The Power of Women
Passion, Purpose, and Pie: It’s Never Too Late to Pursue Your Passion

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 PM at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte raises and distributes funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. While our local Jewish community is growing, the opportunities for community enrichment are increasing rapidly. To fulfill the promise of these opportunities, Federation is being asked to fund more – from both our community’s current Jewish agencies and new organizations and initiatives that are launching every year. Over the past decade, Federation has doubled the number of agencies and initiatives it funds.

This year, Federation has restructured its Campaign Cabinet – the core group of volunteers that partner with Federation staff to provide our Jewish community with the resources we need to grow and thrive. The Cabinet consists of three Teams: The Ask Team is responsible for securing gifts to Greater Charlotte’s Jewish community through Federation’s Annual Campaign; the Connect Team builds Charlotte’s Jewish community by having conversations with community members about Federation’s important work; the Thank Team expresses gratitude to the Jewish community’s generous donors – at every level of giving.

Federation’s Campaign Cabinet is led by five Team Captains – Gail Baron, Eliza Carney, George Cronson, Zach Gerger, and Lisa Strause Levinson. CJN sat down with them for an interview recently.

CJN: Please describe your Team’s role in your own words.
George Cronson: Our team is here, as we are every year, to ask our generous donors to continue to support our important work and to enlighten others about what the Federation does and to ask them to walk with us in our mission. We ask for increases so that we can continually support our growing community.

Zach Gerger: With the new system in place, I see this “Askers” as the stimulus piece to the puzzle of the pledge. While the interaction between the cardholder and donor is primary I see the role as providing the stimulus and supportive team to help get the job done.

Gail Baron: The Connect team is essentially a group of Federation messengers. We have created a more systematic way of connecting with people that either don’t know about the great work of Federation, or may want to know more. We have been doing this for years, but not in an intentional way, with a cadre of committed people who will have meaningful conversations with various folks and report back to our campaign team on how we can better engage the greater Charlotte community in our mission.

Eliza Carney: The Connect team serves to create dialogue around and surface the many ways that Federation impacts the Jewish community, and to present opportunities for community members to deepen their connections with the Jewish community as a whole.

Lisa Strause Levinson: The Thank team’s job is to reach out to as many donors as we can and take a few minutes to express our gratitude to our donors for the support to the Federation’s annual campaign. Thank team members have made phone calls, written personal notes and emails trying to reach donors. To date, we have personally thanked almost 500 donors.

CJN: What impact do you personally feel that Federation has on the community?

(Continued on page 2)
Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made January 1 through March 8.

In memory of Doris Rousso
By: Linda Seigel

In memory of Jay Hickman

In memory of Sandy Bogner,
By: Larry and Dale Polsky

In honor of Sam and Emily Zimmern’s birthday

In honor of Laurel Grauer
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In honor of the birth of Oliver Josef Goldsmith

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Federation Annual
Tributes to the Jewish
The Power of Women: Literacy and Tikkun Olam

Tuesday, April 30, 9:30 AM - 1 PM

On Tuesday, April 30, the Jewish Federation will host its second annual Women’s Philanthropy social action program. The program is co-chaired by Lisa Straus Levinson and Marisa Zelbert and focuses on promoting literacy and addressing the reading crisis in our schools. This program is our opportunity to make a difference, but also bring attention to an educational crisis right here in our beloved Queen City, and also across the state and throughout the country.

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

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

On April 30, women will have the opportunity to learn more about the literacy crisis in our community and then visit one of our community’s schools, where they will read with a young child (or two). This year we have an ambitious goal: We are looking to collect and donate 400 books as part of this program. These books will be donated to children in Hungtongevne Farms and Sterling Elementary schools. You can help us reach our goal and make a real impact on a child’s life by donating new or gently-used children’s books. To make it even easier, we created an Amazon Wish List, which can be found on our website: www.jewishcharlotte.org.

This program is free and open to all women in our community, however, space is limited and registration is required by April 19. To register, go online to www.jewishcharlotte.org. For more information, please contact Ilana.Toch@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6784.

Women’s Philanthropy Pearl Society

Pearl Society members are women who celebrate their commitment to philanthropy and our community by making a gift under their own name of $180 or more to the Federation’s Annual Campaign. Pearl Society members are recognized with a unique pearl necklace. The Pearl Society is co-chaired by Staci Mond and Elizabeth (Liz) Ren.

Originally from Wichita, KS, Staci Mond moved to Charlotte 20 years ago after marrying her husband, Darren, who is a native Charlottean. “I grew up in a very small Jewish community,” Staci shares, “where there were only a few Jewish kids in my school. Here in Charlotte, I like that my kids have many Jewish friends both on and off Shalom Park.” On why she chooses to give a woman’s gift, Staci explains, “as a career women and a mom I wanted to set a good example. Giving in my own name is my way to contribute to the betterment and growth of the Jewish community. We also give as a family because I feel that is important too.”

Liz’s journey to the Federation and Women’s Philanthropy began with one of Federation’s beneficiary agencies, the Charlotte Jewish Preschool (CJP). Liz served on the board of directors from 2015 to 2018, where she learned about the impact the Jewish Federation has on our community. “I am honored to contribute to Women’s Philanthropy as a Pearl Society co-chair,” says Liz. “Women’s Philanthropy is a great way for us as women leaders to make decisions and have an impact on our Jewish community and greater Charlotte community.”

(Continued on page 24)
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The honorable Joseph Lieberman is a Senior Counsel at Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP. In this capacity, Senator Lieberman applies the investigative skills he honed as a United States Senator and Attorney General of the State of Connecticut to represent clients in independent and internal investigations and advise them on a wide range of public policy, strategic, and regulatory issues. As a seasoned leader who is skilled in the art of facilitating mutually beneficial and strategic agreements, Senator Lieberman also assists corporate clients on tax, health care, security, and intellectual property matters.

In addition to practicing law, Senator Lieberman is Co-Chair of the American Enterprise Institute's American Internationalism Project, which is a cross-party initiative designed to rebuild and reshape a bipartisan consensus around American global leadership and engagement.

The New World Order:
U.S. Foreign Policy in a Dynamic Middle East

FEATURING
THE HONORABLE
JOSEPH LIEBERMAN
FORMER U.S. SENATOR (I-CT)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019
7:00 p.m. Dessert Reception | 7:30 p.m. Program

Temple Beth El at Shalom Park
5101 Providence Road • Charlotte

For security purposes, advance registration is required.
To Register, Please Visit:
WWW.AIPAC.ORG/CHARLOTTE
OR
WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG/JCRC

THIS EVENT IS OFF THE RECORD AND CLOSED TO THE PRESS.

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If you are reading this column, the following statistic clearly does not apply to you, but should be of interest nonetheless. A recent poll reported that 66% of Americans never read or listen to books for pleasure. Personally, I cannot imagine not reading for pleasure—curling up with a good book is my favorite way to escape, to expand my horizons, to get caught up in the lives of others. When does a child’s love of reading and being read to stop? Our children and grandchildren are so programmed these days, there’s barely any down time for them to entertain themselves and especially to entertain themselves by purely reading for pleasure...there is so much competition from playing videogames, chatting with friends on their phones, watching television, reading 24 hour news coverage on iPads, and participating in a myriad of other activities. I am from a family of readers, and I am fortunate that my love of reading has been embraced by my children and grandchildren. I’m glad we’re part of the other 34%.

Now, what’s new at the Center for Jewish Education? Those of us who loved reading The Two-Family House by Lynda Cohen Loigman have long anticipated the publication of the author’s second novel The Wartime Sisters. I picked up The Wartime Sisters and five hours later came to the end of this very satisfying novel about two sisters Ruth and Millie during World War II. Ruth, the older smarter, practical minded sister always finds herself falling short when in the company of her beautiful, whimsical, emotional younger sister. And Millie finds herself unable to win the acceptance she longs for from her older sister Ruth. Their life choices take them in two very different paths; but when they are reunited during the early 1940s working in an arsenal in Springfield, MA, the sisters’ buried secrets continue to keep them emotionally closed off from each other. Their friendships with Lillian and Arietta add depth to this story of family dynamics, abuse, and the strength and emotional support women provide for each other.

From Pam Jenoff, New York Times bestselling author of The Orphan’s Tale, “Loigman’s strong voice and artful prose earn her a place in the company of Alice Hoffman and Anita Diamant, whose readers should flock to this wondrous new book.”

Another book I’d been hearing a lot about was The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris. I was eager to pick up this true story of Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew who spoke several languages, a skill which landed him a privileged position in the camps as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners. Clearly, this position presented Lale with tremendous guilt; however, he courageously used his position to save the lives of many of his fellow prisoners. Also, an amazing love story, The Tattooist of Auschwitz is a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.

Please join us for our next CJE Book Club Meeting: Gateway to the Moon by Mary Morris, Wednesday, April 17 at 10:30 AM.
Time to set out the seder plates.
Pass down the wine, and bring the matzah.
Three, please, all nicely stacked.
Pass down old stories, and gather new recipes.
Time to set out the seder plates.

Happy Passover from
all your friends at Publix.
Passover at Chadab of Charlotte

Passover is one of the most important holidays in the Jewish calendar. Judaism considers Passover to be the birthday of the Jewish people and it represents one of the most momentous events in Jewish history. Passover is rich in family traditions and rituals. The focus of the Passover Seder is transmission to the next generation, which is seen by the involvement of children in every detail of the Seder. The Seder reaffirms our trust in God, that He will, once again, protect us from those that wish to oppress us. Chadab of Charlotte will be providing an educational and instructive class to help people prepare for this festive, yet complex holiday. A Practical Guide to Celebrating Passover, taught by Rabbi Yossi Groner, will be held on two consecutive Tuesdays - April 9 and 16 from 7:30-9 PM, on our campus at 6619 Sardis Road. The mini-course will cover practical laws and rituals of Passover, tips on how to conduct a Seder, and the spiritual meaning of the holiday. We hope you will join us for this exciting class. There is no charge.

Shmurah Matzah Available

A rich Passover tradition in many Jewish communities is the use of round Shmurah Matzo for the Passover Seder. One of the reasons for this custom is that Shmurah Matzah is the closest replica to the original matzah the Israelites ate when they left Egypt in haste. Shmurah Matzah is baked with extra care which begins with the selection and milling of the grains and contains only two ingredients - natural, unbleached wheat and pure well water. The entire process of baking the matzah, including the mixing and kneading, needs to be completed in less than 18 minutes; hence, the word Shmurah means guarded, to ensure the process is completed properly.

A limited amount of Shmurah Matzah will be available at Chadab of Charlotte for $23/lb. Please call 704-366-3984 to order yours today or visit chabadnc.org to place your order.

Sell Your Chometz

One of the important traditions relating to Passover is to sell your chometz through the Rabbi before Passover. This ensures that we don’t have any chometz in our possession from the eve of Passover through the entire holiday. The Sale of Chometz forms are available on our website at chabadnc.org. Please complete and return the form to us by April 12.

Perpetually Seeking Freedom

By Rabbi Dusty Klass, Temple Beth El

Every year, a little over a month after Purim and its revelry, we gather at tables, square tables, multiple tables cobbled together because we are too few to sit at one table. We gather to dip parsley and ask questions and tell the story, again. We gather to remind ourselves, and each other, Avadim hayinu – once, we were slaves.

In perhaps one of my favorite gleanings from the 2013 Pew Research Study of Jewish Americans, researchers uncovered that more than anything else - more than lighting Shabbat candles, more than fasting on Yom Kippur – more Jews attend and participate in the Passover Seder than any other Jewish practice or tradition. For some, it is simply a great reason to come together, catch up, and eat good food. For others, it is a tradition, and you don’t mess with tradition.

But I also think there is something eternal and timeless about the story we tell at Passover. We became strangers in a land that had once provided sustenance. Joseph and his brothers came to Egypt for food during a famine; but their descendants, our ancestors, suffered under the might of a pharaoh who “knew not Joseph.” We are all mere generations away, in both directions, perhaps, from living the lives our ancestors sought out for us – or fled in order to avoid.

We became slaves to a leader (and a people …) who could not empathize with our plight. Pharaoh’s heart hardened, over and over again, against the pain and suffering he saw right before his eyes, in his own kingdom. We all harbor our hearts to avoid feeling the full measure of pain and suffering experienced by so many in our own communities.

We became hopeless – almost. 400 years of slavery quashed so many sparks of life, so many dreams. It took nine plagues to stir their spirits. Not until the plague of darkness descends do the Israelites pull themselves out of their torpor enough to see the light God has provided in their dwellings.

