Women’s Philanthropy: How We Connect. How We Give. How We Make a Difference

Women philanthropists are the change-makers and community-shapers of the world. We are sisters and daughters, mothers and friends, compassionate and committed women at every stage of life and career.

Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy engages Jewish women in the fulfilling work of making the world a better place. We are building and supporting Jewish life for today and for generations to come.

The Power of Women: Philanthropy and Tzedakah

Thursday, March 8, doors open at 7 PM; program starts at 7:30 PM; Ballantyne Resort; Lavish Dessert Reception

We invite you to join us for our inaugural Women’s Philanthropy Spring Event, the Power of Women: Philanthropy, and Tzedakah. The event celebrates the power of women philanthropists and their impact on the world. Co-Chaired by Jill Halverston and Debbie Porter, the event features Laura Schroff, former media executive and international best-selling author. Laura is a passionate and compelling voice on the power of small acts of kindness. In her book, An Invisible Thread, Laura recounts the inspiring true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and their unlikely meeting in 1986, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness.

After its launch in November 2011, An Invisible Thread was on the New York Times bestseller list for over 38 weeks and was the recipient of many awards. Schroff, who has spoken at over 100 events, encourages her audiences to look for their own “invisible thread” connections and highlights the importance of opening up themselves to opportunities where they can make a difference in the lives of others.

We encourage you to get to know our community a bit better and help make a difference getting more involved with our Women’s Philanthropy initiative.

A $180 minimum women’s gift ticket to the Federation’s annual campaign is required to attend this event. Tickets are $36 and can be purchased online at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

For more information contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759.

The Power of Women: Literacy and Tikkan Olam

On Tuesday, January 30 the Jewish Federation held its first women’s philanthropy social action program. The program was co-chaired by Lisa Strauss Levinson and Marisa Zeibert and focused on promoting literacy and addressing the reading crisis in our schools.

Lisa Strause Levinson is a native Charlottean and has been an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years. Lisa has witnessed the evolution of our city and the Jewish community. “I recently returned to Charlotte after living in Columbia for seven years,” said Strause Levinson. “I was looking to reconnect with the community I so dearly love and I knew this was a perfect fit - Women and Philanthropy. It is a great way for us as women leaders to make decisions and have an impact on our Jewish community and greater Charlotte community.”

Regarding her personal connection to the program, Zeibert added: “I became involved in the Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy because I appreciate both the opportunity and the challenge to make an impact beyond my dollars, on behalf of an organization that reminds me not only who I am, but motivates me to take strides towards who I want to become.”

Zeibert continued to reflect when she said, “While we all align with the same chief fundamental goals that define Federation – let’s face it – everyone may have a slightly different Federation chemistry or algorithm as it relates to engaging authentically with some events over others. That is why our Women’s Philanthropy initiative is presenting women with multiple opportunities to connect, make a difference, and give. Our fall kickoff event was a huge success and allowed us to connect and be inspired by stories of women empowerment and entrepreneurship in Israel.”

This past January was our opportunity to make a difference, but also bring attention to an educational crisis right here in our beloved Queen City, and also across the state and throughout the country. Today, only 39% of Charlotte’s 3rd graders are reading at grade level. Thirty-nine percent! Third grade reading proficiency is a super strong indicator of high school graduation rates, with a staggering 96% graduating on time if they are reading proficiently at 3rd grade.

After hearing from representatives from Read Charlotte, a community initiative charged with doubling reading proficiency in Charlotte, the group divided into two groups to visit Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary schools. The women had a chance to hear from the assistant principal in the schools and then visit each of the 2nd grade classrooms. The women then read to the students and handed each student a book bag, donated by PJ Library, a national program which aims to promote Jewish literacy by sending free Jewish books to Jewish families across the world every month. PJ Library in Charlotte is funded by Liz and Brad Winer and the Jewish Federation. The day turned into an inspirational event felt by both the women and students involved. We hope you will join us at our next event on March 8 and continue to be inspired.

Want to learn more about the Jewish Federation, who we are and what we do? See the insert inside this issue. DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

#FedProud
Be the Start of Something Powerful

Thank you, Charlotte, for answering the call on Super Sunday. More than 100 volunteers representing the Jewish Federation’s network of community agencies joined forces on Sunday, January 21 to make calls on Super Sunday. Thanks to their efforts, and the community members who answered their phones and generously contributed to the Jewish Federation 2018 Annual Campaign, the day was a Super Success.

The day’s unofficial total, $85,968, far exceeded expectations and the $60,000 goal. A big shout out to our Super Sunday Chair, Jason Tennesbaum, for all his work planning the event. A special thanks also goes out to all the dedicated callers who hit the phones and put “Tzedakah” on the speed dial.

Super Sunday, Federation’s largest annual community-wide fundraising phone-a-thon, helps support the Jewish Federation’s annual campaign, which touches more Jewish lives than any other organization in the world.

Through your support, you care for Jews everywhere, connect people to their Jewish communities, and respond to crises close to home and around the globe. Together, our impact stretches from Charlotte to Israel to 70 countries around the world.

If we somehow missed you on Super Sunday, there is still time to donate to the 2018 Annual Campaign. Visit our website today at www.jewishcharlotte.org. Please join us, and be the start of something powerful.

Want to learn more about the Jewish Federation, who we are and what we do? See the insert inside this issue. DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ☺

Hadassah’s Defining Zionism Discussion
March 18, 4 PM Temple Israel

We welcome author Francine Klagsbrun, author of Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel, and Ambassador Judith Varnai Shorer the Consul General of Israel from Atlanta. This program will highlight Zionism at the time of the creation of the state of Israel pre-1948, in addition to Golda Meir’s role in Zionism. The Consul General will highlight Zionism today. A discussion and book signing will follow this event. This program is free and all are welcome. ☺
Several of the books I’ve been highlighting in this column have raised questions in my mind. Are there a finite number of themes to choose from when writing a book? Why does it seem that a new book seems to have the same theme as another book you’ve read? The author Mary Glickman who spoke to our community in December answered this question for me when she described the arduous path to getting her first book published. After many, many attempts, she feels Home in the Morning was accepted for publication primarily because it followed on the heels of the hugely successful book The Help. This certainly could explain the publication of the following books I am recommending this month.
The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

A moving novel about three people who find their way back from loss and loneliness to a different kind of happiness, Arthur, a widow, meets Maddy, a troubled teenage girl who is avoiding school by hiding out at the cemetery where Arthur goes every day to have imaginary conversations with his late wife. The two strike up a friendship that draws them out of isolation. Maddy gives Arthur the name Truluv, for his loving and positive responses to every outrageous thing she says or does. With Arthur’s nosy neighbor Lucille, they create a loving and unconventional family, proving that life’s most precious moments are sweeter when shared. (Goodreads)

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Ann and Andrew are your KEYS to the local Jewish Community.

Serving the Charlotte community for over 30 years.

The CJE Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM – 12 noon in the Center for Jewish Education.

March 21 - Millard Salter’s Last Day by Jacob M. Appel

In the spirit of the New York Times bestselling A Man Called Ove, Millard Salter’s Last Day is an extremely well written, thought provoking book about a complicated man who decides to end his life before he’s too old: and during the single day he considers his last, confronts a lifetime of challenges.

After reading this book, I was very curious about its author. Jacob M. Appel is an American author, bioethicist, physician, lawyer, and social critic. He is best known for his writing in the fields of reproductive ethics, organ donation, neuro-ethics, and euthanasia. Jacob M. Appel is 43 years old. I wonder if he were to write this book later in life, would it be different?

This book would be a great selection for a Book Club – in fact, it includes an excellent Book Club Guide.

CJE Book Club News

The CJE Book Club meets the third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 AM – 12 noon in the Center for Jewish Education.

March 21 - Millard Salter’s Last Day, Jacob M. Appel

April 18 - All the Rivers, Dorit Rabinyan

May 16 - Don’t Let My Baby Do Rodeos, Boris Fishman

Check out what’s happening this month at the CJE?

CJE CALENDAR: MARCH 2018

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We are the flour
that makes the matzah
that completes the Seder.

Federation powers the Jewish community in ways you might not think of, in places you’d never suspect—from stocking food banks in war-torn communities to providing meals for seniors here at home. But we can’t do it without you. Donate today, and be the start of something powerful.


Jewish Federation
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WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG
Youth Visions

Hebrew High 8th and 9th Grade Retreat: The Force Was With Us

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away lived Joe. He was the last Jew-Di on earth and wanted to do whatever he could to rebuild his Jewish community. Padawan’s at the Hebrew High 8th and 9th Grade Retreat helped Joe by using “The Force” to help him rebuild his Jewish community.

Hebrew High 8th and 9th grade students honed their Jew-Di force through a spiritual meditation led by Rabbi Dusty Klass. Then they broke into three groups where they wrote letters to Samy Cohen, the last Jewish member in his small town of Asmara, Eritrea, in eastern Africa, discussed Jewish life in the south, explored Jewish values and ranked them according to importance, and then came together as a class to see why some values ranked higher than others.

The whole group played a game on Kahoot to see who could distinguish who said it, Yoda or a Jewish sage. We had a dance contest to Cantina, a Star Wars instrumental hit, and had judges pick the winning dance team.

Hebrew High retreat would be complete without snack time. The students made light sabers out pretzels dipped in colorful frosting and Princess Leia cookies out of brownies, Oreo, and lots of icing.

The retreat came to a close with Rabbi Dusty Klass coming back to make chocolate, banana, and plain pancakes for everyone. Had by all, a good time we had. Yeessssssss.
Student Noah Goldman Issues an Interfaith Challenge

By Tommy Bobbitt in Campus News

Noah Goldman believes interfaith connections can strengthen the Queens University of Charlotte community. “Universities are about challenging any preconceived notions, and if you explore things you don’t know, it challenges you while giving you the ability to make connections and meet other people,” said Goldman.

Noah has definitely accepted this challenge and philosophy in many different ways at Queens. He has been a part of three different rugby teams within the past five years — East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte Barbarians, and now the Queens men’s rugby team, founded last summer. He’s also a part of the mentorship program Project LEAD, a residence advisor in Belk Hall, and president of the Jewish campus life organization Hillel.

It is fair to say Noah has connected with a lot of different people at Queens, and he believes interfaith connection is a key component to that. “Religions have differences, but there are plenty of similarities,” said the junior political science major. “For instance, people who follow different religions still pray for the same things or religions. These activities, films and articles often contain similarities between the two religions or cultures.”

He referenced the many tragedies Judaism has experienced in its existence, such as the Crusades, the Holocaust, and Exodus. Noah finds it impressive that the religion is still 14 million people strong. “To keep it alive through tragedy or meeting a goal. That is the most interesting thing about any religion, and religion also plays a role in many protests such as Dr. King’s.”

