Pittsburgh. at the Tree of Life Synagogue in security protocols in the after was significantly exceeded. To eral security threats in 2017, ourcurity protocols. Following sev-

Charlotte community.

trol systems no concrete bollards

campaign. No gates, no access con-

years ago to be an open park-like

Shalom Park was built 35

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Moishe House, Helvetica Cemetery Association, B’nai Brit Youth Organization, and the Charlotte Jewish News. For more information, contact Terri Beatte, Executive Direc-

Mark Weitzman

of Antisemitism and Holocaust denials. Join us as Weitzman shares how he and his colleagues worked for years to create a globally recognized definition of Antisemitism as a means to combat hate worldwide.

Author of several books and essay on Antisemitism and Ho-

costs, it can be used

For many synagogues around the country having locked doors, law enforcement presence during services, a Director of Security, active shooter drills, and security committees will be new. But this is not the case at Shalom Park. To a large extent, these measures are already in place.

In October, the Foundation of Shalom Park received the max-

Imagining Antisemitism and Why It Matters

The event is free and open to the community, but reservations are requested at www.jewishchar-

For more information, please contact Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations & Israel Affairs, laurel.grauer@jewish-

closed doors to raise at least at $160,000 this year. They can only do this with

Where and at any time. The very nature of an emergency is unpre-
dictable and can change in scope and impact. Being prepared and planning ahead is critical to pro-
tecting lives, the environment, and property. The primary rea-

The Foundation of Shalom Park has the responsibility for balancing the need to provide a secure and safe environment with the desire to create an open and welcoming atmosphere for the thousands of people who visit the park every day. Given the elevated threat level, they need to raise at least at $160,000 this year. They can only do this with your donation to the Security Campaign.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes:

What’s happening in Charlotte for Chanukah?

See the full calendar of events on page 16.
Todah Rabah to the Our Donors
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Visit www.charlottejewishnews.org to see our most updated information

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Shabbat Candle Lighting for December 2018

Friday, December 7, 4:53 PM
Friday, December 14, 4:54 PM
Friday, December 21, 4:57 PM
Friday, December 28, 5:01 PM

The Charlotte Jewish News
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Charlotte, NC 28226

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JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

Jewish Federation’s Create Your Jewish Legacy Chair, Jill Newman, Spreading the Word about Legacy Giving

Jill Newman moved to Charlotte from the Midwest in 1967 and has been involved in the growth and prosperity of our community ever since. She sat down with CJN to discuss her leadership of Federation’s efforts to provide sustainability for years to come.

CJN: What is your role with Federation this year?

Jill Newman: My role is to inspire others to create their Jewish legacy – to include in their will plans to benefit our entire Jewish community by leaving monies that Federation will utilize to fund our community in perpetuity. Not only that, but Federation provides leadership to our community in good times and bad. Look at what happened in Pittsburgh – their local Federation helped the community when they were in need. And locally, our Federation was instrumental in bringing our community together when we needed it as well. Supporting Federation means growing Jewish life.

CJN: You have taken on many volunteer leadership responsibilities in the Jewish community. Why do you do this work?

JN: I’m passionate about the Jewish people. I started my volunteer work with the Sisterhood at Temple Beth El. I’m also a past president of Hadassah and was president of the Federation for three years. For me, it always comes down to people. I’m so proud to be Jewish. I want others to feel that pride. With Federation, I know that I am helping our local Jewish community and fulfilling the needs of Jews and others in need in Israel and other places.

CJN: Who do you hope to speak with about creating a Jewish Legacy?

JN: Creating your own Jewish legacy enables you to perpetuate the Jewish traditions and values you cherish, to preserve the programs and institutions of special importance to you, and to make a permanent statement of your values to your family and your community. My committee – Federation’s Create your Jewish Legacy committee – wants to connect with anyone who wants to leave an even better Jewish world for their children and grandchildren here in greater Charlotte and around the world. There was a Jewish community here before me and I am doing my part to plant seeds for future generations, just as others did for me.

CJN: What is your hope for the future of the Jewish community?

JN: I hope it continues forever. My son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren live here. I’m leaving my legacy for them and many like them, that they may continue what we’ve built here. My fondest wish through my legacy gift is that the Jewish Federation will continue to provide the backbone of support, caring, and enrichment for others in our community for many years to come.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world” – Anne Frank

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Friday, December 28, 5:01 PM
Friday, December 21, 4:57 PM
Friday, December 14, 4:54 PM
Women’s Philanthropy: Leading Community and Inspiring Change

Inspired and guided by our tradition of tzedakah (righteousness/charity) and tikkan olam (repairing the world), the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity and thriving future of our Charlotte Jewish community, Israel, and the Jewish people.

Women’s Philanthropy is about knowing and understanding deeply the breadth of issues facing our community and rolling up our sleeves to help. It’s about educating, inspiring, and empowering women of all ages in our community. It’s about nurturing leadership and fostering a commitment to philanthropy. It’s about having an impact.

This upcoming year, the Jewish Federation’s Women Philanthropy will convene Charlotte women for three unique events to create positive change through their activism, community building, and philanthropy.

Our Fall Kick-Off was on Thursday, October 18, and featured renowned Israeli chef and philanthropist, Michael Solomonov and his business partner, Steven Cook.

Next, we will offer women the opportunity to make a difference. We will put our values into action with our Tikku Olam and Social Action program in winter of 2019. And then we will come together in the spring of 2019 to celebrate the women who are guided by our Jewish tradition of tzedakah and make a meaningful gift to the Federation’s Annual Campaign. This spring event will be open to women making a gift at the Federation’s Annual Campaign we have the opportunity to impact the issues that are so important to us, and to inspire others to do the same.

We hope you will join us for one – or all! – of the events we have in store for Women’s Philanthropy.

For more information on Women’s Philanthropy and ways to get involved, contact Jason Pressberg, Chief Development Officer, 704-944-6758, or Tair Guidice, Director of Education and Engagement, 704-944-6759.

Photos by Artshots Photography
The Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Council (JCRC) had a busy fall.

We discussed U.S. and Israel Relations with David Makovsky, examined the rise of Anti-Semitism and Populism in Europe with Stefan Schlüter, retired German diplomat, and explored the history of segregation and how its legacy continues to impact our community at On The Table Charlotte.

The role of the JCRC includes promoting and cultivating positive relations between the Jewish community and the larger Charlotte community, participating in the improvement of our local and global communities and encouraging engagement with and fostering a strong relationship between the local and Jewish and greater Charlotte communities and Israel.

For more information, please contact Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs at laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6751.

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Gateway to the Moon by Mary Morris

“I have been spoiled by Mary Morris’s writing—her rich story-telling woven with poetry—for years, but this latest novel brings me to a whole new level of awe. Gateway to the Moon catalogs a slice of Jewish history which is both startling and deeply moving. This is a story about exploration—between the past and the present, between faith and truth, between the heavens and the earth. If you haven’t read Mary Morris yet, start here. Now. Immediately.”

—Jodi Picoult, bestselling author of Small Great Things

Reading this recommendation by Jodi Picoult was the impetus that piqued my curiosity about a book that was just sitting unread on a shelf directly across from my desk in the Center for Jewish Education. Because I have always been transfixed by the Spanish Inquisition and this terrible period of Jewish history, when I read the book jacket and realized it was about crypto Jews, I was eager to get started. “Crypto-Judaism is the secret adherence to Judaism while publicly professing to be of another faith…” The term is applied historically to Spanish Jews known as conversos or marranos who outwardly professed Catholicism.

Gateway to the Moon is a book of historical fiction that weaves back and forth between the life of converso Luis de Torres, a translator looking for work, who left his wife and son in 1492 to sail on the Santa Maria with Christopher Columbus; and Miguel Torres, a teenager living 500 years later in Entrada de la Luna, New Mexico. When Miguel meets Rachel Rothstein and her family, he sees that many of the Jewish practices Rachel and her family observe are similar to those practiced by the residents of his small Catholic community. Miguel’s mother, who lives in a trailer park, makes a nice dinner and lights candles every Friday night (after she turns the picture of the Virgin Mary away from the wall); no one in their community eats pork, and no one mixes meat and dairy. These traditions are just accepted and unquestioned by the residents of their inbred community with bloodlines that stretch back to Spain. There are a variety of sub-plots that are interwoven throughout the 500 year family history that add to the appeal of the book – a fascination with astronomy, family relationships, the Spanish Inquisition, vivid descriptions of the terrain in New Mexico – all brought vividly to life through the well-drawn characters throughout this book.

I absolutely loved this book and hated for it to end. It will be on the list for our 2019 CJE Book Club; and I would recommend it for all book clubs. To my friends who I am sure are sick of hearing me talk about this book – thanks for listening, and get started on reading Gateway to the Moon today.
Have a Happy Chanukah. And share what it means to you.

#ChanukahPublix
Thank you to everyone who attended On the Same Page: Chapter 1 with Jenna Blum.
Save the Date for On the Same Page: Chapter 2 on March 24 featuring Martin Fletcher.

Shalom Park Freedom School
We Need You to Support Our Scholars

The Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) has helped address issues impacting educational differences for the past eight summers, and will continue to do so in the summer of 2019. Supported by our Shalom Park community, the SPFS location is one of 16 in the Charlotte Metro area, and is the first Jewish-run Freedom School site in the country. The Shalom Park site welcomes 80 scholars each summer. Our students come from Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary Schools, Title I Schools where 97% of children that participate in SPFS qualify for free and reduced lunch.

It is estimated that 75% of students from low income homes lose 2-3 months of learning over the summer. Current research supports that the Freedom School model is making a difference in helping 90% of scholars gain or maintain their reading ability by participating in this program.

The SPFS is looking for volunteers to help with the steering committee. Please contact Margaret Musa mmusa@carolina.rr.com or Annie Lord anniehlord@gmail.com for information about available positions to assist with this amazing program.

Shalom Park Freedom School
We Need You to Support Our Scholars

Stop by a Waltonwood community and see first hand why so many people are choosing to call Waltonwood HOME.

Holiday OPEN HOUSE
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Wishing you peace, love, and joy this Hanukkah season.
Making a better world takes the right ingredients.

This Hanukkah, while you’re frying up the latkes, serve something that will make it an even happier holiday for the whole family — especially your global family. Everything you need is within reach. And the recipe is simple.

Pour in a heaping mixture of nurturing and strengthening Jewish life. Add helping the vulnerable. Inspiring the young. And safeguarding our people. All these ingredients are automatically folded in together through your gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Your generosity, volunteerism and passion empower Federation to improve thousands of lives locally and across the globe.

Thank you! Our warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and meaningful Hanukkah.

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www.jewishcharlotte.org
Shabbat at CJDS

By Mariashi Groner, director, Charlotte Jewish Day School

One of the first Friday nights of the school year, five CJDS families hosted over 100 people for Shabbat dinner. Organized by the Parent Teacher Organization, families were offered the opportunity to either host or attend a Shabbat dinner. They were then matched with families according to their children’s ages and interests. Families who were Shomer Shabbat and observed various kashrut standards were accommodated, and the evening was considered an overwhelming success. Chatter about that Shabbat continued long after that weekend. Friendships were forged and it is impossible to measure and project the ripple effect of this initiative. It was a wonderful way to kick off the year, with the reminder of the peace that Shabbat can bring to all of us.

