Temple Israel Welcomes Cantor Shira Lissek

Temple Israel is pleased to welcome Shira Lissek as its new Cantor, as of July 1.

Cantor Lissek comes to Temple Israel after previously serving as Associate Cantor of Park Avenue Synagogue in NYC since 2013. Cantor Lissek earned a Masters in Music from the Manhattan School of Music, where she majored in Voice as a merit scholar, and holds a Bachelor’s degree from Indiana University School of Music in Vocal Performance. Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, she learned the art of being a Cantor from her father, Cantor Leon Lissek of Congregation B’nai Amoona. She is also the granddaughter of the late Rabbi Pinchas Chasen of Philadelphia and great-granddaughter of Hazzan Hirsch L. Chazin of New Jersey.

Cantor Lissek began serving as Hazan Sheni at age 19, when invited to lead High Holy Day services for Congregation Beth Shalom of Kansas City and then Congregation Gesher Shalom (the Jewish Community Center of Fort Lee, NJ). Prior to Park Avenue Synagogue, she served as Hazan and Music Director of Congregation Mount Sinai in Brooklyn Heights for six years. With her arrival at Temple Israel, Rabbi Murray Ezring noted he is “very excited Cantor Lissek has joined the Temple Israel family. Her beautiful voice and love of Jewish music, combined with her Jewish pride, help all who hear her experience the joy of Shabbat and holiday observances.”

Temple Israel President, David Rosenthal added: “Our congregational family, Board of Trustees, and my family are excited about celebrating many Shabbats Shira (Sabbaths of Song) and hearing various melodies and songs as interpreted by Cantor Lissek.” About her relocation to Charlotte, Cantor Lissek said, “We have been so moved by the warm welcome we have received and are thrilled to be a part of such a special community. I look forward to getting to know everyone and creating some amazing memories together.” Cantor Lissek and her two children, Reuben and Maayan (who will be attending Charlotte Jewish Day School), are happy to now call Charlotte their home.

Cantor Lissek is passionate about using her voice and music to inspire and empower individuals of all ages to engage deeply with their Judaism and community. She has participated in numerous interfaith services and events, sharing her voice both within the Jewish and broader communities, at national conventions and professional sporting events. She has been invited to serve as Hazan in Residence at many congregations around the world including West London Synagogue in London and Agudat Achim in Washington D.C. In 2017, Cantor Lissek released her second solo album titled Am I Am: I Believe: A Voice For Humanity, featuring reflective, prayerful songs expressing Lissek’s love poem to the human spirit.

To welcome Cantor Lissek to the congregation, Temple Israel will host a “Welcome Home Shabbat” on August 10. The evening will begin with a pre-cong at 5:30 PM in the temple lobby, followed by an engaging and uplifting Friday night Shabbat service at 6:15 PM. Both the pre-cong and Shabbat services are open to all members of the community. Following services there will be a Shabbat dinner (free of charge) for all Temple Israel congregants. Space is limited. Please RSVP online at templeisaacnc.org.

At Temple Israel’s Selchot service, scheduled for Saturday, September 1, Cantor Lissek and Rabbi Ezring will introduce musical selections that will be featured during the High Holy Days. Please note: This year, we will hold a single service on the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah (in the Morris and Sylvia Specimen Sanctuary) incorporating both traditional and contemporary music.

Local Athletes Appointed to Team USA for the 2018 Maccabi Youth Games

The Maccabi USA Organizing Committee is pleased to announce that three athletes from the Charlotte metro area have been appointed as members of Team USA for the upcoming Maccabi Youth Games, which are taking place in Israel, July 22-August 2.

The athletes are Zoe Bartholf of Tega Cay, SC, Youth Women’s Soccer; Adam Buckler of Charlotte, NC, Youth Men’s Basketball; and Maya Lesack of Tega Cay, SC, Youth Women’s Soccer. The 2018 Maccabi Youth Games will be the first time that Zoe, Adam, and Maya will compete as Team USA athletes. Adam and his family are members of Temple Beth El; Maya and her family belong to Temple Israel; Zoe’s family attends Temple Solel.

There will be six days of competition, followed by three days of touring based in Jerusalem. The other countries competing include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, South Africa, and Spain.

The Maccabi Youth Games will provide the athletes an opportunity to compete internationally and connect with Jewish athletes from around the world and the State of Israel.

Maccabi USA builds Jewish pride through sports, generating the emotional intensity, high ideals, and powerful camaraderie of competition. It connects athletes, volunteers, and supporters with the global Jewish community. Its athletic, educational, and cultural experiences build Jewish identity, perpetuate Jewish continuity worldwide, and strengthen support for the State of Israel.

The Magic of Maccabi combines a passion of Israel and athletics. The team members are excited to be part of Team USA heading to Israel in just a little under a month for the inaugural Maccabi Youth Games.

For more information about Maccabi USA, please contact Shane Carr at 215-561-6990 x4147 or email at scarr@maccabiusa.com.

About the organization:

Maccabi USA (MUSA) enriches Jewish lives through athletic, cultural and educational programs. The organization is the official sponsor of the United States Team to the World Maccabiah Games, and the Pan American and European Maccabi Games, as well as a sponsor of the JCC Maccabi Games for teens in North America. As the official Maccabi representative in the U.S., Maccabi USA supports Jewish athletic endeavors, enhanced by cultural and educational activities in the United States, Israel, and throughout the Diaspora. MUSA develops, promotes and supports international, national and regional athletic-based activities and facilities. It strives to provide Jewish athletes with the opportunity to share their heritage and customs in competitive athletic settings. MUSA supports programs that embody the Maccabi ideals of Jewish community, Zionism and excellence in sport. Maccabi USA builds Jewish pride through sports.

Maccabi USA is a U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Multi-Sport Organization (MSO). The Organization is one of 38 MSOs nationwide to be recognized by the USOC for its ability to cultivate a national interest in sport and increase opportunities for participation internationally, nationally, and at the grassroots level, and is rated as a four-star non-profit by Charity Navigator.
JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Federation Receives Grant from The Leon Levine Foundation for PJ Library Parent Connectors

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is excited to announce the implementation of a new PJ Library program in our area. PJ Library®, a flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), is perhaps best known for distributing free, age-appropriate, high-quality Jewish children’s literature and music to families raising Jewish children. The HGF recently received a generous grant from the Leon Levine Foundation to implement the nationally successful parent connector program in Charlotte. PJ Library Connectors are currently active in more than 300 communities across North America, creating small, neighborhood-based gatherings and connecting families raising Jewish children to each other and the Jewish community. The two areas the Charlotte parent connectors will focus on are the Matthews, Weddington, and Waxhaw area and the Lake Norman area.

The PJ Library parent connector for Matthews, Weddington, and Waxhaw is Gabby Starr. Gabby is a mom of two children, Jaclyn, age 9, and Daniel, age 6. She is a former guidance counselor and owns her own baking business, Gabs’ Goodies. In her spare time, she enjoys running, biking, and spending time with her family and friends. When asked about her role as a PJ Library parent connector, Gabby said, “As a PJ Library parent connector, I am excited to bring together members of my community and engage in fun activities. I am looking forward to forming relationships and for my children to make new friends.”

The PJ Library parent connector for the Lake Norman area is Angelica Rosen. Angelica lives in Davidson, NC with her husband Brian and five-year-old daughter Bryce. Prior to becoming a parent connector, Angelica was a classroom teacher, STEM Curriculum Coordinator, Summer Camp Director, and most currently an Implementation Specialist for Aperature Education. When asked what excites her most about her role as a PJ Library parent connector, Angelica said “I have the honor of meeting many Jewish families in the community. In these times, it has become increasingly difficult for families to build strong ties to one another, so I am looking forward to giving Jewish families with young children an opportunity to meet and connect to one another while exploring our beautiful beliefs and culture.”

We look forward to having families living in these greater Charlotte areas meet Gabby and Angelica and start making friendly connections and experience Jewish life.

PJ Library in Charlotte is generously funded by Liz and Brad Winer and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Left: Gabby Starr with Jaclyn and Daniel; above: Angelica Rosen with husband Brian and daughter Bryce.

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018.

In honor of the Foundation of Shalom Park Executive Committee: Sam Bernstein, Barry Bobrow, Todd Gorelick, Mark Lerner, and Steve Menaker
By: Linda Siegel

In honor of Juliette Eraklis
By: Bradly Campagna, James and Melissa Duller, Austin and Audrey Killette, and Sarina Spiegel

In honor of Stacy Gorelick’s Birthday
By: Glenn and Roni Fishkin

In honor of Ali Kronovet
By: Eric and Susan Lerner, Gary and Donna Lerner, Mark and Akson Lerner, and Julie Lerner Levine and Howard Levine

Shabbat Candle Lighting for August 2018
Friday, August 3, 8:06 PM
Friday, August 10, 7:59 PM
Friday, August 17, 7:51 PM
Friday, August 24, 7:42 PM
Friday, August 31, 7:33 PM

The Charlotte Jewish News
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An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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Published monthly except July
An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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Partnership 2Gether: Creating a Living Bridge with Israel

This past May, a delegation of three Israeli doctors visited Charlotte as part of a Partnership 2Gether (PG2) Medical Exchange. PG2 (formerly known as Partnership 2000) is the flagship program of the Jewish Agency partnering with local Federations to directly connect global Jewish communities with a specific geographic area in Israel. The idea is to build connections between Jewish communities across the world and in Israel, one relationship at a time. These connections lead to exciting, effective, and often ground-breaking programming for every life stage and in every area, from early childhood education to professional networking.

Thus far, 46 different partnerships have been established between regions in Israel and 550 Jewish communities across the world. Charlotte is a part of an executive benefits business continuation planning Greenspon & Associates

Southeastern Consortium of communities (Charlotte, NC, Charleston, SC, Chattanooga, TN, Flagler and Volusia Counties, FL, Lee and Charlotte Counties, FL, Palm Beach County, FL, Jacksonville, FL, Knoxville, TN, Nashville, TN, and Richmond, VA) partnering with the Hadera-Eron Region of Israel. Our consortium has for more than a decade actively participated in various cultural, educational, and youth exchanges as well as leadership development programs.

The three visiting Israeli doctors were all from the Hilal Yaffe Hospital in Hadera. Established in 1957 as a governmental hospital it is situated halfway between Haifa and Tel Aviv. It serves a population of approximately 450,000 inhabitants from Zichron Ya’akov in the north to Netanya in the south and from the sea coast on the west to Um al-Fahm and the “Green Line” in the east. The patient population of the hospital is highly varied, representing the full range of Israel’s population. As such, the medical center serves as an exemplary model for peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs and successful absorption of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and other countries.

This medical exchange offered the Israeli doctors the opportunity to compare their work with the work being done in U.S. communities, to learn new methods, and to exchange ideas with American colleagues. The doctors were matched with physicians in their fields of practice, and were able to shadow their counterparts here in Charlotte.

