A Taste of Israel: A Special Event with Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy

Thursday, October 18 at 7 PM in The Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park

2017 James Beard Foundation “Outstanding Chef” Michael Solomonov and James Beard award winning restaurateur Steve Cook put Israeli food on the American culinary map. As they launch their brand-new cookbook, Israeli Soul, they’ll join us for a savory conversation about their path to success, how they choose to give back, and, of course, how they landed on the perfect hummus recipe.

Ten Years of Soaring to New Heights

As the Levine JCC Butterfly Project reaches its 10th anniversary milestone year, its achievements and goals for the future continue to soar higher. We will celebrate our success on Sunday, October 14 and will feature Charlotte Ballet choreographer Jeanene R. Perry’s ballet, “Goodnight, October 14 and will feature sales that evening, while learning more to acceptance, because even though I am different, I sometimes can discriminate. I will, from now on, never discriminate on another solely on who they are. This experience has changed me greatly. Thank you.” And, from 13-year-old Josh, who wrote, “I think that even though we live in a world full of hate, evil, and violence, somewhere in the eye of this great hurricane, there is hope, joy, and love for everyone. The problem is getting there. And the Butterfly Project is bringing us a step closer.”

The Levine JCC Butterfly Project Workshop was brought home to Shalom Park. Multiple days a week, busloads of students from public and private schools in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties attend a two and one-half hour field trip. During that time, the students hear the experiences of Holocaust survivor Suly Chenkin or Irving Bienstock, participate in an interactive, multimedia exercise using the Anti-Defamation League’s Pyramid of Hate, paint a ceramic butterfly memorializing a specific child who perished in the Holocaust, and visit the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial.

Our effectiveness has not gone unnoticed. Teachers have been re-enrolling their schools for the coming year at an unprecedented rate, and we have received extremely positive teacher feedback and touching student reflections. The Butterfly Project has also been fortunate to receive grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the United Way of Central Carolinas.

The Levine JCC Butterfly Project is so very grateful to all who make this effort possible. These include the teachers who bring their students to us, our approximately 50 active, dedicated volunteers and staff who work countless hours to produce the workshops, and our wonderful donors without whom we could not achieve these outstanding results, all of whom should feel tremendous pride in what we are accomplishing together.

To ensure your spot at our free 10-year anniversary celebration on October 14, please register at the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007. For more information about the workshops or to volunteer, please contact Lori Sennel, Butterfly Project Supervisor, at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org.
Jenna is a method writer. She immerses herself in her books’ time periods, which often include World War II. She wears her characters’ clothes, eats their food, and listens to their music. She alternates between two home bases: Minnesota, where she writes in solitude, and Boston, where she revises her drafts, teaches writing, and markets her books.

Themes of motherhood, Diaspora, and interfaith relationships permeate Jenna’s books. She infuses her own family’s experiences into her characters, and they feel real and engaging as a result. Jenna’s father was Jewish and wrote for CBS and the likes of Walter Cronkite. Her mother was younger than her father, not Jewish, and from Minnesota; she moved to New York to study piano at Juilliard.

In 2005, Hadassah awarded Jenna its prestigious Ribalow Prize for her first book, the New York Times bestselling novel Those Who Save Us. Jenna spoke about that novel at a Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte event here in Charlotte more than a decade ago. In a recent conversation with me, she made a point of saying how fond she was of her time here and how much she is to be returning.

I hope you’ll join me in welcoming Jenna back on October 21 as she discusses her latest novel, The Lost Family. I can attest to being another page-turner. Responses below have been edited for brevity.

A Peek inside Her Classes

“We do what I call Novelist Math, where we spend the first half of the workshop talking about things the reader picks up on – characters, writing and language, details. And the second half I make the novelists crack that all open and write scenes on the board to see how the story is piecing together; because, that’s where 98% of novels fail.”

Writing Hacks

“I have a whole wall of writer hacks when I’m working. My study looks like a mad person’s sanatorium because I have Post-it everywhere and image boards. I have one that said, ‘Create something.’ One said, ‘Write now, fix later.’ That was super helpful. It doesn’t have to be perfect, it just has to be written. And this great quote from Erica Jong: ‘I have learned that writing a novel takes as long as it takes.’

Difficult Characters

“June was a difficult character to write, because I really liked her and no one else liked her. She was a combination of me and my mom. I know June makes some tough choices, but she’s realistic, and I certainly hope she is understandable if not likable. With all my characters, there are very few who are 100% good or 100% bad. June wants the feminist credo – to live her life and do her own thing – and she wasn’t raised in a time when she could do that. I felt for her. I like to write about all these emotional complications.”

Beginnings

“I wanted to start with Peter. His story was the genesis of the book. But every time I sat down to write about Peter, I would be thinking about Elsbeth. So, I wrote her whole section. And then June’s and then Peter’s. So I actually wrote the book backwards, which I don’t recommend. Sometimes, when you have characters who are very noisy, very emphatic that they want to come out, then you have to do it their way. And then your job is to get them right. Which is why sometimes my characters are not likable. My job is not to make them likable, it’s to get them down as they really are. Which takes time.”

Favorite Part

“Cooking. For this book in particular, because I invented the menu for Peter’s restaurant. I spent a whole summer kitch-en-testing it. This is my fiancé’s fault. He came in one morning and found me reading cookbooks because I was trying to put together Peter’s life as a chef. He said, wouldn’t it be amazing if your book had an actual menu since it’s set in a restaurant? And I thought, what a great procrastination device. I had the best time creating all the recipes and coming up with the dishes and eating them.”

Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting for October 2018

Monday, October 1, erev Simchat Torah, 8:18 PM
Friday, October 5, 6:42 PM
Friday, October 12, 6:33 PM
Friday, October 19, 6:24 PM
Friday, October 26, 6:16 PM
Shortly before the publication of his second novel Saving Sophie, Ron Balson visited Charlotte as a guest of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. A Chicago attorney, Ron explained that his first novel—a international bestseller Once We Were Brothers—was rejected by all publishers. After self-publishing the book and distributing copies to family and friends, Once We Were Brothers sold over 100,000 copies by word of mouth before St. Martin’s Press acquired the rights. Now Ron’s highly anticipated fifth novel The Girl From Berlin is scheduled for publication later this month.

Catherine Lockhart, a Chicago attorney, and Liam Taggart, a top-notch investigator, team up in each of Balson’s novels to untangle the mysteries surrounding their clients’ cases. In The Girl From Berlin, we find Liam and Catherine in Tuscany after the death of her property. The only clue to this case are lodged in an old manuscript handwritten in German about the life of an elderly Italian landowner connected to the lives of “the girl from Berlin” and the elderly landowner’s wealthy aunt is being evicted.

In The Girl From Berlin, Ron Balson writes about “survivor syndrome” when he says, “Often, people who have endured…horrors suppress the memories and push them to the back of their consciousness. They have to get on with their lives, so they do not allow those painful memories to the surface. Children of survivors often talk about a psychological disconnect. Their parents don’t discuss these years with the family. It’s the elephant in the room, but the door stays closed.” In our two novels, Peter Rashkin’s inability to talk about his “lost family” negatively influenced all those around him. And as we read about the lives of Ava Baumgarten and her family in Berlin, who are maneuvering through the horrors of Nazi Europe, we learn of selfless sacrifices that had far reaching effects on the next generation.

Survivor syndrome isn’t limited to those who survived the Holocaust. Be on hand for our CJE Book Club on Wednesday, November 14th when we discuss Faithful by Alice Hoffman about a teenage driver who survived a horrific accident only to experience psychological trauma.

Join the Bubbie Brigade!

Interested in keeping active and helping children and their families? PJ Library has the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. We need help at our monthly PJ Library family events. Bubbles may be asked to help with arts and crafts, registration, set up and even some organization. Our flexible schedule meets your availability. Please say you’ll join our Bubbie Brigade.

For more information call Debby Block 704-944-6780.
Unleash the power of wp

WOMEN’S PHILANTHROPY

OCTOBER 18 | 7:00 PM
SAM LERNER CENTER FOR CULTURAL ARTS

Meet Chef Michael Solomonov & Steven Cook

Light Hors D’oeuvres and wine will be served.
Book Sale and signing following the program.

Tickets: $36 per person

To learn more and to RSVP visit www.jewishcharlotte.org.
SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Dancing with the STARS on Simchat Torah

Join us for a grand Torah celebration for kids and adults. Enjoy a delicious dinner in the Sukkah followed by dancing with the Torah and a special program for the kids. Simchat Torah is all about unbridled joy, which surpasses even the joy of Sukkot. The joy reaches its climax on Simchat Torah, when we celebrate the conclusion – and restart – of the annual Torah-reading cycle. Monday, October 1, 6:30 PM At the Ballantyne Jewish Center, 8632 Bryant Farms Rd. Open to the community; free. RSVP appreciated - Leah@JewishBallantyne.com, 704-408-1116.

Build a Menorah at Home Depot

Kids, build your very own menorah at Home Depot. We have a brand new design just for this year.
Home Depot at the Promenade on Providence, 5415 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28277
Sunday, October 28
Choose your time: 2:30-3:30 or 4-5.
Snacks will be served.

This event is free with your registration. To register visit www.JewishBallantyne.com/HomeDepot.
Please note, there is limited space available.
Questions? Email Leah@JewishBallantyne.com.
Sponsored by The Home Depot and The Ballantyne Jewish Center.

Temple Kol Ami Starting Youth Group

Many of us have fond memories of going to Kadima, United Synagogue Youth, or B’nai Brith Youth Organization meetings as kids. We met lifelong friends, had sleepovers, performed mitzvah projects, and attended services together. For some of us, Jewish classmates were the norm, not the exception. In York County, SC, although the Jewish population is growing, our Jewish youth are often the only Jewish students in their classes or schools. Developing Jewish friendships can be difficult. At Temple Kol Ami, we feel it is important for our kids to develop a strong Jewish identity, and fostering Jewish friendships is key to this. We have decided to address this problem by starting our own youth group. The TKA Youth Group will give our kids the opportunity to socialize and have fun outside of the Temple/Religious School environment. TKA is so committed to making sure our children know that they are not “alone” in York County that we have decided to subsidize all events – all Youth Group outings will be free for TKA members.

The Youth Group is open to kids in 5th through 8th grades and will be led by our coordinator Erin Roseman. The first event (details TBA) is scheduled for October 14. Future tentative dates are December 16, February 24, and April 28. At least one of the activities will include a mitzvah project. Keep an eye on the Temple Kol Ami calendar at www.templekolamisc.org for details, and feel free to contact Erin at rosemanerin@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP for an event.

Looking ahead to November, please mark your calendars to join us when Rabbi Bruce Aft will return to Fort Mill to lead us in both Kabbalat and Shacharit Shabbat services as well as Torah study the weekend of November 2-3. Rabbi Aft comes to us from Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield, VA and has been with us four times previously in the last few years. He has a devotion to Jewish learning and leads stimulating Torah study. He has been well-received on all of his previous visits to Temple Kol Ami, and we are incredibly excited to welcome him back. For more information, please check the Temple Kol Ami website. All events are free and open to the public.

Temple Kol Ami is a diverse and welcoming Reform Jewish congregation. We hold Friday night Shabbat services the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month in the beautiful sanctuary of Philadelphia United Church, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill, SC. We would love to have you visit our congregation and find out about our warm, family-oriented environment.
Temple Beth El Follows Path of Three Centuries of Southern Jews

By Rabbi Judy Schindler

August 5 marked twenty years since I arrived in Charlotte. By sheer coincidence, I spent my twentieth anniversary of becoming a Southerner immersed in a Hebrew Union College intensive graduate course on Southern Jewry. I spent the week learning from scholars in Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Savannah about the critical role Southern Jews played in the development of America since Colonial times.

Though it took me many years to embrace my new identity as a Southern Jew, I recommend that those of you who are transplants embrace that identity far sooner — for there is much of which to be proud.

From the time of landing on Southern ports, Jews contributed medically. Dr. Samuel Nunez was the first practicing physician in Georgia, having arrived to Savannah in 1733, just in time to stop a violent epidemic of dysentery. Virtually every Atlanta hospital has Jews involved in its creation. Jews contributed economically. While at first, James Oglethorpe, the founder of the Georgia colony, was instructed by the British Trustees not to deed any land to Jews, their success in farming, trade, wine-making, and as soldiers convinced him to grant them property.

