take a stand against injustice. The goal is that students implement what they have learned at a Butterfly Project workshop into their daily lives, so that, ultimately, they can better understand how to interrupt hateful behaviors in their schools, communities, societies, and beyond. Not only are we reaching that goal, but we are doing so for thousands of students, in eight counties, across two states. That’s quite a wing span.

For more information about the Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project or to volunteer, please contact Butterfly Project Supervisor, Lori Semel, at butterflyproject@jcc.org or 704-944-6833, or visit our website at charlottejcc.org.

Additional information can be found at butterflyproject@jcc.org.
Levine JCC Celebrates 30th Annual Meeting
Honors Past Presidents

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community was held October 19. The evening began with a beautiful cocktail celebration honoring the LJCC Past Presidents, Donors, and Distinctive Members. Elise Kosofsky, served as Chair of the event at which attendees took a moment to pause and reflect upon the growth and development of the JCC over the past 30 years. The evening was a celebration of the LJCC Past Presidents, who had dedicated their time, energy, and passion to ensuring that the “J” made a positive impact on the lives of our community and the Park as leaders of the “J.”

Harry Swimmer gave an inspiring D’Var Torah, completely mesmerizing all as he told the story of the creation of Shalom Park from idea, to concept, to reality. Harry shared personal stories of the many leaders who took us from the Amity Club to Shalom Park and pushed us all to ensure the vision remains a reality.

Board President, Jon Simon, spoke of the past year’s accomplishments; the LJCC BOD Governance Task Force, the 5th Annual Kids Triathlon, the Butterfly Project’s national award, the Capital Campaigns success, refurbishing of the Family Locker Rooms, and groundbreaking of the new Pool. Jon noted the incredible staff of the “J,” celebrated the volunteers, and thanked the LJCC Board. In looking to the future, Jon spoke of the upcoming expansion of Social Action, Adult, and Cultural Arts programs, of continued work to ensure that our children and grandchildren always have Jewish experiences and relationships, and the focus on the “J” as a place for wellness, physical, social, intellectual and spiritual, where relationships with the Jewish community and Judaism evolve. Jon thanked Peter, the board, staff, and members of the community for their unceasing support.

Peter Blair, CEO, gave a speech about the vision and mission of the Levine JCC 30 years ago, presently, and 30 years into the future. He spoke of the persistent need to design a dynamic and rewarding Jewish experience in this community. Peter noted the importance of ensuring constructive and harmonious relationships in this community exist and are nurtured. He asked the question: “When you vision 2046 in our community, what do you see?” Noting that the J will continue to be relevant by “putting the J at the center” in its strategic decision-making and pressed those in attendance to think about what role they would play in the next chapter of the Levine JCC’s story. The message was clear and those in attendance left excited to write the message was clear and those in attendance left excited to write the next chapter in what will be a long story of the Levine JCC. The story remains a reality.

Outgoing Board Officers and Directors were thanked for their service: Michael Bauman, Jonathan Brackis, Jeremy Davids, Penny Lipsitz, and Larry Schwartz. The Nominating Committee Chair, Elise Kosofsky, presented the slate of candidates for the upcoming election. Jon thanked Peter Blair, who will serve as Chair of JBuild Capital Campaign.

Peter Blair expressed his appreciation of the value, importance and commitment of the staff to the LJCC, when presenting staff awards including: Outstanding Service Award: Sol Levine, Larry Gerber, Mike Van Glish, Hal Levinson, Gene Dau­mit, Eric Sklut, Scott Menaker, Lane Ostrow, Phil Berman, Roni Fishkin, Judy August, Larry Schwartz, David Van Glish, and Elise Kosofsky (↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑­ Deceased)

Lauren Althofer was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Lauren, served as a “J” Board member, Board liaison to CJP, and volunteer for the Kids Triathlon and Purim Carnival. Roni Fishkin, Past President of the “J,” received the coveted President and Executive Director’s Award for passion, dedication, and tireless efforts as Chair of JBuild Capital Campaign.

(Continued on page 11)
January is a Great Month to Plan a Wedding

By Kelly Reed Keeling

There are endless details associated with planning a wedding, but the biggest obstacle is finding a location. Once the location is decided, a lot of other pieces involved in planning fall into place. Fortunately, Shalom Park has many catering partners and vendors to help make wedding planning a breeze. Couples choosing Shalom Park as the venue for their wedding find a perfect blend of beauty, convenience, value, and service.

From the moment wedding guests enter Shalom Park, guests are impressed by the tree-lined drive and ample surface and garage parking. What a perfect first impression! As guests enter the lobby and stroll Main Street, the Maurice and Evelyn Schaller crystal collection exudes elegance.

Shalom Park, managed by the Foundation of Shalom Park, has two beautifully appointed reception halls, Gorelick Hall with a seating capacity of 200 (or 150 with a dance floor) and Sam Lerner Center with a capacity of 300 (or 250 with a dance floor). A variety of seating arrangements are possible for plated or banquet meals. Both reception halls offer the latest in AV technology with projectors and screens.

Recently, Charlotte wedding planners discovered that Shalom Park is the perfect location not only for the reception, but also for the ceremony itself. In 2016, Anna Meerovich and Arthur Midgett were married in the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden. Rabbi Shlomo Cohen officiated the service. Charming flower girls led the procession for this outdoor wedding, and Ms. Meerovich carried fresh-cut peonies in her bouquet. A reception followed in Sam Lerner Center, where beautiful flowers adorned the tables. Rabbi Cohen thought the occasion so lovely that his own daughter will be married in the Butterfly Garden in 2017. Are you, a friend or a loved one looking for a venue for a wedding? Contact Jay Parton, Operations Manager of the Foundation of Shalom Park, at jparton@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-944-6842. Jay will be happy to explain all the options offered by the Foundation of Shalom Park and give a tour. Jay and his staff strive to make wedding planning stress-free and enjoyable for families and their guests. For weddings large and small, the Foundation of Shalom Park is the perfect place to make memories.

Photos by Saul Mark Photography.
PJ LIBRARY
SUPERHERO
MITZVAH MANIA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017
10:00 - 12:00 PM | GORELICK HALL

Come dressed as your favorite superhero and get ready to use your super powers to do some good for the community!

Join us for Storytime with Ms. Debby, Mask Decorating & Mitzvah Crafts

Superhero Dance Party & Superhero Photo Opportunity
Parents, please remember to bring your cameras

Cost: FREE, however, space is limited. Register at www.NEXTGENCharlotte.org

Questions? Contact Tair Giudice, 704.944.6759, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org
Hebrew Highlights

By Roz Cooper

We’re off and running for the 5777 Hebrew High season. First trimester classes were fun and educational. Our theme of “Loving Jewish” led students down many paths of learning—from cooking to photography to thinking about tzedaka outside of the box. The teens found their freedom to express themselves through art, poetry, and especially through lively conversation.

Following are some highlights of this session:

* The eighth grade core classes joined forces to learn about Judaism’s long legacy of caring for the environment.
* A large number of parents have joined our PTO. That means that we can offer more special programs, enhance holiday celebrations, and the quality of our classes. For those who have not yet joined, please send a $25 check to the CHS office and mark it PTO.
* New program – Better Together – brings vibrant seniors and our ninth and tenth graders together to learn about and from each other. This group is exploring the arts through slam poetry, music, and the visual arts. They went on a field trip to the Mint Museum this month.
* We have an amazing student council, with new leadership, members from all of our classes, and lots of fresh ideas. These students are our ambassadors to the community, helping at community events, spearheading tzedaka projects, and leading the school in ruach (spirit). They have been busy planning a fun Hanukkah celebration for the entire student body.
* Great pizza nights! Monthly pizza dinners that serve as the basis of our tzedaka program. Come eat pizza for a good cause.

* Don’t miss the Hebrew High bulletin board. It features creations from our “Jewish Lens” class. Students combined their own photos with commercially produced pictures of Israel to make an interesting and highly personal display. Take a peak and see if you can figure out which part of each montage was taken at Hebrew High.