One of the doctors, Dr. Einat Shalom-Paz, the director of the IVF program at the Hilal Yaffe hospital stayed with our former local PG2 chair, Sheila Spitz and her husband, Dr. Adam Spitz. Sheila has frequently opened her home to host teachers and teens from our partnership area. She has participated in our PG2 Teacher Exchange and formed a lasting relationship with one of the teachers she stayed with while visiting Hadera. “That teacher has posed to on Masada, their family joined us in celebrating the next day in Jaffa, as did the family of the teen I hosted years ago, who is now a mother of two of its own.” “PG2 is about connection,” Sheila summarizes, “It is a connection with the land of Israel. It is a connection with Israelis who quickly become extended family. It is a connection for professionals and non-professionals who connect over a common bond: being a few in this world – being a Jewish teen, a Jewish doctor, a Jewish educator. Although the three doctors were with us for less than a week, we all felt as if we knew each other for many years.”

The second part of this exchange will take place in January 2019, when medical doctors from the Charlotte area will have the unique opportunity to visit Israel on a customized medical trip. This trip will provide participants with an inside look at how Israeli healthcare system works and how Israel managed to build a universal health system at relatively low-cost. It will also include Israel’s advanced medical technology and innovation.

For more information about the medical trip to Israel or PG2

Panel discussion in Gerdick Hall on Shalom Park.
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JANUARY 20-26, 2019

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- Experience Shabbat in Jerusalem
- Social and professional time with physicians in Hadera
- All meals and hotel accommodations including two nights of home hospitality

Cost: $950* (land only)
Airfare not included

*Participants are eligible for a $500 subsidy from the Jewish Federation

Questions or to reserve your space, contact:
Tair Guidice, Director of Education & Engagement
tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org/704.944.6759
Sue’s Book Shelf
By Sue Littauer

This month’s recommendations would be excellent suggestions for Book Clubs.

The Bridal Chair: Gloria Goldreich
An exquisite, haunting exploration of the complex mind of Marc Chagall through the eyes of his daughter. Brimming with historic personalities from Europe, America, and Israel, The Bridal Chair is a stunning portrait of love, fortune, and the sharp divide between art and real life.

Beautiful Ida Chagall, the only daughter of Marc Chagall, is blossoming in the Paris art world beyond her father’s controlling gaze. But her newfound independence is short-lived. In Nazi-occupied Paris, Chagall’s status as a Jewish artist has made his family targets, yet his devotion to his art blinds him to their danger.

I especially enjoyed reading this work of historical fiction which explores the complex mind of Marc Chagall and the symbolism in his paintings. Additionally, the complicated relationship between Marc Chagall and his daughter Ida offered not only an insider’s view into their personal dynamics but a backdrop of discovery into the intricate efforts masterminded not only by Ida Chagall but by American journalist Varian Fry to rescue artists during the Holocaust.

Another book that might interest readers of The Bridal Chair is The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman which explores the life of a Jewish artist Camille Pissarro. And this fall, the CJE Book Club will gain insight into the artist Gustav Klimt when we read Stolen Beauty by Laurie Lico Albanese.

All Who Go Do Not Return, Shulem Deen
All Who Go Do Not Return is a moving and revealing exploration of Hasidic life, and one man’s struggles with faith, family, and community. As a member of the Skverers, one of the most insular Hasidic sects in the US, Shulem Deen knows little about the outside world - only that it is to be shunned. His marriage at eighteen is arranged and several children soon follow. His first transgression - turning on the radio - is small, but his curiosity leads him to the library, and later the Internet. Soon he begins a feverish inquiry into the tenets of his religious beliefs, until, several years later, his faith unravels entirely. In All Who Go Do Not Return, Deen bravely traces his harrowing loss of faith, while offering an illuminating look at a highly secretive world. (Amazon)

All Who Go Do Not Return, a 2017 CJE Book Club selection, was the basis for a thought provoking and stimulating discussion. This insider’s look at an insular world educates readers regardless of religious affiliation about a little known community’s beliefs, customs, and culture. As the author wrestles with the painful actions that will impact not only himself but his family and community as well, the reader is left to sort through his own feelings and beliefs. I highly recommend this memoir which was enthusiastically endorsed by the members of our book club.

If you are interested in reading related books on this subject, I suggest I Am Forbidden by Anoush Markovits, Cut Me Loose by Leah Vincent, The Book of Separation by Tova Mirvis, and Disobedience by Naomi Alderman.

Please join us for our next Book Club meeting on Wednesday, August 15, when we will be discussing the highly engrossing book Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen.

For more information, please contact me at sueb.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.
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To learn more, please contact Jason Pressberg, Federation’s Chief Development Officer, at 704.944.6758 or jason.pressberg@jewishcharlotte.org.

*Please note that the ground itinerary begins on October 24 and ends October 31 which requires an October 23 departure from the US and arrival home on November 1.

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OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

www.jewishcharlotte.org
Summer Fun at the Center for Jewish Education (CJE)

Welcome babies into our community at a Shalom Baby “shower.”

PJ Library and the Levine JCC soar into summer.

Toby Spitzer says, “I haven’t been reading for a while but I loved this (Blind Date with a Book) book and I enjoyed it so much that now I feel like reading again…”

Camper enjoying story time with Miss Debby.

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Youth Visions

Hebrew High Registration is Now Online
Learn Why Your Teen Should Attend Hebrew High

Registration for the Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies of Charlotte, aka Hebrew High, is now open and online. We are very excited that we have moved away from paper registration forms and are now completely online. Are you on the fence if you want to sign up your son/daughter? Check out these top five frequently asked questions and then go to www.hebrewhigh.org to register.

1. My child is so busy, working hard in order to get into a good college, so they don’t have time.

   As reported by college personnel and former students, a transcript showing five years of class work from Hebrew High demonstrates to admissions officers not only that the student has participated in an impressive educational endeavor, but also that s/he probably has the ability to follow through on commitments and has had time to develop a solid identity. Nationally, most students applying to universities have similar grade point averages and comparable examination scores. Extracurricular activities make the difference.

2. My child participates in varsity sports, she might need to be absent for several weeks during his/her sport season.

   Many students at Hebrew High are in varsity activities. We are always willing to work with you and your teen to work out an equitable solution. The goal is keep your child in this positive Jewish environment and the door is always open whenever she is able to attend.

3. My high school student is involved in youth group. I’m not sure that it is important for him/her to also spend time in an academic setting where there may be little time to socialize.

   While the high school fulfills an educational function, and youth groups fulfill a social role, the high school does offer many “social” experiences for teen. Beyond the time before and after classes and the 10-minute break between classes for “lounge,” class time too can, in a sense, be considered “social time.” It is often more healthful and less threatening to meet people in a national environment life a classroom than in an awkward social setting where everyone’s motive is to “match up.”

4. I always had to fight with my child to get him/her to go to Hebrew School. I’m not sure that this is a battle I want to fight.

   The battle is worth fighting if quantitative as well as qualitative Jewish survival is important to you. All data indicates the more hours of Hebrew education, the greater the likelihood of adult Jewish identification. Additionally, an education ended at an early age means that, as an adult, this person will understand Judaism in an unsophisticated and childish way. (It would be comparable to ending one’s English or mathematics education at age 12 or 13.)

Regarding fighting battles with children, most psychologist and educators (whether secular or Judaic) point out that a child’s lack of desire in attending a class or activity has little to do with the content or nature of the class and a lot to do with the child’s recognition of the parent’s ambivalence on the subject. More concretely, when a child knows that secular or Hebrew school is nonnegotiable, s/he generally will not bother arguing or fighting about attending.

5. My child is already a sophomore, junior, senior isn’t it too late?

Adolescents have specific developmental tasks whether they are freshmen or seniors. Their main task is that of figuring out and then establishing their fault identity. They have a need to explore, to challenge, and to question and then to fit all these puzzle pieces together to form an identity. We know that you want Judaism to be one of those pieces. Your child has a urgency and a right to explore all aspects of Jewish knowledge, beliefs, and to be exposed to a variety of Jewish role models. She also has a need to learn Jewish subjects with similar sophistication and comprehensiveness as she learns secular subjects. Hebrew High is the only opportunity in Charlotte that strives to meet these needs. It is never too late to begin to attend Hebrew High. 🏫

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RSSD
Welcome Back to BBYO

We hope you had a fantastic summer. BBYO will be “Rocking the Block” on Sunday, September 16 from 1-3 PM at the Levine JCC. All Jewish 9th-12th graders are invited to attend. We will have games, food, and more. Be on the lookout for more information closer to the event. For additional information, please email trevenson@bbyo.org. Weekly meetings will begin on Tuesday, August 28 from 7:30 PM at the Levine JCC.

BBYO is looking for young professionals who are interested in giving back to the Jewish community to be volunteer advisors. Please email trevenson@bbyo.org if you or someone you know may be interested.

Can Judaism Be Interesting After Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Highschool... so many fun exciting opportunities. Sports, parties, boyfriend/girlfriend drama, learning how to drive, not to mention studying and getting ready for college.

So, who needs Judaism when you got so much ahead of you? It’s no secret that temples and synagogues have a tough time keeping their younger constituents engaged in Judaism post Bar Mitzvah.

Well did you know that deep within the Torah, there are secrets on how to face your teenage excitement head on? Like how to be the best at sports, find your true calling, dating advice from Moses, how to be popular from King David, getting out of sticky situations, dealing with annoying parents, and much, much more.

Meet Chabad’s CTeen Club:

We meet in our clubhouse once a week to tackle and debate these secrets from the Torah. We don’t just talk a bout them, we challenge each other in a fun and kinda crazy way. Context, race, and age are just some of the ways to push our limits and learn all about our true potential.

Learn more about ChabadNC.org/CTeens or call us at 704-366-3984 (ask for Sophie). :)

“Whoever brings up an orphan in his home is regarded by the Bible as though the child had been born to him.”

–Talmud: Sanhedrin 19b

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Pajama Walk is Coming Back
Let’s Keep Making Dreams Come True

Were you there last year? If you were there last year, you were not there? Boy, did you miss out. But fret not; it’s happening again. Sunday, November 11, we’ll be hosting our second Pajama Walk at Freedom Park to make dreams come true for individuals with special needs.

Organized by Friendship Circle and ZABS Place, the Pajama Walk engages families, adults, and seniors alike to don their current pajamas and join us at Freedom Park where you’ll meet hundreds of other dreamers waiting for such a meaningful cause. Of course, you’ll also have a blast. Live entertainment, after walk carnival, moon bounce, kosher food, and much more.


All funds raised will go directly to help the children at Friendship Circle and the young adults at ZABS Place.

Friendship Circle and ZABS Place are initiatives of Chabad of Charlotte and beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Stay tuned for updates or get in touch with Sophie to learn more: Sophie@FriendshipCircleNC.org.

Friendship Circle is an initiative of Chabad of Charlotte and a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Learn more at www.FriendshipCircleNC.org or call 704-366-5983.

Friendship Circle Meets with Providence Day Students

Sophie Molinari is not just a Teen Coordinator, she’s every teenager’s best friend. So, when she asks you to become a Friendship Circle Teen Friend (befriending a child with special needs), it’s hard to tell her “no.”