The experience of Shabbat continues on at CJDS. The third grade families were invited to join their Judaica teacher, Morah Channie Weiss, and her family for a Friday night dinner over two different weekends. Games were played, songs were sung, and the students prepared and studied the appropriate prayers and rituals such as lighting the Shabbat candles, making the Kiddush, washing their hands for Al Netilat Yadayim, the Hamotzei groupmatics.events/group/Jewishcommunity7.

The fourth grade, during art class, the students study mosaic art and make mosaic tiled candlesticks, a challah board, and a tzdakah box in preparation for their Shabbat dinner which is held at CJDS on a Friday night. The students lead the dinner and assist in preparing the meal for their families. At the dinner, a modified Friday night service is held where the fourth graders lead their parents in prayer.

Last, but not least, Shabbat assemblies are held every Friday morning when clergy from all of the synagogues in the community are invited to share a D’var Torah, story, or song on the Parsha (Torah Reading) or holiday that is coming up. In addition, different games, stories, and drama are shared on Empathy, our motto this year, the special peace we experience on Shabbat, or a lesson on Jewish pride and identity. To top it off, a Shabbat song is sung and practiced so that the familiar songs such as “Shalom Aleichem,” “L’cha Dodi,” and “Shir L’amotav” will become part of their Shabbat repertoire.

Teaching Shabbat does not only happen in the classroom, but is lived, experienced, tasted, and celebrated at CJDS.

Annual Jewish Community Night at the Hornets Game

Date: Wednesday, December 12
Time: Doors open at 6PM, Game tips off at 7PM
Details: Join your Charlotte Hornets for our annual Jewish Community Night on Wednesday, December 12. Each ticket comes with a Hornets gift and enjoy discounted tickets with your friends and family. A portion of every ticket will be donated back to Jewish Family Services. For additional seating options or groups of 15 or more, contact Bria Bell at 704-688-9048 or BBell@hornets.com.

Link to purchase tickets: groupmatics.events/group/Jewishcommunity?

“The best we can do to achieve holiness is to make a beginning and to persevere in our efforts.”
— Moses Hayim Luzzatto
Jewish Preschool on Sardis Visits the Book Fair

The three and four year old classes of JPS had the opportunity to visit the Book Fair at CJDS. First we got to ride the bus (which was probably the most exciting part of the field trip). We then discovered the roles of author and illustrator, and enjoyed the book *If You Give a Mouse a Brownie.* We shopped in the book fair and found so many books to add to our wish lists.

After a tasty snack we received an “I love reading” swag bag and headed back to JPS. What a great way to instill a lifelong love of reading in our young students, and what wonderful memories we have of this adventure. Thank you CJDS for having us.

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We Are So Thankful for the Charlotte Jewish Preschool – A Place that Nourishes the Mind, Body, and Soul

By Carrie Rocha

I’ve always appreciated what a wonderful school the Charlotte Jewish Preschool was, but I nev-

er knew how thankful I was for it until my son, Bryce, began losing his teeth. When Bryce’s first tooth fell out in the middle of a school-wide Shabbat, his amazing teacher, Ms. Gina, searched on the floor to find it among the dancing and laughing four year olds. When he lost his second tooth in the CJP bathroom, the whole front office cheered as he ran to tell them and he even got to go to the treasure box. When he saw his dollar from the tooth fairy the next morning, his first thought was that he had to show Ms. Brooke, the school director. When Bryce walked into school the next morning, he showed every adult the tiny gap where his tooth had fallen out and each individual made him feel special and seen. This is just one example that manifests how the Charlotte Jewish Preschool nourishes the mind, body, and soul of each preschooler.

Every day, Bryce practices new skills, explores new concepts, and synthesizes new information. I used to fret over when Bryce would start writing, and Ms. Claire made him her helper to practice zipping up the mats. Within a few weeks, he would go to the dining room table with a marker and piece of paper to practice writing with the grip she had taught him. My three year old would come home discussing how Ms. Sandy demonstrated how the incline affected the momentum of an object. Bryce’s vocabulary has grown and his ability to verbalize his thoughts often blows my mind. Currently, we have conversations about the experiment Ms. Gina and Ms. Vicky led in the classroom and why a pumpkin may float on top of water. He creates his own experiments in the house, modeled after what he does in the classroom. My son loves to learn, and I see his mind stretching and expanding each day. I have CJP to thank for that.

For anyone who has a five year old, knows a five year old, or has even seen a five year old, you know the energy is limitless. My son can run for hours and still be ready to run some more. At the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, they understand this and build their day around keeping children moving in a healthy manner. Bryce speaks excitedly about the playground, the obstacle courses with Coach D in the gym, the dance moves during music class, and the walks

(Continued on next page)
Youth Visions

At Hebrew High Students Develop Their Jewish Identities While Having A Great Time

Where do Charlotte teens go to have a great time and help formulate Jewish identities? Hebrew High, of course. At Hebrew High, classes, special activities, and social programs blend together to offer our next generation of Jewish leaders, a full range of choices designed to create a lifelong commitment to Jewish culture and tradition. This is just a taste of the fun our students have every Wednesday night.

Our teens, taught by amazing teachers, look forward to Hebrew High each week and know that they will not just be sitting in a classroom being lectured at. They love classes because they are hands-on and interactive or large group discussions where they know their voices will be heard. Look at all those smiles – don’t you want to join us on a Wednesday night?

It’s not too late to enroll your 8th-12th grade students today. Don’t let them miss out on the Hebrew High experience. For more information call Megan at 704-944-6782 or email tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org.

Grateful for the Charlotte Jewish Preschool
(Continued from previous page)

to visit Temple Beth El and Temple Israel. During nap time, he is transferred to the JCC for swim lessons and a variety of sports. The educators at CJP understand the developmental needs of preschoolers, and they nurture the need for physical activity. My son has an active schedule each day that strengthens his little body. I have CJP to thank for that.

Ms. Sam and Ms. Betsy gave Bryce the job of being the rabbi one week when he was in the 2s class. At temple that Friday evening, he went up to Rabbi Knight to let him know that he was a rabbi as well. He’s only five, but my son holds strongly to his Jewish faith and to being a good person. Bryce speaks of the wonderful lessons Morah Becca teaches him and strives to show kavod to his friends and looks for opportunities to help others. He sings to God and declares how he can help the world.

Not only do I see him growing mentally and physically, I also see him developing into a kind, thoughtful boy whose soul is nurtured daily. I have CJP to thank for that.

Parenting has proven itself to be the biggest adventure and challenge of my life. My husband and I try our best to create a world of joy and positive experiences for Bryce. We are just so thankful that the Charlotte Jewish Preschool offers us a community that partners with us to do the same. ©

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For more information and a job description, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.

Send cover letter and resume to tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org.

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
Three high school students from the Charlotte area were among 24 teens who gathered at the Emory University campus in Atlanta October 26-28 for the second Teen Israel Leadership Institute hosted by the Center for Israel Education (israelc.edu) and the Emory Institute for the Study of Modern Israel (www.ismi.emory.edu).

The weekend featured a mix of activities, discussions, and educational games designed to expand students’ knowledge and understanding of Israel and Zionism. Students also forged friendships with peers from across the country. The 24 teens came from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, and California.

Tenth-graders Haiden Berton, Max Sawyer, and Kiera Schneiderman of Hebrew High, all members of Temple Beth El, attended from Charlotte.

“I came here to learn specifically about Israel programming,” said Schneiderman, who came away with “cool stuff” she can use in her youth group, such as using a song to teach Israeli geography. The institute is part of a national CIE initiative to provide more impactful education on Israel to Jewish teens. A grant from the Legacy Heritage Fund is supporting the program.

After the inaugural teen institute in April, Walter said, “we wanted to put more of an emphasis on helping the participants understand the many different elements that lead to successful programming.”

The institute organizers therefore brought in Kelly Cohen, the director of JumpSpark, the Atlanta Jewish teen initiative, who led a highly interactive session in which teens had to develop a program goal and use a variety of variables to craft a program outline.

The institute organizers thereon brought in Kelly Cohen, the director of JumpSpark, the Atlanta Jewish teen initiative, who led a highly interactive session in which teens had to develop a program goal and use a variety of variables to craft a program outline.

“We also put more emphasis on making sessions more engaging and interactive overall,” Walter said. “As a result, we added a Knesset simulation activity, a session on Israeli hip-hop music, and a team of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze leaders, and explored different perspectives on history, but also how to form my own viewpoint on Israel and its very being and the Zionist movement and how it interacts with countries around it, how it interacts with America and how our life is different from theirs.”

He said he intends to teach his peers at school and Hebrew High about Israel through programs to help them form their own ideas.

CIE and ISMI emphasize context and documentary evidence in the study of Israel’s issues and history but do not advocate specific views, allowing students to reach their own conclusions. To that end, CIE President Ken Stein led two sessions to help the teens own Israel’s story and confront the Israeli-Arab conflict, and the teens got to choose among two or more programs several times during the weekend. The program included the Abrahamic Reunion, a team of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Druze leaders, and explored different perspectives on

Israel’s independence in 1948 and diverse elements in modern Israeli culture. Berton said he got “not only an extensive knowledge of Israel’s own viewpoint on Israel and its very being and the Zionist movement and how it interacts with countries around it, how it interacts with America and how our life is different from theirs.”

He said he intends to teach his peers at school and Hebrew High about Israel through programs to help them form their own ideas.

Although Israel was the focus of the weekend, it also addressed anti-Semitism, a topic that took on unexpected immediacy when the massacre occurred at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life*Or L’Simcha synagogue while the institute teens were worshiping and studying at Emory’s Marcus Hillel Center.

“It’s just a reminder that there’s always people who are not going to like us, who are not going to like people who are different from them,” one student said during a brief discussion after Shabbat.

“We’ve been living in a time period where it seems like there’s a lot of extreme views on all sides of the political spectrum, and we need to take things we hear very seriously.”

The next teen seminar in Atlanta is in the planning stages. Follow CIE on Facebook and the web for details on when to apply, and visit CIE’s YouTube channel to see highlights of the teen institute.

Photos courtesy of the Center for Israel Education

(From left) Max Sawyer of JT Williams Montessori and Atlanta students Eli Roberts and Lilah Presser listen to a presentation at the teen seminar.
Jewish Family Services Looks to Expand Services to Meet Growing Need

Moving to Charlotte to erase the memory of her brother who hung himself in his apartment, Alison, 22, was ready for a fresh start. Alison who grew up in an abusive home had a life-long struggle with mental health issues. She got involved with drugs and alcohol during high school and attempted to take her own life shortly before her brother died from suicide. As the outgoing, friendly person she was, it was easy for her to find employment at a local restaurant. All seemed to be going well from the outside but Alison could not escape her past. She began suffering from frequent panic attacks, lost her appetite, couldn’t sleep, and was so depressed couldn’t get out of bed. Alison lost her job. After much prodding and coaxing by her grandmother, Alison agreed to come to JFS where her needs were assessed and she was assigned a case manager and therapist. JFS assisted Alison in applying for disability, connected her with other services to help with her medication needs and her therapist began seeing her twice a week to address her anxiety, depression, and history of trauma. After six months of treatment, Alison’s anxiety and depression significantly subsided, she obtained a new job and her therapy needs reduced to only once a week. Alison is but one of the 115 new clients JFS has seen in just the first six months of this year, twice as many new clients as JFS would normally see in any given year. According to Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director, “The number of people who are impacted by Mental Health in the U.S. is on the rise – it’s one in five. And while Alison may have been an adult when she sought counseling at JFS, her issue stems back to her childhood.”