* Hebrew High was a proud sponsor of the “Up All Night for Israel” program, where students from all of the Jewish youth organizations at Shalom Park spent the entire evening (till 8 AM) learning about Israel, dancing, having fun, and connecting to the Jewish homeland. A highlight of the event was the limo ride around Charlotte while stopping for an Israel themed scavenger hunt.

We are so thankful to our families and the time and effort that they put in to helping Hebrew High be successful. If you haven’t joined the PTO yet, please send your $25 check to the office. PTO funds make our holiday celebrations extra special, and allow us to participate in community programs that enrich our students’ Jewish lives.

Thanks for the snacks, the driving and the support for our school.
BBYO Honors Gamechangers at Global Shabbat

On Friday December 2, Charlotte BBYO honored local hero Harry Swimmer and renowned television and radio personality Larry King as part of their Global Shabbat program. BBYO chapters from the United States to the Balkans and everywhere in between took part in Global Shabbat 2016, hosting simultaneous Shabbat programs as one united movement. This year, AZA and BBG celebrated Global Shabbat under the shared theme of “Being a Gamechanger,” for which BBYO teen leaders invited #gamechangers – including Swimmer and King – to enjoy Shabbat with them.

The evening began with services led by BBYO members Sammy Yass, Alana Markel, and Charlie Kapustin and followed by inspiring words of wisdom from two tremendous leaders. Swimmer, founder of Mitey Riders and a CNN Heroes finalist, spoke to teens and their families about following his passions, first in helping raise funds to build Shalom Park and later when he founded his equine therapy program for disabled children.

King, a Peabody award-winning journalist, emphasized values such as perseverance, giving back, and being yourself.

“The secret to success is that there is no secret,” King explained to nearly 250 teens and families.

“Just be yourself.”

King also stressed the importance of having a sense of humor - a quality he exemplified throughout his remarks. Several jokes were peppered with more serious examples of how Jews have used humor throughout history. “Many Holocaust survivors I’ve interviewed cited their humor as a way they survived,” King explained.

At the end of the evening, both Swimmer and King were made honorary lifetime members of BBYO. AZA Presidents Jason Dermack and Jake Morgan presented them with initiation pins and certificates.

Many thanks to Jamie Bryan and Sara Abadi, co-City Directors of Charlotte BBYO for their leadership on Global Shabbat.

For more information about BBYO, visit www.bbyo.org or email charlotte@bbyo.org.

“Imagination is the highest kite one can fly.”

– Lauren Bacall
JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE ALLOCATES $3,699,079*

IT’S ALWAYS SOMETHING. THAT’S WHY THERE’S FEDERATION.

Faced with the responsibility and challenge of effectively distributing funds, the 2017 Allocations Committee (see below), under the leadership of Ira Slomka and Ron Townsend worked conscientiously and tirelessly to insure a thorough and impactful allocations process.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2017 LOCAL BENEFICIARY AGENCIES</th>
<th>2017 ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE</th>
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<td><strong>2017 FEDERATION CAMPAIGN ALLOCATIONS $3,699,079</strong>* <strong>(total amount net of campaign shrinkage and reserves)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Co-Chairs: Ira Slomka and Ron Townsend</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anti-Defamation League</strong></td>
<td><strong>Amy Augustine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ballantyne Jewish Center</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jill Balick</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Birthright</strong></td>
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<td><strong>B’nai B’rith Youth Organization</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Butterfly Project</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Charlottesville Community Agencies</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Charlotte Jewish Film Festival</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Charlotte Jewish Preschool</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friendship Circle</strong></td>
<td><strong>Larry Schwartz</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hebrew Cemetery</strong></td>
<td><strong>Zack Schwartz</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hebrew Cemetery Funeral Assistance Fund</strong></td>
<td><strong>David Sheffer</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Holocaust Education Loan Fund</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jeff Turk</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bill Zimmern</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jewish Education Loan Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jewish Preschool on Sards</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Holocaust Educational Workshops and Displays for Public and Private School Teachers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>North Carolina Council on the Holocaust</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ZAB’S Place</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Supplemental Gifts and Special Distributions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Israel and Overseas</strong></td>
<td><strong>$919,460</strong></td>
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Israel and Overseas

Meets the needs of Jews in Israel and world-wide through the Jewish Federations of North America. As a community, Charlotte is able to designate $353,000 of our overseas allocation

- Ahari-Givat Olga
- Chabad Chessed Center
- Community Shalosh
- Education for Excellence
- Ethiopian National Project
- Gidon Association
- Hadera Young Adult Center
- Hand in Hand: Jewish-Arab Education
- IHS
- JAFI: Ulpanim in Ukraine
- JDC
- JDC - FSU Welfare
- JDC: Supported Housing Hadera
- Kireno Binyan
- Nave Michael Children’s Village
- PartnershipGoether - Hadera Elron
- Talpiot: Community For its Children
- Techno
- Uplift Mowasavit Baruch
- World Orts
- Yerucham Association

www.charlottejewish.org
January 2017

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS
Call 704-366-5007 OR Visit the Levine JCC
Customer Service Desk

Early Childhood

JChildcare
7 weeks - 7 years old
Children will enjoy a nurturing environment to explore and have fun with crafts and activities, while parents workout.
Mon-Fri AM............. 8am-1pm
Mon-Thu PM............ 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday................ 12pm-3pm
Sunday.................. 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/$4.50 NM/$5.50

Reservations Required 704-366-5007, or visit JCC’s customer service desk.

Spanish for Preschoolers
3.5 - 5 year olds
Children will learn Spanish through the Foreign Language League’s interactive full-immersion method. All teachers are bilingual, native to the language they are teaching, certified, and follow a fun curriculum.
Wednesdays, 1:15-2pm
January 4 – February 22
Family Place
M/$120 B/$89 NM/$144

Music and Me
8 months – 2 year olds
Interactive music and age-appropriate movement for parent or caregiver and baby/toddler.
January 9 – February 13
LJCC Family Place
M/$75 B/$50 NM/$90

Grades K-5

J STEPS Dance Explosion
Boys and girls will enjoy an active and fun class that will give a diverse education in all styles of dance, including jazz, hip hop, tap, and ballet. Ballet/Jazz and tap shoes required.
Mondays, 4-5pm
January 9 – May 22
M/$90 B/$30 NM/$60 per month

 screenings of

Sunday, Jan 29 @ 1:15pm
Register at LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007 or charlottejcc.org
Q? Jessie.Cohen@charlottejcc.org

2017 MACCABI GAMES
Birmingham, AL
Sun, July 30 – Fri, August 4

Your chance to represent your family, your JCC and our local culture. Compete in Basketball • Golf • Flag Football • Soccer • Swimming • Dance • Volleyball • Tennis • Track & Field • Softball • Table Tennis & more...

For more information visit
www.charlottejcc.org/teama Carolina
or reach out to Team Carolina Delegation Contact Stephanie Garner 704-944-6743
Stephanie.Garner@charlottejcc.org

LADIES’ NIGHT OUT
FITNESS PARTY!
JAN 25 • 6:30-8:30PM
Dance To The Decades
with Karen Wielinkst!
Ages 21+ Join us for the perfect mix of socializing, a fun workout, healthy food, wine and door prizes. Proceeds to benefit the LJCC Oasis Senior Enrichment Program. Member: $20 Bring a friend for $10!
Register at LJCC Customer Service by 1/20.
Q? Robin.Stiler@charlottejcc.org

FINANCIAL PLANNING SAVING FOR COLLEGE
with Court Creeden, founder of Parent Financial
Sun, Jan 29 • 9:30 AM
Questions? 704-944-6739
jessie.cohen@charlottejcc.org

FENCING CLASS

K-5th Grade

Wed PM Sessions
Develop good coordination, balance and flexibility. An ideal means of keeping fit for all ages and abilities.
INSTRUCTOR: Julia Tikhonova

WINTER Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm
Jan 4 - Feb 22
(8 weeks) M/$160 B/$96 NM/$200
Saturday 6:30-7:30pm
Jan 7 - Mar 4
(9 weeks, no class 2/11) M/$160 B/$96 NM/$220

SPRING Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm
Mar 8 - May 24
(11 weeks, no class 4/21) M/$220 B/$132 NM/$275
Saturday 6:30-7:30pm
Mar 8 - May 24
(9 weeks, no class 4/15) M/$180 B/$110 NM/$225

Private Lessons available by appointment.
Contact Stephanie Garner 704-944-6743
stephanie.garner@charlottejcc.org

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

Red Cross CPR/First Aid Course

6th–10th Grade
January 16th, 9am–4pm
M/S108 B/S108 NM/S110
Register by stopping or calling the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007

Mitzvah Program

6th–8th Grade
A great way to earn Community Service Hours. Drop-off and pick-up at the LJCC Teen Lounge. Pizza lunch included.
January 24 – Trip to Bright Blessings
10am–1pm
M/S6 B/S8 &/FREE
Register by stopping or calling the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007

SHIPP

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

Adults

Adult Fencing Class Ages 18+
Students will be introduced to the skills of fencing. Fencers develop good coordination, balance and flexibility which makes this training an ideal means of keeping fit for all ages and abilities. Basic equipment will be provided.

