On the Same Page Chapter II
Featuring Bestselling Author and Award Winning Journalist
Martin Fletcher

Sunday, March 24, 7 PM in Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) is proud to present the second chapter of our community wide read initiative: On the Same Page. Our goal for this initiative is to bring people together through the reading and discussion of a common book. Chapter II of our community read invites everyone to read Promised Land, the epic saga of Israel’s early years, written by the former NBC News Bureau Chief in Tel Aviv, Martin Fletcher. Tom Brokaw calls the book, “a riveting novel that picks up where Exodus left off.”

Fletcher spent the many years covering the Middle East and Africa. He was NBC correspondent in Israel for 26 years and bureau chief for 15 years. He has covered Kosovo, Rwanda, and Isra-
el, including the first and second Palestinian uprisings and Israel’s war with Lebanon in 2006. His reporting has earned him many awards in TV journalism, including the DuPont (known as the TV Pulitzer), five Overseas Press Club awards, the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence and five Emmys, to name a few. Anderson Cooper called him for several decades “the gold standard of war correspondents.”

His fifth book Promised Land: A Novel of Israel is a sweeping story of two brothers and the woman they love, a devastating love triangle set against the tumultuous founding of Israel. New York Times #1 bestselling author Nelson DeMille states: “Historical novels don’t get much better than Promised Land.” Fletcher will discuss his book on March 24 as a culmination of our community read. We invite you to join us to what promises to be an exciting and enlightening evening.

There Are a Few Tickets Still Available to Hear Bari Weiss, New York Times Editor and Writer, Speak at the 2019 Main Event

Only a few days remain until The Main Event, the Federation’s highest profile event of the season—the event that kicks off our community’s 2019 Annual Campaign. On Thursday, February 7, please join us at Temple Israel, 7:30 PM, to hear New York Times editor and writer Bari Weiss share her reflections concerning After Promised Land: a riveting novel that picks up where Exodus left off.”

Martin Fletcher was raised in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh: Pride, Peoplehood, and Power. Bari Weiss was raised in the Tree of Life Synagogue and became a bat mitzvah there as well. Following the recent shooting, Bari has written and spoken extensively about is-

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to sup-
port and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education, planning and community building, the Federation’s mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions, and connections are preserved for current and future generations.

There is no charge for this event. Space is limited and pre-registration at www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje is requested. For more information, please contact Debby Block, Center for Jewish Education Program Coordinator, (704) 944-6780 or debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org.

Martin Fletcher

Bari Weiss

Copies of the book available to borrow or purchase at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, as well as online as part of our e-
books selection.
The 12th class of BLG will begin in April 2019 and run through August 2020. BLG is for 25-45 year olds with a desire to learn more about and become involved with the Charlotte Jewish community. BLG members meet once a month on Sunday evenings from 4-6:30 PM with the exception of the weekend retreat. If you or someone you know is interested in making a meaningful impact on our Jewish community, an application is available online at: www.jewishcharlotte.org. To learn more or to answer please contact Kara Culp. Engagement Coordinator for Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, at Kara. Culp@JewishCharlotte.org for an application. The application deadline is March 31.

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The 11th Bernstein Leadership Group at their “graduation.”

In honor of Kevin Ziman.
Wishing him a speedy recovery
By: Troy Howard

In memory of Albert Jacobson
By: Richard and Paula Klein

In memory of Frances Reich
By: Mitchell and Ann Levine

Correction to Donor Listing.
We apologize for the error in the October CJN.

Family
In honor of Abe Sheffer’s 6th birthday
By: Sarina Spiegler

In honor of Steve Weiner.
Wishing him a speedy recovery
By: Joshua Goodman; Mark and Alison Lerner

In honor of Kim and Sue Warel on the marriage of their son, Reid
By: Julie Lerner Levine and Howard Levine

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made October 9 – December 31, 2018.

The Donald H. and Barbara K. Bernstein Leadership Development Group (BLG) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is getting ready to recruit for its 12th class. BLG was started in 1996 by Don and Bobbi Bernstein to prepare the next generation of leaders to help ensure our Charlotte Jewish community remains thriving and adaptable to the changing Jewish landscape.

The 18 month leadership program aims to foster a participant’s Jewish identity, broaden knowledge about the Charlotte Jewish community and build leadership skills. Participants will take part in tzedakah, tikkun olam, and initiatives with Jewish continuity.

Participants also cultivate meaningful relationships with group members by participating in a weekend retreat, team building exercises, social activities, and group discussions. Recent BLG graduate Rachel Friedman said, “BLG gifted me with some incredible friendships as well as helped me to better understand myself as a Jewish leader and how I can best serve the community in which I was born and raised. I chose to start by heading a committee at CJP where my daughter currently goes to preschool, and use this as the stepping stone for a long and prosperous career of giving back and strengthening our community for the generation to come.”

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Applications Now Available at www.nextgencharlotte.com

Jewish Federation Announces the 12th Class of the Bernstein Leadership Group

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What is Partnership 2Gether (P2G)?
Learn About Federation’s City Sister Hadera

P2G is the flagship program of the Jewish Agency (JAFI) partnering with local Federations to directly connect global Jewish communities with a specific geographic area in Israel. P2G’s vision is “A global and united Jewish partnership uprooting a tapestry of strong, lively, flourishing, and interconnected Jewish individuals, families, and communities working together to enrich Jewish

P2G is comprised of volunteers and leaders working directly with local Federations to facilitate ground-breaking programming to exciting, effective, and often life-enriching connections between Jewish communities across the world and in Israel, one relationship at a time. These connections lead to exciting, effective, and often ground-breaking programming for every life stage and in every area, from early childhood education to professional networking.

For over ten years, Charlotte has been a part of a Southeastern Consortium of communities (Charlotte, NC, Charleston, SC, Chattanooga, TN, Flagler and Volusia Counties, FL, Lee and Charlotte Counties, FL, Pinellas County, FL, Jacksonville, FL, Knoxville, TN, Nashville, TN, and Richmond, VA) partnering with the Hadera-Eiron Region of Israel. Our Consortium has actively participated in various cultural, professional, educational, and youth exchanges as well as leadership development programs. These programs create bonds of friendship, deep people-to-people connections between Charlotteans and Israelis who are hosted at people’s homes in Hadera and Charlotte, enabling them to truly understand and experience each other’s lives, families, cultures, and communities.

Our Partnership is led by a joint steering committee comprised of volunteers and professionals in communities in Israel and our Southeastern Consortium, dedicated to the creation of ongoing, fruitful, bilateral endeavors and shared Jewish communities. Our Sister City P2G activities are funded by our member communities’ Federations.

Where is our “Partnership region?”

Hadera sits on the Israeli Mediterranean Coastal Plain in between Tel Aviv and Haifa. Located along the flourishing coast of Israel, Hadera was founded in 1891, in the early days of modern Zionism by Eastern European immigrants as a farming colony. It was the largest purchase of land in Palestine by a Zionist group.

In May 2018, Charlotte hosted three Israeli doctors from the Hillel Yaffe hospital in Hadera. This medical exchange offered the Israeli doctors the opportunity to parallel their work with the medical advancements in U.S. communities, to learn new methods, and to exchange ideas with American colleagues. The Israeli doctors were matched with local physicians, hospitals, and medical practitioners in their fields of practice (including Atrium, HopeWay, and OrthoCarolina, among others), and were able to shadow their counterparts here in Charlotte. In addition, our Partnership hosted a panel discussion on the state of medicine and healthcare in Israel, which was attended by more than 100 local doctors and medical practitioners. The second part of this exchange took place this past January, when two medical practitioners from the Charlotte area had the unique opportunity to visit Israel on a customized medical trip. The trip provided participants an inside look at how Israeli healthcare system works and how Israel managed to build a healthcare system at relatively low-cost. More on that experience can be read in the next issue of The Charlotte Jewish News.

* Educational Seminar: In December, Charlotte was selected to host a first of its kind educational seminar. Over 20 Israeli and American educators came together for a weekend of learning, shared professional development, and meaningful interaction. The seminar was facilitated by Melitz, an educational organization offering a unique and inclusive educational approach with an emphasis on pluralism. The seminar provided the American and Israeli educators an opportunity to expand their professional experience and connect personally and professionally to other educators in Jewish communities in the southeast and Israel. The educators also engaged in team building activities such as a scavenger hunt around Shalom Park, as well as a friendly axe throwing competition. “I so enjoyed working together with both our American and Israeli Educators,” shares Betsy Olinger, who participated in the seminar. “It’s like a family reunion where we couldn’t wait to update each other on what we’ve been doing and share ideas for future projects. We came together at the Five-Legged-Table sharing new information, debating hot topics in Jewish education, and spent a meaningful Shabbat together. This wasn’t a room full of stuffy teachers - we read, debated, created, laughed, debated more, and even threw axes as we celebrated our P2G Partnership. Unity, not uniformity.” For more information about our P2G programs and ways to get involved, contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6739.

In March 2018, four teens from the Hadera-Eiron region came to Charlotte as part of a teen exchange with Providence Day School (PDS). The teens stayed in Charlotte for three weeks, attending classes in PDS, interacting with their Jewish and non-Jewish peers. The Israeli teens also actively participated in Jewish community events, such as the Purim celebration with the Charlotte Jewish Day School.

Teen Delegation: In May 2018, Charlotte hosted three Israeli doctors from the Hillel Yaffe hospital in Hadera. This medical exchange offered the Israeli doctors the opportunity to parallel their work with the medical advancements in U.S. communities, to learn new methods, and to exchange ideas with American colleagues. The Israeli doctors were matched with local physicians, hospitals, and medical practitioners in their fields of practice (including Atrium, HopeWay, and OrthoCarolina, among others), and were able to shadow their counterparts here in Charlotte. In addition, our Partnership hosted a panel discussion on the state of medicine and healthcare in Israel, which was attended by more than 100 local doctors and medical practitioners. The second part of this exchange took place this past January, when two medical practitioners from the Charlotte area had the unique opportunity to visit Israel on a customized medical trip. The trip provided participants an inside look at how Israeli healthcare system works and how Israel managed to build a healthcare system at relatively low-cost. More on that experience can be read in the next issue of The Charlotte Jewish News.

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Experience and Commitment! Buying...Selling...Relocating... Ann and Andrew are your KEYS to the local Jewish Community. Serving the Charlotte community for over 30 years.
PJ Our Way: Books and Programs for Tweens

PJ Our Way is the next chapter of PJ Library, for kids ages 8½-11. With PJ Our Way (PJOW), rather than receiving a specific book in the mail, kids can go to PJOW website every month to choose the book they want to receive – for free. Kids can also submit reviews and videos about the books. If your child is not currently receiving PJ Our Way books, simply go to www.pjoway.org to sign up today.

In addition to providing books, PJ Our Way promotes programming and leadership opportunities for Jewish tweens (ages 8½-11). Recently, our Charlotte community nominated 12 kids to be the first, local PJOW Design Team. The Design Team meets quarterly and brainstorms activities and programs for their peers and promote PJ Our Way to their friends and classmates.

Mazel tov to our PJ Our Way first local Design Team members: George Coughenour, Maddie Friedlander, Lucas Jacobs, Daniel Lopez, Hadley Lord, Sophie Manoim, Ruby Pesakoff, Dylan Sacks, Asher Schreibman, Jonah Weiss, and Nora Yesowitch.

PJ Our Way tweens have fun decorating edibles.

PJ Our Way: The next chapter of PJ Library, for kids ages 8½-11.

PJ Our Way program for all Jewish tweens
What: Laser Quest – Leadership and Team Building
Who: All Jewish kids between 8½-11 years old
When: Sunday, February 10
Time: 2-4 PM
Cost: $5

Space is limited. Register today at www.nextgencharlotte.org.

More info: Debby Block debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org, 704-944-6780.

PJ Our Way: Books and Programs for Tweens

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

CJE CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 2019

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Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap by Judy Goldman

A routine procedure left novelist, memoirist, and poet Judy Goldman’s husband Henry paralyzed. Together is her unforgettable account of the struggle to regain their “normal” life and a nuanced portrait of a marriage tested.

Charlotte author Judy Goldman’s much anticipated memoir will be published February 12 by Doubleday Books and was edited by Senior Vice President Nan A. Talese. In my opinion, Goldman’s husband Henry’s story did you decide to write this book?

Judy: After Henry’s accident, people kept asking me if I planned to write about it. I kept saying “no” until two years later when I was held up at gunpoint at the dry cleaners. After crying for days, I realized that I felt the same way I did after Henry’s procedure left him paralyzed. I realized that life can change in an instant, and writing about my feelings helped me deal with my fear that something awful would happen again.

Sue: What are the benefits of writing a memoir?

Judy: The book answers the central question “How do we react when we encounter the unheard of?” One of the rewards of writing a memoir is self-understanding…trying to learn the deepest patterns of one’s personality. I teach memoir writing workshops and encourage people to be open to self-discovery through their writing.

Sue: Readers will want to know how Henry is doing now.

Judy: Henry is so strong. One leg came back spottily and one remained paralyzed. He’s gone from wheelchair, to walker, to four-prong cane, to a regular cane.