“At JFS kids are our most concerning issue. Their mental health is in great jeopardy, escalating to such a level that suicide is now the second leading cause of death for teens in our country. Our families are struggling with how to manage their behaviors and emotions,” Olshansky added.

In response to the intensifying needs of our youth, JFS has identified family-based services as one of its strategic priorities. Since hiring a Child and Adolescent Therapist last fall, the number of children in therapy has quadrupled. Kids under the age of 18 now make up almost 30% of therapy clients. But according to Olshansky, therapy is only part of the needed intervention. “We also have to work with the families if we are truly going to impact the future of our kids. Kids live with their families. If you really want to see change, you have to engage parents in the treatment,” said Olshansky. As such, the staff at JFS has been trained in the Triple P Parenting Program, an evidenced-based program that gives families techniques to enhance their parenting skills and learn how to respond to the complexities of their children’s needs. The goal is to have a comprehensive family-based continuum of services that recognizes the diversity of their needs and different interventions that are most effective for each situation.

What else is in store for JFS’ future? “Our senior community is growing and it’s not only in numbers but also in geography and their diverse needs,” said Olshansky. Jewish seniors are now living in Union County, Sun City, and Lake Norman. The more geographically diverse this population becomes, the more at risk they are of becoming isolated, lonely, and less connected. JFS’ goal is to expand its outreach through increased senior visits and programs to the areas most in need, which also include, the growing Jewish populations in local elder-care facilities.

Nicole Levine, JFS Program Manager said, “Our seniors are struggling to manage on fixed incomes, facing difficult decisions about housing, food, and medications. Seniors now make up 64% of our case management clients, so it means that services like the Food Pantry make a huge difference by eliminating the stress of choosing where to spend money.” Thanks to the generosity of the community JFS is able to respond to the growing needs of clients who are asking for services. Each year JFS receives generously from Federation, local foundations, and, of course individual donors who stepped up and donated to our Family to Family campaign and this year’s Live, Laugh, Give Comedy night. These contributions have enabled JFS to continue to serve the community, to ensure we are providing the best possible care and programming. However, we have reached our limit with the resources we have. We are busting at the seams. Our staff is maxed out. Hence we are looking to expand our funding so we are better equipped to support the increasing number of families and seniors coming to our doors. ☺

## Donations to Jewish Family Services in October 2018

### IN MEMORY OF

Joyce to Adina Barkinsky from Abraham and Amalia Warshenbrot
Joe Badt to Nancy Bernstein from Paul and Lynn Edenstein, Peter and Cynthia Levinson, William and Debra Porter
Alice George to Becky Good
Bob Speizman from Paul and Lynn Edenstein

### WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Shirley Keller to Ben Liebstein from Rose Atkinson, Craig and Cindy Katzman, Margie Levenson, Steve and Barb Weiner

### MAZEL TOV ON

Your marriage to Brian and Susan Klepper from Sandra Weinberg

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Ada Shapiro from Paul and Lynn Edenstein

### JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

**Month of October 2018**


- **Suzan Klepper from Sandra Weinberg:** Your engagement to Becca Weiner and Andrew Green from Barry and Lorrie Klemans, Mr. and Mrs. David Throp

- **Happy Birthday to:** Ada Shapiro from Paul and Lynn Edenstein

- **Mazel Tov on:** Your marriage to Brian and Susan Klepper from Sandra Weinberg

- **Food Drive:** Oren Karp in honor of his 3rd birthday, Jewish Community Center Fall Soccer Program

- **Mitzvah Basket:** In honor of B’nei Mitzvah of Ethan and Sasha Dippold

- **Food Donations:**
  - from Rose Atkinson, Craig and Cindy Katzman, Margie Levenson, Steve and Barb Weiner

- **Wishing a Full and Speedy Recovery To**
  - from Paul and Lynn Edenstein
  - Bob Speizman from Paul and Lynn Edenstein

- **Mazel Tov on**
  - Your marriage to Brian and Susan Klepper from Sandra Weinberg

- **Happiness Birthday To**
  - Ada Shapiro from Paul and Lynn Edenstein

- **Charitable IRA Distribution**
  - To qualify, funds must go directly from your IRA to JFS
  - If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can donate up to $100,000 from your IRA
  - Gifts made from your IRA (up to $100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income
  - Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution

- **Did You Know?**
  - To qualify, funds must go directly from your IRA to JFS
  - Gifts made from your IRA (up to $100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income
  - Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution

- **Contact our Development Manager**
  - 704.364.6594 • susan.meyer@jfscharlotte.org

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### Support Jewish Family Services and take advantage of a great tax break with a Charitable IRA Distribution

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- If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can donate up to $100,000 from your IRA.
- Gifts made from your IRA (up to $100,000 per year) are not reportable as taxable income.
- Your gift will qualify for your required minimum distribution.

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Jewish Family Services, Engaging, Connecting, Healing

JFScharlotte.org

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The Luski Legacy, the Hebrew Cemetery, and Hamilton

By Jill Blumenthal

“Legacy. What is a legacy? It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.”

I was fortunate enough to hear those words spoken by the gifted actor playing Alexander Hamilton in October when the smash Broadway hit played at the Performing Arts Center. Throughout the play, the character of Hamilton demonstrates his intense desire to leave a legacy behind - he does not want his work to be forgotten. The themes of legacy and how one uses one’s time to create a legacy appear throughout the play. As the chair of the Hebrew Cemetery’s Create Your Jewish Legacy committee, it’s not surprising that the idea of legacy resonates with me, but the success and popularity of “Hamilton” suggests that others find this theme meaningful too.

Many Hebrew Cemetery members choose to use our pre-planning services to make decisions about their legacy. They spend time choosing the headstone or marker for their grave or family plot, wanting to make sure that this physical marker demonstrates their values through words and images inscribed on the stone.

In a different way, the 51 individuals and families of our Legacy Society, all of whom have made commitments in their estates to leave a gift to the Hebrew Cemetery, are also making decisions about the legacies they want to leave behind for future families and our community. They have different motivations for honoring the Hebrew Cemetery with their gifts - respect for our mission to create a sacred space for perpetuity, love for the Charlotte Jewish community, gratitude for services provided to them during painful times, an appreciation for the beauty of the Cemetery, the desire to honor the loved ones who rest in our grounds. But whatever the reason and no matter the details or size of the gift, the Hebrew Cemetery staff and board are honored to be a part of every member’s legacy.

Paradoxically, as much as we are honored when someone joins our Legacy Society, it’s the day we actually receive their legacy gift. Along with family and friends, we grieve when first Rose and then Abraham (Abe) Luski, both Of Blessed Memory, passed away within months of one another in 2016. That made receiving the actual gift from their estate a few months ago bittersweet. The board chose to put the entire gift into our endowment, which will help us maintain the Hebrew Cemetery in perpetuity as a sacred resting place for the members of our Charlotte Jewish community.

I wish I’d had the chance to ask Rose and Abe exactly why they chose to recognize our Hebrew Cemetery with their final charitable act. What is the legacy story they wanted to leave behind for us? I hope that during their lifetimes, they sensed how grateful we at the Hebrew Cemetery have always been for their support. I also hope the legacy of their generosity brings comfort to their extended families and friends and the community.

If you want to discuss your own legacy, either by pre-planning or by joining our Legacy Society, please contact our Director Sandra Goldman, at 704-375-1100 or director@hebrewcemetery.org.

Local Doctor Pens Memoir That Puts Him in the Patients’ Shoes

“Practice” by Dr. Michael Rotberg

Now and then, we all get frustrated with our health care providers. They don’t call back fast enough, leave us waiting too long for our appointments, or seem gruff or dismissive during our encounters. On the other hand, we have also experienced compassion, kindness, and concern from our physicians and their staff. The way doctors and nurses treat us can run the gamut, as can the way patients behave in their physician’s offices or on the phone.

Local ophthalmologist Michael Rotberg was suddenly thrust into this position in 2013 when he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. And he has collected his thoughts and experiences into a memoir that captures his life from both sides, as a doctor and as a patient.

“I wrote this for anyone who is a patient, knows a patient, or might someday be a patient, to help them be ready for an emotionally difficult time and to be resilient in the face of a stressful situation,” Rotberg says.

The book, which he titled Practice, encompasses his experiences starting with his decision to study medicine, then to specialize in ophthalmology, to begin his career in Florida, and eventually to join a practice here in Charlotte. The tense moments when he is diagnosed and treated for thymic carcinoma are interspersed with postings from a Caring Bridge site by both Michael and his wife, Heidi.

As a practicing psychotherapist, Heidi’s insights into Michael’s needs are a prominent part of the story. Even as a young man, he uses Heidi’s perspicacious advice to make the most crucial decisions in his career and life. She is the one who initiates the Caring Bridge page, understanding that keeping friends and family close will be an integral part of Michael’s treatment and recovery. She also recommends many “practices” for him to help his spirit and soul cope with the stress: exercise, meditation, socialization.

The book contains a series of anecdotes about different kinds of patients and how as a physician, Michael dealt with all kinds of personalities and problems. He details his close relationship with his staff and, as readers, we get to meet his children and grandchildren.

This book has a way of showing how a doctor can change gears when he/she must become a patient. “It’s easy … in a busy office where your waiting room is full and you’re running behind to just check the boxes,” Michael says. “I tried to remember that it’s a one-on-one experience… It’s what patients deserve.”

Practice is a full of insights into the life of a physician who became a patient. It is available on Amazon or at Park Road Books.
US Holocaust Memorial Museum Trip Report

On Wednesday morning, July 11, 34 North Carolina public school teachers and two facilitators departed Raleigh for a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Holocaust Museum) and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

The themes of the trip were The United States Response to the Rising Power of Nazi Germany, Jewish Immigration to the United States before World War II, A History of Antisemitism, and A Historical Timeline of the Holocaust. In preparation for the trip, the teachers were asked to read: Why the Jews by Dennis Payer and Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, The Plot by Will Eisner, and The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

On the trip to Washington, the teachers took part in an active discussion about the books mentioned above and also saw the movie, Conspiracy.

At the Holocaust Museum, the facilitators led a two-hour seminar about the history of Antisemitism and the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, as well as presenting the film Conspiracy.

The morning of Thursday, July 12, was spent at the Holocaust Museum. The Holocaust Museum allowed the teachers to enter the museum at 9 before the public opening at 10 AM. There was a guided tour of the permanent exhibition (which occupied the second, third, and fourth floors of the museum), the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit, and American Witnesses exhibit.

In the afternoon, the teachers returned to the hotel and met for a debriefing.

Irene Weiss, a Holocaust survivor, spoke to the teachers later that afternoon. Irene was born in Hungary and survived one year at Auschwitz, where she lost all of her family except an older sister. There is a picture of Weiss standing in line at the selection process in the famous book, The Auschwitz Album: The Story of a Transport. Weiss spoke in detail about her life in Hungary before the war and of her time at Auschwitz.