Jews contributed religiously. Among the houses of worship in Savannah, Mickve Israel stands as a historic and impressive building. Having just celebrated its 250th anniversary, the congregation is valued. Throughout nearly three centuries, they have stood not alone but worked collaboratively with interfaith partners. Similarly, The Temple in Atlanta in its 158 year history and... religiously.”

“From the time of landing on Southern ports, Jews contributed medically ... economically ... religiously.”

In response to the 1958 bombing of Nashville’s JCC, Rabbi William Silverman spoke strongly against violence aimed at intimidation: “I believe that any spiritual leader who does not speak forth and lead his congregation on moral issues is not worthy of being the Rabbi of this or any other congregation, — and I speak clearly and without equivocation that all may understand: together with the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, I favor integration — not only because I am a Jew, not only because my religious faith teaches that God is our universal Father, that all men are brothers, created in the divine image; that all men regardless of their faith or their race are endowed by God with equal rights.”

Just four days after the 16th Street Church bombing in Birmingham, AL, in 1963, Rabbi Milton Graftman included the four girls killed and others into his Kaddish recitation at Rosh Hashanah services, “Let us bow our heads in silence. In memory of Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, James Robinson, Virgil Ware wantonly killed, insanely slain, brutally murdered, whose deaths we mourn, whose families we would comfort and the shame of whose murders we would and must have our city [Birmingham] alone.”

As Southern Jews, we contributed civically, socially, politically, and morally. We helped build cemeteries and benevolent societies, and the field of social work. We built social clubs and became Freemasons, mayors, and state legislators.

“Most of all, as Southern Jews, we were crafters of American Judaism. Of the first six Colonial Jewish congregations (in Providence, New York City, Philadelphia, Richmond, Savannah and Charleston), the Northern remained Sephardic and traditional and the Southern became Reform. Our predecessors saw a need for innovation and modernization of worship and religious practice and thrived as a result. We supported American-trained rabbis who would become leaders of our anciently rooted people adapting to realities in new land.

There are parts of our Southern Jewish past which cause us shame. There were Jews who were slave owners. There were Jews who supported segregation. Jews have always been part of the fabric of American society - for good and for bad. While some of our predecessors stood on the wrong side of history, far more contributed to creating a more just South as we continue to do today. Our Reform predecessors were partners in strengthening our country every step of the way. Whether we have lived in Charlotte one year or our family has been here one hundred years, we should be proud of the community roles we have played and contribute strongly to our community as proud Jews and as proud Americans."
New JLI Course Addresses Dissonance Between Religion and Western Values

This November, Chabad of Charlotte will offer Wrestling with Faith, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), that openly addresses common challenges people have in their relationship with God.

Beginning Tuesday, October 23, at 7:30 PM for the evening class and Wednesday, October 24, 11 AM for the morning class, participants in the course will grapple with issues that many struggle with, including beliefs in Judaism that seem primitive or outdated, reconciling scientific findings with ideas that cannot be proven in a lab, and the role of religion regarding gender roles, relationships with God, and caring God amid the experience of tragedy and suffering.

“We recognize that almost everyone has some degree of skepticism when it comes to religion,” said Rabbi Yossi Groner of Congregation Ohr HaTorah, the evening JLI Instructor. “We’ve created this course for participants to think critically about these challenges - to approach them with an array of insightful perspectives so we can articulate our beliefs to people with issues that many struggle with, including beliefs in Judaism that seem primitive or outdated, reconciling scientific findings with ideas that cannot be proven in a lab, and the role of religion regarding gender roles, relationships with God, and caring God amid the experience of tragedy and suffering.”

“Jewish chosenness” seems racist. How can we relate to a loving and caring God amid the experience of tragedy and suffering? How do we reconcile compelling evidence for evolution and the age of the universe with a Bible that tells a different story? And: Is it even possible to develop a relationship with a God I cannot perceive with my five senses? “People often deal with such issues by going on the defense,” explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI’s New York headquarters. “In this course we stay away from that. Instead, we embrace the challenges wholeheartedly and seek a broader context through which to understand the issues.”

Jennifer Wiseman, an astrophysicist at NASA and the director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion, commented about the course: “At a time when science and technology dominate the mechanics and framing of our modern lives, it is more important than ever to ask the bigger questions of life’s purpose and values. This course enables the seeker to embrace the achievements of modern science while seeking the higher gifts of wisdom, meaning, and a personal relationship with God.”

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior or experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the wider Charlotte community. The JLI has raised the bar of Jewish education in Charlotte by examining important issues of Judaism in a deep yet comprehensive way. It has succeeded in demystifying the complex and opening the doors to Jewish knowledge to the greater Charlotte community.

Temple Solel Embraces the New Year Ahead

Just a short time ago it was the beginning of our year. Hopefully we haven’t already veered off the path and are staying the course. Being able to recount and recalculate our current course is such an opportunity. We don’t have to be like those who wait until later in life and realize they haven’t accomplished all they dreamt of. To modernize a Yiddish Proverb, “A person is not old until their regrets take the place of their dreams.” At any age, we can embrace our most Holy Days all year long as a time we redefine a new vision for our lives. It is a time to forgive. It is a time to dream. It is a time for tikvah or hope. A motivational business consultant once asked, “Are you with people who support your vision or goals? Do you have the right friends? Are you connect ed with the colleagues who will take you to the next level?” He proceeded to discuss that in most cases, we need to be prepared and willing to completely change in order to embrace new paths. Our Temple chose the name “Solel” because it means “pathfinder” and “trailblazer.” It describes the pioneering spirit of our congregants who are full of life, ideas, and goals.

Recently a new Presidents’ Council was hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and led by Alison Lerner. The first meeting was held and this group of local leaders described their organizations, what was working well, and potentially what areas they needed help or insight to improve. It is an example how finding opportunities to consult with like-minded people can be like an icebreaking vessel to provide safe passageways for other boats to follow. There will always be people who know more than we do. There will always be people who can help. This year make a goal to find one new person or a group of people who you can relate to and join together with and support each other.

(Continued on page 19)

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This subject might make some people uncomfortable but it is a question I am often asked. When someone in the Jewish community asks, it’s usually in response to a question asked by a non-Jewish person at the office (and the Jewish person didn’t have an answer). When a non-Jewish person asks me the question, it’s usually out of curiosity about something that seems so obvious that they can’t understand how someone could disagree. The question: Why don’t the Jews accept Jesus as the Messiah? Although people get fidgety and try to slip away from the situation, the answer, like all others in the Torah and our heritage, is something for which we neither apologize nor evade. That being said, we are not here to disparage the beliefs of other people, especially those who do so much social welfare for the world, rather we just want to speak rationally and provide a safe space for the person’s question. Here goes.

Judaism has three fundamental issues with Christian theology:

1. Trinity. Jewish belief has never, will never, and does not believe that God has a human form. God is beyond space and time; God not taking a physical form is one of the central ideas in Judaism. Making a corporealization of the Deity is a violation of a basic Jewish tenet.

2. Classical Jewish literature does not accept the notion of a second coming. Once messiah reveals himself, he will accomplish a designated mission of getting the Jews back to Israel and rebuilding the Temple and establishing world peace. Jesus was crucified before he completed any of these things and therefore we cannot accept him as the Messiah. The way Christianity got around this was to develop the concept of a second coming in which he will complete his mission. Our version is that when the messiah comes, he is going to get the job done and that he is not coming back.

3. Judaism is based on mitzvot, i.e. proper conduct and good deeds (action). Christian theology (i.e. either Jesus, the apostles, or architects of the early Church) states that God abrogated and replaced His covenant. A major ramification of this is Paul’s innovation that one gets redemption not by actions but by faith. That is a theological postulate that is inconsistent with Judaism. One might argue that this is Paul’s innovation not Jesus’, but the main point is that it is diametrically opposed to Judaism.

There is nothing negative above these three points, they are merely meant to articulate why Jews have not historically accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

At this point, one question is usually asked: Doesn’t the Old Testament predict the events of the New Testament? No, not if you read them in the original Hebrew or in accurate translations such as Artscroll’s Stone Edition or the Jewish Publication Society’s Eitz Chaim. (This subject is too broad to discuss in the limited space of this article.)

So where does this leave us? What do Jews actually believe concerning the Messiah? Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Britain’s former chief Rabbi, closed one of his talks on the subject with these words:

“Our task – to repeat – is to be true to ourselves and to be a blessing to others; to bring forward the Messianic Age, the narrative of redemption, to do so by the example of our lives and, through our lives, to reduce that dissonance … We bring redemption – one day at a time, one act at a time, one life at a time – respecting the faiths of others because we are confident in our own; inviting others to join with us in building a world worthy of being a home for the Divine Presence. I have to tell you that although that is a lofty goal, … there is not one member of the Jewish world today that does not have an important and unique task in that process … And we are part of a people that we can be proud. That is what is bringing the Messianic moment closer, one day at a time.

“The Jewish Messiah does not come to atone for our sins, he instructs us how to live without them and usher in an age of peace, something humanity with its own devices has failed to accomplish. At that time, … they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Women’s News

Temple Kol Tikvah Sisterhood

On Monday, August 27, the Sisterhood of Temple Kol Tikvah sponsored a talk on “Human Trafficking In Our Community.” Bo Quickel, founder of Vigilante Truckers, spoke to our congregation and members of our community about human trafficking and sex slavery.

It was a revealing talk of the hideous crimes that plague our community and society. We were also privileged to have a new member of our congregation, Mindy Sanchez, who added to this conversation. Mindy is an Attorney and was a Professor of Criminal Procedure. If you would like more information regarding this topic, please visit VigilanteTruth.com.

MOVE IN NOW!

OvertureCotswold.com
Join Us for an Open House

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

Traditional in design, innovative in implementation. This is the Latin way.

Charlotte Latin School was founded in 1970 to create an inclusive environment where academic excellence is encouraged, leadership is cultivated, liberal arts are valued and phonics-based reading is essential. We have educated thousands of students in the importance of learning, citizenship, service to others, hard work and Honor Above All.

CharlotteLatin.org | 704.846.7207
SCHOOL NEWS

Empathy is the Superpower at CJDS

CJDS is starting out the new school year on a high, with increased enrollment, strong ERB/CTP4 test results, often outperforming the independent schools, and strong kindergarten class of 21 sweet children, and devoted, loving, and skilled teachers. One would think that we would be satisfied and bask in the good feeling. We don’t rest on our laurels, because we know that educating children, especially Jewish children, carries a greater obligation. While we are mandated to teach reading, writing and arithmetic and more and to provide enjoyable experiences in a safe environment, we must and cannot forget that we are charged with the responsibility to shape, feed, and nurture their souls. We can impact their emotional and social skills that make them who they are, that effect how they interact with others and that ultimately predict their future satisfaction and happiness.

CJDS approaches this task with a plan of action that you might call CJDS Strategic Plan 2.0. Each year a motto or theme is planned so that all the activities, songs, and stories include this message. It starts out with a banner, a tag line, bulletin board, signs all over the school, and a song written specifically for the motto. Lessons on the motto include rules for being responsible, purposeful, and safe. Each year a motto or theme is planned so that all the activities, songs, and stories include this message. It starts out with a banner, a tag line, bulletin board, signs all over the school, and a song written specifically for the motto. Lessons on the motto include rules for being responsible, purposeful, and safe.

In addition, we have adopted the Responsive Classroom approach to classroom management by setting class rules where the students are the ones providing clarification to the rules. It’s not about what’s wrong or right. Who’s to judge what’s good or bad? Every story has more than one path. Who’s to judge what’s good or bad? Every story has more than one path.

We have introduced a song about empathy that we sing and could be heard playing in the morning. These are the lyrics that the kids sing and hear each day.

I don’t know what it’s like to be you. I don’t know what you have to go through. But I can try to see the world through your eyes. I will try to imagine a world without empathy. Put myself in your shoes and empathize. Emphasize? No no no. Emphasize. Not emphasize. But empathize. Every story has more than one path. It’s not about what’s wrong or right. Who’s to judge what’s good or bad? What makes me laugh might make you mad. I can try to make a deal. We’ll listen to each other and see how the other feels. With empathy we can understand. We can solve our problems and make amends.
The JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE and its beneficiary agencies would like to thank you, our compassionate and loyal donors, who gave so generously to the 2018 Annual Campaign. This year, we have achieved the highest-ever level of annual giving – $4,078,781* and still counting!! YES, TOGETHER OUR COMMUNITY IS POWERFUL!