Sue: You and Henry have been married for 51 years. What advice would you give couples?

Judy: Changes just keep coming. You have to learn to adjust to the changes that occur in every relationship—ones that come with time and ones that come by surprise.

Sue: As you know, the Center for Jewish Education concentrates on books either written by a Jewish author or having a Jewish theme. Are there Jewish values that influenced you during your lifetime which have been incorporated into this book?

Judy: All I write about is family and I know the importance of family from my Jewish upbringing. The sanctity of marriage is also a Jewish value I hold dear. There were 28 people at my wedding. It was held at my parents’ house and the rabbi from Temple Israel performed the ceremony. The basic ideas incorporated into that Jewish ceremony formed the basis for my marriage. At some point in any long-term marriage each partner is going to evolve into someone new. When there is a scaffolding of love, you keep moving through different versions of your marriage and stay close as you move into unfamiliar territory. My memoir Together records that progression.

Please join us when we welcome Judy Goldman as our guest speaker at the CJE Book Club on Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 AM.

Mark your calendars today.

Sue’s Book Shelf

By Sue Littauer

Donations to Jewish Family Services in December 2018

MAZEL TOV ON

Max’s Bar Mitzvah to Daniel and Nancy Cobleze from Sharon Katz

Your son’s upcoming marriage to Beth and David Trope from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman

IN MEMORY OF

Your loving father to Eric Fluster from Sharon Katz

Idelle Katz to Alvin Goodman from Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Carl Cohen to Amy and Gene Marx from Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Terry Patinkin to Floyd Patten from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes

Francis Reich to Barry and Laura Reich from Scott and Rebecca Goodman

Abe and Rose Luski to Berta Straz from Harriet Metz

THINKING OF

Shellie Barer from Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Suly Chenkin from Lynn and Paul Edelstein

Lisa Richman from Lynn Edelstein, Judy Marco

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

David and Aleen Epstein from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

THANK YOU TO

Carolyn Hennes from Margi Goldstein

Elise Menaker from Margi Goldstein

Paula S. Musler from Margi Goldstein

Fran Schuler from Margi Goldstein

Norman Steinberger for the Chanukah celebration from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman, Alan and Ruth Goldberg

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jon and Chris Schuller from Marcia Solomon

IN HONOR OF

Norman Steinberger from Robert and Joyce Stoll

WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Ronald and Jan Weiner from Matthew Luftglas and Meg Goldstein

There is an old saying: If you wish to find out whether your motive is pure, test yourself in two ways: whether you expect recompense from God or anyone else, and whether you would perform the act in the same way if you were alone, unbeknown to others.

–Bachya Ibn Pakuda, Duties of the Heart
JFS Annual Senior Adult Chanukah Party

The Senior Adult Chanukah party was an afternoon filled with laughter, music, entertainment, good food, and fun. Entertained by Viva Klezmer!, over 150 seniors enjoyed a traditional holiday meal including latkes and hand-made menorah and dreidel holiday cookies, a performance by CJP, Chanukah cards created and distributed by the CJDS students, not to mention a very special candle lighting ceremony and song celebration by Cantor Shira. Special thanks goes out to Norman Steinberger who ensures the seniors in our community are able to enjoy a holiday party each year, to Oasis for your partnership, and to all of our sponsors. Thank you!

Jewish Family Services

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7TH ANNUAL CREATIVE EVENTS EXPO
BAR & BAT MITZVAH & TEEN PARTY SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019
12:00 - 3:00 PM
TEMPLE BETH EL

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JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Month of December 2018


Thanks for Contributing to the Dreidel Drive: Ballantyne Jewish Center, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Hebrew High, Jewish Preschool on Sardis, Jewish Community Center, Temple Solel, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Weaver and Budd Law Firm and the many many individuals who collected gifts for the Holiday.

Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Gladys Cherney, Sari Hochberg, Connie Green, Johnson & Wales, Judy Kaufman, Penny Kreiger, Andy McCleary, Harriet Meetz, Helene Rivlin, Joyce Stoll


Food Drives: Judy Lecker and friends for nonperishables donated at annual Chanukah party, Charlotte Jewish Day School and Temple Israel Religious School for canned goods from their “Chanukiah,” PJ Library for items collected during a scavenger hunt at Publix.

Community News

At the Stan Greenspon Center, Community Is Everything

For most people in the U.S., February is most closely associated with the celebration of Valentine’s Day. Kindergarten-ers celebrate friendships, middle school and high school students celebrate first crushes or BFFs, young adults celebrate romantic relationships, and married couples celebrate another year of partnership, better than the last. Here at the Stan Greenspon Center we also celebrate our relationships.

During this past year we have strengthened our relationships with many wonderful educators. Through professional development sessions and one-on-one meetings, staff at the Greenspon Center got a chance to see and hear the wonderful lessons being taught by teachers throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Union County, and York County school systems. We fell in love with these amazing men and women. We wish you could meet every teacher and experience the passion each one has for teaching about the Holocaust and human rights. You would love them as much as we do.

We developed stronger connections at Shalom Park as we partnered with Jewish Family Services, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, the LJCC Butterfly Project, and the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative in 2018. Temple Beth El hosted a group of educators for a day as part of the week-long Holocaust Educator’s Summer Seminar sponsored by the Greenspon Center. Temple Israel welcomed us with open arms to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht and provide a beautiful dinner to all of the survivors who live in our community. In November and December, we224

culously looking for an academically challenging, globally-minded environment that focuses on building 21st century skills, emphasizing research, critical thinking and problem solving abilities across all disciplines in a hands-on setting.

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For more information, please contact Talia Goldman, goldmant@queens.edu

From Marches to Movements: Social Activism and Social Change

Queens University Professors and Charlotte Jewish Studies at Queens University of Charlotte will host a course this spring called “From Marches to Movements: Social Activism and Social Change.” This course is open to anyone who has an interest in political activism and social justice issues. The course is designed for local residents who are interested in learning about the intersection of activism and social change and engaging in the local community. The course will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM starting March 6, 2019 and concluding April 24, 2019.

The course will explore the history of social activism in the United States, with a focus on the civil rights movement, the Women’s Movement, the Gay and Lesbian Movement, and the Anti-War Movement. The course will also examine the role of social movements in the larger context of social change, with a focus on the role of the law in social change. The course will be taught by Dr. Judy Schindler, Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Queens University of Charlotte. Dr. Schindler is the author of several books on Jewish social activism, including “From Marches to Movements: Social Activism and Social Change.”

For more information, please contact Dr. Judy Schindler at judyschindler@queens.edu or 704-386-5267.

(Continued on page 15)
The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte supports programs and services that have real impact on Jewish life each and every day, in Charlotte, Israel and around the world.

The combined generosity of hundreds of donors to the Annual Campaign makes it possible for our community to support more than 50 local, national and international agencies providing a lifeline that enhances and often saves Jewish lives.

More than $4 million was raised this past year from over 1,500 generous donors like you!
Drinks and Dreidels 2018

Over 140 young Jewish professionals joined together to celebrate Chanukah at Ink and Ivy Uptown Charlotte for Chabad Young Professionals annual Drink and Dreidels party. The event was sponsored in part by Clinispan Health.

Brooke Rosenberg lights the 6 ft. menorah

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The Ruach Shabbat Experience is like nothing else in Charlotte. It is an uplifting and welcoming celebration of Shabbat that combines spirituality, modern music, and social interaction. Many Jews of all ages, whether affiliated or not, have discovered this joyous new way to enjoy Shabbat and are now choosing to be a part of The Ruach Community by attending the monthly Shabbat Experiences.

In recognition of The Ruach’s success in creating a pathway for connecting and engaging Jews, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has awarded the band a $5,000 grant to continue providing its monthly alternative Shabbat Experiences.

“The Federation values the contributions that The Ruach makes to our community and is pleased to be able to provide support of this program,” the Federation said in a statement. “This year was an especially competitive grant cycle. An exhaustive and rigorous evaluation process by the Allocations Committee resulted in funding 14 programs reflecting our diverse community demographically, geographically, and programmatically.”

**Top 10 Reasons to Join the Hebrew Cemetery Association**

Have you thought about pre-planning your funeral? We at the Hebrew Cemetery absolutely understand that it is normal to approach this decision with a great amount of anxiety due to the sensitivity surrounding this subject. Those who ultimately take the important step of documenting their wishes regarding their funeral and ultimately share these decisions with loved ones usually express a great sense of comfort and relief.

Here are the top 10 reasons why you should join the cemetery and pre-plan:

1. The yearly membership costs only two cents per day ($72)

2. One should pre-arrange their final resting place according to Jewish Law.

3. HCA has traditional Jewish burial grounds as well as orthodox, interfaith and cremation sections.

4. A member of the HCA can save thousands of dollars on cemetery burial fees.

5. HCA will buy back plots, no burial fees.

6. Thirteen Civil War Veterans are buried on the grounds.

7. HCA was established in 1867, well before the first temple or other Jewish organization.

8. HCA includes reform, conservative, and orthodox, as well as unaffiliated segments of the community.

9. HCA is a community wide cemetery serving affiliated and non-affiliated Jews throughout the Greater Charlotte area.

10. Being a member of a Temple doesn’t automatically make you a member of the Hebrew Cemetery Association (HCA). Your membership supports the operations of these holy grounds.

**February 7 & 8\**

**REFER-A-FRIEND-DAYS**

Receive a $50 Gift Certificate

**OFFER:** An existing PPSD injectable patient can refer a friend to this event. The friend must be either new to PPSD or is an existing patient, who has never received Botox or Xeomin at PPSD. The friend must purchase $300 worth of Botox or Xeomin. The $50 gift certificate can be given to the existing patient once the friend has completed their purchase. The gift certificate can be used at the February event or within 6 months from receipt of gift certificate.

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**The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and, inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. The Ruach is: Nancy Nagler Good, lead vocals and rhythm guitar; Peter Levinson, lead guitar and co-founder of The Ruach. “This grant, together with donations that we receive from other individuals and organizations, will allow us to continue to provide engaging new Jewish Shabbat Experiences in non-traditional settings that are uplifting, spiritual… and really enjoyable. As we like to say, ‘don’t just celebrate Shabbat… experience it’.” The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and, inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer. The Ruach is: Nancy Nagler Good, lead vocals and rhythm guitar; Peter Levinson, lead guitar and managing director; Dan Ruda, bass guitar and backing vocals; Franklin Kaunitz, violin and backing vocals; Howard Swartz, percussion; and, Rick Lipson, drums. If you’d like to be added to The Ruach’s distribution list and stay informed about upcoming Experiences, email theruach.band@gmail.com. Also, to learn more about The Ruach like the band on Facebook, and follow them on Instagram @the.ruach, new.jewish.music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.
Healthy vs. Unhealthy Teen Relationships
Know the Difference and How To Protect Your Teen

As parents, from the time our children are infants, we strive to do everything we can to protect them from being hurt, both physically and emotionally. We do our best to make sure they go to the finest schools, know how to select the right friends, and teach them to stay away from negative influences. And yet, in our society, impacting all socioeconomic groups, according to the National Council On Crime and Delinquency, one in three girls in the US will be a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner and 1.5 million high school students will experience abuse from a dating partner in a single year. One quarter of the abuse was first experienced between the ages of 11 and 17 years. Many of these youth fear reporting the abuse, so the number of abuse incidents is likely much higher than documented. And sadly, it does not end in high school. Nearly half of all dating college women report experiences of violent and abusive dating behavior.

Unfortunately, while the data demonstrates the enormity of the issue, there is a lack of awareness regarding the prevalence of teen dating violence. Only 33% of teens who were involved in an abusive relationship told anyone and equally significant and surprising is the fact that 81% of parents do not believe teen dating violence is an issue. Most parents assume their children are not at risk. Hopefully, your teen knows and understands healthy relationship dynamics and won’t need to work through an unhealthy relationship. Sometimes everything starts out great but slowly changes into a less healthy dynamic. Healthy and unhealthy relationships may not be clear cut. It is not uncommon for teens to get pulled into unhealthy relationships during their youth, which is a time when they’re trying to figure themselves and their peers out.

One of our greatest challenges is helping to protect our children when they don’t want it or think they don’t need it. As teens, our kids believe they are capable of handling any situation that comes their way, especially with their friends, peers, and dating relationships. Parents often feel they are bystanders as teens are often seen as only being influenced by their peers and social media. Yet teens consistently say that parents – not partners, not pop culture – most influence their decisions about relationships and sex.

So, as a parent, what should you do?? If you are ever worried about relationship dynamics that you see going on for your teen, we offer the following tips for helping to keep your teen safe from dating abuse:

- Monitor your teen’s behavior.
- Plan an activity where you and your teen’s partner can meet your teen’s partner.
- Check in regularly with your teen about their dating experiences.
- Be aware of dating violence:
  - Not just about physical violence.
  - Injuries may be emotional or verbal.
  - Many youth fear reporting the abuse.
  - A child’s parents assume their children are not at risk.
- If you are ever worried about relationship dynamics that you see going on for your teen, we offer the following tips for helping to keep your teen safe from dating abuse.