The facilitators then shared some of their best methods of teaching the Holocaust with the teachers. After the presentation by the facilitators, teachers divided into smaller groups (English teachers and history teachers in one module and high school teachers and middle school teachers in a second module) to share their own lessons and best practices with one another.

On Friday, July 13, the teachers returned to the Holocaust Museum and received a lecture from a docent at the museum about an exhibit the Holocaust Museum had once shown entitled, “A Dangerous Lie: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.” The facilitators then led a discussion that included a comparison “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” exhibit with The Protocols of the Elders of Zion book they read. The teachers then toured the Holocaust Museum on their own.

The teachers took a short bus ride to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. A docent met the teachers at the museum and provided a guided tour of the permanent exhibition, “A Mother’s Griev” exhibit, and the “Jewish Response to Nazi Germany in 1933.” What was most interesting to the teachers was that both the Holocaust Museum and the Jewish Military History Museum had special exhibits that focused on the American reaction to Nazi Germany and the American response to Jewish oppression in Germany.

On Friday evening, the bus took the teachers from the National Mall to Asas Israel Congregation for Friday services and a tour of the sanctuary. The teachers looked at an open Torah and were told of the symbols and artifacts in the sanctuary (e.g., the ark, the eternal light, the Kiddush Cup, the two candlesticks, the menorah on the wall, the memorial plaques, etc.).

On Saturday, July 14, the teachers met in the hotel for a final seminar before boarding the bus. The teachers talked about the differences and similarities between the Holocaust Museum and the American Jewish Military History Museum in how each museum documented and presented the American response to the rise of Nazi Germany. The teachers also talked about their experience at Asas Israel Congregation. They developed lesson plans on how they could teach their students about the American response to Nazi Germany and the abandonment of European Jewry.

On the trip to Raleigh, the teachers discussed their overall trip experience and highlighted what they learned on the trip. They watched the movie, “Mi­sa’s Fugue.” After the movie, the teachers talked about how to motivate students to recognize the moral behavior by others at school and how to create activities in the classroom that would promote empathy.

The trip was funded largely by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and Stan Greenspan. The North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, which is the private fundraising organization for the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, also helped fund the trip through private donations.

Each teacher received 28 hours of continuing education credit awarded by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The Holocaust Council is one of the few organizations that is permitted to hand out CE credits.

Mitch Rifkin is the Chairman of the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation and can be reached at 704-697-3936 and by email at rff21@carolina.rr.com. The website for the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council.

Above: All the North Carolina teachers who went on the trip to Washington, DC.

Meg D. Goldstein
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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“The great benefit of being prepared for the worst is that the merely bad always seems a blessing.”

— “Scheiss Egal” from Liana Millu’s Smoke over Birkenau

Brian Meltsner, David Swimmer, and Craig Katzman
THANK YOU for your generosity and overwhelming response to the JFS Annual Hanukkah Gift Drive, also known as the JFS Dreidel Drive. It is often said that it is better to give than receive, and from what we witnessed this year, we would have to agree. Had it not been for your big-hearted, plentiful contributions, many children, adults and seniors in our community would not have been able participate in the gift-giving traditions of Hanukkah. To all those who gave and the organizations who helped us collect gifts, Thank You!

TI Annual Hanukkah Dinner & Dance
6:15 pm | Temple Israel
For more information, visit templeisraelnc.org

A Hanukkah Family Mitzvah Scavenger Hunt with PJ Library
3:30 - 5:00 pm | Publix Super Market - Cotswold
For more information, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org

Jewish Council of Lake Norman Community Hanukkah Party
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Mount Zion United Methodist Church
(19600 Zion Avenue, Cornelius, NC)
For more information, visit www.jclkn.org

SouthPark Lego Menorah Celebration & Contest
5:00 - 6:30 pm | SouthPark Mall (circle near Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom)
For more information, go to chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984

1st Night Community Menorah Lighting
4:00 - 5:30 pm | Temple Kol Tikvah
For more information, visit templekoltikvah.org

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

STONECREST ICE MENORAH LIGHTING
5:30 pm | The StoneCrest Shopping Center (at the Fountain Plaza)
For more information, visit www.JewishBallantyne.com

W.O.W Women of Wisdom Hanukkah Party
Latke bar, games, gift exchange and more!
7:00 - 9:00 pm
For more information visit the WOW FB page.
RSVP to info@charlottetorahcenter.com

Hanukkah Shabbat Evening Service and Dinner
6:00 pm Shabbat Service, 7:15 pm Dinner (RSVP Required)
Temple Beth El
For more information, visit www.templebethel.org

Temple Kol Ami Latke Shabbat Hanukkah Celebration
7:00 pm | Philadelphia United Methodist Church
(1691 SC-160, Fort Mill, SC)
For more information, visit www.templekolamisc.org

Hanukkah Housewarming (Hosted by Moishe House)
7:00 pm | Moishe House Charlotte - NODA
For more information, visit www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte

SUN DAY
DECEMBER 9

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

Jewish Council of Lake Norman Community Hanukkah Party
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Mount Zion United Methodist Church
(19600 Zion Avenue, Cornelius, NC)
For more information, visit www.jclkn.org

A Hanukkah Family Mitzvah Scavenger Hunt with PJ Library
3:30 - 5:00 pm | Publix Super Market - Cotswold
For more information, visit www.jewishcharlotte.org

HANNUKAH 2018 begins at sunset on Sunday, December 2, and ends at sundown on Monday, December 10
Annual Pajama Walk Supports Friendship Circle and ZABS Place

The Charlotte Jewish News - December 2018 - Page 17

With makeshift smoke to simulate dreamy clouds and a blast of music, 500 people smiled and walked under a crystal clear sky on November 11 to show their support for children, teens, and young adults with special needs, enjoy a family fun day, and get unique creations of local crafters and artists with some seriously Special Talents.

“I think it’s really nice that so many people came out to show they care about Friendship Circle and the kids,” said Brittany, 9, who attended the Pajama Walk with her family.

“Added her friend James, 10, “It’s really beautiful and empowering that everyone cares about the community.”

Organized by Friendship Circle and ZABS Place, the Pajama Walk engages families, adults, seniors alike to help make dreams come true by donning their cutest Pajamas and join at Freedom Park.

The 2nd annual Pajama Walk which raised nearly $40,000 for programming for children and adults with special needs, began with an interactive dance by Kim Smith’s A Chance to Dance Special Needs Dancers.

During the family fun fair, kids enjoyed playing carnival games, bounce houses, cotton candy, popcorn, Kosher hot dogs, Kosher pulled beef, and the Good Cup Coffee Truck.

Friendship Circle provides friendship and social opportunities for individuals with special needs by pairing them with typical high school teens for 1:1 friendships.

ZABS Place is a nonprofit thrift boutique that is addressing the critical shortage of employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities by providing jobs with personalized training.

Both are beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more, please visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org.

NBC’s Today’s Show sent a delegation to spend a couple days with ZABS Place’s Specially Talented Young Adults to learn all about the employment opportunities they now have thanks to ZABS Place.

ZABS Place is a nonprofit thrift boutique that is addressing the critical shortage of employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities by providing jobs with personalized training.

Among the interviewees was Hannah Strunk, the inventor of Hannah’s Happy Hands Bath bombs and Loolah Soaps which she hand makes and sells at ZABS Place.

At the time of publication, the ZABS Place clip was expected to air the week of Thanksgiving and should be available online at Today.com.

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Alan Sussman makes a fashion statement at the Pajama Walk.

ZABS Place Featured on NBC’s Today Show

Above: Hannah Strunk (in red jacket) talks to The Today Show about her product line.

Rochel Groner (behind the counter) takes care of a customer while being recorded by The Today Show.

The crowd gets pumped up and ready to walk.

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JMemory Café Gives Families Faced with Dementia a Place to Be

It’s the start of the week. You’re about to go to work, and you realize you haven’t spent time with your mom in a little while. She was diagnosed with dementia some time ago, and while she can still do many things on her own, she has trouble going out with friends now because her friends don’t feel comfortable around her. She gets confused about current events, and she even forgets names sometimes. You feel like she needs time with other people her age and who are like her, people also dealing with memory loss who still want to be social and engaged. You, too, would benefit from being around others who are caring for family members with dementia, as caring for a loved one with dementia can be stressful, overwhelming, and lonely. The disease slowly closes doors. It takes away connections. It instills fear. But you are not alone, and there is a place for both of you.

Levine JCC members who are caring for their family members with mild to moderate dementia have a new benefit as part of their membership, the JMemory Café. The JMemory Café is attended by both the person with dementia and the family member who cares for them. There are many reasons for the JMemory Café:

* The Café is a special, safe place where people are not judged for their abilities, but rather are praised for their strength to push forward and to continue living life to the fullest.
* JMemory Café participants get to engage in discussion, art, exercise, and other programming and enjoy a light breakfast together.
* Participants get to be out in the community, enjoying a break from normal routines and be themselves, family members and participants with dementia alike.
* Those who are caregivers get to meet other caregivers, giving them an outlet for ongoing support.

What is most special about the JMemory Café is that family members can once again spend quality time together. For two hours twice a month, those who care for family members with dementia are temporarily relieved of their caregiving duties. Whether you are caring for a parent, sibling, or other family member, the stress of caregiving can debilitate you. The caregiving tasks of helping someone with activities of daily living take over, and the essence of the real relationship gets muddled. It’s hard to remember the relationship you had and treasured before the dementia set in. The JMemory Café is a way to reconnect twice a month, in a non-judgmental, non-stressful, laughter-filled setting.

Dementia can be a stigma for some. Don’t let it be. Many suffer from dementia, and many are dealing with its effects, like family member caregivers. Don’t let time go by without joining us at the JMemory Café, and treasure all the moments possible with the person you love. The new experiences will hopefully rekindle your relationship and give you the strength to move forward a little easier.

The JMemory Café is funded (in part) with a grant from BJH Foundation. BJH Foundation is a nonprofit foundation committed to enhancing the lives of Jewish adults residing in North and South Carolina through programs, activities, and organizations that share their mission in accordance with Jewish values, practices and beliefs.

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Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia?

Join them at the JMemory Café!

Socialize, meet new friends, engage in activities together, and just have fun.

JMemory Café is funded (in part) with a grant from:

BJH FOUNDATION FOR SENIOR SERVICES

A light breakfast will be served at each Café, sponsored by:

* JMemory Café participants get to be out in the community, enjoying a break from normal routines.
* Participants get to be in a non-judgmental, non-stressful, laughter-filled setting.

The purpose of JMemory Café is to:

* Provide opportunity for regular social engagement & discussion.
* Create an environment that is relaxed, safe, and non-judgmental.
* Inspire new friendships and peer support.
* Provide a break from normal routines.
* Enjoy music, art, and other programming.

Registration is required and begins one week prior to each Café. Please be sure to make every effort to attend the JMemory Café once you register, as spots are limited and your absence after reservation prevents another family from attending. Thank you!
‘Tis The Season - Not So Joyful for Everyone

It’s December. Chanukah is in full swing, the candles on the menorah are burning brightly each night, and kids all over Charlotte are receiving presents rejoicing in the holiday that is the “miracle of lights.” Offices are being decorated, holiday parties are being planned and celebrated and the “‘Tis the Season” music is all over the airwaves. Reservations for New Year’s Eve are top of mind and for some it’s the start of a year-end reflection and contemplating New Year’s resolutions.