In addition to the programs run by Friendship Circle to benefit families of children with special needs, Friendship Circle emphasizes the importance of engaging teens to recognize the unique potential and genuine spirit of their special needs buddies. The experience is life changing.

It was this message of friendship and inclusion that Friendship Circle Teen Coordinator Sophie Molinari brought to the middle school and high school students of Providence Day.

The results: A grass roots initiative called U.Matter which encourages kids and teens to reach out to their peers and let them know that they matter. Everyone matters. Because you were created by God for a unique purpose in this world. You are needed. Nobody is extra. U.Matter!

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Photos above: Providence Day students cracking the code of friendship.
Operation Understanding Class 24 Stops at Shalom Park

By Amy Krakovitz

This is the 24th summer that Operation Understanding has brought a group of Jewish and African-American teens from the DC area on a trip exploring the history of the Civil Rights Movement in America. They begin their journey in Greensboro, where they visit the site of the Woolworth lunch counter sit-in and learn about the Greensboro Massacre, a 1979 anti-Klan protest that ended in six deaths.

From Greensboro, the next stop is Shalom Park.

First thing in the morning, the 21 teens and three young adult leaders attended Freedom School’s morning Harambee, where Rabbi Korrin Goldhamer taught the children how to say “Boker Tov,” adding to the list of languages in which they are now able to say “good morning.”

We followed Harambee with a tour of the Shalom Park main campus including the JCC facilities and the Center for Jewish Education, as well as passing by the offices of Federation, JFS, the cemetery, Hebrew High, and The Charlotte Jewish News. The tour ended in the Dumas Activity Center, where Sam Swire facilitated the showing of the Better Together Hebrew High video from 2017, in which a Hebrew High class joined forces with students from Johnson C. Smith University to create an intergenerational Spoken Word performance about Jewish identity.

The highlight of the morning was a visit from J. Charles Jones, who co-founded the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960 and spearheaded the sit-ins in Charlotte’s downtown lunch counters. At protests in Rock Hill, he was arrested and participated in the “jail, no bail” movement. In 1961, he joined the Freedom Riders throughout the south and faced rampant racism, arrest, and violence. At 80 years old, he remains a Charlotte treasure.

Each day, OUDC selects two leaders from the group of teens. Jalen Ford, a rising senior from Maret School in Washington, DC, and Ella Goldham from Bethesda, MD, a rising senior at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, were the spokespeople for the group when they were in Charlotte.

“I’ve always been passionate about social justice,” Goldham explained, “and about Jewish identity. OUDC is the perfect intersection of the two.”

“This was a good way for me to learn things about black and Jewish heritage that aren’t taught in the classroom,” says Ford. “I hope to gain a greater understanding of life in the south and of our shared heritage.”

Goldham continued, “I hope that knowing the history will help me use it to affect change locally.” As an example, she cited the Greensboro massacre. “This was an event I had never heard of and learning about it profoundly affected me.”

Ford agreed that the new knowledge of the Greensboro massacre was the most transforming thing they had experienced so far. “These were powerful moments,” he said.

After Charlotte, the class was headed for Atlanta, where they would visit places important in the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., and then on to Alabama, where they would walk the streets where history was made.

Ella Goldham and Jalen Ford in the Shalom Park garden during their visit to Charlotte.
The Foundation of Shalom Park Elects New Leadership

Officers and Directors - 2018-2019
President  Barry Bobrow
Vice-President  Rick Glaser
Vice-President  Ken Golder
Treasurer  Amy Augustine
Secretary  Mark Lerner
Past President  Linda Seigel

Board Directors Term Ending 2020
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Rick Glaser
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Board Members Term Ending 2019
Barry Bobrow
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Ken Golder
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Presidential Appointee
David Miller

The Foundation of Shalom Park held its annual meeting on June 5 and new officers were elected. The Foundation was created at the time of the development of Shalom Park in the 1980s. It is the owner of all of the common properties on Shalom Park, and serves as the landlord for all agencies operating on Shalom Park. The board of the Foundation has representation from all of the founding members of Shalom Park and its mission is to manage the facilities and resources of Shalom Park on behalf of the community in a way that connects families and sustains tradition. Throughout the history of the park the Foundation has served as a central point of contact for all agencies to discuss strategic as well as operational issues.

At the meeting Barry Bobrow was elected as the new President of the Foundation. Barry is a Managing Director at Wells Fargo Securities and is the past President of Temple Israel. Other new officers included Rick Glaser as First Vice President, Ken Golder as Second Vice President, Amy Augustine as Treasurer, and Mark Lerner as Secretary. Bobrow said, “I am grateful that this outstanding team of lay professionals has committed to leadership roles with me at the Foundation. We have a great team assembled that can represent the needs of all of the Shalom Park agencies.”

Also at the meeting the outgoing President Linda Seigel was honored. Seigel is a Managing Director in Wells Fargo’s Corporate Bank for Credit and Risk Management. She generously accepted the position of President of the Foundation in 2016 during a crucial period when the Foundation of Shalom Park was undergoing significant change. Bobrow said, “Linda has been a great leader for the Foundation over the past two years she improved our financial controls and strengthened Shalom Park security. She also played a critical role in the search process for Terri Beattie, our new Executive Director. We want to thank her for her inspiration and commitment to the Foundation.”

Outgoing Executive Officers were also thanked for their service, stewardship, guidance and innovation. They include Sam Bernstein, Treasurer, who significantly changed the Foundations accounting approach and implemented new technology; Todd Gorelick, Vice-President, who oversaw the Security Task Force that resulted in new operational and physical safeguards at Shalom Park; and Steve Menaker, Past President, who during his 10 years in leadership roles with the Foundation increased focus on customer service, transparency and the legacy gift campaign.

Bobrow and the new board have plans to address the many changes in the Jewish community. “In addition to supporting Terri and the staff in their critical daily operations, we want to ensure that the Foundation of Shalom Park is a vibrant and open organization that can meet the needs of the Jewish community.”

Barry Bobrow
President

Our sacred texts teach that humankind has an obligation to improve the world for future generations. The commandment of Halacha—do not destroy or waste—has long been considered central to a Jewish environmental ethic.

This is the first in a series of articles by Shalom Green, the Shalom Park Environmental Initiative director, that will encourage families and communities to reduce waste, make smart consumer choices, and support behaviors and policies that encourage conservation. Consider this part of Jewish life – Bal Tashhit and Beyond.

During the height of the summer months, it’s easy to keep a supply of bottled water handy for tucking into that tote you take to the pool. Consider the facts about those water bottles:

- Only one in five plastic bottles are recycled
- It requires three times the amount of water to produce a plastic bottle than it does to fill it
- It takes 17 million barrels of oil to produce plastic bottles yearly. This could fuel 1 million cars for a year

Suggested alternative – purchase a selection of lead and BPA free water bottles to meet your family’s needs and personal tastes. Helpful hints:

- Make sure they are dishwasher safe
- Avoid models with parts that may break easily
- Choose models without straws that can be difficult to clean

Should you feel guilty if you need to purchase bottled water on occasion? No, it’s important to stay hydrated on these hot summer days, when at the gym or on vacation. There are just two rules to remember if you do use bottled water:

1. Don’t reuse your bottle or keep it in your hot car. Bottled water bottles could harbor bacteria with continued use and may break down the plastic causing plastic particle leaching.
2. Please recycle. If you have an idea for an article, please email info@shalomgreenCLT.org.

If you are interested in learning more about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.com

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Suicide Trends Are Troubling and on the Rise

The recent high profile suicides of Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain have elevated the awareness of and conversation around mental health. The shock element of who these people are to us, that they have been saying for years; mental health has no boundaries. It has no income level, no gender preference, and can occur at any stage of life. It can and does impact anyone, regardless of race or religion. It is important to note that while the suicide deaths of people like Spade and Bourdain may have heightened attention around issues, suicide rates have been increasing across all age groups since 1999. In fact, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, death by suicide has increased by 30% over the past two decades. It is now the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, and our older adults are the second greatest population group for suicide. Death by suicide has become the 10th leading cause of death in the United States.

The awareness about mental health is gaining momentum, some states are beginning the conversation earlier and earlier. New York and Virginia recently passed laws mandating a mental health curriculum in their schools. In Virginia, mental health education will become part of the curriculum for 9th and 10th grades. “70% of those people who struggle with mental illness first experience an episode sometime between 14 and 24. So that’s in 10th grade, it’s exactly the right time when people should be given the tools they need to be able to understand these illnesses,” said Virginia State Senator Craig Doebel, The Law New York passed updates curriculum in elementary, middle, and high schools to include material on mental health. And while we are probably a long way from mandating mental health education in our schools in NC, where on average, someone commits suicide about every six hours, the topic of mental health and suicide is moving to the forefront.

Through a grant funded by our local Jewish Federation, we are implementing programs that raise awareness about depression and suicide that also educate the community about warning signs, strategies, and resources to help those suffering from a mental illness. Through this Mental Health Initiative, Jewish Family Services will be hosting two programs this fall to elevate the dialogue surrounding the impact mental health has on our day-to-day lives.

On September 14, QPR, a suicide prevention program, will be offered from 11:30 AM-1 PM. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer and is a training for the non-professional to learn how to identify someone who might be at risk of harming themselves and knowing what to do.

Coffee and Conversation, a small group discussion for anyone interested in learning more about mental health, community resources, and sharing your experience will be held on November 8 from 9:30 AM. Join someone on the journey of learning about mental health and experiences. Everyone is welcome.

There are usually early indicators leading up the act of taking one’s own life, 90% of people who commit suicide have a mental illness such as depression or bipolar disorder and between 50% and 75% of people who attempt suicide talk about their suicidal thoughts, feelings, and plans before they act. Creating awareness and learning how to help someone with a mental health issue is critical to reducing the risk of someone committing suicide. What can be done? Become aware of the signs of depression and risk factors for suicide, and be sure to take it seriously. Offer support, be there to talk and/or listen and help by encouraging whoever is troubled to seek professional help.

For more information on the programs listed in this article or for any questions regarding mental health services, call Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

The Ruach and Rabbi Smookler to Provide Free Alternative Service for Rosh Hashanah

This year the Charlotte Jewish community will have a new alternative for observing Rosh Hashanah: The Rosh Hashanah Experience. The Experience, led by The Ruach (Hebrew for “spirit”) and Rabbi Rachel Smookler, is a fast-paced service with lots of new music with some familiar melodies and readings. It will have all the elements of a complete Rosh Hashanah service including Torah reading and blowing of the shofar.

The Experience happens at 10:30 AM on Rosh Hashana, September 11 at the Infinity Ballroom located at 4030 Old Pineville Road and will last until about noon. Dan Ruach, The Ruach’s bass player and backup singer says, “We are super excited about this venue. It is really easy to get to, has plenty of free parking, and is just a five minute walk from the light rail’s Scaleybark Station, and it has a great sound system.”

When asked about what makes The Rosh Hashanah Experience special, Rabbi Rachel Smookler says “The uplifting music will create the sacred experience necessary to transform yourself for the New Year. The Experience will deal up any previously held beliefs you may have had about religious services and will leave you wanting more.”