And yet long before God performs signs and wonders to prove God’s might, two Israelite midwives, Shifrah and Puah, hoped. And they took that glimmer of hope and acted – lying to Pharaoh’s face and allowing Israelite babies to live, despite being ordered otherwise.

And wonderfully, at the end of the story, we became free. Maybe.

And herein lies the most compelling component of the story of Passover, the part of the story that resounds in our hearts and minds in the year 200 BCE and 200 CE and 1200 CE and still resonates with us today, in 2019.

As Michael Walzer puts it, “Standing on the parted shores of history, we still believe what we were taught before we ever stood at Sinai: that wherever we are, it is eternally Egypt. That there is a better place, a Promised Land. That the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness. That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together.”

We, each of us, know the feeling of being enslaved. We are shackled by our doubts and our fears, by unhealthy relationships and lifestyles, by our own expectations of ourselves. We will always be slaves moving toward freedom.

And every year, Passover gives us the opportunity to remember that once upon a time, our great-great-great-great-great (you get the picture) grandparents found the glimmer of hope, took a deep breath and a first step. Chag Pesach Sameach. May you have the courage to continue seeking freedom from what enslaves.

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It is now 74 years since World War II officially came to an end in Europe. As the years pass, unfortunately so does the memory of the Holocaust. Recent studies have shown that two-thirds of American millennials do not know what Auschwitz is, and 22% had never even heard of the Holocaust. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we keep the memory, stories, and lessons of the Shoah alive.

Temple Kol Ami is pleased to sponsor a Holocaust Memorial lecture on April 28 featuring Dr. George Bacall and Sophia Cagan. We are even more thrilled that the Winthrop University Department of Philosophy and Religion, headed by Dr. Peter Judge, is co-hosting this important program. Dr. George Bacall and Sophia Cagan are siblings, children of Holocaust survivors Leo and Alina Bakalczuk. George was actually born in a displaced persons camp in 1946. Leo and Alina survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, multiple concentration camps, and death marches, in addition to other atrocities. Before her passing, Alina documented these horrendous experiences in her book No Common Place. Dr. Bacall has put together a lecture largely based on his parent’s testimony which has been delivered and well-received at multiple venues throughout the world.

We hope you will join us for this free event on April 28, 4 PM at Kinard Hall, Room 108, Winthrop University, 1720 Memorial Circle in Rock Hill, SC. There is free parking on campus and refreshments will be served. Please help us to honor the memory of those who perished and maintain the stories of those who survived this unbelievable genocide. As the survivors grow older and pass away, it is our responsibility to never forget. Temple Kol Ami would like to extend special thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte who has supported us through the Innovation and Impact Fund grant and made such a vital program possible.

April is a busy month at Temple Kol Ami. We will be hosting our annual Second Night Passover Seder on April 20, 6:30 PM at 1600 SC-160, Fort Mill, SC. There will be a lovely traditional Seder meal catered by The Fish Market, an excellent restaurant located at Baxter Village in Fort Mill. This Seder is open to the public. Non-member pricing and ticket purchase is available on our website www.templekolamisc.org. For more information, please contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com. We hope you will join us at our Seder table.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. There are so many wonderful advantages to being a member of TKA, not the least of which is being a part of the revitalization of the Jewish community of this area. We hope you will come play and pray with us sometime soon. For more information about Temple Kol Ami, check out our website at www.templekolamisc.org.
Hebrew School of the Arts in Ballantyne

Every day at Hebrew School is new and exciting. Hat days, pajama days, holidays, and more.

“...feel the fate of human beings, of peoples, with real love. There is no art for art’s sake. One must interested in the realm of life.”

–Marc Chagall, Jewish Spectator, September 1951
The Power of Pittsburgh

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

We recently went to Pittsburgh to honor a close family friend who was being publicly recognized as the first civilian responder after the Pittsburgh tragedy.

Ballantyne First Night Community Seder

Join us for an inspiring, active uplifting community Seder with the Ballantyne Jewish Center. Suitable for all ages. Special games and activities for children. Friday, April 19
7:00 PM - Holiday Service; 7:45 PM - Seder begins.
At the South Charlotte Banquet Center 9009 Bryant Farms Rd. Suggested donation $36 per person. Complimentary for our BJCC Partners.

Although the Tree of Life synagogue had been cordoned off for over 14 hours, the first people that the FBI allowed to enter were the Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society). Our friend was trained by the IDF’s Chevra Kadisha as well as Israel’s ZAKA (mass casualty and victim identification) unit and is an expert in the elaborate burial procedures involved when a person has been murdered. Although the synagogue is still closed to the public, Sara and I were given permission to go inside accompanied by a Vice President of Tree of Life, who is also a law enforcement official.

Our tour began with a plaque of framed pictures of the victims. No one knows where it came from; it is one of hundreds of meaningful items people left there anonymously. Suddenly the tragedy became humanized; these were real people with rich lives. Some were known for their kindness, others for participating in any volunteer opportunity; one older couple was known to have been so much in love that they always did things together; they were inseparable in life — and even in death.

The shooter went throughout the building looking for people to kill. He began in the main sanctuary, went into the kitchen, then a smaller sanctuary. Seeing sidurim (prayer books), benches, walls in the hallways, and even the Ark housing the Torah scrolls riddled with holes, made it all so real but the most meaningful part of the tour was hearing about the heroes of the Chevra Kadisha.

When a Jew is murdered because (s)he is Jewish, a heightened level of attention is given to the body. There is no cleaning or purification process and (s)he is buried in whatever was worn at the time of death because every drop of blood must be collected and buried. If it is known for certain to whom the blood (or body part, in the case of a bombing) belongs, it is put in a bag for burial. When the blood of several victims is combined, it is buried in one of the graves or in a separate grave called kever acharim, the “grave of (our) brothers.” Finally, from the time of death until burial there is an obligation to guard the body.

Each segment of our tour was accompanied by our friend showing us what the Chevra Kadisha had to do to ensure that everything was done properly. A team of 35 volunteers worked around the clock for 40 hours cleaning every drop of blood from ceilings, walls, floors, benches, and anywhere else there was blood. In some cases, because the bodies had been there so long, blood had dripped between cracks in the floor. He showed us benches that had splattered in pictures in the hallways. Even in death.

The beauty of the Jewish spirit came alive after the Pittsburgh massacre. The tedious and detailed work of the Chevra Kadisha done for no reason other than it was the job of caring for the dead; the Chevra Kadisha and community members calculated how to be benevolent. He wanted to destroy; they wanted to sustain the legacy of thousands of years. He hated for no reason; the community loved and were charitable to total strangers (victims) for no reason. He had no financial or social benefit from his actions; they had no ulterior motives for their kindness. No one would ever pay them back, and most of families those who were killed would never know who these kind people were.

You’re Invited — RSVP Today!

Charlotte’s 1st Annual Tour of 55+ Apartment Homes

Tuesdays, April 30 • 10AM - 1PM
Tour Start at Overture Cotswold at 10AM
4830 Randolph Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211
RSVP Today • overturecotswoldrsvp@greystar.com

*Overture is an equal housing opportunity. Amenities and services vary by location. Pricing & availability subject to change. See a Greystar representative for details.
from New Jersey. Ron spent over thirty years as a volunteer EMT saving lives, providing special support when needed, all while stopping-the-bleeding and working in his profession of mechanical engineering with a specialized focus on HVAC. Marge’s first career was as an educator based in New York City teaching multiple-aged young people in a variety of academia. She then, in a new phase of her career, specialized in accounting. We especially enjoy hearing their stories about Temple Beth Chaim in West Windsor, NJ, because the humble beginnings there sound a lot like our current congregation in South Carolina. Like many of our members, both Ron and Marge grew up in different sects of Judaism and have found a comfortable familiarity in Temple Solel’s blended and inclusive congregation. They told an endeavoring story about their Rabbi Emeritus, Eric Wisnia, who led the Israel trip they were on together. A religious man in Jerusalem walked up to the group and said, “I would love to meet your Rabbi. Where is he?” When fingers pointed towards the trendy man wearing a snazzy shirt, shorts, and sandals’ outfit, the religious man shook his head, turned on his heels, and went the other direction. It is refreshing to us when we see clergy show a little chutzpah, which in this case translates into “being realistic and approachable.” They speak very fondly of Rabbi Eric. Ron and Marge helped their small congregation start from meeting in a Lutheran church, to grow to about 850 families. With her passion for education, Marge was instrumental in the success of their religious school, which is still a thriving hidden, interesting, and greatest positive impact they both have in our city at Charlotte Douglas International Airport’s USO center. They are active volunteers with their shift beginning at 4:30 AM to welcome thousands of active duty, retired, and reservists from all branches of the military, including their families, many flying on an airplane for the first time. In one month it is not unusual for as many as 15,000 military personnel and their dependents to pass through the Charlotte center. The USO is not the more familiar entertainment focus of past times during wartime, but rather a practical place of safety and comfort in the airport to rest and get food, especially because many of our military soldiers are on limited income and might not be able to afford these options being made available without charge. There is also a quiet room, video game area, a place for children, business area with computers, and a library to take or leave a book. One of the most sobering services provided by the USO is what Ron and Marge called, “fallen angel support.” There are honors teams who escort and accompany the families through the airport who are flying with or receiving the body of their fallen loved one. The quiet room at the USO is reserved for the family’s privacy and they are surrounded and protected during transport during every step they take at the airport. The USO is also involved in many other projects such as providing special support when 4000+ men and women arrive by buses from Fort Jackson, SC at 3 AM before catching flights to see their families for the holidays. The USO feeds them breakfast, provides extra conference rooms to wait comfortably, and helps coordinate their movement through the airport. Other projects include: “Flights of Honor” to take WWII or other veterans to memorials in Washington, DC, help discharged veterans find jobs, and holding fund raisers to sustain these good works. We want to honor Ron and Marge for all of their support and effort in our community. Having them as part of our congregation is a true blessing for Temple Solel. We hope you will consider joining us by reservation for a special second night Community Seder led by our lay leader, Russ Cobe, on April 20 beginning at 6 PM at the Family Life Center, UMC Belair located at 8095 Shelley Mallis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. This will be a catered event with a reasonable fee. For more information write us at info@templesolel.org or call 803-619-9707. Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 8 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope to see you soon in the Community Room at St. Philip Neri Church, 292 Mum Road, Fort Mill, SC.®
President’s Message

By Sharon Goretsky, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

April is certainly going to be busy month. Everyone is getting ready for Passover … the planning, the cleaning, the cooking. Things are busy for Hadassah too, even before Passover starts.

Hadassah Charlotte has partnered with Novant Health for the past several years, to bring mammograms to Shalom Park. This year we are very proud to bring the Novant Mobile Mammography Unit in both the spring and fall. Mammograms are one of the best ways to screen for and diagnose breast cancer, and can often detect a breast lump before it can be felt. This is why mammograms are so important.

Is it time for your annual mammogram? Have you put off getting your first mammogram? The Novant Mobile Mammography Unit will join Hadassah at Shalom Park on Monday, April 8 from 9 AM-3 PM. Appointments are not required, but are strongly recommended. To reserve a time slot, call 704-384-7226. Screenng mammograms are covered under most insurance plans as preventative care. Please bring your insurance card with you, and Novant will file a claim on your behalf. Don’t forget to stop by the Hadassah table in the lobby of the JCC for some snacks and learn about Hadassah Medical Organization’s latest breakthroughs in breast cancer research and care.

Please join us the following week for the annual Hadassah Passover Tasting Party on Friday, April 12 at 11:30 AM. If you have never been to this event, you have been missing out. Join your Hadassah sisters for a fun lunch featuring Passover recipes from our own kitchens. Everybody has their favorite recipes and this will be the perfect opportunity to share yours. Decide what you would like to prepare (dairy or pareve salad, side, main dish, or dessert), but make sure it is appropriate for Passover. RSVP to Lynda White (jpasssas@sprynet.com) or Janice Bernstein (janiceberg@gmail.com) by April 2 and tell them what you are bringing, then email them the recipe as a Word document or PDF attachment. We will compile all the recipes, so you can leave with new inspiration for your holiday table. Prepare the recipe and then just come, share and enjoy.