Wednesdays, 7:30–8:30pm
January 4 – February 22
M/S100 B/S108 NM/S228

Ballroom Dancing

Adults 21+

Adults 21+

Bring a partner and learn the basics of the Fox Trot, Waltz, Swing, and the Cha Cha. Maybe Dancing with the Stars is in your future! Must bring a partner.

Thursdays, 7–8pm
January 12 – March 2
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio
Instructor: Bob Peltzer
M/S100 B/S100 NM/S120

It’s a Novel Thing!

LJCC & Levine-Sklut Judaic Library Adult Book Club
Join us for this informal yet thought-provoking opportunity to share your love of fiction. Group discussions will be facilitated.

3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:30am • Free
For more information or location, contact the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at 704-944-6790

Writing Class: Tales to Treasure - How to Discover and Write Compelling Family Stories

Adults 21+

Tuesdays, 7–8pm • March 7 – 28 (4 classes)
Room A110 • Instructor: Dana Kumerow
M/S14 B/S14 NM/S10
Register with LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007 by Thursday, March 2, 704-944-6793 or shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Painting & Beyond Art Class

Adults 50+

Ignite your creativity, and learn from an art instructor. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Mondays of the month
10-11:30am • Room A110
Oasis/M $5 per class • NM $10 per class
Register with LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

Tai Chi/Qigong

Adults 50+

Improve your strength, balance and flexibility through this gentle form of fitness. Intermediate Level • Ongoing
Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm
Beginner Level • Ongoing
Tuesdays, 1–2pm
Oasis/M $30 B $20 NM $42 per month
Drop-in fee: M/B $12 per class • NM $14 per class

LJCC Department Directory

Membership
Susan Lerner 704-944-6741
susan.lerner@charlottejcc.org

Early Childhood
Patty Torcelli 704-944-6691
patty.torcelli@charlottejcc.org

K-5th Grade Programs
Milch Ormand 704-944-6733
milch.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 Garnier 704-944-6743
stephanie.garnier@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
Maxine Serrano 704-944-6726
maxine.serrano@charlottejcc.org

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

* An annual administration fee of $25 per individual or $35 per family is required for non-member participation in programs and services.
YOTAM GOREN  
January 26: *Israel and the U.N. - Challenges and Opportunities*

Yotam Goren is an Israeli diplomat currently pursuing graduate studies at the Harvard Kennedy School. Yotam joined the Israeli foreign ministry in 2010, serving in the North America Division in Jerusalem followed by service in the embassy in Amman and the Permanent Mission of Israel to the U.N.

RALPH NURNBERGER  
February 28: *The Election is Over: Now What?*
What can our community expect from America’s next President and new administration?  
Dr. Ralph Nurnberger, a professor of International Relations at Georgetown University, is a widely acclaimed speaker who brings humor, current political insights and historical background to his presentations and analysis of political and international issues including American politics and the Middle East.

MICAH HALPERN  
March 23: *Regional Turmoil Challenge: Influence of ISIS on Palestinian Israeli Conflict and Israeli Arab Minority*

Micah Halpern, a syndicated columnist, is also a well-known social and political commentator, educator, and historian. An expert on terrorism, Halpern has been invited for consultations in the White House with terror analysts and has addressed conferences sponsored by the Justice Department.

TBA: Federation Annual Meeting, May 22  
2017 JCRC Annual Fall Lecture

*All events are free and open to the community.*

For more information, please contact Tal Stein, Director of Community Relations & Israel Affairs, 704.944.6751 or tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org.

WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG
SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Havurat Tikvah Welcomes Community Shaliach

Havurat Tikvah will host an evening with the Charlotte Jewish community’s new shaliach, Inbal Ozeri, on January 28, 7:30 PM, at a member’s home (location to be available online).

In preparation for the event, attendees will be invited to bring a funny story or joke to share that is an example of American or Southern Jewish humor.

Ozeri, 22, was raised in a small community just northeast of Tel Aviv, Israel. She served in the Israel Defense Forces as a network administrator where she specialized in computer management. She was most recently located in Petah Tikva at the Gan VaNoF Youth Village. The village supports disadvantaged youth through intervention so that they are able to learn and grow into productive adults. Gan VaNoF is part of Women’s International Zionist Organization, an international organization which began in the UK in 1920, and continues to foster women and their families. It is a volunteer group run by women for women.

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

We value and depend upon membership 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@havuratikvah.org or visit havuratikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havuratikvah/.

Inbal Ozeri

**Summer is (already) Calling You Back!**

**Summer Camps for All Ages and Interests at Levine JCC**

**Camp Mindy 2017**

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

**PRE-SCHOOL**
Parent/Child • Half or Full-day

**GRADES K-5**
Traditional • Sports or Art Focus • Performing Arts

**TEENS**
Traditional • Day Trips • Leadership

**LJCC SUMMER SPECIALTY SPORTS CAMPS**

- Ronaldo Turnbull Flag Football: 7-12 yrs • June 12-16
- Boys Turn and Bern Lacrosse: 7-14 yrs • July 24-28
- Ruff Cut Baseball w/Chris Murphy: 7-14 yrs • July 31-Aug 4
- Dell Curry Basketball: 8-16 yrs • August 7-10
- Charlotte United Football Club (UFC) Soccer Skills: 6-12 yrs • August 14-18

**JCC CRUSH** Weekly Tennis Camps (6-18 yrs) Half or Full-day June 12 thru Aug 11

**Save Your Spot...**

**REGISTER EARLY!**

**MEMBER REG. BEGINS**
Sun, January 8, 2017 • 9-11am
Weinberg Center, LJCC

**ONLINE MEMBER REGISTRATION**
Opens Monday, January 9

**704-366-5007 • charlottejcc.org/camp**

**NON-MEMBERS**
Wed., February 1 • 9am-5pm
Eric Sklut Administration Building, Camp Mindy

*SPORTS CAMPS – Online Registration Only*

By Andrea Kaplan

It was a busy and fun month for Temple Kol Tikvah religious school students. In November, they were privileged to have a visit from their Institute of Southern Jewish Life fellow Rachel Fraade. It was a special treat to have her in town. Rachel worked with the students on a Thanksgiving themed program. The younger children discussed Jewish themes present in Thanksgiving. They brainstormed about Jewish holidays that also have big holiday meals. The pre-k through 3rd grade children ended their session by creating a cornucopia. They wrote and drew pictures of things they were thankful for and filled the cornucopia with them.

The 4th through 7th grade students had a more in-depth discussion about the similarities between Native Americans and Jewish culture and people. Thank you, Rachel, for a wonderful program that was meaningful for all students.

