IT’S ALWAYS SOMETHING. THAT’S WHY THERE’S FEDERATION.
Show Your Community Support Today!

Make your investment in the future of our Charlotte Jewish community. We cannot get there without YOU. Pledge today at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

Meet Our CJE Super Hero Team!

If you have not already made your gift to the 2016 Annual Campaign, we are asking you to do so today.

Think you can only be in one place at a time? Think again.

Through Federation, at any hour of the day you can be virtually anywhere on the globe. Making a vital difference in Jewish lives at home, in Israel and in over 70 countries around the world. Wherever there is a Jewish community, Federation is at work. And so are you. Rebuilding. Supporting. Strengthening. Changing Jewish life for the better in countless ways.

Our focus continues to be on enriching Jewish life, caring for the vulnerable, and building a Jewish community. And while every dollar and every donor always counts … your gift will be felt more than ever in the next few weeks as we approach our campaign goal.

If you have not already made your gift to the 2016 Annual Campaign, we are asking you to do so today.

The only way to accomplish great things every day is with great people who really enjoy their jobs. As cheesy as it sounds, we at CJE live and breathe Jewish education in all its shapes and expressions, and we’re enthusiastic and take pride in doing the best work we can. As we gear up for a fun-filled summer and the next school year ahead, we wanted to introduce you to our team of superheroes who make it all happen.

Tair Giudice – Director of Education and Engagement
I was born and raised in Israel, the only sabra (native Israeli) in my family, who emigrated from France to Israel in the 70s. I am now the only one in my family to be living outside of Israel. My favorite book is To the End of the Land by David Grossman – a breathtaking account of love and war in Israel, full of wit and tenderness.

Lisa Garfinkle – Administrative Coordinator
I have four children. I love to travel to the beach and have a passion for social justice. My favorite food is Mexican and I have always wanted to work in a library. My favorite book is Blessing of a Skinned Knee by Wendy Mogul, which has great Jewish parenting advice. I also liked Anita Diamant’s The Red Tent.

Debby Block – Program Coordinator
Everyone knows that “Miss Debby” loves children and loves telling stories to all ages. But did you know that I also love ducks and dachshunds? I used to have two ducks — Waddles and Pud — as pets when I was a little girl. Now, I have a dachshund named Teddy Bear. Choosing a favorite book is a little bit like choosing your favorite son/daughter. Nonetheless, there are some books that truly connect and touch your heart. Capturing the Moon: Modern and Classic Jewish Tales by Edward Feinstein is one such book. The stories are wonderful, but the spiritual messages that the stories convey are even more meaningful.

Cat Dodel – Library Services Associate
I am happy to join the team at The Levine Sklut Judaic Library. As the mother of two young girls I appreciate children’s programming which inspires their love of learning. One of my favorite books by a Jewish author is The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. Of its many lessons to take away, I found the most important to be its message of what it means to be moral and flawed and to always appreciate life and friendships.

Jodi Cohen – Library Services Associate
I have been in Charlotte over 30 years and have been involved in the Jewish community as well as the Levine Jewish Community Center equally as long. My favorite book is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.

Jean Moats – Librarian
I have six cats. I sing in the adult choir at Temple Beth El. I love to cook, bake, and play mahjong. I also enjoy going to the movies at the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival. Some of my favorite authors are Faye Kellerman, Rochelle Krich, Daniel Silva, Joan Nathan, and Gil Marks.

Paula Brown – Librarian
I am the Collection Development Librarian at Gaston County Public Library. I love music and go to jazz at the Bechtler Museum, enjoy the Charlotte Folk Society, and other types of music. Two of my favorite authors are Nalini Singh and J. R. Ward. I enjoy reading books and studying about Kabbalah, and one of my favorite books is Healing Psalms by Rabbi Haberman.
Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made March 14–May 5:

In honor of Dale Polsky’s birthday
By: Sam and Ollie Polk, Rabbi Judy Schindler, Marvin and Anita Shapiro, Sam and Emily Zimmern

In honor of Stacy Gorelick’s birthday
By: Alison Lerner, Liz Winer

In honor of David Van Glish’s birthday
By: Howard and Julie Levine

In memory of Sheila L. Fisher
By: Thomas Bennett, Jill O’Neil

In memory of Morton Glasofer
By: Alan and Bette Schwartz

In memory of Victor Osborne
By: Mark and Alison Lerner, Mike and Sue Littauer

If you would like to make a Tribute to the Jewish Federation, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6761.

PJ Library® Helps Families Raising Jewish Children in The Greater Charlotte Area Make Connections, Celebrate Jewish Life

$150 Get Together grants help build social connections and empower parents to offer Jewish experiences to share with their friends and other families.

Charlotte area families raising Jewish children will now have more opportunities to participate in Jewish life, thanks to a grant opportunity recently awarded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) to our Charlotte community. The grants will be distributed to members of PJ Library, the flagship program of HGF that offers free Jewish books and programs to more than 125,000 families around the world.

Charlotte is among a select group of PJ Library communities in the US and Canada chosen to participate in the Get Together grants program, an opportunity that will give local families up to $150 to create their own experiences to get together with friends.

Get Together grants are designed to help build social connections among families and encourage them to engage in Jewish life, programming, or learning. In the past, Get Together grants have been used for Shabbat-themed experiences, baking or crafts, book clubs, and parent-only evenings. Get Togethers happen when families want to experience them, and how they want to experience them.

PJ Library and PJ Our Way families currently living in the greater Charlotte area are invited to apply to host a Get Together. Applications open on Monday, May 22 and close Friday, June 30.

“Charlotte is honored to receive this grant, and thrilled to be part of the global PJ Library community reaching hundreds of thousands of families,” said Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement.

Part of a strategy to expand Jewish engagement in the U.S. and Canada, these grants are funded through the PJ Library Alliance. Partners in the Alliance include the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the William Davidson Foundation, the Marcus Foundation, Inc., The Jim Joseph Foundation, the William and Audrey Farber Philanthropic Fund, the Diane and Guilford Glazer/Jewish Community Foundation of LA, Carl and Joanna Bianco, the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation, the Susser Family Trust, Walter, Arnee, Sarah and Aaron Winshall, and two anonymous partners.

For more information, please visit pjlibrary.org/GetTogether or contact Kendall Nicholson at Kendall.Nicholson@jewishcharlotte.org.

Families with children ages 0-8 can receive free books every month by signing up for PJ Library at pjlibrary.org. Children ages 9-11 can choose a free chapter book or graphic novel every month by enrolling in PJ Our Way with a parent at pjourway.org.

The Charlotte Jewish News, 5007 Providence Road, Suite 112, Charlotte, NC 28226

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Published monthly except July

An affiliate of:

Jewish Federation News

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[CONTINUOUS TEXT]
Jewish Federation Introduces New Women’s Philanthropy Initiative at 2017 Annual Spring Lecture

The Jewish Federation’s 19th Annual Spring Lecture held on Thursday, April 27th was a huge success. More than 300 women attended the event featuring renowned novelist Alice Hoffman.

The event was co-chaired by Sara Kulbersh and Holly Levinson, who led a very talented and dedicated team of volunteers.

During the event, the Federation unveiled its new Women’s Philanthropy Initiative: The Power of Women, which will provide women with multiple opportunities to engage Jewishly, to connect with each other and to make a significant impact on our community. The vision behind this initiative is inspired by our Jewish tradition of Tzedakah (charity) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

As we look towards the future of women’s philanthropy in our community, we wanted to pay tribute to the past and the many years the Spring Lecture was celebrated in our community. Though this was the last year for the Spring Lecture in its current form, we are excited to reveal our new offerings for the upcoming year. We will offer not one, but three meaningful opportunities for women to engage and connect Jewishly. Our new offerings are designed to educate women, inspire them, and connect to each other. They are also designed to help all women act collectively to improve our world.

2017-2018 Women’s Philanthropy Programmatic Offerings Fall 2017 – Engage and Inspire

- Experience the extraordinary spirit of women and community in this special event. This event will offer women of all ages and backgrounds an opportunity to network, socialize, and get inspired – all while having a great time. Winter 2017: Tikkun Olam and Social Action

- Where does the idea of Tikkun Olam come from and why is it so central to Jewish life? We’ll look at the sources that inspire us to make a difference in the lives of others – then we’ll get ready to put these ideas into action. There are many matters of concern to our community, and we are dedicated to actively learning about these issues and finding ways to enact change. Our first service project will focus on literacy and the importance of reading proficiency in our school system. Spring 2018: Celebrate Philanthropy

- A recognition event for women who make a gift of $180 or more to the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign. Join us as we celebrate the power and generosity of these women and their commitment to our community. AFFINITY GROUPS

- In addition to the Lion of Judah and Pomegranate Society, the Federation is proud to introduce a new women’s giving level, the Pearl Society, which recognizes women who make a gift of $180 or more to the Federation’s Annual Campaign.

LION OF JUDAH ($5,000+)

- Lion of Judah is an international recognition level for women who make an annual minimum gift of $5,000 or more to the annual campaign. The Lion of Judah pin, worn with pride by thousands of women worldwide, is one of the most recognized and distinguished symbols of shared commitment to the strength and vitality of the Jewish people.

POMEGRANATE SOCIETY ($1,800 - $4,999)

- Women who contribute at least $1,800 to the annual campaign sustain the Jewish people by helping to fulfill the mitzvah of tikkun olam (repairing the world). Pomegranate Society members are identified by a sterling silver pin.