With relief from hurricanes and other catastrophes still going on, both man-made and environmental, people often reference that religion, and religion also plays a role in many protests such as Dr. King’s.

Understanding others is so important to Noah that he wants to work in the State Department, specifically on foreign policy. “It can only give you an advantage to understand others especially in the globalized world we live in today,” Goldman explained. “With any disasters that go on in the world, many people turn to religion, and religion also plays a role in many protests such as Dr. King’s.”

He went on a trip to Guatemala last year with Hillel to eat soul food and watch documentaries on the Holocaust and Jim Crow laws. “I heard a quote once that said if you only understand your religion then you don’t understand any,” said Goldman.

Noah thinks these connections are also important to make amongst your own religion or groups. He personally sees this as the most interesting thing about his religious affiliation, Judaism. He referenced the many tragedies Judaism has experienced in its existence, such as the Crusades, the Holocaust, and Exodus. Noah finds it impressive that the religion is still 14 million people strong. “To keep it alive through tragedy or meeting a goal. That is the most interesting thing about any religion, and religion also plays a role in many protests such as Dr. King’s.”

With relief from hurricanes and other catastrophes still going on, both man-made and environmental, people often reference that coming together is a very important part of getting through tragedy or meeting a goal. That is Noah’s challenge, and it starts with the Queens community.

Better2gether Class Visits Sonia Meyer Handleman

Sonia Meyer Handleman was a documentary photographer with The Photo League in New York City in the 1940s and 1950s until the House Unamerican Activities Committee forced their shutdown. In those years, Handleman photographed scenes of the needy and oppressed all over the city, including Harlem, Spanish Harlem, and the boroughs. Now the 98-year-old lives in the Atria on Park Road and she hosted Better2Gether students where they learned about her life, documentary photography, and how it intersects with our Jewish values.

The class at Sonia’s apartment.

Samantha Weinstein, a student of photography, asks Sonia about a specific photograph.

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**SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS**

**Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Youth Building at Chabad of Charlotte**

Chabad of Charlotte will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of its new expansion on the Chabad campus on Sardis Road, with the construction of a new Friendship Circle and Youth Center.

The ceremony will be held Sunday, March 11, at 12 noon, at the Chabad Campus, 6619 Sardis Road, in Charlotte.

Rabbi Yossi and Mariashi Groner founded Chabad of Charlotte in 1980, and have been operating on the Sardis Road Campus since the 90s. Increased participation and significant growth in all of Chabad’s activities and programs have made it necessary to expand the facilities to accommodate increased demand.

Phase two of Chabad’s expansion is construction of a new building in the front of the property with a beautiful sanctuary, expanded social hall, commercial kitchen, and an inviting chapel.

The Chabad Campus on Sardis Road currently boasts a state of the art facility for the Jewish Preschool on Sardis and recently added a beautiful new women’s Mikvah in 2016.

The new Youth Center, will be the home base for Friendship Circle of Charlotte. The new center will also house all of Chabad’s youth programming as well as a dedicated space for teen activities. Construction of the Youth building is projected to begin in the first quarter of 2018. The groundbreaking ceremony is open to the entire Charlotte Jewish community. A barbecue lunch will be enjoyed by all after the ceremony.

The day’s events will be led by Rabbi Bentzion and Rochel Groner, directors of Friendship Circle, and will honor Friendship Circle and Talmud Torah families.

For more information, please visit chabadnc.org or call 704-366-3984.

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**Spiritual and Practical Exploration of Passover Class Offered at Ohr HaTorah**

Passover is one of the most well-known Jewish holidays. The Passover Seder is rich with ritual, meaning, and family traditions. In today’s times, there is a profound need to take the Seder out of the ordinary routine and lift it to an amazing experience.

Many families introduce new gimmicks every year to keep the Seder exciting and the momentum going. These artificial, added-on tricks have run their course and it is time to delve into the Seder in a deeper and more spiritual way to bring out the hidden gems that are at the core of the Seder event and the Passover holiday.

We are pleased to introduce a two part class taught by Rabbi Yossi Groner on the Spiritual and Practical Exploration of Passover. The inner meaning of Passover, when Israel was freed from bondage, is significant in understanding why Passover still resonates with us over 3300 years later. In addition, the class will seek to comprehend the meaning of the number four, as in the four questions, the four cups of wine, and the four kinds of children who need to be addressed at the Seder.

The class, which is open to the entire Jewish community, will be held on two consecutive Wednesdays, March 14 and March 21, at 7:30 PM at Chabad of Charlotte, 6619 Sardis Road. Shmurah matza will be available on March 19 at $22/lb. Please call to reserve yours today.

For more information on any of our events, visit us at chabadnc.org or call us at 704-366-3984.

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**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**

**What Makes Levine Hearing Different?**

By Madison Levine

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

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

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

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

You are cordially invited to join Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC for a second night Seder on March 31, 7 PM at Philadelphia United, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill. You will enjoy a creative, engaging family- and community-friendly Seder featuring a delicious meal and all the traditional Passover Seder fare. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and with our tradition. Come and hear the story of our liberation from bondage and celebrate the blessing of freedom. This Seder is open to non-members as well as members of Temple Kol Ami. For more information, please contact us at yorksynagogues@gmail.com or check our website at www.templekolamisc.org and reserve your spot today. We hope you will join us at our Seder table.

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

March Events from the Jewish Council of Lake Norman

The Jewish Council of Lake Norman is looking forward to inviting all to attend our March activities.

A Purim Carnival will be Sunday, March 4
Location at: Temple Kol Tikvah
605 South St. in Davidson, NC
Open at 9:30 AM for preschoolers, and then to everyone from 10 AM-12 noon.
Fun-Food-Games-Face Painting-Celebrate and Enjoy.
Advanced tickets $6, at the door $8 (a bracelet includes all games, activities, bounce house, and cotton candy).
Additional food will be available for purchase, cash only.

An Adult Chocolate Seder will be Sunday, March 25
Location at: Congregation Emanuel
206 Kelly Street in Statesville, NC
Time: 2-4 PM
Steve Kerbel will lead us through this Seder Program with chocolate liquors, fruit dipped in chocolate, and more chocolate treats to satisfy the sweet tooth. Steve will also speak about exploring unique ways to help us enliven our own Seders. This event is co-sponsored by the Lake Norman Hadassah.
Advanced tickets $10, at the door $12.

“From the Jewish heritage, I have derived by world outlook, a God-centered interpretation of reality in the light of which man the individual is clothed in dignity; and the career of humanity with cosmic meaning and hope; a humane morality, elevated in its aspirations yet sensibly realistic; a system of rituals which interpenetrates my daily routines and invests them with poetry and intimations of the divine.”

--Milton Sternberg, Basic Judaism

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Windsor Run Community: Opening Spring 2018

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#PassoverPublix
Exploring at Hebrew School of the Arts

Noa Widger decorates flip flops to remember that we wear non-leather shoes on Yom Kippur.

Avianna Dixler braids her own challah for Shabbat.

Dylan Mucatel is a great sport while playing a Mitzvah game.

Volunteers in Training (7th grade) making latkes for Chanukah.

Morah Yael Osovski and Luc Levine working on Hebrew reading.

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Temple Solem Supports Israel

By Shelley Pawlyk

Temple Solem recently had a very special visit by Rabbi Miri Gold from Barkat Shalom, Gezer, Israel, who shared updates on the progression of pluralism. This is a hot topic because never before has there been such a large percentage of Reform and Conservative Jewish people in the State of Israel. It left me to reflect about Israel in general and also about past trips.

Who should love Israel? As Jews, we all should. Do we naturally love Israel because we are Jewish? Not always. Is it possible we have a cultural, DNA driven spirituality or even a curious heart beat within us towards her? If we as Jewish people don’t have a love for Israel, who will?

At age nine I traced maps of Israel and listed where I wanted to visit someday. The extraordinary thing in my case is I did not have access to Hebrew school in the small town I grew up in in northern California. Recently, in one room of people in Charlotte three chimed in and gave similar accounts. It’s as though our love of Israel was a radar beacon installed in our souls. Is it in yours? An older woman once said, “We don’t just go to Israel. She calls to you to come home like a mother’s heartbeat.” Another friend said, “Don’t be afraid to travel to Israel. As long as the planes are flying into Ben Gurion Airport, we’ll be fine.”

Many years passed and my first trip to Israel was in 1997 and since then I have been a total of seven times including taking my parents in 2007. I was blessed to become an adult Bat Mitzvah at Pastoral Kibbutz Kfar Blum on a Temple Bethel Trip. More baby boomers and empty nesters are having a renewed desire to study for an Anshei Miztvah who were not a b’nai mitzvah as youths. I will never forget the experience of studying, creating, writing, and leading my outdoor service embedded with poetry and writings from our people. How very special it was to have The Charlotte Jewish News editor on the trip who spent the following year writing an article each month describing our journey both logistically and spiritually.

Although it is a hope that all of us can go in person, Israel can be explored virtually online by internet. We can learn about the history, the sciences, the arts and humanities of Israel, the educational experiences of 2nd and 4th Fridays at 7 PM each month for Shabbat services and fellowship. For more information, please visit our website at www.templesolelcs.org, find us on Facebook or call 803-619-9707.

Rabbinical Intern Returns for Pre-Pesach Shabbaton

Havurat Tikvah will welcome Rabbinical Intern Stephanie Crawley for her return visit to the congregation for a Shabbaton on March 28-29 where she will lead a warm and enlightening Shabbat service and adult education program that evening.

Student Rabbi Crawley will lead services at 10 AM at Avondale Presbyterian Church, MacLean Fellowship Hall, 2821 Park Rd., followed by a Kosher potluck veggie/dairy/parve/nut-free luncheon. That evening at 7:30 PM, she will lead an adult education session at a member’s home. The topic will be “Personalizing the Haggadah.” Check the website for the location.

Attendees are welcome to bring Kosher desserts and snacks to share.

Originally from St. Louis, MO, Student Rabbi Crawley is a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, NY campus with projected ordination to take place in May 2018. And she received her undergraduate degree in political science and international studies at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, and her Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature in May 2017 from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

The Bonnicks, Daniel Tisch Rabbinic Fellowship, Rodei Tzedek Social Justice Fellowship, Ketuvim Teaching Fellowship, and Encounter Davar Acher Leadership Program are among her leadership development awards.