Much of the music was written by The Ruach, The rest was written by other well-known artists including Shlom Low, Rick Recht, Dan Nichol, and Josh Nellom. All of it combines traditional prayer and liturgy with modern music written for today’s world.

Franklin Kaunitz, The Ruach’s violinist and backup vocalist, had this to say about The Rosh Hashanah Experience: “This will be a great opportunity to connect with other Jews who are looking for a more spiritual and meaningful experience during the High Holy Days. If you believe that prayer can be more than the things that are the Rosh Hashanah service for you.”

The Rosh Hashanah Experience is free and has been made possible as a result of generous grant made by Marshall Ruach and the Ruach Foundation. It’s everyone is welcome, there are no tickets, no membership, Nancy Good, lead singer and rhythm and percussion for The Ruach, encourages folks to “experience the New Year by joining a community brought together by a passion for music, Judaism, and ruach.”

Prior to moving to Charlotte in August 2017, Rabbi Smookler was the Head Rabbi of Temple Beth David, a Conservative egalitarian synagogue in Rochester, NY. Before that, she held the title of Chief Rabbi of Japan. Rabbi Smookler graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in Jewish Studies and completed the rabbinical graduate program at New York City’s Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Ruach is a Charlotte-based band playing modern Jewish music and is an independent 501(c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. All band members are not only their time and talent, none are paid, The Ruach is Nancy Good, lead vocals and rhythm guitar; Peter Levinson, lead guitar and band manager; Dan Ruach, bass and backup vocals; Franklin Kaunitz, violin and backup vocals; Howard Swartz, percussion; David Kruch, drums and backup vocals; and Rick Lipson, drums, The mission of The Ruach is to spread the joy of Judaism through meaningful musical experiences that connect hearts and minds, and create a spiritual community. Tracks from the band’s first album “Real Jewish Rock,” have been featured on Jewish Rock Radio, the internet radio station for today’s Jewish music, and included on a CD that is a compilation of songs by both Israeli and American artists, Says Shlom Low about The Ruach “Really, really fun music; love the energy.”

For more information, contact Peter Levinson at the.ruch.band@gmail.com, Follow The Ruach on Facebook @theruach; band; on Instagram @theruach, new.jewish.music; and on Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.
Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future

By Sandra Goldman, Director

I recently attended the Jewish Cemetery Association of North America Conference in Massachusetts. Because of its rich history, Boston was the perfect site for a conference. I first enjoyed a tour of the old part of the city, including a walking tour of the Old Granary Cemetery. It was very special to stand in front of the burial grounds of Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, John Hancock, and “Mother Goose.”

Next stop was the first Jewish cemetery in Massachusetts in East Boston: Temple Oheb Shalom. I was stunned to hear that The Commonwealth did not grant Jews full rights of citizenship until 1821. Jews were actually not allowed to be buried in Boston until 1842, when ten men founded the first Jewish congregation.

Back at the center we enjoyed listening to the keynote speaker, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, a well-known Rabbi from Hartford, CT. He spoke about leading a life of legacy. Rabbi Cohen’s talk was very inspirational as he discussed how we all can lead our lives every day with a sense of urgency and how we can create a sacred space to reflect on who we are and who we want to be so that we may realize our innermost goals and dreams. Rabbi Cohen reminded the attendees that Jewish destiny will not fail partly because Jewish cemetery directors are important guardians of Jewish traditions.

During the remainder of the conference we heard about the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP). This is a resource for small congregations located outside of metropolitan areas that have an aging population, dwindling leadership, and a desire to insure their legacy. By acting as a liaison between such congregations and a variety of partners, JCLP facilitates actions to focus on short-term sustainability and long-term planning to cover perpetual care of a cemetery, preserving historic documents, and artifacts reflecting the interests and values of each community separately.

We were fascinated to learn from the director of Mount Auburn Cemetery (the first large scale cemetery in America, founded in 1831) in Cambridge. Mount Auburn cemetery is more than ten times larger than our cemetery and has committed to improve the experience of its 200,000 annual visitors. This amazing cemetery engages the public and academics and historians to interpret the art off and on the monuments. Mount Auburn uses an app to connect with the public. We can’t wait to share similar information once the Hebrew Cemetery’s new cemetery software program is up and running.

I attended a workshop with the New England Historic Genealogical Society and Jewish Heritage Center, focused on how to research family history. I learned about genealogical resources and available collections. The Jewish Heritage Center was founded in 1845 and is the country’s largest and oldest nonprofit genealogy library and archive. These two entities explore and preserve the histories of Jewish families and institutions in New England and really around the world. If you want to find your family, they will help you. These are valuable websites for your search; www.jewishcharlotte.org, www.americanausten.org, www.jgsny.org.

In addition to cemetery specific issues I was also briefed on cybersecurity and fraud. We all have been using firewalls, antivirus programs, data encryption, and great policies and procedures but it still is not enough. A large amount of time was allotted to discuss how to reduce risk.

To lighten things up we all went on a tour to Wayland, a fairly new Jewish cemetery and took a guided tour to Lexington and Concord. I walked along the historic Battle Road, followed Revere’s midnight ride, and stopped along the Minute Man National Historical Park and heard about the events of April 19, 1775 at Concord’s Old North Bridge that lead to the Revolutionary War that led to our independence.

These few days gave me a chance to learn, connect and network with cemetery directors around the country. The conference reminded me that every generation of Jews faces its own challenges of how to reconcile ancient traditions with modern new views. By continuing to honor our departed loved ones and celebrate their lives, our beloved Hebrew cemetery has embraced the community and fulfilled our varied needs.

For further questions or requests please contact me at director@jewishcharlotte.org or at 704-576-1859.  

Sandra at Concord’s Old North Bridge, site of the “shot heard ‘round the world.”

Paul Revere’s burial place.

Gravesite of British soldiers from the Revolutionary War.
Donor Advised Fund—An Important Charitable Planning Tool

Since 1997, the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) has been one of our Jewish community’s best-kept secrets. Many know FCJC for assisting local Jewish organizations with the management of their endowment funds while others connect the name with the successful Create Your Jewish Legacy (CYJL) initiative. Since 2013, FCJC has been the driving force behind CYJL with the creation of more than 800 legacy gifts with an estimated future value of $25 million. However, FCJC currently manages 180 charitable funds with more than 100 of them supporting the work of our local Jewish community. The ability to assist donors with their philanthropic planning and the Donor Advised Fund (DAF) program has been the reason for the organization’s recent growth.

“The increase in our donor activity reflects a greater understanding of FCJC’s community role and our ability to link a client’s philanthropic interests with the appropriate charitable organization,” said Phil Warschauer, FCJC Executive Director. “We have also benefited from our more competitive pricing structure and our intentional increased efforts to reach more people with our message.”

Over the past six years, fifty new Donor Advised Funds were established at FCJC. Since January 2017, we have opened 27 new DAFs bringing the number of donor advised funds under management at FCJC to 76. The increase in donor advised activity at FCJC can be attributed to the increased awareness of the charitable giving vehicle, as well as local confidence in the services and expertise that FCJC provides.

“Consolidating all our charitable giving into one fund is convenient and easy, allowing us to recommend grants online to charitable organizations throughout the country,” said Stephen and Laura Philpston, who opened their donor advised fund at FCJC in 2017. “Since our gifts to the broader community are also directed through FCJC, it sends a great message to our non-profits regarding the support they receive from Charlotte’s Jewish community."

For the appropriate donor, a DAF is an effective and convenient vehicle to assist with charitable giving. It can be established with a wide variety of assets, and each contribution creates an immediate tax deduction. Investors will manage this fund and make annual distributions to Jewish organizations in Charlotte. Since then, we have moved our donor advised fund to FCJC. We believe it is another way for us to support a local Jewish nonprofit organization and assist them in their community efforts.

To learn more about the many benefits of a Donor Advised Fund and how FCJC can assist you, please contact Phil Warschauer or Nancy Kipnis at 704-973-4544 or go to www.charlottejewishfoundation.org.

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Special Olympics Campers Soar Again

By Amy Krakowitz

The 18th annual Camp Soar was held at Shalom Park June 11-15. This year 380 Special Olympics campers came to participate in a variety of sports (fitness, Zumba, yoga, basketball, aerobics, dance, soccer, tennis, swimming, bowling), arts and crafts, games (bingo), and more (computers). They were aided by 400 volunteers and of course, Bob Bowler, who has been a Special Olympics coach for 34 years and the inspiration behind Camp Soar for 18 years.

This year, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department made a special effort to be part of the camping experience. Officers came in uniform and worked with the campers. The art project was created and managed, Eileen Schwartz, who has been spearheading the arts program for Camp Soar for the last eight years.

Camp Soar “is a place to have special needs campers come out and enjoy a camping experience in a safe and productive environment,” says Bowler of the camp he created and loves. “It’s really to teach campers social skill, work on their self-esteem, and make them feel part of the community.”

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SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Construction Underway on Chabad Sardis Road Campus

Chabad’s new youth facility, now named The Selkin Friendship Circle Youth Building, has gone vertical on a solid foundation and now in the framing stage. The new construction is generating much excitement as they see the project materialize quickly. The facility will be home to all of Chabad’s youth programming and, in particular, the activities and programs of Charlotte’s Friendship Circle. The Youth Building in stage one will accommodate the interim needs of Chabad while their main Chabad center building goes under construction near the front of the Sardis Road Campus. The 13,000 square foot facility will feature the new synagogue sanctuary, social hall, and a full dairy and meat commercial kitchen. There will also be a library, weekday service hall, and multipurpose space for Hebrew School, beginner services, and JLF classes. The synagogue building is slated to be completed by mid-2019. In the interim, all of Chabad programs, including Shabbat services, ILI and all educational activities will be held in the soon to be completed Youth Building. Once the synagogue building is completed, Chabad will transition into the new building and the Selkin Friendship Circle Youth Building will be fully upfitted with specialty rooms serving Friendship Circle, CKids adventure and all of Chabad’s teen programs. Some of the rooms include the Gross Motor Therapy room, Dance and Music studio, Art Therapy room, Sensory hallway, Cooking Zone, Teen Multimedia Room, as well as additional classroom space. Current estimates place the completion of phase one, the initial stage of the youth building in the month of October. Look for more updated information coming soon on the dedication and grand opening of the Youth Facility and the groundbreaking of the Main Chabad Building in the early fall.

Chabad High Holiday Services at Alternate Location

Chabad’s Ohr HaTorah will be holding high holiday services at an alternate location this year due to the construction of its expanded facilities. The location chosen will be at Charlotte Preparatory School, located at 212 Bybee Road, near the Chabad campus. The school has graciously agreed to host Ohr HaTorah in the spirit of being a good neighbor, as they welcome Chabad to utilize their facilities for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services. Rosh HaShanah begins on Sunday evening, September 9, and continues through Tuesday, September 11. Rosh HaShanah evening services will be at 7:15 PM and mornings at 9 AM, Yom Kippur will begin Tuesday evening, September 11 through Wednesday night, September 12, Kol Nidrei service will be Tuesday at 6:45 PM, Yom Kippur morning at 9 AM, Mincha will be at 5:30 PM and Ne’ila at 6:30 PM. Break the Fast will be at 8:02 PM. Please check Chabad’s website, chabadnc.org, or on or after September 2, or call Chabad at 704-366-3984 for the final details on exact location of all high holiday adult and children’s services, babysitting, shofar, and Yizkor details, Break the Fast, and more.