(Continued on page 4)
Opening The Doors To ... INSPIRATION. INNOVATION. IMAGINATION

The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning and creates pathways to Jewish identity. Through cutting-edge educational practice and in collaboration with regional agencies, synagogues and schools, CJE serves as a community educational resource, and develops and implements creative, innovative, and sound educational strategies.

Please check our new and ongoing spring programs below:

**Children’s Programs:**
- **PJ Playdate (Toddlers):** Thursdays 9:30 AM (dropping-free)
- **PJ Playdate ( Babies):** Fridays 11 AM (dropping-free)
- **PJ Public Storytime:** Thursdays 11 AM new day and time for the summer (dropping-free)

**Shavuot Family Celebration:**
Saturday, June 3 4-7 PM Join Temple Beth El and PJ Library for family fun at Wise Acres Organic Farm. Hayrides, Havdalah, S’mores and more. Open to all. Registration www.NEXTGENCharlotte.org. Cost per family $18-$35 individual; Children 2 and under are free.

**Shalom Baby:** Welcome to the World. Sunday, June 11, 10 AM in the Library. If your family welcomed a baby during the past year, join us at our community baby “shower.” Enjoy refreshments, collect swag bags and meet other families. Register at www.NEXTGENCharlotte.org (free).

**Catch the Reading Bug. Summer Reading Incentive Program**
Three cheers for summer. What a terrific time of year to do all sorts of fun things, including reading lots and lots of books. To keep your children reading all summer long, the Center for Jewish Education is hosting a summer reading challenge. Children—ages 2-12 years old who read books (or are read to) may participate. For each book completed, children move forward on their “Catch the Reading Bug” game board and move a space every time your child completes a book. For each book completed your child may receive a special stamp by visiting the library. After reading six books and 12 books, your reader may choose a prize from our treasure box. Children will receive an extra special Book Worm Award if he or she completes 18 books.

Parents and Grandparents, did you know that summer reading can advance the advance literacy and language and knowledge? The benefits are substantial including:
- School-aged children who read four or more books over the summer can avoid the backwards “summer slide” which typically occurs.
- Children who read books over the summer may learn 1,000-3,000 words.
- And, reading promotes love of books and love of learning.

Game boards and prizes are available at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. For more information call Debby Block 704-944-6780.

**Levine-Sklut Library Hours and Holiday Closings:**
- Regular Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 AM–4 PM
- Saturday Closed
- Sunday, 9 AM–1 PM
- Holiday Closings: Thursday, June 1: Closed for Shavuot

**Silver Sponsors**
- Brownlee Jewelers
- Creative Events
- Friendly Neighborhood Dental
- Paul Simon Women
- REACH

**Bronze Sponsors**
- ArtShots Photography
- Carolinas Healthcare Foundation
- Hampton Inn & Suites Southpark
- Laxer, Long and Savage
- Levine Hearing of South Charlotte
- Novant Health Carmel OB/GYN
- Novant Health Urogynecology, William Porter, MD
- PI Marketing
- The Stan Greenspon
- University of Charlotte

**Philanthropy Opportunities**
- **Pearl Society ($180 – $1,799)**
  - Pearl Society members are women who celebrate their commitment to philanthropy and our community by making a gift of $180 or more to the Annual Campaign. Pearl Society members are recognized with a unique pearl necklace.
- **Student Involvement Program**
  - The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning and creates pathways to Jewish identity. Through cutting-edge educational practice and in collaboration with regional agencies, synagogues and schools, CJE serves as a community educational resource, and develops and implements creative, innovative, and sound educational strategies.
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**Federation Spring Lecture and New Women’s Philanthropy Opportunities**
(Continued from page 3)
Dealing with Life Changes

By Howard Olshansky, executive director, Jewish Family Services

As summer is upon us, most people think about relaxation, vacationing, and summer fun. Summer, however, sits between spring and fall, a time when many life changing events often happen. School transitions, graduations, marriages, and even the number of births and number of people relocating is highest during spring, summer, and fall. And while most of these life events represent happy times they also often represent change and often significant stress for individuals and families. If you are experiencing one of these life transitions, Jewish Family Services has some tips to help manage the stress that often accompanies a major life change:

* Acknowledge your feelings - Be honest with yourself. Change is difficult even if it is the result of happy events. Acknowledge that you may be conflicting feelings and may even feel sad. These feelings are normal. For instance, losing a child to marriage or college create normal feelings of loss.
* Talk about your feelings - If at all possible, identify someone you feel comfortable sharing and who will be sympathetic to your feelings. Your spouse or family member may be having the same feelings. A friend may have gone through the same experience. Sharing will give you the support necessary to help manage the change.
* Plan for your change - Knowing you are about to experience a significant change, develop strategies for how to accommodate for the change. If you will have additional time in your life, decide how you want to fill this time; if you are separating from someone, establish a plan for communicating with each other; if you will be busier, organize yourself.
* Attend to your diet and exercise - Physically feeling good can significantly impact your perspective and ability to manage stress.
* Seek professional help, if necessary - Sometimes stress can become so overwhelming that you need assistance to manage it. Or your feelings may be so strong that they are impacting your level of functioning. Feelings of depression, a loss of appetite, being unusually tired, loss of motivation are all indications that you may need to seek professional help to get you through this life change. If you experience these symptoms, speak to your doctor, clergy, or call JFS to seek professional guidance and support.

Pay attention to these pointers and you will find managing life changes may come with greater ease and you will definitely be in a better place to enjoy your summer activities. For more information or to access support call Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594 or connect to the JFS website at www.jfscharlotte.org.

Donations to Jewish Family Services in April and May 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

David Abrams from Alan and Ruth Goldberg
David Van Glish from Mark and Harriet Perlin
Margi Goldstein from Gloria Goldberg, Carol Gorelick
Stacy Gorelick from Austin and Roberta Rodgers
Dale Polsky from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Jeremy and Barbara Levin
Marsha Scheer from Robert and Linda Iser, Jerome and Barbara Levin, Stanislav Moisler, Gary and Maxyne Silverstein

MAZEL TOV ON

The birth of your grandson, Ethan Zachery Aron, to Alan and Madeleine Aron from Edwin and Leslie Rager

IN MEMORY OF

Your sister Ellen, to Richard Bressler from Mark and Harriet Perlin
Ralph Rabinowitz to Rhoda Gleiberman from Lawrence and Sheila Margolis
Martin Goldenberg to Mrs. Martin Goldenberg from Matthew Luftglass and Meg Goldman
Sheila Fisher to Nicki Gould from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Eric and Susan Lerner
Edward Green to Gail Green from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Alan and Ruth Goldberg, Mark and Harriet Perlin
Abraham Locher to Larry Kessler from Edwin and Ruth Rabiner
Harold Kossove to David and Kathryn Kossove from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Ralph Miller to Peter Miller from Edward and Debora Pizer
Eric Moore to Brenda Moore from Edward and Debora Pizer
Joan Crane to Larry Kessler from Edwin and Ruth Rabiner
Karen Knoble from Mother's Day from Anna Bobrow

IN HONOR OF

Karen Knoble for Mother's Day from Anna Bobrow

IN APPRECIATION OF

Ira and Stacey Slomka for the invitation to Passover Seder from Ben and Margie Liebstein
Marty and Elaine Schefflin for the invitation to Passover Seder from Ben and Margie Liebstein

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Diana Ann Saltzman to Linda Wasser from Austin and Roberta Rodgers

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Marty Ershler from Norman Steinberger and Gail Halverson
Barbara Herd from Mark and Linda Rothman

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Karen Knoble for Mother's Day from Anna Bobrow

IN HONOR OF

Karen Knoble for Mother's Day from Anna Bobrow

IN APPRECIATION OF

Marty and Elaine Schefflin for the invitation to Passover Seder from Ben and Margie Liebstein
Ira and Stacey Slomka for the invitation to Passover Seder from Ben and Margie Liebstein

JFS Volunteers and Donors for April 2017


Food Pantry Donations: Cheryl Greenwald, Robbie Dansky, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Hebrew High, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregations, Shalom Park Community Garden, Kosher Mart Customers

Passover Bag Delivery Volunteers: Chaim Burke, Suzy Catenazzo Dan Coblenz, Joelle Cohn Elana Congress Tara Hubara, Vlad Plotkin, Barbara Reim, Dana Rubin, Ellen Rosenfeld, Janice Shubin

Special Recognition: Hebrew High - Art With Hearts class for making cooking and decorating bags.
Charlotte Serving as a Thriving Home Base to Moishe House Headquarters

By Jason Boschan, director of marketing and communications, Moishe House

Moishe House launched in 2006 when four Jewish 20-somethings began hosting Shabbat dinners in Oakland, CA for their friends. To their surprise, 73 young adults showed up to the first dinner. Since that evening, and with growing demand from eager 20-somethings passionate about creating Jewish community for their peers, Moishe House has expanded its footprint around the globe to 100 houses in 24 countries, serving more than 50,000 unique young adults a year.

Although the majority of national Jewish organizations base their main offices in the largest metropolitan cities such as NYC or Los Angeles, what made this global Jewish organization choose Charlotte for its executive offices, development and marketing departments?

“Having just recently moved to the city, it felt amazing to be welcomed with open arms into a community,” said Ariel Samsell, 25, Moishe House Charlotte resident. “I want to help others feel that they have found a family away from home.”

