Co-chairs Emily and Sam Zimmern and Angie and Bill Zimmern invite you to join them at the Federation’s 2019 Main Event on Thursday February 7 at 7:30 PM at Temple Israel featuring New York Times editor, Bari Weiss. The Main Event is the Jewish Federation’s most widely attended event of the campaign season.

Bari Weiss is an acclaimed journalist who currently serves as editor and writer for The New York Times opinion section. Before joining the Times, she was an op-ed editor at The Wall Street Journal and an associate book review editor there. For two years, she was a senior editor at Tablet, the online magazine of Jewish news, politics, and culture, where she edited the site’s political and news coverage. Bari regularly appears on shows like Morning Joe and Bill Maher. Bari is also the winner of the Reason Foundation’s 2018 Bastiat Prize, which the winner of the Reason Foundation’s 2018 Bastiat Prize, which...

See You at the Movies!

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival, a program of The Cultural Arts Department at The Levine Jewish Community Center, is pleased to announce the lineup for its exciting 15th season that will take place February 9-March 3.

A big thank you to Screening Co-Chairs Judy Lark and Jeff Turk and Screening Committee members Stephanie Bensinger, Charlie Gale, Bob Ecker, Linda Hindel, Judy Kaller, Andrew Kapustin, Dana Kapustin, Eric Laxer, Ross Levin, Michael Lieberman, Gale Osborne, Marcia Stern, and Gail Vogel for putting together a diverse and interesting 13-film slate.

The All Festival Pass will be available for $110 ($183 value) through January 15 and $140 starting on January 16. All Festival Passes, as well as tickets to individual films, can now all be purchased at the LJCC Customer Service Desk, by calling 704-667-5007, or by visiting charlottejewishfilm.com.

There are a few highlights of our exciting 15th season. For more info, please see the enclosed quad fold.

Opening Night Celebration – Saturday, February 9 – 7:15 PM at Temple Israel ($25)

Our Opening Night film, The Last Suit, follows a Polish born Holocaust survivor who decides to travel from Buenos Aires to Lodz to find the man who saved him from certain death and fulfill a promise he made nearly 70 years earlier, and will be followed by a celebratory reception, with tasty treats by Serafina Catering.

Sunday, February 10 - 7:15 PM at Temple Israel ($11)

A stirring story of sports, patriotism, and personal growth, Heading Home charts the underdog journey of Israel’s national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. We are very excited to bring Writer/Director Daniel A.

(Continued on page 17)
JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

JCRC Speaker Lecture Series Presents: “Defining Antisemitism and Why It Matters”

Please join the Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Council on Thursday, January 17, when the JCRC Speaker Lecture Series presents: “Defining Antisemitism and Why It Matters,” a conversation with Mark Weitzman of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the Chief Representative of the Center to the United Nations in New York. He is a member of the official US delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Authority (IHRA) where he chaired the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial. He spearheaded IHRA’s recent adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism, which is the first definition of Antisemitism with any formal status, and he was lead author on IHRA’s Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion. Admission is free and open to the public. Make your ticket(s) reservations today at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

What to Do When Antisemitism Hits Close to Home

By Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Over the last two months, the Federation’s Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) has received several reports regarding hate speech and hate based graffiti. Last year, there were only two reported incidents involving Anti-semitic hate speech. Since the start of this academic year, I have already received seven. This is an unprecedented trend that has caught our community off guard. Many students, parents and professionals are unclear of how to discuss the topic of Antisemitism or who to notify. While I am actively working with partner agencies to provide additional educational tools and advocacy trainings for our community, here is a list of reporting procedures and resources:

- **Activity?** Antisemitic activity includes overt acts or expressions of anti-Jewish bigotry and hostility. Many incidents are not crimes. Activity is generally categorized as:
  - EXPRESSION - Written or verbal communication by groups or individuals, including public, elected, or religious figures. Includes publicly or privately directed letters, phone conversations, articles, speeches, e-mail, or other Internet communication.
  - VANDALISM - Desecration, vandalism, or other criminal activity against property.
  - HARASSMENT, Threats, and Assaults – Directed at individuals or institutions.
  - DISCRIMINATION - Employment, education, housing, or organizational membership.
  - HATE GROUP ACTIVITY - Rally, recruitment, or other activities organized or sponsored by groups such as the Ku Klux Klan or other white supremacist groups. These are not exhaustive or exclusive. We encourage you to report all incidents.