“To Dust” – a Film Starring Matthew Broderick and Geza Rohrig – Opens at Ballantyne Theaters on February 15
Run to Continue Throughout February and Into March

Shmuel, a Hasidic cantor in upstate New York, is distraught by the untimely death of his wife, Rivkah. As he struggles to find solace in his religion, which professes a stringent timeline for grief, Shmuel has increasingly been haunted by visions of Rivkah’s decomposing corpse. Convinced that her soul will suffer until her body returns to dust, Shmuel decides that to stop his feverish spiral he must seek an understanding of the physical processes of her decay – despite the blasphemy inherent in any scientific inquiry. Risking discover and exploitation, Shmuel tiptoes outside his enclave, where his search leads to Albert, a bumbling biology professor at the local community college. Soon, Albert is unwittingly seduced into an odd world of homespun forensic research and begins to guide Shmuel through outrageous experiments that aim to approximate a timeline for Rivkah’s dissolution – starting with the theft, suffocation, and burial of a pig. As amateur scientists practicing imperfect science and incompe- tent criminals on progressive- ly absurd outings, the two find themselves neck-deep in genres in which neither of them belongs. Their macabre moonlit misadventures growing even more perilous, the odd couple will stop at nothing to satiate their curiosity and ultimately find Shmuel the comfort he desperately seeks.

This unusual and poignant film deals directly with our potential discomfort as well as our acceptance of the things surrounding death. At the same time, it celebrates the relationship between two essentially different people, and how they relate and learn from one another. Filled with humorous moments, as well as bittersweet and tender episodes, this is a film that should appeal across a wide demographic.©

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With Demand Booming, Moishe House Opens New Home to Serve Charlotte Jewish Millennials

Moishe House is positioning to become the hub for a boom of millennial Jewish life in North Carolina for years to come, after dedicating a new home for post-college-age Jews in the hip North Davidson – or “NoDa” district of Charlotte.

The NoDa house, opened in late November, with four residents ages 21-24. Moishe House is another Charlotte Moishe House in Colonial Village, which originally opened in 2013 and was rededicated this past March.

The Charlotte News, was excited about this opportunity, “My goal is to turn Moishe House into our Moishe House. I want to do this by having Shabbat dinners that go deep into the night and early morning, hopefully creating bonds with other Jewish adults in Charlotte.”

Moishe House is a global organization with 110 houses in 27 countries worldwide, where young Jewish adults live together and host Jewish programs to young Jewish adults of all ages. Moishe House is a global organization with 110 houses in 27 countries worldwide, where young Jewish adults live together and host Jewish programs to young Jewish adults of all ages.

Moishe House Triangle, located in downtown Durham, has engaged more than 1,000 unique Jewish young adults through over 200 programs since opening in August 2015 with the purpose of providing meaningful, home-based Jewish programming for 20-somethings in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill community. [EC1]

“We are very excited about this new group of residents,” said Dave Press, Moishe House Southern Director of Advancement. “They not only have the potential to draw in a newer, younger population of young adults into Moishe House programming, but their choice to live in NoDa meant that in geographical, we would be able to effectively engage individuals who might not otherwise be attending Jewish young adult programming in Charlotte.”

About Moishe House:

Moishe House is a program for young Jewish adults that creates a meaningful, welcoming communities for themselves and their peers in a post-college world. Three to five 20-something residents live together and host ongoing events for their peers. Each year, the 100+ Moishe Houses around the globe hold more than 11,000+ programs for 60,000+ unique participants. Moishe House welcomes people from all Jewish backgrounds and is supported by organizations, communities and the young adults themselves. To find out more about Moishe House, visit www.moishehouse.org.

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Available Subsidies for Jewish Experiences

Jewish Experience Fund: Need based subsidies are available for families meeting at least one (1) of the following criteria:

- Household gross income not to exceed $75,000
- Change in household circumstances within the last 6 months necessitating financial assistance (i.e. medical concerns, job loss, change in family status, etc.)
- Multiple children attending camps and/or Jewish programs
- Extenuating chronic family circumstances (i.e. special needs children; disability, etc.)

For more information, please contact Jewish Family Services. 704.364.6594.

Gorelick Teens to Israel Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish teens ages 13 - 19 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program

Gloria & Harry Lerner Family Fund: Subsidies are available to local Jewish young adults between the ages of 21-30 traveling to Israel on a Federation approved program

For more information about Israel subsidies, please contact the Federation at 704.344.6177 or sro@jewishcharlotte.org

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Special thanks to Bill and Patty Gorelick and Harry and Gloria Lerner for their ongoing support and generosity.
Jenna Rosen Is Teaching English in Neighborhood School in Israel

Jewish Agency’s Masa Opens a Door to a Diverse Teaching Experience

After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Jenna Rosen was unsure of her exact career direction. She thought she might want to work with children, or to become involved with a Jewish nonprofit organization. She was passionate about diversity. And in the short run, she was certain that she wanted to spend a meaningful amount of time in Israel.

Jenna, 22, found the ideal fit both personally and professionally in Masa Israel Teaching Fellows (MITF), one of the programs offered by Masa Israel Journey. Through the 10-month MITF experience, she currently works in Bat Yam at the Gordon School, where she teaches English.

The Gordon school is located in a low-income neighborhood south of Tel Aviv. For many of the kids who attend the school, English is their third language, after Russian and Hebrew, which at times makes Jenna’s work even more challenging.

“I think for people like me who are considering teaching as a career, the program gives us great experience in classrooms, while helping us see a different side of teaching that might be different than education in the U.S. — but certainly, we can take back lessons we learn from the Israeli educational environment to America,” Jenna says.

Masa Israel Journey is the global leader in long-term experiences in Israel for young Jewish adults from around the world. Since its co-founding in 2004 by The Jewish Agency and the government of Israel, more than 130,000 alumni from over 60 countries (including nearly 12,000 in 2017) have spent 2-12 months “living like a local” through Masa programs, experiencing an authentic, unmediated, and challenging journey into Israeli society, its people, culture, politics, economy, land, and history. Masa offers top gap-year, study-abroad, volunteer, and professional development opportunities to young adults aged 18-30. It provides funding; offers cutting-edge leadership training; and inspires a new generation of connected, committed young Jewish people who walk the world with Israeli leadership.

The Jewish Agency founded, funds, or currently operates various Israel experience programs in cooperation with Masa, including Onward Israel, Israel Tech Challenge, Bae Bleu Blan for France, and more. “Given my career interest in potentially pursuing Jewish communal work, it means a lot to me that Masa is linked with The Jewish Agency, one of the world’s best-known and most influential Jewish nonprofits,” says Jenna.

With the goal of advancing Israeli students’ English skills through the 10-month MITF experience in Israel, mainly in underprivileged areas, MITF places dedicated and passionate college graduates like Jenna in those communities.

Growing up in Charlotte, Jenna was highly active in local Jewish life. Her family is involved in their synagogue, Temple Beth El, and Jenna spent her teen years in Chai Chavurah BBG. She continued that community involvement at the University of South Carolina, where she served as president of the school’s Hillel branch for two years and collaborated closely with the Columbia Jewish Federation.

“The Jewish community on campus was small, but vibrant,” Jenna says. “Everyone involved was really eager to contribute however they could.”

Once she graduated, Jenna was eager to expand her cultural horizons, and she found that with Masa in Bat Yam—Israel’s 12th-largest city, located on the Mediterranean Sea just 15 minutes south of Tel Aviv. She has especially enjoyed the Gordon School’s diverse mix of Russian, Arab, and Jewish students.

“Diversity has always been important for me — to think outside my bubble, and to be exposed to new people and new perspectives,” she says.

Jenna lives in Bat Yam with five other roommates from the MITF program; overall, there are about 35 teaching fellows in Bat Yam and 250 across Israel, who experience the personal and professional benefits of the program’s vast network. The fellows also have access to monthly leadership seminars; Jenna’s next seminar, to be held in Jerusalem, will cover the landscape of the Jewish Federation system and re-sume-building skills.

Prior to her Masa program, Jenna had only visited Israel, on a Taglit-Birthright trip. Now, about halfway through her Masa experience, she says, “I feel lucky to be where I’m at, teaching in such a diverse school and being part of such a well-rounded, immersive program in Israel.”

Jenna Rosen shows off her classroom. Photo courtesy Jenna Rosen.

You Have a Voice … Use It

Ready … Set … Advocate! Your Step by Step Guide to Patient Empowerment

By Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN and Randy Sperling


The healthcare setting of the 21st century is often times complex and scary. As healthcare consumers, we have lots of questions that might go unanswered because we don’t know what to ask and whom to ask. Finding your voice so you can partner with your healthcare team in a positive way is how you become an empowered patient advocate for yourself or someone you care about. Once you have learned, you can be proactive in making sure your needs … or the needs of your loved one … are adequately served in the healthcare arena.

Having a voice guarantees that as a patient or patient advocate, you become an active member of the healthcare team, being involved with all decision making and care planning.

When local Charlotteans and Jewish community members Lorrie Klemons and Randy Sperling first met more than 12 years ago, they realized a shared passion for patient advocacy and empowerment. In 2010, they joined forces and created PatientAction.com, a website dedicated to fully unleashing their collective passion to make sure that every healthcare consumer was guaranteed a voice in the healthcare setting. Learning how to advocate for oneself or someone one cared about, would guarantee patient empowerment in every healthcare setting. Their company mantra became “You have a voice … use it.”

Randy gained her advocacy experience through work in a variety of healthcare settings early on in her career and by advocating for a sick son for over twenty-five years. That son ultimately died in 2011 while awaiting a liver transplant. As a nurse, nurse educator, and senior wellness expert, Lorrie has spent over forty-six years advocating for her patients, her students, and her seniors. She added Warrior Mom to her resume in 2016, after spending most of the year caring for and advocating for her own very sick son in New York City. Her son’s illness and extended hospitalization impassioned her even more in the work she does and she truly believes that “Woe is the patient who does not have a patient advocate.”

With the creation of PatientAction.com, the book is available on Amazon or Barnes and Noble.com.

In 2017, Lorrie established Klemons HealthCare Consulting to allow her to focus more on the creation of patient advocacy and empowerment. As a Senior Advocate and Lifestyle Consultant, Educator, and Chief Advocate, Lorrie is a Warrior Mom, she is ready to help you with all of your patient-centric advocacy, care management, family coaching, stress management, staff development, and guest speaking needs.
A Community of Peace

“Peace is when people are kind to people different than them.” “Peace is choosing to relax.” “Peace is keeping others safe.” “Peace is practicing getting along.” “Peace is being still and thinking about your breath.” Listening to Kindergarten students from Rama Road share what “peace is” reveals such hope and encouragement.

During the week of December 10, students across Rama Road Elementary School participated in the first ever Peace Week. The idea for Peace Week arose upon reflection of the hurt and sadness from the horrific hate crime at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh last October. Principal Patricia Denny collaborated with teachers Lucia Huber and Melissa Van Glish to create a week full of activities that teach peace to the students at Rama Road.

As a member of Temple Israel and the Jewish Community Center, Melissa Van Glish worked hard to plan powerful activities and ensure Peace Week had a positive impact on the students. When first approached about the possibility of Peace Week, Van Glish shared, “I felt honored and respected that my principal thought enough to reach out to me and the Jewish community during this tragic time.” Peace Week held special meaning for Van Glish as she “felt extremely hopeful for our future knowing that students were demonstrating the compassion that is needed in our world today.

Peace Week included various experiences with the ultimate goal of educating students about the importance of practicing peace, promoting love, and establishing relationships grounded in compassion and understanding. All students, Pre-K to Fifth Grade, experienced the activities of Peace Week. Each day, students had a different opportunity to explore the importance of peace. Students wrote letters of encouragement to the congregation at Tree of Life Synagogue. The week included many other activities such as making friendship loops with classmates, writing about how to be peaceful, participating in a Peace Walk, learning about symbols of peace, and many more activities.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Rama Road Elementary School recognizes the importance and truth behind the quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. Teachers and students at Rama Road work hard to exemplify love and peace for their community. Rama Road plans to have an annual Peace Week to ensure that students and teachers create a school and community founded in peace.

At Greenspon Center, Community Is Everthing

(Continued from page 8)

on pressing issues. We will also celebrate victories in our mutual quest for a more just world. Most of all, we will love one another with kindness and patience and compassion. As the light in the sanctuary reflects the divine presence, the light of our loving actions will show others that hope is present in our world today.

“As a Jew, I share a strong commitment to the Jewish intellectual tradition. That tradition places emphasis on learning - learning for the sake of understanding and perfecting our world, and learning for its own sake. Through the ages, we have taken pride in being known as ‘The People of the Book’ and have carried our Torah and our traditions with dignity and affection. Even in the face of persecution and dispersion, and often denied access to centers of learning, the Jewish people, never satisfied with conventional answers, have always valued the intellectual inquiry and contended to honor wisdom and learning ... finally, Judaism represents a great synthesis of universal and Jewish values. For me as a Jew, there need be no conflict between science and religion. Moses Maimonides, philosopher and codifier of halacha, also graced the world of medicine. He is a role model of living in two worlds, Jewish and universal, and of making them one.”