We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that needs are met to create a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community and to foster and strengthen our connection with Jews here in Charlotte, Israel and around the world. On behalf of the people we help and the more vibrant Jewish community and to foster and strengthen our connection with Jews.

The ANNUAL CAMPAIGN raises money to meet the needs of our beneficiaries at home, in Israel and in 70 countries around the world. SUPPLEMENTAL GIFTS provide customized giving opportunities over and above Annual Campaign gifts to enable donors to maximize their giving potential and fulfill their philanthropic goals.

MAJORS DONORS: Donors who contribute a minimum gift of $10,000 per household

LARGEST GIVING: The following donors have contributed a lasting legacy to provide for future generations

Jewish Men's Donor List

The STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE, THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

$7,773,950 annual campaign

$304,831 supplemental gifts

*as of September 16, 2018

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**2018 WOMEN’S DONOR LIST**

**ILR Lion of Judah**

|$250,000 and above and above**

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**Emerald Lion of Judah**

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**Ruby Lion of Judah**

|$10,000 - $19,999**

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**Lion of Judah**

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**Ilan Ramon Society**

**New Gifts**

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Mannelin-Hochman, Rachel
Hendler, Marvin and Marlene
Hampton, Ron and Janet
Hackman, Allen and Shari
Matreycheva, Elena
Groner, Bentzion and Rochel
Gordon, Jason and Doris
Golub, Neal and Joy
Golembe, Brett and Nena
Vestal, Amanda
Goldstein, Erin and Jamie
Goldfarb, Barry and Sonia
Goldberg, Steve and Barbara
Goldfarb, Barry and Janet
Goldman, Yaron and Sandra
Goldstein, Erin and
Vestal, Amanda
Golembie, Brett and Nena
Golub, Neil and Joyce
Gordon, Jason and Doris
Gordon, Michael and Heidi
Gron, Marc and Melissa
Groeneveld, Brent and Rachel
Gronet, Michael and Robin
Strunk, David and Nancy
Said, Jared and Jenny
Tanenbaum, Jason and Jamie
Tart, Jeremy and Shirpitz, Lisa
Topper, Harry and Kathy
Traw, Russell and Alyson
Venik, Michael and Michelle
Wasserman, Marc and Amy
Warshaw, David and Kathy
Weber, Richard and JoAnne
Waxman, Gregory and Jessica
Weiners, Steve and Barbara
Weiss, Benyomin and Chanie
Whitney, Jon and Lynda
Whitman, Scott and Dor
Wilf, Evan and Kimberly
Wine, Mark and Wendy
Wolfsky, Evam and Robyn
Wolchowski, Enrique and Tania
Wolpaw, David and Sharp, Danielle
Wood, Reid and Debbie
Zadman, Steven and Marsha

Chaverim (Friends) $1 - $99
Abramsky, Sidney and Pearl
Adams, Joe and Nancy
Ader, Harris and Fogel, Maggie
Adler, Robert and Marisa
Azenzenn, Benjamin and Susan
Azzenen, Haim and Iris
Andrews, Marc and Amy
Anonymous
Auron, Marshal and Kathy
Avraham, Tamir and Patricia
Bahl, Dheeraj and Sharma, Atika
Bass, Iris and Linda
Berendt, Larry and Rachel
Berger, Jeff and Helene
Berman, Adam and Ivy
Berman, Robert and Nancy
Bimbirg, Todd and Donna
Bitton, Michael and Lauren
Blooom, Mark and Nan
Bock, Thomas and Tasehoven
Braverman, Howard and Mollie
Brick, Ginger and Boone, Katie
Brown, David and Susan
Campbell, David and Rachel
Canev, Richard and Eliza
Canev, Bill and Rochelle
Cheng, Hiang and Jerry
Chen, Emily
Coe, Andrew and Lily
Cohen, Aaron and Marsha
Cohen, Brian and Sonia
Cohen, David and Rachel
Cohen, Geoffrey and Janine
Cohen, Harriet and Yolanda
Cohen, Jacob and Betty
Cohen, Shlomo and Yiska
Dale, Richard and Ellen
David, Daniel and Rosie
Dilleney, Michael and Rene
Dinkin, Andy and Leslie
Dropkin, Dave and Katie
Esberst, Stewart and Aylme
Emery, Brian and Maria
Engelhardt, Steven and Ellen
Fernbach, Don and Rene
Flash, Michael and Renee
Fuerstman, Jacob and Hunter
Gabriel, Haim and Sylvia
Gamlin, David and Andrea
Garten, Albert and Phyllis
Giltz, Jerry and Amanda
Goldberg, Phil and Marc
Goldberg, Sam and Barbara
Goldflab, Barry and Janet
Goldman, Yaron and Sandra
Goldstein, Erin and
Vestal, Amanda
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Gran, Marc and Melissa
Groeneveld, Brent and Rachel
Groener, Mordechai and Chaya
Grossman, Jack and Kristi
Gudkovsky, Alexander and Matreycheva, Elena
Hackman, Allen and Shari
Hampson, Ron and Janet
Hendler, Marvin and Marlene
Hochman, Michael and
Mannlin-Hochman, Rachel
House, Lindsey and Alison
Hudson, Jeremy and Andrea
Hyman, David and Brigitte
Jackson, Jeff and Marisa
Jacoby, Julian and
Sherman, Janna
Jaffa, Brooks and Ripal
Josipovich, Nir and Julie
Kaplan, Andrew and Laurie
Kaplan, Jonathan and Jennifer
Katz, Ken and Kimberly
Kelly, Chris and Dubey, Marissa
Ketover, Craig and Susie
Korta, Luke and Amy
Kosofsky, Zac and Busman, Tara
Lampanello, Andrew and Amy Lauer, Harvey and Sandra
Lederer, Eric and Tracey
Leonard, Barry and Sherri
Levine, Justin and Nicole
Levine, Zac and Shelley
Lipson, Marc and Jill
Lumeltsky, Greg and Lena
Lyons, Andrew and Courtney
Malar, Glenn and Karen
Marder, Eric and Susan
Margolis, Lawrene and Sheila
Martin, Tim and Ellen
Meyer, Steve and Susan
Me-Zahav, Menahem and Malka
Milbrod, Garry and Jackie
Moore, Stephen and Debora
Moreland, Ted and Lisa
Morganstein, Mel and Judy
Moskowitz, David and Karen
Nachtsheim, Amnon and Tammy
Neiss, Aaron and Allison
Neumann, Rodd and Marissa
O'Brien, Edward and Lisa
Olinger, Scott and Betsy
Para, Chris and Jody
Paul, Frank and Ruth
Pepper, Steve and Marsha
Pernick, Jeffrey and Katy
Philips, Stephen and Barbara
Polk, Sam and Alex
Pollack, Nicholas and Martha
Reider, Scott and
Orad-Reider, Matti
Resnik, Alan and Ana
Richeson, Adam and Melissa
Rocha, Efrain and Caron
Rosen, Morie and Phyllis
Rosenberg, Leny and Cheryl
Rothberg, Jeffrey and Robin
Rubin, Brian and Laura
Savio, Allen and Jessica
Schoenbun, Scott and Diane
Shakhnovich, Vladimir and Yonan
Shaw, Jonathan and Barbra
Shraga, Jonathan and Barbara
Shubin, Alan and Janice
Siegel, Robert and Carol
Skodnick, Joel and Mary
Sloan, Mark and Lisa
Snyder, Scott and Amy
Solar, David and Sara
Stein, Eric and Laura
Stein, Michael and Tal
Stein, Michael and Janna
Stone, Arnie and Helaine
Tal, Donna and Jennifer
Tannenbaum, Perry and Sue
Thrope, David and Beth
Turtletaub, Philip and Diana
Vorst, Menachem and Rochelle
Wadsworth, James and Shiree
Wolfe, Erika and Beth
Weinberg, Herman and Ellen
Weiner, Donald and Rene
Weiner, Robert and Epstein, Carol
Weinstein, Leonard and Amy
Weinstein, Michael and
Curry, Karina Julie
Whippky, Dan and Faye
Zevon, Robert and Ronnie

Ilan Ramon Society
New Gift
Anonymous
Baucum, Darius and Madeline
Baum, Michael and
Haday, Smadar
Charlotte Jewish Preschool
Cobe, Russell and Mara
Croson, Henry and Ruth
Eisenberg, Gordon and Endranti
Fox, James and Migi
Friedlander, Spencer and Nathalie
Friedman, Robert and Sara
Harkavy, Andy and Megan
Hoffman, Joel and Jamie
Kamp, Matthew and Brandi
Lucas, Brandon and Stephanie
Needle, Jim and Kate
Newman, Robert and Eyren
Pahle, Ross and Jillian
Portnoy, Gedaliah and Leah
Press, Dan and Laura
Richey, Jeff and Beth
Rubenstein, Dan and Leah
Rubenstein, Dan and Rebaekah
Rudick, Brian and Mari
Sachs, Daniel and Randi
Schlomo, Candel and Amy
Schulman, Michael and
Schulman, Doug and Tamar
Stadlin, Raymond and Rocka, Agata
Umansky, Gerald and Norma

2018 CHILDREN’S DONOR LIST
Shomrim (Guardians) $100 - $364
Blaum, Blaja
Cheverim (Friends) $1 - $99
Baumena, Jacob
Baumena, Sam
Blau, Kate
Spieiger, Spira
Tamarinka, Samira

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS
The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte wishes to thank the following companies for matching their employee gifts in support of the 2018 Annual Campaign:

Ally Bank
American Endowment Foundation
Bank of America
Barings, LLC
Braden K. Winer
Foundation For The Carolinas
Microsoft
UBS
United Technologies

SPONSORS AND SUPPLEMENTAL GIFTS
Supplemental Giving provides customized giving opportunities over and above Annual Campaign gifts, enabling donors to maximize their giving potential and fulfill their philanthropic goals.

In 2018, Supplemental Giving totaled $304,831

Bernstein Leadership Group............................................................Barbara and Donald K. Bernstein
BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL.............................................................................The Leon Levine Foundation
Blenumenthal Educator Resource Center.............................................Blenumenthal Foundation
CBF U40 Program.............................................................................Steve and Olivia Cohen
Donations for Israel.............................................................................Anonymous
Gorelick Teens to Israel.....................................................................William Gorelick
Impact Fund..........................................................................................Larry and Dale Polsky
Impact Fund..........................................................................................Blenumenthal Foundation
Jewish Community Refugee Initiative...............................................David I. Cohen
PJ Library............................................................................................Harold Grinspoon Foundation
PJ Library............................................................................................Jewish Council of Lake Norman
PJ Library............................................................................................Brad and Liz Winer
PJ Carolina Connectors.....................................................................Harold Grinspoon Foundation
Women’s Philanthropy....................................................................Carolina Facial Plastics PLLC
Center for Jewish Education Children’s Room Campaign
Center for Jewish Education Friends Campaign

In addition, we thank the following donors who augmented our campaign through their generous matching gifts totaling $63,000.

-The Leon Levine Foundation
Leon and Sandra Levine....................................................................Levine Leap Matching Gift

Larry Schwartz.....................................................................................Campaign Matching Gift

All Jews are responsible for one another
- Parashat Behar Behchakotai

WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG
Learning and Reflection for All through the Holiday Season

By Emily Snyder

As we welcome all our families into the building, we see new beginnings too. We have 64 new families joining our community, we have 13 new staff members, and we even have two additional classrooms. September is special for us and we are so excited for what this New Year has in store for them. With Rosh HaShanah arriving the same year has in store for them. With the Jewish New Year. It is a time for learning by reflecting on our past and making goals for the future. Our students, families, and staff focus on all year, especially during the days leading up to the Jewish New Year. It is a time for families to do the same. This month at Collaborative Team Planning, a time when age-alike teams of teachers get together with the Curriculum Coordinator to plan for the month of instruction, our staff members took time to reflect on their year, and think about what they would like to change for the year ahead. Using the Hilil International “Ask Big Questions” guide, our staff read a poem by Marge Piercy and were asked to discuss what images the poem conjured, what resonated with them, and most of all, what the world needs from them this year.

At the end of the day, we as adults are no different than children when it comes to identifying Resonated with them, and most of all, what the world needs from them this year.