Get in Shape for the High Holidays with a Spiritual Tune Up

The High Holidays are the most intense experience for Jewish people, beginning with Rosh HaShanah and culminating with the holiest day of the year. These days can also be the most uplifting and rewarding if we prepare for it in a methodical and deliberate way. We at Chabad of Charlotte are offering you the opportunity to delve into the inner mystical meaning of these special days with a two session event at Ohr HaTorah.

The first session will focus on the deeper side of Rosh HaShanah, a day which the purpose of creation was revealed with the emergence of the first two humans, Adam and Eve. The second session will focus on Yom Kippur as the most intimate day of the year. We will explore the depth of our human soul and how atonement is given as a gift from God to each of us. These two sessions should get your soul pumping and your spirit soaring as you explore the deeper side of these Holy Days. The two sessions will be held at Ohr HaTorah on Wednesday August 29, and Wednesday September 5, from 7:30-9 PM.

To reserve a space at this pre High Holiday experience please visit our website chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984. ©

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Rendering of the future Selkin Friendship Circle Youth Building.
Temple Kol Ami Religious School Open House and High Holidays Coming Up

As another busy summer draws to an end, Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC is about to get even busier. It is time to get back to school and back to school at TKA.

TKA Religious School will start up again on August 26 with our Annual Ice Cream Social/ Open House. We have expanded every year and are excited to start a new chapter at a new location this year. The Religious School will be moving to Walnut Grove Christian School in Fort Mill which has the capacity to meet our ever-growing needs. Our amazing religious school teachers have been planning the curriculums and are excited to welcome back our awesome students. Last year, we had almost 50 students enrolled and celebrated five B’nai Mitzvah. This year, we are looking forward to more visits to Religious School from our fantastic rabbis, Amy Bohnen, who has an extensive background in Jewish education. We can’t wait to see our returning kids as well as welcome new faces for another year of wonderful Jewish education and friendships. Is your child ready for Hebrew School? No matter where they are on their path of Jewish learning, we can accommodate their needs and get them up to speed. Our Religious School meets three Sundays per month from 10 AM-12 noon at Walnut Grove in Fort Mill, conveniently located near the Greater York County/Ballantyne/South Charlotte area. Please join us on August 26 for the free Ice Cream Social/Open house at Walnut Grove, 1036 Maxwell Mill Rd, Fort Mill, SC. Meet the teachers, tour the facility and find out why, at TKA Religious School, Sundays are fun days. It is not too late to enroll your child for the 2018-2019 school-year which officially starts on September 9. For more information, please contact us at tkareligiousschool@gmail.com or go to the website www.temple-kolamisc.org.

Additionally, planning underway for High Holiday services at Temple Kol Ami. We will be welcoming back Sara Sherman from New York to lead us during the Days of Awe. Those who have been with us during the High Holidays previously will remember Sara’s beautiful singing voice and deep knowledge of the liturgy. She is a professional pianist who has performed at Lincoln Center and other iconic venues around the world. TKA is also blessed to have amazing lay leaders Michelle Silva, Adena Sherman-Adams and Jonathan Shaw who make the Holy Days both meaningful and deeply spiritual. Attendance is included in TKA membership; tickets for non-members can be purchased on our website or by contacting us directly at 803-701-4149.

We are also looking forward to resuming our regular Friday night Shabbat services starting August 24 with the always popular and fun Disney Shabbat. We are so excited to welcome Rabbi Bohnen back on the bimah on September 7. At TKA, we generally have Kabbalat Shabbat service the first and third Fridays of each month, but occasionally there will be a change to the schedule so please check the calendar on our website. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope you will join us soon and find your Jewish home in our community.

Havurat Tikvah in High Holiday Planning

Havurat Tikvah is in the planning and preparation stages for its High Holidays Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services which will be held during September at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, 2821 Park Rd.

As in past years, first-time attendees are welcome at no cost to attend services and participate in Tashlich, as well as stay for lunehoons served after Rosh Ha-Shanah services and for Breakfast after the end of Yom Kippur worship.

More details will be made available in the September issue of The Charlotte Jewish News on scheduling and other pertinent information.

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

We value and depend upon member participation and leadership for our religious services, spiritual growth and governance. Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Reconstructing Judaism Movement. This new name was adopted and announced to the worldwide membership during January.

The Ruach & Rabbi Rachel Smookler invite you to
The Rosh Hashanah Experience
FREE High Holiday Service
Everyone welcome!

Monday • September 10 • 10:30 am - noon
Infinity Ballroom • 4038 Old Pineville Road • Charlotte

For more information, email: the.ruach.band@gmail.com
Follow The Ruach on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

VHUYLFHDFKDVSDKVWKLUG¿UVVDQGWKLUG
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 .............. 12pm-7:30pm
Saturday .................. 8am-3:30pm
Sunday ........................ 8:30am-2pm

Per Hour: M/$4.50 NM/$5.50

Grades K-5th
A great, supervised space for your elementary age child to have fun and hang out with friends, while you workout!

Sundays, 8:30am–1pm
Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service

M/$2/hour
NM/$5.50 per hour

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

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

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

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

Sports
Stephanie Garner 704-944-6743
stephanie.garner@charlottejcc.org

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

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

Visual/Performing Arts
Susan Gundersheim 704-944-6778
susan.gundersheim@charlottejcc.org

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

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

www.charlottejcc.org  ·  704-366-5007

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

Preschool Squash
4–5 year olds
Learn the sport of squash. Classes will include learning forehand and backhand swings and a variety of shots. Fitness and strategy will also be taught. Equipment provided.
Thursdays, 1:15-2pm
September 13 – December 6
Alvin E. Levine Gym
M/$180 B/$108 NM/$240
Adnan (AD) Gul, Head Coach, Charlotte Squash Club

K-5th

Fencing
7–12 year olds
Students will be introduced to learning the skills of attacking and defending with either the foil, epee or sabre. All equipment will be provided and included in the class fee. Equipment is also available for purchase.
Daniel Makogon, A2017 Rating
September 4 – December 19
No Class 9/11, 9/18, 9/19 and 11/22
Choose one OR two days per week
A) Tuesdays, 6–7pm (All levels)
B) Wednesdays, 3:15–4:15pm (Beginner)
C) Wednesdays, 4:15–5:30pm (Intermediate/advanced)
D) Thursdays, 6–7pm (All levels)
Camp Mindy Rec Hall (Tue/Thu)
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio (Wed)
Price per month: 1 class per week
M/$70 B/$42 NM/$80
Price per month: 2 classes per week
M/$130 B/$78 NM/$150
Price includes all classes and holidays breaks. Tuition is due by the 1st of each month via automatic credit card draft. Parents must give 14 days written notice to cancel classes and stop credit card draft.

Teens

Feeding the Hungry Join us during Hunger Action Month to make bag lunches for the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope (homeless shelter for women and children) and to collect healthy snacks for its Boys and Girls Club.
Sunday, September 23 • 1:30-3pm
Camp Mindy Rec Hall
Email julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org for the SignUpGenius link to register and/or donate supplies

HIIP

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

SHIIP

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

K-5th

Taekwondo Classes
K–7th Grade
Teaches blocks, hand strikes, kicking, forms, self-defense, sparring combos, footwork and board breaking thru fitness drills, fun games and team activities. Students also practice discipline, focus, goal-setting, respect, positive attitude, honesty, teamwork and perseverance. Students are required to purchase a uniform. Uniform and belt testing fee are separate.
Master Alyssa Forgach
Choose one OR two days per week
A) Mondays, 5:45–6:30pm (K-5th All belt)
B) Tuesdays, 3:30–4:15pm (K-5th All belt)
C) Tuesdays, 5–5:45pm (K-7th Orange Belt+)
September 4 – December 18
No Class 9/10, 9/11, 9/18
Price per month: 1 class per week
M/$70 B/$42 NM/$80
Price per month: 2 classes per week
M/$130 B/$78 NM/$150
Price includes all classes and holidays breaks. Tuition is due by the 1st of each month via automatic credit card draft. Parents must give 14 days written notice to cancel classes and stop credit card draft.

Mixed Martial Arts
Brazilian Jujitsu & Taekwondo
Ages 14yrs+
Learn the highly effective martial art, Brazilian Jujitsu. Warm up with basic TKD kicking/striking techniques, followed by jujitsu techniques. An amazing whole-body workout for strength, cardiovascular health, flexibility and weight loss. Come check it out.
BJJ Black Belt Marlon Loo Vera and Taekwondo Master Alyssa Forgach
Mondays, 6:45-7:45pm
September 17 – December 3
M/$150 B/$90 NM/$200

Adults

Healing Ourselves
Healing The World
Book Club in the Sukkah Join us to discuss Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life, by Barbara Kingsolver
September, 27 • 11am
ejulie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

Tai Chi/Qigong
Adults 50+
Improve your strength, balance and flexibility through this gentle form of fitness.
Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm (all levels)
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio
Price per month: 1 class per week
M/$80 B/$48 NM/$100
Price per month: 2 classes per week
M/$150 B/$90 NM/$200
Price includes all classes and holidays breaks. Tuition is due by the 1st of each month via automatic credit card draft. Parents must give 14 days written notice to cancel classes and stop credit card draft.

The POWER of Aging
A year-long lecture series that will inspire and motivate you to live your best life.
Imagine a uniquely individualized journey in which you can discover and uncover the basic physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs which the aging experience challenges you with on a daily basis. Life can be exciting, purposeful and meaningful!
Meets twice every month:
2nd & 4th Thursdays • 10am–12pm
Weinberg Senior Center

Seniors’ Enrichment
MON-FRI • 9am-5pm
Weinberg Senior Center

Game Days
Enrichment Activities
Educational Seminars
Painting Classes
Monthly Field Trips
Exercise Classes
M/W/F Kosher Lunch

Like us! · facebook.com/levinejcc

Email julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

Sponsored by the ADL Cares Program

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Email julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org
Temple Beth El Trip to Israel

Thirty-seven people joined Rabbi Darty Klask and Candace Nahlofi, Director of Member Services, on Temple Beth El’s 10 day trip to Israel. During the trip, the group
* Explored the “layers of Jerusalem” — 3000 years of history in a single morning, including the Kotel, the western retaining wall of the Temple
* Traveled through the memory of the Shosh at Yad VaShem
* Experienced the tastes, smells, and sounds of Israel at Machane Yehuda, Jerusalem’s shuk (outdoor produce market).
* Celebrated with the entire group as TBE members Rachel Potter and Nina Geller became bar and bat mitzvah
* Learned about the mystical side of Judaism in Tzfat
* Stood at Mount Ben Tai and looked out at the ceasefire line between Israel and Syria, reflecting on just how close we are to places we hear about in the news

* Enjoyed Shabbat evening services with our sister Reform congregation, Birkat Shalom
* Savored De Karina chocolate factory (definitely the kids’ highlight of the trip)
* Visited the State of Mind Innovation Center in Tel Aviv and learned about some of the amazing inventions Israelis have contributed to our world!