But for many, the holiday season is not a joyful one. In fact, for those who suffer from a mental health illness and for many of the seniors, especially those living alone, December can be the worst time of the year. For someone with depression, this time of year may just reinforce feelings of loneliness and social isolation. If you suffer from anxiety, the hustle and bustle of trying to get everything done and participating in all the holiday activities can be much too overwhelming.

As the holidays approach we often hear from our seniors about a longing for yesteryear, of a time when life was rich and full, when their spouse was alive and their children lived closer. Even just the increased darkness caused by returning to standard time can exacerbate these feelings.

- It’s fine to say no sometimes. Wearing yourself out with too many activities will only make you feel worse.
- Try to keep your expectations of the holiday modest. That may help prevent feelings of disappointment or of being let down.
- Know that it is OK to feel sad or lonely. You don’t have to try to fake it to live up to the expectations of others.
- Spend time with friends and other people you enjoy. Do things you want to do, not just the things you have to do.

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- Spend time with friends and other people you enjoy. Do things you want to do, not just the things you have to do.

It’s December. Chanukah is in full swing, the candles on the menorah are burning brightly each night, and kids all over Charlotte are receiving presents rejoicing in the holiday that is the “miracle of lights.” Offices are being decorated, holiday parties are being planned and celebrated and the “‘Tis the Season” music is all over the airwaves. Reservations for New Year’s Eve are top of mind and for some it’s the start of a year-end reflection and contemplating New Year’s resolutions.

But for many, the holiday season is not a joyful one. In fact, for those who suffer from a mental health illness and for many of the seniors, especially those living alone, December can be the worst time of the year. For someone with depression, this time of year may just reinforce feelings of loneliness and social isolation. If you suffer from anxiety, the hustle and bustle of trying to get everything done and participating in all the holiday activities can be much too overwhelming.

As the holidays approach we often hear from our seniors about a longing for yesteryear, of a time when life was rich and full, when their spouse was alive and their children lived closer. Even just the increased darkness caused by returning to standard time can exacerbate these feelings.

- It’s fine to say no sometimes. Wearing yourself out with too many activities will only make you feel worse.
- Try to keep your expectations of the holiday modest. That may help prevent feelings of disappointment or of being let down.
- Know that it is OK to feel sad or lonely. You don’t have to try to fake it to live up to the expectations of others.
- Spend time with friends and other people you enjoy. Do things you want to do, not just the things you have to do.

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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 schools year after year?
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See it for yourself! Give us a call or stop by and take a tour.
December 2018

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-Thru PM ............. 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday .................. 12pm-3pm
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.

December Holiday Hours
Monday, Dec 24 - 5:30am-5pm • Tuesday, Dec 25 – 10am-5pm
Monday, Dec 31 - 5:30am-5pm • Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019 - 10am-5pm

For Holiday Hours & Schedules please visit our website at charlottejcc.org

32nd LEVINE JCC ANNUAL MEETING
at the The Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
Tuesday, December 11, 2018
7:00pm
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

All Are Invited to Join Us!
• Election of Officers & Directors
• Awards Recognizing the Contributions of Volunteers
704-944-6724 • geneva.boxer@charlottejcc.org

JFIT.
SET YOUR FITNESS GOALS FOR 2019!

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full body conditioning
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90+ classes per week (free, moderately high intensity or LTQ)

NUTRITION COUNSELING
chantal.otesberg@charlottejcc.org

2019 CHALLENGES

Register online at charlottejcc.org or LJCC Customer Service, 704-366-5007

Register for Winter & Spring Tennis Classes Today! Class details at charlottejcc.org

Preschool Tennis
Little CRUSHers – K-5th
Pre-team CRUSH – K-5th
Junior CRUSH Tennis Academy 10/under and 18/under
Junior CRUSH Team Tennis Spring 2019
Adult Beginner/Intermediate
J CRUSH Cardio
Men’s Drill
Ladies Evening Drill
Queen City Ladies Team Practice
Tennis Blast

704-944-6748 • gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

Happy Hanukkah
from all of us at the J!

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

Wellness & Fitness
Jenny Crow 704-944-6870
jenny.crow@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
Early Childhood

Music and Me
8–18 months
Interactive music and age-appropriate movement for mommy, daddy, or caregiver with baby/toddler.
Mondays, 12–12:40pm
January 7 – February 11
Family Place
M/$75 B/$60 NM/$90

JScientists
3–5 year olds
Preschoolers enjoy captivating demonstrations, perform simple science experiments and discover how science can help us better understand the world around us.
Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information.

Cooking Club
4–5 year olds
Our little chefs will learn about cooking while watching, feeling, smelling and tasting with recipes that are fun and yummy to eat.
Mondays, 12–12:40pm
January 7 – February 11
Family Place
M/$105 B/$84 NM/$126

Spanish for Preschoolers
3.5–5 year olds
Learn Spanish through the Foreign Language League’s interactive full-immersion method for kids! Children will learn Spanish through dramatic play, interactive games, and music. All teachers are bilingual; native to the language they are teaching and certified.
Foreign Language League
Wednesdays, 1:15–2pm
January 9 – February 20
Family Place
M/$165 B/$110 NM/$198

Baby Picassos
Baby and mom/dad/caregiver
This art class gives little ones 8 months and up the chance to explore textures and color through painting without worrying about making a mess. We focus on a different color, shape and texture each week.
Wednesdays, 12–12:45pm
January 9 – February 20
Family Place
M/$165 B/$110 NM/$198

Micro-Basketball
Ages 4 and 5 (as of 1/1/19)
Basketball program will be run clinic-style with all basics of the game covered. Smaller balls and goals used. Participants will receive a jersey.
Sundays, Jan 6 – February 24
Time: 1:15–2:00pm
M/$125 B/Free NM/$175
704-944-6867 or daniela.becker@charlottejcc.org

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.
Prescription Drug Plan Open Enrollment
Oct 15 through Dec 7
To make an appointment with a Volunteer SHIIP Counselor: 704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

JCC
Charities

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Increasing the Light of Holocaust and Human Rights Education in Our Community: The Stan Greenspon Center

In the darkest days of the year and in the wake of one of the darkest events in Jewish American history, the Greenspon Center continues to shine a light. We work to nurture peace and healing in our community and the world through Holocaust and Human Rights Education for teachers and students. What makes our Holocaust Center unique is that we are one of a handful of such agencies that engages not only in social justice education but in social justice advocacy. We respond to and help individuals and organizations use their voices and build their power to advocate for positive change and increase the rights of all.

Or L’Dor – A Light to the Generations

The tragic events last month are a reminder of how vital our mission is. We must continue to share and use the lessons learned from the Holocaust as we work to confront critical issues of today. Teaching and inspiring students of every age to speak out against hate, to uprooting discrimination, to maintain democracy is our path to working towards justice.

We are reaching an age where Holocaust survivors, who witnessed first-hand the horrors of living in a society where democracy was dismantled and human rights shattered, are dwindling. Our new Or L’Dor program will keep their voices and legacies alive. The work that we have done, and will continue to do, is in their honor. Our goal is to shine a light for future generations by carrying forward the stories that the survivors have diligently and tirelessly shared with our community.

We invite you to support Holocaust and human rights education by making a donation in honor or in memory of a survivor, a liberator, a veteran, or another significant person in your life. Here is the impact your gift can have:

- $180 will enable a day of professional development for teachers.
- $700 enables us to provide a school with an impactful half-day Holocaust Human Rights program entitled “Becoming One Human Family” for its students.
- $1,500 provides a full day Holocaust and Human Rights education program for a school in our region. (This level of giving qualifies you to become a part of the Queens Royal Society.)

If you are interested in supporting this program or eager to volunteer, you can learn more about our powerful work, and learn more about our powerful work, we’d love to treat you to lunch and a tour. More information is available on our website (www.greensponcenter.com).

Second Generation Program

In recognizing the need to keep the stories of survivors alive, we are launching our new Second Generation program. Beginning in January 2019, the Stan Greenspon Center, in partnership with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, is thrilled to bring the Heritage Testimonies® Program to Charlotte.

The help of trained Greenspon Center staff, participating second and third generation descendants will create video testimony of their personal experiences as children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. They will also share memories of their parents’ and grandparents’ lives. These will be used to help school groups and other audiences connect with the history and messages of the Holocaust. The first cohort will meet a minimum of ten times, on Mondays from January through April from 4-6 PM.

If you have a parent or grandparent that is or was a survivor, you are invited to apply to this program by contacting Talia Goldman at goldmant@queens.edu. The Heritage Museum will determine the applicant selection. Thank you to those of you who have reached out already.

Second Anniversary Program – Celebrating Our Survivors and Celebrating the Center’s Success

On December 13, at 7 PM in the Belk Chapel, the Greenspon Center will celebrate its second anniversary by hosting a dramatic reading of the play “Protective Custody: Prisoner 34042.” This evening will honor the more than three dozen Charlotte area Holocaust survivors and will celebrate the success of the Stan Greenspon Center’s first two years. To RSVP visit our website.

The Ruach Features Joe Buchanan

(Continued from page 19)

more about his religious passage.

The Ruach returned to the stage to join Joe for his last song, “Small Town Tonight,” which speaks to the importance of togetherness and need for connection. The Ruach community was truly a small town that night thanks to Joe Buchanan.

In addition to bringing in guest artists, like Joe Buchanan, The Ruach leads The Shabbat Experience about once a month in non-traditional venues such as The Rabbit Hole and Heist Brewery. The band spreads the joy of Judaism through innovative, unique, and uplifting Jewish musical experiences that foster interpersonal relationships, inspiring and engaging people to maintain and strengthen their connection with Judaism and the Jewish community.

To learn more about The Ruach and The Shabbat Experience, follow the band on Facebook, @theRuachband, on Instagram @the.ruach, new.jewish.music and on Twitter @TheRuachSpirit. To stay informed about upcoming Shabbat Experiences, as well as concert information, subscribe to The Ruach’s newsletter by sending an email to the.ruach.band@gmail.com. ©
Bal Tashchit and Beyond – Giving and the Four R’s

In returning to and reclaiming the Temple, the Macabees committed themselves to the Jewish way of life. Chanukah not only prompts a rededication to Judaism but also to the values at the center of the Jewish faith. In this season of giving, Shalom Green is taking a closer look at the gifts we give and how these purchases can reflect a rededication to tikun olam and have a more positive impact on the environment.

When it comes to gift giving, consider the four Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, and Respect.

Reduce: There are many ways to show you care without filling your house with stuff.

* Ner Shel Tzedakah “Candle of Righteousness” encourages families and individuals to dedicate one note of Chanukah to tzedakah. Consider donating the value of gifts to organizations that assist those in need. If a monetary donation isn’t your thing, consider dedicating one day to civic engagement through volunteerism or advocacy.

* Give experiences rather than things. Think movie or theater tickets, an annual membership to a museum, a cooking class, or a gift certificate for a massage.

* Give consumables. Gifting consumables like organic wine, locally or ethically sourced food products, and fair trade tea not only supports a sustainable economy but helps reduce the number of goods made, used, and eventually thrown away.

Reuse: It is green to re-gift, but do so wisely.