In the beginning of December, the Sisterhood once again sponsored an amazing Chanukah program for pre-k through 1st grade students at Barnes and Noble. Maxine Har- gus is always a hit with the kids and this year was no different. She arrived dressed up as an adorable dog and read the book Latke the Lucky Dog by Ellen Fischer to her audience of kids. They loved it! After a discussion of the book, the children made a menorah out of scrap book paper and popcorn sticks. It was a wonderful opportunity for this age group to gather together and learn more about Chanukah in a fun and interactive way. A portion of the sales from books that parents purchased that day were donated to Temple Kol Tikvah. Thank you, Sisterhood, for organizing another great event at Barnes and Noble.

Connor Waffle age 6 made this menorah at a recent Chanukah story time at Barnes and Noble sponsored by the Temple Kol Tikvah sisterhood.

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Building Bridges
By Herman Ziegler, Temple Beth El
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and Parade, Saturday, January 14

In the year 2000, Temple Beth El reached out to the fragile Grier Heights community to see how we could provide assistance and create fellowship with the people in that neighborhood. The results led to an incredible relationship with participation in several projects and the beginning of a robust Social Action outreach that continues to this day.

Every year on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, thousands of people gather to remember the great civil rights leader with a parade in uptown Charlotte. For the last 16 years, Temple Beth El has participated in this parade with Grier Heights Presbyterian Church and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Last year, we began a new tradition when Temple Beth El celebrated the day with a pre-parade Interfaith Shabbat Service at First Methodist Church in uptown Charlotte. We will hold the service again this year from 9-9:45 AM. The parade will start at 11 AM at 9th and N. Tryon Streets and proceed to MLK, Jr. Blvd. Transportation is always provided back to the start of the parade.

It is more important now than ever to build fellowship with our neighbors and unite with other houses of worship. Since the beginning of this collaboration, TBE has upheld a pact for “Building Bridges” as we have marched hand in hand with our neighbors in Grier Heights as a symbol of solidarity. Our participation, presence and activity around this event have grown. For the third year, we will have our float, “Building Bridges,” in the parade, along with the marchers. As we join with Grier Heights Presbyterian and Antioch Missionary Baptist’s congregants and youth groups, this is a great opportunity for anyone in the Jewish Community and others to show their support for the Grier Heights community. Come join us on Saturday, January 14 (9 AM Interfaith Shabbat Service, 11 AM MLK, Jr. Parade).

JLI’s The Dilemma Starts on January 31

It happens every so often that you read a news story, observe a case, or hear of a dilemma, that grips you, forcing you to consider right versus wrong, and justice versus injustice. As people with an internal moral compass and an inner sense of fairness, we are well equipped to delve into these matters to discuss and debate these issues with those who have differing viewpoints. To develop a deep and meaningful discourse precisely for this reason, The Jewish Learning Institute of Charlotte is launching “The Dilemma,” a brand new winter course on January 31. “The Dilemma” will provide a platform to explore, discuss and debate six modern and gripping legal-ethical dilemmas with intersecting moral imperatives. To deepen the conversation, we will explore not only contemporary viewpoints, but also examine perspectives from the foundation of Jewish wisdom, the Talmud. Using the time-tested method of guided study, students will partner with each other to sift through texts, evaluate relevance, and determine applicability, with the goal of issuing a robust and elegant legal verdict to modern real-world case studies. The Talmud is a compendium of Jewish legal and moral scholarship, transmitted, debated, and preserved through the ages. It serves as a fountain of insight, guidance, and inspiration in the development of Judaism’s inner life, and it is the foundation of Judaism’s principled jurisprudence in constructing a just and loving world. The Talmud positions itself to help solve the dilemmas that arise from conflicting legal and moral claims. This is because the Talmud seeks not only the right answers, but also the right questions; because it asks not only what, but also why; because it rejects the incoherent and embraces the coherent while standing humbly in the presence of mystery; and because it is willing to suppose, imagine, and test the boundaries of the intellect.

Here are a couple of sample cases addressed in the course:

**Case #1:** On a hot day in July 2016, a group of young men on Chicago’s West Side broke into a pickup truck and stole a laptop. Unbeknownst to the thieves, there was a dog in the car that might have died in the heat had they not broken the window. The car was parked for about an hour before the owner’s return, long enough to cause heatstroke in pets according to the American Veterinary Medical Association. All would agree that the laptop must be returned, but should the thieves be prosecuted for breaking the window? Should they compensate the owner for the broken window? Should they be rewarded for saving the dog? Should criminals be rewarded or at least not punished for malicious and debatable actions? Should they be rewarded for saving the innocent driver? Should they be rewarded for saving millions of miles every day on highways across the world, collecting information, and sending it back to a huge central database. This, in turn, will make autonomous driving for all a thing of the not-too-distant future. When designing such technology, engineers face moral questions that rarely arise in real life. Suppose the car is fast approaching a tunnel entrance when its braking mechanism fails. Suppose an innocent person has tripped and is lying across the entrance, blocking the tunnel. Should the car be designed to move forward and kill the innocent person or swerve into the tunnel wall and kill the innocent driver? Should the engineers program the car to choose based on age or number of victims? Suppose the car could plow forward into multiple victims or swerve to the side to kill one previously unconsidered victim. Should one person die to save many?

**Case #2:** Tesla Motors, a US-based electric car company, introduced autopilot driving to its electric cars. These cars are driving millions of miles every day on highways across the world, collecting information, and sending it back to a huge central database. This, in turn, will make autonomous driving for all a thing of the not-too-distant future. When designing such technology, engineers face moral questions that rarely arise in real life. Suppose the car is fast approaching a tunnel entrance when its braking mechanism fails. Suppose an innocent person has tripped and is lying across the entrance, blocking the tunnel. Should the car be designed to move forward and kill the innocent person or swerve into the tunnel wall and kill the innocent driver? Should the engineers program the car to choose based on the not-too-distant future. When designing such technology, engineers face moral questions that rarely arise in real life. Suppose the car is fast approaching a tunnel entrance when its braking mechanism fails. Suppose an innocent person has tripped and is lying across the entrance, blocking the tunnel. Should the car be designed to move forward and kill the innocent person or swerve into the tunnel wall and kill the innocent driver? Should the engineers program the car to choose based on age or number of victims? Suppose the car could plow forward into multiple victims or swerve to the side to kill one previously unconsidered victim. Should one person die to save many?

Be sure to sign up for this course to enjoy Talmudic study, 21st Century style. Classes begin on Tuesday, January 31 at 7:30 PM or Wednesday, February 1, at 11 AM. Classes are held at Lubavitch Educational Center, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28217. CLE credits are available for attorneys; additional fee applies. Please call 704-366-3984 for more information or email jli@chabadnc.org.
Summer 2017 - Four Weeks of CGI
Ballantyne

A Jewish summer camp conveniently located right near you in Ballantyne. With the help of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, our fourth summer season is off to a great start.

Our camp is part of the fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world. Camp Gan Israel enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trend setter in Jewish camping with innovative ideas and creative programs being introduced continuously. Your child will want all year to come back to camp! Campers enjoy a wide range of exciting activities and field trips in a warm, caring environment, cultivating pride and love for the Jewish heritage.

The mission of CGI is to instill Jewish values in children of all Jewish backgrounds and all levels of observance. Our camp program and activities are imbued with Jewish ambiance and culture. Challah baking, stories, Israeli dance, drama, Jewish and Hebrew songs, group discussions, and beautiful Jewish crafts combine to create an atmosphere of joy, fun, and spirit in each child that attends. This is all part of the unique Gan Israel experience. We have brought it all here. Allow your child to experience the magic. This summer, enroll your child in Camp Gan Israel.

Four weeks of non-stop fun: June 26-July 21
Sign up for single weeks or all four and save.
Mini CGI (Preschool) Ages 3-5
Junior CGI Rising K-Rising 3rd Grade
Senior CGI Rising 4th-Rising 6th Grade
Visit www.CGIBallantyne.com for more details and information.

Saturday Night Alive

On January 14 at 7 PM, The Ballantyne Jewish Center is adding some fire and spice to your typical Saturday night. Literally. Saturday Night Alive is a musical celebration of family and the mystical havdallah ceremony. This event will feature an exciting Board Game Bar, a full spread of goodies and treats, storytelling, candle braiding, and spice bag crafting.