And that wasn’t even the half of it. At the beginning of the trip, our tour educator warned us that our time in Israel was unlikely to answer all of our questions — and may even leave us with more — and indeed, the group left Israel with much to process and reflect on. More than anything, however, the group really connected with each other over their time together. Rabbi Klask shared, “My personal favorite part of the journey was watching the intergenerational interaction and friendships created during this adventure.”

“The #MeToo Movement has brought to light just how widespread and systematic sexual misconduct has been. Rabbi Schindler will examine the Hebrew Bible and in Rabbinic texts. She will conduct has been. Rabbi Schindler will examine just how widespread and systematic sexual misconduct is in honor of Lori and Eric Sklut who have generously established the Sklut Professorship of Jewish Studies at Queens University.

#MeToo: Sexual Misconduct in the Hebrew Bible

Sklut Community Lecture
Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies
September 26, 2018, 5:30-6:30 PM

Sessions Two through Eight, Monday evenings, Kelley of UCLA, Saturday, September 15, 2018, 10:00-11:00 AM

For more information, please contact Talia Goldman, goldman@queens.edu

From Marches to Movements: Foundations of Social Change
Third Annual Advocacy Education Program (eight sessions)
Queens University Professors and Charlotte Community Leaders
Session One - Preyer Lecture with Dr. Robin Kelley of UCLA, Saturday, September 15, 6:30 PM
Sessions Two through Eight, Monday evenings, October 8-November 19, 6:30-8:00 PM
Cost: $25

Drawing on the richness of Queens’ faculty and community leaders who are experienced with social justice, social change, and organizing, this year’s program will provide the tools that are needed to move from marches to movements in order to create sustainable social change. Topics include: foundations of social justice, the political process, the role of the law in social change, community organizing, the rhetorical strategies of social movements, and digital communications and social change.

By Ron C. Levin

“#Turn! Turn! Turn!” made popular in the 1960s by The Byrds, is open to a myriad of interpretations. For me, it brings to mind the turning of the last twelve seasons at Temple Beth El and our future outlook as a result of that time period.

During our history we have seen many clergy, staff, and lay leaders take turns leading and serving our congregation and each has provided a unique perspective to the day’s issues, priorities, and challenges. Each has lent their personal strengths to building our community.

With the passing of these last twelve seasons we continue to be entrenched in Temple Life as we move from generation to generation and strength to strength. As each leader touches a countless number of groups, committees, projects, congregants, services, educational activities, volunteers, and more, made up of the very young to senior adults, inclusion is always at the forefront.

With arms wide open, Temple Beth El reaches out and we come in Jewish and non-Jewish members, newcomers, and the unaffiliated through prayer, study, social action, culture, and family. With a respect for tradition and without judgment, the Temple embraces all who are touched in some way by Judaism. The purpose of inclusion now going beyond just being a place that welcomes all, but asking: What more can we be for you? What else can we do to help you belong more? What do we offer you beyond a place of worship that enriches your life and those around you? To be a place where you are found. An example is the recent work of the Temple Beth El Baby Boomers/Empty Nesters, a group that is transitioning in life and finding its way. Their initiative to create small groups and make deeper connections with each other further inclusion at the micro level, and in time as the entire congregation becomes involved, will create as Rabbi Knight says, “A relational community with meaning and purpose.” It is an exciting time at Temple Beth El as we turn into the next seasons to come.”
The Journey of the Soul

By Dr. Ann Smolin

The Jewish Woman’s Remis-
sance Project’s (JWPR) is an
international organization that
arranges highly subsidized trips
to Israel for Jewish moms with
kids ranging from newborns to
18. Trips run year-round and have
taken 400-500 women per trip.
The Charlotte Torah Center
is proud to be JWPR’s partner
organization in Charlotte. The
trip kicks off a year-long experi-
ence giving women the opportu-
nity connect with other women
through education and social
events. I was fortunate enough
to participate in the summer trip
test years ago and have been reaping
the benefits ever since. Unex-
pectedly, the outgrowth of the
trips has been the formation of a
separate woman’s organization in Char-
lotte called WOW (Women of
Wisdom). One of our board
members recently remarked that one
thing that makes us unique is that
while being associated with the
CTC, our board and membership
consist of women affiliated with
every synagogue in Charlotte
and those who are unaffiliated.
Our social and education events
are open to the public, as are the
ongoing classes, including the rec-
cent Jewish Lifecycle: Journey
of a Lifetime: From Birth Until
Death.

Our most recent event fea-
tured Elissa Felder, a woman who
speaks throughout the globe about
the topic that, while interesting,
might be considered taboo. Her
talk, "Where Are We Going? The
Jewish View of the Afterlife," was
well attended by a cross section of
the community. As a psychol-
ogist, I was looking forward to
the talk, I have counseled people
mourning the death of a loved one
as well as those who didn’t
properly mourn and were later con-
fined with unexpected thoughts
and emotions. In addition, over
the years, I have had clients who
faced their own deaths, or were
dealing with chronic illnesses.
My role as a therapist is to help
clients understand themselves
and make decisions according to
their own values systems. Hear-
ing a religious perspective on
the topic of death was not part of
my professional or even my Hebrew
school education, I lost my father
almost 20 years ago and was clue-
less about how Jews deal with ev-
ery aspect of death from the mo-
ment the last breath is taken to the
burial to how Jews mourn, I was
eager to hear our speaker and she
turned out to be more than any of
us had expected.

Elissa shared the poignant sto-
ry of the death of her son, Sam, at
six months. This tragedy led her
to a lifelong search to understand
what Judaism teaches about death
and how to live life with more
purpose and passion. She spoke
about topics such as the soul, re-
incarnation, judgement, and Jew-
ish burial practices. She spoke of
how the night of Sam’s death, a
group of her friends who had
known Sam gathered together to

Although this event might sound morbid, it was a comfort
to many people. The next day one woman called to say that her
husband came home and for the first
time felt he could share some of
his hidden feelings about the re-
cent loss of his father; the lecture
was a catalyst for him to confront
emotions he had not confronted.
Someone else asked how she
could participate in this act
final act of kind-
ness for a fellow Jew-
ish woman. After the
lecture someone made
the comment, "If Juda-
ism accords so much
honor and dignity to a
lifeless body, it makes
sense that honoring and
giving dignity to living

people is a central aspect of our
religion," Well said and perhaps
that will be the topic of the next
lecture. However, in the mean-
time, judging from the feedback,
the attendees really appreciated
the low-keyed presentation and
the discourse that followed. I got
us all thinking about... life. 0

Temple Sole Discusses Loss

By Shelley Pawlik

Having recently experienced
the loss of my father due to a
long-term illness of pancreatic
cancer, the grief made me feel
alone as though I may be one of
the only ones having such a dif-
ficult experience. Of course
that isn’t true, but it could be a typi-
cal response when everything in
you wants to pull back from life.
However, in order to heal, rather
than retreating, it yielded better
results to see the world and those
in it as a warm embrace from God
during difficult times.
A dear friend named Erma and I
were very close friends for
many years even though she was
more than double my age. In her
later years, then in her 90s, she
moved from the Southpark area
over an hour away to live with
one of her sons, She loved receiv-
ing cards. We hadn’t spoken in
a couple years, but I sent her notes
even though she was unable to
write me back. As tradition holds,
during the end of the year many
of us who are old-fashioned still
send hand-written cards to say
hello or keep in touch with those
over the miles who may not be
on social media. Each year when I
sent my card it invoked a memo-
ry and I tried to talk about some-
thing Erma and I experienced in
previous times we were togeth-
er. One year I wrote, “Erma, I
always loved it when you made
me ABC juice, which was your
secret recipe of 1 Apple, 1 Beet
and 1 Carrot of course.” Last year
I wrote, “Erma I’ll never forget
when you told me how much you
love going shopping in your own
closet and decided to take your
advice, I think of you every time I
feel like I found a new outfit and
never had to leave the house.”
Several months later, I was sit-
ting with my father in California
at an hours-long chemo treatment
and my cellphone rang showing
an unfamiliar number. I usually
don’t answer, but was compelled

(Continued on page 25)
Always a warm welcome.
An inclusive and dynamic Reform Jewish congregation • More than 1,200 families strong

WORSHIP

Celebrating Shabbat
First Fridays
5:30 pm SongFest
6:00 pm Family Shabbat Evening Service
8:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service
All other Fridays
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service
Saturdays
11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Please check www.templebethel.org for weekly service times and details.

Join Us to Reflect During Elul
In the Hebrew month of Elul, Temple Beth El will continue to prepare for the High Holy Days. Each week, clergy will speak on themes and congregants will share blog reflections to help us begin important seasonal spiritual work. See www.templebethel.org for blog posts and a link to stream Shabbat services online.

The High Holy Days Are Coming!
High Holy Day services are open to the entire Jewish community! You do not need to be a TBE member to attend, but you do need a ticket. Call us to learn more.

COMMUNITY

URJ CAMPS
This summer, we have 62 kids attending Union for Reform Judaism camps and 8 TBE Youth Group Alumni who are on staff at URJ camps!

ISRAEL TRIP
37 travelers joined Rabbi Dusty Klass and Director of Member Services, Candace Naliboff, for a fun and fascinating exploration of Israel. Learn more about our trip and see pictures in this issue of Charlotte Jewish News.

INCLUSION
Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service
Sunday, Aug. 12 at 4:00 pm
St. John’s Baptist Church
Temple Beth El will be represented as more than 25 different faith organizations affirm their commitment to ensuring that all people feel safe and included in our faith community. Rabbi Dusty Klass will speak as part of this year’s service.

Join Keshet at Charlotte PRIDE on Aug. 18 & 19

LEARNING

Temple Beth El Religious School
Registration is now open! Don’t miss the fun. Visit www.templebethel.org or call the Religious School office to register.

Elements of Judaism
Tuesday evenings starting Aug. 7
An introductory course to Jewish thought, belief and practice through the lens of Reform Judaism. Visit www.templebethel.org to register.

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
An Afternoon with Linda Pressman

Author, Pop Culture Blogger, and 2nd Generation Survivor
Sunday, August 26
Wan Fu Quality Chinese Cuisine, 10719 Kettering Dr., 12-2 PM
$14 includes speaker, signed book, lunch

Looking Up: A Memoir of Sisters, Survivors, and Skokie by Linda Pressman is a story of growing up with parents who have survived the unspeakable, who lived in Skokie, an idyllic northern suburb of Chicago, where they’re suddenly free to live their lives but find the past has arrived with them. It was the Grand Prize Winner of the Writer’s Digest 20th Annual Book Award and is in the permanent collection at Yad Vashem, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, and the National Museum of Israel.