Student Rabbi Crawley has spent time expanding her rabbinical skills at Congregation B’nai Israel in Bridgetport, CT, as a havurah resident and intern; Center for Worship and Synagogue Renewal, New York, NY, as a research assistant to Rabbi Larry Hoffman; Congregation Emanuel of the City of New York, New York, NY, as a rabbinic intern, conversion coordinator and religious school tehillah coordinator; Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA, as a High Holiday student rabbi; Brandeis Collegiate Institute, Los Angeles, CA, as a rabbinic education fellow; NFTY Israel, Jerusalem, Israel, as a mechahechet/tour educator and rosh tehillah; Temple Micah, Washington, DC, as a Machon Micah Fellow, outreach fellow; and URJ Camp Kalsman, Arlington, VA, as a music director and head song leader.

She has also gained experience in professional, spiritual, and community leadership development in such endeavors including, but not limited to: SWARA Queer Talmud Camp, Hava Nashira Jewish Professional Musicians Conference, J Street National Conference, HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen sous chef and volunteer, Kesher Taglit-Birthright Israel student rabbi, HUC-JIR Former Soviet Union Pesach Project leader, Cleveland Catholic Charities refugee mentor, and Case Western varsity softball.

The congregation continues its monthly third Wednesday minyanim on March 21 at the Saxence.

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

We value and depend upon member participation and leadership for our religious services, spiritual growth and governance.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Reconstructing Judaism movement. This new name was adopted and announced to the worldwide membership during January.

For more information on upcoming services, programs, membership or other queries, call 800-225-5330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220, email membership@havuratikvah.org, visit havuratikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havuratikvah/.
Part 2

Temple Kol Tikvah’s Israel Trip

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Center, was a must-visit. We were greeted by a guide who took us to a section of the museum dedicated to the memory of the family of Dr. Felix Zandman, a Holocaust survivor who went on the found Vishay Inc., a world-class Israeli hi-tech manufacturing company based in Israel with plants in many countries. As a young boy, Dr. Zandman earned his degree, made several inventions, and founded Vishay Inc. We then proceeded to stroll through this powerful museum reviewing the events that led to the murder of the six million and the brutal destruction of practically the entire Jewish world in Europe. Especially poignant was the entire Jewish world in Europe. Especially poignant was the iconic view of the Chagall stained glass windows, a collection of beautiful and impressive 13 stained glass windows illuminated by the sun.

One day we headed deep into the southern Negev and stopped overnight in Kibbutz Yahel. This is one of only two or three Reform Kibbutzim in Israel. Located in the Aravah section of the desert it is just 60 km north of Eilat, the southernmost city in Israel, and is just 60 km north of Eilat, the southernmost city in Israel, and very close to the Jordanian border. After settling down, we joined outdoors for a memorable Havdalah service. Later on, we were greeted by one of the Kibbutz members, who gave us an overview of the Kibbutz, its history, membership, and economy. The Kibbutz offers guest accommodations, which were quite comfortable, even by American standards. They have greenhouses in which they grow various fruits and vegetables. They grow dates and pomegranates, a citrus fruit about the size of a grapefruit and a unique taste. It is truly amazing how green and lush the surroundings are, especially considering the stark desert all around us for miles and miles. And the sunrise over the Jordanian mountains was a site not easily forgotten.

On the Golan Heights, we traveled in jeeps very close to the Syrian and Lebanese borders. These were ferocious battlefields during the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars. The bumpy ride in the jeeps passed by still active mine fields marked by orange warning signs and bunkers that had been used to attack Israeli settlements. At Rosh Hanikrah, we took the cable car high over the cliffs by the Mediterranean while watching the magnificent view of the blue sea and an Israeli Navy ship patrolling the border with Lebanon. Rosh Hanikrah grottos are cavernous tunnels formed by the sea over thousands of years. We stood high up right on the border with Lebanon kibitzing with the young, personable, and somewhat shy Israeli soldiers guarding the border in full battle gear.

Other experiences that will stay with us: The ever-present mezuzahs on every single door in Israeli hotels. Also, the glorious sunsets over the Mediterranean. And, last but not least, the blue skies and the ubiquitous beautiful Israeli flags, white and blue with the Jewish Star, waving in the breeze, reminding us of the miracle that is Israel. And bringing to mind Ben Gurion’s famous saying: “If you don’t believe in miracles, you are not a realist.”

Finally, the following poem comes close to expressing our feelings about Israel. It’s by Yehudah Halevi, a Spanish Jewish physician, poet, and philosopher. Born in Spain in 1075 or 1086; died in Jerusalem in 1141. Author of “The Kuzari.”

My heart is in the east, and I in the utmost west—
How can I find savory in food?
How shall it be sweet to me?
How shall I render my vows and my bonds, while yet
Zion lies beneath the fetter of Edom, and I in Arab chains?
A light thing would it seem to may leave all the good things of Spain,
Seeing how precious in mine eyes to behold the dust of the desolate sanctuary.

Translated by Nina Salaman®
Elements of Judaism: Walking Jewishly Through Life

By Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

Being a Jewish clergy person is a pretty fantastic job. On almost any given day, I will encounter lots of different people, each experiencing a variety of different things, some of them incredibly happy and others tragically sad, some of them unique and exciting and others still, rather mundane. While it is difficult sometimes to walk with people through their hard times, it is also an incredible privilege to share in the sanctity of life. The difficulties are usually in balance with the great joys. In between, there is an entire world of walking with people through everyday life.

One of the “walks” that I frequently accompany as a cantor is the journey from considering joining the Jewish people to conversion and beyond. Working with adults actively choosing to join the Jewish people can be one of the most beautiful and rewarding elements of what we do as clergy. At Temple Beth El, the path to conversion begins with taking the course Elements of Judaism. Elements is taught by talented teachers from our community and meets on seven Tuesday evenings in the spring or in the late summer each year. The teachers walk students through a broad overview of Jewish history, belief, and practice. Elements is open to anyone who is interested in this 50,000 foot view of Judaism. Our students are usually a mix of people who were born Jewish but want to take a refresher course or engage in study as an adult, individuals from surrounding houses of faith who want to learn more about Judaism, and those who think they might be on a path to conversion.

The open nature of this class allows our future conversion candidates to have a low-pressure entry point where they can best evaluate their interest and desires around conversion. While a student is enrolled in Elements, someone who would like to convert is scheduled to meet with me or one of our rabbis. During this meeting, we learn more about one another - the person’s background as well as a bit about Judaism, the Reform Movement, and TBE and our process. If the candidate and the clergy are comfortable moving forward, that student is given information to register for our Choosing Judaism course.

Choosing Judaism is taught by the TBE clergy, each of us typically teaching several of the classes. During this time, the rabbis and I have an incredible opportunity to really get to know people on an individual and group basis. We explore some of the most interesting parts of Jewish life and belief. What do we think about God? What does thinking and acting Jewish look like for each of us as individuals and as people living in contemporary society? How does one begin to take the Jewish story on as their own when, perhaps, they’ve had another story their whole lives? How does that story mesh and meld with the idea of Jewish peoplehood? What does it mean to be responsible for one another and for our world? What does it mean to navigate Jewish community and responsibility? There is a great joy working with curious and engaged adults through these questions and others.

The truth is that we learn beautiful things about Judaism from those who choose it for themselves. We are reminded that Judaism can be embracing and welcoming and a home. We are reminded that it is more than acceptable to ask questions and to challenge, it is our imperative. We are reminded that there is in infinite variety are made be B’tzelem Elohim, in the image of our Creator. We are reminded that love can be boundless and that we are all the more rich for sharing that love with open arms.

I am privileged to serve a movement and a synagogue community where our tent-flaps are wide open and our arms ready to embrace a new member of the tribe. Registration for the spring session Elements of Judaism is open on the Temple Beth El website until March 5. The class is open to all - whether you were born Jewish, are interested in learning more about Judaism, or are considering a path to conversion.

“This pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, a almost fanatical love of justice, and the desire for personal independence, these are the features of the Jewish tradition which make me thank my lucky stars I belong to it.”

--Albert Einstein, The World As I See It
Kehilla (Community): Transitional Kindergarten at Charlotte Jewish Preschool

By Emily Snyder

Transitional Kindergarten at Charlotte Jewish Preschool nurtures the whole child through an explorative learning philosophy. Children engage in learning through new facets—multi-sensory exploration and hands-on projects inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. Children will draw connections, and create new. Each month our Kehillah (community) creates/participates in two community projects. One project focuses on our “small” community (our class or school) and one on our “large” community (Charlotte, JCC, JFS, etc.). During these projects children get their hands dirty with every area of our early childhood foundation skills. They will strengthen their early literacy skills including letter recognition, writing, and beginning reading. Children continue exploring number sense and problem solving skills. They will also be exploring the world around them both culturally and scientifically. All of these skills come together while children engage in Judaic learning.

Transitional Kindergarten is a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten for children who have completed a 4s program. Transitional Kindergarten a balanced program that includes academics, social, and emotional learning, and inquiry based projects. TK is a mix of children who have missed the cut off for Kindergarten and those who need or would simply benefit from the program. There is a wide range of ages from 4-6.

Research states that TK has significant benefits. The American Institute for Research states that children who attend TK have better phonological awareness in Kindergarten than those who did not attend a TK program. TK graduates also have an improved knowledge of basic math skills and problem solving skills such as counting, solving word problems, and identifying symbols. TK also supports greater emphasis on social and emotional learning. Students who attend TK are more likely to be able to regulate their behavior, remember rules, and think flexibly (The Impact of Transitional Kindergarten on Kindergarten Readiness (December 2015)) American Institute for Research.)

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CJP’s Farmer’s Market.

At CJP, students make and “light” their own menorahs.

Charlotte Jewish Preschool

The Stan Greenspon Center at Queens University of Charlotte Invites You Back to School

Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice Mini-Session
The Art of Ethical Speech
Dates: Thursdays April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2018
Times: 7 to 8:30 PM
Cost: $100
Teacher: Marcy Goldstein, PhD

Speech is powerful. Is yours aligned with truth? Is it beneficial? In the current, tense political climate where unfriending is not uncommon, ethical communication is paramount. Drawing from world religions and yoga traditions, this class focuses on how to achieve clarity and maintain dignity and mutual respect during interpersonal and social media communications on sensitive, charged topics. Includes lecture, discussion, personal reflection, and small group exercises. Cultivate the art of ethical speech to help repair our world!

*Fee includes a handout and list of books, articles, and videos for continued learning.

For more information or to register, please email Talia Goldman at goldmant@queens.edu

Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice and Myers Park Baptist Church present:
Dream America: Immigration
First Annual Arts and Advocacy Conference
Save the Date!