**Reporting Incidents of Hate:**

Absolutely no one should be treated unfairly because of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or disability. Even if you feel your particular case requires no further action, having a written record helps to with statistical tracking of such incidents by local and national law enforcement and advocacy agencies.

1) Notify the school or business where the incident took place – try to give as much detail as possible regarding the incident. Provide any documentation you may have regarding the incident and photographs if there is graffiti.

(Continued on page 11)
Ben-Gurion Society Mission to Argentina

This past November a group of 21 Ben-Gurion Society members participated in a Federation mission to Argentina. The mission was led by Co-Chairs David and Julie Sheffer & Bill and Angie Zimmer.

By Julie Sheffer

Connection. We all yearn for it. We want to feel genuinely connected to each other, our Charlotte Jewish community, and to Jews around the world. Recently we had the incredible privilege of participating in a five-day immersive experience in Buenos Aires, which resulted in a deep, lasting, and authentic sense of connectedness.

While our group of twenty-one Charlotteans toured numerous national landmarks, embraced the local culture, and acquainted ourselves with Argentinean Jewry, we gained a comprehensive understanding of the Argentinean way of life. Group activities such as a wine tasting, tango lesson and tango show, and an Argentinean-cooking lesson added to the well-rounded itinerary. Many of these excursions pushed us out of our comfort zones in the best way possible. Imagine learning a new dance then immediately performing it in front of twenty friends. Or, picture yourself participating in a crepe flipping contest to the cheers, jeers and chants of twenty close friends. These thrilling experiences and the sidesplitting laughter they evoked will last us a lifetime.

Interspersed with the sightseeing was a thought-provoking education on Jewish life in Argentina. Our trip began just five days after the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life congregation in Pittsburgh. So visiting the two sites in Buenos Aires were Anti-Semitic attacks occurred in the 90s struck a very raw and emotional chord. We saw both the memorial to the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy and the 1994 bombing of AMIA (a Jewish organization that serves as a sort of mix between a Jewish Federation and a Jewish Community Center). As a result of these bombings, we came to recognize that you can easily spot a building that houses Jewish agencies by the barricades blocking the driving lane in front of the building entrance.

We did not simply observe the Jewish community as outsiders, but rather, we had the opportunity to interact with individuals on a personal level. We prayed alongside fellow Jews for Kabbalat Shabbat and toured a Jewish day school with an impactful program that integrates students with special needs. We hung out and shared a cup of mate (a traditional, caffeine-rich Argentinian drink) with residents of Buenos Aires’ Moishe House. We spent time with folks at a senior center who shared their personal histories and struggles. Like us, the individuals we met had all benefitted from the generosity of Federation donors. These organizations would not exist if it were not for seed money or sustaining support from Federation and their Jewish brothers and sisters abroad.

All of these experiences brought members of our group closer to one another and closer to the international Jewish community. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to Sue Worrell, Tair Giudice, and the entire Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for enabling us to create memories, relationships, and a true sense of connection.

Federation aims to provide donors with Mission experiences in an effort to educate, expose, and connect Charlotteans to Jewish communities all over the world. As you’ve just read and have most likely heard by now, Federation missions are a once in a lifetime opportunity to connect not only with worldwide Jewry, but also connect or reconnect with your own personal Jewish identity.

The Ben-Gurion Society recognizes young philanthropists (ages 21-45), who contribute $1,000 or more to Federation’s Annual Campaign.

Jewish Argentina

Argentina is home to just over 240,000 Jews, making it the largest Jewish community in Latin America and the seventh largest in the world. In many ways, Argentina’s Jewish community closely resembles that of North America – both were built largely by European immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, developed strong pluralist institutions, and both gradually gained wealth and social and political influence. This community, however, has also been rocked by anti-Semitism, terrorism, and economic and political instability of a degree mostly unknown to North American Jews.