Havdallah is an ancient ritual, performed by our ancestors for thousands of year as a way to mark the conclusion of Shabbat and welcome in the new week. But why the flame? The spices? The wine? Saturday Night Alive uncovers the deeper secrets, symbolism, and meaning latent within this seemingly simple weekly practice.

Don’t miss out on this incredible opportunity to bond with the kids and explore the spiritual significance of the havdallah.

RSVP
Leah@JewishBallantyne.com
$5 per child, pay at the door
www.JewishBallantyne.com or more info.

CJDS Parent Profile

Jane Herson
Years at CJDS: 5
Husband: Matt
Children: Daniel (4th grade), Annie (2nd grade)
Temple Affiliation: Unaffiliated
Lives in: Charlotte

Our story is perhaps similar to yours. We had planned for our children to attend a public school in our area, did our homework and chose to apply through the magnet lottery program. For us, the uncertainty of the program was difficult, and when we were not accepted into our magnet choices, we thought “What now?”

I don’t remember specifics of our first meeting at CJDS, just feelings - warm handshakes, warm words, smiling children, inviting cooking smells from the cafeteria. That warmth was real and struck us immediately. The staff and the administration were happy to be here - they loved what they were doing! And the children... so happy and cheerful in a nurturing learning environment.

We came to CJDS for the learning community. The small size of the school allows for an intimate, engaging learning experience that we feel is without peer. The entire faculty knows each and every student, and the students grow together academically and socially. Through the school, we’ve also been lucky to meet many parents, whose friendships we cherish.

We share Judaism with our children as a door that is always open - open to experience, to learn, to share, to comfort. The CJDS approach fits us. The focus is on what we all share as Jews, what we can celebrate and learn together. The Judaic education has been a gift for our children. They are grounded and proud of their faith, and Matt and I see it affecting their choices even at such an early age.

Sometimes in life, something unexpected happens and turns out to be the most wonderful experience in the world. For us, CJDS was, and is, that experience that began as a flash of serendipity and has become a cornerstone of our family’s education.

For more information about CJDS or to arrange a personal tour, contact: Mariashi Groner, Director • 704-366-4558 • mgroner@cjdschool.org
A Strong Academic Foundation for Living Jewishly
2017 P2G TEEN LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE
In collaboration with the Jewish Federation, Temple Beth, Temple Israel and Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies

Part I - Hadera (June 27 - July 12)
Journey to Israel with teens from across the Southeast and spend two weeks with students from Hadera. Travel the country, engage in tikkun olam projects and learn about Israel’s politics, culture and society. Enjoy Israeli hospitality and teen life.

Part II - Charlotte (July 17 - 31)
Welcome Hadera teens and introduce them to the American way of life. Together they will explore Charlotte’s Jewish community and all the Queen city has to offer to learn about our cultural differences, tzedakah and leadership.

COST: $3,200, includes a $500 subsidy from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

For more information, please contact Tal Stein in the Federation office at 704.944.6751 or tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org

TESTIMONIALS
“Going on this teen trip was definitely a life-changing experience. I met so many amazing people and now have the greatest lifelong friendships. I definitely recommend this trip to any Jewish teen because it was amazing!” - Ellen Garfinkle

“I loved learning about Israeli daily life, culture and of course the food! Also, I made so many friends from Israel and from cities across the Southeast U.S.” - Chad Purcell

“I have come back from this Israel trip with so many fond memories. I will never forget this experience; I fully enjoyed every day of it!” - Limor Goldsmith
TKA Ends 2016 with Joyful Celebrations

As the saying goes, you save the best for last. Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC had a very busy and joyous end to 2016. In November, we had our First Annual Friendsgiving Shabbat at the Community Center in Baxter Village. Congregants and guests joined together to give thanks for our many blessings (not the least of which is our fantastic community) and enjoyed a lovely potluck meal that would rival any Thanksgiving dinner at mom’s house. We definitely have some excellent chefs at Temple Kol Ami. Another wonderful TKA tradition was born that night.

Temple Kol Ami started December off with our third Shabbat of the year sponsored by the Generous Impact and Innovation Fund from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. We were thrilled to welcome Rabbi Ana Bonnheim to lead us in a weekend of prayer, study, cultural enrichment, and student education. We had a packed sanctuary for Friday night Shabbat service on December 2 and enjoyed Rabbi Bonnheim’s insights into Parshat Tol’dot. The following morning, an enthusiastic group studied Torah with the Rabbi. They delved into the story of Jacob and Esau and the Midrashic commentaries on this Torah portion. Lively conversation and light refreshments were enjoyed by all. On the evening of December 3, we gathered at the home of Dr. Alan and Ana Resnik to bid the Sabbath farewell with a Havdalah bonfire. S’mores, hot cocoa, and apple cider along with our favorite campfire songs from Jewish camp days gone by completed what was a wonderful evening of fellowship. Finally, Rabbi Bonnheim finished off the weekend with a visit to our Religious School on December 4. She met with each class individually, discussing Jacob and Esau and the importance of making good choices with the younger kids, while she explored the meaning of prayer with the older students. The whole weekend was a huge success, and we are so grateful to Rabbi Bonnheim for her leadership and words of wisdom. We look forward to seeing her again at TKA in the future.

We ended 2016 with our Education Shabbat and Chanukah Celebration on December 16. Our TKA Religious School students led us in a lovely service from start to finish, showing off all of their hard work so far this year. Afterwards, we celebrated Chanukah with music, food (including latkes and donuts, of course), and crafts. What a fantastic finish to an incredibly successful year at Temple Kol Ami. We look forward to a 2017 filled with more memories, laughter, prayer, and learning. Keep up with what’s going on at Temple Kol Ami at www.templekolamisc.org or e-mail us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com for more information.

Women’s News

Keep Your Eyes Open for More Information

Very exciting news from the Charlotte Area Jewish Community Directory by Hadassah—no more Bluesheets will be mailed— all information updates will be done online. We are rebuilding our Community-wide Directory. In order to be listed in this directory, you will need to click a link that we will provide, and add your personal listing to the Directory. Everyone will also be receiving a postcard with the link. With your confirmed listing you will be eligible to receive a free copy of the 2017 Directory. While the actual Directory will remain a beautifully printed, color, spiral bound book, the listings and advertisements will be processed online.

If you or a loved one would like to receive the Directory in a printed, hard copy format through the mail, Patrons will still be available for $18. We will send you your directory to the address you provide. Patrons will be recognized on a Patrons Page in the directory. Jewels will still be offered for those who wish to recognize children or grandchildren. Honors will be available for those who wish to honor or memorialize loved ones. Additional lines will be available for those who want to include their email, or additional information. We hope to provide an accurate and valuable resource for the entire Charlotte Jewish community. Advertisers will be able to submit payment as well as upload ads electronically. As you can see, our tradition of providing this resource for the past 70 years will continue. We are proud to bring you these upgrades to our Directory in 2017. More information to come January 2017. The 2017 Directory will be distributed in September 2017. For questions or concerns, please email us elfhadassahdir@gmail.com.

How To Raise An Adult

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:30PM
Providence Day School
Keynote address by Julie Lythcott-Haims, former Stanford University dean

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Shalom Park
Workshop tracks for parents, teachers & students

joinedineducation.org
Celebrate the TaTas 2016

The whirlwind that was “Celebrate the TaTas 2016” is over, and the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah can be proud of a job well done. The multi-faceted event brought chapter members, community leaders, medical professionals, and local businesses together, to raise funds for and awareness of breast cancer.

Charlotte Hadassah members certainly proved that they were women who do, as they organized, marketed, and schlepped their way to amazing success. Painting Days, the hallmark event of the TaTas, were fun celebrations of women’s health and bodies. The atmosphere in the room was electric as artists and models collaborated on unique living pieces of art. Mammograms were available on site (free for those without insurance), thanks to Mecklenburg Radiology and Charlotte Radiology. In addition, the days included delicious food (donated by local restaurants), and massages from Massage Heights.

