Fourth Annual Global Day of Jewish Learning Set for Sunday, November 11

Charlotte’s fourth Global Day of Jewish Learning will continue this year on Sunday, November 11. Organized by the Aleph Society and Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, the Global Day of Jewish Learning is an annual event where Jewish communities across the globe study a shared theme from a variety of perspectives rooted in Jewish texts. This year’s theme is: Extraordinary Passages – Texts and Travels.

This year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning will feature two Israeli authors who will share their journeys with our community.

Aryeh Green, author of *My Israel Trail: Finding Peace in the Promised Land* will talk about his fascinating journey walking the land of Israel, his love for the land and the people, and his spiritual transformation after this 42-day hike. In his book, *God Is in the Crowd*, financier and former Israeli combat pilot Tal Keinan reflects on a lifetime of varied experiences with his Jewish identity, providing a heartfelt, well-reasoned reflection on the Jewish people.

Participants will also have the option to choose from a variety of workshops on extraordinary passages with local rabbis. Families with young children could embark on their own journey with PJ Library’s “Dinosaur’s Journey to Israel.”

This year’s Global Day of Jewish Learning is spearheaded by the Center for Jewish Education. This program is supported by a Jewish Federation’s Impact and Innovation Grant and is in collaboration with multiple local Jewish Synagogues and organizations. For more information and registration visit: www.jewishcharlotte.org/gdjl.

Kristallnacht: 80th Anniversary Commemoration

November 7, 7 PM at Temple Israel

Eighty years ago, overnight November 9/10, 1938, Hitler’s war against the Jewish People began. That night, Nazi brown-shirted storm troopers, supported by local citizens rioted through the city streets of Germany and Austria. Their rampage damaged or destroyed Jewish homes, schools, businesses and synagogues. The broken glass strewn across Germany and Austria provided the appellation that has remained connected to that date – Kristallnacht - Night of Broken Glass. The destruction on that November night included 7,500 Jewish homes and businesses, 267 synagogues, 100 Jews had been murdered, and 30,000 men arrested and sent to concentration camps previously used for criminals who had broken the law.

The night of violence and destruction marked the beginning of the Holocaust, Hitler’s plan to systematically eliminate the Jewish people. Suly Chenkin, survivor, educator, and member of Temple Israel, explains: “When the glass broke, shards blew everywhere and blinded people ….” She adds: “Our role is to bring the shards together again, l’taken et ha’olam, to repair the world and make it whole again.”

Every five years, we gather to remember the fear and terror that afflicted the Jewish people until the end of the Nazis’ rule over Europe and Germany. The hatred which condemned our people under the Hitler regime still echoes throughout our world and in the streets of our United States of America. The White Supremacists’ march on Charlottesville, VA, the recent desecration of App State’s Sukkah, the anti-semitic graffiti in the university’s tunnel, and the desecration of the JCC in Virginia prove that the hatred behind Kristallnacht still exists to threaten us and others who are the targets of blind, baseless hatred.

The Kristallnacht Commemoration Committee and Temple Israel wish to thank Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte, the Butterfly Project, and the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social justice for their collaboration and partnership.

Public Menorah Lightings for Chanukah

SouthPark Mall – December 2 at 6 PM. See page 22.

StoneCrest – December 3 at 5:30 PM. See page 19.

Downtown Waxhaw – December 4 at 5:30 PM. See page 19.
Dear Readers,

It seems like our Jewish community in the Charlotte area continues to grow with more Jewish organizations and more people moving here daily. As The Charlotte Jewish News expands to include all the new agencies and increases print production to include new subscribers, cost increases inevitably follow.

To offset some costs, we’ve enlarged our online presence. Every edition can be accessed at our website, charlottejewishnews.org or issuu.com. Upcoming events are announced on our Facebook page (please follow us on Facebook!). But our core remains the readers of the hard copy, mailed monthly (except July) to any local Jewish person who wants it.

There are many ways you can help The Charlotte Jewish News meet its needs. Our primary source of revenue is advertising. Please patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw their ad in The Charlotte Jewish News. Recommend advertising to your favorite retail and service establishments.

Please also consider supporting us with a donation. Use the form below and return it to us in the return envelope conveniently included in this month’s edition.

Please remember that there are agencies that would not be able to get their message to you without The Charlotte Jewish News. Anything you do to help is greatly appreciated by all.

Todah Rabah!

Shabbat Candle Lighting for November 2018

Friday, November 2, 6:10 PM
Friday, November 9, 5:03 PM
Friday, November 16, 4:59 PM
Friday, November 23, 4:55 PM
Friday, November 30, 4:53 PM

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made June 30, 2018 through October 8, 2018.

In memory of Bruce Feigeles
By: Lauren, Jeremy, and Emma Sussman

In memory of Alfred Lepow
By: Jerry and Carole Sternstein

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

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I would like to make a contribution to demonstrate my support of The Charlotte Jewish News.

Name: ___________________________Phone: ___________________________
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$25.00 Friend
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$125.00 Other

Correction to Donor Listing. We apologize for the errors or omissions in the October CJN

Men
Theodore Herzl Society $5,000 - $9,999
Sandler, Bernie

Additional Donors to the Jewish Federation 2018 Annual Campaign as of October 8, 2018

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Shomrim (Guardians) $100 - $364
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Chaverim (Friends) $1 - $99
Shporer, Alexander

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Zulman, Rosemary $10,000
Lion of Judah $5,000 - $9,999
Goodman, Barbara
Pearl Society $80 - $1,799
Sandler, Carol

Family
King David Society $25,000 - $99,999
Zulman Family $25,000
Menachem Begin Society $1,000 - $1,799
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Bonim (Builders) $365 - $999
Reider, Scott and Ordan-Reider, Matti
Shomrim (Guardians) $100 - $364
Carney, Bill and Rochelle

JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

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

Phone
(voice mail after office hours)
Office 704-944-6765
email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

An Affiliate of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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Published monthly except July
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Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE
Jewish Federation 2019 Campaign Chair Looks Ahead to an Exciting New Year

Risa Miller, 2019 Annual Campaign Chair, talks about her background, her involvement in the Charlotte Jewish community and her hopes for the upcoming year.

CJN: What brought you to Charlotte originally?
RISA MILLER: I had lived in the Northeast until the age of 30. At that time, I was ready to make a change. My husband David had an opportunity here; he’s from North Carolina originally and we had family in Charlotte.

CJN: How did you get involved in the Jewish community and the Federation?
RS: Stacy and Todd Gorelick introduced us to Charlotte’s Jewish community. They were already involved in Federation. Todd’s parents (Bill and Patty, z”l) had been very active and Stacy and Todd followed their example. David had also grown up in a household where Federation was an important part of their philanthropic giving. I originally got involved as a leader of Shalom Y’all, an initiative to welcome new arrivals to Charlotte by delivering baskets to their homes. We’d also give them tips on Jewish life in Charlotte and living in Charlotte generally. That’s how I first connected with the Jewish community socially and philanthropically.

CJN: Why are you talking on this role in the campaign?
RS: I don’t know! [Laughs.] I feel that this is a great time to be involved with Federation. With our new Chief Development Officer Jason Pressberg, there is new energy around our campaign and the community growing in similar ways to how it did 15 years ago. Strategically, we’re finding ways to utilize and thank our generous and aging donors while bringing in new talent. We’re succeeding in reaching millennials and getting younger people involved in our campaign. We need to do better at asking our older generations to pass along their wisdom on how to keep the Jewish community alive and thriving.

CJN: What are you looking forward to in this year’s campaign?
RS: Growth, primarily. I think a $4 million goal was an obvious one for 2018 after we raised $3.88 million in 2017. We have built momentum around making changes and continuing to grow our campaign to benefit every corner of Jewish Charlotte and allow our programs and partner agencies to continue to achieve even more. I’m excited to work with Federation’s new hires and many of the new and veteran volunteers with our campaign, without whom we could not achieve any of our goals.

2019 Campaign Leadership Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risa Miller</td>
<td>Campaign Chair</td>
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<td>Stacy Gorelick</td>
<td>Major Gifts Chair</td>
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<td>Alison Lerner</td>
<td>Board of Trustees Chair</td>
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<td>Dale Polsky</td>
<td>Women's Philanthropy Chair</td>
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<td>Meredith Baumstein and Sara Kulbersh</td>
<td>Lion of Judah Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>Melanie Rouso Brown and Debra Van Glish</td>
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<td>Staci Mond and Elizabeth Ren</td>
<td>Pearl Society Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>Marisa Zeibert, Jill Halverstam, Lisa Strause Levinson and Debbie Porter</td>
<td>Women's Philanthropy At-Large Committee</td>
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<td>George Cronson and Zach Gerger</td>
<td>ASK Team Captain</td>
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<td>Gail Baron and Eliza Carney</td>
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<td>Lisa Strause Levinson</td>
<td>THANK Team Captain</td>
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<td>Lisa Blu and Jason Tanenbaum</td>
<td>Super Sunday Co-Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Newman</td>
<td>Create your Jewish Legacy Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angie, Emily, Sam, and Bill Zimmern</td>
<td>Main Event Co-Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Turk</td>
<td>Immediate Past Chair</td>
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Gustav Klimt, and her beloved "Lady in Gold" in the paintings by Bloch-Bauer (better known as the len Beauty tells the story of Adele by Mark Sarvas.