* Understand the rules of re-gifting and then use this strategy to your advantage. Received a toy that your child already has? Pay it forward by either giving it to a child who would love it or donating it to a local charity. Definitely don’t need another coffee mug but think your mom might? Fill it with fair trade chocolate or a gift card to a local coffee shop and wrap it up.

* Just can’t go there with secrete re-gifting? Be transparent about it by organizing a re-gift swap with friends after the holidays. This is a fun way to unload those unwanted items in a more responsible way. After all, one person’s trash is another person’s treasure.

Recycle: Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year’s holiday period than any other time of year.

* Consider wrapping your gifts in reusable fabric bags or making your own wrapping paper from newspaper, craft paper and reuse the ribbon.

* When it comes to cards, consider sending an electronic holiday greeting. It is green to save trees, and there are many online sites that make it easy.

* Avoid purchasing gifts that come in heavy packaging. All of quick-sunlight of which cannot be recycled, goes directly from your living room to the trash bin to the landfill.

* Give clothing that is fair trade, organic, or equitably sourced. “Fast fashion” has an undeniably powerful hold on the planet. Did you know that the fashion industry is responsible for generating more greenhouse gas emissions than all international flights and maritime shipping combined?

* Support local businesses. Consider local farmers by buying a gift certificate for a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project like The Freshlist who delivers to the LJCC every Friday, or give a gift certificate to a locally owned restaurant or retailer.

* Look for durable gift items, things that are high quality and will last. Give gifts with an environmental message: a nature or gardening book, a refillable thermos or water bottle, a canvas tote bag or solar powered cell phone charger. Consider gifts made from recycled materials, and gifts that are recyclable in turn.

Happy Chanukah, may the light of the menorah fill your homes with joy.

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.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT.

Havurat Tikvah to Light It Up

Havurat Tikvah will hold its Chanukah celebration on December 8, 6 PM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Church, 2821 Park Rd.

Enjoy an evening of Festivel of Lights along with latkes, sufganiyot, fellowship, and song. Participate in the lighting of the menorah, and participate and leadership for our religious services, spiritual growth and community. Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism. Havurat Tikvah is the original member of the annual Friendsgiving Shabbat which was started to bring our community together during the holiday season. For more information on upcoming services, programs, membership or other queries, call 980-225-5330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12604, Charlotte, NC 28220, email membership@havuratikvah.org or visit havuratikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havuratikvah/

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

York County Supports Temple Kol Ami During Difficult Time

A student from Winthrop University. A retiree who was previously in the US Special Forces and trained with the IDF.

The congregants of Philadelphia United Methodist Church in Fort Mill, SC, Christian friends of Temple Kol Ami members. These were just a few of the people who reached out to Temple Kol Ami with love after the Tree of Life tragedy in Pittsburgh. Their words of comfort and show of support have helped us to heal along with the Pittsburgh Jewish community.

Many of our interfaith neighbors attended Shabbat service at Temple Kol Ami on November 2. This service was originally scheduled to be a student Shabbat led by our TKA Religious School kids. It was felt best to keep it as such to celebrate our student’s achievements and demonstrate that Judaism lives on in the face of hate. Because there were children in attendance as young as three years old, overt references to the tragedy were avoided as to not frighten them. Instead, Rabbi Bruce Aft chose to focus his sermon on the power of compassion, as demonstrated by Rebezkah in the Torah portion of that week, Chayei Sarah. The names of the Pittsburgh victims were recited prior to the Mourners’ Kaddish in addition to the names of others taken by hate including the victims of the Emanuel AME Church shooting in Charleston, SC and the recently racially-motivated shooting in Jeffersonville, KY. Rabbi Aft and three other clergy from the Fort Mill community recited these words from Ilam Chessed Yebanah, a song written by a rabbi after 9/11: I will build this world from love. And you must build this world from love, And if we build this world from love, Then God will build this world from love. All the congregants sang “One Day” by Matisyahu to end the service. To paraphrase the Jewish singer, it is indeed our prayer that one day people won’t want to fight any more, there’ll be no more war, and the children will play. It seems simple enough, but apparently it’s not. However, moments like the Shabbat service at TKA on November 2 are a reminder of the value of extending friendship and support to our neighbors in the interfaith community throughout the United States, do give us hope.

At Temple Kol Ami, we feel that continuing to live a Jewish life and being engaged in the Jewish community is a powerful response to this horrific event. Even in Fort Mill, SC, a place where Judaism lay dormant for over 50 years, Jewish life is now surviving and thriving. Yes, there was sadness in October, but there were also many affirmations of Judaism at TKA including an adult education class, sisterhood sewing bee, youth group bowling, religious school, Shabbat services, and Torah study. In November, we gathered together to give thanks as a community at our Annual Friendsgiving Shabbat, and on December 7, we will celebrate the Festival of Lights at our Channukah Shabbat with Rabbi Ana Bonnheim. The Maccabees fought to maintain their Judaism and so will we. The community is always invited to join us at any of our Shabbat services in the beautiful sanctuary of Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill. Please check the calendar on our webpage www.templekolamisc.org.

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. Temple Kol Ami wishes you a Happy (secular) New Year.

Rabbi Aft at Temple Kol Ami.
Temple Solel Hosts Community Chanukah Event

We are inspired by “hospitality towards guests” or kavod hayishuv orakhim, and have experienced both joy and sorrow recently. Temple Solel welcomed two World Religion students again this year from Winthrop University who were our arbikjir (guests) on a cold and rainy Shabbat night filled with warmth and friendship internally. Russ Cobe led services and worship. Nate Rodriguez, preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, helped lead several prayers. The smaller group joined in a circle explaining our worship rituals during the service to these inquisitive and friendly young students. They said “We really had a special time tonight meeting all of you, learning about the story of Abraham and Isaac, and relating the Jewish religion to everyday life. We feel so welcome here.” It is exactly the type of feedback we want our future visiting guests to receive. The impact of this experience left an impression upon us as much as it did on Lacy and Sandra. Also joining us for the oneg was security volunteer, Andrew. Feeling that bond of friendship is also one of safety in these troubling times.

Sadly, the tragic losses we experienced at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh are also on a cold and rainy Shabbat night. From New York of unity, strength and important reflections to encourage us that there is hope in what we are experiencing following this tragedy. Jews, Christians, and those who attended said the Mourners’ Kaddish together. All eleven victims’ names were read. It was a very powerful community service.

Temple Solel joined Temple Kol Ami for Shabbat Services on Friday night, November 2 to show solidarity as the South Carolina Jewish community. It was a night that included representatives from several churches in the Christian Community and the opportunity to come together in friendship in Fort Mill. It was a special service with songs and prayers led by the children and visiting Rabbi Brace Aft from Washington, DC.

Continuing to build upon these hopes for our future, we invite you and your friends to attend a free interfaith community Chanukah event being sponsored by Temple Solel on December 8. People of all ages really like The Ruach Band’s worshipful music style. We are very appreciative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for the Impact and Innovation Grant that is helping make this event possible. The evening will begin at 7 PM at the Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd, Indian Land, SC.

Kids … now it’s your turn.
Roll up your sleeves, put on your aprons, and get ready for an awesome challah baking experience. Children from across the Charlotte area are invited. Our goal is to bring Jewish children of all ages together, from every point of the Jewish spectrum, for a day of unity, fun and creativity. Each child will make their own batch of challah dough from scratch and braid their challahs to take home. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday, January 21, 1 PM
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park.
$10 per child
Appropriate for children ages 4-11
Snacks will be served.
For more information visit: www.cltmegachallah.com or email: Leah@JewishBallantyne.com.

Kids Mega Challah Bake 2019

Construction of the new expanded Chabad Center on Sardis Road is progressing. Completion of Phase 1 of the new Youth and Friendship Circle building was celebrated on Sunday, October 28, with a delicious breakfast and lots of joy.

Howard and Julie Levine, who praised Chabad of Charlotte for educating his children and imbuing them with an excitement and passion in their Jewish experience. He said, “You know that we will succeed in carrying on this continuity when you see your children not only receiving a terrific Jewish education, but also feeling an incredible Jewish identity.”

Epstein, who initiated the Chabad of Charlotte building campaign with a million dollar pledge, thanked Chabad and Rabbi Yossi Groner for their invaluable help in transitioning from Washington, DC to Charlotte.

There was a bitter-sweet feeling at the event as it was held a day after the horrific massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Rabbi Groner addressed the large crowd with these words: “In a time like this, we strengthen our commitment to our Jewish community and resolve to be better and kinder to each other.”

When the Chabad community suffered a horrific terror attack at the vocational school in Kfar Chabad, Israel, where five students and their teacher were murdered by a terrorist while reciting afternoon prayers, the entire community went into deep shock and mourning. The Rebbetzin telegraphed the community: “To build will be their consolation. Counter terror with love, destruction with construction.”

“Our groundbreaking ceremony today is dedicated to the victims of yesterday’s attack. The attackers wished to destroy a community and we are gathering to build a community.”

Brad Rabinowitz, incoming president of Oh HaTorah emceed the event and Barry Kleemers, outgoing president thanked the donors for their noble and generous support and expressed his excitement in seeing the dream become a reality.

This was a day celebrating a great future for Jewish life in Charlotte.

Groundbreaking of New Chabad Center was Healing and Uplifting

Howard and Julie Levine greet the crowd.

Howard and Julie Levine greet the crowd.

Howard and Julie Levine greet the crowd.

Howard and Julie Levine greet the crowd.

Howard and Julie Levine greet the crowd.
Andrew & Max Lindner, a father/son team took home the 5th Annual Charlotte Kosher BBQ Grand Champion trophy for the 2nd year in a row.

For the 5th year, the Levine JCC was proud to host Charlotte’s only community-wide Kosher BBQ contest and festival. Over 1,000 community members of all faiths came together to enjoy a fun-filled day with many great activities for all ages.

The Kosher BBQ’s mission is to fund food insecurity programs for children at Title I Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and to educate our community about childhood hunger while creating a deeper understanding of the Jewish culture.

A Very Special Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:

2018 Charlotte Kosher BBQ Title Sponsor

Helping Charlotte to eradicate food insecurity, one child at a time.

We are excited to announce Publix Super Markets Charities will again be the Presenting Sponsor for the 2019 Charlotte Kosher BBQ on Monday, September 2, 2019.

With Publix’s support, the 2018 Kosher BBQ proceeds went directly to fund food insecurity programs for children at Title I Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and to educate our community about childhood hunger.

To learn more about the Kosher BBQ please visit www.charlottekosherbbq.com
Chanukah in Jerusalem

By Cantor Mary Thomas

Chanukah rolled around about halfway through my year living in Jerusalem while a student at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform movement’s seminary. That year in Jerusalem, I would walk about 20 minutes from my apartment to school every day. One morning, as Chanukah approached, my brisk walks were unexpectedly scented by wafts of yeasty, sugary, rich donuts lined by the dozen in shop windows. Store after store set out beautiful trays of donuts: colorful, creative, and cakily. I don’t think I’ve ever tasted a donut as good as your average sufganiyah in Israel during Chanukah.