Hadassah Charlotte would like to wish you peace, good times, good health and happiness on Passover and always. Shalom!™

Hadassah Charlotte
2019-20 Charlotte Jewish Community Directory

Now is the time for Charlotte Jewish community members to get your personal listings to us, so that we can include you in the 2019-20 Jewish Community Directory put together with love by Hadassah Charlotte. Many thanks to the entire Directory committee: Jena Coen Gartner, Marci Goldberg, Marci Willenzik, Judy Kaufmann, Amy Delouch, Bonnie Bonomo, Lynda White, Linda Reece, Sharon Goretsky, Dana Kapustin, and Tonya Mellner for all of your help. There is a lot of work to be done, but we will look to you, the community, to help make sure all of the information is accurate. Go to hadassah.org/Charlotte and input your household and advertising information so that we can include you in the 2019 Jewish Community Directory. If you are interested in advertising your business, this is a wonderful way to reach an audience of over 10,000 people. Please do not assume that we have your correct information. The best way to ensure that you are listed in the directory is to submit your information on our website. Thank you and we look forward to a wonderful new year in Hadassah Charlotte.

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOAI), is the largest Jewish women’s organization in the United States. With 300,000 members, associates and supporters Hadassah brings Jewish women together to affect change and advocate on critical issues such as medical care, research, and women’s empowerment – meeting with elected officials on Capitol Hill and locally through its Day in the District Program. Through the Hadassah Medical Organization’s two hospitals, the world-renowned trauma center and the leading research facility in Jerusalem, Hadassah supports the delivery of exemplary patient care to over a million people every year. HMO serves without regard to race, religion, or nationality and earned a Nobel Peace Prize Nomination in 2005 for building “bridges to peace” through equality in medical treatment. For more information, visit www.hadassah.org/.
500 Children Celebrate Jewish Pride with CJDS

CJDS welcomed over 150 Special Friends to join CJDS students for a musical performance and Jewish pride workshops. Lego blocks were used to make all types of Jewish models of menorahs, synagogues, tzedakah boxes, and Shabbat candlesticks. T-shirts, kippot, bracelets, and key chains were available for the students to personalize with their Jewish names and a special workshop was brought from New York on the writing of the Torah, Megillah, Mezuzah, and Tefillin. The guests and students learned how parchment was made, how the holiness of these ritual objects were maintained, and how to write on parchment with the same type of quill that the scribes use all over the world. A museum of various types of mezuzot, sifrei torah, tefillin (kosher and non-kosher) were available for the guests to view and touch. This same experience was available on Sunday for 400 additional students from all of the religious schools in the Charlotte Metro area. Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Temple Kol Tikvah in Lake Norman, Temple Emanuel from Gastonia, Ohr Hatorah, and Ballantyne Jewish Center all participated in this amazing day. A Torah cookie was given as a treat to top off this experience that will hopefully help in lighting that Jewish spark for the Jewish children in our community.

CJDS
Charlotte Jewish Day School

Oorah Offers Tuition Assistance to Support Children Moving From Public Schools to Jewish Day Schools

Jewish Outreach Organization Wants to Help Families Obtain Jewish Education

It’s often all about the “Benjamins” for Jewish parents contemplating moving their children from free public schools to tuition-funded Jewish day schools. Even if the family has been building a stronger commitment to Jewish practice, the financial cost of enrolling children in Jewish schools, especially Jewish high schools, can be daunting.

Oorah, the Jewish outreach organization, is ready to help. Oorah’s tuition assistance program was designed to help financially strapped parents make that leap as part of its strong commitment to supporting Jewish families in their journey to observance.

“Funds are limited, and we can’t meet every family’s expectations, but moving to a Jewish day school is a critical step for a family to make, and we do have financial resources to support that transition,” says Rabbi Weinstein, Oorah President.

Interested families can apply for scholarships on the Oorah website, tuition.oorah.org. If the application is accepted, Oorah will provide financial assistance that may be renewed in subsequent years. These scholarships are not available for students currently attending Jewish day schools.

Students who receive Oorah’s tuition assistance and complete their education at a Jewish high school.

(Continued on page 14)
Music Comes Alive in JPS

The 3s did a special unit on music and are excited to share the details with you. We introduced music to our class by reading the book *Meet the Orchestra* by Ann Hayes. As we read the book, we talked about each instrument to see which ones the students were familiar with and which were new. We talked about the four sections of the orchestra and which instruments belong in each. We brought a lot of instruments in to our classroom to play and experiment with throughout the week—it was noisy and fun. Our students are now able to identify which sounds belong to which instruments. Did you know that the special wand the conductor waves is called a baton? The highlight of our music unit was when Ms. Cathy and her friend came in with their drum set (!!) and an acoustic guitar. They performed for us and then we got to play their instruments. Drums are special because they help keep the rest of the instruments on beat, and we practiced keeping a beat all together. We got to create our very own instruments for our class marching band, and then marched around our classroom with them. We love music and now have a great appreciation for instruments, the opera, and the orchestra.

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Day School Tuition Assistance

(Continued from page 13)

school are eligible to receive further assistance to attend a post-high school study program in Israel.

As part of its mission to encourage Jewish education, Oorah offers a menu of programs designed to engage the entire family. These include The Zone, subsidized summer sleepaway camps; ChillZone youth groups; and the TorahMates learning program. Information about other programs is available on Oorah.org.

Oorah is a multifaceted nonprofit organization offering social, educational, and religious services to thousands of families throughout the world. For detailed information about specific programs, visit Oorah.org.
L’dor V’Dor and Hachnasat Orchim: The CJP Embraces Multiple Jewish Values to Welcome Grandparents on Grandparent’s Day

By Becca Weiner

There’s a story about King Solomon, the 3rd King of Israel, who is famous for building the first Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

King Solomon goes around one day to see how everything is going. He goes up to a carpenter, covered in dust and asks him, “What are you building?” The carpenter responds, “I’m making the most gorgeous ark out of the finest wood where the tablets will be stored.

He then walks further and sees an artist working with the most beautiful, shiny gold and asks him what he’s doing. The artist responds that he’s creating the most magnificent menorah.

King Solomon continues to walk around and sees a weaver - who responds that he’s weaving the most gorgeous tapestries; the stonemasons are making beautiful altars for sacrifices.

He then sees a bricklayer, deep in the ground, sweating in the hot sun, asking him what he’s doing. The bricklayer responds, “Me? I’m building the Temple!”

The carpenters, artists, weavers and stonemasons are creating the beautiful accoutrements for the Temple, but without the bricklayer there would be nothing to decorate. The early childhood educators at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool are the carpenters, artists, weavers, and stonemasons.

We think of the beautiful ark the carpenter was making as Grandparent’s Day; the menorah represents our Lakeites, Lights, and Love program during Chanukah.

And the weaved tapestries - those represent our Passover Seder.

These beautiful projects existed to beautify the Temple, just as our special days enhance the CJP experience for our students and their families.

But, we are also the bricklayers. It was the bricklayer who was doing the physical work of building the Temple. He’s doing the work that has to get done in order for the others to beautify the Holy Temple. Our work as “bricklayers” does not take away from the beauty or importance of our school’s special days. In fact, we just experienced our most successful Grandparent’s Day in the 10 years that I have been a part of the CJP family as we welcomed over 350 guests into our building; our age-level special days (Babies in the Booths, “Two B’Shevat, and Three’s Kibbutz Day) have knocked it out of the park this year.

This story simply reminds us of how important the day-to-day Judaic values we teach are, because without the brick foundation there would be no reason for tapestries and menorahs. Two such Judaic values at the core of Grandparent’s Day are l’dor v’dor (from generation to generation) and hachnasat orchim (welcoming visitors).

As the bricklayers, one of our jobs is to welcome people into our space each and every day, and not just on Grandparent’s Day or for other school-wide programs. When we make people feel welcome in our school we can really make a difference to families and parents.

We have an open-door policy in our school - parents and guests are always welcome in our classroom, and we tell them that. But how do we show them that they are welcome and valued guests, and that their presence is an opportunity for us to deepen Judaic learning for our students?

We welcome our students, their families, and our stakeholders to the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, our metaphorical Temple. In this building we do holy work - we are bricklayers, deep in the ground, sweating in the hot sun, laying the foundation for Jewish lives. Everyone is welcome, but how can we can get you to feel and know just how welcome you are? Come visit us and find out.

Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door and may be purchased online starting now at: http://spfreedomschool.org or https://www.tickettailor.com/events/shalomparkfreedomschool/236079.

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the LICC front desk or call 704-366-5007 starting in early April.
Family Engagement

SHALOM BABY: WELCOME TO THE WORLD

April 28, 2019

3:30 pm

Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at Shalom Park
5007 Providence Road, Building C

If your family has welcomed a baby this past year, we have a gift for you! Swaddle up your little one and join us at our community baby “shower” and meet other families with infants.

- Baby Swag Bags
- Refreshments
- Plus more....

This event is FREE, please RSVP By April 25 to kara.culp@jewishcharlotte.org.

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

RSVP by April 25 to www.nextgencharlotte.org
CJDS Outperforms Independent Schools in Achievement Testing

CJDS Performance vs. Independent Schools*

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<tr>
<th>CTP4 Subtest</th>
<th>CJDS</th>
<th>Independents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Verbal Reasoning</td>
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<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
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<td>Writing Mechanics</td>
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<td>Writing Concepts &amp; Skills</td>
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<td>Mathematics 1&amp;2</td>
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*percentile rank in 2017

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

How do CJDS students outperform peers at other private schools year after year?
- Excellent teachers
- An advanced baseline curriculum
- A customized educational approach that challenges and supports each pupil
- The use of critical and higher level thinking for Project Based Learning and Judaic studies
- A math curriculum that starts kindergartners at the first grade level and a gifted language arts program for all students in grades 3-5

See it for yourself! Give us a call or stop by and take a tour.

CJDS Charlotte Jewish Day School
704.366.4558 | CJDSchool.org

Youth Visions

Why I Love Temple Israel’s USY Chapter

By Eliana Harr

When I was a rising 4th grader, my family moved to Charlotte from Long Island. We realized quickly how wonderful it is to be in such a united Jewish community like this one. From then on, I have always been involved in Jewish activities. I enjoy being with kids who I related to at Camp Mindy, Temple Israel Religious School, and Temple Israel youth group.

Now that I am older, I have realized how much I value these experiences. Currently, I am in 9th grade at Northwest School of the Arts. I love my school and the diversity there, but the hours and commute leave me very little free time. In the time that I do have, I choose to be active in everything that our amazing community has to offer. I really enjoy being part of the Jewish community because it allows me to connect with my Jewish identity and to make connections with people that I wouldn’t have otherwise known. These opportunities may not have been as important to me if I were still living in New York. I work as a madricha in the Temple Israel Religious School for the Kindergarten class, am involved in BBYO, and am on Student Council at Hebrew High. This will be my 7th summer at Camp Mindy and I look forward to being an

(Continued on page 24)
What happens when you take a group of teens to Kinetic Heights on a Saturday night in February? The Hebrew High 8th and 9th Grade Retreat!

This year’s retreat had a new twist. We moved the retreat off campus to provide new experiences for students. Kinetic Heights provided so many new options. The goal was to learn how to work with, and rely on, your peers. All events of the retreat explored the idea of Kehillah (the importance of the community in Judaism). Students worked with team leaders from Kinetic Heights who emphasized that relationships are built on trust and trust is learned through relying on each other. This goal was accomplished through a series of obstacle courses where students worked as a team to get to the end. If a student had trouble, the other students came together to help that person reach the finish line. It didn’t matter who was in 8th or 9th grade, who was athletic, who was tall or who was short. Everyone participating was an equal part of the group coming together to complete a common goal.

When students first arrived for the retreat they were quiet and split up into small groups made up of other students they knew. They didn’t want to be there but their parents made them come. They were not motivated to participate. Then, little by little, they started to gravitate towards each other, to reach out for help and to build their community. What a transformation to observe. Every student had an incredible time, learned incredible lessons, and became closer to other incredible teens.

The pictures speak volumes. We truly are a community at Hebrew High.

Are you interested in learning more about Hebrew High? Come learn more and experience Hebrew High at our Open House – Wednesday, April 10 from 7-9 PM. Open to all interested teens and families. To learn more, visit www.hebrewhigh.org.
BBYO Declares “It’s Our Turn” at International Convention

At a moment in history where teens are revolutionizing their role as societal changemakers and declaring that age is not and should not be the defining factor of leadership, over 3,000 teens from 40 countries convened in Denver, CO over President’s weekend to declare, it’s “Our Turn” at BBYO’s International Convention. This monumental event, offered a myriad of opportunities for Jewish teens to connect with their peers, grow as leaders, and redefine how they are valued and viewed. Charlotte BBYO was excited to send 56 teens to International Convention this year.