Stolen Beauty is an important theme of both Stolen Beauty by Laurie Lico Albanese and Memento Park by Mark Sarvas. Stolen Beauty tells the story of Adele Bloch-Bauer (better known as the "Lady in Gold" in the paintings by Gustav Klimt), and her beloved niece Maria Altmann. At first this glamorous, delicious novel which tells the story of Adele, is set in Vienna in the early 1900s; but continues in the voice of Maria during dark pre- and post-World War II. Those familiar with the movie Woman in Gold starring Helen Mirren will appreciate the rich history behind the famous painting, which was the center of a Supreme Court battle to return the painting to its rightful owners. Memento Park, a contemporary novel set in the United States, delves into the unsettling relationship between Matt Santos, a Hollywood actor, and his father, a Holocaust survivor living in New York. When Matt receives a call from the Australian consulate about a painting allegedly looted by Nazis from his father’s family in 1944 Budapest, he is turned upside down. The discovery sends Matt on a journey of exploration of his previous unknown family history, the meaning of art, Judaism, and his relationships with the women in his life. What intrigues and inflames Matt is the burning question "Why does his opportunist father want nothing to do with the return of this very valuable painting?" Memento Park, a well-written novel, is best appreciated for the psychological study of the complicated father and son relationship.

The search for rightful ownership of art stolen by the Nazis continues today. The painting “Deux Femmes Dans Un Jardin” painted in 1919 by Renoir was stolen by the Nazis in 1941 from the bank vault of Alfred Weingberger, a prominent art collector in pre-war Paris. On Wednesday, September 12, 2018, it was returned to Weinberger’s last remaining heir, his granddaughter Sylvie Sultizer, at a ceremony at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

CJE Book Club News: Stolen Beauty was the October selection for the CJE Book Club which meets the third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 AM – 12 noon. Please note; however, that the book club will meet on the second Wednesday of November when we will discuss Faithful by Alice Hoffman. The Book of Separation by Tova Mirvis is the selection for our meeting on December 19. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.
By Melanie Resnick, VP of Development, CJP Board of Directors

As my family starts our final year at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, we cannot help but continue to feel grateful that we are part of this wonderful kehillah, community. Four years ago, I walked in the door holding my reserved, quiet, little girl’s hand, excited, but not fully realizing how special CJP and this community would become to my family.

She excelled in kindergarten, showing the many values that CJP instilled through her education. Now, as our twin girls start their final year in the fours, I know first-hand that they will leave this year with a strong foundation of a Jewish identity and ready to enter kindergarten as engaged, curious, confident, and eager learners.

As an educator, I find this extremely important. Our kids received an exceptional and well-rounded education that far exceeds the tuition that families pay.

The children have access to an outdoor learning garden and special science curriculum, open-ended learning manipulatives, and a beautiful playground with various ways to explore and learn. They have teachers who have opportunities to continue to learn through attending NAEYC and Paradigm conferences, and then come back to share their learning with all staff. Without our Annual Fund dollars and the Greater Charlotte Jewish Federation, none of this would be possible. Annual Fund is a way for us, as a community, to demonstrate our support for our preschool and community. As a member of our kehillah, we ask that you continue to support CJP as they continue to provide a top-notch Jewish education to the youngest in our community. We ask that you make a donation that is meaningful to you, as we set an example for our children and community in the spirit of Jewish generosity and giving.

Last year we raised over $40,000. This year, I am confident we can continue to show our support for our children’s exceptional education and our community.

Order Your 2019 Mah Jongg Card Now Through Hadassah and Help Your Friends Do It, Too

Hadassah is once again making it so easy to order your 2019 mah jongg card. Few steps are required:

1. Include your email with your other personal information (name/address/phone number on a separate piece of paper, please) and you’ll receive an email confirmation of your order by February 1, 2019, direct from the National Mah Jongg League.

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

3. Want to do something easy to benefit Hadassah? Be a table captain. Collect all the checks and personal info from your games. It’s still one envelope, one stamp, but you can insure that every player you know buys their card through Hadassah.

4. You can order your card now. No need to wait for the Mah Jong League paperwork.

Remember: Make your check out to Hadassah and include name, address, telephone number, email address, card size, and number of cards on a separate piece of paper. Regular Print Card: $8; Large Print Card: $9.

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

6. Orders must be received by January 15, 2019.

Thank You for Supporting CJP Through Its Annual Fund

By Melanie Resnick, VP of Development, CJP Board of Directors

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(Continued on page 8)
Sukkot Brunch at Jewish Preschool on Sardis

Sukkot Brunch and Family Fun Day, hosted by the JPS PTO was a special morning filled with activities and fun for all. Families joined together for brunch in the Sukkah and had the opportunity to shake the lulav and etrog. Afterwards we jumped in the bounce house, got our faces painted, did arts and crafts, and enjoyed more nosh. What better way to spend a Sunday morning than joining together with school families to enjoy each other’s company and participate in the special mitzvot of Sukkot? We’d like to thank our PTO Presidents, Sara Kulbersh and Kendall Covitz Nicholson for planning this event and making it possible.

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CJDS SETS THE STANDARD FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BASED ON JEWISH BELIEFS
Jewish Day School Is Good for Your Health

By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDS

The data is in. Attending a Jewish Day School can be good for your health.

A new study from Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health finds that kids and teens who are raised with religious or spiritual practices tend to have better health and mental health as they age. Interestingly, it wasn’t just about how much a person went to services; it was at least as much about how much they prayed or meditated in their own time. Those who prayed or meditated every day had more life satisfaction, were better able to process emotions, and were more forgiving compared to those who never prayed/meditated (Forbes 9/17/18).

At CJDS, we don’t have to look too far for religious and spiritual opportunities to provide our children. Judaism and spirituality are infused in each student’s day-in-the-classrooms, the hallways and even the cafeteria. They learn that being Jewish is who they are. They experience it practically and mindfully and are proud of it.

The results of the study come as no surprise to me. I have seen and experienced the most beautiful expressions of joy when they appreciate the incredible gift of Judaism. I won’t deny that I sometimes see the opposite when it gets on their nerves, when they claim they don’t believe and it’s boring and they would rather do anything else. But, that’s children. Our job as adults is to steer and guide them towards experiences that will benefit them now and in the future.

A parent told me a story about her son at camp where ten 11-year-old boys crowded around their counselor to play “Agree and Disagree.” The counselor would make a statement and the players who disagreed stepped forward. The counselor said, “I believe in God.” Two campers at this Jewish overnight camp stepped forward. Her son was upset and related the experience to his parents. “I feel so bad that they don’t believe in God,” the boy said. “How can that be? They are missing out on so much and they don’t have God to turn to. I tried to help them understand what God means to me. Thank you, for sending me to a Jewish school.”

This is what CJDS tries to accomplish. We want our graduates to understand that being Jewish is more than a birthright or a heritage, it is who they are.

In a recent story, a graduate came running out of his 6th grade orientation and said, “I got assigned locker #613!” His mom didn’t understand his excitement until he added “I don’t need to write it down because I would never forget that there are 613 mitzvot in the Torah.”

While it may seem small and somewhat trivial, it expresses a knowing of his Judaism in a real, internalized, connected way. CJDS students interpret the world around them as Jews, and this guides them in their decision-making, their priorities, and in sustaining Jewish life in their communities.

The internalization of each students’ Jewish identity is the reason I come to work everyday. Hearing our students’ thoughts, conclusions, successes, and the impact the school has on them is the most uplifting experience and one of the reasons, I think, I was put on this Earth.

The early years are a defining time for a child, they provide the foundational values for decisions that are made and goals that are reached. How fortunate are we that a Jewish Day School education has the fringe benefit of improved health.

Waltonwood wishes you an abundance of joy and good health this holiday season.

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Eric Lerner, President
The JFS Dreidel Drive Brings Bright Light to Eight Festive Nights

Can you believe it’s November? It is hard to believe that Chanukah is less than a month away, and that we need to start preparing for an early holiday. How can it be that this year Chanukah is just the weekend after Thanksgiving? Time to start picking up those eight presents for the kids, pull out the menorah and make sure you have candies.

While considered a minor holiday in Judaism, Chanukah has become one of our most celebrated family holidays. Filled with family traditions, it has become a time for family get-togethers, celebrations, gift giving, good food, and the famous chocolate “gelt.” The traditional lighting of the menorah has come to represent hope for the future, and a time of “miracles.”

But for many in our community, just as with other family celebrations, Chanukah is a time of stress and anxiety. For some families, especially those who have more than one child, who can’t afford one gift, let alone eight gifts for several children, it becomes a very difficult time of year. Even for some of our seniors who hold fond memories from their younger years, Chanukah has become a difficult time of year. Being away from their family members, having lost spouses or no longer able to provide gifts to grandchildren this time of year brings angst instead of joy. And if they are alone, lighting the Menorah can be sad and depressing.