So much about my year in Israel was memorable or personally transformative. I don’t think that anything prepared me for what Chanukah in Jerusalem would feel like. We often talk about Shabbat in Jerusalem being a palpable encounter with Jewish life lived in Jewish time and it most certainly is. For most Americans who travel to Israel, you will experience Shabbat over the course of a visit and get to experience how different it feels. You get the rhythm of the city quieting down on Friday afternoon, seeing folks walking, taking time on Shabbat, and the entire place coming alive again with an incredible vibrancy motzaei Shabbat. I continued to go to school, others worked, and life went on as usual, except for the moments we stopped to light candles and sing and take a break with the bountiful donuts. It felt so much like my American home and so completely like a spiritual and ancient home that we long for as American Jews. My Chanukah in Israel was a double affirmation that we are doing OK in the US and that there is not now and will never be a place quite like Israel to live out our Jewish lives. Both can be true.

Like so many Jewish Americans my age, I have loved Israel since I was a tiny girl. That love grows and matures with every childhood school project on Israel, with college encounters with anti-Zionism, and for me with each of the visits I have been able to make over the last 20 years of adulthood. True love is not always easy. True love certainly requires lots of work and most things worth having do.

I hope that you explore your love for Israel. Read the news. Consume the culture: movies and TV, music and so much more. Most importantly, go there. Go to Israel in your lifetime and, if you can, go again and again. There are many opportunities for travel, including annual summer trips led by our TBE clergy team. Registration for my June 2019 trip is open right now.

As we kindle these Chanukah lights, may we bring much light and joy into this beautiful world. Happy Chanukah.

JSTAGE PRESENTS Disney’s THE LITTLE MERMAID

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater

Based on the Hans Christian Anderson story and the Disney film.

December 8-9 • December 15-16
Saturdays: 2pm & 7pm • Sundays: 2pm

Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park
Tickets $12 (advance)/$15 (at the door)

Purchase Tickets Online at charlottejcc.org/culturalarts
Family Engagement

HANUKKAH FAMILY MITZVAH SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, December 9 @ 3:30 - 5:00 PM (Drop in)

Publix Super Market, Cotswold, 4425 Randolph Road

Join us for a fun afternoon of service, helping the lights of Hanukkah shine brighter for those in need. Families will follow the clues and purchase food to fill the shelves for the Jewish Family Services food pantry. Special snack of Sufganiot, donuts to be provided.

No RSVP required.

Contact: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator
704.944.6780
debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org

jewishcharlotte.org/CJE
A Shabbat of Remembrance and Reflection; and a Call to Action

In the wake of the shooting at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue, Congregation Emanuel invited all in the community to its synagogue for a service of Remembrance and Healing. The nearly 100 people attending, limited only by the availability of seating in the sanctuary, welcomed the Jewish Sabbath, and added extra prayers in memory of 11 Jewish synagogue worshippers and the two people killed in Kentucky as the result of a similar hateful act.

The special Shabbat service, organized by Congregation Emanuel members, Wendy Gordon Pake and Steve Bograd, proved to be a healing remembrance, as well as a call to action for tikkun olam (repairing the world).

The service was led by Bograd, who also shared an essay he wrote, entitled “History Doesn’t End,” inspired by the themes of diversity and solidarity in the Torah portion, Chaye Sarah (Genesis 23:1-25:18). Opening and closing remarks, offered by the Congregation’s president, Beverly Maurice, included the readings of “A Message for the Baby whose Bris It Was at The Pittsburgh Synagogue,” by Zev Steinberg (Kveller.Com) and “My American Dream,” by Bill Balatow of Statesville. Congregant Barry Gordon led the congregation in Mi Shebeirach, a prayer for the sick and, more broadly defined as, a prayer for complete healing – both physically and spiritually – for all human beings.

During the service, reflections from the Talmud and other sources were read by both Congregation members and guests from the community, including faith leaders from many local religious organizations.

The “Reflections,” read aloud by audience participants from their seats, spoke about the importance of our learning the lessons from the past:

* “Facts are necessary in order to understand history, and the causes and consequences of events. It is our responsibility to learn the facts and history, not just the facts. Well-taught history prevents us from settling on simple answers to complex questions” (Sara J. Bloomfield, Executive Director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum).

* With regard to the “daunting enormity of the world’s grief: … You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it” (The Talmud)

* “The past offers an illuminating and clear-headed perspective from which to observe and reconcile our passions of the present. The practice of history becomes a kind of conscience for us” (documentary filmmaker, Ken Burns).

* Finally, the thought-provoking readings challenged the participants to “Never Stop Asking Why,” and to study the Holocaust, a case in point of the motivations and implications behind human decisions at every level of society. Facts and education are critical to being a responsible, engaged citizen.

After the Shabbat service, the attendees gathered in Congregation Emanuel’s social hall for an Oneg Shabbat dessert reception.

Women’s News

Order Mah Jongg Cards for Your Whole Table with Hadassah

You helped raise $718 for Hadassah last year. Be a table captain and let’s raise even more this year.

Order your 2019 Mah Jongg Card thru Hadassah now.

1. Collect checks from players in your games and send their information in with your own. One envelope, one stamp or drop off, but you can make sure that everyone you play with purchases their card through Hadassah.

2. Along with the checks (made out to Hadassah), be sure everyone includes a separate piece of paper with name, address, phone number, and email address (for order confirmation).

In return for our help, the NMJL makes a donation to Hadassah. Every card order adds to that donation. Your card and newsletter still come directly from the National Mah Jongg League.

3. No need to wait for the Mah Jongg League paperwork. You can check your card out to Hadassah and include on a separate piece of paper your name, address, telephone number, email address, card size (regular or large print), and number of cards.

Two ways to order:

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

5. Orders must be received by January 15, 2019.
WORSHIP

Celebrating Shabbat

First Friday in December
5:30 pm  SongFest
6:00 pm  Chanukah Shabbat Evening Service
7:15 pm  Chanukah Celebration Dinner (RSVP)

All other Fridays
6:30 pm  Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays
11:00 am  Shabbat Morning Service

Don’t forget to join us for Congregational Shabbat on December 8.

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

LEARNING

ANXIETIES OF AGING
Navigating Aging with Understanding
Sunday, Dec. 9 at 10:30 am
Join us for the first of three sessions highlighting key psychological elements relating to aging.

#RACE&JUSTICE LEARNING SERIES
TBE Bends Toward Justice
Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2:00 pm
Could you be biased? Hidden bias and why it matters. Join Derrik Anderson, Executive Director of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, as we learn how implicit bias impacts our work to achieve racial justice.

TBE Book Club
Sunday, Dec. 23 at 11:00 am
Join us to discuss Protective Custody: Prisoner 34042 – A Holocaust Survivor Memoir, by Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz

COMMUNITY

Help our neighbors in need!
We are collecting towels, socks, and toiletries for Room in the Inn and coats for the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative. Donate these cold weather necessities at Temple Beth El, Dec. 3 through 21.

HAPPY CHANUKAH

Join us for these events in December:

LIBERTY Youth Group Chanukah Lock-In
Saturday, Dec. 1 through Sunday, Dec. 2

Sisterhood Chanukah Potluck Brunch
Sunday, Dec. 2 at 11:00 am

SPICE Chanukah Program
Monday, Dec. 3 at 11:00 am

Brotherhood First Wednesday/Chanukah Dinner
Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm

The Porch Southern Fried Chanukah
Saturday, Dec. 8 at 5:00 pm

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
President’s Message

By Dana Kapustin, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

With December comes the darkest days of the year. Fortunately, with the light of the Chanukah menorah, we are reminded that even in the darkest days, we can find that which gives us light. I have always been an optimist, so why stop now?

As I write my final article as the President of Hadassah Charlotte, I would like to share a few of my personal reflections over the past two and a half years. I have been a volunteer with Hadassah since we moved to Charlotte in 2005. First, as Young Women’s Programming VP, then as Camp Judaea Liaison, Treasurer for six years, and finally President. I have learned how to work with all types of people and I can safely say, I really do enjoy working with “Women Who Do.”

Over the past few years, we improved the Charlotte Jewish Community Directory, which Hadassah has provided to our community for the past 70 years. We have digitalized the process, keeping our goals clear: we want to produce an accurate, relevant, and valuable resource for our community members. We are grateful to our sponsor, Novant Health, for helping make this possible. We have also modernized our website and become active on Facebook and Twitter. Many of you have supported our efforts, and for that, I thank you.

I am happy to report that we raised over $30,000 this year for breast cancer research as we continued our seven-year tradition of Celebrate the TaTas. Four different events contribute to the success of Celebrate the TaTas. In mid-September, we painted the TaTas at the McDowell Art Center in Matthews. Dru Dougherty and Sharon Goresky led these efforts. To say they are experts is an understatement. Many thanks to Talia Goldman and her crew for an unbelievable Soccer Tournament the first weekend in October. Bev Mosesman and Ami Felnner led the Mobile Mammography Day at the LJCC and Novant provided this service in Shalom Park, our home away from home. And finally, the Big Reveal on October 24 was a wonderful culmination of a year of hard work, led by our Co-Chairs Debra Van Glish and Shelly Steiner.

Our Big Reveal was held at Queen Park Social this year and achieved its goals as being an affordable, fun event to raise funds for breast cancer research. Educating us that evening was Dr. Amy Sobel, lifetime member of Hadassah and Diagnostic Radiologist with Charlotte Radiology, and Dr. Lori Gentile, Breast Surgical Oncologist with Novant Health. We were treated to a special inspirational video message by Marisa Jackson, Breast Cancer Previvor and BRCA Advocate. Mazel tov to the Jackson family on the arrival of their baby Avery. Of course, we are grateful to our Big Reveal Champion Sponsor, Novant Health for their continued generous support, as well as Big Reveal Heroes LJCC and Charlotte Radiology. Please visit our website for our complete list of sponsors and gifts in kind, we are appreciative of your support, at any and all levels. www.celebrate-thetatas.com.

As we put an end to 2018, I have a funny feeling that my work with Hadassah is not over. I look forward to supporting the Hadassah Charlotte Board in 2019 in my role as Past President. I hope that you will join me at Hadassah events in the future. Women Who Do have inspired me to stay focused on the positive, surround myself with leaders, and appreciate all that we are so fortunate to experience here in Charlotte. Stay tuned for information about the Charlotte Jewish Community Directory in 2019. Thank you for a wonderful journey. Find us at www.hadassah.org/charlotte. TaTa! Or shall I say, stay tuned…? ✨

For group sales & sponsorship opportunities: gosborne@cjdschool.org
From Dream to Innovation: Hadassah Mission to Israel

By Sharon Goretsky

Dana and I had an amazing week in Israel with Hadassah. To say “you should have been there” is an understatement. I will carry those memories with me forever.

One of the purposes of the From Dream to Innovation mission was to celebrate the 100th year of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing. As a Nurse Practitioner, I knew this would be the perfect trip for me. On the Thursday of our incredible week, the nurses (and a few physicians) on the mission participated in a special Nurses’ track. We started our day with visits to two schools in East Jerusalem. These schools are working with Hadassah to teach the children, and their families, about healthy lifestyle choices. At Al Salam School for Special Education, the teachers shared what they are doing in their classes to prepare developmentally disabled students for an active life in the community. We were treated to song, plays, and delicious treats at Um Tuba School for Girls. We also joined the girls for recess, which left me a little sore, but the girls were entertained by my hopping skills.