Here is what some of our teens had to say about their experience:

“Sitting on the plane on the way to a new state and going somewhere where I did not know anyone and would be the youngest was a little nerve-wracking. By the second day of my journey at IC, I realized that going to Denver, CO was the best decision of my entire life. Between making new friends, hanging out in the lobby, educational programs, and the trips to some of Denver’s finest, IC 2019 was a homerun.” – Yarden Asofsky, 9th grade

“This year, I participated in my third International Convention in Denver and I absolutely loved it. Listening to people different from yourself and experiencing new things are the best ways to learn. This year’s IC did a fantastic job of highlighting those things. IC is such an amazing experience and I definitely left more empowered and confident as a leader thanks to the interesting programming and inspiring speakers.” – Abby Meyer, 12th grade

In total, more than 5,500 of the Jewish community’s top teen leaders, educators, thought and business leaders, and philanthropists from around the world came together in Denver for one of the largest Jewish communal events of the year. Delegates heard from and met inspiring speakers, expanded their leadership skills, served the local community, learned together, celebrated Shabbat, had access to exclusive music performances, and did their part to strengthen the Jewish future.

Among the many that addressed the crowd at IC were: Jared Schutz Polis (Governor of Colorado); Chelsea Handler (comedian, actress, and activist); Fred Guttenberg (activist, Orange Ribbons for Jamie); Max Greenfield (actor and producer); Adam Rippon (Olympic Medalist and LGBTQ activist); Katy Koob (Vice President, Brand Partnerships, Refinery 29); and Cory Gardner (U.S. Senator R-CO).

BBYO IC 2019 also served as the launch point for a historic anniversary celebration as the Order of the B’nai B’rith Girls (BBG) turns 75 this year. Celebrations throughout IC recognized women who have made an impact in their communities and the world, and there was multiple content sessions focused on topics such as women’s empowerment, leadership training, gender equality, and women’s rights. Female leaders, mentors, and activists who spoke on these tracks included Sarah Hurwitz (former head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama); Brittany Packnett (activist, educator, and writer); Stephanie Wittels-Wachs (actress, activist, and author); Jennifer Rubin (opinion writer for The Washington Post), and many others.

BBYO also announced that Chicago business leader and philanthropist, Ted Perlman, and his wife, Harriette, pledged $25 million to accelerate BBYO’s initiatives for young Jewish women (Continued on page 25)

Episode Topics:
• Social Action Opportunities
• Jewish Holidays
• Community Events
• Personal Stories & More

With so much programming going on within the Jewish community JPOD Charlotte aims to educate and inform you each week, so you can get involved in programs that YOU feel passionate about.

Listen on your way to work, school or the gym once a week for just a few minutes to learn about the opportunities and stories available in your Jewish backyard.
Commemorate and Celebrate

Tuesday, May 7

YOM HAZIKARON
Israel Memorial Day
6:30 PM, Memorial Ceremony
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

For more information visit www.jewishcharlotte.org or call 704.944.6757

Sunday, May 19

YOM HA’ATZMAUT FESTIVAL
Israel Independence Day
Shalom Park
12:00 - 3:00 PM
Israeli food, music, children’s activities, crafts and more.....
Volunteers Are the Backbone and Heart of Jewish Family Services

By Sheryl Gerrard, JFS Senior Outreach Specialist

Each year over 2,000 hours are logged by Jewish Family Services volunteers of all ages who make a world of difference for our clients, our agency and the Greater Charlotte community. Their dedication and commitment make it possible to provide our special brand of care to those in need.

In recognition of April being Volunteer Appreciation Month, JFS would like to celebrate all of our volunteers who help with fundraising, board governance, administrative tasks, like data entry and filling in at the reception desk, delivering groceries and holiday goodies to homebound individuals, and staffing our senior adult events and celebrations, not to mention the folks who show up regularly for our volunteer-run Food Pantry, where you can find these worker-bees collecting, organizing and preparing bags of groceries and personal care items for the 500+ food pantry visits each year.

Getting ready to hand out Passover bags.

And are you aware that JFS also provides a strong presence in the lives of homebound senior adults throughout Greater Charlotte through our Volunteer Visits program?

Each month, volunteers spend an average of 37 hours visiting older individuals in their own homes or in senior living communities. Last year, 87 homebound and/or isolated senior adults received visits, many conducted by volunteers who receive training from the JFS Senior Outreach Specialist and Community Liaison. These folks serve as an extension of JFS in the community. Very often these volunteers, serving as a trusted “friend” are the first to become aware of potentially dangerous changes in the senior adult’s health or living situation, which then allows JFS staff to take appropriate action to ensure the senior’s safety and well-being.

Studies have shown that isolation and feelings of loneliness can put seniors at increased risk of high blood pressure, depression, dementia, nutrition, and other harmful health issues. Knowing this, we felt it was important to spotlight how JFS does its best to ensure that the older adults in our community are being supported and impacted by our services. Another recent study from the AARP Public Policy Institute, Stanford University and Harvard, Medicare spends an estimated $6.7 billion more each year on seniors who have little contact with others. JFS’ one-to-one visits can help homebound senior adults feel less isolated and more connected to the Jewish community.

Connections made between JFS volunteers and the senior adults they visit have positive outcomes for all involved. Volunteers who regularly visit a senior often develop close relationships, which can be as rewarding for the volunteer as for the senior. One volunteer described the senior adult she visits as “delightful; she is always glad of my visits and I have developed a great affection for her.” Visits often include simple pleasures like playing board games, taking walks together, looking through photo albums, reminiscing about treasured Jewish holidays of yesteryear, or just sharing a cup of tea and talking.

Volunteers help the senior adults in unexpected ways too, like restoring purpose or self-confidence in the older adult who too often has information and experience that could be beneficial for a younger person, whether by explaining how to improve one’s tennis serve or fill out a job application, or by providing an understanding of a historical event based on first-hand knowledge.

During the month of April and all year long, JFS would like to express appreciation for our volunteers and all the important things they do. We are grateful for our volunteer visitors, those providing general administrative tasks, our Food Pantry organizers, our JFS Board, Mitzvah basket designers, and the countless of volunteers and organizations who assist with the Jewish and cultural celebrations JFS hosts. We could not have the impact we do. It is through the kindness and generosity of these individuals that we are able to create that special interaction that enriches the lives of those we touch.

If you are in need of a volunteer visit or becoming a JFS volunteer in any capacity, please contact our office at 704-364-6594 or go to jfscharlotte.org.

Friendship Circle Inaugurates Junior Teen Friends

Junior Teen Friends is designed for boys and girls in 7-8th grade. Its purpose is to provide them with a meaningful way of empowering themselves as they learn from and give to others.

The focus was on learning all about challenges and virtues of individuals with special needs. They learned all about Autism from Dr. Frank Gaskill, Cerebral Palsy from Lari Massachini, and Down Syndrome from our very in-house expert Sophie. Completion Awards were presented by Friendship Circle’s President (and Art Instructor), Amy Seiflin. Congratulations to Isaiah Abrams, Joshua Freedman, Shayne Goldstein, Ester Manoim, Toryn Nichols, Rachel Potier, Noah Semel, Molly Stone, and Haily Turtz on successfully completing the Junior Teen Friends Sensitivity Education Course.

Friendship Circle pairs local teens and children with special needs for weekly visits; the basis of our genuine friendships. Through a broad range of activities and events, Friendship Circle creates an atmosphere of acceptance, recognizing that all people, regardless of the obstacles and challenges they may experience, are sacred, worthy of love, and have something to contribute.

To learn more visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org.

Friendship Circle is a Beneficiary Organization of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Newcomer Schmooze*

New City, New Friends, New Way of Life

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

WEINBERG CENTER

at the Levine Jewish Community Center

Learn about the Charlotte Jewish Community while meeting new friends!

Questions???? Call Kara Culp, 704.944.6858

kara.culp@jewishcharlotte.org or

Susan Lerner, 704.944.6741, susan.lerner@charlottejcc.org

Sponsored by
April 2019

JCHILDCARE.

7 weeks – 7 years old
Children will enjoy a nurturing environment to explore and have fun with crafts and activities, while parents workout.

Mon-Fri AM 8am-1pm
Mon-Thu PM 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday 12pm-3pm
Sunday 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/$4.50 NM/$5.50

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

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

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

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

LJCC Department Directory
Please contact us if you have questions!

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

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

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

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

Wellness & Fitness
Jenny Crow 704-944-6870
jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.charlottejcc.org • 704-366-5007
Teens
Summer Employment Opportunities
• Lifeguards
Competitive pay, flexible schedule, paid lunch, great working environment. The LJCC offers American Red Cross® Lifeguard Training Courses and job placement after completion.
704-944-6746 or joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org
• Summer Camp Counselors
Fun filled environment and membership privileges
Preschool through Teen Camp counselor positions available.
Half Day • 8:30am-1:30pm or
Full Day • 8:30am-4:30pm
704-944-6738 or mark.didonato@charlottejcc.org

A Taste of Teen Camp
Rising 4th, 5th and 6th Grade
A new week-long introduction to the Teen Camp experience. Campers will enjoy activities on and off campus and partake in a community service project.
August 19-23
M/$400 NM/$450
704-944-6739 or michelle.rusgo@charlottejcc.org

Adults
Oasis Book Club
April’s Book: Defending Jacob, by William Landay
Monday, April 29, 1-2pm
FSP Boardroom
Free

The Power of Aging
Discover and uncover the basic physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs which the aging experience challenges you with on a daily basis. Life can be exciting, purposeful and meaningful! Meets once per month on Tuesdays. A collaborative program between LJCC's Senior & Adult Department and First Hand Success’ Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN.
Tuesday, May 14
What are the Gifts You Bring to This World?
9:15–10:15am
FSP Board Room
Free
704-944-6753 or sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Memory Café
Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia? Come with them to the Memory Café. Socialize, meet new friends, engage in activities together and just have fun. A light breakfast will be served.
The purpose of the program:
• social engagement & discussion
• a safe environment that is relaxed and non-judgmental
• enjoy music, art, and more
Meets twice every month:
2nd & 4th Thursdays • 10am–12pm
Weinberg Senior Center
704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

SHIIP
Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program
Free Medicare Counseling Available year round! Please call Senior & Adult Director Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information
IN MEMORY OF
Pearl Mann, Harold and Lyba Edelstein
Valenstein from Shelton and Isaac Luski, and Robert and El-
Rita Meetz
MAZEL TOV ON
The birth of your daughter and
granddaughter to Yoni and Jes-
sia Goldstein and Donald Jacobs from Shelton and Ellen
Goldstein
Rita Meetz

M AZEL TO V ON
The birth of your daughter and
granddaughter to Yoni and Jesi-
sia Goldstein and Donald Jacobs from Shelton and Ellen
Goldstein
from Shelton and Ellen Goldstein
and Meg Goldstein from Shelton
Ellen Goldstein

JFS Monthly Volunteers
Volunteers: Suzy Catanzaro,
Andrea Cronson, Maggie Fogel,
Judith Greenwald, Kevin Levine,
Adam Levy, Adina Loewenstein-
er, Staci Mond, Debbie Porter,
Fred Shporer, Alan Sussman,
Amy Udell, Harry Walsh, Becca
Weiner, Sherry Zimmerman

Meal Ride by Circle of Gener-
ous Hearts: Barbara Abrams,
Phyllis Berlin, Ilene Cantor,
Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cher-
ney, Denise and Bob Cooper,
Sara Friedman, Donna and Burt
Greenspan, June Hirschman,
Johnson and Wales, Fran Kaplan,
Judy Kaufmann, Penny Kreiger,
Harriet Meetz, Helene Rivlin,
Fran Slovak, Eileen Schwartz,
Roz Snyder, Marcia Stern, Amy
Strasser, Shayna Strasser, Robin
Temple Israel USY Chapter

Order Your Wine in Time for Passover!

And VWM offers fine kosher wine for
donation services in February

Address

Temple Israel USY Chapter
(Continued from page 17)
LIT (Leader-in-Training).
the birth of Sophia Leah to
Mitzvah Basket Donation:
Yoni and Jessica Sachs from
Shelton and Ellen Goldstein
Mason, who donated their time and
money from Shelton and Ellen Gold-
stein, Jonathan and Stephanie Si-
mon, Paul and Lynn Edelstein
The birth of your grandson
and son to Susan and Donald Jacobs
and Robby and Jessie Sachs from
Shelton and Ellen Goldstein

M AZEL TO V ON
The birth of your daughter and
granddaughter to Yoni and Jesi-
sia Goldstein and Donald Jacobs
from Shelton and Ellen Goldstein

Joshua Loewenstein from
Aaron and Liza Alexander, Jill
Blumenthal, David Cohen, Gene
Cook, Rebecca Dranove, Leon
and Jennifer Golynsky, Josh
and John Greenwald, Andrew and Jen
Rosen, Adam and Sari Rosen-
berger, Stuart and Teresa Singer,
Jason and Karen Spiegel
IN APPRECIATION OF
Andrew Kapustin from Phillip
and Marcie Goldberg

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Leon Golynsky from Jill Blu-
mental
Brett Goodman from Seth
Goodman
Marthy Husney from Alan and
Madeleine Aron
Ellie Loewenstein from Ja-
son and Karen Spiegel
from Shelton and Ellen Goldstein
Barbara Abrams

Order Your Wine in Time for Passover!