At JFS we are committed to making every effort to ensure members of our community have the opportunity to experience the festive nature of Chanukah. With your support, our Pantry provides holiday treats, over annual Chanukah luncheon provides a festive celebration to 120 seniors in our community who otherwise would go without 120 and special menorah lightings take place throughout many of our community’s senior facilities. Probably most significant is our Jewish Family Services annual Dreidel Drive. The Dreidel Drive mobilizes our community to purchase gifts and ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity for a celebratory holiday. Parents already struggling to make ends meet will not have to experience the stress of Chanukah gift giving, seniors without family are heartened that they have not been forgotten and those who don’t have a menorah one are provided with one along with candles. For those who benefit from the Dreidel Drive, Chanukah is no longer a holiday filled with stress or loneliness but one of joy and celebration.

Last year your contributions to the Dreidel Drive supplied us with over 200 gifts to distribute to our community. Here’s how it works:

Life size menorahs are located at Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, and there is a menorah on the wall in the JCC. These Menorah’s host dreidels or stars, with the names and ages of members in our community who are in need of presents. To participate, all you have to do is:
1. Select 1, 2, or 3 dreidels or stars
2. Purchase the item(s) listed

We handle the rest. This year through a collaboration with Hebrew High School we’ve got the tape, wrapping paper, and ribbon covered, too. The JFS Dreidel Drive is just one more example of the wonderful generosity of our community. It’s Tzedakah at its finest. Pick a dreidel, purchase the item and give the gift of Jewish holiday memories to others.

For more information about the Dreidel Drive or if you know of someone in need contact Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

Donations to Jewish Family Services in September 2018

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Connie Ostraw from Elise Menaker, Gloria Goldberg

IN MEMORY OF

Arlene Karp to Bill Burton and family, Edward Karp, Mike Karp and family, Steven Karp and family from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Paul Musler
Joel Soren to Gennifer Friedman and family from David and Debbie Block
Alfred Lepow to Steve and Linda Lepow from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Steven and Susan Meyer, Gary Silverstein
Roger Ackerman to Steven and Polly Menaker from Paula S. Musler

IN HONOR OF

Lori Jackowitz’s new endeavors from Steven and Susan Meyer
Leo Benjamin to Michael and Heidi Rotberg from Alan and Madeline Aron

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Tammy Seigel from Steven and Susan Meyer

MAZEL TOV ON

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Food Pantry Donations: Marvin Barman, Dan Coblenz, Meg Goldstein and Matt Luftglass Robby McGinley, Marcel Osman, Dave Solganik, Hebrew High, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants, Shalom Park Community Garden

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Youth Visions
Local Jewish Teen Sells School Supplies to Fight Gun Violence

Jules Oringel is a junior at Providence High School who has made it her mission to end gun violence in America after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This summer, she founded Return Home Supplies, a school supply brand that donates the majority of its profits to organizations such as March For Our Lives and Everytown For Gun Safety who are leading the fight for a safer America and for common sense gun legislation. The brand’s mission is to ensure every student and teacher “return home” from school each day.

Many of Oringel’s closest friends from URJ Camp Coleman were inside the school building during the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting in Parkland, FL. During the massacre she and her camp friends were texting back and forth with concerns, words of encouragement, updates, and loving messages. The next morning, she learned that not all members of the Camp Coleman community had survived. Alyssa Alhadeff, a fellow camper, had been shot and killed in her English class along with 16 other innocent victims.

Following this tragedy, Oringel struggled to overcome the trauma and anxiety she felt as a result of the massacre. Over time, she began to take action in hopes of making positive change. Oringel planned and led the walkout at Providence High School, marched on Washington, and continues to stay involved in the upcoming midterm elections by registering voters and working on political campaigns. But it still wasn’t enough for this local teen.

Over the summer, Oringel decided to start her own social enterprise, Return Home Supplies. The company currently sells water bottles, pencil pouches, folders, and stickers with various messages that spark conversations surrounding gun violence prevention. The brand is planning to launch an additional product line in the coming months.

Return Home Supplies sells online and at a number of events, both locally and nationally. The organization has partnered with March For Our Lives at various rallies to speak out, sell their school supplies, and connect with the leaders of the movement. Student leaders from across the country have been inspired by Return Home Supplies’ mission and are using their school products, including the student founders of March For Our Lives in Parkland. Oringel says her organization is planning to attend many more events in North Carolina and beyond.

Please consider following Return Home Supplies on social media – Instagram and Facebook are @returnhomesupplies. Twitter is @RHS_org. To learn more about the many ways you can support Return Home Supplies and its mission, visit www.returnhomesupplies.com and help Oringel ensure that every teacher and student is able to RETURN HOME.

These Return Home Supplies are available at www.returnhomesupplies.com.

Jules Oringel, 3rd from left, and her friends sell Return Home Supplies to support gun control initiatives.

Jules, right, with fellow BBGer selling Return Home Supplies.

Our Lives and Everytown For Gun Safety who are leading the...
What Is Happening on a Wednesday Night at Hebrew High?

Have you ever wondered what exactly happens on any given Wednesday at Hebrew High? Below is a sampling of some of the amazing electives that our 8th – 10th graders get to choose. The first trimester (September – November) theme is “Through a Jewish Lens”.

Shiru Ladonai Shir Chadash: Sing Unto God a New Song

In this elective, students explore music through a Jewish lens. Each class will have a different focus including music in prayer (and how that can be controversial), discussions of music in our texts, music that has come from our texts, Jewish music and its pop culture importance, and secular Jewish musicians. This class is a great choice if you are an aspiring song leader, love music, or are curious about how music plays into some of our shared history.

Madrichim Workshop: Becoming a Jewish Classroom Leader

The Madrichim Workshop introduces first-year madrichim to classroom management, lesson planning, age appropriate activities, learning styles, and most importantly: how to be a good role model using a Jewish lens. The Madrichim Workshop introduces first-year madrichim to classroom management, lesson planning, age appropriate activities, learning styles, and most importantly: how to be a good role model using a Jewish lens.

The Torah Mad Science Project that is always fun and educational.

A “make your own lesson plan” elective that introduces students to exploring the evolution of such characters through the centuries from our Jewish ancestors. We will learn the basics of Kashrut while learning how to make traditional Ashkenazi Jewish foods such as challah, babka, bagels, mandelbrot, rugelach, blintzes, apple cake and more. This class is sure to be an eye opener as well as a tummy pleaser.

LOL: The Culture of Jewish Humor

What do Jon Stewart, the Three Stooges, Joan Rivers, and Jerry Seinfeld have in common? They are all Jewish comedians. Jewish humor has a flavor all its own and is deeply rooted in Jewish culture. In LOL, we will explore what it is that makes Jewish humor funny, where it comes from, and how it developed from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to making all Americans laugh today.

Mural of Dots

Pointillism, or dotted art, is a technique used where small dots of color are used to create an image. Each student will create their own piece of dotted art using different sizes and various tools to dot their way through their individual creation. We will be reproducing an original piece of art by Wassily Kandinsky known for his abstract art which the Nazi’s confiscated during the war. The finished project will unveil a mural created from each student’s artwork, bringing together each student’s unique perspective into one piece of art.

Science and Torah

From Ancient through Medieval to Modern Times, Jews have been on the forefront of Science; questioning, analyzing, and discovering the physical laws that shape the fabric of our world. From the brilliant to the bizarre, we will use discussion, hands on activities, and experiments to explore the evolution of such scientific fields as medicine and psychology.

My Jewish Home (Land)

From your bedroom wall to the Queen City. We live in Charlotte, we worship in Charlotte. But do we know all there is to know about Judaism in the Queen City? This class will explore the Queen City’s Jewish history and how it evolved into our Jewish present. We will explore all of the city’s synagogues, the Hebrew Cemetery, and the hidden Jewish treasures of our fine city.

Cooking Through a Jewish Lens

Come and learn how to make traditional Jewish recipes that have been passed on L’Dor V’Dor throughout the centuries from our Jewish ancestors. We will learn the basics of Kashrut while learning how to make traditional Ashkenazi Jewish foods such as challah, babka, bagels, mandelbrot, rugelach, blintzes, apple cake and more. This class is sure to be an eye opener as well as a tummy pleaser.

Peace has no borders.

- Yitzchak Rabin in a 1995 interview while visiting New York City.
Cemetery President’s Annual Message

By Mike Littauer, president, Hebrew Cemetery Association

In 2018 has been a busy and productive year for the Hebrew Cemetery Association. With your support we have been able to begin to position ourselves for the future by bringing our back office operations into the 21st century. We continually look for ways to make our Cemetery more efficient and to take advantage of the talent and passion of those I am proud to serve with on the Cemetery Board of Directors. To that end we reorganized our Board of Directors in to four working committees that are focused on four key areas of our Cemetery business, each with their own chair - Building and Grounds, Robert Valenstein; Finance and Technology, Barry Blau; Outreach and Events, Brian Yesowitch; and Executive Committee and Ritual, Mike Littauer. This has given us both the focus and productivity we needed to manage the Cemetery and stay productive 365 days a year.