At the end of the day, we as adults are no different than children when it comes to identifying our feelings and challenging our- selves to think about the future. It is hard to look inside ourselves and make big changes. While we may be busy running around classrooms setting up centers, typing lesson plans and imputing into Himama, giving out nutritious snack and making sure they don’t interfere with any allergies, and all the countless tasks preschool teachers do throughout the day, it is worth it to stop, think about our personal and professional lives, and make promises to ourselves about the upcoming year."

Our school year at JPS, which has experienced 35% enrollment growth, started off with a bang, with many new children and staff members to welcome to our ever-growing family. School has been filled with the sounds of children learning and playing and we are so excited for what this year has in store for them. With Rosh HaShanah arriving the same time as the new school year, we spent the first week of school preparing by listening to the shofar, baking sweet round challah, and tasting apples and honey - yum! We just know that this year will be a sweet one.

From the JPS family to yours, we wish you a sweet new year. Emi ly Snyder

Our students are given the opportunity to practice limud through provocations set up in the main lobby and in the classrooms. Provocations provoke thoughts, discussions, questions, interests, creativity, and ideas. Over the past year, we have been exploring open ended activities that elicit creativity and individual thought, as well as how to set up intentional provocations. Many of our staff members had the opportunity to attend the Paradigm Project Conference in Pennsylvania last spring, where experts in the field of early childhood education lead workshops that trained our teachers to be fluent in making the classroom environment and center activities as meaningful as possible. If you walk into our main lobby you will see an invitation for our families to learn about themselves and the coming year as they experience “Rosh Hashanah on a table.”

Last month, as we learned about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we asked our students to notice their feelings, say “I’m sorry” when we make mistakes, reflect on the year we’ve had, and make goals for the year ahead. This year we are asking our staff to do the same. This month at Collaborative Team Planning, a time when age-alike teams of teachers get together with the Curriculum Coordinator to plan for the month of instruction, our staff members took time to reflect on their year, and think about what they would like to change for the year ahead. Using the Hilil International “Ask Big Questions” guide, our staff read a poem by Marge Piercy and were asked to discuss what images the poem conjured, what resonated with them, and most of all, what the world needs from them this year.

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It’s a Wrap! Shalom Park Freedom School Summer 2018

The Shalom Park Freedom School wrapped its 8th summer nurturing up to 80 elementary school aged scholars per day. This six-week literacy, cultural enrichment, and character building program was enhanced with field trips that included: Ray’s Splash Planet, Kate’s Skating Center, Shrek performance at CPCC theater, Morrison Library, Levine Museum of the New South, bowling, Discovery Place, and Field Day at Providence Day School.

On-campus enrichment opportunities included performances and activities such as: the Charlotte Symphony program, Israeli culture, puppetry, chess, gardening, swimming lessons, rocketry, Zumba, a magician performance, mindfulness classes, a book fair, and Pippin play performance.

A very special thank you to:
*All of our agency partners who provided facilities, staff time, and funding: Levine JCC, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Foundation of Shalom Park, the Center for Jewish Education, Jewish Family Services, and the Charlotte Jewish Day School.

*40 Teen Board members served as volunteers and mentors for our scholars full-time for a two-week period. In addition to volunteering, the teen board members were in charge of fundraising enough money to support one scholar through the six-week program. Many of these students completed the inaugural leadership program as well which involved nightly “homework” and thoughtful responses to readings and videos that related to their experiences with the scholars.

*175 volunteers from the community helped make SPFS a success — many of these volunteers were weekly reading buddies. Other volunteers served as field trip chaperones, and activity assistants. Our Harambee readers started off each day with great books, engaging our scholars.

*College student Servant Leader Interns and our Site Coordinator (Crystal Edwards) who are instrumental in facilitating excitement with learning and combating summer reading loss in our scholars.

*Izzy’s Catering for preparing breakfast and lunch for our scholars to be able to learn with full bellies every day.

*The leadership of the SPFS committee Co-Chairs Margaret Musa and Annie Lord and all of their dedicated committee members.

Would you like to become involved in SPFS? Please contact co-chairs Margaret Musa (mmusa@carolina.rr.com) or Annie Lord (anniehlord@gmail.com) for information about committee opportunities. Stay connected all year long by following up on Facebook (Shalom Park Freedom School) or visiting our website www.spfreedomschool.org.

Looking to make a tax deductible donation before the end of 2018?

If you choose to donate online, in the gift information section, please indicate you would like your gift to go towards the Shalom Park Freedom School site: http://spfreedomschool.org/donate-now/

To donate by mail:
Please make checks payable to Freedom School Partners, Inc. Please note Shalom Park Freedom School in the memo. Then mail to Shalom Park Freedom School, PO Box 2612, Matthews, NC 28106. You may also drop your donation off with the front desk in the Levine Jewish Community Center at 5007 Providence Road in Charlotte.

Please write “Attn: Shalom Park Freedom School” on the envelope.

WORK WITH THE LEADERS IN CHARLOTTE REAL ESTATE

SARAH ROSE
Steve Lepow

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Domestic violence occurs in millions of households every day, and a huge number of these incidents go unreported. Violence in the home affects everyone within the household, whether or not family members are victims of the abuse themselves, and it extends well beyond the confines of the home, affecting neighbors, family, friends, coworkers, and the community at large. Very often, people in abusive relationships can’t or refuse to accept that they are victims of abuse. Particularly in the absence of physical abuse, it may be difficult to identify controlling behaviors, put-downs, and emotional manipulation as the ongoing abuse that it is.

As we try and raise awareness in October, Domestic Violence Awareness month, consider these national statistics:

* A woman is assaulted or beaten every nine seconds.
* 1 in 3 women — and 1 in 4 men — have been in abusive relationships, and 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have faced severe physical violence.
* 20 people are abused by an intimate partner every minute, adding up to 10 million each year.
* More than 200,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines every year.

Many believe that abuse does not happen in the Jewish community, yet according to the largest survey of its kind, The Jewish Women’s Aid Study, one in four (26%) of the Jewish women and 17% of the male respondents indicated that they had been abused. A third of those surveyed admitted that they thought abuse in the Jewish community would not be the same as the rest of society, but actually, the number of Jewish women abused is actually 2% higher than the national average. The study looked at all sects across the religious spectrum, from very liberal to the strict Orthodox.

Emma Bell, executive director of JWA, said: “There is a shocking, unacceptable level of domestic abuse in the Jewish community and this shows that we are not immune. We routinely hear from the community that ‘surely we’re not the same.’

The majority of those interviewed by JWA said that the violence had caused them to feel more distant from their religion. “I just felt cut off from the Jewish community because of all this,” one woman said. “And it still hurts.

Domestic violence includes physical, psychological, financial or emotional abuse and can include dictating religious observance, withholding money, threatening to hurt or kill, stalking, threatening messages, or belittling someone so they feel worthless.

It’s not easy to know what to do when someone you care about is in an abusive relationship. We must all do our part by abandoning false beliefs, embracing a culture of safety, and supporting the victims we know.

For the Jewish community in Charlotte, Jewish Family Services is a primary resource to reach out for support and assistance. JFS has staff who are licensed therapists, have been trained and certified by the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and are experienced in responding and serving victims who have been abused. Together, we establish a plan that ensures the safety of the adult being abused and the children in the home and connects them with the internal and community resources needed to heal from the trauma they have experienced.

No one should have to suffer from physical or emotional abuse. If you are interested in learning more about how you can raise awareness about Domestic Violence or you know someone who is being abused, call JFS at 704-364-6594, or contact the 24/7 National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

Are Jews Really Victims of Domestic Violence?

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Welcome Back to BBYO

We hope everyone had a fun and restful summer. We had many Charlotte teens take part in BBYO summer experiences throughout the summer from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania to Canada and Israel. Two of our young leaders who participated in Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC) were excited to share their experience:

“This past summer I attended CLTC in Wisconsin. During my time there I developed new leadership skills to bring home to my chapter, as well as use outside of BBYO. I also met over 100 new friends that I became super close with and had the best time of my life. CLTC was such an amazing experience and I wouldn’t trade the memories that I made for anything.” – Daniel Pearlman (10th grade)

“Upon arriving at the airport for CLTC in Wisconsin, I immediately became part of a family of 112 other Jewish teens from all over the world who became my best friends within minutes. In those 12 days, I learned more about my own abilities, my role as a leader and my Jewish identity than I ever imagined. I could in such a short amount of time. I was exposed to everything from leadership strategies to cultures in countries where my friends were from Hungary and Russia, and even got to participate in (and win) Maccabiah. To be immersed in an environment surrounded by so many others who share my passions and goals allowed me to grow so much as an individual and make incredible friends. I’m eager to apply everything I gained from CLTC to my chapter at home and my life this year.” – Olivia Potier (10th grade)

We are always welcoming new teens into BBYO. We have our next member weekend coming up October 21-23 in Greensboro, NC.

To sign up visit: https://bbyo.org/easternmitzvah. This is a great opportunity to meet Jewish teens from all over VA, NC, SC, and GA. Teens will celebrate Shabbat, learn about BBYO and meet friends that will last a lifetime. For more information email levenson@bbyo.org or call 704-944-6734.

Donations to Jewish Family Services in August 2018

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Nate Lowenstein from Austin, Marissa, Zev, and Oren Karp

IN MEMORY OF

Marti Siddit to David and Suzy Catanzano from David and Risa Miller
Susan Roen Patterson to Estelle Rosen from Pearl Rosenthal

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

David and Marion Kremenov from Gloria Goldberg
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JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

August 2018


Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Phyllis Berlin, Gladys Cherry, Sara Friedman, Gail Green, Donna and Burt Greenspan, Fran and Roy Kaplan, Judy Kaufman, Penny Krieger, Shelley Leibman, Lois Mazur, Harriet Meetz, Fran Schluer, Eileen Schwartz, Roz Snyder, Marcia Stern, Joyce Sholl, Lindsay Strasser, Shayna Strauss


Nate Lowenstein from Austin, Marissa, Zev, and Oren Karp

CLTC Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Linda Safir, Fred Shporer, Janice Lerner, Matt Luftglass, Harriet Kaufman, Penny Krieger, Shelley Leibman, Lois Mazur, Harriet Meetz, Fran Schluer, Eileen Schwartz, Roz Snyder, Marcia Stern, Joyce Sholl, Lindsay Strasser, Shayna Strauss


Nate Lowenstein from Austin, Marissa, Zev, and Oren Karp

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Meet Our Hebrew High Teachers

Jennifer Sawyer is from Bedford, VA and loves teaching at Hebrew High because she gets to see so many kids she taught at TBE. This year, she is looking forward to deep, meaningful discussion and fun, hands-on activities. This will be Jenn’s second year teaching at Hebrew High.

Sam Swire grew up in Portland, OR and is in his third year teaching at Hebrew High. He loves working at Hebrew High because the content he covers challenges the teens to rethink what they know through a new lens.

Rabbi Helene Kornsgold is originally from Philadelphia and likes being part of the students’ continued Jewish journey and is looking forward to connecting with them. She is beginning her third year at Temple Israel as the Director of Congregational Education and second year teaching at Hebrew High.

Benjamin DeGroot, from Atlanta, is looking forward to her seventh year of teaching at Hebrew High. She loves teaching because she think teenagers are the most interesting and wonderful people. She adores watching them change and grow, think and consider. She hopes to help her students get a clearer understanding of their place in both the Jewish world and the world-at-large.

The New Year at Temple Solel

(Continued from page 7)

In 2 Kings 13 in the JPS Tanakh 1917 – “Even while dying, Elisheva tried to advise Joash, the king of Israel, and said, ‘Put thy hand upon him’; and he put his hand upon him.” Then it describes how Elisheva laid his hands upon the king’s hands and told him: “I have not failed. I’ve just found one at the end of your arm.” Two witty Yiddish Proverbs

“Open the window eastward, ‘Shoot’, and he shot.” Elisheva tells the king this act was symbolic of the victories he would win against the Arameans. In the end of the account, the king was told to take the arrows and smite the ground with them. He stopped striking the ground at three times instead of smiting the ground more. Elisheva explained he would only be victorious three times now instead of five or six times. He was the king of Israel and fell short. We make choices. We all need a helping hand now and then. Sometimes, even if you lose, you are victories of the soul and spirit.