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The Ruach to Perform at Temple Kol Ami in March

Many people wonder what exactly is Chabad? One might think that Chabad services and classes are geared for Chassidic Jews or that their programs are out of touch with today’s contemporary Jewish world. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Chabad welcomes everyone, the kids, the adults, we all just love them!” exclaimed Bonnie Shaw, past president of TKA. Many people wonder what exactly is Chabad? One might think that Chabad services and classes are geared for Chassidic Jews or that their programs are out of touch with today’s contemporary Jewish world. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Chabad welcomes everyone, the kids, the adults, we all just love them!” exclaimed Bonnie Shaw, past president of TKA.

The Ruach is a non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through modern Jewish music. They perform regularly at the Rabbit Hole in Plaza Midwood as well as around the state of North Carolina. You can see them right here in York County and have a truly uplifting spiritual and cultural experience. This event is free and open to the public. Please join us and find out for yourself why The Ruach is so special.

If you live in the Greater York County/South Charlotte area, Temple Kol Ami may be the Jewish home for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. For more information please check out our website www.templekolamisc.org or follow us on Facebook (Temple Kol Ami). Feel free to attend any of our Shabbat services which are generally on the first and third Fridays of each month. We hope to meet you in 2019.

The Ruach is infusing a new spirit into our sacred liturgy with their own melodies and rock rhythms. Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC is thrilled to welcome The Ruach back to our congregation to lead us in Kabbalat Shabbat service on March 15 at 7 PM, Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160, Fort Mill. Temple Kol Ami has hosted The Ruach previously at a Havdalah service and could not wait to bring them back to York County for Shabbat. “Everyone, the kids, the adults, we all just loved them!” exclaimed Bonnie Shaw, past president of TKA.

February 6 - “The How and Why of Honoring Your Parents.” If you are trying to find ways to bring a little more Jewish living into your routine then join one of our warm and welcoming Shabbat services – it’s easy to fit into the Chabad family. If you need to say kaddish or would like to pray any day, there is always a daily minyan each morning and evening. If you want to study a little Torah one on one, Chabad has got you covered with a great team of rabbis.

Stop by the expanding Chabad campus at 6619 Sardis Road and visit the new Youth Building. Check out all the exciting construction of the brand new Synagogue and Chabad Center slated to open in time for the High Holidays of 2019. If you don’t live nearby, don’t forget there are Chabad Centers in Ballantyne, Uptown, Lake Norman, and throughout North and South Carolina. To find more information about any of the programs mentioned, visit chabadnc.org, or call 704-366-5444. Dan Ruda, Nancy Good, and Peter Levinson of The Ruach.

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C-Kids

C-Teens

Women’s Rosh Chodesh group.
Temple Solel Embarks on Congregational Study

We are already a month into the new calendar year 2019 and nearly half way through 5779. At a recent Shabbat Service at Temple Solel, lay leader, Russ Cobb’s d’var Torah provided some input from differing opinions of Jewish thought whether we should only consider Rosh Hashanah the New Year, or, perhaps, we should consider whether to include the regular calendar too? He asked the congregation, “Which calendar do you consider the most important in your everyday lives?” Responses were as varied as the d’var itself.

Whether you set your compass at the time of Rosh Hashanah, January, or both, it is imagined we may have goals that are either new, already fizzle out, or we’ve already been working on for months. It’s sometimes mentioned how mystical activities increase around the High Holy Days to help guide us for the coming year. However, it seems plausible most of us have forgotten the focus on spirituality and probably replaced those thoughts with ones about our dietary habits and goals of working out more by stuffing ourselves with the endless advertisements and reminders by the beauties on social media how much we lack. One recent online post showed a well-known model who thought it was a helpful gesture to vigorously jump rope at the front door of a fast food restaurant while sneering at everyone who came out holding a purchase. The model wasn’t completely wrong. She demonstrated her strength, but in doing so, made the mistake of exploiting another person’s weakness instead of joining together to help them.

Before December was over, our President, Shelley Pawlyk, spoke with a coach at the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) with whom we are affiliated, to the relentlessly trying to impart their wisdom, so we can learn and partner with them. After all, no matter what synagogue we belong to (or not), we can learn and partner with them. As a congregation, we are taking the approach that we have some good ideas; however, we need input. Can you imagine how many opinions there will be? We are preparing, which will be open mind as teens mostly fear feedback from our members, community leaders and also non-members alike that will become instrumental in our growth and exciting next steps in our future. A majority of people lead busy lives, travel, have families and jobs both inside and outside of their homes. The retired people we meet say they are busier now than when they were in the height of their careers. Most of all, we want to let you know we are glad to see you when you can come visit or if you decide to stay. It takes time to cultivate and grow relationships and we see the fruits of the years leading up to this current phase. We are determined to form new goals by taking a position of strength and focusing on our assets to offset what we may lack.

Identifying gaps and reviewing lessons learned will be an important aspect of the process also. We are going to continue increasing our communication and media presence so you know about upcoming events. We are still friends with the ISJL (Institute of Southern Jewish Life) based in Jackson, Mississippi that provides a variety of educational, cultural and religious services to underserved Jewish areas in the South. We have two visits coming up with Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky, the Director of Rabbinical Services. There are other rabbinical visits, studies, education, and even movie nights we are preparing, which will be open to anyone in the community who would like to attend.

Temple Solel holds Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope to see you soon in the Community Room at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill. For details, call 803-619-9707 or visit www.templesolelsc.org or Temple Solel SC on Facebook.

Teen Relationships

(Continued from page 12)

Fe for warning signs: A decline in school performance and other activities, changes in personality, changes in eating or sleeping habits, signs of depression or anxiety, increased substance use of drugs or alcohol, obsession with dating partner, physical signs of abuse such as bruises, scratches, or other injuries. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, a great time to talk about healthy and unhealthy relationships. Keep an open mind as teens mostly fear being blamed for the abuse. Let your teen know you care and are available if they are ever feeling uncomfortable in a relationship.

Join us for Dating Abuse: Tools for Talking to Teens on February 20 from 6:30–8 PM in the Teen Meeting Room in Shalom Park. For more information or to RSVP to this program, call Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

“Reverence for the old, dialogue between generations, is as important to the dignity of the young as it is for the well-being of the old. We deprive ourselves by disparaging the old.”

~Abraham Heschel, The Insecurity of Freedom

ANOTHER HEARING AID AD?

Levine Hearing is the best hearing aid clinic that I could dream up and create. Patients walk in the door and immediately feel impressed by the level of care that they receive (not to mention the bright greeting from Joanne at the front desk). I know this because we have accumulated over 300 five-star reviews online and have earned an A+ with the Better Business Bureau. Levine Hearing will prove to be your absolute best value in hearing care because we go above and beyond to serve you and to reach the highest level of hearing improvement possible.

Do you hear people but do not always understand them clearly? You are not alone! We never cut corners in our diagnostic testing, but also follow through after the hearing aid fitting with a test called Real Ear. This is the only way to truly confirm that the hearing aids you are wearing have accurately met your prescriptive needs and it is touted by Consumer Reports as a “must” for any hearing aid clinic you choose. I carry devices that are made in Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, and the United States, but the most important factor is finding the right fit for your lifestyle and hearing loss. Consider coming in for a free consultation or take advantage of one of our special offers this month:

“I Wear Hearing Aids Now”
Second Look Offer • Free programming adjustment on current aids ($65 value), 21-Day Trial • Leave your current aids as a deposit and wear a pair of new technology devices out of the office for a 21-day trial. EXPIRED 1/31/19

“You are Invited”
“Not Your Grandpa’s Hearing Aids”
What’s FREE: lunch and educational seminar on technology released in the last 3 months Where: Firebirds Southpark, 3920 Sharon Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211
When: January 23rd, 2019 @ 11:30 am RSVP to 704-540-3081 as there are only 18 spots available!
Why Federation? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

The answer is really quite simple: We help people. We help every Jew, every day, in every way.

What is the Jewish Federation and what do we do?

WE DELIVER INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS.
With nearly 50 agencies in our network, we can harness expertise across a range of disciplines in order to feed, clothe, comfort and rescue people in need, as well as inspire, educate and connect people to their Jewish identity.

OUR TRACK RECORD IS UNPARALLELED.
We have over 75 years of trust, investing in our community and raising and distributing funds with full transparency, accountability, and integrity.

WE’RE A ONE-STOP SHOP.
With each gift, we address so many of the causes and issues that are important to our community. Federation is the only place where you can care for Jews at home and around the world, and focus on urgent needs of today while building for the future.

Everyday, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, together with you, our donors and partners, enriches lives, builds community and fosters a thriving Jewish future locally, in Israel and in over 70 countries around the world. Our impact is extraordinary.

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY.
It all starts with you. You make everything we do possible!

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is to raise and distribute funds to support and enrich the lives of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide. Through education and community building, the Federation’s mission ensures that Jewish values, goals, traditions and connections are preserved for current and future generations.
Repairing the World through Racial Justice

By Jennifer Clark

Tikkun olam—repairing the world, often through social action—has long been a cornerstone of Temple Beth El’s mission and values as a congregation. We have seen this in the number of canned goods collected for local food pantries around the High Holy Days and the many volunteer hours our congregants devote to causes in Charlotte and beyond. Over the last two years, Temple Beth El has worked to broaden our commitment by developing ways we can work together to address some of the systemic barriers to equality and justice, specifically around racial inequality.

This evolution in our approach to tikkan olam as a congregation was spurred by the police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott and the resulting Charlotte Uprising in September 2016, which sparked important conversations around the city on racial inequality. We at Temple Beth El acknowledged that our current efforts—though important and still necessary—were barely scratching the surface. We had focused much effort on the “leaves” and not enough on the “roots” of the issues that we care about.

Tikkun olam is an audacious goal. This guiding principle urges us to act for the greater good (“repair”) by thinking systematically (“the whole”) and not enough on the “roots” of the issues that we care about.

Tikkun olam is an audacious goal. This guiding principle urges us to act for the greater good (“repair”) by thinking systematically (“the whole”) and not enough on the “roots” of the issues that we care about.

We began with listening. We regularly hold community organizing trainings for our members: pre-k to 12 education, affordable housing, and criminal justice. With this narrowed scope, we developed a plan of action for pinpointing specific ways our congregation could make actionable, systemic change in Charlotte. We created three teams to dive deeper into each issue area through research, one on one conversations with other congregants, and meetings with external organizations to make stronger connections in the greater Charlotte community.

We then put our listening into action. We identified three issue areas that kept bubbling to the surface in our conversations with members: pre-k to 12 education, affordable housing, and criminal justice. With this narrowed scope, we developed a plan of action for pinpointing specific ways our congregation could make action.

We embarked on this community organizing model knowing that the work of engaging many people around a shared objective is not often a quick and easy process. An audacious goal—repairing the world—requires an audacious effort.

We also developed a public event series to educate our congregation and other community members on the intersection of racial justice with these three topic areas. Our fall kickoff event featured a lecture from Dr. Willie Griffin, the staff historian of the Levine Museum of the New South, who gave a historical overview of race in Charlotte.

January’s events included a talk on implicit bias from Derrick Anderson, Executive Director of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, and a look at the history of public education in Charlotte, featuring historian Dr. Pamela Grundy. This free, public series will continue with talks on affordable housing (February 27) and criminal justice (March 31).

We regularly hold community organizing trainings for our members to engage more congregants in this work and build leadership within our ranks, with the intention of developing a sustainable social action model that will guide us over many years.

Alaska is the Jewish State in New TV Series Based on Michael Chabon Book

By Marcy Oster

(JTA) — Alaska is the Jewish state in a television series that is being developed by married Jewish authors Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman.

The series will be based on Chabon’s 2007 book The Yiddish Policeman’s Union, Deadline Hollywood first reported.

In the book, the Jews lose the War for Independence in 1948 and instead set up a Jewish homeland in the Alaskan panhandle. It follows a fictional character, Yankel Landsman, a divorced alcoholic, as he solves the mysterious murder of an Orthodox Jewish crime boss who is also a self-proclaimed Messiah.

Chabon and Waldman are the executive producers. It is a co-production of A+E Studios, PatMa, and Israel’s Keshet Studios. No release date has been announced.


Waldman has written novels including Love and Other Possibl Pursuits, Bad Mother, and Motherlove, as well as “The Mommy-Track Mysteries” series. Chabon and Waldman have been critical of Israel and its treatment of the Palestinians. In 2016, they led a group of writers on a tour of the West Bank and published the subsequent essay collection “A Kingdom of Olives and Ash,” which was critical of Israeli policy.

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Rabbi’s Journal III
Public School Students Meet a Rabbi

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

One of the challenges today is making sure people remember the Holocaust. To this end, the Butterfly Project on Shalom Park brings hundreds of public and private school students each year to give them a brief introduction to the destruction of the Jewish communities of Eastern and Western Europe. But even if there would be ten such programs in Charlotte, there would still be more students to reach. Here’s one small contribution we make each year to reach out to public school students.