In January, we contracted to move our manual systems to a cloud based system that will make our operations more efficient and provide our community with an electronic interface that will access to plot locations, family histories, community history, personal accounts, and other essential information. On the business side it will give us better control over many aspects of our grounds management, our membership lists, management reporting, and accounting.

We have been working closely with our partner CIMS since January and will begin moving to this system in the 4th quarter of this year. This is and continues to be a monumental effort and task and I want to take a moment to thank Barry Blau and our entire Finance and Technology committee for their extraordinary work on this project.

We have initiated a “redo” of the Hebrew Cemetery website so that we are in the process of finalizing our wish list and working with a new web design company to make our site user friendly, relevant, and a “go to” for current Cemetery information and events. Again, many thanks to our Finance and Technology committee for their hard work on this much needed project.

Since the completion of our memorial building many in our community have preferred to have their funeral service at the Cemetery. The Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel was designed to seat 30 people comfortably and have had situations where the congregation has exceeded the capacity of the room. In September, we completed the installation of a closed circuit TV and sound system in the adjoining Gorelick Gathering room so up to 125 congregants may be seated and participate in the service comfortably.

I want to take a moment to thank our Legacy Members. Your gift and commitment to our Cemetery is greatly appreciated and helps ensure we will be there for our community in perpetuity. I also want to thank our Board of Directors and volunteers whose dedication and passion inspire me every day. And thank you to Sandra Goldman, our Director, Robert Taylor our Groundskeeper, and Arlene Lott our Administrativa Assistant for their dedication and commitment to our Jewish Community 24/7, 365 days a year.

Mark Iwain once said that “the secret of getting ahead is getting started.” I think that sums up 2018 for our Cemetery team pretty well.

May the new year bring you, your families, and your friends good health, happiness, and peace.

The Ruach Keeps Spreading the Joy of Judaism

The Ruach, Charlotte’s only band playing modern Jewish music, continues its mission of spreading the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. After hosting The Rosh Hashanah Experience on September 10, The Ruach traveled to Raleigh on Friday, September 28 to provide Temple Beth Shalom with The Ruach Shabbat Experience. The congregation sang, clapped, and let the spirit of Shabbat into the heart of Raleigh had this to say about The Experience, “If Fleetwood Mac were to lead a Shabbat service, this is what it would be like...it was amazing and uplifting.” Her friend, Linda Green Bradley from Durham, chimed in, “It made my heart sing.”

Temple Beth Shalom’s Director of Religious School, Lynn Calman Buchanan, said that she loved waking up the moon about having had The Ruach here at our Temple tonight for Shabbat. Everyone was saying that they didn’t want The Experience to end. The energy of the evening was phenomenal. We will absolutely have The Ruach back soon.”

On October 21, The Ruach was the headliner at the Greensboro Jewish Festival at Temple Emanuel. The band played two half-hour sets, each set containing music from both their first CD – The Ruach: Real. Jewish. Rock. as well as from their untitled, upcoming CD. One of the new songs, “Adonai S’facta” (“Open Up My Mouth”) really got the crowd up and out of their seats. Here’s how Dan Ruda, The Ruach’s bassist and backup vocalist describes the song, “It takes the Hebrew words of the original liturgy, adds in some English translation and interpretation, and puts all of that music that is a cross between funk, rap, and classic rock. It really is a great groove with a lot of spirituality! If it doesn’t get you going, nothing will.”

Back again in Charlotte, on October 26 the band took The Ruach Shabbat Experience to a new venue: Heist Brewery in NoDa. Franklin Kahnitz, the band’s regular violin player was unavailable to play for The Experience so the band invited professional fiddler, Tom Eure, to sit in. His bluegrass style added an country flavor to The Ruach’s music. Tom plays guitar, as well, and during the time of personal reflection played the very moving song “How Did We Use Our Time,” from his album, With Grateful Heart.

In addition to playing for The Ruach Shabbat Experience itself, the band has a goal of bringing other Jewish artists to Charlotte a few times a year. Said Peter Levinson, lead guitarist and spokesperson for The Ruach, “There is a lot of new Jewish music out there and we want people here in Charlotte to have an opportunity to experience it.”

With this in mind, on November 9, The Ruach will be hosting Joe Buchanan at The Rabbit Hole in Plaza Midwood in what will be an unforgettable evening.

Joe is one of the biggest names in the modern Jewish music today and calls his music, “Jewish Americana.” He is a Jew by choice and weaves the story of his spiritual journey through music. He will be leading a Shabbat Experience that he designed and with music he wrote. Through his music he will share his very moving and compelling story.

Admission to The Shabbat Experience featuring Joe Buchanan is free but due to the size of The Rabbit Hole only 150 tickets will be available.

To keep up with The Ruach, like them on Facebook @theruach.band, and follow the band on Instagram and on Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.

And, if you’d like to get on their email distribution list, send an email to the.ruach.band@gmail.com.

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

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte
100 South Tryon Street, 43rd Floor, Charlotte, NC 28202

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Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills

Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills

Travel experience in Israel

Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills
The Jewish Community Refugee Initiative (JCRI) held its Welcoming the Stranger to the Table kick-off dinner for National Refugee Shabbat 2018 on October 7 at Temple Israel. The dinner, made possible by an Impact and Innovation grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, was sold out with nearly 140 people in attendance.

Temple Israel’s sukkah had been disassembled the morning of October 7. Yet that evening, Rabbi Murray Ezing, standing in front of a packed Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall, used his invocation to explain to the audience of refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia about the agency by which they came to America. The audience was made up of members of the Jewish community, that Sukkot is a joyous holiday when the temporary fragile dwellings, we remember that we are the children and descendants of refugees, and that makes us love each other and all people and be aware of our sacred obligations towards the stranger.

Before the serving of a Middle-Eastern dinner, Amy Lefko, Co-Chair of JCRI, introduced two refugee couples: a Jewish couple from the former Soviet Union who were resettled in the United States in 1991 by HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), and a young Kurdish couple from Northern Iraq, resettled in 2014 in Charlotte by HIAS’s local affiliate Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency. The audience was told HIAS asks us to join them in helping refugees who are the world’s gets, not because the refugees are Jewish, but because we are. To help those refugees and for the sake of promise and possibility. “That stranger becomes your neighbor but they’ve clearly never heard your time or our money. We believe in these people and we are donating.

When hurricane Florence hit the coast of North Carolina, many people were left without resources. In order to get kosher food to the Jewish community, Bentzion Groner enlisted the help of a helicopter pilot he knew and had food delivered to the Chabad. Here he is seen packing some of the boxes before the flight took off. Photo courtesy Rabbi Yossi Groner.

Moishe House: WE ARE 2018!

By Rachel Southmayd, Moishe House Communications Manager

There are a lot of people out there who like to talk about what millenials won’t do. We don’t participate in organized Jewish life, we don’t take on leadership roles, we won’t give, we won’t give. But this weekend, the residents of Moishe House, especially Moishe House’s annual WE ARE campaign.

More than 300 days of the year, Moishe House residents and Moishe House Without Walls (MHWOW) hosts think of all the time and money that Moishe House has invested in them over the course of the year and make a meaningful gift to the organization. We ask them to support their own houses and MHWOW and show that they believe in the mission and vision of Moishe House – Jewish young adults taking charge and leading the way in developing incredible, unique communities – just as much as any other donor.

WE ARE matters not because of the dollars raised, although we have a goal of $100,000 in 2018, but because of the number of people who come together to make it happen. We have more than 1,900 donations last year, from far-flung places all over the world. The vast majority of them are 20-somethings, or their friends and family members. The people who run and attend Moishe House programs are the same people who are donating.

We believe in these people every year during WE ARE, we showed that they believe in us, and we couldn’t be more grateful.

The 2018 WE ARE campaign launched on October 3. Be part of Moishe House’s largest single fundraising campaign yet by visiting www.moishehouse.org/weare.

When hurricane Florence hit the coast of North Carolina, many people were left without resources. In order to get kosher food to the Jewish community, Bentzion Groner enlisted the help of a helicopter pilot he knew and had food delivered to the Chabad. Here he is seen packing some of the boxes before the flight took off. Photo courtesy Rabbi Yossi Groner.
Security Is Everyone’s Job

There are over 1,100 different events on Shalom Park each year. Foundation of Shalom Park security officers and Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) officers are the first responders on Shalom Park. At least one officer is at every single event held at Shalom Park. Security is there when the fire alarm goes off, when EMS is called, when you drop or pick-up your children from school or camp, when motion alarms ring at 3 AM in the morning, when our seniors need a ride from their car to the Jewish Community Center, when we ask for help when our car does not start, and when Shalom Park employees receive active shooter training. They open Shalom Park gates before the sun rises and close them long after sun has set; 365 days a year.