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He was the king of Israel and fell short.  We make choices. We all need a helping hand now and then. Sometimes, even if you lose, you are victories of the soul and spirit.

Howard Seidler is originally from the Catskill Mountains, and has lived in Charlotte for 24 years and 11 of them at Hebrew High. He loves teaching because he enjoys watching the students grow up and loves the energy the students bring.

Jason Schechter is from CA and is excited to be teaching his first full year at Hebrew High. He likes teaching because it makes him feel connected to the Jewish community in Charlotte. He is looking forward to exploring some big challenges with his students and finding ways to tackle them.

Janice Zack is from Montreal, and is in her second year at Hebrew High. She enjoys sharing her love for cooking and seeing the teens enjoy learning how to cook and bake. She looks forward to continuing teaching Jewish recipes to the next generation and incorporating more Jewish learning about Kashrut.

Donna DeGroot loves teaching Hebrew for Credit. She is from NC but has spent some time in Israel, perfecting her accent. She has been teaching at Hebrew High for 15 years and has been teaching the Hebrew class for seven years.

Avital Stone is our newest Hebrew High teacher. She just moved to Charlotte from NY and is very excited to be teaching Hebrew I for the Hebrew for Credit class.

Rabbi Murray Eiring is from Rock Island, IL and has been teaching at Hebrew High for the past 25 years. Most recently, he has been focusing his time in the Temple Israel’s Confirmation class.

Rabbi Asher Knight is originally from Denver, and has been teaching at Hebrew High for the past three years. He has been very involved in the Temple Beth El 8th/9th Grade core class as well as the Post-Confirmation class.

Rob Sisson is originally from Western NY and has been teaching Hebrew High for nine years. He loves sharing Judaism with the students.

Jake Kalik is so excited to be teaching his first year of Hebrew High. Originally from Los Angeles, Jake is excited to teach because not only is it a continuation of his own Hebrew High journey, but it’s also a time for him to move into a new capacity as a future teacher. He is looking forward to developing relationships with students and teachers and learning from everyone how to be the best Jewish professional he can be.

Amy Montoni, originally from Boston, has been teaching at Hebrew High for close to 14 years. She loves teaching because she think teenagers are the most interesting and wonderful people. She adores watching them change and grow, think and consider. She hopes to help her students get a clearer understanding of their place in both the Jewish world and the world-at-large.

Marcie Goldberg, from East Meadow, NY, has been teaching at Hebrew High for 13 years. She loves all the personalities blending together to make her class interesting. She is excited for challenging six times, I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over again in my life.” Thomas Edison said it a different way, “I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”

Welcome Home to Windsor Run

Announcing the grand opening of Windsor Run, Mecklenburg County’s most anticipated new retirement community, featuring:

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Phone: 704-643-6673

Website: WindsorRunCommunity.com
BBYO proudly announces the establishment of the Stephanie Louise Warshauer Memorial BBYO Travel Fund. The fund will provide scholarships for BBYO members to participate in BBYO travel experiences. The first scholarships will be available for the summer of 2019.

The fund honors and memorializes Stephanie Warshauer, z”l, daughter of Phil and Beth Warshauer and Alisa Ostwalt (of blessed memory). Stephanie was tragically killed on Yom Kippur of last year when her car was struck by another car that was being chased by police. She grew up in Greensboro and was an active member in her local BBYO chapter, Etta Spier BBG. A graduate of Page High School and Western Carolina University, Stephanie had a passion for travel and adventure. She traveled throughout the country and internationally to Israel on Birthright, South Africa, Ireland, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and several times to Montreal.

Through her involvement in BBYO, Stephanie created strong bonds and friendships with her peers in Eastern Region BBYO (North Carolina and Southern Virginia). The Eastern Region BBYO staff remember her affectionately. “Stephanie always had a smile on her face, a passion for being Jewish and loved spending weekends with her community at BBYO conventions,” said Ellen Goldstein, her BBYO Regional Director. Ricki Gray, the former Greensboro BBYO City Director feels “Stephanie added her zest for life and to BBYO in everything she participated in. Bonds of friendships made were just a natural for her positive and outgoing personality!”

The fund was established as a result of the outpouring of emotion and generosity by the many people who were touched by Stephanie’s life. This included personal friends, family friends and relatives from Greensboro, Charlotte, and beyond.

“We continue to be overwhelmed by the outpouring of emotion and the number of people who loved Steph” said Phil Warshauer. “It would be very pleasing to Stephanie to know that through this fund others will be able to have the opportunity to establish BBYO friendships and perhaps travel abroad.”

For more information on the scholarships, please email eastern@bbyo.org or call the Eastern Region BBYO office - 704-944-6734. Additional donations to the Stephanie Louise Warshauer Memorial BBYO Travel Fund can be made through the Eastern Region BBYO Office, 5001 Providence Road, Suite 106 Charlotte, NC 28226 or https://bbyo.org/donate.

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Stephanie on her Birthright trip.
Born in modern day Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. Ax was the only child of two Holocaust survivors who married after their original spouses had died in concentration camps. “I was their new life,” he says. Before the war, Ax’s father, Joachim, studied voice in Vienna. Ax himself recalls, “When I was 6, I heard a recording of Rubinstein playing a Chopin concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra. From that moment, I decided that was the greatest thing you could do in life.”

His studies at the Juilliard School were supported by the sponsorship of the Epstein Scholarship Program of the Boys Clubs of America, and he subsequently won the Young Concert Artists Award. Additionally, he attended Columbia University where he majored in French. Mr. Ax made his New York debut in the Young Concert Artists Series, and captured public attention in 1974 when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists followed four years later by the coveted Avery Fisher Prize.

Always a committed exponent of contemporary composers, with works written for him by John Adams, Christopher Rouse, Krzysztof Penderecki, Bright Sheng, and Melinda Wagner already in his repertoire, most recently he has added HK Gruber’s Piano Concerto and Samuel Adams’ “Impromptus.”

A Sony Classical exclusive recording artist since 1987, recent releases include Mendelssohn Trios with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman, Strauss’s Enoch Arden narrated by Patrick Stewart, and discs of two-piano music by Brahms and Rachmaninoff with Yefim Bronfman. In 2015, Deutsche Grammophon released a duo recording with Perlman of Sonatas by Faure and Strauss, which the two artists presented on tour during the 2015/2016 season. Ax has received GRAMMY® Awards for the second and third volumes of his cycle of Haydn’s piano sonatas. He has also made a series of Grammy-winning recordings with cellist Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. His other recordings include the concertos of Liszt and Schoenberg, three solo Brahms albums, an album of tangos by Astor Piazzolla, and the premiere recording of John Adams’s Century Rolls with the Cleveland Orchestra for Nonesuch. In 2013, Mr. Ax’s recording Variations received the Echo Klassik Award for Solo Recording of the Year (19th century music/Piano).

A frequent and committed partner for chamber music, he has worked regularly with such artists as Young Uck Kim, Cho-Li-ang Lin, Ma, Edgar Meyer, Peter Serkin, Jaime Laredo, and the late Isaac Stern. Ax resides in New York City with his wife, pianist Yoko Nozaki. They have two children, Joseph and Sarah. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary doctorates from Skidmore College, Yale University, and Columbia University. For more information about Ax’s career, please visit www.EmanuelAx.com.

Charlotte Concerts has previously brought Emanuel Ax to Charlotte during the 1997-1998 and 1999-2000 seasons. Thursday, October 18 7:30 PM (Concert Preview begins at 6:55 PM), Halton Theater, Central Piedmont Community College

Ticket Link: https://tickets.vendimi.com/.
The Rosh HaShanah Experience Was a Huge Success

Remarks from those who were there included, “That was the most enjoyable and meaningful High Holy Day service I’ve ever attended,” to, “I didn’t expect to be moved like I was,” and, “I feel more connected to the Jewish community than I’ve felt in a while.” These comments mirror the mission and attitude of The Ruach which is to spread the joy of Judaism through Jewish spiritual and cultural musical experiences. Nancy Nagler Good, lead singer, rhythm guitarist and co-founding member of The Ruach, offered this about The Ruach: “We want each of our Experiences to touch peoples’ hearts and minds while creating a sense of community. If we can get folks just one step closer to being nicer beings or feeling better about themselves then that’s what we’re all about.”

In addition to the modern music there were traditional elements including a Torah service, a shofar service where anyone who showed up with a shofar could participate and, of course, the Rabbi’s sermon which was both reflective of the solemnity of the day and relevant for today’s world.

“We sensed there might be a need for alternative Jewish worship in Charlotte, but we were amazed at how many people came and the wide range of their ages,” said Peter Levinson, lead guitarist and co-founding member of The Ruach.

The Rosh Hashanah Experience was made possible by a generous grant from The Marshall Rauch Foundation.

If you would like to know more about The Ruach and where else they will be playing, like them on Facebook @theruachband, or follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit, or contact them at the.ruach.band@gmail.com.

“On the table Charlotte is a day when residents from all over Mecklenburg County come together to share meals, ideas and perspectives on the challenges that directly affect our community.

This year we are exploring the history of segregation and how its legacy continues to impact our community.

Join us and bring your friends and family to any of these events as we connect with our neighbors beyond Shalom Park!

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018

Breakfast: 7:45 – 9:30 am
Temple Israel and Myer Park United Methodist Church
Location TBA

Lunch: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Jewish Federation and Simmons YMCA
6824 Democracy Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212

Dinner: 6:30 – 8:15 pm
Temple Beth El and Friendship Missionary Baptist
Location TBA

REGISTER AT WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG

For more information visit http://www.onthetableclt.org

“...write from the heart, he simply cannot produce good music. I never had a theory in my life. I get a musical idea for a composition, I try to develop a certain logical and beautiful conception and I try to clothe it in music which exudes from it naturally and inevitably. I write what I feel in my heart and what finally comes on the paper is what first coursed through every fiber of my body.”

—Arnold Schoenberg in Great Jews in Performing Arts
Bal Tashchit and Beyond

Have you wondered what happens to that bruised peach you just put back in the fruit bin at the grocery store? What is the truth about “sell by” dates on products such as milk, cheese, and packaged cold cuts? In the US, we throw away about 40% of our food every year and 90% of food waste winds up in landfills. There are multiple environmental impacts stemming from food production and subsequent food waste, such as methane gas production and excessive water usage. This global problem exists at all stages of food production and consumption, but there are food suppliers and farmers taking steps to combat this epidemic. Taking small steps to make changes in our lives at home and how we shop is easier than you might think.

To get you started, Shalom Green and Levine JCC Care are joining forces to bring the film Wasted! The Story of Food Waste to the community for viewing and a panel discussion on October 16 from 7–9 PM at the Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. Admission is free, but registration is requested by visiting the LJCC desk or by calling 704-366-5007. Educational handouts will be available with tips for reducing food waste.

Wasted! aims to change the way people buy, cook, recycle, and eat food. Through the eyes of chef-heroes Anthony Bourdain, Dan Barber, Mario Batali, Massimo Bottura, and Danny Bowien, audiences will see how the most influential chefs make the most of every kind of food, transforming what most people consider scraps into incredible dishes that create a more secure food system. Wasted! exposes the criminality of food within the Jewish music circuit brings a country twang to Hebrew prayer. His music is a blend of southern soul and country charm that he calls Jewish Americana. His Shabbat services include his original music, as well as personal stories about life and his journey to Judaism.

When he’s not at home writing new music or hosting Jewish Rock Radio’s Emerging Artist Showcase (which has included The Ruach), Joe tours around the country playing Shabbat services and concerts. He’s been featured at numerous conferences and festivals, including 2017 URJ Biennial and the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival. The goal of his music is to help drive connection to the thing that connects us all and to hold the door for other seekers. It’s music that highlights humanity and the Holy.

Joe has a unique ability to not only express his own faith through music and storytelling, but to also deeply inspire others. You won’t want to miss this unforgettable Shabbat experience.

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**Two Programs to Celebrate the Second Anniversary of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice**

By Talli Dippold

In commemoration, each letter corresponds to a number. The letter bet represents the number two which is the anniversary the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte is celebrating this fall. The Hebrew letter bet has great symbolic meaning: it is the first letter of the Torah as in the word breathed, meaning “in the beginning.” It is the first letter of the word brachah which means “blessing” and opens most words of Hebrew prayer.