In the 1990s, the Jews of Argentina were targets of two major terrorist attacks: the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed 29 civilians and injured 242 others, and the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires that killed 100 people and wounded over 200. Controversy and scandal surrounding investigations into the bombing, including the 2015 murder of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, continue to this day.

21st Century Economic Crisis: From 1998 to 2002, Argentina suffered a major economic depression, leading to massive unemployment, a default on the country’s foreign debt, and the fall of the government. Approximately 4,400 Argentinian Jews made Aliyah as a result.

The economic crisis essentially wiped out the Argentinian middle class and greatly impacted the financial stability of the Jewish community. While Argentina saw rapid economic growth in 2003, it once again faltered in the global financial crisis of 2008. Yet, despite the challenges, Argentina’s Jewish institutions have since then largely recovered and Argentinian Jews remain well integrated in Argentinean life.
Join the Center for Jewish Education (CJE) and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at UNC Charlotte for a salon-style series exploring some of the major themes and trends of Jewish Identity and assimilation in history and modern days.

For thousands of years, Jews have been embattled. Surrounded by enemies seeking to convert us, remove us, even exterminate us, American Jews – as individuals – have never been more secure, more accepted, more affluent, and less victimized by discrimination. Though Jewish Americans emigrated from many nations, once they were in the United States, there was a concerted effort to fit it – to think like Americans, and to be American. Not only was the pressure on the newcomers to assimilate very strong, but immigrants also regarded assimilation as the only path to integration – many went to English classes at night, adopting American dress and customs. It was seen as a very good thing to lose most of the traits you brought with you from your former home.

The term assimilation then was originally coined to describe the success of Diaspora Jews overcoming centuries of persecution and discrimination, and being allowed into respectable society. It was only later that the term assumed the additional, and more negative, meaning for cultural or religious “suicide.”

Today, there is greater freedom to choose one’s identity or identities than was possible in the past. So what do we mean when we talk about assimilation and Jewish identity? Professor Alan Rauch will lead us through five lectures exploring the Jewish immigrant’s journey as an example of choice. We will explore topics such as: Who is a Jew? How do Jewish authors, playwrights, artists, movie directors, and others depict a complicated combined identity (Jewish and American)? And what happens when one makes the decision to pass as someone other than oneself? We will use film, literature, and history as case studies to explore some of these provocative topics.

Alan Rauch is a dedicated and award-winning English professor at UNC Charlotte. Born in Montreal, Quebec, Rauch received his B.Sc. in biology from McGill University. After completing his MA in Zoology, he studied English Literature at Rutgers University, where he obtained both the M.A. and the Ph.D. As a child he attended Shaare Zion Academy and subsequently afternoons Hebrew High School, receiving an award from the Keren Hatutb association of Canada. While in Graduate School in the Midwest, he even had a very brief stint as a stand-in chazzan for High Holy Days.

Rauch, who was on the faculty at Georgia Tech for over a decade before coming to UNC Charlotte, typically explores the intersections among science, technology, and culture particularly in the Romantic and Victorian eras. His passion is for provoking useful knowledge (Dude, 2001), one Culture, The Mummy! A Tale of the Twenty-Second Century, and England in 1815. His most recent book, Dolphin – which includes photos and illustrations by Rauch – is a scientific, social, and cultural view of all dolphin species.

Rauch has served as President of the Society for Literature, Science, and Art and is currently completing his term as President of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. In Fall 2019, he’ll be teaching – with both fear and excitement – a course called “The Bible as Literature.”

All lectures are from 5:30-7 PM at the Levine Sklut Judaic Library, Please RSVP at www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje; for more information contact Tair.Giudice@jewishcharlotte.org.

**IN SEARCH OF JEWISH IDENTITY: Jewish Identity & Assimilation**
A salon-style series exploring some of the major themes and trends of Jewish Identity in history and modern days.