Everyone wants more security and safety. They want their families safe at work, school, play, and Temple. The need to protect individuals and property has always existed, but has become more relevant and ever more expensive as the threat level in the country continues to climb.

Following a detailed analysis of our needs, in 2017 security officer presence was increased by 68%, and significant additional technology was added to our overall security presence. This investment, combined with a 10% increase in CMPD pay in 2018 has resulted in an 80% increase in our overall security costs over the past two years.

Ensuring we have the right amount of security and CMPD presence on Shalom Park is the responsibility of the Foundation of Shalom Park, which funds its budget primarily through the rent charged to the Levine JCC, Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, and all of the other Shalom Park tenants. The increasing levels of security we need to keep the park adequately protected have not been fully covered by increasing rents. We estimate that we must raise at least $160,000 in 2019 to maintain our current level of security.

As in prior years, to help defray the increased costs, in November the Foundation will be approaching the broader Charlotte Jewish community with a personal appeal on behalf of all of the park tenants. In 2017, this appeal raised $83,000, a significant increase from prior years. Unfortunately, even at this level we were forced to reach into our security reserve funds, which are now nearly gone. To avoid pushing the additional costs onto the Shalom Park tenants, whose budgets are already strained, we will again be asking you to contribute directly to our security budget.

Security at Shalom Park is essential to keeping our community safe and vibrant. All community stakeholders have an important role in ensuring the continued safety of Shalom Park. Security is everyone’s job. We are urgently asking for your support of a generous donation to the Shalom Park Security Fund. The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for the organizations located on the central campus of Shalom Park.

Support a Security Vehicle Lease
* Demonstrate your company’s security commitment to Shalom Park
* Sponsor a three-year lease for a security vehicle
* Contact Terri Beattie, 704-944-6840

How You Can Keep Shalom Park Safe – Donate to the Security Fund
* Automatic monthly donation (one year) -$83.33/month
* Contact: Karen Roode at 704-944-6841
* Email Karen: Kroode@shalomcharlotte.org
* Mail a check – Security Fund, Foundation of Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Rd., Suite 120, Charlotte, NC 28226
* Donate online – www.shalomcharlotte.org

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TK/Kindergarten
October 5, 2018
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Upper School
October 12, 2018
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Register at CharlotteLatin.org/admissions

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--Isaac Bashevis Singerin Israel Shenker, Coat of Many Colors

"Our donor advised fund is a convenient and flexible tool to assist us with our charitable giving. We have such confidence in the FCJC team that we moved our fund from a commercial provider."

-Stacey and Ira Slomka

Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia?

Join them at the JMemory Café!

Memory Café

Meets twice every month:
2nd & 4th Thursdays
10am–12pm
Weinberg Senior Center

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
To register, or for questions: Contact Jill Lipson,
Director of Senior and Adult Services: 704-944-6792

LIMITED SPACE! Registration is required and begins one week prior to each Café until capacity has been reached. Please be sure to make every effort to attend the JMemory Café once you register, as spots are limited and your absence after reservation prevents another family from attending. Thank you!

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

The purpose of JMemory Café is to:
• Provide opportunity for regular social engagement & discussion
• Create an environment that is relaxed, safe, and non-judgmental
• Inspire new friendships and peer support
• Provide a break from normal routines
• Enjoy music, art, and other programming

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

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

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

"Whenever I'm in trouble, I pray. And since I'm always in trouble, there is not a day when I don't pray. In many cases I get the answer even before I pray. The belief that man can do what he wants, without God, is as far as the North Pole. I don't think religion should be connected with dogma or revelation. Since He's a silent God, He talks in deeds, in events, and we have to learn this language. The belief in God is as necessary as [eating]. Whatever you call Him - nature or higher power - doesn't matter. The power that takes care of you, and the farthest star, all this is God.”

--Isaac Bashevis Singerin Israel Shenker, Coat of Many Colors"
November Happenings at Temple Kol Ami

Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC is blessed to have rabbinical leadership to help us explore our sacred texts, stimulate our intellect, officiate at life cycles, and educate our youth. Rabbi Ana Bonnheim has been a wonderful spiritual mentor at both our Friday night Shabbat services as well as with our TKA Religious School students on Sundays. Rabbi Bonnheim will next be with us on December 7 to lead us in a special Chanukah Shabbat.

Temple Kol Ami is also very lucky to have another amazing rabbi who has visited with us in the past, Rabbi Bruce Aft of Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield, VA. Rabbi Aft will return to Temple Kol Ami on November 2 for Kabbalat Shabbat service and will also lead us in Torah study on November 3. Rabbi Aft brings a passion for Jewish learning and is extremely engaging with all demographics. For more information about this special weekend, please check our website at www.templekolamisc.org.

Also in November, Temple Kol Ami looks forward to our 3rd Annual Friendsgiving Shabbat. This has become a wonderful tradition at TKA, a time to break bread together as a community and give thanks together for the many blessings we have, both in our secular and religious lives. After a short Shabbat service, we enjoy a delicious potluck meal that rivals any traditional family Thanksgiving dinner. Check our website for more information, and drop us an e-mail at yorksynagagogue@gmail.com if you would like to join us—we definitely have room for you at our table.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. Feel free to join us at a Shabbat service the first and third Fridays of each month in the beautiful sanctuary of Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill.

Rabbi Klirs Shares Gratitude

On November 18 from 2:30-4:30 PM, Havurat Tikvah will welcome Rabbi Tracy Klirs who will present a study session on Jewish Approaches to Gratitude at the Brenner home located at 3327 Mountainbrook Rd.

The program comes at a time of appreciation prior to the observance of Thanksgiving and will include ways that Jews display and express gratitude during their lifetime.

Rabbi Klirs served as associate rabbi at Temple Israel from 2016-2018 and as its education director from 2012-2016. She also was a part-time support staff person for the congregation, delivering pastoral care and leading drashot and yamim, Shabbat services, and life cycle events as needed.

Kosher snacks will be provided by attendees. All items should carry a hechsher in keeping with kashrut. The community is welcome to attend. Those who wish to join in the study session are required to RSVP to admin@havurattikvah.org with the number of individuals attending. Acknowledgement will be sent to respondents to confirm a seat at the event. Space is limited.

The congregation is in the planning stages of its Chanukah celebration slated for Dec. 9. See next month’s Charlotte Jewish News or check out Havurat Tikvah’s website for details.

Monthly minyan services continue on the third Wednesday of the month. Information on times and locations are on the congregational website’s calendar.

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

We value and depend upon membership participation and leadership for our religious services, spiritual growth, and governance. Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism. For more information on upcoming services, programs, membership or other queries, call 980-225-5330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220, email membership@havurattikvah.org or visit havurattikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havurattikvah.

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– Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Senator Joe Biden, in June 1982, who threatened to cut off US aid to Israel
Temple Solel Reflects on the High Holy Days

This year we held special Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur Day Services and break-the-fast at the magnificent ballroom of the Grove at Carolina Orchards. Below is an excerpt from the special Yom Kippur talk given by Temple Solel member, Wendy Weinberger, who shared a special experience and words of wisdom with us. We think you will enjoy it too.

“When Jimmy Carter left the Presidency in 1981, one of the many things he decided he would get back to was teaching a Bible Study class once a month at the Maranatha Baptist Church in his hometown of Plains, GA,” Wendy began. “Twenty-five years later, in the fall of 2006, we were living in Statesboro, GA, just a few hours away from Plains. I said to my husband, Roy, ‘Jimmy Carter is getting on years. He is already in his 80s and before he dies I’d like to attend one of his Bible Study classes.’

“It took one month for the FBI to check our applications. We received our tickets and packed for the weekend. The secret service men stood outside the church, with earpieces and a wire down the back of their jackets just like in the movies.

“About 50 of us entered the church and were greeted by daughter Amy’s former fourth grade teacher whose job it now was to organize the visitors, seat us, and tell us what the procedures would be. She definitely had her list of rules and you could hear the sternness in her voice which scared me even as an adult. It was hard for me to believe I was within hand shaking distance of this humble man who had been our 39th President.

“Roy and I chose to sit in the second row. I do not know if we were the first Jews to attend Jimmy’s Bible Study class, but I’m pretty sure we were the only Jews there on Sunday.

“After welcoming the group and thanking us for coming, one of the first things Jimmy Carter asked each of us was where we were from. The crowd was from all parts of the U.S. No one was from the Northeast like we were, but some came from as far away as Hawaii. One family was visiting from Australia.

“The President got down to business and began his Bible Study class. He said: ‘Joseph, Mary, and Jesus lived in Bethlehem, but for some reason when Jesus was twelve, and the age of twelve is stressed in the Bible, the family took a trip to Nazareth. But the Bible doesn’t tell us why. Why do you think this was?’ the President asked.

“Hands went up in the audience and President Carter gave everyone a chance to answer his question. ‘Because Joseph couldn’t get work in Bethlehem,’ was one answer. ‘They might have been visiting family,’ was another response. He rushed no one and took each comment very seriously. Often he had a dialogue one on one and took each comment very seriously. Often he had a dialogue one and one.