Ariel, like so many of Moishe House’s residents and participants, are making major decisions about their careers, community and future families. Relationships are what matter most to young adults, and Moishe House plays a key role in connecting young adults to each other and the Jewish community.

The relationships also extend beyond the walls of a Moishe House. For example, Diana Warth, Moishe House Charlotte founder and alumna, explains how her experiences helped lay the foundation for her current Jewish traditions. She did not grow up Jewish, but converted to Judaism two weeks before moving into Moishe House Charlotte. “I felt inspired to be more involved in the Charlotte Jewish community as a resident,” said Diana. “Now, in my own Jewish home, I am able to continue these rituals and lessons with my loved ones and friends.”

Coincidentally, Diana recently got engaged to her fiancé who she met at a Moishe House program a few years ago. She took a Jewish professional position at the Levine Jewish Community Center, as the Director of Advancement.

As Charlotte participants participate in Tikkun Olam opportunities, so does the Moishe House staff. The Charlotte team volunteers with Jewish Family Services on a regular basis as well as make calls on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte during Super Sunday.

None of this could be possible without the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, The Donald H & Barbara K Bernstein Family Foundation, The Levine Foundation and Sandra and Leon Levine, William & Patricia Gorelick Family Foundation. All of these contributors have extended beyond the walls of a Moishe House.

(Continued on next page)
On April 24, local actors Dennis Delamar and Charles LaBorde staged a reader’s theater reading of Katherine Kressman Taylor’s “Address Unknown,” the story of a German citizen whose allegiance to his Jewish friend in America changes dramatically under the new Nazi regime in Germany during the 1930s.

The program opened with a poem written by the Greenspon Center Executive Director, Rabbi Judith Schindler.

Zachor – Remember
On this Yom Hashoah, as on every other Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember. How do we remember? We remember with stones – placed lovingly on Holocaust memorials. As Jews, we remember our loved ones who have died not with flowers that blossom then fade, but with rocks that remain. We remember with candles. The book of Proverbs affirms: “Ner Adonai nishmat adam, the spirit of the human being is the light of God.” (20:27) We remember with prayers, with the Kaddish affirming holiness – of God and of the souls who are now gone.

What do we remember? The rise of hate … Eichmann, Goebbels, Goering, Heydrich, Himmler, Hitler … too many names of too many leaders who masterminded the murder of millions.

We remember the silence of neighbors, of citizens, of teachers, of most … We remember the righteous, though far too few, who in small ways and large shared and showed humanity. Why do we remember? To remember that thoughts of hate become words of hate become laws of hate become acts of hate.

Genocides don’t just happen. They arise step by step, day by day, year by year, discriminating act by discriminating act. We remember to stop prejudice at its root with the first utterance of hate we hear.

Zachor, remember. Please remember for the survivor for the liberator for the murdered for us for our future for our world.

Amen.

Moishe House Headquarters
(Continued from previous page)

Moishe House national’s executive offices and development and marketing department is located on the third floor of the Gorelick Education Building in Shalom Park. The Charlotte office has grown to 12 team members including two additional positions they are hiring for: a Southern Director of Advancement and a Human Resources Coordinator.

Moishe House has no plans to slow down and looks forward to saying “yes” to Jewish communities like Charlotte all around the world.

For a listing of Moishe House’s June events, please see page 8.
If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It

Tim Harris Inspires Charlotte Jewish Community

Meet Tim Harris. Tim was born with Down syndrome and while many in society limited their expectations of him, he refused to let anything get in the way of his dream to start his own restaurant: Tim’s Place. Tim’s Place is the first and only restaurant to be owned by a man with Down syndrome. While open, Tim’s Place served breakfast, lunch, and hugs. Tim’s hugs have reached everyone from music legend Stevie Wonder to President Obama. To date, Tim has given out more than 70,000 hugs and has been featured in People Magazine, CBS News, ABC News, NBC Today Show, NBC Nightly News, NPR, and CNN.

On May 15, Tim inspired the oversold crowd at Lerner Hall gathered to celebrate friendship and abilities. He encouraged everyone to constantly pursue their own dreams and never let anything get in the way of their success.

Tim thanked the community for their support of Friendship Circle and ZABS Place. He also noted with admiration how friendship and employment are the two greatest dreams for an individual with disabilities.

The crowd also got to meet several of the Friendship Circle friends and ZABS Place talent and hear their own big dreams. A movie produced by Friendship Circle’s Teen Friends illustrated the impact friendship can have on any individual. Also at the celebration, five teen friends of the Friendship Circle were honored with the Philip Spiering Fellowship Award. Congratulations to Sarah Godel, Hannah Farrell, Leah Porter, Jordan Schuler, and Talia Weinstein. Friendship Circle and ZABS Place are beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

To learn more visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org/Dream.

Moishe House Events for June

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 June:

Event 1: Paint and Learn - Thursday, June 1 at 7 PM at Moishe House

Relax after a long week with a paint and learn. Learn all about famous Israeli cities while painting the scene. Supplies, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

Event 2: Champions League Final - Saturday, June 3 at 2:45 PM, at Selwyn Pub, 2801 Selwyn Ave, Charlotte, NC 28209

You’ve most likely never heard of it but the Champions League Final is watched by more people than the Super Bowl. Come watch the world’s best football clubs teams face off in Cardiff, Wales. Selwyn Pub is great for outdoor viewing, food, and afternoon schmoozing.

Event 3: Zoo and Brew with Moishe House Triangle - Saturday, June 10 at 2 PM at Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, NC

Moishe House Charlotte and Moishe House Raleigh are teaming up for an epic day of a Zoo and Brew. We’ll be going to the Carolina Zoo in Asheboro and then sampling a local brewery.

Event 4: Sunday Afternoon Park Hangout - Sunday, June 25 at 2 PM at Freedom Park, 1900 East Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28203

Sunday, Freedom Park has a lot to offer so let’s go play around. There may be some volleyball or other activities that break out and feel free to bring activities. Some snacks/drinks will be provided.

To learn more about Moishe House Charlotte visit us at www.moishehousecharlotte.org. Email mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

Event 5: Pizza, Poker, and Philanthropy - Thursday, June 22 at 6 PM

It’s just what it sounds like. Come to the Moishe House for pizza and poker. Half the pot will be awarded to the winner, with the other half being donated to a charity TBD. The buy in will be $5 and no poker experience is necessary. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

Event 6: Summer Kick-off Party at MoHo - Saturday, June 17 at 6 PM at Moishe House

Summer is already here! Let’s celebrate with a cookout. Come hang out with friends, enjoy grilling out, and playing outdoor games, like cornhole. We will also sit by the bonfire and observe Hanukkah. Feel free to bring your favorite cookout dish. Please email mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the address.

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704-333-6694
Annual Meeting of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community

On April 30, over 100 legacy donors and Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) fund holders attended the FCJC Annual Meeting and Community Legacy Celebration. As part of the evening, Mark Vitner was approved as FCJC Board Chair succeeding Judy August. In addition, Emily Zimmern was welcomed as FCJC’s newest Board member and Adam Bernstein was thanked after completing his Board term. The event was held at Foundation For The Carolinas.

Front, left to right: Amy Vitner, Mattye Silverman, Marc Silverman, Mark Vitner; back: Phil Warshauer, executive director, Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community.

Bernard and Leah Amler

Stan Greenspon, Rabbi Yossi Groner

Karen Turk, Judy August, Holly Stubble

Bob Stein and Lee Pesakoff

Rabbi Asher Knight

Nancy Kipnis, Asst. VP and Coordinator, Create Your Jewish Legacy, and Melissa Raphael.

Lee Blumenthal greets friends by the welcome sign.

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WORK WITH A LEADER IN CHARLOTTE REAL ESTATE

Steve Lepow

Charlotte Magazine FIVE STAR Real Estate Agent
RE/MAX Hall of Fame member
Together We Are 1: Hadassah Tri Region Conference

Charlotte Hadassah welcomed 150 members from 10 states and three regions to our Tri Region Convention, April 21-23 at the Hilton Executive Park in Charlotte. Many dynamic, Zionist women discussed healthcare, education, and advocacy to name just a few and spent the weekend sharing, bonding, and learning.

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that inspires a passion for and commitment to its partnership with the land and people of Israel. It enhances the health of people worldwide through its support of medical care and research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. Hadassah empowers its members and supporters, as well as youth in Israel and America through opportunities for personal growth, education, advocacy, and Jewish continuity.

Some of our speakers were Avi Weinryb from the Israel Action Network, Rabbi Judy Schindler and Talit Dippold from the Stan Greenspon Center at Queens University, and Joy Feldman, author of both a children’s book, and a cookbook on healthy eating. Additionally, we were inspired by the passion and wisdom of our National President of Hadassah, Ellen Herskin.

The Tri Region convention included Hadassah members from three regions. Southern Seaboard, Southern, and South-eastern Regions of the United States. Avi Weinryb, the Israel Action Network’s Assistant Director of Community Strategy and Communications, manages national organizing campaigns focused on developing, supporting and growing a collective of advocates across multiple disciplines to counter attacks on Israel’s legitimacy. He is also director of Academic Partners for Peace, a seminar that brings American faculty to Israel to explore the role higher education can play in peace making and peace building.

Our vision is to attract and engage younger women to strengthen Hadassah in the United States and in Israel, to build a global organization, to engage new partners and build coalitions, and to develop and run initiatives that impact both Israel and the American Community.

If you would like to join Hadassah, please email Amy Rosewater at amyrosewater@gmail.com.