Vintner Wine Market has an
extensive selection of kosher for
Passover wines from around the
world.

Donations to Jewish Family Services in February
Rosalie Glickman from Paul
and Lynn Edelstein, Shelton and
Edelstein
Ralph Rabnowitz to Robert
and Lynn Glickman from Shel-
ton and Ellen Goldstein
Howard Levinson to Marc
Levinson from Steven and Susan
Mayer
Sonia Luski to Frances Luski,
Isaac Luski, and Robert and El-
die Valenstein from Shelton and
Ellen Goldstein, Paul and Lynn
Edelstein
Simon Wojnowicz to Alan
and Pearl Mann, Harold and Lyba

Rousso, Mary Wojnowich, and
Rose Zimmer from Shelton and
Ellen Goldstein, Bob Jacobson,
Thomas Diamond, David Kro-
oxovett, Scott and Mariane Moskow-
itz, Sam and Nancy Bernstein,
Joel Cohen, Stuart and Ellen Fli-
gel, Merle Henderson, Alvin and
Helene Levine, Solomon Rousso,
Gary Chadwick, Jeffrey Cohen,
Beth Shepherd
Sandy Begner to David and
Risa Miller from Paul and Lynn
Edelstein
Janet Hartman to Roberta Rod-
gers from Mark and Alison Lern-
er, David and Risa Miller
Doris Rousso to David Rous-
so and family, Harold and Lyba
Rousso, Paul and Joy Rousso,
and Steven Rousso from Matthew
Luftglass and Meg Goldstein,
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hirsch, Sam
and Nancy Bernstein, Sandra Melnick
Seitz
Don Levy to Harriet Shulmeis-
ter from Sandra Weinstein
Robert Steven Stern to Ken-
neth and Marcia Stern from Har-
ut Henley, Janie Shubin, Louis Sinko,
Prada Mozenter, Harry Ruben-
stein, Jure Johnson and Ways,
Fran Kaplan, Judy Kaufmann,
Penny Kreiger, Adam Levy,
Sam and Nancy Bernstein, Linda
daf, Miachel Knight, Stephanie
Kreitman, Wendy Kewsin, Mar-
ca Lampert, Eric Lerner, Gary
Lerner, Adam Levy, Kim Levy,
Matt Luftglass, Harriet Meetz,
Fradu Mozenter, Harry Ruben-
stein, Linda Safr, Fred Shpore-
er, Janie Shubin, Louis Sinkoe,
Mason Sklut, Harry Sparks, Liz
Wahls, Amelia Warsheinbrot, Jan
Weiner

Comedy Night Committee

Temple Israel USY Chapter
LIT (Leader-in-Training).

My newest and most exciting
position I accepted was as the mem-
dent of our newly formed Tem-
ple Israel USY chapter (United
Synagogue Youth). As a mem-
ber of the United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism (USC),
Temple Israel is giving Charlotte
Jewish youth access to Jewish
activities with peers from across
our Southeastern region and all
over the country. Along with our
new Youth Director, Johna
than, and our Board, including
Madison Harr (Communications
VP), Anna Warshaw (Social Ac-
tion/Tikkun Olam VP), Hannah
Sidranski (Membership VP), and
Mikayla Prushik (Religious Edu-
cation VP), we are building our
chapter and really enjoying it.
We recently had the opportunity
to re-name our chapter and called
on Ir Ha-Malka, The Queen City.
We are a part of the HaNegev
Region of USY which includes
Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mis-
sissippi, Tennessee, Southern
North Carolina, South Caroli-
ya, Arkansas, Barbados, Puerto
Rico, and Cuba. We are looking
forward to attending conventions
throughout the region. We also
look forward to participating in
summer travel programs including
cross country, to Israel and more.
Our chapter recently repre-
sented Charlotte at the NC Teen
Shabbaton in Durham. This was
such a great experience. Over
the weekend, we participated in
pluridisciplinary activities with
teen from NFTY, USY, and
BBYO.
We celebrated Shabbat together
with Friday night dinner and
participated in different choices
of Shabbat services. We spent
Shabbat engaging in various Jew-
ish programming, including a
discussion on “Judaism Today,”
where we talked about what our
Jewish priorities were. We end-
Shabbat with Havdalah and ice
skating. Pictured below are
some members from our chapter
with friends we have made from
across NC.

The Temple Israel youth groups
include Mahar, for the
3rd-5th graders, Kadima, for the
6th-7th graders, and Ir Ha-Malka
USY, for the 8th-12th graders.
Temple membership is not
required for participation. We wel-
come all Jewish kids and teens.
Some of the events that we have
had had locally include a Secret Ha-
nukkah Harry night and a Mail
Scavenger Hunt. On April 14, we
are having a Chocolate Seder.
All Jewish teens are welcome. Please
register for this event at templeis-
raelnc.org.

Follow us on Instagram@ir-
hamalka_usy
Check out our website: https://
irhamalka.usy

If you are interested in USY or
have any questions, contact me
(elianajharr@gmail.com) or
Alan Johnathan (ajohnathan@
templeisraelnc.org).

Pearl Society

(Continued from page 3)

opportunity for women to be rec-
ognized as philanthropic donors
in the Jewish community. Spend-
ing time with like-minded women
who donate their time and money
to the worthy mis-
sion of creating,
and community building makes
the experience fun
and rewarding.
I am especially
excited about our
upcoming event
on April 11.” Liz
continues, “as the
world increasingly
expect...
By Mitch Rifkin

Teach Your Children

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is the only organization mandated by the state to educate North Carolinians, primarily public school students and teachers, on the history and lessons from the Holocaust. Recently I asked a survivor what the council could do for her – and she responded, “Teach the children.” She said she wanted children to be educated on what happened during the Holocaust along with the more general concepts of genocide, anti-Semitism, stereotypes, and propaganda.

This is a challenging endeavor for educators as there are fewer survivors to share their stories. So who will be there to make sure that the educating of children happens? Who will make sure that the survivors’ stories are not forgotten? Who will be there to debate the deniers?

In North Carolina, public school teachers across the state have had the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust available to them since 1981. The Council is a state agency within the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction composed of 24 volunteer members appointed by the General Assembly and the Governor.

As an active member of the Council, I wish we could have had the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation available to inform the state. Is it forgotten? Who will be there to make sure that the educating of children happens? Who will make sure that the survivors’ stories are not forgotten? Who will be there to debate the deniers?

This year will be the third bus trip sponsored by the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation in partnership with the Charlotte Jewish Federation, the Greenspoon Center, and our benefactor, Stan Greenspon.

The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust is also the state’s first responder to Antisemitic and hate crimes occurring within the school systems of North Carolina. In the months of November and December alone the Council responded to nine such incidents.

The Holocaust Council is scheduled in McDowell County. The Holocaust Council provides a teacher resource guide that includes the stories of Holocaust survivors who have lived or who are currently living in North Carolina, a website with helpful information and resources, a speakers bureau of survivors and children of survivors, traveling exhibits, plays, lending libraries, classroom materials, and a state commemorative program held every year in Raleigh. Teachers also can attend a four-day, three-night bus trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, with workshops included, during the summer at no cost to them.

The result of this work has created a network of teachers across the state who are now advocates for doing exactly what had been asked – “Teach the Children.”

The Holocaust Foundation provides the Holocaust Council by providing additional funds to support programs. The Holocaust Foundation receives donations through contributions from the Jewish Federations, private foundations, and donors. The donations come primarily from Jewish organizations and individuals around the state.

So what can you do? You can become a “friend” of the Council, attend meetings, learn more of the programs that are planned, make a donation, become a donor to the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, and advocate to organizations of which you are a member to also give. Any contribution will be very appreciated.

Please support our efforts through the Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The mailing address is N.C. Holocaust Foundation, 5704 Crooked Stick Trail, Raleigh, NC 27612.

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Community News

BBYO

(Continued from page 19)

and teens. The gift, one of the largest single commitments to a youth-serving organization in modern history, will provide immediate resources for BBYO to launch and expand new programs and provide endowment funding that will support such activities in perpetuity.

With a nearly 300% surge in attendance since 2013, IC continues to demonstrate the increased demand by teens for high-quality Jewish experiences with their peers. This year’s convention theme, “Our Turn,” speaks to today’s vital need and incredible opportunity for young people to be significant forces of change as they lead in their communities and society.

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Please support our efforts through the Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The mailing address is N.C. Holocaust Foundation, 5704 Crooked Stick Trail, Raleigh, NC 27612.

(Continued on page 28)
**TORAH TOTS**
*SHABBAT SERVICE & ONEG*
**Friday, April 12 (5:45 p.m.)**
Come welcome in Shabbat with Rabbi Kornsgold and Miss Nancy with songs, prayers and movement!

**PASSOVER FREEDOM TRAIN**
**Sunday, April 28 (10-11:30 a.m.)**
Come celebrate Passover (and our freedom) with Torah Tots! The morning will include fun rides on the trackless “Freedom Train,” special holiday art projects, and a delicious “Kid”-dush snack. Cost: $10/family. Register at templeisraelnc.org

**YOUTH**
**KADIMA BONIM / USY GESHER OUTDOOR LASER TAG**
**(6th-12th Grades)**
**Sunday, April 28 (12:30-3 p.m.)**
Get ready for an epic laser tag battle! Come join Kadima Bonim and USY Geshers for an afternoon of OUTDOOR laser tag. Pizza lunch will be provided. Cost: $18/TI-Y Members; $25/Non-Members. RSVP on the calendar event at templeisraelnc.org, by April 24.

**EMPTY NESTERS**
**EMPTY NESTERS: A CONVERSATION WITH THE CANTOR**
**Wednesday, April 17 (7 p.m.)**
Location: Boardroom
Join the Empty Nesters at Temple Israel for an in-depth conversation with Cantor Shira Lissek. We will begin at 7 p.m., attend Minyan together at 7:30 p.m., then continue our conversation directly after.

**SOCIAL ACTION**
**LUNCH FOR THE MEN’S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE**
**Sunday, April 14 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)**
Please join us as we prepare and serve lunch for over 100 guests of the Men’s Shelter at 1210 North Tryon. We will be cooking and serving a healthy meal and providing necessities. To volunteer for/donate to this meaningful event, please contact: Jonathan Berger at jbergertisa@gmail.com or 704-995-1732.

**THE ROSE ROOM – WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP**
**GIFT SHOP HOURS**
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday – Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Special appointments outside normal business hours are available. Please contact Tess Berger (704) 488-3842 or Cindy Jennes (704) 443-7643.

Stop by and see our expanded product selection (including Passover items) and let us help you find that perfect gift for simchas, holidays & more! Proceeds support Temple Israel, the Women of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.

**PASSEOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE 2019/5779**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18**
Search for Hametz (at home)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**
Fast of the First Born
Siyum Beshorim (study session), followed by breakfast, 7:30 a.m. (Office Closes, 1 p.m.)
Candle Lighting, 7:41 p.m.
No Evening Service
First Seder

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**
1st Day Pesach
Shabbat/Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.
Pesach Evening Service, 5:30 p.m.
Temple Israel 2nd Night Community Seder, 6 p.m. (by reservation only)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**
2nd Day Pesach
Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.
Minyan, 5:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, APRIL 22**
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23**
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25**
Hol Ha’Mo-ed Pesach
Minyan, 7:30 a.m.
Pesach Evening Service, 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**
7th Day Pesach
(Office closed)
Pesach Morning Service, 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat/Pesach Evening Service, 6:15 p.m.
Candle Lighting, 7:31 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**
8th Day Pesach
Shabbat/Pesach Morning Service (Vikor), 9:30 a.m.
Minyan, 5:30 p.m.
Passover ends/Havdalah, 8:47 p.m.

*(All Candle Lighting Times are based on GPS location for Temple Israel.)*

**2nd Night Community Seder**
**LED BY CANTOR SHIRA LISSEK**
**Saturday, April 20 (6 p.m.)**
**LEON & SANDRA LEVINE SOCIAL HALL**

Please join us this Passover for our annual 2nd Night Community Seder, led by Cantor Lissek. The Seder will be musical, engaging and fun for the entire family! Dinner (a 5-Course Meal, with wine) will be catered by Izzy’s Catering.