“Let me explain. In the Hebrew faith at the age of 13 a young Jewish boy has his Bar Mitzvah. It is a rite of passage into manhood. He has to study and prepare for this event all year. He has to learn the Five Books of Moses in order to present it to the congregation at a weekly service. Preparation for this rite of passage can take as long as a year. The Bar Mitzvah boy must be able to answer any questions his elders and the rabbi have for him about his portion.

“Though President Carter knew what a Bar Mitzvah was, nobody else in the room had ever heard those Hebrew words. Nearly everyone in that room had learned something new that day. The way President Carter smiled at me and nodded his approval, he made me feel he was surprised to hear this answer ‘to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah’ from someone in this non-scholarly Bible Study setting.

“By my simply introducing the Hebrew words Bar Mitzvah to some 50 gentiles I had exposed them to something new. Hebrew words, Judaism, the rite of passage, and Bar Mitzvah would get them to connect the fact that there were Jews at the time of Jesus. In fact some might even have realized only then that Jesus himself was a Jew. At the Bible Study class we had done a little in helping to bring strangers together, by passing along a new idea and a little understanding that we have more in common than we realize.

“Today on this Holiest of days, Yom Kippur, we need to remember the importance of keeping our minds open to new thoughts and ideas. Even though we might all come from different backgrounds and religions most of us want similar things - a good life for our children and health and happiness for our loved ones, even for strangers. Judaism instructs us to pursue Tikkan Olam, to repair the world, and here at Temple Solel many of us act towards that worthy goal. In the coming year let us continue, and hopefully expand those efforts, so that we can honestly say we have contributed to peace and harmony in our communities.”

To see a look at our website [www.TempleSolel.org](http://www.TempleSolel.org) or call us at 704-246-8881 or visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com for more details.
November 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-Thu 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

Please contact us if you have questions!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November Holiday Hours

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving 7am–1pm
Friday, November 23 – Day after Thanksgiving 5:30am–5pm

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

THANKSGIVING TURKEY 5K or 1.5 Mile • Family Event

Thursday, November 22
8:15 am
M/Free NM/30

Thanksgiving Turkey at the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

Tuesday, December 11, 2018
7:00pm

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

All Are Invited to Join Us!

• Election of Officers & Directors
• Awards Recognizing the Contributions of Volunteers

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

32nd LEVINE JCC ANNUAL MEETING

2019 MACCABI GAMES & ARTSFEST
Detroit, MI • August 4 – 9

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

For more information visit www.charlottejcc.org/teamcarolina

5K or 1.5 Mile • Family Event

Sunday, November 18
1-3pm • Outdoor Pavilion

Teams of 4-8 people (age 7+)
One adult (18+) required per team
$40 per Team

THANKSGIVING TURKEY

Thursday, November 22
8:15am

Thanksgiving Turkey at the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

Register at the Front Desk • 704-366-5007
www.charlottejcc.org

The Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center
5007 Providence Road • Charlotte, NC 28226
704-366-5007 • charlottejcc.org • facebook.com/levinejcc

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

**PlayPlay! Theatre: wee**

**Ages birth - 3 years old**

Life's greatest gifts can come in the smallest packages. Take time to enjoy a moment with your smallest, and, together, experience a story about being little. What does a "wee" one have to give? Even newborns are welcome at PlayPlay! Theatre productions.

**Thursday, Nov 29 • 10am**
**Friday, Nov 30 • 10am**
**Saturday, Dec 1 • 4pm**
**Sunday, Dec 2 • 10am**

Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park

$10 per ticket - Purchase tickets at charlottejcc.org/culturalarts or call 704-366-5007

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Teens

**Teen Community Service Program**

**Grades 6-8**

Looking to do something meaningful this Veterans Day? Write personal letters of appreciation to U.S. Troops. Listen to NC Senator Jeff Jackson talk about the impact such letters have on troops serving away from their families or Make fleece tie blankets for patients on the rehabilitation unit at Levine Children’s Hospital. Register at LJCC Customer Service Desk 704-366-5007.

**Monday, November 12 • 10am-12:30pm**

Levine JCC, Room A111

M/$7 N/M/$12

julie.dizon@charlottejcc.org or michelle.rusgo@charlottejcc.org

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Adults

**Discovery Art Series**

Come learn the healing benefits of art from Artist Eileen Schwartz through engaging art experiences. Bring your enthusiasm and desire to explore your unique imagination and creativity. All supplies included. Register by November 2nd at 12pm.

**Wednesday, November 7 – Art for the Soul**
**6:30-7:45pm**

Weinberg Senior Center

M/$25 N/M/$30

sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

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**The Power of Aging**

Discover and uncover the basic physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs which the aging experience challenges you with on a daily basis. Life can be exciting, purposeful and meaningful! Meets once per month on Tuesdays.

**Tuesday, November 13 – Making the Most of Every Day**
**9:15–10:15am**

FSP Board Room

sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

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**SHIIP**

**Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program**

Free Medicare Counseling Available year round! Please call Senior & Adult Director Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information

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**JSTAGE. PRESENTS**

_J._

**Summer Night, with Unicorn**

by David Rock

Directed by Mark Sefton

**Saturday, Nov 3 • 2pm & 7pm**

**Sunday, Nov 4 • 2pm**

Tickets $15 charlottejcc.org/culturalarts

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**Memory Café**

Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia? Come with them to the JMemory Café. Socialize and meet new friends!

**Meet twice every month:**

**2nd & 4th Thursdays • 10am-12pm**

Levine JCC, Room A111

A light breakfast is served at each Café, sponsored by Bluedot.

**4th Thursday, November 15th – Creation Café**

Jill Lipson – Facilitator

**Meetings:**

- Social engagement & discussion
- A safe environment that is relaxed and non-judgmental
- Enjoy music, art, and more

The LJCC Member and the family member with dementia attend the Café together.

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**ROCK STEADY BOXING**

Levine JCC

**4-Week Program for Parkinson’s Patients**

**Tue/Thu 1-2:30pm • JForce Room**

**M/$75 N/M/$90 Per 4-week Session**

Jenny Cwir@charlottejcc.org • 704-944-6870

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Register for Winter & Spring Classes for All Ages!

Members: Nov 12
Non-members: Nov 19

carlottiejcc.org
Meditation’s Surprising Ties to Our Religious Practice

By Adam Bernstein

In an attempt to divine some order from mid-life chaos, I recently turned to meditation. The loss of my parents, a health scare, and other issues were overwhelming and a second sibling facilitated with the gift of a subscription for an iPhone app called “Ananda.”

Most mornings I’ll drag myself out of bed, don headphones, and listen in the pre-dawn darkness to a 15-minute guided meditation led by Deepak Chopra, psychologist, adherent of New Age thought and practice, over a music track of soothing guitar, nature sounds, or world-class electronic music and/or singing.

Meditation takes practice. Sad, I remain a rank amateur. With concentration and luck, there might be 30 seconds of each session when the outside world is pushed aside and I am alone, free floating between conscious and unconscious realms, unburdened by worries, stress, or thinking about daily life or broader existential concerns.

A brief period of mindfulness may be as much as I can achieve in any given day, but even a few seconds are worth the effort. During recitations and while failing to reach a mindful state, it occurred to me how similar meditation is to prayer. Indeed, one could argue that meditation is a form of prayer, and vice versa.

It turns out there is a long-standing, natural connection between meditation and Jewish religious practice. References to meditative practice are common in texts throughout Jewish history.

In texts throughout Jewish history, meditative practice are common religious practice. References to meditation and Jewish religious practice are common.

Jon Shorr examines this relationship and its modern resurgence in Jewish religious and meditative practice. “People feel like they can’t keep up. Trying to do everything faster is not the answer; it just exhausts,” Rabbi Dana Saroken of Congregation Beth El in Baltimore tells Shorr. “Meditation… and other meditative practices are ways for people to create space in their lives in order to be present. God gave us Shabbat to provide, at least for one day, the opportunity to be a human being and not a human doing.”

Achieving mindfulness for me is marked by feeling physically lighter, almost weightless. This is no coincidence. Shedding worldly concerns lightens the spiritual load and brings about a sense of peace, itself a sacred ideal in Judaism. The absence of bodily tension, the space of restful inertia, is what we all love most. Just ask any OJD student or bar mitzvah boy who studied under his care.

The Talmud describes a group of pious men in ancient times who would meditate for an hour before and after prayer, as a way to elevate their spiritual experience. In “The Meditation Mitzvah” on tricycle.com, a website dedicated to exploring Buddhism and its broader cultural ties, writer Jon Shorr examines this relationship and its modern resurgence in the Reform movement.

Until relatively recently, cultural influences obscured the relevance of meditation in their faith from Reform Jews, according to Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. “The Reform movement rebelled against the trappings and practices of traditional eastern European Judaism when it took hold in the United States in the 19th century,” she tells Shorr. “[The] German formality and intellectualism of early Reform Judaism rejected more soulful practices. And… because so many Orthodox rabbis who taught meditative practices died in the Holocaust, those more soulful aspects of Judaism were lost and are only now being rediscovered.”