Dates: Saturday April 21, 2018
Times: 12:30 to 8 PM
Pre-conference worship service at 11 AM
Cost: $25 registration fee; $30 if bringing a teen

Join Myers Park Baptist Church and Queens University of Charlotte for informative presentations and sessions highlighting the use of the arts to advocate for immigrants. From slam poetry to storytelling, film to photography, and dance to music, experts will be on hand to share their knowledge and tools. The event will culminate in a dramatic reading, followed by live music and food trucks, all celebrating the gifts our immigrant neighbors continue to bring to our community.

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Family Engagement

PJ MATZAH FACTORY

Sunday, March 11
10:00 - 11:30 AM
Charlotte Jewish Day School
5007 Providence Road, Building E

Join us for hands-on fun! Make your own matzah & enjoy Passover storytime with PJ Library and the Charlotte Jewish Day School. This event is free and open to all families with children 18 mos – 8 years. Space is limited; Pre-registration is a must!

RSVP to www.nextgencharlotte.org.

*Children must be accompanied by at least one parent.*

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

RSVP by March 8 at www.nextgencharlotte.org
From the CJDS Student Council President

Lael Rivas-Zucker, president of CJDS student council, greeted the visitors on Grand Friends Day.

Hello our fellow guests. Thank you for coming to Grand Friends Day. You know just six years ago, when I was in Kindergarten, I was a shy girl who didn’t like to talk too much at school and I didn’t have a lot of social activities. When I stepped into CJDS I didn’t know what to expect or if I was going to fit in. But as soon as I entered my classroom, I was comforted by my teachers, Ms. Schultz and Morah Rochel, with a warm welcome. I even recognized a few of my friends and soon new ones. I remember the first week of school, I already made some long-term friends and I always came home with a grin on my face. A year later my parents had already seen the huge growth mentally and physically. I was learning so many different methods and I had a huge confidence boost. I knew then that I never wanted to graduate. The teachers are always so kind and helping and the awareness was always there. If it was bullying there was no tolerance and even technology, the Gamlin Police, and taught us things that most schools won’t. Over the years I’ve grown massively but it’s not only me who has grown, so have my friends, to become the better people we are today. Personally, one of my favorite lessons this school has taught me is to be proud of who you are and stand up for your religion like I’m proud to be Jewish and Spanish. When I go to a new school next year I won’t be afraid or scared, I’m prepared for all obstacles that come my way. Thanks to you CJDS, I’m actually excited for what will come my way but sad at the same time that I will be leaving the place where it all began. So, before I leave I want to thank all the teachers and staff for making my elementary experience the best time. You know things come and go but memories are forever and I’ll never forget the journey that CJDS has given me and I’m very thankful.

CJDS Special Friend’s Day

We celebrated grandparents and special friends by saluting Israel in the 70th year of its independence. What a weekend! Students serenaded their guests with an inspiring and moving Israeli musical performance that brought tears to many. After the performance, participants were amazed by the total transformation of Lerner Hall as it felt like they stepped off an El Al plan onto a bustling street in Israel. There were opportunities to sample food from Israel, play games from or about Israel, and experience Israel. The excitement was palpable.

The most heartwarming booth was about Yoni. Yoni Raffler is a CJDS graduate. In fact, he is a Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School graduate too. Yoni joined the IDF in a specialized unit and is one of the many lone soldiers who voluntarily leave their comforts of their home to protect our people. The booth provided opportunities for all to thank Yoni for his service. After reading some of the letters, I was reassured that our goals are being reached as we teach the significance of being Jewish, our love for Israel, and our connection to the Jewish people. To see the children able to recognize that heroes are more than Sports Superstars was reassuring.

Yoni’s booth was also a celebration of all who served in the IDF. An email went out requesting that family members of CJDS students who served in the IDF should send in pictures. These pictures were posted so visitors could honor and understand that we are all part of one family.

Yoni’s parents visited the fair on Sunday and are collecting the thank you notes to take to Israel this month. They will be able to show Yoni a video and pictures of the booth so he will be able to see how proud we all are of him.

Here are some samples of the thank you notes that our children wrote.

On Sunday, February 4, CJDS extended an invitation to all the religious and Hebrew schools in the Charlotte metropolitan area to enjoy the fair. Over 300 children attend Sunday morning while CJDS alumni and staff volunteered and manned the booths. It was a wonderful opportunity for all to enjoy and experience together.

Lael Rivas-Zucker, CJDS student council president, with Mariashi Groner, CJDS director.
Why We Love JPS

By Jen Schwartz, mom of Mason Schwartz, JPS 4s class

Four years ago, I walked in to the Jewish Preschool on Sardis and I knew immediately that it was the right school for our family. A small, boutique-feeling, warm environment filled with smiles, hellos, and friendly faces of both teachers and staff who really know each child. Cut to today, and this incredible preschool has developed and nurtured a caring, compassionate, inquisitive, social, intelligent little boy who has a deep appetite for learning, love of Judaism, and curiosity about the world around him. I attribute so much of that to the four years he has spent at JPS.

When Mason was two-and-a-half, we went to visit family up north for Passover. My mother-in-law gifted him a toy Passover set, which he reached into, pulled something out and said, “Kiddush cup.” My husband and I were floored. We had no idea he could identify what a Kiddush cup looked like at such a young age. That moment just reaffirmed our love and gratitude for his preschool.

The following year at Passover, just after turning three, he entertained the entire Seder table by singing most of the Four Questions and re-telling the story of how Pharaoh sent our people out of Egypt and Hashem parted the Red Sea for them to escape. And of course, he accompanied his stories with the four years he has spent at JPS.

I’m not the anxious, worrying mommy anymore, I am the mommy who will be watching her son graduate with my tears. Time really does go fast. I worry less about what my son would make friends or be “good” at playing with the other kids in his class. I just wanted him to always wake up wanting to go to school because he loved learning and looked forward to seeing his teachers and his “buddies” (as he calls them) every day. Not only can he recognize his letters, numbers, shapes, and colors, but more importantly, he is kind, says please and thank you, is always asking to help and constantly thinks and talks about the friends he has made in his class. JPS has raised a true mensch in Mason.

I don’t worry anymore about my son making friends or playing with other kids because JPS has coached him to solve problems, take turns, share, and ask a group of kids, “Can I play with you?” when he wants to join a group. And now, when he sees his friends first thing in the morning or runs into them at a birthday party, there is the excited yelling of names followed by group hugs and holding hands. It melts my heart every single time.

I also want to mention just how on top of their game the teachers are at this school. Mason has been going to an occupational therapist for the past year and a half and it was one of his teachers who picked up on his fine-motor delays and brought them to our attention at a parent conference. These teachers know what they are doing, they know your child, and they want them to be successful, not just academically but socially and emotionally. They never let Mason slip through the cracks and always knew just what to do to help him remain confident when a task might have been more difficult for him than other kids in the class.

I’m confident that wherever Mason ends up next on his education journey, he has been given the foundation, tools, confidence and social skills to continue to grow and be successful.

And now at year four, while
Shalom Park Freedom School Needs Your to Support

“He, who opens a school door, closes a prison.” (Victor Hugo)

It is estimated that over 80% of incarcerated persons are high school dropouts (www.ncsnet.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=425). Which raises the question, how did these souls become high school dropouts in the first place?

Children growing up in high poverty homes typically enter kindergarten with a 30-million-word deficit compared to peers from higher income homes (www.freedomschoolpartners.org), starting off their educational career at a disadvantage. The discrepancies seem to grow at an exponential rate as the children from socioeconomically challenged backgrounds age. When students are entering third grade, children from lower income homes are often two years behind in reading, with almost three quarters of students who are not on the targeted reading level by third grade, never catching up (freedomschoolpartners.org/our-programs/what's-at-stake/). By the time children from high poverty homes reach high school age, the drop-out rate is five times that of their middle or high class peers (www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/indicator/2013/05/poverty-dropouts.aspx).

In an effort to help break the cycle of poverty, the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) has helped address issues impacting educational differences for the past seven summers, and will continue to do so in the summer of 2018. Supported by our Shalom Park campus, 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.

Current research suggests meaningful and measureable gains from this program. Without intervention, 75% of students from low income homes are estimated to lose 2-3 months of learning over the summer. Research conducted with Freedom School participants suggests that 90% of scholars gained or maintained their reading ability. These results help reduce the chances of the students falling and staying behind expected benchmarks in elementary school, providing powerful potential to help change the trajectory of these children’s lives. The SPFS is a success because of the strong and long standing support of members of our community who give their time and donations to this collaborative, Shalom Park-wide, social justice program. Through our Freedom School, we are supporting a larger movement for social equity and justice in education.

Some of the ways you can help may be easier than you think.

Attend

Attend the SPFS Movie Night (annual fundraiser) on Tuesday, May 1, a screening of the insightful and engaging documentary: Teach Us All. Save the date, details coming soon.

June 18 - July 27 Welcome our Shalom Park scholars – they are our guests.

Our scholars are excited, and it is summer. Smile and wave when walking by.

Yes, it can be that simple to show a scholar that they matter, that they are seen. The universal saying “it takes a village” to raise a child rings true. This summer please welcome our scholars to our village when you see them on the Shalom Park campus. Please Consider Donating Your Time.

Adults

For adults 18+, there will be morning, afternoon, and evening spots to volunteer, opportunities to fit into most everyone’s schedules. For those that like direct interactions, there are opportunities to read with scholars, help them pick out a new book each week, assist during art electives to name a few opportunities. For those that prefer to work behind the scenes, please be on the lookout for opportunities such as helping to run the front desk or help prepare and set-up for the parent information dinners. For questions about volunteering, please contact Kathy Warshaw at kwarshaw@yahoo.com or Hilary Rosenbaum at dhrose4@gmail.com.

Teens

Rising 10th-rising 12th graders can apply to the Shalom Park Freedom School Teen Board. The application is now live, and is due by March 3. Any questions, please contact: Camille Kanofsky at camille@rsdiv.com or Betsy Olinger at olingers@aol.com or go to spfreedomschool.org/get-involved/

Snacks

Daily snacks and drinks are also provided by donations from our community. There is a need for drink boxes and individually wrapped snacks which should be nut free. Cash and gift cards are also appreciated cash or gift card donations from the following: Harris Teeter, Costco, Food Lion, Publix, Trader Joe’s, etc. Please contact Judy Kaufmann for details of how to help at steveka@att.net.

For more info or to buy tickets: charlottejcc.org/culturalarts

LJCC Customer Service 704-366-5007

Freedom School Partners

Harambee!

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To learn more about Freedom School Partners visit spfreedomschool.org.

Levine JCC Cultural Arts

JSTAGE. PRESENTS.

Holding out for a HERO!