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Opi’s Legacy

By Benjamin Goldman

When I was young, we called my grandparents from Liechtenstein Omi and Opi. Until I was nine, I thought Omi and Opi were their real names, and they were put together by destiny. When I heard their names were Fritz and Eve, I was devastated. It was like I was lied to my entire life. To me, they were only Omi and Opi. My Opi in particular was an extraordinary person, and I hope my life will one day be as phenomenal as his was.

Opi lived an outstanding life. Weeks before his Bar Mitzvah, a non-Jewish friend warned his family to flee Germany and they made their way to Liechtenstein, which was neutral during the war. He had his Bar Mitzvah there, with practically no other friends or family at all, but got letters from all over wishing him the best. One of the notable letters was from his uncle telling him that despite the circumstances, he had to make a valiant effort to be a good Jew and a true mensch.

Throughout his life, Opi did anything and everything to leave a trail of gleeful faces in his wake. He collected over half a million francs for Israel during the Six Day War. Opi even helped start an orphanage in Israel that exists to this day. He went with the former Prince of Liechtenstein to Israel and was instrumental in having Liechtenstein support Israel’s statehood. He started Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein and put together an exhibit in Liechtenstein about the Jews during the war. He was very outspoken about the Holocaust and talked about it in schools. He raised money that could send teachers to Israel so that they could learn about the horrible things that happened during World War II.

Opi was compelled to never conceal his Judaism and to make an effort to spread the culture and traditions. He especially instilled a love of Israel, the people, and the religion in his youngest daughter, my mother. He put so much effort into making sure his children and grandchildren grew up happy and Jewish. Opi wanted his grandchildren to grow up in a more understanding and tolerant world than he lived in. He paved the way for the person I am today.

On June 9, 2012, I was playing with a neighborhood friend. My sister stepped outside while we were playing and muttered two words: “He’s dead.” It was the day of his Jewish birthday. It is said in Judaism that people who die on their birthdays are tzaddikim. That is exactly what he was, a righteous man. Opi was someone determined to fight for a better world for everyone else, seldom for himself. He was such a humble person that we likely don’t know half of the impact he left on everyone he knew. He was such a resolve, willful person, it took ten years for a blood cancer – giving him a life expectancy of five years – to take him away from us.

What he left behind was the world he fought so hard for. A world of compassion and empathy, a society full of functioning Jews who enjoy and celebrate one another. Most importantly, he left behind me to use what his life has taught me to leave an even greater world for my children and future generations. What we need to learn from Fritz Baum is that it isn’t about getting a building named after you. Life is about being able to have a legacy so impactful that people want to write your name on their building … and then being able to tell them “no.”

We have to understand that culture is not be ignored, and that we do need to celebrate where we have come from. Jews today are no different.

Ben Goldman and Director Roz Cooper

Youth Visions

Hebrew High’s End of Year Celebration

Hebrew High concluded our year of study with a party and awards ceremony. Teachers were given gifts by the Student Council and honors were bestowed upon Director Roz Cooper, as this was her final class before her retirement.

A special award was given to Benjamin Goldman, who won the essay contest sponsored by Better2Gether, the class that 9th and 10th graders took for two sessions with older active adults. The organization that supplied the funding to Hebrew High for the class gave scholarships to Jewish summer camp or Israel Year Course for one student at every participating school who won best essay. Of the 10 students who submitted essays, Benjamin’s was judged tops!

Here is his essay about Opi, his grandfather from Lichtenstein who passed away recently.

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The Hebrew High end of year celebration.

Eighth graders Megan Hochman, Julia Sands, Haden Burton, Lily Shinn, and Sam Olinger show off their artwork from their class, “In God’s Image.”

Hebrew Cemetery of Greater Charlotte

Honor • Celebrate • Embrace

For questions about plot purchases, preplanning or making a memorial gift, please contact: Sandra Goldman, Director director@hebrewcemeteries.org 704-576-1859
Charlotte BBYO will be kicking off the school year with the Charlotte Knights. Be on the lookout for more information on this exciting event that will be held on Sunday, August 20 for the 5 PM game. Rising 9th–12th graders, members and non-members, are invited to attend!

SAVE THE DATE

Hebrew High End of Year Celebration
(Continued from page 11)

than 100 years ago. We are a society built on tradition, and we have to do everything in our ability to keep our traditions going. The elderly have done so much to build a world we can live in. The wars they fought, the arguments they won, the determination they held to leave a breathable land for my generation to live in is astonishing. They used every fiber in every bone of their bodies to stay alive for us. Opi used every inch of his body to allow me to light the eighth candle on the chanukiyah or drink the fourth cup of grape juice at the Seder.

For the Better Together poem, I decided to write and perform a solo piece titled "I Am a Jew." It captured the essence of who I am explicitly, a person and a Jewish man. When Opi was my age, the thought "Will this person harass me because I am Jewish?" was a constant strife he had to deal with. He even got into a fist fight with someone calling him a "dirty Jew," and he won it. My poem captures what Opi wanted for my life. He wanted me to live in a world where I could go up on a stage and tell a hundred people "I am a Jew." I am able to do this because of what my grandfather did for me.

The phone calls I have with my grandmother, Omi, are often slow, and incoherent. It often leads to her asking to speak to my mom and is typically considered a simple conversation full of "yes" and "I love you" because her English is not the best. But, I don't stay for the conversation with her, I stay because it is her. The world knew him as Fritz Baum, Dovid Yehuda HaLevi, if they knew him at all. Liechtenstein knew him as a humble hero. My mother knew him as the loving father who endowed her with the quality of living life as proud Jew. My Omi knew him as a caring husband who would stick with her as long as he could. The world knows him as Fritz Baum, but in reality, what he really is, is Opi. He is my Opi.

To see just how great the Better2Gether class was, view our professionally produced documentary at https://vimeo.com/215785215. Students who are rising 9th and 10th graders are invited to join this class again next at Hebrew High, the place to be on Wednesday nights! 

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Thank you for joining together as a community to commemorate and celebrate Israel, our second home (or first, for some of us), it is really important to stop everything, just once a year, just for a couple of hours – to celebrate our Jewish homeland!

CHARLOTTE CELEBRATES ISRAEL@69!

Special thanks to Inbal Ozeri, our Community Shlicha
Summer is here and that means picnic time. Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC will be hosting their annual picnic on June 4 from 12 noon–4 PM at McDowell Nature Preserve-McDowell Pavilion, 15222 South York Road, Charlotte, NC. This event is free and open to the public, and will feature yummy picnic food, music, a face painter, balloon artist, caricature artist, cornhole tournament and more. Please feel free to drop by and meet our friendly congregation. This picnic has become a TKA tradition and is always great family fun for everyone. For more information, check out our website www.templekolamisc.org, or shoot us an e-mail at tkareligiousschool@gmail.com.

Speaking of picnics, the TKA Religious School celebrated Israel Independence Day with a picnic on April 30. The students did a presentation on Israel and then they enjoyed some delicious snacks and singing the Israel National Anthem, Hatikvah.

It has been another wonderful year of Jewish education and friendships at TKA Religious School. Planning is already underway for the 2017-2018 school year. If your child is ready for Hebrew School, check out Temple Kol Ami. We have a thriving school that meets three times a month on Sunday mornings at our beautiful facility, Ivybrook Academy in Fort Mill. You do not have to be a member of TKA for your child to attend our Religious School. For more information, e-mail us at tka.religiousschool@gmail.com.

There will be an Open House/Ice Cream Social on August 27 at Ivybrook to meet our fantastic teachers and tour the school. Check out our website for more details.

If you live in York County, Waxhaw, or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are so many wonderful advantages to being a member of TKA, not the least of which is being a part of the revitalization of the Jewish community of this area. We hope you will come play and pray with us sometime soon.

Saying Goodbye - A Farewell Message

By Cantor Andrew Bernard

It started off like any other vacation. A crazy week of Shabbat prep mixed with a crazier week of travel prep. Friday night services and then rushing home to pack. Several pre-dawn cups of coffee on Saturday while wrapping up things at home and loading the suitcase into the car. An early morning swim before teen band rehearsal…teen vocal ensemble rehearsal…Congregational Shabbat service. A few quick goodbyes and then the drive to the airport. Fly north. Fly west. Baggage claim at Seatac (waiting…waiting…waiting…). Escalator…skybridge…elevator…parking garage…to the transportation bay. A 30-minute ride north. Arriving at my destination at midnight (Pacific time) and collapsing into bed after a 23-hour day. Whew! Made it!!

I woke up on Sunday morning to a gray, cold, damp Seattle morning. Ahh. A morning only a true Seattleite could love. Add a hot mug of coffee and you pretty much have paradise. Early in the afternoon I caught the bus over to the West Seattle Y. It was still cold and damp, but the gray was beginning to break up a little bit. By the time I finished my swim and began the bus ride home, the skies were absolutely clear. As we wound up and around the viaduct onto the West Seattle Bridge: Mt. Rainier crystal clear; the Cascade and Olympic Mountains brilliant as they can only be on those rare, cloudless winter days. And I just had to laugh.

The Universe whispers in your ear. And then sometimes the Universe clubs you over the head with a two-by-four. On that Seattle Sunday — a gray, cold, and damp start followed by the most spectacular scenery of the Pacific Northwest — the Universe was not being remotely subtle: it’s time. It’s time to come home. You’ve been gone 23 years, and it’s time to return to the place your heart never left.