Cost: $36/adult; $18/child (3-12 years old); Free/age 2 and under. Space is limited. Register at templeisraelnc.org.

**Save The Date:**
Rabbi Murray Ezing
Celebrating 25 Years of Service and Leadership
May 31 – June 1
Details coming soon...

Ayn k’mo babayit – there’s no place like home.

The Hebrew word for home, boiyt, transcends the brick and mortar structure, as it also describes a state of mind. Temple Israel is not only a gathering place, but it is a place to engage with Judaism and to transform your life through Torah, worship and acts of loving kindness.

Our egalitarian kehillah kedosha was founded in 1895 by visionaries and is continued today by visionary lay leaders, clergy, and professional staff who want to help you find a sacred and safe place to connect to each other and to Judaism. Won’t you join us on this journey? Temple Israel…our house, your home.
Moishe House Charlotte Residents Leaving Legacy of Fun and Hospitality

Since 2014, Charlotte has been home to a Moishe House. For more than five years, somewhere in Charlotte’s city limits, a group of three to five Jewish 20-somethings, called “residents,” lived together and, in exchange for a modest rent subsidy, programming budget, and support from Moishe House staff, created one to two programs a week for their Jewish peers across the Queen City.

So last year, when one group of Moishe House Charlotte residents was moving on and there wasn’t another group of young leaders who were just right for this unique task of building and leading community, Moishe House decided to take a new approach and move forward with just two residents - Ari Rubin and Debra Lipson.

“It’s been extremely rewarding to see how many friends we’ve made and really good connections and relationships we’ve fostered,” Lipson said of their time as residents. “We were able to engage so many people that it was really fantastic and something that exceeded our expectations.

Since opening, Lipson and Rubin have created 37 programs with more than 250 unique young adults participating. From themed Shabbat dinners to bagel-filled holiday break fasts to volunteering with organizations in the community to hosting meaningful discussions about current events, Moishe House Charlotte has consistently created a home away from home for young Jewish professionals, and their house in the Sedgefield neighborhood.

Beyond just leading excellent Moishe House programming, Rubin and Lipson, and their “Moishe cat roommates” Frankie and Luna, said they’ve been proud to be members of the larger diverse and active Charlotte Jewish community. Rubin said they thought there was something for everybody, regardless of their Jewish background.

“All of the different agencies [in Charlotte] cater to different interests,” Lipson said. “I didn’t realize the scope of all of the events and offerings in our community.”

And beyond just their impact as residents of a Moishe House in Charlotte, Lipson and Rubin are also leaving a lasting legacy on the organization as a whole. They’ve proven that a Moishe House led by just two people - instead of the typical three to five - can be impactful in their community. Based off their success, Moishe House has launched its next phase of growth around the world, piloting a new approach called “Moishe Pods,” which are Moore Houses led by two residents.

Moishe House, which happens to also house its East Coast Headquarters in Charlotte, currently has more than 100 Moishe Houses in 25+ countries around the world, in addition to Moishe House Charlotte, and its newer counterpart, Moishe House Charlotte – NODA. But in many cities where there is potential to open a Moishe House, there are obstacles. Sometimes, the size of the Jewish population just isn’t large enough to sustain a house. Sometimes, there are challenges finding the right group of residents. And sometimes, a tight and increasingly expensive real estate market makes it difficult to find a house or apartment that can fit a full group of three to five residents.

Lipson and Rubin proved, through their year as a two-person house, that two people are capable of creating and sustaining meaningful Jewish community. Beginning in 2019, Moishe House officially launched the Moishe Pod concept, and so far, four Moishe Pods have opened, with nearly a dozen more cities on the horizon to open a Pod within the year.

“It’s exciting for sure,” said Rubin of their role as pioneers in a new aspect of Moishe House programming. “It’s cool to see what we did blowing up.”

And while Rubin and Lipson’s tenure as Moishe House residents will come to an end in April, they aren’t completely done with their role as leaders and community builders in Charlotte. They’re moving to a new apartment Uptown and will now be Moishe House Without Walls hosts, and continue to create Jewish programming on a smaller scale out
Spring into Learning

Spring is a season filled with things to do. Basketball playoffs, spring cleaning, gardening and yardwork, and school breaks fill our days and our calendars. At the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte the story is the same. Our days are full of life and activity.

In March, we welcomed a team from Father Patrick Desbois’ Yadah-In-Unum to the Queens University campus for a two-day teacher workshop about The Holocaust By Bullets. The educators spent 16 hours learning about the methodology of extermination used before the gas chambers were built at the Nazi death camps. They wrestled with the difficult truths associated with the Einsatzgruppen (special SS and police units) as they exterminated tens of thousands of innocent Jewish men, women, and children literally face-to-face. Participants left the seminar deeply moved and ready to reconstruct this lost piece of history.

In addition, we brought the Becoming One Human Family program to two high schools and one middle school, provided 10 presenters for the Rowan-Salisbury third annual WWII and Holocaust Symposium, and collaborated with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library in teaching MAUS to incarcerated youth.

Looking ahead to April, things do not slow down one bit. The Becoming One Human Family Program is scheduled for five more schools.

We have two incredible programs scheduled in partnership with Centropa, the Levine Jewish Community Center, and the Hanns Seidel Foundation of Washington and Munich. Through a Deutschland Jahr 2019 grant of the German Embassy in Washington, we will host two days of lecture and film. On April 16, a session titled “Germany Today, Facing the Past and the Future of Memory” will take place at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at the Levine JCC at Shalom Park. On April 17, we invite educators and the community to join us for “Teaching the Past in the Future, A View from Greensboro and Charlotte, Vienna and Munich” in Ketner Auditorium on the Queens University of Charlotte campus. Visit our website for more information.

We end our month with a one-of-a-kind event: A NC Premiere of the film Close to Evil, followed by international author and speaker, Alexandra Senfft. Close to Evil traces the journey of one Holocaust survivor as he reaches out to the daughter of a Nazi who worked at the camp where many of his family members were killed. Along the way, he meets Alexandra. Alexandra is the granddaughter of a Nazi. Hanns Elard Ludin was Alexandra’s maternal grandfather. Ludin joined the Nazi party and the SA-storm troopers in 1931 and became the German envoy to Slovakia. He was found guilty of being directly involved in the deportation of some 70,000 Jews. He was hanged for war crimes in 1947 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Alexandra speaks about the lasting legacy of silence on the descendants of Nazi perpetrators as well as the need to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. For more information and to register, please visit our website: StanGreensponCenter.org.

This event is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors: John and Gail Bar-on, Larry and Stacy Brown, Stu and Lynne Cogiac, Jeff and Dana Ditsheim, Howard and Merrith Glazer, Eric and Judy Laxer, Ed and Debora Pizer, and Gennaro Vitale and Susan Schall of World Night Club.

We are expecting a large turnout for this event, so please RSVP to Talli Dippold, dippoldt@queens.edu.

Teach

You may also contact me at 704-607-3936 if you have questions or want to get involved.

Let us all do our part so that the hope of the survivors of the Holocaust can be realized. Help us honor the wishes of the Holocaust survivors by “Teaching the Children.”

Please visit the Council’s web site for more information; www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council.

“Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.”

--Albert Einstein
Jewish Council of Lake Norman Launches Its Monthly Newsletter

For the first time ever, the Jewish community of the greater Lake Norman area has its own monthly newsletter. Produced by the Jewish Council of Lake Norman, the Lake Norman Jewish News provides monthly information relevant to the local Jewish community. In addition to area Jewish news, this publication highlights the various events offered to the community, such as Jewish holiday gatherings, speaking events, performances, engagements, and many others.

In the last decade, the Lake Norman population has seen a significant growth with many Jewish families and individuals moving to the area. At the present time, the Lake Norman region is estimated to be home to 3,000 individuals, and growing.

Sponsored by the Greater Charlotte Jewish Federation, the Jewish Council has been working with the two synagogues in Davidson and Statesville, the GCJF, and the Jewish Council of Lake Norman, Hiller at Davidson College, ISJL, as well as other organizations, to provide programs and activities that would enhance Jewish life in the Lake Norman region. The newsletter helps in promoting these programs and reaching out to the Lake Norman Jewish population.

For more information about the Jewish Council of Lake Norman, go to www.JewishCouncilOfLakeNorman.org.

Bal Tashhit and Beyond: Make an Earth Day Resolution

This Earth Day Shalom Green encourages you to start a new tradition: make an Earth Day Resolution. Like the time we spend at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur searching our souls for ways to improve ourselves in the New Year, this Earth Day we challenge everyone to commit to one or more specific actions that can help realize Tikvah, an activity that improves the world.

Reduced

* Plastic bags are among the 12 items of debris most often found in coastal cleanups, according to the nonprofit Center for Marine Conservation. Bring your own shopping bags to the grocery store. If you are like us, sometimes you forget to grab your reusable bags so keep some in the trunk of your car or hang them by your front door.
* Reduce food waste. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, 30% of food is lost or wasted globally across the supply chain, contributing 8% of total global greenhouse gas emissions. Consider composting food scraps in a home composter and try shopping for small amounts of produce twice a week to reduce spoilage.
* Cut down on your meat consumption. Livestock rearing is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. Cutting back goes a long way towards helping the environment, as does choosing meat and dairy products from organic, pasture-raised, grass-fed animals. Start with “meatless Monday,” and someday you may find yourself eating “meat free most days.”

Vote with your dollars:

* Buy more organic foods. Purchasing organic food supports a healthier food economy and switching to an organic diet portends a healthier food economy and someday you may find your children asking why you had to buy a can of beans.
* Reduce your water consumption.```
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Enjoy nature and encourage natural habitats.

* Consider planting bee and butterfly friendly flowers this spring. Plant a tree near your house. Reduce irrigation needs at home by reducing turf grass area and planting trees and shrubs that are native or adaptive species for our region.
* Volunteer with Shalom Green. Join one of our action committees or attend one of our monthly garden work days.

Know the Issues and Advocate:

* Learn about environmental issues, study the research, and take a stance. In our part as tenders and tillers of the world, roles assigned to humanity in the first chapters of Genesis, we cannot simply accept the destruction of native or adaptive species for our region.
* Vote with our planet’s future in mind. Join in a long tradition of environmental stewardship, Jewish sources offer insights for policy making on contemporary issues. Judaism emphasizes our need to preserve our natural resources and generate new ones for future generations.

Small changes can make a big difference. From all of us at Shalom Green, let’s make every day Earth Day.

If you have an idea for an article, please email info@shalomgreenCLT.org.

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

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

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

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To subscribe to the Lake Norman Jewish News or see the current and past issues, click “Community Newsletter.”

The Jewish Council of Lake Norman welcomes inputs from the community. Send email to Secretary@jcln.org.
Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemmons

It is the Hebrew month of Nisan and Passover is upon us. Passover is our story of redemption and the Exodus from Egypt began our journey towards peoplehood. We weren’t a Jewish people until we received the 10 Commandments and Torah at Mount Sinai. It was at Sinai that we officially became the “Chosen People” when we agreed to accept the 613 commandments in the Torah that God commanded of us. It was at that point that we learned about what it meant to be Jewish. What it meant to be Kosher. How we were supposed to observe the Sabbath. How we were supposed to take of each other and how to treat the stranger among us. It was at Sinai that we received the message that we were to deliver to the world - to do good and to be righteous. This message is the premise of our Torah’s teachings.

Our journey towards peoplehood wasn’t an easy one. There were many trials and tribulations along the way. There was much bickering and much sinning. It took 40 years of wandering in the wilderness and the passage of an entire generation to become a righteous people worthy of entrance into the Promised Land. We have been struggling for that righteousness and fighting for that land ever since.

As we left Egypt, our future was unimaginable. We had no way of knowing what lay ahead of us. We had no way of knowing what we would encounter or whether we would survive, but the time was at hand and we had no choice but to place our faith in Moses and forge forward into the unknown.

Many of us today live our lives just like that. We have no idea what the future will bring. We just know that we must have faith in a bright tomorrow. And we forge forward towards a better life … a better opportunity … a better future. That has become increasingly difficult to do in these days of world turmoil and unrest. The future is unpredictable, and sometimes even gloomy and scary. Yet, we forge forward, trying to make each day a day of significance and a day of hope. We place our faith in a God who at times seems to ignore our cries and our suffering. The human spirit, however, has the innate ability and unbelievable fortitude to soar higher and higher even in the most dire of circumstances.