Today, incorporating meditation into religious practice is “becoming commonplace” among American Jewish congregations, to positive effect, Short writes. At Temple Beth El, you may witness this phenomenon up close. The temple provided a meditation room and special readings during the interlude between morning and afternoon services on Yom Kippur. On Friday nights, our clergy often leads congregants in preparing for Shabbat worship using meditative techniques such as closing eyes, taking deep, cleansing breaths, and visualizing peaceful settings.

The idea of Shabbat epitomizes the inherent connection between Jewish religious and meditative practice. “These lines speak to the enabling power of peace for Jews. The peace achieved through mindfulness yields clarity to make important decisions, set priorities, maximize personal potential and build community.”

On my continuing spiritual journey, trying meditation somehow landed me on an ancient road back to Judaism.

Adam Bernstein is a past board president and life-long congregant at Temple Beth El.

“They asked Rabbi Levi Yitzchak: ‘Why is the first page number missing in all the tractates of the Babylonian Talmud? Why does each begin with the second [the number bet]?’ He replied: ‘However much a man may learn, he should always remember that he has not even gotten to the first page.’”

—Martin Buber, Tales of Hasidim

Giant Menorah Lighting and Contest at SouthPark Mall

This Chanukah, Chabad of Charlotte invites the entire Jewish community, once again, to usher in the Chanukah holiday with a spectacular menorah lighting at SouthPark Mall. This exciting event will take place on Sunday, December 2, which is the first night of Chanukah.

The Chanukah festivities begin at 5:30 PM and will feature entertaining activities for the children. Traditional Chanukah treats will be served free of charge, along with lively Jewish music. The giant menorah will be lit at 6 PM and there will be lots of fanfare. The blessings and other traditional Chanukah songs will be sung.

This year’s event will feature an exciting menorah/dreidel contest. Both adults and children are invited to participate and create your own menorah and/or dreidel which will be displayed at the event. Please note that the eight candles of the menorah should be arranged in a straight line, not set in a semicircle, and of equal height (not some randomly higher than others). Please bring your entries to Chabad (6619 Sardis Road) before November 30. The entries will be put on display at SouthPark Mall. Judges will selects the winners and prizes will be awarded for several different categories.

The public venue for the menorah lighting is considered an important aspect of Chanukah. One of the primary reasons for lighting the menorah is to publicize the miracles of Chanukah - the miracle of the limited supply of olive oil which lasted for eight days in the Holy Temple and the miracle of the great victory of the Maccabees over their oppressors.

For more information, please contact Chabad of Charlotte at 704-366-3984, visit chabadnc.org, or e-mail: info@chabadnc.org.

Live from Chabad, It’s Saturday Night!

Rabbi Binyomin Weiss

At Temple Beth El, you may attend a Friendship Circle meeting above the parade.

Music drones will play during a Friendship Circle meeting above the parade.

There will be a 50+ Giant Menorah Lighting and Contest at SouthPark Mall.

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For more information, please contact Chabad of Charlotte at 704-366-3984, visit chabadnc.org, or e-mail: info@chabadnc.org.
Winterizing Your Garden

Now that fall is coming to an end, it’s time to start thinking about winterizing your garden. How you achieve this is dependent on the type of garden and the amount of effort you want to devote to it over the winter months. Here are some basic tips for winterizing most ornamental and vegetable gardens.

No matter what type of garden you have, you will want to remove any invasive plants and weeds. Make sure to remove any dead or dying foliage since it will be a winter incubator for garden pests. Add an extra layer of mulch around the base of your shrubs and trees to give the roots an extra layer of warmth and be sure to give them a deep soak before the first freeze. For newly planted shrubs and trees, you may want to think about covering them in the event of snow or ice.

For your vegetable garden, you will want to remove all of your summer plants, taking extra care to get as much of any diseased and pest-infested plant material as possible. If you choose to, you can simply leave the beds empty until next year’s spring planting or you can plant cold weather crops like kale, arugula, snow peas, lettuce, and beets. You can generally grow these through the winter as long as you cover the plants when the temperature falls below freezing. If you have irrigation system, turn off the water during the winter and water a few times per week by hand. Remember that every garden is different and this is just a general overview of how to winterize your garden. If you are unsure of how to prepare a particular plant for the winter, it is always a good idea to ask your local nursery or simply research it online. The more you know about the plants in your garden, the better able you will be to love and nurture it.

For more information about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

--from S. J. Agnon’s speech on receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature, in Judaism and Vegetarianism, ed. Richard H. Schwartz
Writer A.J. Jacobs Traveled Thousands of Miles to Thank Everyone Who Had a Hand in His Morning Coffee

By Cindy Sher

(JUF News via JTA) — Author A.J. Jacobs has encouraged his three sons to be grateful for all they have.

And his wife urge them to write thank-you notes, to thank the bus driver - even thank their household robot Alexa for weather forecasts.

Jacobs, who is Jewish, sometimes says a prayer of thanksgiving with his family at the dinner table in appreciation of those who helped get food to their plates.

But not too long ago, Jacobs’ son Zane raised an observation to his dad.

“You know these people can’t hear you, right?” he asked.

Zane’s remark got Jacobs thinking. Indeed, those people could not hear him.

So the Manhattan-based humorist and writer set out on a quest to thank everyone who plays a role in making his morning coffee possible.

He chose coffee because it was a more manageable undertaking than an entire meal - and he “can’t live without” his java.

Jacobs chronicles the journey in his new book, *Thanks A Thousand: A Gratitude Journey* (TED Books), which comes out November 13 in conjunction with a TED Talk that he delivered on the same topic.

During his quest, which took him from a farm in Colombia to a steel plant in Indiana, he discovered how interconnected the world is.

So many more people than he could have imagined contributed to his morning cup of coffee. Obviously there are baristas and farmers, but also unsung heroes like artists (think coffee lid and sleeve designer), chemists, biologists, truckers, and miners.

“I went around the world and thanked everyone I could find,” he said, “because they reminded me there are so many people who help with every little thing in our lives and we take them for granted.”

All told, Jacobs said he thanked 1,000 people for his cup of coffee — and actually could have thanked way more.

Along the way, he learned that gratitude isn’t just a nice gesture for the recipient — scientific research show it’s healthy for the thankercare giver — and actually could have thanked way more.

Before the quest, Jacobs said, his default mood was usually grumpiness.

The adventure helped him change his mindset.

“I believe that genetically or culturally my default is negative — more a Larry David than Tom Hanks way of looking at the world. It’s fun to watch on TV but not necessarily fun to live,” he said.

And Jacobs is certainly not alone — people are genetically programmed, evolutionary psychologists say, to focus on what goes wrong in daily life because it was a matter of survival back in Paleolithic times.

But the result today is modern-day anxiety — a so-called “deficit mindset” — that’s no longer helpful, said Jacobs.

To the contrary, “it’s inspiring and energizing to focus on the hundreds of things that go right every day instead of the three or four that go wrong,” he said.

Jewish teachings can help us move the needle on gratitude.

In research for his book — as well as for his past best-seller, *The Year of Living Biblically*, in which Jacobs embarked on a quest to live according to every precept in the Bible for a year — he learned that much wisdom on gratitude comes from Judaism.

“Be Jewish is to be thankful,” one rabbi told Jacobs.

In fact, the very word “Jew,” derived from the tribe of Judah, means thanksgiving.

As Jews deliver prayers of thanks from the time we wake up to the time we go to bed.

There is a catchphrase in Judaism that Jacobs learned during his research called “creed before deed.”

At first, Jacobs said it was hard to feel gratitude, but if he went through the motions of acting with compassion and gratitude, eventually he would feel them.

“One of the best ways to go about life is to ‘fake it till you feel it,’ and it’s an extremely Jewish way to live,” he said. “If you act in a certain way and follow the mitzvot, your mind will eventually catch up.”

— Jedadiah Ben Abraham Bedersi
TORAH TOTS

Friday, November 9
TORAH TOTS SHABBAT DINNER (5:30 p.m.) & SERVICE (6:15 p.m.)

Sunday, November 18
TORAH TOTS HANUKKAH BAKING CLASS (9:30 a.m.)

To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

YOUTH

MAHAR: CHOCOLATE BAR IN A CAR
(ALL 3rd-5th Grades)
Sunday, November 4 (12:15-2 p.m.)
Learn about where chocolate comes from, how to make it and, most importantly, how to create a delicious treat! Cost: $12/TI-Y Members; $18/ Non-Members. Register at templeisraelnc.org by Tuesday, October 30.

GIVE BACK AND GIVE THANKS SCAVENGER HUNT
Sunday, November 11 (10-30 a.m.)
Location: Harris Teeter - Morrocroft
Join us as we “Give Back and Give Thanks” this holiday season by collecting food donations for a local non-profit organization. For more information or to RSVP, email torahontapclt@gmail.com.