Praise for Looking Up:
“...funny, wacky, and heart-breaking...a story offering a unique perspective on the Holocaust, one generation removed from the war.” - Cindy Sher, Editor, JUF News, and Writer, OTYChicago “A memoir that is truly memorable.” - Writer’s Digest

“Humor and tragedy blend seamlessly in this memoir of childhood upbringing and family trauma...a memoir whose heart pays considerable homage to its subjects.” - Kirkus Reviews

"...Pressman is a talented writer and this book is a testament to her parents’ truly indomitable will.” - Publishers Weekly

"It’s a book about Holocaust survivors, yes, but it’s also a coming-of-age story, a personal recounting of what it’s like to live in a large family and the dynamics of the relationships within it.” - Mike Isaac, The Skokie Review, a Chicago Sun-Times Publication

Besides being a frequent contributor to Kveller.com, Pressman’s freelance work has also appeared in Sandy Hills Magazine, Brain Child Magazine, Motherwell Magazine, Six Hens, and the Phoenix Jewish News. A lifetime member of Hadassah, she lives in Scottsdale, AZ, where she is working on a second memoir.

Her book is available on Amazon, in libraries, and at select Barnes & Noble locations. To purchase a ticket to the lunch event, go to www.hadasah.com/charlotte. For more information, contact Roy Cooper at 704-904-4025 or Lynda White at jwassoc@syrnet.com.

Temple Solel Discusses Loss
(Continued from page 23)
to at that particular moment. It was Erna’s son who had never met or spoken to before. He said, “I need to confess and tell you about something. I didn’t have the heart to tell you, but Erna died three years ago.” I was a little shocked, but then forgiving when he continued by saying, “Selfishly, I enjoyed the stories you wrote to mom each year so much, I wanted to keep hearing them so I would never forget how much she was loved, not just by me, but by other people.”

Loss can represent multiple subjects such as the emotional loss of a marriage, a job, or losing something we value. It is missing in our lives. People can feel a deep sense of loss when their lives are changed by a health condition or accident. I was on an airplane seated next to an active baby boomer-aged man with a cane who said, “I am an avid cyclist. When I crashed and tore the ligaments in my thigh – within 24 hours after the surgery I had a different life where I could no longer walk. It’s been over a year now and even though there is progress it feels like I will never be the same.”

The conversation made me realize that if someone is compassionate and understanding towards a stranger can make such a difference, how much healing can be shared with those we care about the most. Being on the receiving end of kindness of texts, cards, emails, hugs, and telephone calls is very special. It is a moment to remember once we heal ourselves, there are those who don’t always have such a blessed experience. We’ve all had those moments when someone in our life randomly comes to mind. We may not even know the person very well and think, “I should call and reach out.” Two words: Do it. Maybe there will be a day when someone will remember to tell your family about a time when you positively impacted their lives.

Temple Solel’s Caring Committee Chairs, Linda and Murray Simon, regularly reach out to our members ensuring our compassion is expressed on behalf of the congregation. Temple Solel holds Shabbat services at 7 PM the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope to meet you soon in the community room at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Mamon Road, Fort Mill. For details, call 803-619-9767 or visit www.templesolel.org or Temple Solel SC on Facebook.
SPASH INTO SHABBAT WITH TORAH TOTS!
Friday, August 17, 4:30 p.m.
During the summer months, all pre-school families are welcome to SPLASH INTO SHABBAT with Torah Tots at the L.E.C. PoolSplash Park! There will be open play, songs, and a Shabbat service, capped off with a delicious kid-friendly meal ($5/person or $18/family). Pay in advance online at templeisraelnc.org by clicking on the calendar event page. On day of event, payment with cash or check only.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES
Rosh Hashanah Program
Tuesday, September 11 (9:30–10:30 a.m.)
(Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park)
Tom Kipper Program
Wednesday, September 19 (9–9:45 a.m.)
(Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park)
Sukkot Program
Monday, September 24 (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)
(Temple Israel Sukkah)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

TOP GOLF
Thursday, August 9 (7 p.m.)
Come join Torah on Tap and Moishe House for a night out on the links as we swing the night away at Top Golf. Registration is mandatory to participate. Appetizers will be provided. Cost: $15/person for 2 hours (does not include player card cost of $5 if you do not already have one). Register on the Ti website, on the calendar event page.

SOCIAL CLUB

L’CHAYIM NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
Sunday, August 19, 3 p.m.
Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall
Welcome in the Jewish New Year (5779) with a L’Chayim New Year Celebration! Enjoy wine, cheese and dessert, while being entertained by singer John Lewis Leon, who will perform an “All Broadway” program. You will have the opportunity to sing and dance along with the music, in a nice relaxing atmosphere. Cost: $14 for members; $18 for guests. Reservation deadline is August 9. Please contact Judy Kaufman (704) 847-1022 or Ruth Goldberg (704) 366-8903 for further info.

YOUTH

NC TEEN WET N’ WILD WATERPARK TRIP (6th-12th Grade Teens)
Sunday, September 2, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
It’s time to kick off the year with Kadima Bonim, USY Geshem, and other Jewish Teens from all over NC for an afternoon of surf, sun, water slides, and waves at Wet N’ Wild Water Park in Greensboro. Connect with old friends, and make new ones, as we begin our best year yet with the hottest youth group in the city. Bring a packed dairy lunch or money to purchase lunch. Cost: $36 per person (includes park admission and bus transportation) Drop-off and Pick-up at Temple Israel. (MUST) Register by Wednesday, August 29 at templeisraelnc.org.

EMPTY NESTERS

BRUNCH & CATAWBA QUEEN SIGHTSEEING CRUISE
Sunday, August 12, 11 a.m.
Location: Queen’s Landing, Mooresville, NC
The Empty Nesters hope you can join them for brunch at the North Harbor Club (100-D North Harbor Place) and a sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi River boat, Catawba Queen. To register and pay for your spot on this two-hour cruise, please use this link http://queenslanding.com/cruise-schedule/. Once you’re at the website, go to Cruises, enter the event date (August 12) and follow the registration instructions. After you register, please email Amy DeLoach at amydeloach@gmail.com so that she can confirm the brunch reservation.

EDUCATING AND INSPIRING FUTURE JEWISH LEADERS

K - 7th Grade Classes begin September 23
704-844-6785 • templeisraelnc.org

WELCOME HOME SHABBAT!
Friday, August 10, 5:30 p.m.
Join your Temple Israel friends and family as we “Welcome Home” Cantor Shira Lissak to our congregation. The evening includes a pre-oneg, engaging and uplifting Friday night Shabbat services, and a Shabbat dinner (free-of-charge) for all renewed Temple Israel congregants. The pre-oneg and Shabbat Services are open to all in the community. Please visit templeisraelnc.org for additional information.

THE ROSE ROOM - WOMEN’S TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP

GIFT SHOP HOURS
Sunday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Tess Berger (704) 488-3842, Shellie Barer (516) 375-4708 or Cindy Jenness (704) 448-7643

PROCEEDS SUPPORT TEMPLE ISRAEL, WOMEN’S TEMPLE ISRAEL YOUTH PROGRAMS, AND SOCIAL ACTION INITIATIVES.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW THIS YEAR: Referal Program - If you refer a friend or family member to Temple Israel, and you on referral will get a one-time $250 credit off of Standard membership rates* to be deducted from your balance at the end of your payment cycle. For more information, please contact Monty Bennett at 704-860-2180.

*Offer subject to change without notice.
That Last Week

By Andrea Gamlin

At many schools, the final week of the school year is a week of insignificant, non-instructional activities following weeks of testing. Students have largely checked out and some teachers have, too. There’s nothing more to teach, nothing more to learn.

CJDS isn’t one of those schools. It was graduation week, thanks to the Memorial Day holiday. That last week of school could have been a typical school’s last week with everyone largely disengaged, but that’s not how we roll.

Mariashi and Mandy, directors of CJDS, and Stephen Debrisen, the fifth grade teacher, worked with staff and fifth grade students to develop clubs, guided by those students and facilitated by teachers for the final four days of school. Each recent graduate thought about a skill or special knowledge that he or she had to share with second through fourth grade students in a club. Meanwhile, Kindergarten and first grade students took part in their own activities, such as art, team building, Judaica, and technology.

In the end, the 15 fifth-grade students developed proposals for engaging activities during which they worked together or individually to lead meaningful, purposeful gatherings. Students applied for clubs, listing their first, second, and third choices. All students received one of their top choices and were able to participate in a group that resonated with them. The seven club choices were:

* Art Club – learn how to draw people, school items, animals, and comics
* Board Games Club – learn how to play a variety of board games
* Coding Club – learn how to code using HTML and code a website about a Jewish holiday
* Drama Club – embrace your creative outlet and learn about acting, theater, and singing culminating in a school-wide performance about growth mindset on last day
* Sports Club – learn techniques for various outdoor sports, including thinking fast, using good sportsmanship
* Stranded Island Club – play video games where survival skills are used
* Video Game Role Play – learn how to play Minecraft to develop and live in a virtual world, using creativity and collaboration

Clubs met twice daily, except for the final day which was a morning-only meet up. As a teacher, it was inspiring and gratifying to see our recent graduates confidently leading other students to pursue new knowledge. I supervised the Minecraft and coding clubs, and saw two leaders emerge who were otherwise shy students. Firmly, I saw second through fourth grade students getting to know each other through helping and partnering in the clubs.

During the afternoon of the final day of school, all students and teachers gathered for the showing of the remarkable Dramatic Arts club’s play. The club’s seven hours were used efficiently as the students who took part put on an awesome show in which all members were engaged. Did I mention they rehearsed for only seven hours?

Students and teachers alike then expressed what they were grateful for, and many said that they were grateful for our school. I certainly am, too. I am grateful for much in my work and personal life, and said that I very much appreciated my peers. CJDS teachers inspire me daily to be the best teacher possible. Administration gives me the tools I need and want to make sure students are active learners.

Finally, we had our end of year makeovers, with tables of Legos and cards of ideas. I chose a table and looked at a card, which read, “create a maze.” What fun to work at the table with four other students (yes, I said “other students” because aren’t we all students?), ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade. We helped each other find Lego pieces and offered design and color suggestions. After creating my maze, I watched other students and teachers work side by side creating whatever was on a card at a table of their choice.

What a fabulous final activity, incorporating fun, creativity, and teamwork.

On that final day, the last minute before dismissal, we all sang our school song about CJDS, where education is purposeful and meaningful. Even during the last week of school.
Sunday Should Never = School CKids Jewish Adventure

Religious School gets a bad rap. Nobody wants their precious Sunday sleep time taken away from them. So here is Chabad’s unconventional solution in five easy steps:

1. Say “no” to school – Sundays are for fun. Not school. Any kind of school. Just say no!
2. Say “no” to sleep – Just because you can sleep-in doesn’t mean you should.
3. Say “yes” to adventure – Believe it or not, Judaism is fun. We’ll show you how.
4. Say “yes” to experience –

What it is?
CKids Jewish adventure is an exciting way to engage kids in grades K-6 through:
- Hands on Jewish experiences
- Authentic Jewish values
- Karate style Hebrew reading
- Individual attention
- And of course loads of fun!