It is hard to get my head around 18 years at Temple Beth El. I could try looking at it by the numbers: 18 High Holiday seasons; 900 b’nei mitzvah, give or take; nine clergy partners. Or I could list the programs and projects: peer tutoring, human sexuality, teen band and vocal ensemble, Kabbalat Shabbat, Second Family, five liturgies, endless PowerPoint points, ten musical compositions. Or maybe the healing and Yizkor drashes on Yom Kippur afternoon. It’s a lot of stuff. But it is not the stuff I will carry with me. The truly important stuff is contained in the moments of human connection. Moments sitting across from a nervous bar mitzvah student or with a worried congregant in a hospital room. Moments sharing a smart aleck remark with a coworker on a stressful day. Moments holding a hand when you need it most. It is what makes us, as humans, resilient.

I will not have to look for purpose. You have all given me purpose. I return to Seattle with my heart overflowing — for the meaning you have given my life through those moments of connection is profound and bountiful. The experiences and memories each of us carries in our heart from those moments of human connection will be the truest measure of those 18 years.
Jerusalem Shabbaton at Ohr HaTorah on Friday, July 7

On Friday, July 7, Congregation Ohr HaTorah will host a special Friday Night Summer Shabbaton dinner. The theme of the Shabbaton is Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel.

This summer we mark the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem which occurred miraculously during the Six Day War in June of 1967. After studying about the miracles and implications of the Six Day War and completing the JLI Israel course “Survival of Judaism and then imagine the pride feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism and yearning to return to our eternal capital of Israel.

This Shabbat before the three weeks serves as a day of hope and yearning; hope for a better future and yearning to return to our promised land with the final redemption when we will see the rebuilding of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. The Shabbaton is open to the entire Jewish community. Participants will enjoy a delicious home cooked Shabbat meal, and participate in special entertaining activities during which we will learn how to appreciate the miracles of the Six Day War and the miracles within our own lives. Services will begin at 6619 Sardis Road at 7 PM, followed by dinner and activities. The cost to participate is $54 per family and $20 per single. To register, go to www.chabadnc.org or send a check to 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte, NC 28270. For more information, please call 704-366-3984.

Hands-On Interactive Jewish Learning

Imagine a Hebrew School where kids don’t want to miss a day. They come in with a smile and leave humming a Hebrew song. Walking through the halls, you can hear the sounds of lively discussion, of singing, laughter and prayer. Imagine a child who feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism and then imagine the pride of his/her parents.

Our school’s most underlying approach is for the children to enjoy the time spent at Hebrew School so that they are left with positive feelings and fond memories of their Jewish education. Our program is thus carefully blended with songs, games, incentives, arts and crafts, dramatics, field trips, family celebrations and other exciting co-curricular activities.

Classes run on Sundays from 10 AM - 12 noon throughout the regular school year. Registration for the 2017-2018 School Year is now open. Find out more by visiting our website www.JewishBallantyne.com/hebrewschool or call 704-246-8881 or email Leah@JewishBallantyne.com

Camp Gan Israel

Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne is gearing up for an awesome summer! Register at www.CGIBallantyne.com

Havurat Tikvah Plans Alternative Shabbat Service

An alternative community Shabbat service with Havurat Tikvah will be held on June 17 at 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, Aitken Classroom, 2821 Park Rd., followed by kiddush. A d’var Torah discussion on the week’s parshat will be included within the service.

The congregation’s social action committee is currently in the early stages of working on refugee and immigration initiatives with two agencies. More information will be made available as these projects progress.

During the rest of June and July, no services or events have been planned and the congregation will resume those again in late summer. Visit the website’s calendar to see if plans change and options are made available during the break.

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with the goal of promoting social justice.

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

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

Making S'mores for Lag Ba’Omer

Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne is gearing up for an awesome summer! Register at www.CGIBallantyne.com

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Congregation Emanuel Remembers Lives Lost During the Holocaust

By James Neal, jrneal@statesville.com

Guests and members of Congregation Emanuel gathered on April 23 to observe Yom HaShoah — or Holocaust Remembrance Day — at the synagogue in Statesville. Guests included members of several North Carolina congregations and the synagogue’s small parking lot overflowed.

Keynote speakers and cousins Raya Kizhnerman and Shelly Weiner were present for the showing of “Return to Rivne,” a documentary on how they and their mothers survived the Holocaust with the help of the Ukrainian family that hid them.

Mitchell Siegel opened the observance by lighting six candles, each representing one million Jews lost during the Holocaust. He canted the “Hatzi Kaddish” in a tune usually reserved for the high holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

“I chose it because the power of that melody is unmistakable. It sends chills down the spine,” Siegel said. “It’s remembering this tragedy as it should be, giving it the attention it deserves.”

Stephanie Wood, a teacher at North Iredell High School and teaching fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gave a presentation for historical context.

Wood emphasized the magnitude of the slaughter performed by German killing squads that followed behind invasion forces and executed targeted populations. Out of more than one million Jewish children in Poland prior to World War II, fewer than 500 survived, she said.

After reading a first-hand account of the extermination of Jews at Sosenki Forest in Ukraine, of the struggles of surviving in a rat-infested barn and underground grain storage area, Weiner was asked to distill her experiences into a single lesson.

“The one thing is most important is that we stay involved in our community, and when we see something, we speak,” Weiner said. “The Holocaust wouldn’t have happened if good people had spoken up. Evil still exists in this world and because we don’t learn from history, each generation has to face it.”

“We’re remembering a genocide that, had the Allies not prevailed, would’ve caused Judaism to become something for the history books,” Siegel said. “A civilization, once great, now dead.”

The event was sponsored by the Jewish Council of Lake Norman.

“Return to Rivne” can be found in full at bit.ly/2oA2CWh.

(Continued on page 21)
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<td>Week 7: July 24–28</td>
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<td>Week 8: July 31–Aug 4</td>
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<td>Week 9: Aug 7–11</td>
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**LEVINE JCC**

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**Fall Soccer Leagues**

**Members Register: July 10–August 12**
Non-Members Register: July 24–August 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>League</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daddy and Me Soccer</td>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>9/24 – 10/29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micro-Soccer</td>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>9/10 – 11/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Soccer</td>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>9/10 – 11/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kickers Soccer</td>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>9/10 – 11/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Soccer, Girls and Boys</td>
<td>9th - 12th grade</td>
<td>9/10 – 11/12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Pricing Codes:  M=Member  B=Benefactor   NM=Non-Member
SUMMER AQUATICS HOURS

FATHER’S DAY POOL PARTY
Sunday, June 18, 12-3pm

JULY 4th POOL PARTY
Tuesday, July 4th, 12-3pm

Special Hours
Memorial Day, 5/28: IP 7am-6:30pm
BP: 9am-6:45pm MP/SP: 10am-6:45pm
Erev Shavuot, 5/30: IP 5:30am-5:30pm
BP: 5:30-11:30am MP/SP: Closed
Shavuot, 5/31: IP 1-6pm
BP: Closed MP/SP: 4-6:45pm
Shavuot, 6/1: IP 1-6pm
BP: Closed MP/SP: 4-6:45pm
Kids’ Triathlon, 6/4:
BP: 9am-10pm Recplex 2-6:45pm
SP: Closed 1-3pm
4th of July, 7/4: P 7am-6:30pm
BP: 9am-6:45pm MP/SP: 10am-6:45pm
Labor Day, 9/4: IP 7am-6:30pm
BP/MP/SP: 10am-6:45pm

JUNE SWIM TEAM POOL SCHEDULE

Home Meets: Bubble Pool Open
5:30am-3pm June 8, 12, 15
Away Meets: Bubble Pool Open
until 7:45pm June 5, 19, 21 & 27
Beginning 7/10

Monday–Thursday, Swim Team will have
2 lanes reserved at the Bubble Pool
M & W: 7:30-10pm
T & Th: 4-6pm

Fun Sundays
JUN 18–AUG 20
1-2pm • CRAFTS
2-3pm • BINGO W/PRIZES

June 18: Father’s Day Tie Making
June 25: Face Painting
July 2: Make Pinwheels
July 9: Tie Dye
July 16: Paint Garden Rocks
July 23: Paint Flower Pots
July 30: Bubble Painting
August 6: Henna Painting
August 13: Fairy Lights in Jars
August 20: Scavenger Hunt

Foam Noodles and Paddle Jumpers are the
Only Water Fiction Devices Permitted in all Pools

Indoor Pool - IP
Sat, 5/27 – Sun, 9/3
Mon–Thur: 5:30am–5pm
Fri: 5:30am–5:30pm
Sat: 12–6:30pm
Sun: 7am–6:30pm

Bubble Pool – BP
Adult Lap Swim Only:
Mon – Fri: 5/26–8/9 6:30–11:30am
Mon – Fri: Beginning 8/10 5:30–10am; Sun: 9–10am
Sat: 5/27 – Fri, 6/9
Mon–Fri: 5:30–11:30am
Sat: 12–6:45pm
Sun: 9am–6:45pm
Sat, 6/10 – Thu, 6/29
Mon–Thu: 5:30–4:30pm
Fri: 5:30–6:45pm
Sat: 12–6:45pm
Sun: 9am–6:45pm
Fri, 6/30 – Sun, 8/27
Mon–Thu: 5:30–7:45pm
Fri: 5:30–6:45pm
Sat: 12–6:45pm
Sun: 9am–6:45pm

Main Pool/Splash Park – MP/SP
Sat, 5/27 – Fri, 6/9 & Mon, 8/28 – Sun, 9/3
Mon–Thur: 4–6:45pm
Fri: Closed
Sat: 12–6:45pm
Sun: 10am–6:45pm

Sat, 6/10 – Sun, 8/27
Mon–Thu: 10am–7:45pm
Fri: 10am–6:45pm
Sat: 12–6:45pm
Sun: 10am–6:45pm

Extended Weekends: 9/9–9/10 & 9/16–9/17
Sat: 12–6:45pm
Sun: 10am-6:45pm

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LJCC Department Directory
Please contact us if you have questions!