There’s a public school teacher who is committed to making a difference in her classroom, even though she doesn’t (officially) teach social studies or history. She teaches English and every year her curriculum includes Elie Wiesel’s Night, as well as Simon Wiesenthal’s The Sunflower. Each year I address her class to (officially) talk about the Holocaust, but that is always just a small part of the discussion. They are told they can ask me any question they choose, and over the years some fascinating topics have come up. This is the first time that the overwhelming majority of students have ever met or spoken with a Rabbi and even though they come from diverse backgrounds with regard to race, ethnicity, economic, and social levels — including IB students, honors students, and others — there are certain areas of interest they all seem to share.

Do Jews believe in Jesus? Why not? (See my December article “Now, How Do I Answer not?”). How about science and the age of the universe? Yes, Jews embrace science and do not deny the age of the universe or any other subject using empirical data as contradicting our faith (I discuss this in greater length during the class and give many practical examples). Whether agnostics or devout fundamentalist, I can tell by their faces that my answer was not what they were expecting; a bit too open minded for the fundamentalist, a bit too unexpected for the agnostic. Sex is always a popular topic but what is said in the classroom will have to stay there. Suffice it to say that their young minds are still trying to navigate their way in a complicated subject, even though it appears simple.

Here’s another question that always seems to come up: Why do so many people hate Jews? The answer to the question is longer than most others and it’s a challenge to do the subject justice in such a short time period. I have an audio-visual complete seminar on this topic. Is it because Jews are rich? How about the millions of Jews living in the Pale of Russia over the centuries who were below the poverty level? Why hate them? We have been hated by being communists — and capitalists. We have been accused of being meek weaklings but also controlling the world. Many additional questions are asked once we get into the topic.

Although the class is less than an hour, the teacher agreed to write a note for anyone who wanted to remain for another period, which was most of the class. Their curiously and willingness to engage gives me hope, yet also a responsibility to find new ways to reach out to people in a meaningful way. A few days after our session, I received a wonderful gift, a manila envelope filled with letters of appreciation. The topic that came up more than any other — by far — in their thanks was the discussion of the Jewish approach to forgiveness. This topic came up in a bigger way than I recall from previous years and judging from the feedback, it is something on their minds. Here is a sampling of quotes: “especially the Jewish beliefs on forgiveness and atonement.” “The way you explained your stance on forgiving… I had never heard such a great explanation of forgiving and repenting.” “You have opened my eyes to… how we must not only learn to forgive others, but also we must also come to terms with and forgive ourselves.” It is tragic that there isn’t a single class in high school or college devoted to this crucial topic. If one never learns how, the resentment that festers becomes a cancer with the ability to destroy friendships, marriages, communities, and self.

A discussion about the Holocaust? Well, almost; it seems they were too curious to focus on that one topic but, rather, were seeking to learn some Jewish wisdom about some of their existential challenges.

Nazi Hunters’ Memoir Wins Top National Jewish Book Award

By Gabe Friedman
(JTA) Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, two prominent French Nazi hunters, won the Jewish Book Council’s top national book award last month.

Hunting the Truth: Memoirs of Serge and Beate Klarsfeld includes first person accounts of the couple’s 50-plus years of pursuing Nazi war criminals. The Jewish Book Council noted that the Klarsfelds were hesitant at first to work on an autobiography, saying they lacked “talent for storytelling,” but were pleased with the final product.

See the other winners in categories such as American Jewish studies, contemporary Jewish life and practice, biography, and more here: https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/2018-national-jewish-book-awards-winners-and-finalists.
Family Engagement

CHICKEN SOUP, CHICKEN SOUP: COOKING FUN WITH GRANDPARENTS

Sunday, February 17 | 10:30 AM
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts, Shalom Park

Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup, a play—the story of a little girl with a Chinese grandma and a Jewish grandmother and delicious chicken soup.

Bring your grandparent(s) for a morning of interactive fun, crafts and a snack.

Sharing: Bring your favorite chicken soup recipe to share.

Giving Back: Bring a can of chicken soup to donate to Jewish Family Services food pantry.

FREE – Space is Limited. Registration is required. www.NEXTGENCHARLOTTE.ORG.

SPONSORED BY:

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

RSVP by Feb. 13 at www.nextgencharlotte.org
President’s Message

By Sharon Goretsky, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

With the secular New Year having just passed last month, I have been reading a lot about picking a word for the year. Some people choose words such as patience, strength, and focus. I’d like to go a different route for Hadassah Charlotte’s word and choose a phrase. For our chapter of Hadassah, 2019 is going to be the year of kulam b’yachad, all of us together.

Kulam b’yachad, we will continue to make our mark on our community. With over 1,000 women in the Charlotte metro area, we will fight breast cancer by raising money for research at Hadassah Medical Organization through our very own organization is a world leader in stem cell research, having made significant advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, melanoma, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and many other diseases. Hadassah Hospital opened the first trauma center in Jerusalem. Hadassah surgeons developed life-saving protocols and procedures which are now implemented around the world. Hadassah and Israel continue to need our support and commitment.

I am very excited for 2019 and hope to broaden Hadassah Charlotte’s reach. I hope you will join us. With so much going on in our chapter, I am sure you will find something that interests you. Please feel free to check out our website (http://www.hadassah.org/regions/southern-seaboard/chapters/charlotte/) or our Facebook page, and do not hesitate to email me at sharon.goretsky@gmail.com. I can’t wait to meet you, kulam b’yachad.

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 DeLoach, Bonnie Bonomo, Lynda White, Linda Reece, Sharon Goretsky, Dana Kapustin and Tonya Meltsner 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 for Charleston 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. (HWZOA), is the largest Jewish women’s organization in the United States. With 300,000 members, associates and supporters, Hadassah brings Jewish women together to effect 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.
Family Engagement

PJ Our Way ....IT’S A FIRST!
Program for all Jewish Tweens (8 1/2 - 12)
Laser Quest - Leadership & Team Building with PJ Our Way
Sunday, February 10, 2019 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Laser Quest, 10403 Park Road

$5 per person
Space is limited!
Register today at www.nextgencharlotte.org

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

RSVP by Feb. 8 at www.nextgencharlotte.org
Weddings of Yitzchak and Rivka Celebrated at JPS

Weddings are not exactly the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks about preschool ... weddings are quite distant, they are special occasions some children are lucky to attend and they relive those moments over and over again for weeks to come. Here at JPS, the children were able to participate in the “wedding” of Yitzchak and Rivka. This journey began with the children learning about Avraham and Sarah, and their special blessed tent in the dessert. With puppets, tents, and lots of dramatic play, they listened and participated in the story of how Yitzchak was born and how Rivka was chosen as his wife. Now comes the great celebration – their wedding. Complete with a chuppah, delicious treats, music, and festive dancing, this will be a wedding to remember.

JUNE 30 - JULY 11 2019

For more information, contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education & Engagement, at tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org 704.944.6759.

SCHOOL NEWS

TIKKUN OLAM
HADERA-EIRON REGION...

Itinerary subject to change

Day 1 – Arrive in Israel. Group welcome activities. Night with host families.


Day 3 – Jerusalem – Yad Vashem, Mount Herzl, Machane Yehuda.

Day 4 – Volunteering in Summer Day Camp in Pardes-Hanna; Afternoon in Tel Aviv; Dialogue in the Dark, Holon

Day 5 – Volunteering in Summer Day Camp in Pardes-Hanna; Afternoon touring in Zikron Ya’akov – Rothschild Gardens

Day 6 – Shabbat with Host Families


Day 8 – Sunrise Climb up Masada. Ein Gedi Swimming and Spa visit.

Day 9 – Free Day with Host Families/Evening Departure

WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

Israel Partnership Tikun Olam Summer Exchange Trip (for teens in rising 10th and 11th grades) is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be hosted and feel a part of the family of an Israeli teen. You will travel through Israel with both Americans and Israeli friends from our ten Southeastern US communities. This incredible opportunity combines touring and community service, planned programs and free time with your Israeli family. The friendships you make on this trip will last a lifetime and make you a part of the Partnership2Gether family forever.

Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

JUNE 30 - JULY 11 2019
Freedom School Seeking Teen Board Members

The Shalom Park Freedom School is once again pleased to accept applications (rising 10th-12th graders) for its Teen Board for the 2019 summer program at Shalom Park.

Application can be found at http://spfreeschools.org/get-involved.

3. Application deadline is March 15.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Camille Kanofsky at camille@nrsiv.com or Betsy Olinger at Betsy.B.Olinger@gmail.com.

The vision for the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) is to engage in tikkun olam by fulfilling the highest level of Jewish charity.

Helping 80 children in our community through a six-week literacy based summer program for elementary school aged children in high poverty areas. These 80 scholars are selected from Huntington Farms and Sterling Elementary Schools.

Why be a part of the Shalom Park Freedom School Teen Board?
* Great experience working with a diverse group of scholars, college interns and professionals in the area.
* To be with some of the most proactive, solution-oriented teens from all over Charlotte.
* To serve on an actual non-profit board and develop an understanding of what that means and the responsibilities.
* To get hands-on experience working in a dynamic education setting.
* Explore Charlotte through field trips, guest speakers, and community-wide events
* Be a part of the pilot program for the Freedom School Teen Leadership Program
* Successfully complete 80 hours of community service activity at beautiful Shalom Park.
* Work hard, be valued and supported, and form life-changing relationships with Charlotte students.
* Get fabulous experiences that make super college admissions and scholarship essays.
* Free shirt
* Harambe!

What is the commitment?
Teen Board members will commit to volunteer as school assistants for at least two consecutive weeks between June 17-July 25. Hours will be 8:15 AM-3:15 PM Monday and Friday, and 8:15 AM-4:15 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Opportunities will include working in classrooms, accompanying teachers and students on field trips, planning activities for the classroom, securing and delivering supplies, and other assistance as needed. A swim test and swimming with scholars will be required. Additionally, the teen board members are all responsible to participate in fundraising opportunities. The teen board fundraising goal is to raise enough funds to sponsor at least one scholar through the Shalom Park Freedom School.

Teen board members will commit to attend two instructional meetings. Sunday, April 7 from 3-6 PM and Thursday, June 13 from 4-6 PM during the program.

Teen Board members will be required to participate in two meetings during the program. Sunday, April 7 from 3-6 PM and Thursday, June 13 from 4-6 PM during the program.

“Welcome to Freedom School” lunch.

CJP Staff Steps Up to Support Kosher Troops

By Becca Weiner

At the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, there are five values at our foundation that pave the way for everything we do: b’tzelem elohim (we are made in God’s image), kavod (respect), tikkun olam (repairing the world), and limud (learning).

Both inside and outside of our classrooms these values drive our day-to-day processes for everyone, from our youngest students to our oldest stakeholders. At our December staff meeting for lead teachers, our staff members participated in a tzedakah project for Kosher Troops inspired by these core values.

Kosher Troops is an organization founded by Sara Fuerst and Ava Hamburger to “help improve the morale and welfare of the armed forces of the United States of America by showing our appreciation for the commitment.” Our very own 2s teacher, Talya Tateo, spent seven years serving in the United States Air Force prior to becoming a teacher at CJP. She shared with us how difficult it can be to be Jewish and active military, explaining that she never got Shabbat off and very rarely got to celebrate Jewish holidays.

Kosher Troops sends holiday care packages with items that help our American troops celebrate the Jewish holidays and Shabbat so they can feel connected to the Jewish community while their serving our country. We felt that the mission of Kosher Troops aligned with our core values and we wanted to do a mitzvah project for them.

As a staff, we stuffed 125 cups with Shabbat candles, bags of nuts, protein bars, a kippah, and a personal thank you note for Kosher Troops. Each thank you note included the candle lighting blessing in Hebrew and English so that the troops receiving our care packages could say that bra- chah. Our goal was to thank our Jewish brothers and sisters by supplying them with sustenance and the materials needed to wel- come in Shabbat. Every teacher was excited to participate in this tzedakah project and to provide American troops with supplies to make Shabbat.

For more information on Kosher Troops you can visit their website at www.KosherTroops.com.
February 2019

Early Childhood

Music and Me
8-18 months
Interactive music and age-appropriate movement for mommy, daddy or caregiver and their baby/toddler.
Mondays, 12–12:40pm
March 4 – May 20
Family Place
M/$165  B/$132  NM/$198

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.

Girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. The season ends with a non-competitive 5K event May 12th.
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30–4:45pm
Feb 25 – May 9  (twice per week/710 weeks) with coaches Daniela Mickey & Jenny Crow
M/$170  NM/$190
Register at charlottejcc.org or LJCC Customer Service
704-366-5007

Girls and the run

K-5th Grade
Youth Soccer Leagues
Boys and Girls ages 4–13
2.5-3 years: March 24 – May 5
4-13 years: March 10 – May 19
Registration begins February 4th for members and February 14th for non-members.
Register online at charlottejcc.org or by calling the LJCC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007

Girls in the run

SBC Annual Golf Tournament
April 15, 2019
at The Golf Club
at Ballantyne Resort
This event benefits LJCC Oals Senior Enrichment Program
704-944-6724 • www.bowt.ie/charlottejcc.org

MOMS IN TRAINING

A wonderful program for moms committed to reaching their personal goals while helping cancer patients reach theirs. MFT meets the needs of today’s busy moms – a flexible 10-week fitness program led by certified coaches, including the opportunity to participate in a family-friendly run/walk event.
This program is for expectant moms, moms of babies, toddlers, and kids of all ages. This program is for moms who are brand new to fitness and want to get back into shape and for those mums looking for some ME time!
Sundays 9:30am
March 24 – May 19
Camp Mindy Pavilion
Member: $36 Non-Member: $50
Register at charlottejcc.org or LJCC Customer Service
www.charlottejcc.org  704-366-5007

www.charlottejcc.org  704-366-5007

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

JCHILD CARE.