A Kids Musical Revue

March 3 & 4 @ 2pm

Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

For adults 18+, there will be morning, afternoon, and evening spots to volunteer, opportunities to fit into most everyone’s schedules. For those that like direct interactions, there are opportunities to read with scholars, help them pick out a new book each week, assist during art electives to name a few opportunities. For those that prefer to work behind the scenes, please be on the lookout for opportunities such as helping to run the front desk or help prepare and set-up for the parent information dinners. For questions about volunteering, please contact Kathy Warshaw at kwarshaw@yahoo.com or Hilary Rosenbaum at dhrose4@gmail.com.

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March 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.

**LJCC Department Directory**

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

- **Early Childhood**
  - Patty Torcellini 704-944-6891
  - patty.torcellini@charlottejcc.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**NEW GROUP EX CLASS**

**BOOT CAMP & BREWS**

**Focusing on strength, cardio & agility. Designed for all levels.**

- **Mon & Wed**
  - 6:15-7:00pm
  - **March 5-28**

**SIGN UP AT LJCC CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- **Q?**  jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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**SMALL GROUP TRAINING**

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**TEEN TENNIS CAMPS**

- **Junior Tennis Camps will focus on**
  - **tennis basics, fundamentals, and an enjoyable introduction to tennis.**
  - **Teen Tennis Camp will focus on**
  - **stroke production, conditioning, rally skills and match play.**

**Options / Price per Week**

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**Questions?**

- **Greg O’Connor** 704-944-6748
  - gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

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**NEW LOCATION**

**May 22, 2018**

- **at The Golf Club at Ballantyne**

**This event benefits LJCC Oasis Senior Enrichment Program**

- 704-944-6724 • geneva.boxer@charlottejcc.org

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**Join Adam**

- **1st Thursday each month**
  - **6:15–7pm** Boot Camp
  - **7–7:30pm** Brews

Brews provided courtesy of New Belgium Brewing

- **BOOT CAMP not your thing?**
- **Take ANY LJCC Group Ex Class**
  - (we offer 90+) & **Join us for a free Brew!**

**Sign Up at LJCC Customer Service**

- **Q?**  jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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

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**Pricing Codes:**

- M = Member
- B = Benefactor
- NM = Non-Member
Teens
Volunteer at our Community Purim Carnival
6th–12th Grade
Teens fulfill your Community Service requirement
here at the LJCC at this great family fun event!
Adults would love your help, too! Two shift options
choose from. You must sign up ahead of time.
Sunday, February 25
11:30am–1:30pm OR 1:30–3:30pm
Free

Adults
Men’s Night Out: March Madness
Men 50+ and Older
Join us for a night of basketball, brews and buds.
Watch the first round games of the NCAA Tournament
on the big screen (and two smaller screens). We will
provide the snacks and you BYOB.
Thursday, March 15 • 7–10pm
Camp Mindy Rec Hall
Free

K–5th
Taekwondo Classes
Teaches blocks, hand strikes, kicking, forms,
self-defense, sparring combos, footwork and board
breaking thru fitness drills, fun games and team
activities. Students are required to purchase a
uniform. Uniform and belt testing fee are separate.
Ongoing. Choose on or two days per week:
A) Monday 5:45–6:30pm
B) Tuesday 3:15–4:00pm
C) Tuesday 5:00–5:45pm
Price per month: 1 class per week
M/$70 B/$42 NM/$80
Price per month: 2 classes per week
M/$130 B/$78 NM/$150

Ladies Night Out: Dinner and Broadway
BEAUTIFUL, the Carole King musical
Tuesday, April 17
Meet at 5:45pm @ Fresh Chef (corner of Sharon Amity
and Providence Rd)
8pm Show at Evans Auditorium
M/$80 NM/$90 (Does not include cost of dinner)
Register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk,
704-366-5007
704-944-6753 or robin.stier@charlottejcc.org

Judaism for the Curious
Are you curious about Judaism? Throughout the
coming year the Oasis Senior Enrichment Program
will be offering monthly classes on Judaism designed
to educate, motivate, and inspire you to live life with
the use of timeless Jewish wisdom. Rabbi Oppenheim
will explore a different topic each month.
March: What Judaism Says About Carrying
Someone’s Burden
Monday, March 5 • 1pm
FSP Boardroom
Free
For information contact Sharti Benjamin
704-944-6753 or sharti.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Symphony 101
Enjoy this special series designed to be light,
engaging insights into the world of orchestras and
classical music of upcoming performances of the
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra this season.
March’s topic: Disability and Dynamic Music
This lecture will be centered around Ravel’s Piano
Concerto for the left hand and a brief history of
composers and performers who continued to write
and perform with disabilities during their careers.
Friday, March 9 • 1pm
Gorelick Hall
Free
For information contact Sharti Benjamin
704-944-6753 or sharti.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Oasis Senior Passover Seder
ALL SENIORS WELCOME!
This Event Made Possible & Sponsored By
STANLEY P. GREENSPON
A Passover luncheon and a community Seder led by clergy from Temple Beth
El and Temple Israel and musical
accompaniments by Miss Patty.
Wednesday, March 28 • 12-2pm
Gorelick Hall, Levine JCC
$5
Free program
but RSVP to LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007
Questions? Julie Ritzow
julie.ritzow@charlottejcc.org

Walking Tour with Charlotte Historian
Dr. Tom Hanchett
Join Charlotte Historian Dr. Tom Hanchett on a
stroll in Charlotte’s Elizabeth neighborhood where
internationally renowned Jewish author and humorist
Harry Golden lived. This 10-block walk will take
us past the residences of two of Charlotte’s recent
mayors, big band star Hal Kemp, and more. Tour will
end at Sabor, a popular new eatery featuring Latin
American food (dine on your own). Space is limited -
RSVP and pay to LJCC Customer Service,
704-366-5007, by Monday, April 16th.
Sunday April 22 • 3:30pm
Tour Time: 1hr 15min (approx.)
Meet at corner of Clement Avenue and E. 9th Street
(Free on-street parking)
M/$18 B/$15 NM/$20
For information contact Sharti Benjamin
704-944-6753 or sharti.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Tai Chi/Qigong
Adults 50+
Improve your strength, balance and flexibility
through this gentle form of fitness.
Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm (all levels)
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio
Oasis/M/$30 B/$20 NM/$42 per month
Drop-in fee: M/B/$12 p/class NM/$14 p/class
For information contact Sharti Benjamin
704-944-6753 or sharti.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Healthy Gut, Healthy You,
presented by Dr. Brian Jerby
- board certified colon/rectal surgeon -
Dr. Jerby received the degree of medical
degree from the University of South Carolina
School of Medicine in 1992 and has com-
pleted further training at Cleveland Medical
Center, The Cleveland Clinic, Washington
University School of Medicine, and
The Institute for Functional Medicine.
March 15 @ 7:00pm
Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
March 15 @ 7:00pm
Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
Over the past few years, there has been an explosion of data linking
gastrointestinal dysfunction to many disease processes. Learn why
so many today have an unhealthy gut, and how you can attain a
healthy gut and therefore a healthy you!
Free program
but RSVP to LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007
Questions? Julie Ritzow
julie.ritzow@charlottejcc.org

Oasis Senior Enrichment
MON–FRI • 9am–5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center
Game Days • Enrichment Activities
Educational Seminars • Lunch
Painting Classes • Monthly Field Trips
Exercise Classes • M/W/F Kosher Kosher Kosher
Please read our monthly newsletter online or pick up a hard copy in Weinberg Center.
If you have questions, contact:
Jill Lipson • 704-944-6792
jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc
Donations to Jewish Family Services in January 2018

IN APPRECIATION OF
Barry Bobrow for your presentation at our meeting from Samuel and Linda Levy

IN MEMORY OF
The mother of Matt R. Cogen from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
The mother of Joseph Vanadia from David Hannes
Sarah From Cohen to Susan and Donald Jacobson, Florence Jaffe, and Jessica and Joni Cohen from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Stuart and Ellen Flagel, Margie and Caren Frank, Douglas and Paula Gentile, Friends at Google, Annette Haynes, Vicki Hopkins, Morry and Ginny Johnston, Linda Lesack, Margie Leatherwood, Michael and Wendy Hennes, Allian and Marcelle Oxman, Bruce Schwartz, Carol Shafranek, Gary Silverstein, Kara Silverstein, Todd and Amy Strawser, Harold and Cynthia Turtlebach

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO
David Feibus from Carol Shafranek

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Bob Haber from Marcia Lampert
Sandra Levine from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Paul Patterman from David and Martha Levin
Daphne Tapper from Barbara Waterman
Eleanor Turk from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Elise Menaker Andrea Gamlin from Dedee Shafranek

DAVID FEIBUS
520-888-0875

FOOD Pantry Donations:

And, CJ is growing. Over the past five years, its enrollment has grown by 50% to more than 650 campers. In 2017, campers hailed from 18 states and seven countries. This past summer, the camp community celebrated the opening of a new state-of-the-art cheder ochel (dining hall) to accommodate our growing CJ family of campers and staff.

As CJ approaches its sixth decade of providing life-changing camping experiences, please let us hear from you. Email epolack@camjudaea.org today with your contact info, memories, and special camp photos.

For more information about Camp Judaea or if you now have children of your own who may be interested in attending camp this summer, please visit www.camjudaea.org or call 607-645-6598 for more information.


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ZABS Place to Compete in SEED20

Bentzion Groner wears many hats in the Charlotte Jewish community, including his roles at Friendship Circle and Talmud Torah, but it is his role as Director of ZABS Place that earned him a coveted spot in SEED20, a communications training and pitch competition program created by Charlotte’s Social Venture Partners.

SEED stands for Social Entrepreneurs EmpowerEd. The “20” represents the twenty organizations or individuals who are selected to participate because of their innovative ideas for tackling pressing social challenges in the Charlotte region. Groner will be one of those 20 this year. Over the course of two months, he will join a class of twenty nonprofit participants to receive training, coaching, feedback, and mentoring on how to succinctly and powerfully tell his organization’s story. These efforts culminate in SEED20 On Stage at the Knight Theater on April 16. This is a high-energy event where ten members of the class compete to win cash awards by making three-minute pitches to a panel of judges and a community audience. The audience is treated to a pre- and post- reception and also votes to select the $20,000 grand prize winner.

Ticket sales are now open at www.seed20.org.

ZABS Place is a non-denominational, nonprofit, upscale thrift boutique and employment training center for young adults with special needs in Matthews, NC. The training and experience serves as a stepping stone to future employment opportunities.

“[It is] the intersection of the for-profit and nonprofit world. It operates for a cause,” explains Groner.