Membership
Susan Lerner 704-944-6741
susan.lerner@charlottejcc.org
Early Childhood
Patty Torcellini 704-944-6891
patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org
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LJCC Tennis / CRUSH
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gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org
Visual/Performing Arts
Susan Gundersheim 704-944-6778
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Amie Gray 704-944-6726
amie.gray@charlottejcc.org
Social Action
Julie Rizzo 704-944-6730
julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

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An annual administration fee of $20 per individual or $35 per family is required for non-member participation in programs and services.
Always a warm welcome.
An inclusive and dynamic Reform Jewish congregation • 1,100 families strong

WORSHIP

Join us for Shabbat Services every Friday evening at 6:00 pm and Saturday morning at 11:00 am. Don’t miss these special Friday evening services:

June 9  Israel Shabbat Service
The service will include Israeli musical selections, reflections from our clergy, and a special guest, Rabbi Miri Gold, from Kehillat Birkat Shalem – Temple Beth El’s sister congregation in Israel. We will also bless Temple members participating in this year’s Congregational Trip to Israel prior to their departure.

June 30  Summer Shabbat Service Celebrating Cantor Bernard
All are invited to attend as we say goodbye to Cantor Andrew Bernard who has blessed Temple Beth El with music and spiritual support for 18 years. Cantor Bernard will retire to Seattle, WA.

COMMUNITY

Our vibrant Temple Beth El community features something for everyone of any age. Visit templebethel.org to learn more about our community.

LEARNING

The June 1967 War: How It Changed Jewish, Israeli, & Middle Eastern History
Wednesday evenings, July 19, 26, and August 2
7:00–8:30 pm at Temple Beth El
Registration info: www.templebethel.org

The June 1967 Middle East War transformed Israeli, Jewish, and Middle Eastern History. Join us for an in-depth study and discussion of the prelude and aftermath of the War, and how it has transformed our identity as Jews.

This special series will be taught by Rabbi Judy Schindler, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Beth El, and Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queen’s University; and Stefan Pienkny, Temple Beth El member, Jewish educator, and veteran who fought in the Six-Day War and Yom Kippur War.

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

5101 Providence Road | Charlotte, NC 28226 | 704.366.1948 | templebethel.org

Are you interested in Temple Beth El membership or learning more about what makes our congregation unique? Contact Candace Naliboff, Director of Member Services at 704.749.3068 or cnaliboff@templebethel.org.

Discovered Traditions Gift Shop has a beautiful selection of art and Judaica to complete any Jewish celebration.

Discovered Traditions is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Sundays when Religious School is in session and before Friday night services. Proceeds support the Temple Beth El Religious School.
The Shalom Park Freedom School Needs You This Summer

Want to turn your lazy summer days into meaningful ones? Volunteer at the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) one time or several times during the weeks of June 19-July 27. SPFS serves 80 economically-disadvantaged children every summer in our community, working to close the literacy achievement gap with a six-week literacy and character-building summer program. It takes hundreds of volunteers to make it a success, and people of all ages are needed.

To sign up, visit spfreedomschool.org and click on the tab “Get Involved,” or email Eileen Davis at fuervis@gmail.com or Elka Bernstein at ebernstein1@carolina.rr.com.

Volunteer opportunities range from on-one involvement with the scholars to shopping for or donating needed supplies. Adults (ages 18 and older) and high school students (rising 10th, 11th, or 12th graders) can volunteer in any way that they can. Younger teens (rising 7th, 8th, or 9th graders) must be accompanied by a parent or other adult, who has completed the volunteer registration process, when volunteering onsite and offsite. Younger teens (rising 7th, 8th, or 9th graders) can volunteer to help during a morning of outdoor games and relays for hundreds of scholars.

Parent Meeting Support – Parents of Freedom School scholars are invited to three evening parent meetings in Gorelick Hall during the summer. Help welcome, serve dinner, and clean up, lead an activity for children so that staff is able to focus on parents.

* Afternoon Activity Leader/Helper
* Field Trip Chaperone
* Field Day Support – Volunteer to help during a morning of outdoor games and relays for hundreds of scholars.

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* Site Set-up/Site Breakdown
* Supply Shopper
* Supply Drive
* D.E.A.R. Reader – Be a reading buddy during extended Drop Everything and Read days.

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* Visit Harambee, a high-energy pep rally that kicks off every day of Freedom School with a celebration of reading, learning, and every child’s ability to succeed.
* Be a Harambee reader and special guest.
* Meet and Greet Desk Assistant
* Appreciation Bags for interns – Provide goody bags for our hard-working interns and site coordinator each week.
* Graphic Design – Help design SPFS publicity materials, forms, etc.
* Videography/Photography – Join our team of photographers who help record SPFS activities for our website and publicity; help prepare photo montages and videos for our SPFS events and website.

Volunteer with SPFS just one day or several days, but come join us at SPFS this summer. Visit spfreedomschool.org to sign up and learn more.

Follow SPFS on Facebook. Like us at www.facebook.com/shalomparkfreedomschool.

Shalom Park Freedom School Fast Facts:

* Number of scholars served: 80
* Number of snacks and drinks: 2,400
* Number of books: 1,200
* Number of volunteers: 150
* Percentage of scholars qualifying for free or reduced lunch: 92%
* 95% of parents said they saw an increase in their child’s love of reading after Shalom Park Freedom School ended.

91% of parents reported they saw an increase in their child’s confidence in their reading ability after participating in SPFS.

90% of parents said they saw an increase in their child’s conflict resolution skills.

“It makes me happy that my daughters learn more,” said one parent of a scholar last summer.

“My daughters are very happy for the field trips. Thank you for giving happiness to my daughters.”

Another remarked, “I like that my son is interested in reading, and before Freedom School helped him he didn’t like it at all.”

JPS Congratulates the Class of 2017:

Miles Barrett,  Sophia Bleiman, Abigail Foster, Yitzchok Gordon, Ryan Kirsch, Ethan Miller, Noah Moskowitz-Yinger, Rosie Koff, Elay Rotchild, and Leah Winther
Phase One of Temple Israel’s renovation project will be finished in September, before the High Holy Days,* and we are very excited to show our revitalized space to the community!

*2017 High Holy Day information coming soon!

JOIN US
Are you interested in becoming part of a really amazing community? We invite you to Experience Temple Israel. For singles and couples, young and old, students and families, for those seeking religious knowledge, for those seeking kindred spirits, for fun and a true celebration of all that it means to be Jewish, there is something here for you.

To learn more about Temple Israel and membership opportunities, please contact Monty Bennett at 704-362-2796 or mbennett@templeisraelnc.org.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
Registration for Temple Israel Religious School’s 2017-2018 school year is currently underway. Classes meet on Sunday mornings (9:30am - 12:00pm). Additionally, students in grades 3-7 will choose one weekday session to attend (Tuesday, from 4:45-6:15pm or Wednesday, from 5:15-6:45pm).

Note: Weekday session selections will be guaranteed if forms are returned by the deadline. In addition, classroom requests will only be honored if they are returned by the registration deadline.

EDUCATING AND INSPIRING FUTURE JEWISH LEADERS
K - 7TH GRADE
Register by June 30
704-944-6785
templeisraelnc.org

SUMMER GIFT SHOP HOURS (June - August)
The Gift Shop will be open by appointment only. Please contact Cindy Lennens, 704-362-2796, or Tess Berger 704-488-3842. We will be happy to meet you at the gift shop for all of your Judaica shopping needs over the summer.

Visit us in our temporary gift shop location in the Gorelick Education Building!

Proceeds support Temple Israel, Sisterhood, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.

TEMMLE ISRAEL UNDERGOING RENOVATION PROJECT
Phase One of Temple Israel’s revitalization and reinvestment project* will continue through the summer. Throughout construction, the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary and Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall will be the only accessible portions of the building. The majority of the Temple building is an active construction zone and is not open to visitors.

Daily minyanim, Shabbat, and Yom Tov services are taking place in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary, which is accessible from the Madans Wing entrance (formerly known as the East Wing) to the building.

If you have an appointment with a member of the Clergy or professional team, or if you need assistance with any Temple matters in person, please plan to visit the staff in the Gorelick Family Education Building.

If you have any questions, please contact our administrative offices at 704-362-2796.

"Last chance to contribute to Temple Israel’s 120th Anniversary Reinvestment Campaign and appear on the donor wall (gift of $2,500+) For additional information, please contact Glenda Bernhardt at 704-362-2796.