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

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

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

—

Sponsoring Organization

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

—

2019-02-01

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

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Teens

Levine JCC Aquatics Employment Opportunities

The LJCC is in need of the following aquatics positions available:

- School Year Group and Private Swim Instructors
- School Year Lifeguards
- Summer 2019 Swim Instructors
- Summer 2019 Lifeguards

Joshua Steinberger, Aquatics Director
704-944-6746 or joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org

A Matter of Balance

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict activities. An award-winning program designed to strategically and practically manage falls and increase activity levels.

Space is limited; register early.
Thursdays, 10am-12pm
February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21, 28
FSP Board Room
Free
RSVP required by January 30th to Sharii Benjamin
704-944-6753 or sharii.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

JMemory Café

Caring for a family member with mild to moderate dementia? Come with them to the JMemory 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

JTEAMS, JBABY, JMOM, JMASSAGE

oioccer, JPILOXES, JCLAY, JHOOPS.

Open to the Public

Ages 10–adult

Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project Community Workshop

Middle schoolers through adults are invited to experience a Butterfly Project Workshop!

Sunday, March 10
1:30-3:30pm
Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
FREE to LJCC Members • Non-members $5
Registration Required Call 704-366-5007

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like us! · facebook.com/levinejcc
By Mariashi Groner, director, CIDS

I wish I could take away the worries I see on parents’ faces when deciding if their child is ready for Kindergarten or not. After raising ten children, and now observing and hopefully supporting my children raising twenty-four grandchildren, I can tell you with certainty that although there are good reasons behind making either of these choices, your child will really grow up to achieve their potential and most probably reach beyond some of your dreams and goals regardless. He/she may even side-step what you have in mind and do something totally different, but just as wonderful.

Each year we invite Dr. Terri James from Southeast Psych to speak to parents of rising Kindergarteners at our Kindergarten Readiness Seminar. She succinctly explains what is needed for a child to be successful in a Kindergarten classroom, surprising almost everyone in the room. What most people expect to hear is that they should already be able to recognize letters and sounds, that they should be able to count to 100 and even add and subtract, and that writing a few sentences should be no big deal. Dr. James touches on the academics, but at the very end, with almost no emphasis.

As a child matures emotionally, we would like to see a reduction in intense anxiety and difficulty separating from mom and dad. That is not to say that all children will leave their parents willingly all the time, but we want to see growth and progression in this area. Another emotional target is learning how to express frustration appropriately. That is why you will often hear a preschool teacher say, “use your words.” Temper tantrums and meltdowns should become a behavior of the past as children move into the elementary school years.

“Interested” and “curious” are key words in one of the messages she shared with us. Is your child interested in letters and reading? Is your child interested in listening to stories? Is your child interested in talking about ideas? Is your child excited and eager to learn? Is each new lesson, subject, or topic a new adventure? Does your child enjoy pretend reading to read? Being read to? Play rhyming games? Recognize some letters? Know her first and last name? Can she retell a story or a part of a story? Does your child express himself when he needs something? Does he use complete sentences to communicate?

Research tells us that not knowing how to read when entering kindergarten has not been linked to any disadvantage in school. Children go to school in order to learn, they do not need to know everything before they get there, but they have to be primed and ready to be taught. If they are developmentally mature enough to receive the instruction and to absorb the experiences, they will ultimately have a successful kindergarten year.

Most importantly, though, is how does your child get along throughout the day? Does your child cooperate with his or her friends, or with you when you need to accomplish something with some challenge involved? Does he follow directions, possibly even some multi step directions? How often does she challenge simple rules? Is it difficult for your child to understand that there are some red lines that we don’t cross? Do they have patience, especially when they have to wait and share their turn? That is not easy when it is a toy they really want to play with. Can they sit for a short while and listen attentively when you take them to a museum or show? Do they enjoy interacting with guests you may have at home or when you are running errands?

Oftentimes it is so much easier to help our children with their needs, or even do it for them. However, it is truly very important, if not vital for their success in Kindergarten and beyond. Working without adult assistance, washing their hands, blowing their nose, feeding themselves, putting on shoes, putting the buttons, and zippering are all tasks that kindergarteners should be on their way to do on their own.

Large and small muscle development is also a good indicator for the readiness for kindergarten. Running, jumping, and swinging are very helpful in building a child’s large muscles, especially learning how to ride a two-wheel bike. Progress in small muscle development can often be seen in the children’s ability to be independent when they are dressing themselves, or approaching tasks without adult assistance, in addition to being able to hold a pencil, using scissors, or stringing beads together.

An academic year is often referred to as a “gift of time.” It is a gift if that is what your child needs, but it is important to address ways we can help shape and develop the talent that have been identified, since an additional year will not magically erase those issues.

We use four pieces of information to assist us and you in assessing the readiness of your child for kindergarten. The WPPSI IV; screen, The TERA; Test of Early Reading Readiness Ability, Preschool Teacher Recognition Test of Early Reading Readiness of Information, and Parent Interview. There is also a Gesell Developmental Observation that can further assist you in determining the developmental age of your child which will provide objective information regarding the appropriate placement for your child. We often use this assessment when a child has a “late birthday” and the recommendation for repetition of the preschool year is automatically made. At CIDS we do not believe that a child has to repeat just because they have a June or July birthday.

Every child is different and will mature and develop at a different pace, but understanding where your child is on the journey is the key.

Kindergarten or Another Year of Preschool?

Research tells us that not knowing how to read when entering kindergarten has not been linked to any disadvantage in school. Children go to school in order to learn, they do not need to know everything before they get there, but they have to be primed and ready to be taught. If they are developmentally mature enough to receive the instruction and to absorb the experiences, they will ultimately have a successful kindergarten year.

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What Is Happening on a Wednesday Night at Hebrew High?

Have you ever wondered what happens on Wednesdays at Hebrew High? Here are the amazing electives that our students get to take:

Pay It Forward

Have you seen the movie Pay it Forward? Do you understand the social significance of paying it forward? In this class we will use a combination of art, cooking, and games to help make the world a better place all while learning to be better people to those around us. Teen Leaders for Tikkan Olam

Making the world or our community a better place requires leadership skills. Teen leadership is not just about taking the lead in big ways, but in everyday small things, too. Teen Leaders for Tikkan Olam will explore what it means to be a leader, how to work with others, ethical decision-making, risk-taking, team-building, communication, creative thinking, and more. Students will learn how to take a leadership role, working with other teens on projects that help repair the world.

Jews and Environmentalism

We will explore our history with the environment, why it is important for us to sustain our planet, and what we can do in our own lives to increase the sustainability of our environment. In Green Jewish Living, we will take this to another level by helping and caring for the environment around us, while learning how to be sustainable at home and in our communities.

Cooking for a Cause

This summer class will continue to learn about and make delicious Jewish recipes. But instead of eating our wonderful creations, we will have the students prepare each dish during snack time to raise money and donate it to a charitable cause of our class choice. Together we will not only nourish our tummies, but we will also nourish our souls.

Tough Questions/Smart Answers

From “Why is it called Judaism?” to “What church do Jews go to?” we get questions from our neighbors and friends. Join this fast-paced, interactive class to be able to discuss, define, and defend your responses to questions about our faith. Explore the differences between reform, conservative, and orthodox practices.

Jewish Influences on US Social Justice

The United States is a relatively young country that has been uniquely shaped by the many immigrants who have come to call it home. Many of these immigrants were Jews fleeing hatred and persecution. They brought with them a burning desire for a more just and democratic society. Come and find out how Jews, Jewish values, and Jewish organizations have left their mark on US history and culture.

Comic Books: A Venue for Jewish Creativity, and Justice

With Superman having a Hebrew name and being created by Jews, we can find instances of Jewish involvement in the medium of comic books frequently. This involvement didn’t just serve as a surface level inside-joke for the chosen people to notice, but we will also nourish our souls. We will explore our history with the environment, why it is important for us to sustain our planet, and what we can do in our own lives to increase the sustainability of our environment. In Green Jewish Living, we will take this to another level by helping and caring for the environment around us, while learning how to be sustainable at home and in our communities.

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The 50 Jews Everyone Should Follow on Twitter

By JTA Staff

In today’s world, dominated by an accelerated, unpredictable, unrelenting news cycle, Twitter remains a valuable tool for learning and sharing information. Despite forecasts of its demise — amid grumblings about its role in allowing the spread of disinformation, and predictions that a longer word count would cost the medium its punch and edge — Twitter is still central to the online conversation.

In recognition of its continued relevance, we have compiled a list of 50 Jews who everyone should follow on the social network to stay informed, entertained, and involved in the conversations that are most important to the contemporary Jewish community.

It is important to note that this is not a list of the 50 most famous Jews on Twitter, or the 50 Jews with the most followers. Some of the people on this list have only a few thousand followers, some have over a million. What unites them all is deep, meaningful engagement with Jewish news and culture, and an ability to drive the conversations around those topics.

The list is not all serious news, either. There are chefs, actors, activists, and rabbis on it, too. Here is an alphabetical list. For a short form of their Twitter handles, see: https://www.jta.org/2019/01/03/culture/50-jews-to-follow-on-twitter

Happy tweeting.

Lilli Beyer, Peter Beinart, Mayim Bialik, Avital Chizik-Goldschmidt, William Daroff, Sophie Ellman-Golan, Harry Enten, Lisa Goldman, Daniella Greenbaum, Jason Greenblatt, Jonathan Greenblatt, Lahav Harkov, Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Ron Kampeas, Jacob Kornbluh, Andy Lassner, Talia Lavin, Rabbi Sandra Lawson, Amudi Lovecable, Josh Malina, Bethany Mandel, Avi May, Jennifer Mendelsohn, Debra Messing, Adam Milstein, Josh Nathan-Kazis, Elad Nehorai, Ma Nishnana, Eve Peyer, Rebecca Pierce, Joel Pollak, Barak Raviv, Yair Rosenberg, Laura Rosen, Rabbi Ruti Regan, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, Sigal Samuel, Adam Schiff, Chemi Shalev, Ben Shapiro, Dan Shapiro, Sarah Silverman, Amy Sprio, Jake Tapper, Nova Turnapolsky, Michael Twitty, Jonathan Weisman, Bari Weiss, Molly Yeh, Rabbi Josh Yuter

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Thank You

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

Anonymous* (7) Karen Greenblatt
Betty Andrews Kay and Elia Feldman
Judy and Stan August Bill and Gloria Girfenhagen
Gail and John Baron Desidre and Clay Grubitz
Shari and Peter Benjamin Ted and M.E. Habsburg
Benjamin and Elizabeth Benson Vicki Hopkins
Andrew and Elka Bernstein Christy and Andy Horwitz
Bibi and Don Bernstein Jonathan M. Howard
Mark (OBM) and Louise (OBM) Bernstein Donald L. and Susan Sachs Jacobs
Susan P. Besser David Jacobson
Lee and Jeffrey Biener Alyson Kalk
Mr. Philip Blumenthal Morton and Mary Kaplan
Jill Blumenthal Andrew and Susan Karp
Lee and Alan Blumenthal Barbara and Alan Katz
Joan Kirsner
Robert and Mira Quinn Klein
Larry and Barry Klement and Family
David A. Lash
Jack (OBM) and Carole Lash
Gladya (OBM) Laxman
Janet and David Leikowitz
Harry and Gloria Lerner
Donna (OBM) and Norman Levin and Family
Ross C. Levin
Leon and Sandra Levine
Jack and Alison Levinson
Tom and Stephanie Levinson
Holly and Hal Levinson
Gary and Janie Levinson
Sam and Linda Levy
Laura and Marc Levin
Barbara Berman
Lori and Seth Lassner
Richard Osborne
Cyndee Patterson
Harriet and Mark Perlreich
Diggie and Lee Persiko
Milton and Gene Ruth Piler
Larry and Dave Polisky
Steven and Melissa Raphael
Rick Glaser and Ellen Reich
Tonda and Mitchell Rifkin
Wendy and Sandy Rose
Liam G. Stokes and Betsy Rosen
Donna (OBM) and Norman Levin and Family
Sara and Martin Liss
Mary and Barry Liss
Gail and Bill Liss
Bill and Gloria Girfenhagen
Karen Greenblatt
Kathie and Frances Lissovsky
Annie and Harrison Lord
Larry Farber and Shern McGirt
Linda McDonald
Peggy Manus
Michael (OBM) Messelman
Elise Menaker
Staci and David Mendelsohn
Elise and Martin Meltzer
Paula Sigal Muskler
Bruce and Candace Naliboff
Leah M. Naliboff
Edwin and Jill Newman
Larry and Carole Nicholson
Michael and Judith Norman
Gwen and Paul Druld
Richard Osborne
Jamae Pritchett
Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544
Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554.