One month ago, the Stan Greenspon Center celebrated its second anniversary. We are taking this fall to reflect on our beginnings and to reflect on our blessings. We have learned a lot and grown over the past two years. We are looking forward to an incredible year ahead of transforming and transforming thousands of lives as we equip teachers and students in expanding their Holocaust and human rights education.

Our anniversary is also time of gratitude as we thank all of those who have supported us during our inaugural years. We could not have achieved such success without our invaluable sustainer. We are especially grateful to Stan Greenspon and his family for his vision that allowed the Center to flourish over the past two years.

The spirit of our second anniversary, we would like to highlight two remarkable programs and initiatives that go hand in hand.

On December 13, we will be hosting a reading of an original play written by Charles Laborde, directed by Dennis Delamar and produced by Three Bone Theater as part of the Stan Greenspon Center’s mission to give voice to the voiceless. This event is a reading of “Frontline” by Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz’s autobiography Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor. The script, adapted from Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz’s autobiography Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor. The script, adapted from Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz’s autobiography Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor. The script, adapted from Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz’s autobiography Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor. The script, adapted from Dr. Susan Cernyak-Spatz’s autobiography Protective Custody Prisoner: 34042, captures riveting experiences of her Auschwitz-Birkenau internment as well as the eventual liberation of this well-known Charlotte Holocaust survivor.

The voyage was a very successful diplomatic effort.

To see Ivan’s full presentation to the PA, click https://www.facebook.com/USConsGenJerusalem/videos/1015643407993333/.

### Ivan Cooper Represents US in Middle East Diplomacy Program

Upon the recommendation of the Secretary of North America (SWANA), Principal Ivan Cooper was invited by the U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem to participate in the diplomacy program on public-private partnerships (P3s), infrastructure management, and water/wastewater management, distribution, and regulation in the Palestinian Authority (PA) territories regarding the sale and reuse of treated wastewater. Ivan was the sole representative from the U.S. for the program.

The establishment of P3s for wastewater is part of a strategy for supporting the PA in building credible institutions of governance, building confidence in public administration, and being a good neighbor for Israel (note: if the PA was able to properly treat and use wastewater instead of sending it to Israel, it would lessen some water-focused tension). This mission was considered a high priority by the White House as it is a major U.S. priority to help move the Palestinian economy from its current state of excessive donor dependence to a model of health and sustainable private sector-led investment, growth, and job creation.

According to a recent study, there are currently a number of wastewater treatment plants in various stages of development in the West Bank, but a regulatory framework for P3s is needed to govern the sale and reuse of the wastewater. The eventual adoption of P3s could benefit the Palestinian people by providing a more efficient system for wastewater distribution in a region where water scarcity issues are a major health, sanitation, and security issue.

During his stay in the Middle East in July, Ivan worked with the Office of the Quartet, the Palestinian Water Authority, the World Bank, representatives of both the Dutch and German governments, numerous other Palestinian Ministries, farmers, and business people to share his expertise. In addition, he reviewed a number of wastewater treatment facilities and reuse sites, and made an overview presentation to the PA, various ministers, and other stakeholders. Ivan presented on current conditions, observations, suggestions for improvements, and a possible path forward toward water independence, P3s, waste conservation, organizational structure, funding, and related topics in the West Bank and Gaza. The voyage was a very successful diplomatic effort.

To see Ivan’s full presentation to the PA, click https://www.facebook.com/USConsGenJerusalem/videos/1015643407993333/.

### Ivan Cooper Repre...
October 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-Thur 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.

OCTOBER HOLIDAY HOURS

- Monday, October 1
  1:00pm-6:00pm
  Shemini Atzeret
- Tuesday, October 2
  1:00pm-9:30pm
  Simchat Torah

FOR HOLIDAY HOURS & SCHEDULES please visit our website at www.charlottejcc.org

REGISTER FOR FALL PROGRAMS

Online at charlottejcc.org OR
Call 704-366-5007 OR
Visit the Levine JCC Customer Service Desk

Infant & Toddler SWIM LESSONS

6 months - 2 years (Parent Assisted, Swim diapers required)
Sundays, 9-9:30am / 4:30-5pm
September 16 – December 9 (12 classes)

M/$174   B/$109   NM/$222

Discovery Art Series

October 3 - November 7

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:45pm
Weinberg

Receive a call, or take them all! Come learn the healing benefits of art from Artist Sili Schwartz through a series of six engaging art experiences. All supplies included.

Register at Customer Service 704-366-5007
Q? Sharrin Benjamin 704-944-9763
or sharrin.benjamin@charlottejcc.org
Early Childhood

Kids' Night In / Parents' Night Out at the J
7 Weeks – 12 Years
Kids enjoy a night in here at the J with pizza, themed crafts and a movie while you enjoy a night out.
Saturday, October 20
5:30-8:30pm
1 child $25
2 children $50
3 children $65

Kids' Night In / Parents' Night Out at the J
7 Weeks – 12 Years
Kids enjoy a night in here at the J with pizza, themed crafts and a movie while you enjoy a night out.
Saturday, October 20
5:30-8:30pm
1 child $25
2 children $50
3 children $65

Teens

JForce Youth
Grades 5-10
Designed for the athlete or non-athlete, and consists of an overall fitness program designed to improve body strength and endurance, speed and agility.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
5:30-6:10pm
M/$140 B/$110 NM/$170

Adults

LJCC Wine and Cheese Tasting Night at Seaboard!
Adults 50+
Bring a friend; meet a friend! Join members of the LJCC, and enjoy 5 different cheeses paired with 5 different wines. Space is limited, so don’t miss out. RSVP with payment online or at the front desk by Sunday, October 28.
Thursday, November 1 • 6-7pm
M/$35 NM/$40
Location: Seaboard Brewery, Taproom & Winery
213 North Trade Street, Matthews, NC 28105
704-944-6733 or shari.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

Flu Shot Clinic
AT THE LJCC
Friday, October 12
14 yrs + older • No Appointment Necessary!
No co-pay for Aetna, BlueCross/BlueShield of NC, Cigna, Medicare Part B & United Health Care - all others $40.99
NOTE: Regular Dose & High Dose (recommended for 65+)
Weinberg Senior Center
9am–3pm

Medicare Part D Counseling

Prescription Drug Plan
Open Enrollment

Oct 15 through Dec 7

To make an appointment with a Volunteer SHIP Counselor:
Jill Lipson: 704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org
Shari Benjamin: 704-944-6763 or shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

OASIS
The Senior Enrichment (OASIS) Program's mission is to enrich the quality of life for all seniors, regardless of religious affiliation.
We welcome all adults age 50 and up from the greater Charlotte area.

HOURS
Monday–Friday • 9am–5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center

Funded in part with a grant from:
704-944-6763 • jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Help Out. Do Good. Feel Good.
SCLC CARES

Lomax Incubator Farm Service Project & Tour
Bring your family and join us for Tikkun Olam.
Sunday, October 7
10am–1pm
3445 Atando Rd. Concord
Register at LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007 by October 1

Movie Screening: Wasted!
Join us as we take a look at how we buy, cook, recycle and eat food in the USA.
Tuesday, October 16
7pm
Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
Register at LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007

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

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

A light breakfast is served at each café, sponsored by:

Memory Café

704-944-6792 • jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Engage in Tikkun Olam — repairing the world

The POWER of Aging
A year-long lecture series that will inspire and motivate you to live your best life.
Meets once per month:
Tuesdays • 9:15-10:15am
OCT topic: ‘Important Life Conversations’
Free • FSP Boardroom

A collaborative program between LJCC’s Senior & Adult Department and First Hand Success! Samaritans, FM, MSW

704-944-6733 • shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org
Hey, Charlotte, have you heard of Moishe House?

Moishe House is the place where young adults in their 20s come together to create vibrant communities. We offer three programs each month ranging from Jewish Culture and Holiday, Tikkun Olam, Jewish Learning, and Social Programs. Check us out on Facebook to keep up with our upcoming programs, www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte/.

Documentary “Angst” Helps Teens Recognize and Deal With Anxiety

Does your teen seem overly stressed? Have you ever thought of them as a “worry wart”? Do they get anxious about situations that you think are really not that important? What you may be observing are symptoms of an anxiety disorder. While it is normal for most of us, including teenagers, to worry, roughly 31% of teens in the U.S. experience extreme symptoms that constitute an anxiety disorder. For these teens, the symptoms go beyond the occasional sleepless night or emotional outburst.

Anxiety disorder is the most common mental health issue in the U.S. 20% of teens suffer from either depression or anxiety and with today’s world of social media and bullying, teenagers are feeling more vulnerable and more pressure to “fit in” and the prevalence of anxiety disorders continues to rise.

On October 21, as part of the Mental Health Initiative, Jewish Family Services and the Levine Jewish Community Center will host a screening of a new documentary, Angst, about teen anxiety. Angst is a 56-minute film and virtual reality experience that explores anxiety, its causes, effects, and what we can do about it. Angst features candid interviews with kids and young adults who suffer, or have suffered, from anxiety and what they’ve learned about it. The film includes discussions with mental health experts about the causes of anxiety and its sociological effects, as well as help, resources and tools.

Following the screening of Angst, a local panel comprised of professionals along with a parent and teen who have experienced anxiety disorders will share their experiences and impressions of the film. If you are a parent or a professional that works with youth, this is a film that must be seen.

For more information or to reserve your seat, call JFS at 704-364-6594 or go to the JFS website at jfscharlotte.org.

Comedian Aaron Friedman Returns to Lake Norman Area

The Jewish Council of Lake Norman is excited to welcome back comedian, Aaron Friedman on Saturday, October 13 for another side-splitting performance.

Aaron will take the stage at 7:30 PM at Congregation Emanuel, 206 Kelly Street, Statesville. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. There will be alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for sale in this nightclub-style setting. For those of you already familiar with Aaron’s comedy, you know it will be an evening of laughter for teens and adults. If you haven’t heard of Aaron, you will definitely want to hear the Winner of The Jewish Week’s “Funniest Jew in NY” contest (2011). The Jewish News said, “Aaron Friedman mines his years as a Hebrew school teacher and b’nai mitzvah tutor for his act.” Aaron is a graduate of JTS/Columbia, has worked at Camp Ramah-Nyack, and performs at shuls and university Hillels across 18 different states.

Aaron has been called “spot-on” with his holiday and Hebrew School reminiscences. Even if you aren’t Jewish, Aaron will still make you laugh; however, if you are Jewish, you are guaranteed great laugh out loud comedy.

Joe Buchanan is forging into the uncharted territory that is Judaic Americana music. Listen to this Jewish convert from Texas and you can hear his soul in every note he sings. Come check out another take on new Jewish music. You will leave inspired.

The Ruach presents

Joe Buchanan

for an unforgettable Shabbat Experience

Free Admission

Follow The Ruach on Facebook & Twitter

For more information, email: the.rusch.band@gmail.com

Friday • November 9 • 6:30 PM
The Rabbit Hole • 1801 Commonwealth Avenue • Charlotte
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.
“Opening our donor advised fund at the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community was the first step in bringing clarity to our charitable planning. The ability to give appreciated investments and the ease in making charitable gifts from a donor advised fund drove this decision.”

-Barbara and David Goodman

-- Martin Buber, Tales of the Hasidim

Amplify Your Impact with a Donor Advised Fund

“One Simchat Torah evening, the Baal Shem Tov himself danced together with his congregation. He took the scroll of the Torah in his hand and danced with it. At this moment, one of his disciples who was intimately acquainted with his gestures, said to his companions: ‘Now our master has laid aside the visible, dimensional teachings, and has taken the spiritual teachings unto himself.’”

– Martin Buber, Tales of the Hasidim

HADASSAH CHARLOTTE PRESENTS

Celebrate the TaTas

THE BIG REVEAL

Wednesday, October 24th
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
VIP Hour: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Queen Park Social
4125 Yancey Road

To purchase tickets or make a donation, visit www.celebratethetalas.com

Call Phil Warshauer or Nancy Kipnis to learn more.
www.charlottejewishfoundation.org | 704.973.4544
The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations & Israel Affairs, 704.944.6751 or laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

*David Makovsky is the Ziegler distinguished fellow at The Washington Institute and director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process. He is also an adjunct professor in Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. In 2013-2014, he worked in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of State, serving as a senior advisor to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations.

Author of numerous Washington Institute monographs and essays on issues related to the Middle East Peace Process and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is also co-author, with Dennis Ross, of the Washington Post bestseller Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East as well as the soon to be released Fateful Choices.