LIFELONG LEARNING
AMERICAN SYNAGOGUE MUSIC SINCE THE 1960’S
Wednesday, June 7
7:00-9:00pm, with break for Minyan
Location: Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary
Join Cantor Roocvarg for part two of his previously scheduled April class, “EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN SYNAGOGUE MUSIC: From Zevie’s & Bubbie’s Shul to OUR Shul… and into the Future.” Live and recorded examples will be used to illustrate synagogue music since the 1960’s. We will study how it was influenced by American music, Israeli pop music, charismatic troubadors like Debbie Friedman & Shlomo Carelach (both of blessed memory), the burgeoning recordings of Orthodox pop, and today’s Jewish music icons (Craig Taubman, Rick Recht, Dan Nichols and many others).

EVENTS
SPLASH INTO SHABBAT WITH TORAH TOTS!
Friday, June 9
4:30-6:30pm
Location: LJCC Pool/Splash Park
During the summer months, all pre-school families are welcome to SPLASH INTO SHABBAT with TORAH TOTS! There will be open play, songs and a Shabbat service, capped off with a kid-friendly meal. Cost: $5/person or $18/family. Pay in advance at templeisraelnc.org, under “register for an event.” On day of event, payment with cash or check only.

THE WISDOM OF TEMPLE ISRAEL
Saturdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
9:30am
Location: Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary
Join us on Shabbat for a series of guest speakers, from our congregational family.
When children are the most impressionable and the adults can have the strongest impact, she enrolled them in a Jewish day school in New London, CT 45 minutes away. She, herself drove three hours a day to make it happen. Although this is impressive, that is not what blew me away, because some people have long commutes, possibly not in Charlotte, although it's starting to look like that when you live past Ballantyne. What really blew me away is that Elissa was the eighth child in the whole school. She was the only student in her grade and was paired with the only two first graders. One room housed K-3 and one room housed grades 4-6. This is not something that would happen easily today. Instead of worrying about the perfect gender balance, number of students, and a flawless schedule, Sharon only worried about one thing. She wanted her children to be proud, knowledgeable Jews. This is a lesson truly worth pondering and sharing. We must reflect on our priorities as we raise the next generation of Jews.

CJDS is truly fortunate and blessed because we have many grandparents to teach us and forge the road ahead for us. The support from our grandparent community is awesome. Some, by raising their children with the ongoing message that they too must send their children to a Jewish day school. Some by actually paying the tuition for their grandchildren’s day school attendance. Some by volunteering at the day school itself and some by contributing to the school, too. We appreciate all of you.

Penina Polsky tells her grandparents, Larry and Dale Polsky, about her schoolwork at CJDS.
By Brooke Amo

Our 4s and Pre-K students eagerly boarded El Al Flight #69 in Luski Hall on Yom HaAtzmaut to travel off to Israel on Yom HaAtzmaut. Each year staff, parents and students work extremely hard to make this trip as authentic, educational, and of course as fun as possible. When CJP students go to Israel they rotate through various Israeli experiences such as Israeli dancing, shopping in the shuk, going to the kibbutz, visiting the Kotel in Jerusalem, experiencing Israeli food at the Tel Aviv Café, creating beautiful sand art in the Negev Desert, and experiencing Eilat. This amazing trip gave the children the opportunity to learn about the geography and culture of Israel through experiential learning.

Our pilot (Becca Weiner) and Flight Attendant (Brooke Amo) preparing students for take-off to their trip to Israel.

Students were eating oranges, pita, hummus, and other authentic Israeli food in the Tel Aviv Café.

In the Negev Desert students created sand art, took camel rides.

Students learn Israeli dancing from Ruth Ann Smith and Lois Laxer to the song Nigun Atik.

Students were bargaining at the shuk and paying with handmade shekels. They could buy tzedakah boxes, mezuzahs, and Israeli jewelry.

Students were digging up vegetables, milking a cow, and harvesting at the kibbutz.

While visiting Eilat, students played different games in the water and on the beach.

The children said the Shema and created wishes to put in the Kotel in Jerusalem.

Fall Program Registration Begins:
Monday, July 17 (members) Monday, July 24 (non-members)

MEMBERS CAN REGISTER ONLINE BEGINNING JULY 17TH!

704-366-5007 • charlottejcc.org
By Jeffrey Barken/JNS.org

For years, Jewish basketball aficionados have adored Tamir Goodman. The same can now be said for Jewish summer campers. Nicknamed the “Jewish Jordan” by Sports Illustrated magazine in 1999 for the combination of his on-court prowess and his observance of Orthodox rituals despite a busy secular game schedule, Goodman earned the respect of his teammates and fans alike. After a storied high school career, Maryland-born Goodman played for a decade between college (Towson University) and Israel’s professional basketball leagues before a knee injury forced him to hang up his jersey.

Goodman has devised a rigorous training course for the camp. Each day, drills and discussions will be structured around an educational theme. Professional players, yoga instructors and physical therapists will lead intense warm-up sessions. Guest speakers will illuminate game theory, and then the group will scrimmage before breaking for lunch.

In the afternoon, the course is repeated. When day campers depart, the overnight campers will participate in charity events, bowling and other evening activities. “Basketball is much more than being in a gym these days. You really need to know how to take care of your body,” Goodman says. He has enlisted nutritionists to impart healthy eating, sleeping, and other lifestyle skills at the camp.

The campers are predominately observant Jews, but Goodman pushes back on the notion that this is a camp specifically for religious athletes. “The message is not to let society dictate what you can or cannot do in this world….I was lucky enough to work with some of the greatest basketball minds in the world,” he says. In the Jerusalem camp, therefore, Goodman says he takes “all that world-class basketball and I give it to our players in an atmosphere where they don’t have to sacrifice their Judaism or be the only Jewish person.”

Given his childhood and adolescent experiences as a camper, Goodman is well aware that having kosher food available, as well as a culture and schedule that accommodates religious priorities, removes the considerable social and logistical hurdles that campers otherwise face.

The camp, therefore, is an opportunity for players to embrace the awareness for faith and ritual that Goodman brought to the game, in addition to underscoring the meaning of the Jewish day of rest.

“We really want the players to connect to Shabbat in a unique way,” Goodman says. “After working so hard all week on their bodies, physically, it will be nice to spend some time working on their spirit.”

Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider, Goodman’s friend and colleague, has offered to host the overnight campers for Shabbat dinner.

“Goodman not only teaches the skills of ballplaying—he has a unique ability to convey spiritual messages of kindness and sensitivity,” Goldscheider tells JNS.org.

Goldscheider believes that the opportunity to tour the Old City, and to pray at the Western Wall before sharing dinner together,

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Spirituality and Basketball: the “Jewish Jordan” Israel Summer Camp Playbook

By Jeffrey Barken/JNS.org

Camp Playbook

Spirituality and Basketball: the “Jewish Jordan” Israel Summer Camp Playbook

Tamir Goodman (at left) with his summer campers in Jerusalem. Credit: Courtesy of Tamir Goodman.

Tamir Goodman. Credit: Zonci190.

“There’s something majestic about Jerusalem, it’s a city that unites,” Goodman tells JNS.org. “We’re excited to help them reach their potential on and off the court and to connect them to Israel.”

Goodman is well aware that having kosher food available, as well as a culture and schedule that accommodates religious priorities, removes the considerable social and logistical hurdles that campers otherwise face.

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(Continued on page 27)
Start-Up Nation Starts with Israeli Summer Camp’s “Big Ideas”
By Deborah Fineblum
Fineblum/JNS.org

Last summer, Israeli teen Yoav Madani was offered something most kids would jump at: an overseas trip with his family. But his response to the invite surprised his parents.

“No thanks,” he said. “I’d rather go back to camp.”

As it turns out, for the last three years, Yoav’s summer camp has been anything but ordinary.

“It’s a chance I get every summer to be really creative,” said the 16-year-old from Netanya. “I’ve got friends coming back from around Israel, France, New Jersey, and lots of other places. Besides, since I’m in camp with kids from 30 countries like Italy, Greece, America, and England, it’s like I am going overseas.”

Yuval’s experience is a microcosm of the broader goals of the Big Idea Camps, where children from around the world get a taste of the whole new way “It could be a way for the kids to relate to Israel in a whole new way,” Tamir told JNS.org.

Ten years later, Big Idea divides more than 1,000 youngsters ages 7-18 into Nanobyte, Kilo-byte, Megabyte, and Gigabyte groups for workshops on 3D modeling, computer programming, DJ mixing, photography, robotics, jewelry design, video production, and other high-tech or creative disciplines. The main Big Idea Camp is located on the outskirts of Zichron Yaakov, a town known for its wineries and stunning Mediterranean views.

“The same counselors who wake them up in the morning are also experts in their fields who teach them during the day,” said Tamir.

Now 33, Tamir emphasizes how campers need no special skill, talent or knowledge to enroll—“just some curiosity and an open mind.”

The camps also provide Israeli and diaspora participants alike the chance to expand their social circles.

Jill Loris has been sending her children—Sam, 17, and Rachel, 15—to Big Idea for the last four years.

“I’m more artsy, so I didn’t know about going to a technology camp,” said Rachel, who studies drama at New York’s LaGuardia Arts School. “But the camp has a happy medium between technology and art, plus we can surf and just hang out with friends.”

For her brother Sam, the highlights are photoshop, animation, computer game design and “my friends who come back year after year.”

“I would never have these friends, many of them Israelis, without Big Idea,” he said.

For Yoav Madani, Big Idea has given him a vision for his future.

“I’ve always loved images, but before camp all I had were some ideas. Now I say to myself, ‘Wait, I might have a future in photography. I can do this,’” he said.

Big Idea’s founder is pleased with the community he has created.