He was drawn to apply to SEED20 because he sees a similarity to the ZABS Place model in that the program links entrepreneurship, commonly associated with the for-profit sector, with nonprofits. “This divide should not exist. Nonprofits are funded by donors, but they are entrepreneurs too. Entrepreneurialism is the future of the nonprofit sector.”

“All business principals apply to nonprofits, but the business world can learn from nonprofits too. Real success for any business comes when your goals are beyond money. They come from being cause driven. It motivates you as a leader and it motivates people to rally around you.”

SEED20 shines a spotlight on nonprofits, but Groner feels that the program links entrepreneurs EmpowereD. The “20” represents the twenty organizations in the program and he is excited to meet his 19 peer organizations in the program and he is looking forward to learning about the different nonprofits.

Groner has had his first opportunity to meet his 19 peer organizations in the program and he is impressed. “I love the idea of SEED20 harnessing the energy of all of the different nonprofits. It was inspiring to get to know all of the different nonprofits. It was inspiring to get to know all of the different nonprofits.

“It was inspiring to get to know all of the different nonprofits. It was inspiring to get to know all of the different nonprofits.

Groner has had his first opportunity to meet his 19 peer organizations in the program and he is impressed. “I love the idea of SEED20 harnessing the energy of all of the different nonprofits. It was inspiring to get to know their leaders. I want everyone to win.”

Resilience – The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope

Do you suffer from high blood pressure, diabetes, or other chronic medical conditions? Did you know that stress-related experiences as a child could have significantly impacted your medical conditions as an adult?

A new documentary film, “Resilience,” chronicles a 1997 research study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Kaiser Permanente that looked at the impact adverse childhood experiences have on medical conditions as an adult. The film explains how a simple questionnaire called ACES in which patients were asked to check whether they experienced certain types of trauma as a child was used to predict the potential for medical conditions as an adult. To learn more about the study and the implications of how we respond to managing childhood stress and learning the risk factors as adults, a preview of the film is being hosted by Jewish Family Services and Presbyterian Psychological Services on March 22 from 6-8 PM at the Discovery Place Auditorium. The screening is being sponsored by the Winer Family Foundation.

Mazel Tov and Congratulations

Liza Simon Participates in MLK Day Parade

Liza Simon, a 4th grade at Beverly Woods Elementary, entered a poem in the 2017-2018 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Art and Writing Contest sponsored by Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. As a result of her participation, she was able to ride on a float in the MLK Jr Parade in downtown Charlotte on Saturday, January 13.

Here is her award winning poem:

Why?
Why do you judge me when you see me walk?
Why do you hate me when you hear me talk?
Why is my life so unfair?
Why do people bomb my house here to there?
Is it because I want to be treated equally, or even because you don’t have the same beliefs as me?
Why do you think I am so bad
I am just a man, why does that make you mad?
We are the same inside and out
So why oh why oh why do you shout?
We are the same inside and out
And we blacks should have a peaceful life that’s right
So why do you hate me right at sight

A benefit for Jewish Family Services
Sunday, June 3, 2018

Featuring Comedian: Gary Gulman
A Night of Laughter, a Lifetime of Healing

Top photo: Liza on the float at the MLK prade; Above: Liza with Mayor Lyles.
S.P.I.C.E. Seder
April 2 at 11:00 am
Our senior adults share a delightful program rooted in tradition and the spirit of Pesach!

Community Second Night Seder
March 31 at 6:00 pm
A multi-generational, traditional Passover Seder filled with wisdom, music, and warmth.

Men’s Seder
March 14 at 6:30 pm
TBE’s Brotherhood invites men to a remarkable evening of camaraderie, tradition, and a festive Passover meal. All men are invited, regardless of membership or faith.

Sisterhood Chocolate Seder
March 25 at 6:00 pm
TBE’s Sisterhood invites its members and guests to a Chocolate Seder, reminding us that freedom is sweet and delicious.

Families with Young Children Seder
March 31 at 5:00 pm
Join The Porch for this Passover meal, geared toward families with infants through second graders. We will sing and laugh our way through a fun and kid-friendly seder.

TEMPLE BETH EL

Join us for Passover
TO RSVP: WWW.Templebethel.org

SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL MORNING SERVICE
March 31 at 11:00 am
FESTIVAL MORNING SERVICE WITH YIZKOR
April 6 at 11:00 am

Visit Discovered Traditions Gift Shop at Temple Beth El for an amazing collection of items for a sensational Passover seder.
International Humboldt Award

UNC Charlotte’s Steven Rogelberg is a pioneering researcher in the field of organizational science. In acknowledgement of his profound impact on the discipline, Germany’s Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has named him a recipient of its prestigious research award.

The Humboldt Prize, also known as the Humboldt Research Award, is given annually to up to 100 internationally renowned scientists and scholars across academia, who are selected to receive a prize currently valued at €60,000 (Euros). The award is named for the late Prussian naturalist and explorer Alexander von Humboldt, and it is considered one of the most esteemed honors presented to a scientist.

Rogelberg said receiving the Humboldt Prize is a great honor and a reflection of his work that has profoundly gained. “My greatest hope is that my scholarship and service to the profession help advance our discipline and ultimately help people and organizations in meaningful ways. My passion is to try to do things that matter. I am also so fortunate to have done this work in partnership with incredible friends, colleagues, and students.”

A professor of organizational science, management, and psychology, as well as director of the interdisciplinary Organizational Science Ph.D. Program, Rogelberg was lauded for his research and its practical application in three phenomena: work meetings, organizational research methods, and the stress-health of employees engaged in “dirty jobs,” characterized as vital to society but stigmatized as physically, socially, or morally tainted.

“Steven’s work has been transformational, not only at UNC Charlotte, but also within his discipline and beyond,” said Nancy A. Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “His innovative research has led to improvements in workplace practices, resulting in better working environments for employees who have helped nonprofits to understand their strengths and to identify their issues. He has mentored students, non-profit leaders, school teachers, and other University faculty, leveraging his knowledge to help them gain the tools and skills they need to succeed. It is gratifying to know his contributions are being recognized through this significant award.”

Rogelberg has authored more than 100 publications, many in top academic journals, which have been cited frequently by international colleagues. Additionally, he has given numerous invited talks at universities around the world and at professional conferences.

Steven Ott, dean of the Belk College of Business, stated, “Steven has made tremendous contributions to industrial and organizational psychology on an international scale. His leadership of the Organizational Science Program has attracted high-quality graduate students to UNC Charlotte and advanced the scholarship about management, well-being and health issues. His interdisciplinary contributions embody UNC Charlotte’s mission as an urban research university and have business and societal impacts.”

Considered a leading international authority on meetings in the workplace, Rogelberg elevated the topic on the academic landscape with a seminal paper in the Journal of Applied Psychology. He, and his students under his direction continue to study meeting experiences, along with how they affect employees’ job satisfaction, leader success, their effectiveness in the workplace, and their cost in time and impact on the culture of an organization. At the same time, he is often asked to speak with and advise a number of Fortune 500 companies on how to improve and better leverage meetings for organizational success.

Nomination materials also described Rogelberg as a primary leader in the robust and reliable science movement focused on improving scientific systems, such as peer review processes to yield the highest quality, most replicable research possible. In addition, the importance of research methods developed by Rogelberg was noted. His development of population profiling enables him to describe attitudes and personal traits to survey non-respondents. Rogelberg also identified novel research methods to increase survey response. His efforts enable scholars across disciplines to better test collected data for representativeness and validity.

Finally, Rogelberg’s research with animal shelter employees who engage in euthanasia activities of unhealthy/unwanted animals was noted for its benefit to society. His study of the health and well-being of shelter employees and volunteers is noted for being interdisciplinary and involves veterinary specialists. His efforts have led to an outreach program for shelter workers/volunteers that is being used in more than 400 animal shelters in the United States.

Also, the recognition of humanitarian contributions to the field of industrial-organizational psychology, Rogelberg was named the inaugural recipient of the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology’s Humanitarian Award in spring 2017. Rogelberg completed a master’s degree and Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Connecticut. His undergraduate degree in psychology is from Tufts University.

Rogelberg has served on the board of the Levine Jewish Community Center and is a member of both Temple Israel and Havurat Tikvah.

Organizational Science Professor Wins International Humboldt Award

Thank You LEGACY DONORS

The following individuals/families are in the Book of Life Society and have granted us permission to share with you that Temple Beth El has been included as a beneficiary of their legacy gift.

RICHARD and ANDREA BLUMENTHAL
MURR and MARY ANN BLOOM
ANNE and WALTER BOROW
CARL and JOAN BUCK
ROBERT and BONNIE BURGESS
SUSAN and CHARLES BUSH
DEBORAH and RICHARD BURROWS
LAURA and JAY BURTON
SHIRL and RAY BURNS
CARRIE and THOMAS BUSH
DAVID and RUTH BURROWS
"Thank You"

UNDER THE CHUPAH Congratulations to Michael (Cohen) and Dana (Forsyth) who were married on January 7 at Temple Beth El, with a reception immediately following the ceremony at the synagogue. All the Cohen family (Steve, Kathe, Adam, Chandler, Tara, Ashley, and baby Ava) join together in their joy and happiness with the newly-wed couple.

FJ CG

A supporting organization of Foundation For The Carolinas

704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org

To learn how you can create your own Jewish legacy, contact Phil Warshawer (704) 973-4544 or Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4545.

Professor Steven Rogelberg

The Association of Jewish Libraries Announces 2018 Winners of Jewish Fiction Award

Rachel Kadish is the inaugural winner of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) Jewish Fiction Award for her novel The Weight of Ink, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The award includes a $1,000 cash prize as well as support to attend the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Libraries in Boston, MA, June 18-20. Two honor books were also recognized: Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan by Ruth Gilligan, published by Tin House Books, and A Boy in Winter by Rachel Seiffert, published by Pantheon Books, part of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. The Committee received over 50 works of fiction with significant Jewish thematic content, written in English and available in the United States in 2017, and thanks all those who submitted entries for consideration. The wide array of books published this year is a testament to the vibrant state of contemporary Jewish fiction.

“Rachel Kadish has crafted an extraordinary cast of characters who speak to each other within and across the divides of centuries as well as those of age, religion, and class and come vividly to life under her empathic touch,” notes Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, Chairperson of the Award Committee. “This is a book that honors learning, libraries, archivists, and librarians, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award Committee is delighted to present Kadish with the 2018 AJL Jewish Fiction Award.”