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

Five local Jewish organizations have recently received estate gifts to support the future of Charlotte’s Jewish community. Gifts from the estate of Abraham “Abe” and Rose Luski were distributed to support the Foundation of Shalom Park, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the Hebrew Cemetery Association, Temple Israel, and the Levine Jewish Community Center. Rose Luski passed away on September 15, 2016 and Abe, two months later on November 20. They were both 89 years old.

“Mom and Dad loved their family, their yiddishkeit, and their Jewish community,” said Rabbi Jacob Luski, on behalf of the Luski family. “It is befitting that on their passing, they support their beloved Charlotte Jewish community as they generously did throughout their lives. They set a beautiful example for their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.”

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte also received a gift from the estate of Mildred “Mickey” Zuckerman, who passed away in York, PA on May 9, 2016 at the age of 99. Mickey was predeceased by her husband, Milton Zuckerman.

“My parents who came from another country sought to make the Israel of their imagination, drawn from the descriptions in the Bible, their physical homeland. In somewhat the reverse way, I sought to give my real and tangible homeland the added dimension of historical depth, to bring to life the strata of the past which now lay beneath the desolate ruins and archaeological mounds - the Israel of our patriarchs, our judges, our kings, our prophets.”

-- Moshe Dayan, Living with the Bible
SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS ARE OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Monday, October 1
Erev Simchat Torah Celebration & Dinner (5 p.m.)

Friday, October 12
Torah Tots Shabbat Service & Oneg (5:45 p.m.)

YOUTH
USY GESHER LOCK-IN
(ALL 8th-12th Grade Teens)
Saturday, October 13 (7:30 p.m.) – Sunday, October 14 (8 a.m.)
Location: Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
The night begins with Havdallah, then on to games, movies, and a nosh. A light breakfast will be served. Cost: $20/TI-USY Members; $30 Non-Members. Register at templeisraelnc.org by Monday, October 8.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
JEWS, BOOS, AND BREWS
Thursday, October 18 (7:30 p.m.)
Location: Catawba Brewing Co (933 Louise Ave #105)
Come join Torah on Tap for some fall-inspired brews and boos at Catawba Brewing Co. Light snacks will be provided.

SOCIAL CLUB
BUTTERFLY PROJECT 10 YEARS CELEBRATION
Sunday, October 14 (3 - 5 p.m.)
Our very own Irving Bienstock will be honored with a special ballet, performed by The Charlotte Ballet, in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park. There is no charge for this program, but reservations are required. To RSVP, please call the LICC at 704-366-5007.

LIFELONG LEARNING
THE ETHICAL LIFE: JEWISH VALUES IN AN AGE OF CHOICE
Wednesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and November 14
7-9 p.m. (with break for Minyan)
Location: Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall
This program (in two parts, to be offered in both the fall and spring 2019) will offer a distinctive approach to Jewish ethics, bringing the wisdom of our classical Jewish texts to bear on the unique challenges of our day. Cost: $36/Temple Israel congregants and $54/general admission. For additional details, visit templeisraelnc.org.

HOLIDAY SERVICES
Erev Simchat Torah Celebration
Monday, October 1
5-5:30 p.m. - Torah Tots Simchat Torah
5:30-6:15 p.m. - Spaghetti Dinner (reservations closed)
6:15-7:15 p.m. - Dancing with the Torah Celebration
7:15 p.m. - Ice Cream Dessert Party and Adult Bar
Please join us for music, dancing, and celebrations with the Torah!

Simchat Torah Services
Tuesday, October 2
9:30 a.m. – Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary
*Kiddush Luncheon following services is sponsored by: The Aaron Gleiberman Simchat Torah Celebration Fund

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB:
Rescheduled Date:
Monday, October 15 (7 p.m.)
Location: TI Boardroom
Dr. Jay Jacoby, distinguished professor of literature and yearly guest at the Temple Israel book club, will lead the club discussion of “A Replacement Life” by Boris Fishman. For additional information contact Linda Levy (704) 366-362 or levyollie@aol.com or visit templeisraelnc.org.

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, Shellie Barer (516) 375-4708, Cindy Jennis (704) 443-7643
STOP BY AND SEE OUR EXPANDED PRODUCT SELECTION AND LET US HELP YOU FIND THAT PERFECT GIFT FOR SIMCHAS, HOLIDAYS & MORE!
Proceeds support Temple Israel, Women of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.

TEMPLE ISRAEL CELEBRATES THE INSTALLATION OF
Cantor Shira Lissek
נשיאת תומך
Sunday, October 28, 2018, 4 p.m.

Join Cantor Lissek as she celebrates with a Concert Extraordinaire with her mentors and friends:
Cantor Azi Schwartz, Park Avenue Synagogue, NYC
Cantor Alisa Pomerantz, President of the Cantors Assembly
Cantor Leon Lissek, Cantor Emeritus, B’nai Amoona, St. Louis
Beth Styles, Producer/Composer/Artist
Cantor Laurie Akers, Congregation Or Shalom, Vernon Hills
Monty Bennett, Music Director, Temple Israel, Charlotte
Open to the public and free of charge.
Join us for a champagne reception immediately following the concert.
*Babysitting is available with RSVP for children 7 weeks through 8 years old (limited space).

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The City Without a Jewish Cemetery

By Brian Yesowitch, Hilbert Fuerstman Historical Chair

I would first like to ask everyone who is reading this to go immediately to www.hebrewcemetery.org and sign up to be a member of the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association. Don’t ask questions. Don’t ponder if you’ll be buried in Charlotte. Don’t worry if you don’t belong to a synagogue or temple in Charlotte. Consider it your “goal of the day.” It’s $72 annually and you will receive some benefits and discounts I’ll cover later in this article.

In August, my family observed a Jewish ritual that is unique to Jewish religious practice. We held an “unveiling ceremony” for my aunt’s cemetery headstone. My aunt, Janice Newman, lost a nine-month bout with stage four lung cancer that had metastasized to her bones. It was a difficult situation for all of us as she was much loved by her family and friends. The funeral last September was heartbreaking and now we were to return to the cemetery to unveil the stone and prepare for the first yahrzeit, which her immediate family will observe in September on the one-year anniversary of her death.

Lexington, KY is a wonderful college town that has a Jewish Federation, two synagogues, as well as a Chabad organization affiliated with the University of KY, a Jewish summer camp, and a Jewish food festival. However there is no Jewish cemetery. The historic Lexington Cemetery, near Rupp Arena, home of the Kentucky Wildcat men’s basketball team, is the final resting place of many notable Kentuckians. Mary Todd Lincoln, the KY born wife of our 16th President is buried there. Statesman Henry Clay, legendary basketball coach Adolph Rupp, and even actor Jim Varney (most famous for the “Ernest” movies) as well as a who’s who of thoroughbred horse breeders, owners, trainers, as well as other politicians, actors, businessmen, and women are also buried in the Lexington Cemetery. Imagine my interest and enthusiasm when I learned that there were two Jewish sections in this historic cemetery. The Jewish people of Lexington and their temples (if they are affiliated) as well as the funeral homes make arrangements with the Cemetery directly. Other than their Rabbi (if they are affiliated), there are no Jewish professionals involved with the process. The Lexington Cemetery also doesn’t take into consideration families with a financial need. These are just a few of the reasons I feel we in Charlotte are fortunate to have our Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery. In 1867, a dozen or so Jewish families decided they wanted to be a community and create the first Jewish community institution in Charlotte. They created a cemetery to inter Jewish people from Charlotte, Gaston County, Iredell County, Statesville, Mocksville, and many communities in neighboring South Carolina as well. It was their intent to have a place for every Jew in town to be buried.

Our Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association follows their same model today. We have a modest annual dues payment of $72. Our cemetery is member based – and we don’t dictate which synagogue or temple the member should belong to. It may be that you have connections to synagogues in other cities. We don’t discriminate in that manner. Nor do we discriminate based on finances. In 2012, with cooperation from Jewish Family Services and the Charlotte area synagogues and clergy, we petitioned the Jewish Federation to create the Jewish Funeral Assistance Fund. Along with our Norman Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund, we now have a robust support structure that uses the professional services and experiences of Charlotte Jewish Family Services to direct Federation funds designated specifically for financial aid for funerals as well as contributions from area clergy to provide the same standard of dignified care and comfort to families in their time of loss – regardless of their ability to pay “full price” for a funeral. Our “assisted” funerals are undistinguishable from our other funerals. We don’t have a “paupers’ section” as the other cemeteries have. We work with the families and provide support and guidance because our community is blessed to have a Jewish funeral support system that our Director Sandra Goldman leads with compassion and yiddishkeit.

Please contact Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org for more information about being a member, funeral pre-planning, financial aid for funerals, volunteering at the cemetery, or designating the Hebrew Cemetery as a beneficiary of your will or estate. Please join us and help us accomplish our mission of providing respectful and dignified Jewish funerals for all Charlotte area Jewish people.  

Rabbi David Wirtschafter leads the family of Janice Newman in prayer at the unveiling of her headstone on August 19.
Stay up to date with everything at Temple Beth El – follow us on Facebook and visit our website.

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

**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

**Simchat Torah Festival Service with Yizkor**

11:00 am Monday, Oct. 1

Please check [www.templebethel.org](http://www.templebethel.org) for service times and details.

**LEARNING**

**October 2018 Adult Learning Events**

**The Art of Chanting the Torah**

with Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

4 Saturday mornings starting Oct. 6

Learn Torah trope, a system of musical grammar that brings meaning, structure, and beauty to the way that we read and chant from our Torah each week.

**Elements of Judaism**

with Betsy Olinger and Sara Bryan

7 Tuesday evenings, starting Oct. 9

An introductory course to Jewish thought, belief, and practice designed for anyone who wants to reinforce or establish a foundation in understanding Judaism.

**The Many Meanings of Israel**

with Temple Beth El’s Rabbi Emerita, Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies

3 Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 17

The term “Israel” has many meanings. Join Rabbi Judy Schindler as we explore the meaning of the people, land, and dream of Israel, 70 years after the founding of the modern state.

**Sage: Seeking Jewish Wisdom**

with Rabbi Asher Knight

7 Daytime Sessions Starting Monday, Oct. 22

This year’s Sage will explore the ideas of Jewish identity that have shaped our people and we will consider how our ideas of Jewish identity will affect our people’s future.

**More Programs in October**

**Same Stories, Different Texts: The Hebrew Bible and the New Testament**

8 Wednesday afternoons starting Oct. 3

**TBE Bends Toward Justice**

(#TBERaceandJustice Learning Series)

Wednesday, Oct. 10

**Torah Study**

meets weekly

Uptown Study, SouthPark Study, TBE Book Club, SPICE Programs all meet monthly

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

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

**An inclusive and dynamic Reform Jewish congregation • More than 1,200 families strong**

**DISCOVERED TRADITIONS**

The Gift Shop of Temple Beth El

Drop by to see our unique merchandise by new designers and artisans arriving daily.

Discovered Traditions is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday–Wednesday and Friday, before and after Friday night services, and on Religious School Sundays. Proceeds support the Temple Beth El Religious School.

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

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

**A Proud Member of the URJ**
Simchat Torah Doesn’t Have to be a “Men’s Holiday”

By Sarah Rudolph

(Kveller via JTA) - There seems to be a widespread misconception in the Orthodox world that the upcoming holiday of Simchat Torah is a “men’s holiday.” I can understand the confusion, stemming from what we celebrate and how we celebrate it.

Simchat Torah has evolved as a celebration of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings — readings that in Orthodox shuls occur purely on the men’s side of the mechitza, or divider. And we celebrate it by taking all the Torah scrolls out of the ark — also on the men’s side — and dancing seven circuits, or hakafot, with them. There is much joyful singing, generally in a masculine timbre, and the dancing men take turns holding the heavy scrolls.

With so much action naturally taking place on the other side, I can understand — sort of — why things tend to be much less lively on my side of the mechitza. Depending on the community, the women might dance, but it is rarely as exuberant, as populated or as sustained as the men’s dancing. My childhood memories of Simchat Torah involve a core group of women who enjoyed dancing, ranging from elementary school students for over 10 years to students who have been teaching Jewish text studies for over 10 years to students. The real point is that we have a part in it.

From what I have experienced and heard since, my shul was fairly typical, though in many places the women don’t dance at all — or even show up.