We reach for the stars. We believe in the power of hard work and embrace a belief in something that is so much greater that we could ever be. We send out our message of goodness and righteousness to the world.

Over 650 Jewish families in the Charlotte area have added to their own personal righteousness by becoming members of the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery. You are invited to join the ranks of these righteous Jews who support the holy work of the Hebrew Cemetery Association, helping us maintain the holiness and sanctity of the only Jewish cemetery in the city. For more information about membership benefits, graves, prepaid funeral costs, endowments, and/or including the cemetery in your estate planning through a legacy gift, contact Cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman at 704-944-6854 or director@hebrewcemetery.org.


ZABS After Hours Named in Memory of Mark Gale O.B.M.

Life is not just about what we do from 9-5 (or 10-6 in our case). There needs to be life after work and that’s why we’ve created ZABS After Hours, an opportunity for our employees, trainees, and coaches to spend time enjoying fun activities together. These monthly events help strengthen social skills in a more casual environment and offer the opportunity for our ZABS Talent to meet and mingle with those who work different shifts or on different days. Events vary each month and include dinner and an activity. So far we’ve enjoyed painting, a movie, playing favorite board games, cooking, arcades, and a bowling trip.

Mark Gale, of blessed memory, was a great fan of this program and the social opportunities ZABS Place was creating for individuals like his grandson Jonathan, a ZABS employee. It is now our honor to dedicate the ZABS After Hours program in memory of Mark Gale O.B.M.

ZABS Place is a thrift boutique that trains and employs young adults with special needs.

What families say about JPS

“...to say that JPS is the second family we always dreamed Seth would have is simply an understatement. Seth’s connection to his teacher is genuine and full of love. Watching our son singing Shabbat songs and eating challah brings tears to my eyes, knowing that he will have the same experiences I had as a child.

My wife and I find ourselves at a loss when trying to articulate the peace we have knowing that our son is a student at JPS. We are eternally grateful for them.”

Deanna Haynes

Join our family
Give us a call (704) 364-8395 or visit jpskids.org

*What families say about JPS*

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A Licensed Five-Star Preschool, NC Division of Child Development

A project of Chabad of Charlotte

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As our aging population continues to grow, so do the challenges associated with getting older. As people age, their daily-to-day life struggles often become exaggerated. Suddenly, things that weren’t a thought become a challenge. Physically it becomes painful to take out the trash, plant this year’s garden, or even walk up the steps. Before long things escalate. Health issues arise. Work becomes unmanageable. Adjustments need to be made to live on a fixed income. Driving becomes dangerous. Friends, family, even spouses die.

Loneliness, anxiety and depression sets in. This is not an uncommon scenario. In fact, one in five people over the age of 55 suffer from a mental health issue. And men over the age of 80 have the highest rate of suicide of any age group. And seniors have the highest rate of suicide attempts actually resulting in death.

According to Howard Olshansky, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services, “We have seen a significant increase in the number of seniors struggling with mental health issues.” However, according to Olshansky “there are numerous barriers for seniors to access treatment. There are physical barriers like health and transportation. There are also limited providers who can bill Medicare, the primary insurer for seniors and there is still stigma of getting help for a Mental Health issue. Older adults grew up in a culture where therapy was frowned upon. It was not seen as a disease that needed treatment and accessing help for depression or anxiety was just viewed as a weakness”.

Stan Greenspon recognized the problem and wanted to help. “I know personally the struggle of dealing with a mental health issue,” acknowledged Stan. “And I see friends and peers in the community who are struggling with the similar issues and I just felt compelled to try and help in some way.”

This gave Stan an idea that has resulted in the Stan Greenspon Program for Senior Mental Health and Wellness. Stan offered JFS a match challenge. He agreed to match up to $10,000 to fund support for therapy services for seniors. “This was huge for JFS,” stated Olshansky. “Through the generous support of Stan and the donors who supported this match challenge, JFS has not only been able to raise the funds that will allow JFS to utilize any of our therapists to treat our seniors and not have to worry about billing for their treatment but the match also raised awareness regarding the mental health needs of seniors in our community.”

If you know a senior who is struggling with a mental health issue join Stan in his vision to ensure they get the help they need by contacting Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

Temple Kol Ami and Emanuel Cast Their Lots and Host The Ruach Shabbat Experience in March

In March, two area synagogues hosted The Ruach. On March 15, the band was at Temple Kol Ami in Fort Mill and then at Temple Emanuel in Gastonia on March 22. The Ruach Shabbat Experience is always engaging, spiritual, and fun. People can’t help but move to and be moved by The Ruach’s music and their unique, uplifting way of celebrating Shabbat. “I love The Ruach because the music moves my soul (and hips!). The energy provides a perfect beginning for Shabbat,” says Andrea Cronson who rarely misses The Ruach when they are playing in the Charlotte area.

Those who regularly join The Ruach Community for The Shabbat Experience know that the band usually includes a song or two that connects The Experience to a theme. The theme for March was pretty easy. Purim! There is a spirit of liveliness and fun on Purim that is unparalleled on the Jewish calendar. If there were ever a time to “let loose” and just be Jewish, this is it. So, at each of the March Experiences the band let loose by telling the story of Purim using song and stories. “You’re No Good” by Linda Ronstadt. Everyone joined in the chorus, “You’re no good, you’re no good, you’re no good.” By the end of the song groggers were spinning wildly each time Haman’s name was said.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Experiences:

April 26 – The Shabbat Experience at The Rabbit Hole, Plaza-Midwood, Charlotte
May 3 – The Shabbat Experience at Davie Park, Charlotte with BBQ from award-winning Chef Robert “Ernie” Adler
June 21 – The Shabbat Experience at Heist Brewery, NoDa, Charlotte
September 30 – The Rosh Hashanah Experience, The Fillmore, Charlotte, NC

If you’d like to be added to The Ruach’s distribution list and stay informed about upcoming Experiences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. Also, to learn more about The Ruach, “like” the band on Facebook, and follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.band. Check out their website at www.thexjc.org.

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Lake Norman Jewish Council to Hold the 3rd Annual Deli Day

This year’s program will emphasize the BJH Foundation at the summit. Beth El.

Spring is in the air, people are beginning to venture outside and up I was always excited and he he had red hair. When he showed

Don’t Eat Off the Seder Plate, Plus Other Tips for Non-Jews Attending Their First Seder

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

Do not refer to the holiday as “The Passover.” No Jew since Jesus has ever called it “The Passover.” The heart of the Seder is the communal reading of the Haggadah, which tells the story of the Jews’ liberation from Egypt in the same way that your hairdresser tells you about her weekend at Cabo: She’ll eventually get to the point, but not without a few digressions.

You may be asked to read a passage from the Haggadah. Do not feel intimidated; there is no way you’ll do this any worse than I did. Passover tells a specifically Jewish story, but its messages of... (Continued on next page)
The Last Passover Countdown Checklist You Will Ever Need

By Andrew Silow-Carroll (JTA) - The 30-day period between Purim and Passover is often frenetic, especially for Jews — especially if, against all sound advice, they insist on hosting a Passover seder. The Passover seder combines a daunting lengthening process of planning and preparing the festive meal, we offer this handy Passover countdown checklist, which we hope will help you make way for Passover food.

Tips for Non-Jews Attending Their First Seder
(Continued from previous page)

faith and liberation are universal. There is no reason for you as a gentile to feel judged or looked-down upon. Unless you are Egyptian, then hoo-hooy.

One thing Passover’s highlights is the singing of “The Four Questions.” In this ancient recitation, the youngest inquirers guess about the unusual customs performed only during the Seder: for example, eating matzah, dipping our food, and praying on pillows. You’ll notice that no one ever answers the questions. Welcome to my childhood.

About that matzah: To commemorate the haste in which they left Egypt, Passover requires that Jews only eat this cracker made from wheat that in its journey from field to supermarket has not been allowed to rise or acquire any discernible flavor. When “tasting” your first piece, remember to nod and smile and keep a full glass of water or other liquid nearby.

Do not compare matzah to a communion wafer, unless you actually enjoy long awkward silences.

During the Seder, guests are each presented with two cups of wine. This sounds more fun than it is: The cups are parceled out over about eight hours and typically contain kosher wine.

Yes, there are kosher wines that fit into a bottle, but they are kept for special occasions. You are right, Passover is a special occasion. I meant special occasions where there aren’t 18 guests required to drink four cups of wine. What am I, a Rothschild?

Another highlight of the Seder is the singing of “Dayenu,” a Hebrew liturgy of, roughly, “We would have been satisfied” — leading many scholars to suspect it couldn’t have been written by a Jew.

After plowing through the Haggadah and eating various combinations of symbolic foods, it is now time for the festive meal. Congratulations! You made it. You’re almost home. (Unless, of course, your hosts are observant Jews, when the reading of the Haggadah will pick up again right after dessert. No, I’m not kidding.)

The festive meal will often begin with a serving of something called “gefilte fish.” This is sometimes referred to as “carp pâte,” but only by people who have never seen or tasted pâté.

When “tasting” your first piece, remember to nod and smile and keep a full glass of water or other liquid nearby.

As the Seder moves toward its conclusion, someone will open the front door and invite the prophet Elijah to join the Seder. Considering Elijah has been dead for 3,000 years and there are millions of Jewish households making the same request, you might find yourself thinking this is implausible. And I might find myself thinking, “Really? More implausible than Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny, wiseguy? Do you think you’re better than us?” Of course, I will have had at least three cups of wine at this point. The Elijah ceremony also includes the recitation of a rather angry prayer that begins, “Pour out Your wrath upon the nations that do not recognize You.” It sounds pretty bad, but first you must consider what the late Jewish historian Salo Baron once said about the impact of persecution on the collective Jewish self-identification and - wait. I can’t do this. It’s pretty bad.

Can I get you another cup of wine?

At this late point, many Jewish families like to joyously sing a song called “Chad Gadya,” which is about a dead goat, a beaten dog, an injured cat, a slaughtered ox, and a visit by the Angel of Death. It is a children’s song. One pink-faced uncle may joke, “No wonder we’re so screwed up.” Do not laugh at this joke.

The Seder now concludes with everyone saying “Next year in Jerusalem!” to which your hostess may respond, “Next year at somebody else’s house!” You may now get up from the table and — hey, come back! You forgot your coat!

(Andrew Silow-Carroll is the editor-in-chief of JTA.)

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

*“The festival meal will often begin with a serving of something called ‘gefilte fish.’ This is sometimes referred to as ‘carp pâte,’ but only by people who have never seen or tasted pâté. When tasting your first piece, remember to nod and smile and keep a full glass of water or other liquid nearby.”*

The Last Passover Countdown Checklist You Will Ever Need

The month-long countdown to Passover begins with a 30-day period between Purim and Passover. It is a period of preparation and cleaning, especially for Jews — especially if, against all sound advice, they insist on hosting a Passover seder. The Passover seder combines a daunting lengthening process of planning and preparing the festive meal, we offer this handy Passover countdown checklist, which we hope will help you make way for Passover food.

**10 days out:** Ask spouse to please bring up kosher dishes, Seder plate, and Haggadahs from the basement.

**13 days out:** Ask spouse to please bring up kosher dishes, Seder plate, and Haggadahs from the basement.

**12 days out:** Ask spouse to please bring up kosher dishes, Seder plate, and Haggadahs from the basement. 

**11 days out:** Finalize guest list. Finalize menu. Longingly peruse ads in Jewish newspaper for weeklong Passover cruises.

**10 days out:** Ask spouse to bring up table leaf from basement, goddamnit. Set table.

**9 days out:** Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23.

**8 days out:** Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23.

**7 days out:** Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23.

**6 days out:** Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23.

**5 days out:** Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23.

**4 days out:** Ask spouse to please bring up kosher dishes, Seder plate, and Haggadahs from the basement.

**3 days out:** Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23.

**2 days out:** Ask spouse to bring up table leaf from basement, goddamnit. Set table. **1 day out:** Ask Cousin Eric calls. It’s off with his plus-one — he can’t date a “RINO” who thinks Rachel Maddow “sometimes makes some good points.” Panic. **Seder day:** Welcome parents, siblings, their kids, Aunt Fay and Cousin Eric. Ask your young-est to recite the Four Questions, which he does perfectly, which is less impressive than it might seem when you remember that he’s 23. Read Haggadah. Eat festive meal. Welcome Elijah. Ignore Cousin Eric. **1 day after:** Vow never to do this again.