What’s Happening at Hebrew High?

(Continued from previous page)

into art so that they can create their own stories to inform others about an issue that they are passionate about.

Beit – Multimedia – Drash

In this elective, we will read through the week’s Torah portion, discuss its meaning and symbolism, analyze other Talmudic commentaries, and chat about how modern Jews can apply the conclusions we come up with to the larger Jewish and secular Charlotte communities and beyond.

After discussing the weeks portion, students will make a social media campaign around the stories in the Torah.

Protest! Jewish Social Justice Through Art and Music

Explore the Jewish artists and musicians who have resisted authoritarianism and promoted social justice through their craft. From the 1930s union promoting to the 1960s civil rights and anti-war movement to today’s resistance, learn how Jews have contributed to the benefit of society. Students will have the opportunity to work on either a poem/song or a piece of art that supports a social justice cause of their choice.

Don and Ellice Liss
Don and Frances Liss
Annie and Harrison Lord
Larry Farber and Shern McGirt
Linda McDonald
Peggy Manus
Michael (OBM) Messelman
Elise Menaker
Staci and David Mendelsohn
Elise and Martin Meltzer
Paula Sigal Muskler
Bruce and Candace Naliboff
Leah M. Naliboff
Edwin and Jill Newman
Larry and Carole Nicholson
Michael and Judith Norman
Gwen and Paul Druld
Richard Osborne
Jamae Pritchett
Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544
Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554.

To learn how you can create your own Jewish legacy, contact Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544 or Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554.
Register for all camps online: charlottejcc.org/camp

Set Sail For Summer Adventure!

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

ANCHOR YOUR SPOT EARLY!
MEMBER REGISTRATION EMBARKS:
➤ January 6th • 9am
NON-MEMBERS:
➤ February 1st

CAMP MINDY
Preschool • K-5th • Teen
Traditional Summer Camps
Performance Camps
Half & Full Day • AM/PM Care

LJCC SPECIALTY SPORTS CAMPS
Preschool • K-5th • Teen
Tennis • Football • Lacrosse
All-Sports • Soccer • Basketball

*Register for all camps by April 15th to avoid late fees.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 30 & 31

JANUARY 30
Dr. Wendy Mogel discusses her new book, *Voice Lessons*

JANUARY 31
NPR’s Anya Kamenetz discusses her book, *The Art of Screen Time*

joinedineducation.org

For group sales & sponsorship opportunities: gosborne@cjdschool.org
A New Play Shows the Real Anne Frank (and Now I Like Her Even More)

By Arielle Kaplan

This article originally appeared on Alma.

One of my most vivid memories from elementary school is learning to perform a song about Anne Frank in sign language. Adapted from her diary, the lyrics to “I Still Believe” hinged on the Holocaust victim’s most infamous written sentence: “In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

Although she’s one of the most famous women in history, Anne's legacy has been sanitized by people donning rose-tinted glasses. “When we only remember those beautiful bite-size things she said about people being really good at heart, we forget how she died,” writer Rachel McKay Steele told me.

A few weeks ago I watched Steele, 33, cosplay as Anne Frank in a workshop performance of her solo stage show, “Shiva for Anne Frank.” Between noshing on chocolate rugelach and a bagel with a schmear (typical shiva food that was served to the audience), I laughed, cried, mourned and celebrated Anne’s short life as told through the lens of a Jewish comedian. Throughout the performance, Steele intertwined her own life experiences — from being bullied for her nose job in high school to a relationship with a German — with Anne’s to bring the iconic teen’s true persona to light. Speaking with Steele on the phone following her performance, I asked what she hopes people take home from the show. Steele told me she wants people to return to the unedited version of “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

“I would love if it was a book that isn’t something we read in seventh grade to understand the Holocaust,” she said. “There is so much in her writing to relate to as a young woman that is universal.” My favorite bits of the performance were the passages from Anne’s unedited diary that Steele analyzed. Her comedic interpretations paired with historical context eroded Anne’s saintly image and grounded her as an average, relatable teen. For example, Steele compared the “Burn Book” (the world’s second most infamous diary from “Mean Girls”) to Anne’s diary with receipts to support her hilarious joke: “Rob Cohen used to be in love with me, too, but I can’t stand him anymore. He’s an obnoxious, two-faced, lying sniveling little goof who has an awfully high opinion of himself.” I mean, come on. If that doesn’t sound like Regina George’s penmanship, then you need to rewatch Tina Fey’s modern classic. During the show, Steele also highlighted a universal struggle — the mother-daughter relationship. Like most teenagers, Anne had difficulty relating to her mom. She was a total daddy’s girl, and Otto knew it because she told him. “I finally told Daddy that I love him more than I do Mother, to which he replied that it was just too, but I don’t think so,” she wrote. “I simply can’t stand Mother.”

Through this passage, Steele illustrated the importance of valuing Anne’s diary not as a means to remember the Holocaust, but as a relatable, coming-of-age story for young girls. Luckily for Steele, as she wrote her cosplay manifesto over the summer, the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam released two never-before-seen pages full of dirty jokes from Anne’s diary. And boy are they juicy. After hearing just a few of them, I can’t imagine that any audience member left Steele’s show refusing to relinquish the myth of Anne Frank’s sainthood.

Like Steele, I think my narrative would’ve been different if I had read the unedited version of “The Diary of Anne Frank” when I was going through puberty. If I knew that Anne struggled with her adolescence, that I wasn’t alone in my attractions, I would’ve felt more comfortable navigating my own changing world. But if Otto had originally published his daughter’s diary unedited, would it have fared as well? Considering that parents are still trying — and failing — to ban the book from public schools, probably not.

“Maybe her story wouldn’t have been as famous because it allowed so many people to compartmentalize her as this innocent young girl who symbolized everything that was good in the world,” Steele told me. “And that is easy to digest.”

In two hours, Steele dismantled the censored, saintly version of Anne and replaced it with one that paints her the way she should be remembered: an intelligent, hilarious, blunt, budding woman who hated her mom and loved dirty jokes. So, yeah, Anne Frank was not a saint. But she’s still my icon.

From Generation to Generation:

L’Dor V’Dor

Come share a very special morning of LEARNING, GROWING, CONNECTING with your grandchild at Charlotte Jewish Preschool’s Grandparents’ Day

Friday, February 15th
8:30-9am Check-in Main Lobby
9am-12pm Programs

Charlotte Jewish Preschool

Now Enrolling for Fall 2019!

704-944-6776 • charlottejewishpreschool.org

LEARNING, GROWING, CONNECTING

Check-in Main Lobby
8:30-9am
Grandparents’ Day
Friday, February 15th
9am-12pm Programs
PAJAMA-DALLAH

Saturday, February 2 (5 p.m.)

Wear your pajamas and bring your pillow for a fun family program including music, Havdalah, and arts & crafts. Visit templeisraelnc.org for details. RSVP at templeisraelnc.org by Monday, January 28.

DINNER & SHABBAT SERVICE WITH CIP

Friday, February 22
5:30 p.m. – dinner
6:15 p.m. – service

Join us for a special Shabbat with CIP and Torah Tots! After a delicious dinner we will welcome in Shabbat with prayers, prayers, and movement led by Rabbi Korngold and Miss Nancy. Register at templeisraelnc.org by Tuesday, February 19.

TEMMLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

TIRS ALL-SCHOOL SHABBAT SERVICE
Saturday, February 23 (9:30 a.m.)

Please join us as Kitah Zayin (7th grade) helps lead services in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary.

YOUTH

GAME TRUCK

We Deliver Excitement!

Sunday, March 3 (12:15-2 p.m.)

Get ready for the Game Truck and spend the afternoon playing video games with friends. Pizza lunch will be provided. Limited space! Cost: $18/11 Y Members; $25/Non-Members. Register at templeisraelnc.org by Wednesday, February 27.

WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL

Tuesday, February 5 (7:30 p.m.)

Location: Dilworth Tasting Room (300 East Tremont St)

Get your wine and cheese on! Join us for a wine and cheese tasting at Dilworth Tasting Room, 300 East Tremont St, Monday, February 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cost: $18/person. Space is limited. Location: Private Residence (Address given with registration, @ templeisraelnc.org).

EMPTY NESTERS

CHOCOLATE THERAPY WITH THE EMPTY NESTERS
Saturday, February 16 (7:30 p.m.)

Because everyone could use a little chocolate therapy (accompanied by wine) now and then! Cost: $18/person. Space is limited. Location: Private Residence (Address given with registration, @ templeisraelnc.org).

LIFELONG LEARNING

TALMUD IN THE TECH AGE

Saturdays (12:30-1:30 p.m.), *Beginning February 16

Rabbi Ezring will teach an introduction to Talmud (with Rabbinical commentaries and analysis [Gemara] from both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds) and explain how these ancient writings are relevant to us today. No charge for Temple Israel Congregants. Admission for non-congregants is $18. To register, please contact Dallas Morris (dmorris@templeisraelnc.org) in the Clergy Office.

Save The Date:

RABBI EZRING RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

May 31 – June 1

WORLD WIDE WRAP XIX

Sunday, February 3

9:15 - 9:45 a.m. – Wrapping (Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary)
9:45 - 10:30 a.m. – Service (Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary)
10:30 a.m. – Breakfast (Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall)

Join Men’s Clubs and congregations around the world for the 20th Annual WORLD WIDE WRAP (which originated at Temple Israel!) as we teach the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin. “We’re in it for the Tefil!”

EVENTS

CJFF PRESENTS: HEADING HOME: THE TALE OF TEAM ISRAEL
Sunday, February 10, 7:15 p.m.

Temple Israel Community Partner Film
Directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, and Jeremy Newberger
Documentary, USA, 2018

Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel is the David and Goliath story of Israel’s national base ball team as it competes for the first time in the World Baseball Classic.

*Winner* Audience Award,
Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 2018,
Washington DC Jewish Film Festival 2018

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB

Monday, February 11 (7 p.m.)

Join us as we discuss Nathan Englander’s Dinner at the Center of the Earth, which Publisher’s Weekly describes as “Appealing… Clever, fragmented, pithy….” Everyone is welcome, even if you haven’t read the book. Questions? Contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com.)

LEGACY SHABBAT

Saturday, February 23, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for Shabbat service, followed by a special Kiddush, as we pay tribute to the individuals and families who have created a legacy gift and named Temple Israel as a beneficiary. Also, on this special morning, former Temple Israel Religious School students (Beyond B’nai Mitzvah) will gather to lead the congregation in services.

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

THE ROSE ROOM - Women Of Temple Israel

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A Mexican Jewish Babka is Taking over Chicago

By Emily Paster

This article originally appeared on The Nosher.

Sufganiyot bursting with dulce de leche and pumpkin cream. Savor babkas swirled with roasted poblano peppers and crema. Mexican-inspired Jewish pastries from a new, online-only bakery are bringing exciting new flavors to Chicago’s Jewish food scene and Chicagoans of all backgrounds are already addicted.

Founded by two Mexico City natives, a masa Madre offers a limited selection of made-to-order treats, many of which draw on co-founder Tamar Fasja Unikel’s Jewish heritage. Among Masa Madre’s offerings are several flavors of babka, chalkah, and a rotating selection of seasonal treats that change with the Mexican, American, and Jewish calendars — from Pan de Muerto for the Mexican Day of the Dead to Thanksgiving pecan pies to rugelach and charukah sfganiyot.

“Many Americans and Jewish people are all very excited because there is something that they can relate to, but still try something new,” Unikel says.

Indeed, although the business is only a few months old, Masa Madre has attracted lots of attention and loyal customers with its unique flavor combinations and personal, artisanal approach to baking.

“We do everything [to order],” Unikel says. “We make every order by hand. It’s a different experience. You get a special treat that was packaged just for you.”

Not only do Unikel and her partner, Elena Vázquez Felgueres, make everything by hand, they put their hearts and their heritage into each of their unique creations. Both women have day jobs — Felgueres teaches yoga and Unikel teaches kids’ cooking classes as well as maintains a food blog called Sugaarpill — but they get up early and stay up late to bake for their customers.

The longtime friends met at university in Mexico City when both were studying fashion design, but Elena soon switched gears to attend culinary school and then cooked in restaurants in Spain and Mexico. Unikel worked in fashion for a time but eventually moved to Chicago where her husband was pursuing a doctorate in biblical studies.

When Elena ended up in Chicago a few years later, the two friends were determined to find a way to work together. They launched a business selling sour dough bread and babka, which Unikel had learned to bake when living in Israel. The sourdough soon fell by the wayside and the friends honed in on a highly curated menu of pastries anchored by the babka. Why babka?

“My grandmother is a baker and she is Ashkenazi, and I really felt like it was part of my heritage,” Unikel says. Babka “is something that people here didn’t really have. I had tried it in New York and Boston and I loved it and I couldn’t really find it in Chicago.”

Not only is Masa Madre’s rich, not-too-sweet babka arguably the best in Chicago, like all of Masa Madre’s other offerings it reflects Unikel and Felgueres’ Mexican roots. Unikel grew up in Mexico City’s thriving Jewish community with both Ashkenazi and Sephardic ancestry.