Five lectures by noted scholar Alan Rauch, professor of English at UNCC will explore the various interpretations and expressions of Jewish Identity in America.

**January 16:** New Countries for Old Jews: Emigrating, Adapting, and Assimilating

**January 23:** Can I say Schm-ck on Television?

**January 30:** Der Jude and a Pound of Flesh: Marked and Rejected

**February 6:** Include me Out: Did Spartacus speak Yiddish?

**February 13:** Jew Yesterday, Jew Tomorrow, but Never Jew Today: Who are We Now?
Enjoy Ebooks and Audiobooks Anytime, Anywhere
Access Popular Titles from Your Phone or Tablet 24/7

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education is proud to offer you best-selling and classic eBooks and audiobooks available 24/7 from the library’s new digital collection.

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library has partnered with OverDrive to offer our community this new service. You can now browse our digital collection, borrow with your library card, and enjoy bestselling Jewish literature on your computer, tablet, smartphone, or eReader. Borrowed ebooks or audiobooks can be enjoyed immediately in your web browser or can be downloaded to the free Overdrive or Kindle apps for mobile devices. Digital titles can also be enjoyed on tablets and eReader devices such as the iPad®, NOOK®, and Kindle®. No matter how you plan to enjoy, titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period. “We are excited to expand our collection with the addition of eBooks and audiobooks,” says Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement at the CJE. “We live in a busy society and it’s not always easy for folks to get into the library,” she says, adding that many patrons have requested eBooks and audiobooks. One of the benefits of the new service is that eBooks make it easier for people traveling. Additionally, audiobooks allow those who are sight-impaired to enjoy books.

With plenty of popular titles to choose from, this new collection is guaranteed to have something for everyone. And the library will continue to build its eBook collection, so keep checking back for more titles.

This new service is free to all library patrons with their library card. To get started enjoying eBooks or audiobooks, visit www.levine-sklutjudaiclibrary.org. Don’t have a library card? Stop by the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and get yours today. Detailed instructions on this service are available on the library’s website or may be picked up at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library.

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

**CJE CALENDAR: JANUARY 2019**

**Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---

- **Library Closed Today**

- **Once Upon a Storytime** 1:15 PM
  UNCC Salon | 5:30 - 7:30 pm
  Jewish Identity & Assimilation

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  Jewish Identity & Assimilation

- **CJE Book Club** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
  Once Upon a Storytime 1:15 PM
  UNCC Salon | 5:30 - 7:30 pm
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- **PJ Library Baby Storytime** 11:00 AM

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**ALL PROGRAMS ARE HELD IN THE LEVINE-SKLUT JUDAIC LIBRARY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

**Sue’s Book Shelf**

By Sue Littauer

I’m in the process of finalizing my CJE Book Club selections for the calendar year 2019, and thought I’d give my faithful readers a heads up on the books currently under consideration.

**Sadness Is a White Bird** by Moriel Rothman-Zecher

A richly empathic story of Israeli and Palestinian mothers and memory, explored through the intimate bonds between young Jewish and Muslim Israelis. *Sadness Is a White Bird* offers all that one could wish for in a coming-of-age story.

**Gateway to the Moon** by Mary Morris

A terrible history of suffering and oppression, traced from the Spanish Inquisition to modern-day New Mexico, is exposed through the generations of a single family.

**A River Could Be a Tree** by Angela Himsel

How does a woman who grew up in rural Indiana as a fundamentalist Christian end up a practicing Jew in New York? *A River Could Be a Tree* is a journey of faith, family, and friendship.

**Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death** by Lillian Faberman

Harvey Milk, an eloquent, charismatic smart-aleck, was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, but he had not even served a full year

(Continued on page 30)
Hebrew High Celebrates Chanukah

Of all the Jewish holidays, celebrating Chanukah is probably the most fun for teens. And our Hebrew High teens had a blast. On Wednesday, December 5, we gathered together as one big group to celebrate the 4th night of Chanukah. Teens formed smaller groups and rotated among four Chanukah stations planned by our amazing student council. Each station represented something special about Chanukah – our symbolic menorah and dreidel, the mitzvah of doing for others, enjoying doughnuts, and the faith in working together to escape to freedom.