“We’ve got techies and artsy kids too, a good mix,” Tamir said. “Together they feel like this is their place to be themselves.”

One little-known aspect of the camp is its inclusion program. Intended for high-functioning children on the autism spectrum, the program is run discreetly so other campers don’t always realize who receives extra support.

The tuition is money well spent, said Avi Chelouche, director of Jewish life at Tarbut V’Torah, a Jewish day school in Irvine, CA.

“Our kids come back each fall excited about the latest innovations, and very Zomistic,” he said. “They experience the kind of Israel you can’t find in books.”

In addition to the overnight camp locations in Zichron Yaakov and Afula, Big Idea now runs three technology day camps for participants ages 7-14 across Israel, as well as day camps in JCCs in Rockville, MD, and Tenafly, NJ. Further, the organization rolled out a technology gap-year program in Israel for ages 18-20 this year.

The camps also provide Israeli and diaspora participation rolled out a technology gap-year program in Israel for ages 18-20 this year.

The core program—attracting 1,000 campers to the Zichron Yaakov campus—remains the most popular offering.

“Now they love learning and Israel,” Jill Loris said, reflecting on the result of her children’s camp experience. “With all the anti-Israel forces out there, that’s never been more important.”

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For more information, contact: Dedee Goldsmith, M.A., M.Ed.
704.364.8395 | dedee@jpsonsardis.org
6619 Sardis Road | Charlotte, NC 28270
Summer Pesto and Gruyere Stuffed Challah

By Shannon Sarna, The Nosher

There are few things better than a freshly baked challah, but sometimes even perfection needs a little shake-up. Or perhaps more accurately, a little stuffing.

I have experimented stuffing challah with sweet combinations like my Balsamic Apple Date Challah and super savory varieties like my Pastrami Sandwich Challah. But it had been hankering to try something with a little summer flare to it.

This latest stuffed challah is a bit lighter than both my previous stuffed challah experiments, with brightness from fresh herbs and just a touch of richness from the cheese.

And the truth is you can stuff your challah with any pesto variation you like: kale pesto, fresh herb pesto, or a traditional basil-pine nut pesto.

Do you want to include cheese? Just leave it out. You will still have a deliciously unique stuffed challah experience.

### Pesto and Gruyere Stuffed Challah

**Ingredients**
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 bunch fresh garlic scapes, trimmed
- 1/2 c. fresh spinach, steamed
- 1/4 c. fresh mint, chopped
- 1/2 c. fresh basil, steamed
- 1/2 c. fresh parsley, chopped
- 1/4 c. fresh basil
- 1/4 c. fresh parsley
- 1/4 c. fresh mint
- 1/4 c. fresh chives
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 l. lemon juice
- 3/4 c. olive oil
- 1/4 c. red wine vinegar
- 1/4 c. pomegranate juice
- 1 T. honey
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper

**Directions**

To make the pesto:
- Place garlic scapes, garlic clove, spinach, basil, and parsley in a food processor fitted with a blade attachment. Start pulsing. Drizzle olive oil and continue to pulse. Scrape down sides with rubber spatula, add salt and pepper to taste and pulse until desired smoothness.
- Place in an air-tight container until ready to use.

*Note: after steaming spinach, make sure to remove excess water thoroughly.

To make the challah:
- In a lg. bowl or stand mixer fitted with a dough hook attachment, add flour, salt, and sugar. After the water-yeast mixture has become foamy, add to flour mixture along with oil. Mix thoroughly.
- Add another cup of flour and eggs till smooth. Switch to the dough hook attachment if you are using a stand mixer.
- Add another 1/2 c. flour and then remove from bowl and place on a floured surface. Knead remaining flour into dough, continuing to knead for around 10 min. (or however long your hands will last).
- Place dough in a greased bowl and cover with damp towel. Allow to rise 3-4 hrs.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Working quickly, start rolling out dough into a large rectangular sheet thick on a lightly floured surface. The challah dough may need an extra dusting of flour to work with at this point.

Spread a thin, very even layer of pesto all over the dough. You may have extra pesto leftover.

Sprinkle gryere or goat cheese in an even layer on top of pesto, leaving 1/2" border all around.

Working from the edges, start rolling up the dough towards you. Try and keep the roll relatively tight as you go. Pinch the end and tuck under when you finish.

Create a pinwheel-shaped challah by snaking the dough around and around in a circle around itself. When finished, tuck the end under the challah neatly and pinch lightly. This doesn’t have to be perfect.

Alternatively, you can split challah into three even sections and then roll into snakles.

Each piece slightly, and fill with pesto and cheese. Pinch ends back up tightly and roll out slightly. Leave as is. Makes two challahs if you use this method.

Allow challah to rise another 30-60 min., or till you can see the size has grown.

Beat 1 egg yolk with 1 t. water. Brush liberally over challah. If desired, combine 2 t. thick sea salt with 1 t. sesame seeds and 1 t. dried basil, and 1 t. dried parsley and sprinkle on top of egg wash.

Bake for 26-27 min., or till middle looks like it has just set, and the color is golden.

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Tabbouleh

A Summer Salad

By Leah Koenig, The Nosher

I grew up eating my mother’s American tabbouleh – the starchy, lemon-doused bulgur salad. This was the 1980s, when many American Jews were incorporating “Israeli-style” foods into their culinary repertoire. But while my mom’s tabbouleh was delicious, I later learned that it totally reengineered the authentic version, which features a higher ratio of pomegranate juice to cracked wheat, fresh parsley and tomatoes to grains of bulgur.

Tabbouleh, which comes from the Arabic word tabil (“to spice”), is not actually an Israeli or Jewish dish, per se. It originated in the Levant, the historic Middle East region that encapsulated a large swath of land east of the Mediterranean Sea, including modern-day Israel along with Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, and southern Turkey, among other countries.

Like hummus and falafel, tabbouleh is tied to the broader region as opposed to one particular nationality or culture. Still, it has become an integral part of modern Israeli cuisine, most often served for summer lunches or as a part of a salad course.

While bulgur is not tradition­ally tabbouleh’s star ingredient, it is, perhaps, the dish’s most defining component. An immediate relative of cracked wheat, bulgur is made from wheat berries that have been ground, partially cooked, and dried, making it a quick-cook­ing food relatively inexpensive base or addition to countless recipes (like these).

According to an article in the San Francisco Chronicle: “Arch­aeological finds in Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean suggest that people have been processing wheat into bulgur for millennia”—and the obsession continues today.

The same article revealed that in the present day, Turks, who histor­ically helped spread the grain’s popularity across the region, con­sider “about a half-pound of bulgur a week per capita.”

Bulgur adds texture and sub­stance to the otherwise all-veg­etable tabbouleh, cutting the acidity of the pomegranate juice with its hearty, nutty flavor. In Is­rael, the dish is often served with pita bread, which aids in wiping up any excess juice, but there are other options, too.

According to cookbook author, Popa Dweck, who authored, “Aroma’s of Aleppo: The Leg­endary Cuisine of Syrian Jews, in old Aleppo, tabbouleh was served with romaine lettuce leaves.

Tabbouleh can apparently also

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This Israeli Brunch Platter Is EVERYTHING

A Brunch Where You Really Can Have It All

By Ally Miller, The Nosher

If you’ve ever had a hard time deciding what to eat for brunch, you’ll understand the appeal of this Israeli-inspired restaurant’s over-the-top brunch platter.

There’s hummus, labneh, plenty of tahini, Israeli salad, shakshuka, and more, all nestled together side-by-side on a simple tray. Located in NYC’s East Village, Spiegel is a sunlit restaurant that serves an impressive menu of classic Is­raeli dishes.

According to Delish.com, owner Shmuli Avital launched the brunch platter concept earlier this year, and it’s caught on. The platters feed groups of three or six, so don’t worry—New Yorkers aren’t noshing through this by themselves.

If you’re worried about all the flavors mixing together, this might not be for you. But if you’re an adventurous and somewhat messy eater, you’ll understand Avital’s sentiment. “All the fla­vors are mixing … it’s just beaut­iful.”

Inspired? Making your own brunchy feast at home is easy, es­pecially if you have a fridge that’s regularly stocked with Israeli clas­sics like hummus and pita. Shak­shuka you’ll want to make fresh in the morning, but the rest can be done ahead of time.

Elements of a DIY Israeli Brunch Platter, for sharing:

- **Hummus**
  - Walnut Hummus
  - Baba Ganoush
  - Tabbouleh
  - Shakshuka
- **Challah French Toast**
- **Za’atar Potato Skins**

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Summer Basketball Camp with Tamir Goodman

*(Continued from page 25)*

will have a lasting impact on the campers.

Donna Cohen, whose 13-year-old son Itamar participated in the program last year and is returning this summer, provides a parent’s perspective.

“Regarding the price, I feel that it is very fair,” she tells JNS.org. “The base camp costs $550 per week, and the overnight camp is $1,000 weekly.

“When you are looking for a high-level sports camp that has professional coaches, you are going to pay a bit more than a reg­ular camp. But I feel that what the kids get out of two weeks will carry them through the entire year,” Cohen says. She praises Goodman’s ability to “hone in on a player’s strengths and chal­lenge and to push them to reach new potential that they never thought possible.” Her son echoes that assessment.

“Through the camp, I feel im­proved both mentally and physi­cally,” Itamar says. “Playing with others who are better and older made it challenging and gave me the opportunity to improve.”

What’s going on? See on the community calendar! Go to jewishcharlotte.org/community-calendar

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