“My grandparents came from Syria on my dad’s side and Poland on my mom’s side,” Unikel says. “They’ve been in Mexico for over a hundred years, so of course there’s a lot of mix in the food culture.”

From the beginning, Unikel and Felgueres knew they wanted Masa Madre’s treats to mix Mexican and Jewish cuisine.

“We’re both Mexican; we’re not both Jewish,” Unikel says. “Elena has shown me the recipes that she grew up with and I [showed her] mine. When I tell her about a holiday or a Jewish thing I want to do, she is quick to understand it.”

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“Elena says with a laugh. “We are very excited to see the mix of the two [cuisines].” Even Unikel was surprised to learn how many Jews from Latin America, or with Latin American roots, are in Chicago.

The bakers also were influenced by their shared Chicago neighborhood. Pilsen, Unikel calls it “amazing.”

“It’s mostly Mexican. The interesting thing is that it was started as a Polish neighborhood,” Unikel says. “So I feel like what we are doing is a mix of those two: an Eastern European and a Mexican thing.”

In return, the neighborhood has embraced Masa Madre.

“So far, [the residents of Pilsen] have been very receptive,” Unikel says gratefully. Unikel is keeping mum on what unique treats Masa Madre will offer for spring holidays.

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“We think about [holiday items] about a week in advance,” Unikel says with a laugh. “We are going one step at a time.”

There is one secret that Unikel is willing to share: She and her husband are expecting their first child in June. But she plans to keep baking.

“I don’t know what is going to be happening with the business then,” Unikel says. “But I am happy I will be able to keep working from home.”

Chicago-area babka lovers are counting on it.

(Eily Paster writes the widely admired blog West of the Loop, which is primarily about food but with forays into parenting and family life. She is the co-founder of the Chicago Food Swap and is a national leader in the growing food swap movement [community get-togethers where hand-made foods are bartered and exchanged]. She is the author of the book Food Swap [Storey 2016]. She has appeared numerous times on food and cooking segments for the major TV network affiliates in Chicago.)
For more information:

Shalom Park, which includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Charlotte, Jewish Chapel, and Charlotte Day School.

The above list includes donations received as of January 15, 2019. Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park.

William Cassell
Executive Director, Foundation of Shalom Park
How Being on Netflix’s “Tidying Up” Changed This Jewish Mom’s Life

By Lior Zaltzman

This article originally appeared on Kveller.

Ever since I had my son this year, messes have been on my mind. I used to really not care about being organized, but I am learning that parenthood changes how you feel about everything — including your home. But despite my partner purging half of my closet, and what I think is probably 200 books, my house still feels like a total mess that I can’t seem to find the time to come.”

This is why I was encouraged when I saw another Jewish mom, Rachel Friend, remove the physical and mental burden of her clutter in Netflix’s new hit show “Tidying Up.”

The reality show is based on Marie Kondo’s book “The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up.” It’s all about purging your house of things that “spark with joy.” You don’t need, and only keeping the things that “spark with joy.”

After implementing Kondo’s methods, Friend’s relationship with her children also changed for the better, she says. “I’ve definitely been kinder and more loving to the kids which is how I used to be before I started letting things get to me.”

Friend tells me that every time they get new toys, they have to implement the method again. She tells me that aside from a week when her kids were home sick, she’s been able to keep up with the process — a pretty remarkable feat, as its been about six months since the show was filmed. Friend tells me that every time she ran across Kondo’s method about two years ago, after having anxiety attacks and wanting to change the state of her house and her career. She, like many moms juggling child-rearing and work, wanted to create a home office and work on moving her career forward, but wasn’t quite ready to make the change.

In fact, it was only after the show that Friend purchased Kondo’s book. (“I missed her voice,” she tells me).

As for her interaction with Kondo, Friend tells me what you see on the screen is pretty much all there is to it: “She would come in, and she would go straight from the car and into the house — everything was really raw and open. Literally, the last day we were done [implementing the method] was the last day we saw her.”

She’s hoping that her appearance on the show will inspire others — especially moms or parents of young children — to take control of their homes. “It’s completely possible if that’s something that you want. It’s definitely hard, but it’s definitely possible. It’s just how committed you are to making that change, essentially.”

Friend also shared some advice to me about my book hoarding problem: “Kondo says ‘books should represent where you are now.’ She also says that if you started a book but didn’t finish it, it’s a sign that you’re never going to finish it.”

OK, guess I am saying farewell to Catch-22 and Ulysses. Inspired by Friend (and Kondo), I am planning a massive book purge this weekend.

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Jewish Family Services would like to thank our committed, heart-centered donors. This past year almost 600 individuals, families, foundations, and organizations contributed to strengthening, empowering and uplifting so many in our community who were facing some of our most difficult challenges and transitions.

Your generous support allowed our members of our community to get educated, feel supported, remain connected and receive help in the areas of mental health, domestic violence, food insecurity, navigating resources, caregiving and aging.

At JFS we work tirelessly toward ensuring that every member of our community will have their physical, social and emotional needs fully met, helping members of our community stabilize and enhance the quality of their lives.

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In 1944, She Performed an Opera at a Concentration Camp
70 Years Later, I Got to Meet Her

By Annie Cohen
New Orleans (JTA) — Ela Weissberger, though tiny and elderly when I met her, was the strongest woman I have ever known.

Her energy was indefatigable, her personality vibrant and sunny, her wit sharp and charming. Her magical rapport with children was undeniable.

Ela was a Holocaust survivor, sent at age 11 to Theresienstadt, or Terezin, in Czechoslovakia, from her home in Prague. At the concentration camp, Ela performed in the children’s opera “Brundibar,” written for the Prague Children’s Opera by Hans Krasa and later smuggled into Theresienstadt.

The Nazi guards there paraded the children to perform “Brundibar” in front of the Red Cross for propaganda purposes, hoping to convince the world that Jews under Nazi control were well treated. Ela was made to perform the role of the Cat 55 times. On the night of the last performance, most of the children in the cast were sent to Auschwitz, where they perished.

“Brundibar” also survived the Holocaust and is now performed to memorialize the children who were murdered. And Ela became its most loyal champion. After surviving the war, she spent as much of the rest of her life traveling the world to attend every production of “Brundibar” that she could. She gave speeches and spoke with the children, and followed the opera in hopes of preserving the message of music and friendship that it portrays.

Ela was thrilled to see the resurgence of “Brundibar,” as it kept alive the memory of her friends. Music and hope went hand in hand for Ela.

When Ela died in March at 87, her passing was little noted outside of North Carolina, where she was living. But for those like me who got to know her through “Brundibar” and others who learned her story through newspaper articles or her own oral testimony and videos, or the 1991 documentary “The Journey of Butterfly” — her life was a defiant message of hope amid the destruction.

“Brundibar” tells the story of a brother and sister who need to earn money to buy milk for their sick mother but must defeat the evil organ grinder Brundibar to do so. With the help of a dog, a cat, a bird and a group of children, they defeat Brundibar and celebrate by singing a victory march. It was known in Theresienstadt that the character of Brundibar represented Hitler, and singing its climactic victory march was a thrilling rebuke of the horrors of life in the ghetto.

Despite its use as propaganda, Ela loved performing “Brundibar.” She had always loved to sing and was excited to be cast in the production at Theresienstadt. Ela said that music and “Brundibar” were everything to the prisoners, and that when she was singing all of her troubles disappeared. She told us that music brought joy and hope to a place where there was none.

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Ela was 15 when she, her sister, and her mother miraculously evaded Auschwitz and survived the war at Theresienstadt. After the liberation they returned to Prague, but Ela eventually moved to Israel, where she served in the army and Israel’s equivalent of the Secret Service. In Israel, she met her husband, Leopold, and eventually they moved to New York with their children.

“Brundibar” came into my life in 2016 during a performance arranged by the New Orleans Opera Association, the National World War II Museum, and Cantor Joel Colman of the city’s Congregation Temple Sinai.

I was honored to play Aninka, the sister. The production took place at the National World War II Museum on a stage set in a hangar with World War II-era planes strung overhead. Robert Lyall conducted an orchestra and a cast of children from the Greater New Orleans area. Most special of all, Ela attended the performances and addressed the packed audience after each show, sometimes joking and sometimes serious.

At 18, I was one of the oldest members of our cast (I could pass for much younger, a fact Ela found very funny) and initially I understood the weight of our task more than some of the younger kids. But Ela had a talent for storytelling and she shared her experiences in Theresienstadt with the cast before our dress rehearsal. She helped us understand the deep significance of our performances. At the end of each show, after addressing the audience, Ela joined us in an encore of the victory march, singing in Czech while we sang in English and wrapping her arms around as many children as she could reach.

I was heartbroken when I heard of Ela’s passing. Her presence at “Brundibar” performances around the world touched so many lives. Countless children learned about the Holocaust from Ela, and they were changed by her words and indomitable spirit. Ela made history come alive for us, and while it was sobering to learn the history behind the opera, Ela was a comforting presence not just to me but to countless other children worldwide.

“I always thought the opera died with the children, but when I hear it here in a reunited state, singing it by children free, it will never die,” she said in an interview for the USHMM Foundation.

This was the message of remembrance that she had kept throughout her life, and her eyes would always light up when we sang, for she was remembering her friends and we were bringing them back to life for her.

I treasure my copy of the book The Cat with the Yellow Star, a memoir for young adults she wrote with Susan Goldman Rubin in 2008. She wrote a message in my book: “Remember me and my friends, Love Ela.”

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media, or The Charlotte Jewish News.
Inspired and guided by our tradition of tzedakah (righteousness/charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world), the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity and thriving future of our Charlotte Jewish community, Israel and the Jewish people.

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

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, February 26: 9:00 - 1:00 PM (Tour) | 1:00 - 2:00 PM (Lunch) | Gorelick Hall
Under the Federation Umbrella
Please join Women’s Philanthropy for a tour of 4 local Jewish agencies and witness the impact of your support of the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign.
For more information visit us at www.jewishcharlotte.org

Thursday, March 28
The Power of Women: Philanthropy & Tzedakah
We invite you to join us for our spring event celebrating the power of a woman’s gift.
* A gift of $180 or more to the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign is required to attend.

Tuesday, April 30: 9:30 AM | Gorelick Hall
The Power of Women: Literacy & Tikkun Olam
Please join us for this hands-on social action project where we will read with the children at Huntingtowne Farms and Sterling Elementary Schools. We will collect books prior to this event to donate to the students.

For more information about Women’s Philanthropy, please contact Ilana Toch, Development Associate, at ilana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org or 704.944.6784.
The Era of “Never Again” Is Ending

By Eric Rozenman

(2) — Filmmaker Steven Spielberg told NBC News he thinks society must take the possibility of genocide more seriously now that it has in the past generation. In an interview marking the 25th anniversary of Schindler’s List, Spielberg referred to the massacre at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue and warned that “hate leading to genocide is as possible today as it was during the Holocaust.”

He was behind the curve. The era of “never again” is ending in Western Europe, fading in North America and never penetrated the Middle East. Relentless demonization of the Jewish state normalizes demonization of Jewish people.

Examples of post-Nazi genocide and attempted genocide abound, including Muslim Indonesia’s seizure of largely Christian East Timor, the auto-genocide perpetrated by Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge, suppression of southern Sudan’s Christian and animist Darfur region by the government of the Muslim north, the murder of much of Rwanda’s Tutsi minority by the Hutu majority, and today’s oppression by the Palestinian Arabs, those who portray Jews and the Jewish state as demonic — as Louis Farrakhan did yet again shortly after Pittsburgh — serve to reopen “the Jewish question.” As in, what shall be done with this never quite assimilated, always stubborn people?

Infinite adaptability, ever-ensuring during Jew hatred — today regressing to its pre-Auschwitz mean through the gateway drug of anti-Zionism — retains its eternal answer: the elimination of Judaism and those who proclaim it. Among polite circles, like those who insist they are never Antisemitic, “only anti-Zionist,” marginalization and social-cultural re-ghettoization will be sufficient.

The original ethical monotheism, with its damned “thou shalls” and “thou shall nots,” contradicts the West’s increasing secular fundamentalism just as it called into question Christianity and Islam’s claims to supremacy.

Including this small chosen people with their tiny promised land in that now-you-see-it, now-you-don’t multicultural rainbow remains one diversity too many. The Holocaust must be understood not only as an event halted by the Allies’ defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 but also as a process interrupted. As the survivor and author Primo Levi put it, “It happened, and therefore, it can happen again. This is the core of what we have to say.” The words are inscribed at the entrance to Berlin’s Holocaust memorial.

Twenty percent of French respondents between 18 and 34 tell CNN they’ve never heard of the Holocaust. So does a similar proportion in the United States. A Labor Party unit in northern Britain rejected a proposed resolution condemning the Pittsburgh murders because there’s too much talk of “Antisemitism this, Antisemitism that.”

Today the spread of neo-Nazi anti-Zionist Antisemitism makes continued war against, and potential genocide of the majority of the world’s Jews — that is, those living in Israel — a renewed possibility.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media, or The Charlotte Jewish News.
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