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan gives serious depth to the little-known story of Jewish life in Ireland. Weaving a complex story, Ruth Gilligan uses the specifics of Irish lore and history woven with the Jewish experience to illuminate the stories of a young girl and her family who emigrate from eastern Europe, a suddenly mute boy incarcerated in a home for the mentally disabled, and a woman who considers the implications of converting to Judaism. According to Taub, “Gilligan’s expert twists of plot, exploration of historical themes, and her gift of word play and dark humor” impressed the Committee.

Rachel Seiffert’s A Boy in Winter works on a small canvas and creates a searing emotional impact. As the Nazis invade a small Ukrainian town, a variety of characters are forced to face the invasion’s terrible consequences and quickly make life-altering decisions. Taub comments: “Seiffert writes with sparceness, a plain-hewn power that draws the reader on a journey of suspense in a time and place of limited possibility.”

The Association of Jewish Libraries gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Dan Wyman Books for underwriting the Award. Submissions for the 2019 AJL Fiction Award are now being accepted. For more information, please visit www.jewish-libraries.org.

“I knew even as a child that the world which we see is not the whole world. Whether you call them demons or angels or some other name, I knew then, and I know today, that there are entities of whom we have no idea and they do exist. You can call them spirits, ghosts, or imps. After all, let’s not fool ourselves, a few hundred years we didn’t know about microbes, we didn’t know about electrons and all those powers connected with radiation. So who says we have already come to the summit of knowledge?”

- Isaac Bashevis Singer, Conversations
TORAH TOTS SHABBAT SERVICE
Friday, March 2, 5:45 p.m.
Please join us for a special Torah Tots Service led by Cantor Jeremy Lipton and Rabbi Helene Kornsgold, as we welcome in Shabbat with Temple Israel’s high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers.
Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.
Join Temple Israel Clergy and Miss Nancy for Temple Israel’s high-energy Shabbat program for families with preschoolers! Welcome in Shabbat with songs, prayers and movement followed by a healthy, bountiful Kiddush snack.

YOUTH
MAHAR: MOVIE OUTING - A WRINKLE IN TIME
(3rd- 5th Grades)
Sunday, March 25 (12:05-3:30 p.m.)
Join your friends as we go see the new movie, “A Wrinkle in Time.” We will kick-off the event with a great discussion centered on the Jewish values of imagination and time. Bring a packed dairy lunch, but leave room for popcorn or candy and a drink. Drop-off and Pick-Up @ TIRS Building.
Cost: $15/T-Y members; $20/nonmembers. RSVP to Ariel at adidionato@templeisraelnc.org by Wednesday, March 21.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
MARCH MADNESS MITZVAH TOURNAMENT
(benefiting Jewish Family Services)
Sunday, March 11 (10 a.m.)
Join us for our first 3v3 basketball tournament benefiting Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Charlotte. Entry fee is $5 to play or watch. 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to JFS. Location: Levine JCC Basketball Courts. To register online, visit templeisraelnc.org and click on the event, on the calendar.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE
SHABBAT BLESSINGS
Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m.
Shabbat Blessings is a new kind of Shabbat morning experience which offers an opportunity for spiritual enrichment and renewal through sharing our own blessings and insights, in the context of relevant prayers, music and texts from our tradition. Each time we meet we will explore one of the major themes or ideas of Jewish prayer through objects, poetry, stories, anecdotes or something else personal that interested participants bring to share. Join Rabbi Kliks as she discusses this month’s theme: “Responding to God’s love with gratitude and humility.”

EVENTS
CANTOR & FRIENDS
Sunday, March 11, 4 p.m. (FREE)
After 23 years at Temple Israel, and 19 CANTOR & FRIENDS programs, this 20th and final Cantor & Friends concert will be one of summation. Please join us for this very special program featuring songs of farewell, paring, and conclusion (Note: not all farewells are sad – ex: “So Long, Farewell” from the SOUND OF MUSIC!).
The concert will also include songs by Leonard Bernstein, in celebration of the year’s centennial of his birth. Cantor Roochvarg will be joined by his friend & colleague, Cantor Mary Thomas (Temple Beth EI) and accompanied on piano by Monty Bennett.

PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE 2018/5778
THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Search for the Hametz
FRIDAY, MARCH 30
Fast of the First Born (Office Closes, 1 p.m.)
Siyum Bekhorim (study session), followed by breakfast, 7:30 a.m.
Candle Lighting, 7:25 p.m.
No Evening Service
First Seder
SATURDAY, MARCH 31
1st Day Pesach
Shabbat/Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.
Pesach Evening Service, 5:30 p.m.
Temple Israel Community Cooperative Seder, 6 p.m.
(by reservation only)
SUNDAY, APRIL 1
2nd Day Pesach
Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.
Minyan, 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY, APRIL 2
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 3
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, APRIL 5
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 a.m.
Pesach Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 6
7th Day Pesach
(Office closed)
Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat/Pesach Evening Service, 6:15 p.m.
Candle Lighting, 7:31 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 7
8th Day Pesach
Shabbat/Pesach Morning Service (Vizkor), 9:30 a.m.
Minyan, 5:30 p.m.
Passover ends/Havdallah, 8:40 p.m.
*All Candle Lighting Times are based on GPS location for Temple Israel and are taken from Hebrai.com.

MEN’S CLUB SHABBAT
Saturday, March 24: 9:30 a.m. – Services, followed by Kiddush
Sunday, March 25: 9:00 a.m. – Breakfast
Football, Food, Family and Faith is the theme of Men’s Club Shabbat this year at Temple Israel. Join us for services on Saturday morning where our guest speaker is former NFL Offensive Lineman Geoff Schwartz, and co-author of the popular book, “Eat my Schwartz.” Geoff returns to Temple Israel on Sunday morning for a special breakfast hosted by the Men’s Club, and will answer questions on life as an elite Jewish athlete, world-class lake maven, and what it was like playing in the first game in NFL history where two Jewish brothers were on opposing teams. Questions? Please contact Mike Eisner (704) 779-0788 or eisner@outlook.com.

TEMPLE ISRAEL COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY SEDER
Saturday, March 31, 6 p.m.
We are pleased to announce that our 5th Annual Cooperative Community Seder will take place on Saturday evening, March 31. Izzy’s Catering will provide most courses and, as this is a Cooperative Seder, each attendee is expected to contribute in some way to the preparation, service, organization or clean up. If you are interested in participating in this special Seder, please register on the event calendar at templeisraelnc.org.

JOIN US
When you join the Temple Israel family, you become linked to a community and traditions that are more than 120 years old and you also become part of the story of a strong and vibrant congregation that will be a pillar of the Charlotte Jewish community for generations to come. Temple Israel is on the cutting edge of Conservative Judaism, balancing both traditional and innovative expressions of Judaism in a progressive, inclusive community.

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Israeli Art Show & Gala
Ticket information and show hours to be available shortly on templeisraelnc.org
By Gabe Friedman

JTA — Israeli race car driver Alon Day’s rise to the highest ranks of NASCAR has been an unexpected one for a variety of reasons.

Here’s one of them: The 25-year-old has done the bulk of his training on computer-screen simulators. That’s because Israel didn’t have a motor sport track until this year.

In June, he became the first Israeli to compete in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series — the sport’s highest league of competition — when he raced the No. 23 car for the BK Racing team at the Sonoma Raceway in Southern California. Though Day finished 32nd among the 38 drivers after being involved in a collision, his participation in the race was still significant.

While NASCAR has made efforts to diversify its pool of athletes, the sport’s fans and drivers remain mostly white and Christian — at times to a controversial extent.

Day, by contrast, wears his Israeli and Jewish identities proudly. His car for Sunday’s race sported an Anti-Defamation League sticker (even driven a car featuring an Anti-Semitic sticker) and was on a trajectory toward Israel’s business ties with the United States.

Since then, Levin has raised significant sums of money to support Day — he’s even enlisted a former NFL player as a backer. Drivers need sponsors to cover the costs of fuel, a pit crew and its tools, as well as salaries for the driver and his or her manager. In return, sponsors get stickers of their brand logo on their drivers’ car. Over the course of a full season, one sticker can cost over $1 million.

“It’s definitely much easier for me to get sponsorship here in the states than in Europe,” he said.

Based on his strong start in Europe and the U.S. — he raced a full season in a sub-league of the Indy 500, the U.S. version of Formula One — Day was selected early last year to be a part of the 2016-17 NASCAR Next program, which highlights young, up-and-coming racers.

That happened to be right around the time that Phil Robertson, the controversial member of the “Duck Dynasty” clan, delivered an eyebrow-raising speech before a NASCAR race in Fort Worth, TX.

“All right Texas, we got here via Bibles and guns, I’m fixin’ to pray to the one who made that possible,” Robertson said. “I pray Father that we put a Jesus-man in the White House.”

Robertson’s pre-race prayer didn’t sit well with David Levin, a Jewish lawyer from Florida and longtime NASCAR fan. Levin had just waded into the world of NASCAR sponsoring, and the reality star’s rhetoric gave him extra motivation to do something he had long wished for: He would find and help promote a Jewish driver into NASCAR’s top circuit.

Day called it perfect timing.

“It’s just kind of karma,” he said.

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Over the course of a full season, one sticker can cost over $1 million.

“It doesn’t really know how he does it, he makes magic,” Day said. “And somehow I’m driving in the car.”

Depending on the results of the Sonoma race — and if Levin can continue to work his “magic” — Day said his goal is to race in the next Cup Series race at Watkins Glen in western New York in August.

Meanwhile, Day is gaining recognition in Israel, where he was named Athlete of the Year in 2016 by the Sports and Culture Ministry. He points to the newly opened race track in Arad and an article about him in Yediot Achanot, one of Israel’s biggest newspapers, as signs that motorsports are on the rise in the Jewish state.

Day himself is contributing to car racing’s increased visibility in Israel. Alongside his fledging celebrity, he opened a racing “gym” in Tel Aviv with an old go-karting buddy. The gym houses several driving simulators, which are basically higher-tech versions of arcade games. The building has turned into an all-ages school where Day teaches pupils about racing, as well as about difficult situations a driver encounters on normal roads.

When he’s not abroad racing, Day typically spends three to four hours a day practicing on the race track simulations.

“I’m 25 now, but I still use simulators like I’m 10 years old,” he said with a laugh.

Day says he celebrates Jewish holidays, recites the Kiddush blessing over the wine on Friday nights and is proud to talk about his service in the Israeli army. Although he is an anomaly in the white Christian world of NASCAR, he points out that many stock car racing fans — some of whom are evangelical Christians — are big supporters of Israel, which has helped make him feel comfortable in the United States.

“It think they like seeing someone without that Southern accent, does not have the American flag [on a car] ... does not believes in Jesus,” he said. “I’ve gotten tons of media because I’m different.”

It’s never too early. Register now.