**2 days after:** Agree to do this again next year.
How Matzah Became a Household Item for Non-Jews in the Netherlands

By Cnaan Liphshiz
Enschede, Netherlands (JTA) - For most matzah bakeries, Passover is a year-round business, and only claim to financial viability. After the weeklong holiday, during which Jews are command- ed to eat matzah, many bakeries try to com- memorate their ancestors’ hurried flight out of Egypt, demand for the famously tasteless cracker drops sharply.

Except, that is, in the Nether- lands.

A centuries-old and proud Jewish community here has made matzah a household product that is sold in supermarkets and con- sumed year-round by millions of non-Jews who swear by it as their breakfast bread of choice.

That’s one reason why Pieter Heijs, a co-owner of Hollandia Matzes in this eastern city, is probably the only matzah maker in the world who braves for losses, not earnings, during Passover.

Almost all the profits of his matzah production are from the Dutch Jewish community. Holland - comes from sales to non-Jews of a product that lacks the “kosher for Passover” certification. However, for four weeks ahead of Passover, Hollandia also produces kosher-for-Pass- over matzah that is sold in supermarkets to make to what we get for,” Heijs said.

The factory, which produces about 40 million matzah crackers annually, also makes small amounts of shmura matzah - a specialty variant that is even costlier because of its stringent adherence to the kosher rules. To prevent even the hint of leav- ening, the wheat and flour never come into contact with moisture from the time of the harvesting until it is kneded and the sheets are baked.

Still, Heijs remains committed to making matzah that is kosher for Passover for those who ask for it.

“It’s a matter of tradition, and it means a great deal to me,” said Heijs, who is not Jewish. “Even for me, it means a great deal to me.”

For Passover this year, Heijs and his business partner, Udo Karsemeijer, who also has Dutch Jewish roots, said they planned to produce matzah that is kosher for Passover.

Still, Heijs remains committed to making matzah that is kosher for Passover for those who ask for it.

“The factory reopened after World War II, during which the Germans killed 75% of the pre- war Dutch Jewish population of 100,000. The community never replenished its numbers.

By then, however, matzahs had developed a non-Jewish fol- lowing. People who are eye-catching and in- stantly recognizable packaging of Hollandia matzah boxes - an orange-colored octagonal cardboard box with a bright yellow top - is a marketing ploy that is not lost on Jews.

The matzah became a year- round household food in recent decades as supermarkets replaced smaller grocery stores, accord- ing to Jonah Freud. He published a book in 2012 about the Dutch Jewish cuisine based on her research for the Jewish Historical Museum of Amsterdam.

“I think this is connected to how matzah is perceived as healthy,” Freud said.

Heijs con- curred.

“How many of our clients want matzah because it’s such a pure product,” he said. “No additives, no preservatives, highly nutri- tious. What more can you ask of a health food?”

In preparation to the health-food crowd, one of the first moves by Heijs and his business partner, Udo Karsemeijer, who also has Dutch Jewish roots, said they planned to produce matzah that is kosher for Passover.

But they happened independently of one another.

Enter the amazing internet phenomenon of the Peeps Skillet S’mores, circa 2016. I some- how found it online, and my sister — once a member of a Peeps fan club — had the brilliant idea to serve it for the Seder.

Passover dessert has never been this online.

For the uninitiated, Peeps Skil- let S’mores are pretty much ex- actly what they sound like: They are the stuffy goodness that everyone loves about s’mores, but cooked and served in an in- door-friendly skillet.

And instead of boring old marshmallows, the melty mess of chocolate is topped with those pretty, pastel-colored Peeps. That’s one reason why Pieter Heijs, who is not Jewish, decided to put matzah on the menu.

But not everyone is a fan of the matzah.

“Frankly I couldn’t tell you why so many Dutchmen like matzah - I don’t think it’s tasty at all,” said Roger van Oordt, the director of the Netherlands-based Christians for Israel group, which organizes matzah-baking activi- ties in solidarity with Israel and the Jews.

“If I have to think about eating nothing but matzah for two weeks, it makes being Christian look easy.”

Although he is not Jewish, Heijs regards matzah as much more than a commodity.

“If I have to think about eating nothing but matzah for two weeks, it makes being Christian look easy.”

Heijs, 55, remembers enjoying Hollandia matzah as a boy ahead of and also directly after Easter.

“I understand that matzah is pretty, pastel-colored Peeps. It’s Passover.

Serving graham crackers at a Seder is appropri- ate. So instead we use matzah.

In my childhood mind, this was infinitely cooler than the sil- ver dollars he usually gave us.

The years (um, make that de- cades) have passed.

My love of candy continued unabated.

Meanwhile, I grew up and started hosting Passover Seder of my own.

Scoffing down Easter candy and having a Seder happened ev-
A Tour Guide Uncovers Passover Secrets in the Met Museum’s Egyptian Wing

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

New York (JTA) — I have roamed the Metropolitan Muse- um of Art’s Egyptian wing many times, marveling at sarcophagi, statues of Horus and Ra, and por- traits of young men on ancient panels who gaze back at visitors, looking shockingly familiar and contemporary. But on a Sunday just before Passover, I viewed the artifacts as if I’d never before seen them: through the lens of the Ex- odus story, which we retell each year through reading the Hugga- dah.

Nachdil Selavan, a Jewish ed- ucator and self-taught museum guide whose specialty is look- ing at Jewish texts and history through ancient artifacts, guided a group of about 20 through the Egypt section, pausing at stat- ues, carvings and the Book of the Dead. Before that, he distributed source sheets with canonical Jewish texts in Hebrew and English. For more than two hours he walked us through a passage from Deuteronomy in which the Israelites are serving for guests.

“Those people were seeing as they traded and mingled with an- other culture? When you see ma- terial culture like this, it makes it real.”

Selavan brought us to several examples of reliefs carved with the names of the Egyptian ruler, or paro/pharaoh, noting how important names were to them. In Hebrew, he noted, the Book of Exodus is known as Shemot, which begins with the names of the sons of the patriarch Jacob, who went with their own families down to Egypt with their father.

“It was very interesting to see actual artifacts, representations of words we see in the Torah,” said Lori Lott, 37, a Yiddish singer and computer database programmer who describes her- self as Conservadox. She heard about the tour through Chulent, a WhatsApp group for Jews who have left Orthodox communities. Everyone else on the tour ap- peared to be Orthodox, including several haredim.

The Exodus tour is one of five tours Selavan offers at the Met through his company, To- rah Intermedia. Another focuses on artifacts from the time of the Maccabees revolt and oriented toward Chanukah. More Pass- over-themed tours are planned for the festival’s intermediate days.

“When you’re able to not just learn a text but see the stuff it’s talking about, the learning goes to a whole other level,” said Rabbi Ethan Tucker in an interview.

Tucker is the president and rosh yeshiva of Haradar, the egaliti- tarian Torah learning center based in Manhattan. Last year Hadar brought its 45 summer fellows to the Met for a tour with Selavan.

They were studying Avodah Zara, a Talmud tractate on idol worship, and saw examples of which Talmudic scholars hold.

“It was great to go around with someone with knowledge of Jew- ish sources and material sources on display at the Met,” Tucker said. “I found it to be very enrich- ing. One of the struggles of being in a culture so focused on text is you can forget texts are talking about things in the real world. For them to encounter a temple midrash [study hall], to get out into a museum raises the quality and intensity of the experience.

Selavan wants to give his tours combining Jewish text and ancient arti-facts at museums around the world. (Debra Nussbaum Cohen)

Selavan is one of a handful of individuals and companies that of- fer private Jewish tours at major art museums.

David Thomas, associate coordi- nator of groups and visitor ser- vices at the Met, said the museum does not share the number of tours led by outside guides like Sela- van.

“I’m not aware of any other tour guides who offer Jewish-themed tours, but there may be some,” Thomas said. “Many synagogues, universities and other Jewish or- ganizations also bring groups.”

Selavan grew up the son of a rabbi/tour guide/archaeologist in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusa- lem’s Old City, and was educated at yeshivas. He discusses refer- ences from Mishna comfortably with a Satmar Hasid on his tour but dresses more like a Brooklyn hipster. Asked how he identifies religiously, Selavan replied, “I’m on the Orthodox spectrum but not sure where I fit.”

Like the Met’s galleries, Se- lavan’s journey took a winding route. After yeshiva Selavan, now 34, began teaching the Brazilian mithril art caeopera around Israel. At 25, he earned an undergradu- ate degree at a Jewish university and in 2013 came to the United States to teach.

In his second year teaching Bible at the Netivot Montessori Yeshiva in East Brunswick, NJ, he took fourth-graders to see the Met’s exhibit “From Assyria to Iberia.” Another visitor, over- hearing him, asked if he read Ar- maniac and led him to the Tel Dan stele, a 2,800-year-old inscribed stone on loan from the Israel Mu- seum. Reading what turned out to be paleo-Hebrew, Selavan was struck by the power of seeing the earliest known reference to “Beit David,” the seat of the Davidic dynasty, which is his hometown.

“Then people started asking me questions,” Selavan said.

At the start of the 2016-17 school year, he started networking with other Orthodox yeshivas to lead tours and quickly expanded into leading adults. Last summer he took about 20 groups through the Met, he said, and now leads synagogue and Hillel groups as well. He gave a Jewish tour of Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts to members of an Orthodox syna- gogue in suburban Newton, and is now planning to do the same with area day school groups.

Selavan lives in Crown Heights, the Brooklyn headquar- ters of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, and is finishing up a long-distance master’s degree program in Jewish education at the Hebrew University of Jerusa- lem and emrolling in a Jewish his- tory master’s program at Yeshiva University.

On the Passover tour, as the group approached the Temple of Dendur, the massive sandstone shrine set in a grand sunlit interior plaza, Selavan pointed out a repli- ca crocodile in the surrounding moat. He noted that the Hebrew term “taneen,” found in Ezekiel and Exodus, is generally translat- ed as “serpent,” but more likely meant crocodile, as they infested the Nile.

“My dream is to do things like this with museums around the world,” he later told JTA. “In Spain, London, France and so on. And to live in Jerusalem.”

Quiche with Veggie Crust Recipe for Passover

By Shannon Sarna

(The Nosher via JTA) - Break- fast can be hard during Passover — no oatmeal, no toast, and certainly no pancakes. (No, the box kind do not count.) I like making eggs or matzah brei or even shakshuka. But I am always looking for something a little different to serve a satisfying breakfast or lunch.

The “kugel” crust you are all those things: great for vegetarian lunch, it’s healthful, packed with tons of veggies, and it’s a super filling meal. And unlike some 8” quiches — ideal for eating all week, or serving for guests.

Ingrediesnts:

For the crust
1 lg. sweet potato
1 russet (Idaho) potato
1 med. zucchini
2 lg. eggs
1/2 c. matzah meal
1/2 t. salt

For the filling
6 lg. eggs, at room temperature
2 c. heavy cream or 1/2 half and half
6 oz. (around 2 c.) frozen spinach, thawed and drained well
2 c. shredded cheddar or gruyere cheese plus extra, 1/2 t. salt
1/4 t. pepper

DIRECTIONS:

To make the crust, coarsely grate the potato, sweet potato, and zucchini with a hand grater or in a food processor. Add to lg. bowl and mix with eggs, matzah meal, salt, and pepper. Preheat oven to 400 F. Grease two 8” springform pans. Spoon veggie mixture into bottom of pans and gently push all along the bottom of the pan and up the sides a little to form crust. Place in fridge for 5-10 min. Bake crusts for 10-15 min., till crust just starts to brown and crisp around the edges. While crust is baking, prepare filling by whisking eggs and heavy cream (or half and half) in a lg. bowl. Add spinach, cheese, salt, and pepper. Pour half the mixture into one prepared crust, the other half into other crust. Top with a sprinkle of additional shredded cheese, a few dabs of butter, and thick sea salt if desired. Reduce oven temperature to 375 degrees and bake another 25-30 min., or till the middle of the quiche has puffed slightly. Allow to cool slightly, serve warm or at room temperature. Can be prepared 1-2 days ahead of time.

“For Shannon Sarna is the editor of The Nosher."

The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNosher.com.

“This veggie ‘kugel’ crust is all those things: great for vegetarian lunch, it’s healthful, packed with tons of veggies, and it’s a super satisfying breakfast.”
There are lots of ways to eat matzah.

And lots of ways to be part of Federation.

To make matzah taste better — you can try hundreds of things. To make someone's life better — try Federation.

This year while you renew the meaning of Passover with friends and relatives at your own table — you can also make a difference in lives throughout our community. Just a small gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte can go a long way in making this Passover different and more meaningful for others in Charlotte, Israel and around the world.

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