When is it?
Sunday mornings from 10:12.

Where is it?
At Chabad’s brand new Youth Center, 6619 Sardis Road. Learn more at ChabadNC.org/CKids or call 704-366-3984.

Creating our own kosher cookbook
Stop learning about it, experience it. Hands on Jewish experiences that will last a lifetime.

5. Sign up for CKids Jewish Adventure!

Hands on Shabbat at CKids
Karate Alph Champ Awards

Here We Grow Again

The temperatures are still telling us that there is a lot more summer to come. The Jewish Preschool on Sardis is wrapping up another wonderful summer, full of laughter and learning. Our summer theme of Community Helpers was wildly successful with all the visitors we were able to welcome to school.

From librarians, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte Fire Department, a doctor (and JPS dad), a pharmacist (and JPS mom), a dentist, a scientist, a yoga instructor (and JPS mom), and many others. As the weeks of our 7th summer programming wind down, we embrace and welcome school year 2018-2019.

JPS is excited to announce the opening of two new classrooms this fall. We will open a new two-year-old classroom and a new toddler classroom. We are excited to greet our new staff and new families to the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, knowing it will be another year of adventures, fun, in-

Visitors from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Fire Department.

Clari and Luke Schwartz with the campers.

Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden

The Levine JCC
Butterfly Project
Zikaron Y’likvah
Remembrance and Hope

Please Celebrate With Us!

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

- Charlotte Ballet Performance
  Inspired by a student’s participation in a Butterfly Project workshop.
- Garden Ceremony
  ...and more!

Celebrating

10 YEARS
2008-2018

Sunday, October 14 • 3pm
Margaret & Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden
Sam Lerner Center of Cultural Arts
at Shalom Park

FREE – but kindly RSVP
704-366-5007

The Charlotte Jewish News - August 2018 - Page 28
Celebrate Successes and Sharing Gratitude - Thank You CJP Partners, Parents, and Staff

By Brooke Aino, director, Charlotte Jewish Preschool

It is hard to believe that the 2017-2018 school year has passed so quickly and we are gearing up for a new school year. Last year was a special year at CJP for so many reasons, but most importantly we were able to facilitate a place where children use their imaginations, gain confidence when learning a new skill, develop physical strength, create new friendships, take risks, problem solve, develop an interest in nature, be inquisitive, and enjoy being Jewish. How were we able to cultivate all of this? The answer is, committed and passionate partnerships of all CJP’s stakeholders; in which I am truly grateful for.

Every morning our children start their day with a morning prayer called the Modeh Ani, which thanks God for reuniting our bodies with our souls and giving us another day. As Jews we often exercise gratitude through prayer and prescribed rich traditions that make up an obvious source of gratitude; but what about everyday gratitude towards one another? Sometimes gratitude can get lost in hectic days, or hectic years for that matter. I would like to take a moment to express my deep feeling of gratitude that I have for so many giving and talented people within the CJP family and our greater Jewish community. I am grateful for the Board of Directors who have partnered with the school to create a new strategic plan, raise $41,500 for our Annual Fund, strengthen school policies, support a more comprehensive staff compensation package (including better insurance premiums and a 401k program for full time staff), provide families in need with a total $30,000 in scholarship gifts, and much more. These dedicated PTO officers and committee chairpersons are: Melanie Resnick (President), Amy Udoff, Rubina Batt, Ivy Berman, Kara Colp, Meredith Mandell, Laramie Poole, Danielle Chanland, Tara Price, Rachel Weiss, Pamela Belinsky, Julie Shaffer, Marisa Zeibert, Ruth Stanton, Marisa Jackson, Marissa Karp, Ashley Doar, Melanie Brown, Don Shulsky, Candace Serbin, Rachel Friedman, Eliza Carney, Meridith Sherwood, Jessica Garfield, Summer Minchew, Lissie Kaykendell, and Marion Laubauk.

I am grateful for our partnerships around the park that enrich our Jewish practices in many different ways. We are so fortunate to have the incredible facilities, resources, and leadership that Shalom Park has to offer that can support our families and children. What other preschool can go to a library, gym, Temple, garden, and classroom in the same day? I am grateful for our teachers and staff who have served over 313 families successfully in our mission. Our staff works very hard to develop as professionals by attending national conferences/workshops that strengthen (Continued on page 31)
Evening of Fun, Food and Philanthropy Raises Over $70,000 for JFS

With the room darkened and a brick wall backdrop that mimicked a comedy club, Gary Galman, one of only a handful of stand-up comics to perform on every late night TV talk show, took the stage and performed to a sold out crowd of 275 at JFS’ inaugural Live, Laugh, Give Comedy Night.

The guests settled in, relaxed, and quickly began laughing at Galman’s one-liners and jokes as his stories and skits hit home. They also raised their paddles and opened their hearts during the live auction and call to the heart, which contributed to the over $70,000 raised during the Night of Laughter, A Lifetime of Healing event.

We are awed, moved and inspired by the generosity of this community who showed up in a big way for us.

The monies raised will go toward existing programs and services and help us address the growing needs of our community. A special Thank You to presenting sponsors, Adam and Kim Levy, Co-Chairs, Sary Catenazzo and Andrea Cronson, and the many others who donated their time, talent, and gifts. Without your support, faith, and belief in what we do the evening would not have been possible.

Photo above: David Catenazzo, Gary Galman, Sary Catenazzo
Photo at right: Barbara Levin, Gary Galman, Jerry Levin

Photo above: a big crowd attend the event; photo at right: Gary Lerner, Scott Lerner, Donna Lerner, Shlomo Rosenberg, Emily Lerner

Front row: Steve and Linda Lebow, Jeff Bieker, Gary Galman, Eli and Uri Kohen, Andrea Cronson; back row: Gary Finkelstein, Judi Roberts, Lee Bieker, Bobbi Selkin, Michael Sieser, Greg Selman

Larry and Dale Polsky, Anne Boachik, Adam Levy, Jan Boachik

Howard Odhamski, Lori Shlar, Gary Galman, Eric Shlar, Mason Shlar

FALL PROGRAM REGISTRATION GOING ON NOW! NO JOINING FEE BEGINS AUG 15TH

charlottejcc.org 704-366-5007
Donations to Jewish Family Services in May and June 2018

THANK YOU TO
Samuel Bernstein for your help with the pledge from Norman Steinberger
Murray Ezring from Marvin Byrman
Debra Markadin from Norman Steinberger
Dee Kriel from Norman Steinberger and Gail Halverson

IN MEMORY OF
Evelyn Chester to Harvey and Tammy Chester from Adam Douglas, Thomas and Ruth Ann Smith, Amanda Williams
Sid Naturinsky to Reena Epstein from Sylvia Aronson
Carol Loi McCaskill to Rona Gordon from Norman Steinberger
Morton Grosswald to Sara Grosswald from Gary Silverstein
Matt Para to Judith Para from Gary Silverstein
Matt Sidote to David and Sury Catenazzi from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Judith Layman to David and Dan Cohen from Milton and Karen Silver
Pebby Polk from Paul and Marcia Simon, Arlene and Edward Karp
Sherry Goodman from Theresa Gortko-Deal
Banzy Schwartz to Alan and Merle Gotthelf from Maxine Millman, Mona Marusu, Beney Gorelick, Joyce Millman, Gindy Galkow
Bernice Roberts to Barbara and Jerry Levin, Carol Shafine, and Marilyn and Harry Swimmer from Carl and Marsha Scheer, Norman Steinberger and Carl Halverson, Allan and Marcella Oman, Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, the Bushan children
Muriel Marsh Smith to Mark Smith from Allan and Marcella Oman, the Bushan children
Alla Berlinfelt from Victor and Julia Glauberman and family from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

MAZEL TOV ON
Your grandchildren’s graduation to Paul and Lynn Edelstein from Anita Shapiro
Your grandchildren’s graduation to Edwin and Jill Newman from Marvyn and Anita Shapiro
Eve’s birth to Brett Simmons from Betsy Gambarg

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
David Gordon from Norman Steinberger
Barbara Levin from Paullet and Joel Cohen, Carol Gorelick, Carl and Marsha Scheer
Paula S. Mueller from Margi Goldstein, Jack and Vera Mendel
Jill Newman from Margi Goldstein, Jack and Vera Mendel
Mark Perlin from Michael and Judie Van Giksh
Sharyn Sarrar from Lynn and Myron Shinsky

IN HONOR OF
Richard Herd from Michael and  Judie Van Giksh
Norman Steinberger from David Gordon

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY TO
Wendy Kвесkin from Benjamin Kвесkin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
Stuart and Ellen Fligel from Paul and Marcia Simon, Sandra Weimann, Larry and Dale Polsky
David and Marion Kronen from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO
Matthew Luftglass from Paula S. Mueller

YOUR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH TO
Sandy Rose from Norman Steinberger and Gail Halverson

JFS Monthly Volunteers

Month of May 2018


Hadasah Cooks: Barbara Abrams, Phyllis Berlin, Cathy Boggs, Gladys Chesney, Safa Friedman, Doming Greenpoon, Jure Hirschmann, Judy Kaufman, Penny Kriger, Shelly Leibman, Andrea McCleary, Harriet Meets, Chris Plano, Roi Snyder, Joyce Stoll

Thank You to CJP Partners

(Continued from page 29)
their knowledge and skills each year. I am grateful for the endless planning, preparing, hard work, patience and love that is necessary to work in early childhood. I am proud to have a school full of nurturing professionals who strive to create an atmosphere of community, and family for each other and our families.

This school community as a whole, truly takes pride in growing good people and nurturing Jewish souls.
It is an honor to partner with all of you to serve our beautiful children and families at CJP. I look forward to another wonderful year with all of our stakeholders.

CJDS Outperforms Independent Schools in Achievement Testing

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<th>CJDS Performance vs. Independent Schools*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CTP4 Subtest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal Reasoning</td>
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<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
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<td>Writing Mechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Concepts &amp; Skills</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning</td>
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<td>Mathematics 1&amp;2</td>
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*percentile rank in 2017

What are CTP4/ERBs?
The Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP) is a rigorous assessment in areas such as reading, comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and mathematics. All CJDS 3rd – 5th graders take this exam every spring.

How do CJDS students outperform peers at other private school year after year?

- Excellent teachers
- An advanced baseline curriculum
- A customized educational approach that challenges and supports each pupil
- The use of critical and higher level thinking for Project Based Learning and Judaic studies
- A math curriculum that start kindergartners at the first grade level and a gifted language arts program for all students in grades 3-5

See it for yourself! Give us a call or stop by and take a tour.
Life happens. And you want to be ready when it does.

Let us help you connect your financial goals to what matters most

Getting to know you and what you care most about — planning for college, taking care of an elder family member, passing a legacy to future generations, buying a second home — is so important. Once we understand your priorities, together we can help you pursue the goals you’ve set for yourself and your family. Call to learn more today.

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Wealth Management Advisor
Senior Portfolio Advisor
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