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL (WOTI)

WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL PRESENT: NOSH, COOK & KIBBITZ
Thursday, November 29 (7 p.m.)
For the second gathering of our Nosh, Cook & Kibbitz holiday series, we will celebrate the cuisine of Hanukkah! To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

SOCIAL CLUB

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

SOCIAL ACTION

MEN’S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE
(Statesville Ave.)
Sunday, November 18, 2018
(Sunday before Thanksgiving)
We’ll be cooking dinner at Temple Israel then serving dinner at the shelter. To volunteer, please contact Jonathan Berger (jbergertisa@gmail.com or 704-995-1732).

THE ROSE ROOM - WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP

GIFT SHOP HOURS
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday – Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Friday - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Tess Berger (704) 488-3842, Shelle Barer (516) 375-4708 or Cindy Jennes (704) 443-7643.

Senior Rabbi Search
Congregational Forum

SAVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 (11 a.m.)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 (6:15 p.m.)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 (7:45 p.m.)
Savor the Season with Libyan Jewish Pumpkin Spread

By Emily Paster

As is often the case in Jewish culture, there are many ways to make pumpkin chershi. In his dish, for example, Hovav mixes pumpkin with carrot and potato. Others use only pumpkin. But everyone seems to agree that chershi karaa should be spicy and tangy, with lots of garlic and lemon juice.

How best to eat it?

Chershi makes a fantastic dip alongside some warm pita with a dollop of cool yogurt on top. But don’t stop there. Chershi also works as a sandwich spread, and it has traditionally been eaten as a garnish for couscous. This fall, take a break from pumpkin bread and pumpkin spice lattes and make something new and especially Jewish with pumpkin.

“King Shapur’s daughter, whose mother had eaten etrog [while pregnant with her], used to be lifted in front of her father to provide his favorite perfume.” —Chaim Nachman Bialik and Yehoshua Hana Ravnitzky, Book of Legends

Directions:

Heat the olive oil in a med. saucepan over med. heat. Add the:

- 2 T. extra-virgin olive oil
- 7 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 t. cumin
- 1/2 t. smoked paprika
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 2 c. pumpkin puree (canned or homemade)
- 3 T. harissa
- 1 T. honey
- Juice of one lemon

Other ingredients:

- Juice of one lemon
- 1 T. honey
- 3 T. harissa
- 2 c. pumpkin puree (canned or homemade)
- 7 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 t. cumin
- Pinch red pepper flakes

Heat the oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the garlic, cumin, paprika, and red pepper flakes. Season with salt and stir to combine. Cook just till garlic begins to turn golden. Add pumpkin, harissa, and honey; stir to combine. Cook gently, just till pumpkin is warmed through. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Taste and adjust seasoning. Dip should be tangy and spicy. Serve with Greek yogurt and warmed pita, or as a garnish for couscous. Serves 6-8.

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GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

For one day, communities around the world will share Jewish dialogue and exploration, celebrating all that unites us.

- Continental Breakfast
- Keynote Speakers: Authors Tal Keinan and Aryeh Green
- PJ Library Activity
- Jewish Adult Learning Workshops
- Lunch
- Free babysitting (must register in advance)

For details and registration visit, www.jewishcharlotte.org/GDJL

Sunday, November 11
9am – 2pm
Shalom Park
All events are free

This program is supported by a JFGC Impact & Innovation Grant.

In partnership with numerous Charlotte Jewish organizations.
Stay up to date with everything at Temple Beth El – follow us on Facebook and visit our website.

Always a warm welcome.
An inclusive and dynamic Reform Jewish congregation • More than 1,200 families strong

WORSHIP

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

Saturdays
11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

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

Congregational Shabbat Service
Saturday, Nov. 17 at 11:00 am
Join us for a lively and warm celebration with active participation from our temple family including teen band and teen vocal ensemble. Service is preceded by featured Questions of Faith study with Rabbi Asher Knight at 9:00 am and brunch at 10:15 am. To learn more or RSVP for brunch, visit www.templebethel.org.

COMMUNITY

Join us for these events in November:
Global Day of Jewish Learning–Extraordinary Passages: Texts and Travels
Sunday, Nov. 1 at 8:30 am, Shalom Park (RSVP)
Brotherhood & Sisterhood Brunch
Sunday, Nov. 18 at 10:00 am, Temple Beth El (RSVP)

LEARNING

Questions of Faith with Rabbi Asher Knight
Monthly on Congregational Shabbat Saturdays at 9:00 am
Join Rabbi Knight in exploring Jewish tradition and contemporary thought on questions raised by the meeting of faith, reason, history, and our lived modern experience.

Learn to Read Hebrew
Wednesdays starting Nov. 28 at 7:00 pm
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Our youngest Temple Beth El Religious School students learn how to blow a shofar with Rabbi Knight. Photo credit: Jenna Dalli

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Rapper Drake Has His Own Brand of Jewishness

By Maya Mirsky

San Francisco (J. The Jewish News of Northern California via JTA) — Drake has held the No. 1 spot on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart for most of this year. The Canadian rapper and singer during his career has set or matched records owned by the likes of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Whitney Houston, and Paul McCartney.

In 2014, Rolling Stone called Drake “the biggest Jewish rapper since the Beastie Boys.” Now he’s just one of the biggest rappers of all.

For pop-culture watchers, he’s a slippery enigma who changes roles and even accents from song to song, all the while keeping his place on top of the charts. And for Jews, he’s an anomaly, dominating a genre that isn’t exactly known as a Jewish milieu.

“It’s still not ‘cool’ to be a Jewish hip-hop artist,” Bay Area DJ Maxwell Alegria said.

Drake, 31, is known for his down-tempo music, at times sensitive lyrics and a mischievous sense of humor. He broke onto the music scene in 2009 with So Far Gone, which had a single that peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard chart. His most recent album, Scorpion, is an even bigger hit on the Billboard chart. His most recent album, Scorpion chart. His most recent album, Scorpion chart.

Drake also told the magazine that he’s “proud to be Jewish.” He occasionally posts Instagram photos of Passover and Chanukah gatherings, and told Rolling Stone that “I celebrate holidays with my family.”

Still, his Jewishness is not widely known among his many fans, like Leila Pifko.

“They probably — hum, I’m not sure,” mused Pifko, a separatist Jewish Community High School student. “I’m honestly not sure. I feel like they might. Some people might know.”

While public musings over his heritage are not uncommon on internet forums, few fans apparently ask Google if he’s Jewish — it doesn’t even come up as one of the top 10 search results for the query “Is Drake …?”

Some of his fans, though, are definitely in on it.

“Jewish men in particular really know Drake is Jewish — and love that,” said Alex Fraknoi, a San Francisco-based Jewish rapper.

It’s not that his Jewishness is a secret. Drake played up his Judaism in a 2014 skit on Saturday Night Live: doing a sardonic re-enactment of his bar mitzvah in a wig and kippah, rapping “I’m black and Jewish — it’s a mitzvah” over a klezmer clarinet.

Bar mitzvahs seem to be a theme for Drake. Not only did he have a bar mitzvah himself, but in 2017 he threw a bar mitzvah-themed birthday party. In 2012, he released a music video for his song “HYFR” that purported to be a “re-bar mitzvah” that showed Drake rapping and praying in a Miami synagogue in front of family friends and music friends. There’s also a post-bar mitzvah “party” that gets wild, with guests chugging Manischewitz and rapper Lil Wayne joyfully smashing a skateboard into a table.

That kind of self-referential playfulness makes Drake a hero to a certain crowd.

“I would definitely say that it definitely makes me more proud as a Jew,” said Pifko, who like Drake has Canadian roots.

But Drake identifies as black, while the few other Jewish rappers who have found a degree of fame are uniformly white. The Beastie Boys, the multiplatinum trio of Michael Diamond, Adam Yauch, and Adam Horovitz, arguably is the other most famous, topping the charts at the height of their popularity. But there’s a major drop after that. The list usually includes Matisyahu, who gained fame for performing in Hasidic garb (he has since shaved his beard).

Asked about Drake in 2012, Matisyahu said, “He’s Jewish, but he’s not representing Judaism. He happens to be Jewish, just like Bob Dylan happens to be Jewish.”

The only other non-Jewish rapper of note is Shyne, the son of the prime minister of Belize and a former protege of Sean “Diddy” Combs. Shyne found Judaism while in prison and now lives an Orthodox life as Moses Levi. He has dissed Drake as “an actor from Canada.”

Jewish hip-hop has traditionally leaned heavily on parody, according to Judah Cohen, a professor of musicology and Jewish studies at Indiana University who wrote a 2009 academic article on the subject. Lil Dicky is a prime example. Even the Beastie Boys originally posed dripping in gold chains in a satire of bling-focused gangsta rap. According to Cohen, that kind of parody attracts attention by creating a pairing — Jews, or at least the socially prevalent idea of Jews, and rap — that in itself is humorous by virtue of its unlikelihood.

But Drake is not parodying the hip-hop ethos — he is embracing it. His success as a rapper and R&B singer, genres rooted in Af-

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Drake Has His Own Brand of Jewishness

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