A gigante thank you to Sharon Lillard’s Department stores), and overs and bra fittings (from Dil-teeter), complimentary makeovers, jewelry, a Volkswagen lease, and a tireless effort by Sari Hochberg and her team, the silent auction raised more money than ever before. Gifts included original art, jewelry, a Volkswagen lease, and over one hundred other items.

Throughout the process, our Chapter President Dana Kapustin and her team, the silent auction proved that we had support all aspects of the program. The great photos included in this article were taken by Emily Moore. Her eye for a great shot helped us capture the spirit of the evening. In addition, we had outstanding support from our two treasurers, Marci Goldberg and Marci Willenzik. All of this planning, work, nail biting, and fun paid off for co-chairs Roz Cooper and Janice Bernstein, past presidents of the Charlotte Hadassah. The 2016 TaTas season raised $36,000 for breast cancer research at Hadassah Hospital. A very special thank you to the Leon Levine Foundation and their amazing $10,000 challenge grant. You definitely spurred us on to success.

The culmination of all of this activity was “The Big Reveal,” our gala celebration of all things Tata. Held at the Ritz Carlton Charlotte on October 27, the final event of the 2016 TaTas season was an elegant evening of great food (donated by local restaurants), inspiring messages, and successful fundraising. Thanks to a tireless effort by Sari Hochberg and her team, the silent auction raised more money than ever before. Gifts included original art, jewelry, a Volkswagen lease, and over one hundred other items.

Dr. Nicole Abinanti speaks at the event.

Planning is the key to great events, and it took almost a year of planning to get the TaTas off the ground. Many thanks to Patricia Johnson, Leigh Rose, and Alicia Cooper who made sure that we had plenty of publicity and volunteers. Hats off to Ted Johnson, the master of all things electronic, his expertise was invaluable. Without them, the 2016 TaTas season would not have been so memorable. Thanks, too, to the many volunteers.

The Charlotte Jewish Preschool

2017-18 ENROLLMENT at our OPEN HOUSE!

Friday, January 20, 2017

www.charlottejewishpreschool.org

704-944-6776

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Esther Panitch, a CNN legal reporter and proud Hadassah member, served as our emcee for the evening. She added sparkle to the program which included a moving tribute to our own cancer hero, Sandra Goldman. Sandra served as president of Charlotte Hadassah while waging her own fight against breast cancer. We thank her for her help with the TaTas, as well as her strength. She serves as a role model for so many people in our community.

A highlight of the evening, was the presentation of the “Image of Hope Awards,” gratefully given to two outstanding members of the Charlotte medical community. Dr. Matthew Gromet of Charlotte Radiology and Dr. Nicole Abinanti of Mecklenburg Radiology have both dedicated their careers to the early detection and ultimate eradication of breast cancer. We thank them both for their tireless work.

Dr. Nicole Abinanti and Dr. Matt Gromet
ALTERNATIVE SERVICES
TORAH TOTS
Friday, January 13, 5:45 pm
Our high-energy Shabbat program for preschoolers (and their parents) typically takes place twice a month. Join us as we welcome in Shabbat with songs, Torah parades, movement, and stories or puppetry. A healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack served after each program.

KAVANAH
Saturday, January 21, 10:00 am
Our Kavanah service meets on the 3rd Shabbat of the month. The Kavanah service combines the ancient practices of Jewish prayer and meditation, along with a Torah study, in an effort to create space for reflection and growth.

*JAVA N' JEANS will not take place in January. Join us for our next JAVA N’ JEANS on Saturday, February 4, 11:00 am.

YOUTH
MAHAR - ICE SKATING & HOT COCOA
(All 3rd-5th Graders Welcome!)
Sunday, January 8, 12:15-3:30 pm
Is there any better way to spend a cold wintry day than at an ice rink? Price includes ice-skating, skate rental, bus transportation, and hot chocolate! Don’t forget to bring socks and a dairy lunch. Drop-off and Pick-up @ TIRIS Building. $15/Youth Group Members; $25/Non-Members. RSVP to Ariel (adidonate@templeisraelnc.org) by Wednesday, January 4.

YOUNG ADULTS
GUESS WHO’S COMING TO SHABBAT DINNER?
Friday, January 27
Torah on Tap invites you to a Shabbat Dinner Experience! Want to connect with other Jewish singles, couples, and young families over a Shabbat dinner? Register to be placed with one of our host families. Enjoy their customs (& delicious food!), meet new people, and celebrate Shabbat with friends! Host information and start times will be emailed after registration is closed. Space is LIMITED! Registration closes on Tuesday, January 24th. Contact Josh at joshleifelman@gmail.com to register today!

SOCIAL CLUB
ANNUAL PAID-UP LUNCHEON
Sunday, January 29
12:30 pm
Don’t miss this wonderful free lunch for members who have paid their 2017 dues. Our speaker will be published author and community college humanities teacher Barry Kaplan, who will speak on “Growing Up Jewish in a Small Southern Town.” Cost: FREE/paid-up members; $15/non-members. Reservation deadline is January 20, 2017.

*Don’t forget to bring donations with you to help stock the pantry at Jewish Family Services (JFS).

SOCIAL ACTION
ROOM IN THE INN – SHALOM PARK
Each weekend in January
Room In The Inn provides food and shelter to homeless individuals during the winter months. This program, coordinated by the Urban Ministry Center, is a partnership between Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, and the Levine Jewish Community Center, and has been restructured this year to enable individuals from more than one partner to volunteer together. To volunteer, visit http://bit.ly/2iM6YIc

MEN’S CLUB
SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, February 5
18th Annual WORLD WIDE WRAP
All are welcome to join us for World Wide Wrap, which takes place (as usual) on Super Bowl Sunday morning as we experience the Mitzvah of tefillin.

SISTERHOOD
SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, February 25
SISTERHOOD SHABBAT
9:30 am
Members of Sisterhood will lead us in morning Shabbat services. A lovely Kiddush will follow.

EVENTS
TEMPLE ISRAEL 120TH CELEBRATION FINALE
January 7, 2017
Please join us Shabbat morning as we conclude our celebratory year and honor those individuals who have helped Temple Israel reach this momentous occasion.

YOM GEMILUT HASADIM (A Day Performing Acts Of Loving Kindness)
Sunday January 15, 2017 (MLK weekend)
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Join the Temple Israel community as we come together to perform acts of loving kindness through “hands on” mitzvah projects at Temple Israel.
A wonderful opportunity for individuals and families to participate in Mitzvah Projects® benefiting both the Jewish and broader Charlotte community, as we share in Tikun Olam (repairing the world).

*Projects will run in 20 & 30-minute increments.

NEW MEMBER SHABBAT DINNER
Friday, January 20
Immediately after services
Celebrate Shabbat and give a warm welcome to the newest members of our congregational family as we enjoy a delicious Shabbat dinner, immediately following services.

RSVP online or sponsor a New Member’s dinner at templeisraelnc.org, (under “Register for an Event”) or call the TI office at 704-362-2796.

TORAH TOTS – FAMILY PAJAMA-DALLAH
Saturday, January 28
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Please join us for a fun family service with pajamas, music, havdallah (we’ll make our own Havdallah sets), and ice cream - for kids in preschool - 2nd grade.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:
Sunday, February 5
10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Friday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Stop by to see this years gift selections, including cards, jewelry, and an assortment of fun Judaic gifts – for all ages!

Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Cindy Jennis (704-443-7643) to make an appointment.
Order Your 2017 Mah Jongg Card Now Through Hadassah

Hadassah is making it easier than ever to order the 2017 card.

1. New: You can order your card now. No need to wait for the Mah Jongg League paperwork. Your address, contact info, and check is all we need.


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

3. New: Two ways to order - Mark your order to Madeline Aron and drop off at the Shalom Park Front Desk, or mail to Madeline Aron, 4940 Hardison Road, Charlotte 28226.


Questions? Call Madeline at 704-996-0342.

Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center

It’s a Success! Lifelong Learning @ the Library Continues

Enlightening, informative, and fun are adjectives that have been used to describe the adult education series at The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. What is the key to our success? When you combine a dynamic teacher and a group of dedicated adult learners who come together to customize a top-quality curriculum, it is win-win educational experience.

The winter session of Lifelong Learning - taught by Rabbi Yossi Groner — begins Wednesday, January 18 and class meets from 10-11:30 AM in Shalom Park. We will be studying Israel: 1973 – Present. Sharpen your mind … sign up today. www.levinesklutjudaiclibrary.org or 704-944-6783.

Shared Humanity: The Jewish People and MLK

“God did not make a world with just one color flower,” said Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. “We are all made in God’s image.” As we commemorate the late, great Martin Luther King Jr., it is relevant to explore how the Jewish people have been and must continue to be allies in other people’s struggles.

The Levine-Sklut Judaic is proud to suggest the following books to enhance your understanding. For children our library staff recommends:

- *Good Anybody* by Richard Michelson, which tells the stories of the early years of MLK Jr. and Rabbi Heschel and their fight for social justice. This book is a winner Sydney Taylor Winner Book. (Ages 5-9)
- *The Caldecott Honor Book, 2016* Good Anybody by Bonnie Bader is recommended for 7 years and up.
- *People* by Peter Spier. A true classic, this picture book explains how people are the same and different all over the world. (Ages 3-8)
- *Inside Outside* by Doreen Rappaport (Ages 5-9)
- *Inside Outside* Part of the popular “Who was” series, this book was written by Bonnie Bader and is recommended for 7 years and up.

For adults, we recommend:

- *Shared Dreams: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Jewish Community* written by Rabbi Marc Schneier
- *Home in the Morning*, the debut novel of Mary Glickman is the story of a Jewish family confronting the tumult of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.
- *Carolina Israelite: How Harry Golden Made Us Care about Jews, the South, and Civil Rights*. This biography was written by Kimberly Hartnett.

All these books and more are currently available in the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Call to reserve your copy today 704-944-6783.

Moishe House Events

(Continued from page 8)

NC 28204

Get ready to drop all that random Jeopardy knowledge that you have been storing while hanging with your favorite people. Join Moishe House for trivia night. Appetizers will be provided.

Event 5: Shabbat Dinner with UNCC and Queens Students - Friday, January 20 at 7 PM at Moishe House.

Join Moishe House for a special Shabbat dinner with the UNCC and Queens University Hillels. Students from both universities will be in attendance, and we want to show them how great the Moishe life can be. A catered meal will be provided.

Event 6: Dinner and a Movie - Friday, January 27 at 6 PM at Yafo and Phillips Place

We will start the night off right at Yafo for some dinner and then head to Phillips Place for one of the 7 o’clock movies. We’ll place a survey closer to the date for movie selections on the facebook page “Moishe House Charlotte.” And when we get out the night will still be young.

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

It’s time for Dad to drop me off at JPS for school. We pull into the parking lot and I wave to the grownups waiting for me at carpool. Once I give Daddy hugs and kisses, I get out of the car and hug five teachers that take me to my classroom. Before I get to class, I wave to some of the babies going to the baby classroom. When I was little, that was my classroom but now I’m a big kid. I see my teacher at the door, waiting to give me my morning hug.

I love being able to take out my lunch and put away my backpack and wash my hands all by myself. As I walk over the rug, I see my teachers hung up my picture on the bulletin board. I love looking at all the art my friends and I make at school; it’s just like being at the museum. When the day starts at circle time, I get to say good morning to my friends who are at school today. Circle time is fun and I get my job for the day. My teachers know I can do lots of jobs, today I’m the mitzvah helper.

After circle, it’s time to play. I get to choose any place in the classroom but today I choose to build a hotel with my friends in the block area first. Next, I think I will go help my friends paint the sculpture our whole class made last week. Or maybe I will go to the listening center to hear a story. I can’t wait to go outside to play after choice time inside. We are going to pick vegetables from our garden. I hope I get to pick a red radish. My Mom and Dad talk about my teachers telling them about how much I’m learning, but to me it just feels like fun.

Walking back to my classroom after the playground we pass by the office. I love waving to the office workers. That reminds me … I think that next play time I will make a picture for Ms. Dedee’s office. She has a museum in there, where more of my friends hang pictures. I remember seeing that when I was sick and waited for Dad to pick me up. She sat and read stories to me while I waited. After we get back to my classroom, it’s time for Judaica. Morah Jayme has a box of torahs for us to hug and dance with. It’s fun singing songs with her and hearing the stories about the Jewish people. Next week there is the wedding of Yitzchak and Rivkah. We get to dress up and play wedding. I hope I get to be Rivkah. When Morah Jayme leaves, we wash our hands for lunch. I’m so hungry. I can’t wait to see what is in my lunch box. I get to sit next to my best friend today. I get to call my name on the walkie talkie. That means my Mom is here to pick me up. I can’t wait to tell her everything I did all day. My teacher told me that tomorrow I get to go to extended day. It’s so much fun to stay all day at school. We have a rest time, a snack and more time to play with my friends, before my Dad and big sister come to get me. I’m so lucky to be a JPS kid.

For more information about our part day and full day programs or to schedule a personal tour, please call our office at 704-364-8395. Registration for summer 2017 and the 2017-2018 School Year opens to the public on January 9.
Learn: We strive to facilitate a community of learners and understand the importance of creating a culture of learning within the school. Our students, teachers/staff, and families all participate and work together as we are both teaching and learning from one another. Our approach to learning and early childhood development is multidisciplinary, holistic, student-centered, and delivered through a Judaic lens. At CJP, we know that children begin to learn and understand the world around them best through play and experiential learning. Our curriculum is designed to respect each child as a unique individual, to foster the diverse ways in which they develop and learn, and to create a nurturing environment in which learning can take place.

Grow: At CJP, growth happens in many ways. Social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and cognitive growth are all important ways in which we grow, especially in the early years. We provide a comprehensive Judaic curriculum that develops the whole child. Our children and families grow new friendships, our staff continuously grow professionally, and our family grows or strengthens a love of Judaism through taught values, and celebrated holidays.

Connect: Preschoolers experience so many firsts. For many of our families, CJP provides them with their first connection to Shalom Park’s numerous agencies. We make it a priority to serve as a gateway and a connector, because building our community builds our sustainability. Every day we foster the development of a Jewish identity by providing enriching Jewish learning experiences that connect our staff, students, families, and community. As a result of our educational approach and strong community connections, our students thrive at school, at home, and in the community.

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

Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950
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Learn, Grow, Connect with CJP
Charlotte Jewish Day School students entered a contest for the National Menorah Lighting in Washington, DC. There are lots of dreams of trips to Washington, reading their essays in front of thousands of people. Wonderful essays have been written and the following four are a taste of what our students think and feel about Chanukah.

What Chanukah Means to Me

By Amy Krakovitz

Twenty-three years ago Car­
ylon Hennes told Harry Swimmer about her disabled granddaugh­
ter’s time at a horse farm in Dul­
las, NC. She was happy with the results of the equine therapy, but was concerned about the long drive the family had to make. Ac­
cording to Hennes, Harry said, “Bring her out to my place [Misty Meadows Farm] and put her on a horse here.”

Hennes brought Stacy Marx, then seven years old, and Swim­
mer lifted her up onto a horse. That moment, says Swimmer’s son Scott, changed everything for Harry. The look on Stacy’s face made him realize that “this was the first time Stacy had been able to look down on someone; after so many years of just looking up from her chair,” Scott adds. Ac­
cording to the Mitey Riders web­
site, Stacy’s “face lit up. Her energy changed, and in that, so did
Harry’s.”

Horse riding therapy was not unheard of in the 1990s when Swimmer started Mitey Riders. In fact, equestrian therapy is recorded as long ago as 600 BCE. So there was a long history of its success that Swimmer was able to latch onto.