My husband likes to tell of the girl he once dated who was surprised at the suggestion that she might go to shul on Simchat Torah.

“Why would I go?” she asked.

“For her, I think, it was accepted as a matter of course that dancing is pointless. Indeed, in more recent years, as this sort of discomfort with gender disparities has increased, many rabbis have concluded that there is no real halachic problem with a woman carrying a Torah scroll, and in some shuls a scroll or two will be passed to the women’s side for the dancing.

This is the part where I have a harder time understanding.

So often I hear some version of either, “My rabbi lets the women have a Torah, so the women’s dancing is nice,” or “The women in my shul don’t have a Torah, so it’s lame; they just stand around talking and watching the men dance.”

It is really easy to blame the men and the rabbis. It is really easy to say, “If only we were granted equal rights and could dance with a Torah scroll, we would dance and celebrate, too.”

It is really easy to say, “I’m not going to shul if the women are just going to sit around schmoozing and watching the men. It’s a men’s holiday; I don’t feel a part of it.”

It’s really easy to say those things, but if I may be frank, I think it’s all baloney. We have an equal right to Torah. I’m not talking about holding the scroll; that, to my mind, is secondary. The real point is that we have an equal right to rejoice in our sacred heritage. Nobody is making us chat; ultimately, no one is making us dance. If it’s stopping us from dancing, if it’s stopping us from dancing, I, too, can make something beautiful of it, too.

The real point is that we have an equal right to Torah. I dance because I will shortly have tears in my eyes, like I do every year, as I listen to the account of Moses’ death in the last few verses of the Torah. I dance because I will shortly be awed, as I am every year, when we begin again and read, “And it was evening, and it was morning, one day.”

The very beginning of everything; something, where there had been nothing.

I, too, can make something from nothing, in my own little way. I can walk into a women’s section full of schmoozing women and wild kids, grab some hands and create a circle of joy. I can rejoice in Torah, and nothing — no object or lack of it, no mechitza, no rows of chairs presenting a logistical challenge — will stop me.

I only hope, this year, the other women on my side get up and dance, too.

For others, the questions around women and Simchat Torah are more fraught — and many focus on the Torah scrolls themselves, arguing that if the women can’t dance with a Torah, then they feel excluded, like their dancing is pointless. Indeed, in more recent years, as this sort of discomfort with gender disparities has increased, many rabbis have concluded that there is no real halachic problem with a woman carrying a Torah scroll, and in some shuls a scroll or two will be passed to the women’s side for the dancing.

This is the part where I have a harder time understanding.

So often I hear some version of either, “My rabbi lets the women have a Torah, so the women’s dancing is nice,” or “The women in my shul don’t have a Torah, so it’s lame; they just stand around talking and watching the men dance.”

It is really easy to blame the men and the rabbis. It is really easy to say, “If only we were granted equal rights and could dance with a Torah scroll, we would dance and celebrate, too.”

It is really easy to say, “I’m not going to shul if the women are just going to sit around schmoozing and watching the men. It’s a men’s holiday; I don’t feel a part of it.”

It’s really easy to say those things, but if I may be frank, I think it’s all baloney. We have an equal right to Torah. I’m not talking about holding the scroll; that, to my mind, is secondary. The real point is that we have an equal right to rejoice in our sacred heritage. Nobody is making us chat; ultimately, no one is making us dance. If it’s stopping us from dancing, if it’s stopping us from dancing, I, too, can make something beautiful of it, too.

For her, I think, it was accepted as a matter of course that dancing is pointless. Indeed, in more recent years, as this sort of discomfort with gender disparities has increased, many rabbis have concluded that there is no real halachic problem with a woman carrying a Torah scroll, and in some shuls a scroll or two will be passed to the women’s side for the dancing.

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New Children’s Books: A Magical Shoebox and Animals from Everywhere

By Penny Schwartz

Boston (JTA) — From an African warthog to swinging orangutans, animals from all corners of the planet are featured in two stories among a new crop of children’s books at the Jewish New Year that also includes a lyrical poem of the biblical story of creation and a magical story about an ordinary shoebox.

And a bonus: An illustrated picture book tells the story of Regina Jonas, the German Jewish girl who followed her dream to become the first woman ordained as a rabbi.

Young ones can get a jump start on the new year by turning the pages on these entertaining and informative reads.

Shani’s Shoebox
Written and illustrated by Ritam Hoffer; translated (from Hebrew) by Noga Applebaum Green Bean Books; ages 4-8

Prepare to be enchanted. Shani’s Shoebox, a gently rhyming poem-story for Rosh Hashanah, is infused with the spirit of the year’s adventures.

Shani’s “abba,” the Hebrew word for dad, surprises her with a pair of shiny new red shoes for the Jewish New Year on the right foot. Shani’s “ama,” the Hebrew word for mom, surprises her with a bunch of green palm branches, and a bright yellow etrog, the lemon-like fruit, on a tray to be used in the holiday rituals by Auntie Sanny’s animal guests. But Warthog loves the etrog so much, he doesn’t want to hand it over to the lion, parrots, or giraffe. A young girl named Sara intervenes.

The story comes to life in Elissambura’s boldly colored, striking collage-style illustrations. The back page explains the history of the Ugandan Jewish community called the Abayudaya, and a glossary explains about the sukkah and lulav and terms like “Oyvey!”

Regina Persisted: An Untold Story
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso; illustrated by Margeaux Lucas Apples & Honey Press; ages 7-12

These days, when Jewish-American kids attend synagogue during the High Holidays, it’s not that unusual to have a female rabbi leading the congregation. Older kids may be fascinated to learn about Regina Jonas, the German Jew who in 1935, against many odds and strict gender roles, became the first woman ordained as a rabbi.

In this illustrated biography, which garnered a starred review from Kirkus, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso traces how Jonas persisted until religious authorities finally allowed her to take the exam to become a rabbi. Margeaux Lucas’ illustrations capture the period, with drawings of Berlin life.

(Continued on page 39)
I Don’t Believe in God — But This Is Why I’m Having an Orthodox Wedding

By Cnaan Liphshiz

Amsterdam (JTA) — My wife and I were married roughly 5,000 diapers ago, and she’s still waiting for me to propose. I know this because she reminds me every anniversary.

To be clear, ours was no shotgun wedding. Iris and I were hitched in a civil marriage in Holland five years ago — a wholly-some two years before our first child arrived.

But issues persist with my marriage proposal in 2013. Iris claims that I mumbled, over scrambled eggs, “So, like, do you want to get married or something?” But I think we had pancakes that day.

What she’s owed, I guess, is one of those orchestrated productions involving playful deceit, an airplane banner and a seaside stream of Judaism, and for reasons involving playful deceit, an airplane banner and a seaside stream of Judaism, and for re-

b常规s a redefinition of who is a Jew under a new marriage contract — to guarantee our children’s eligibility for becoming card-carrying members of any stream of Judaism, and for remaining Israeli citizens.

As things stand today, they already qualify as both even though their parents don’t have a ketubah, which in Judaism is optional anyway. (In halachah, a man and woman technically need neither ketubah nor wedding ceremony to be husband and wife — cohabitation is enough to seal a marriage, although the practice was discouraged by the rabbis.)

Our kids can obtain Israeli passports because I am a citizen. And because my wife is Jewish according to halachah (her mother had an Orthodox conversion before my wife was born), our son and daughter meet the definition of who is a Jew under a matrilineal standard accepted by all streams.

But amid radicalization in Orthodox circles in Israel and beyond, there seems to be little guarantee that this will be the case 20 years from now. Our ketubah may therefore shield our children from scrutiny and complications. In 2016, for example, an Orthodox rabbinical court in the Israeli city of Petach Tikvah retroactively declared a woman non-Jewish. She had undergone an Orthodox conversion overseen by Haskel Lookstein — one of the most highly regarded Orthodox rabbis in North America. Nevertheless, the Chief Rabbinate has begun to treat all conversions performed in America as suspect, as JTA has reported.

Amid this war among Orthodox rabbis, can anyone guarantee that hardliners won’t move to disqualify as Jews those who were born to converts? Or, for that matter, a Dutch Jew whose parents never bothered to get married in a Jewish ceremony?

Consider the case of Yossi Fackenheim, the 39-year-old son of the late Holocaust survivor and Reform rabbi Emil Fackenheim. In 2009, an Orthodox dayan, or rabbinic judge, in Jerusalem retroactively declared null and void the younger Fackenheim’s Orthodox conversion to Judaism in Canada at the age of 2. The stated reason: The convert did not lead an Orthodox observant lifestyle.

Fearing this radicalization, I want to make sure our son and daughter have documentation to escape such injustice, for example, if and when they choose to marry Jewishly.

Deeper under the surface, though, there are other concerns driving me to retie the knot.

In the eight years that have passed since I moved to the Netherlands, dark clouds have gathered over Western Europe, making it increasingly inhospitable to Jews. Against a backdrop of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and smears, violence against Jews is making a huge comeback in this part of the world.

In Amsterdam, where we live and enrolled our children in a heavily guarded Jewish kindergarten, a Syrian asylum seeker last year vandalized a kosher restaurant while waving a Palestinian flag to protest President Donald Trump’s moving of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

In Antwerp, where I sometimes spend Rosh Hashanah with my relatives, an Arab driver is believed to have tried to run over a Jew and his son while they were walking to synagogue earlier this year. In 2014, an Islamist allegedly murdered four people at the Brussels Jewish museum.

Jewish Education begins at birth

Jewish Preschool 22 Sardis

www.JPSKids.org 704-364-8895

JPS is a project of Chabad of Charlotte
Orthodox Wedding
(Continued from page 38)

Israel must remain a fortress that’s open to them. By Israeli law, they are entitled to citizenship as my children even if they weren’t Jewish. But laws can be changed — and by the same group of people who are retroactively declaring people non-Jewish.

Granted, these are pretty somber motives for getting hitched. But after studying our ketubah with our rabbi, I feel entitled to some pessimism.

“It’s basically a prenup,” the rabbi told me about the text written on parchment, which states the man is responsible for the woman’s well-being and specifies what alimony she’d pay her if he divorces her. “Nobody likes a prenup, so I don’t call it that. And it contains some rosy talk about what happens if it all goes wrong.”

The first is living with the best partner I could’ve hoped for. The second is our children’s place in the world’s only Jewish country. In joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, and hopefully long after death does us part.

New Books
(Continued from page 37)

Several scenes convey the young Regina as a kind of Disney-like Belle, greeting peddlers at the market, and clutching a book, daydreaming, as she crosses the street.

The afterword tells of the tragic ending of Jonas’ life in 1944, where she was killed in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. It would be nearly 30 years later until another woman, the American Sally Priesand, is ordained.

The story of Creation unfolds in lyrical rhyming couplets in this day-by-day biblical interpretation that introduces young kids to the Jewish origin story of how the world came to be. On day one, God brought light from darkness: “Our beautiful world was under- way.”

In this retelling, God is referred to in gender-neutral language. Older kids will be engaged with the holiday dictionary of Hebrew and English words.

In this gloriously illustrated, uplifting story for these times, two boys — one Jewish and one Muslim — from Brooklyn’s Flatbush Avenue meet at a Middle Eastern grocery shop. It’s a rare year when Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan coincide in the fall. As their mothers shop, the boys run through the aisles, overflowing with spices, fruits, olives, and sugar-dusted candies, causing minor mischief and striking up the beginnings of a friendship.

As the endearing story unfolds, the friendship blossoms and inspires their families to celebrate together.

And There Was Evening and There Was Morning: Harriet Cohen Feldman and El- lan Kahan Zager; illustrations by Ellen Kahan Zager

Kahan Zager’s detailed illustrations, which are drawn using Hebrew letters and words. The back page is a simple illustrated dictionary of Hebrew and English words.

The Creation Book: Chant Gansburg; illustrated by Dena Ackerman

Bold, bright illustrations will dazzle young readers in this story of Creation told in lively rhyming couplets that evoke each day’s creation. The double-page spread for day five is a swirl of creatures from the oceans and sky: “Fins and scales. Flapping tails. A school of fish. A pod of whales.”

Verse and art are well paired in this story, which is geared to families in the haredi Orthodox community, using the word Hashem, for God, with the He pronoun.

Orthodox Wedding
(Continued from page 38)

Stills can be changed — and by the same group of people who are retroactively declaring people non-Jewish.

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