After the schools, we were off to Hadassah’s Ein Kerem hospital. Following a session with Professor Raphael Mesulam on the use of cannabinoids in the treatment of various medical diagnoses, the nurses were paired up with Hadassah nurses for some time on the units of the hospital. I spent the afternoon session with Ruthie Zeligman, the Deputy Head Nurse of the Oncology Unit. Ruthie and I shared the latest in nursing education, patient care and health insurance in our respective countries. I left the unit with not only a new respect for, but a new friend. Our last session, before a tour of the famed Chagall windows by Barbara Sofer, showcased several nursing leaders and their research and projects. Nursing at Hadassah is the perfect example of From Dream to Innovation.

One of the most special moments of the week for me was Havdallah. The sound of 200 voices joined in song and prayer in Jerusalem brought me to tears. I’d love to talk to you about all my favorite moments from the week and the people I met. Just ask me. 🥰

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**HADASSAH**

To read Dana Kapustin’s view of this mission trip, turn to page 33.

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**Thank You Legacy Donors**

Our gratitude and thanks to our precious Legacy Donors who have made a commitment to ensure the continued and expanded growth of our educational and enriching programs which are vital to the quality of Jewish life in the greater Charlotte region. The donors listed below have given permission to publicize their names with the hope of encouraging you to join them. We invite you to be part of this great heritage legacy. Please contact Rabbi Shlomo Cohen at 704-366-3984.

With thanks and appreciation,

Lubavitch of North Carolina and Congregation Ohr HaTorah

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To learn how you can create your own Jewish legacy, contact Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544 or Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554. 704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org

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**TORAH TOTS**

**TORAH TOTS HANNUKKAH CELEBRATION**
Friday, December 7 (5:45 p.m.)
Celebrate the 6th night of Hanukkah with Torah Tots & enjoy a special oneg.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**TIRS ALL-SCHOOL SHABBAT SERVICE**
Saturday, December 8 (9:30 a.m.)
Please join us as Kitah Vav (6th grade) helps lead services in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary.

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

**5TH ANNUAL VODKAS & LATKES**
Saturday, December 15 (8 p.m.)
Location: Camden Gallery Clubhouse (1750 Camden Rd., Charlotte 28203)
Join Torah on Tap and Moishe House Charlotte as we cram eight crazy nights into one fun celebration of Hanukkah. We’re hosting our 5th Annual Vodkas & Latkes Party for Jewish Young Professionals. For more information or to RSVP, email torahontapclt@gmail.com.

**SOCIAL CLUB**

**ANNUAL HANNUKKAH LUNCHEON**
Sunday, December 9 (12:30 p.m.)
Join us for our annual Hanukkah luncheon, where our own Cantor Shira Lissek will entertain us with a special Hanukkah musical program. For more information, please call Ruth Goldberg, (704) 366-8903.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

**MEN’S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE**
(Statesville Ave.)
Monday, December 24, 2018
(Christmas Eve)
We’ll be cooking dinner at Temple Israel then serving dinner at the shelter. To volunteer, or donate goods/tzedakah, please contact Jonathan Berger (jberger@tisa@gmail.com or 704-995-1732).

**LIFELONG LEARNING**

**PIRKEI AVOT, ETHICS OF THE FATHERS**
Thursdays, beginning December 6 (Noon-1 p.m.)
Join Rabbi Kornsgold for this weekly class as we explore Pirkei Avot, Ethics of The Fathers. This section of the Mishna (which was authored in the third century C.E.) is one of the most fundamental works of the Jewish Oral Law.

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**HANNUKKAH BEGINS DECEMBER 2!**
By Dana Kapustin

I just returned from the Hadassah “Passion to Action” mission to Israel. Sharon Goretsky, Stacey Selkin, and I were the three participants from our Southeastern Seaboard Region of Hadassah. I feel like Charlotte was well represented. Crystal Stubbs, from the Hub in Atlanta, (our satellite office for National Hadassah) attended as well. We joined about 200 women from around the world on this incredible opportunity.

If I tell you everything we did on our tour, this article would become a book ... so in the interest of time and space, I’ll only highlight our travels. Our mission began in Tel Aviv. Gil Troy welcomed us, as a Young Judean, Zionist, and author of “Zionist Ideas.” If you have ever heard Gil speak, you know he is a passionate Zionist, scholar, and an incredibly motivational and inspirational individual. He spoke with us three times in our five days together. He recommended resources for us, gave us food for thought, and guided us as we experienced Israel. On page 35 is a photo of Gil Troy, Ellen Hershkin, National President of Hadassah, and me.

While in Tel Aviv, we walked on the Independence Trail, some of us visited the Agam museum, led by none other than Mr. Agam himself (ask Sharon more about this incredible experience). Stacey and I visited the Yitzak Rabin Center. What an incredible museum of history, insight, and background of Israel, politics, and of course Yitzak Rabin. I especially enjoyed the way this museum weaves into its historical quilt, not only the history of Israel, Zionism, and politics, but at the same time, the history of what was happening in America, during the years when Israel was becoming a state, and going forward. Quite impressive, and a great way to have spent the afternoon. We visited the Tel Aviv Stock exchange, and Birthright building, where we learned about Israeli innovation.

No trip to Israel would be complete without a visit to Jerusalem where we spent time at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem with doctors and professors leading the most cutting edge research in cannabis. Barbara Goldstein, the Deputy Director of Hadassah in Israel was ever-present on our tour and led us in an incredibly interesting discussion of the Chagall windows in the chapel of the Hadassah Medical Organization. These windows serve as a personal “Mecca” for me, as every time I go to Israel, I must visit these gorgeous works of art, and hear the story about how they were given to us by Marc Chagall. We even visited Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus, and learned about its history as the original location of the HMO. We visited Ammunition Hill, Mt. of Olives, and the tomb of Rachel in Bethlehem. We had a Gala reception on the Haas promenade in Talpiot. This was possibly my tenth visit to Israel, however, I did so many things for the “first time.” I’m inspired by the Hadassah “Passion to Action” Mission to Israel.

(Continued on page 35)
Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project Trip to Israel
My Israel Experience

By Janice Zaks

On a scale of one to ten, this trip was 100!

Our journey to Israel began on October 22. Some of us knew each other but most of us met for the first time at our pre-trip meet- ings. Over the next ten days ten women formed an unbreakable bond that will endure for life. We became Soul Sisters. Each one of them has the most beautiful neshama; I am so honored and grateful to have been able to experience this incredible, transforming, life changing trip with each of them.

On this trip I learned that tears are the sweat of the soul and boy did my soul get a workout. This trip was filled with overwhelming emotion from intense tears to joy- ous laughter from deep within my soul.

Since returning home I have been asked by many friends and relatives how the trip was. I simply say, “It’s Israel.” Those who have been there understand that indescribable feeling; you can’t imagine it until you experience it—it’s sort of like becoming a parent for the first time. This place has over 3000 years of our history and heritage. I felt I belonged.

Although this was my third trip to Israel, experiencing Israel with the nine women from Charlotte, who were part of a group of 600 Jewish women from world over, including Canada, Russia, South Africa, Australia, and the USA, was absolutely exhilaratin.

The third day was the most memorable. It began with an ex- tremely moving naming ceremo- ny where eleven of the women on our trip received Jewish names. There was music after the ceremo- ny and I along with 200 women began to dance with Israeli flags overlooking the desert. After the ceremony I did something I never thought I would be brave enough to do. I actually rode a camel. I don’t think I ever laughed so hard in my life.

After experiencing such joy and laughter, we then travelled to Yad Vashem (Holocaust mu- seum), the sad and dark memo- rial of our people. We toured the museum and grounds followed by reflection time with Sara Op- penheim. We shared very per- sonal thoughts and stories and cried together. Sara and I took a small detour from the group to the archives office where I was able to hand in information about my uncle Shimshon Finkelstein, who was taken from my grand- mother’s arms by the Nazis and shot to death at the age of 18 months as the Nazis liquidated the Zdunkawola Ghetto in Poland.

After our reflection time, Sara gave us our letters that our fami- lies had written to us. I cannot put in to words the emotions that we were feeling at this time. I sobbed when reading the letters my hus- band and eldest son wrote to me.

Later that day, just before go- ing to the Kotel (Western Wall). Sara gave us each a special gift which brought me to tears. I will not disclose what the gift is as I do not want to ruin the surprise for future trippies. Then, we held hands and walked together to the Kotel. As I touched the Kotel and prayed I felt something beyond words and once again I was sobbing. That evening while at the Kotel we had the honor to witness a beau- tiful ceremony where two of the women from our group had their B’not Mitzvah. From the Kotel we walked to a lovely restaurant where we celebrated. It was nice to have time to put together our thoughts. We giggled like school girls as we walked back to our hotel in a rainstorm through the streets of Jerusalem.

In addition to exploring Israel with knowledgeable and person-

(Continued on next page)
Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project Trip to Israel
(Continued from previous page)

able tour guides, we also attended classes given by incredible women focusing on Jewish values. They gave practical lessons in how to bring these values home to our families and community.

This trip could not have happened at a more perfect time. After nine years, my husband is no longer commuting for work and both our boys are in a good place. It was time to do something for me, to spread my wings and learn how to give back to my beautiful community of Charlotte.

The Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project has given me the tools I need to carry out this dream.

Thank you Sara Oppenheim, Women of Wisdom, and The Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful, life changing experience.

Darius Rucker, “When was the last time you did something for the first time?”

Consider a trip to Israel, there are so many things to see and do. You will of course visit those places over and over again that you love, like we did, i.e., the Western Wall, Machane Yehudah, Shuk HaCarmel, Nachalat Benyamin, the beach in Tel Aviv, etc.

Our jeep tour on the Burma Road outside of Jerusalem was a first for me, and a totally unforgettable experience. Hadassah Meir Shfeya Youth Aliya village was a first for me as well. We learned about this amazing village, met students, and helped prune the vines of their vineyards.

We sat in the bus, on a geopolitical tour of Jerusalem, accompanied by Nancy Falchuk and Marlene Post, past Presidents of National Hadassah. Wow, talk about Women Who Do! We spent Shabbat with my son Charlie, who is studying at AMHSI with American Hebrew Academy. That was a treat.

I can go on and on about friendship, passion, love, and experiences in Israel. You don’t really want to read about it, you want to live it for yourself. Talk to any of us, really soon, while we are on our “Israel high.” It’s contagious, you might just catch it. Hadassah inspires women, of all ages and stages, to act. We have political advocacy programs, health and education programs, as well as purely social events. There is always room at Charlotte Hadassah for one more, so join us today, we would love to meet you. Please visit our website, Facebook, or call us. We’d love to share our experiences with you.

Ellen Hershkin, Dana Kapustin, and Gil Troy

In the Negev.

Sharon Goretsky, Dana Kapustin, Stacey Selkin, Crystal Stubbs, and Cydney Robinson.

Ellen Hershkin, Dana Kapustin, and Gil Troy

Hadassah Mission to Israel
(Continued from page 33)

Hadassah Mission to Israel
(Continued from page 33)

Ellen Hershkin, Dana Kapustin, and Gil Troy

In the Negev.

Sharon Goretsky, Dana Kapustin, Stacey Selkin, Crystal Stubbs, and Cydney Robinson.

Ellen Hershkin, Dana Kapustin, and Gil Troy

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