What Chanukah Means to Me

By Sacha Levine

Chanukah means joyous times around the dancing flames. It means spending time with my family, remembering the amazing miracle of the oil. It means singing prayers right after our family meal. That’s what Chanukah means to me.

What Chanukah Means to Me

By Austin Adler

What this special holiday means to me is to remember all the miracles that happened. Chanukah isn’t about presents. It’s about remembering our ancestors that won a war with the Greeks. We were outnumbered, but thanks to a miracle, we won seven days to light the Menorah. But there was a problem! We didn’t have any oil. One day we did find some oil but it was only one bottle. This is where another miracle takes place. The Jews thought the oil would only last for one day, but it burned through days 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and finally 8! The oil had burned for eight whole days! Amazing! This is the point of celebrating Chanukah. Chanukah means a lot to me because it’s a great time to remember the miracles and our ancestors.

What Chanukah Means to Me

By Lael Zucker

Chanukah is based on two mira­
cles that Hashem granted us. Over 2,000 years ago, we Jews, were pleading to Hashem to grant us a victorious miracle over the Greeks. Hashem answered our prayers, a victory over King Anti­
occius and his Greek army. The second miracle was the petite jug of oil. There wasn’t enough pure oil to light the Menorah for all eight days. But Jews lit the candles anyways thinking it would barely last. Hashem saw his beloved Jews making the effort to light the Menorah and granted an­
other miracle: oil lasting eight days. When I think of the war with the Greeks, I think of how out­
numbered we were and their wider stash of weapons. Then, I remember Hashem is the greatest weapon of all. The true meaning of Chanukah is: the greatest mira­
cle in life is Hashem, if you just
By Avram Mlotek
(Kveller via JTA) — We sit down for dinner.

Ravi, my 4-year-old, overhears my phone conversation and learns that my best friend’s grandfather has passed away.

“Tati,” she asks, “will Bubbe come back to life?”

Bubbe, her great-grandmother, passed away three years ago, at the age of 91.

Now, Judaism does believe in an afterlife and in a resuscitation of the dead, but for whatever reason I opt not to have that theological conversation with Ravi at this point.

“No,” I offer, “but her memory lives on and Bubbe lives on inside of us.”

She eats a carrot stick.

“When Bubbe comes back to life,” Ravi replies, “I’d like to have a playdate with her.”

Maybe my answer was confusing. “A playdate?” I ask. “A nod.”

What is going on in that little head of hers, I wonder. “A playdate?” I ask. “A nod.”

And there’s so much Ravi would have enjoyed doing with her Bubbe, too. It just so happens that the apartment we moved into a year ago is on the same block where Bubbe went to work for over 40 years. Ravi would have loved visiting Bubbe in her office, touring the archives and waving to her building every time we walked to the Union Square playground. She would have loved that her great-grandmother could play any song on the piano if you just sang it to her once.

“Azoy iz es,” though, that’s the way it is.

“Dos redl dreyt zikh,” and the circle of life continues.

We celebrated Chanukah and another family wedding, too. And we will continue to miss you, Bubbe. We sing your songs and play your word games and your memory continues to be a blessing. Now, how about that playdate?

(Rabbi Avram Mlotek is a co-founder of BaseHillel.org.)

Kveller is a thriving community of women and parents who convene online to share, celebrate, and commiserate their experiences of raising kids through a Jewish lens Visit Kveller.com.

“What is going on in that little head of hers, I wonder.”

Harry Swimmer (Continued from page 29)

calling” to express both their congratulations and regrets that he didn’t win the final award. And the kids who come to Mitey Riders, he says, can’t stop smiling.

“It was thrilling all the way around,” he concludes. “Even though it took 23 years, I’m a happy guy.”

“He’s got a … circle of appreciative, happy families,” Hennes beams. About the CNN Heroes nomination, she says, “Finally more of the world knows what a difference he makes. It makes our hearts smile.”

You can still see the clips from the show on CNNHeroes.com. Learn more about Harry Swimmer and the Mitey Riders at miteyriders.org.

“Only our concept of time makes it possible for us to speak of the Day of Judgment by that name; in reality it is a constant court in perpetual session.”

– Franz Kafka
As BDS Resolutions Stall, Pro-Palestinian Students Shift Tactics

By Ben Sales

New York (JTA) - When Northwestern University’s student Senate passed a resolution in February 2015 asking the university to divest from Israel, senior Ross Krasner was hurt and surprised.

“The rhetoric of the measure, portrayed as an academic boycott, was more extreme than what he had expected. Krasner decided to become more engaged in the campus pro-Israel group, Young Israels for Israel, and became its president that May. More than a year and a half later, he feels confident the university won’t heed the resolution’s divestment call, and Krasner has shifted his extracurricular focus on campus - serving as a student senator, a forum where he can advocate for Israel - instead of divestment, a cause that brought him to university.

The vote by Northwestern’s Associated Student Government Senate was one of three high campus victories for the BDS movement, which aims to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel - its most extreme tactic - in response to what BDS proponents portray as the central threat to Israel on campus.

“I do not support BDS, ’ it’s a campaign of academic boycott or divestment,” said Kenneth Waltzer, executive director of the Academic Engagement Network, a 350-member group of university faculty who oppose BDS, said divestment is a nonstarter for many university boards of trustees because it would violate their commitment to invest funds in a way that would best serve the school. There is not enough consensus on divestment, he said, for it to over- ride concerns of fiduciary responsibility.

“University presidents are re- sponsible,” said Waltzer, an emeritus history professor at Michigan State University. “Students can act as agents of change for particular issues. They don’t have a responsibility for it where. Do we want to cut off all our ties with Israel? It’s a much more complicated issue.”

National pro-Israel groups have invested millions of dollars in fighting BDS since 2010.

In June 2015, Sheldon Adelson, the casino mogul, Jewish philanthropist and Republican mega-donor, raised a reported $20 million at a summit launching a new group to fight BDS on campus. That same month, the Israeli government pledged some $25 million in anti-BDS funding over several years.

“Some of the leading members of national organizations portrayed BDS movements as the extreme minority,” said pro-Israel group executive director of pushing divestment resolutions to protesting, and in some cases disrupting, pro-Israel events and speakers on campus.

But Ben Lorber, campus coordinator for the pro-BDS Jewish Voice for Peace, said divestment “sheds light on the purpose of BDS resolutions and protest.”

“BDS resolution to serve the same purpose: sparking conversation about Palestinian rights. He said that BDS res- solutions would re-emerge next sea- son with the approach of the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War and the Arab-Israeli Peace Accord, as a result of which the West Bank came under Israeli control. “The larger goal is to educate the campus as a whole.” Lor- ber said. “Divestment is so effect- ive because it gets the whole campus talking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and looking into these issues. Students are continuing to express their free- speech rights to protest injustice on campus and in the world around them.”

Last year, when students at the University of Missouri were protesting issues of racial injustice on their campus, Krasner co- wrote a resolution supporting the university’s handling of anti-Semitism under the senator, a forum where he can advocate for Israel - instead of divestment, a cause that brought him to university.

“Those campaigns aligned with his family and friends. I have no idea how the university will respond, but he remains close with his family and friends. I have no idea how the university will respond, but he remains close with his family and friends.

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Kobi Ifrach

Ifrach is a former Mr. World title holder. He is known for his athletic build and his emphasis on bodybuilding. He is a former bodybuilder and has won numerous competitions. He is a member of the Israel national bodybuilding team and has represented Israel in several international tournaments. He is known for his dedication to fitness and his participation in various bodybuilding events. He is also known for his support of Israel and his involvement in pro-Israel causes.

Ifrach has faced challenges and has been targeted for his pro-Israel stance. He has received death threats and has been subjected to harassment. Despite these challenges, he continues to participate in bodybuilding competitions and to advocate for Israel. He is a vocal proponent of the pro-Israel movement and has been involved in various pro-Israel organizations and initiatives. He is a member of the Israel national bodybuilding team and has represented Israel in several international tournaments. He is known for his dedication to fitness and his participation in various bodybuilding events. He is also known for his support of Israel and his involvement in pro-Israel causes.
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