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Registration for Camp & School Year is Open. Space is limited!
Why Passover Is About a Lot More Than Good Food

By Joshua Ratner

(My Jewish Learning via JTA)

- What is the essence of Passover? On the one hand, it seems obvious: Passover is about gathering together with loved ones to recall, through sumptuous home rituals, the exodus from Egypt. We gather around our Seder tables and quickly become engulfed in the warmth of family and friends, the culinary delights of a delicious meal, and the comforting, vaguely familiar words and songs we recite year after year.

Passover is, indeed, a beautiful opportunity for rejoicing and celebrating. But it can also be much more.

When looking closely at the Passover Haggadah, we can see that the rabbis who crafted it did not choose to make Passover a holiday solely focused on celebrating the past and saluting our past and present. Like the Fourth of July (or Hanukkah), Passover is a holiday solely focused on celebrating the past. Unlike the Fourth of July (or Hanukkah), Passover does not choose to make Passover a holiday solely focused on celebrating the past. Like the Fourth of July (or Hanukkah), Passover is a holiday solely focused on celebrating the past.

While remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt is a one-time, historical event but as something that is perpetually happening in our lives, Passover is intended to be an experience that we, too, can be a part of.

The Seder specifically and Passover more broadly are about remembering God’s deliverance of the Israelites not as a one-time, historical event but as something that is perpetually happening in our lives, Passover is intended to be an experience that we, too, can be a part of.

The Seder specifically and Passover more broadly are about remembering God’s deliverance of the Israelites not as a one-time, historical event but as something that is perpetually happening in our lives, Passover is intended to be an experience that we, too, can be a part of.

There has been an explosion of new and creative social justice-themed Haggadahs and Seder inserts created in recent years by Jewish organizations. Last year alone, there were new additions about global justice (American Jewish World Service, LGBTQ rights (Keshet), hunger and totalitarian families (Mazon), wealth inequality (RR), racial justice (RAC), mass incarceration (B’hai Menashe), and refugees (Repair the World/HiAS), to name but a few. So please consider using any of these, tweet at #ActOnPassover or make use of other resources that speak to you and help you concretize our ongoing mandate to seek out freedom and redemption for all of God’s children.

And may each of you be blessed with a happy, fulfilling and meaningful Passover. Chag sameach (happy holiday)! ☸

(Rabbi Joshua Ratner is the rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami in Cheshire, Connecticut. He also worked as an attorney for five years prior to entering rabbinical school.)

March is National Nutrition Month; Use These Tips to “Go Further With Food”

By Chantal Oelsberg, MS, RDN, LDN, Levine JCC Nutritionist

March 2018 is National Nutrition Month and the theme this year is “Go Further With Food.” The timing of this theme is of great importance to us as we strive to put our health first. The theme focuses on several key points that I would love for you to challenge yourself to implement this month.

Whether it’s starting the day off right with a healthy breakfast or fueling before an athletic event, the foods you choose can make a real difference. Preparing your foods to go further, by planning meals and snacks in advance can also help to reduce food loss and waste.

This year’s theme for National Nutrition Month® encourages us to achieve the numerous benefits healthy eating habits offer, but it also urges us to find ways to cut back on food waste. Learning how to manage food resources at home will help you “Go Further with Food”, while saving both nutrients and money.

Key Messages
1. Include a variety of healthful foods from all of the food groups on a regular basis.
2. Consider the foods you have on hand before buying more at the store.
3. Buy only the amount that can be eaten or frozen within a few days and plan ways to use leftovers later in the week.
4. Be mindful of portion sizes. Eat and drink the amount that’s right for you, as MyPlate encourages us to do.
5. Continue to use good food safety practices.
6. Find activities that you enjoy and be physically active most days of the week.
7. Realize the benefits of healthy eating by consulting with a registered dietitian nutritionist. RDNs can provide sound, easy-to-follow advice.

(Continued on page 30)
From a Passover of Alienation to a Passover of Empathy

By Hanan Schlesinger

From a Passover of Alienation to a Passover of Empathy

The Charlotte Jewish News - March 2018 - Page 30

The world is divided into us and them. Our sense of self is sometimes so much stronger than our sensitivity to others that we act as if people are not part of our way of life. That is the way that it has to be. In order to experience slavery and strangerhood as God’s mercies are upon all His creatures, we must remember that we were slaves and strangers in the Land of Egypt, but instead of using that experience to nurture empathy for others who are not part of our way of life and often to the dominant cultures were antagonistic to our way of life and often to our very existence. We were the other and little love was lost on us.

Our forefathers were too busy surviving to find room in our hearts and in our texts to teach ourselves about love of the stranger and empathy for his suffering. The larger message of Passover was postponed for the distant future. That future may have arrived. Reality today is different, in Israel and to a large degree in many parts of America, from that which our forefathers knew. We are no longer the other that we used to be, and there are other peoples, cultures, and ethnic groups that have taken our place. In Israel we are the dominant culture and in America we are part of the mainstream. These are the conditions of life that the Torah envisioned, and not the circumstances under which our forbearers have lived for the past 2000 years. As such, it is time for our Haggadahs and our celebration of Passover, as well as our Jewish consciousness and our behavior, to reflect that change and to go back to basics.

Let the Seder be our forum to proclaim and inculcate an ethic of empathy for the other emanating from two intertwined experiences: 1. Never again! Never again shall any people suffer what we suffered in Egypt. And 2. we take it upon ourselves to continually struggle to redeem the other, just as God redeemed us.

(Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger lives in Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion, and serves as the director of international relations for Roots/ Judar/Shorashim, the Israeli-Palestinian Local Initiative for Understanding, Nonviolence, and Transformation. He also frequently travels to Dallas, where he serves as the executive director of the Jewish Studies Initiative. His website is www.ravhanan.org.)

This piece appeared originally on Rabbis Without Borders, a dynamic forum for exploring contemporary issues in the Jewish world and beyond. Written by rab­ bis of different denominations, viewpoints and parts of the country, Rabbis Without Borders is a project of Clal-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Lead­ ership.

March is Nutrition Month

(Continued from page 29)

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Open House

Thursday March 15
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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Nine Things You (Maybe) Didn’t Know about Passover

By MJL Staff
(My Jewish Learning via JTA)
—Here are nine things that many likely wouldn’t know about the Festival of Freedom:

1. In Gibraltar, there’s dust in the charoset.
   The traditional charoset is a sweet Passover paste whose texture is meant as a reminder of the mortar the enslaved Jews used to build in ancient Egypt. The name itself is related to the Hebrew word for clay. In Ashkenazi tradition, it is traditionally made from crushed nuts, apples, and sweet red wine, while Sephardic Jews use figs or dates. But the tiny Jewish community of this small British territory at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula takes the brick symbolism to another level, using the dust of actual bricks in their recipe.

2. Abraham Lincoln died during Passover.
   The 16th American president was shot at Ford’s Theatre on a Friday, April 14, 1865, which coincided with the fourth night of Passover. The next morning, Jews who wouldn’t normally have attended services on the holiday were so affected by the president’s death that Congregation Shearith Israel in New York recited the prayer for the dead — usually said only for Jews — on Lincoln’s behalf.

3. Arizona is a hub for matzah wheat.
   Hasidic Jews from Brooklyn have been increasingly sourcing wheat for their Passover matzah from farmers in Arizona. Excessive moisture in wheat kernels can result in fermentation, rendering the harvest unsuitable for Passover use. But rain is scarce in Arizona, which allows for a stricter standard of matzah production. Rabbis from New York travel to Arizona in the days leading up to the harvest, where they inspect the grains meticulously to ensure they are cut at the precise moisture levels.

4. At the Seder, Persian Jews whip each other with green onions.
   From Iran and Afghanistan have pressed Israelites. Some Jews eschew other herbs.) is a mixture of lemon peel, sugar, and boiled water. Persian Jews also press green onions before the singing of “Dayenu.”

5. Karaite Jews skip the wine.
   Karaite Jews reject rabbinic Judaism, observing only laws detailed in the Torah. That’s why they don’t drink the traditional four cups of wine at the Seder. Wine is fermented, and fermented foods are prohibited on Passover, so instead they drink fruit juice. (Mainstream Jews hold that only fermented grains are prohibited.) The Karaites also eschew other staples of the traditional Seder, including the Seder plate and charoset. Their maror (bitter herbs) is a mixture of lemon peel, bitter lettuce, and an assortment of other herbs.

6. Israeli Jews have only one Seder.
   Israeli Jews observe only one Passover Seder, unlike everywhere else where traditionally two Seders are held, one on each of the first two nights of the holiday. Known as “yom teru sheni shel galuyot” — literally “the second festival day of the Diaspora” — the practice was begun 2,000 years ago when Jews who wouldn’t normally have at­ tended Passover Seders are held, one on each of the first two nights of the holiday. Known as “yom teru sheni shel galuyot” — literally “the second festival day of the Diaspora” — the practice was begun 2,000 years ago when Jews were informed of the start of a new lunar month only after it had been confirmed by witnesses in Jerusalem. Because Jewish communities outside of Israel were often delayed in learning the news, they consequently couldn’t be sure precisely which day festivals were meant to be observed. As a result, the practice of observing two Seder days was instituted just to be sure.

7. You’re wrong about the orange on the seder plate.
   Some progressive Jews have adopted the practice of including an orange on the Seder plate as a symbol of inclusion of gays, lesbians, and other groups marginalized in the Jewish community. The story goes that the practice was instituted by the feminist scholar Susannah Heschel after she was told that a woman belonged on the synagogue bimah, or prayer podium, like an orange belongs on a Seder plate. But according to Heschel, that story is false. In that apocryphal version, she said, “a woman’s words are attributed to a man, and the affirmation of lesbians and gay men is erased. Isn’t that precisely what’s happened over the centuries to women’s ideas?”

8. “Afikomen” isn’t Hebrew.
   For many Seder participants, the highlight of the meal is the afikomen, a broken piece of matzah that the Seder leader hides and the children search for; the person who finds the afikomen usually gets a small reward. Most scholars believe the word “afikomen” derives from the Greek word for dessert. Others say it refers to a kind of post-meal revelry common among the Greeks. Either theory would explain why the afikomen is traditionally the last thing eaten at the Seder.

   Most people are eager for a break from holiday meals when the eight-day Passover holiday concludes. But for the Jews of North Africa, the holiday’s end is the perfect time for another feast. Mimouna is marked by a large spread of foods and the opening of homes to guests. The celebration is often laden with symbolism, including fish for fertility and golden rings for wealth.

Israel in New York recited the prayer for the dead — usually said only for Jews — on Lincoln’s behalf.

Photo courtesy of myjewishlearning.com

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