The night concluded with everyone coming together to light the menorah. It was amazing to have everyone singing the blessings together.
7TH ANNUAL CREATIVE EVENTS EXPO
BAR & BAT MITZVAH & TEEN PARTY SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018
12:00 - 3:00 PM
TEMPLE BETH EL

COME SEE, TASTE, TRY, DANCE, EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR NEXT EVENT ALL IN ONE FUN AND FESTIVE AFTERNOON!

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK TO PRE-REGISTER!
Welcome back to BBYO. We hope everyone had a restful holiday season with their friends and families. BBYO has had a great first semester full of interactive programming, one of a kind experiences and new faces. In November, we took more than 50 teens, including 30 8th and 9th graders, for a behind the scenes experience with the Charlotte Hornets. The teens heard from BBYO alum and Michael Jordan’s business manager, they watched a pregame warm up, and participated in a high-five tunnel. It was a fantastic night as the Hornets defeated the Celtics.

Teens and families also participated in our annual Global Shabbat in December. It was a great service led by Eddie Horwitz, Jacob Russak, Jacob Baumstein, Molly Simon, Sydney Zolotrofe, Olivia Potier, and Sophie Levy. After the service we heard from teens and young adults from Time Out Youth, a safe space for LGBTQ youth in Charlotte.

Since November, Charlotte BBYO has welcomed over 20 new 8th graders to our program. It has been exciting to see so many new faces.

Charlotte BBYO has some great events coming up in the next couple of months, so save the date. On Sunday, January 6, new and prospective members are invited to join some current members for an afternoon of fun and roller skating at Kate’s Skate. Meet us at the Indian Trail Location from 2-4 PM and you can sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/skatingsunday. Also save the date for Sweetheart Beau Dance on February 2 at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts in Shalom Park from 8:30-11:30 PM – more information to follow. If you have any questions about BBYO please email lrevenson@bbyo.org.

Charlotte BBYO teens at Fall Fest watching the Hornets warmup.

Stop by or call and schedule a tour today!

Start the New Year With Waltonwood

Upscale senior living offering a worry-free lifestyle | Friendly neighbors and convenient amenities
Forever fit program and life enrichment opportunities

Stop by or call and schedule a tour today!

Charlotte BBYO teens at Fall Fest hearing from Estee Portnoy, BBYO alum and Michael Jordan’s business manager.
A Holiday Season of Giving and Receiving for JFS Clients and Families in the Community

The holiday season is a busy time for JFS. It is a time of year when we do our best to ensure that individuals and families who would typically be unable to put a holiday meal on their table or participate in the traditional gift-giving of Chanukah are able to do so. With your generosity, donations, and exceptional shopping skills, we were able to brighten the holidays for so many this year while bringing a sense of gratitude and pride to those we serve.

Thanksgiving - Requests for emergency groceries from our Food Pantry saw a 300% increase during the month of November, which allowed us to provide 70 people, including adults and children with much needed groceries. In addition to the rise in emergency groceries requested, JFS identified clients who needed assistance so they too could enjoy a plentiful Thanksgiving dinner for themselves and their families. We were fortunate to receive a lovely donation of gift cards for Thanksgiving dinners. That, coupled with other items donated, including turkeys allowed many families to enjoy a traditional holiday meal that most of us have come to expect.

One young mother of two small boys could barely contain her excitement as she came to pick up her donation. She told us she had been scouring the internet for recipes, commenting that she and her boys loved Thanksgiving and now she would be able to prepare, cook, and freeze several meals for the coming weeks ahead.

Chanukah - For almost 10 years, JFS’ Dreidel Drive/Chanukah Celebration has been bringing holiday happiness to many children and families as well as older adults who cannot afford to purchase gifts for their loved ones during the winter holiday season. Not only does JFS collect gifts from you, our generous community, but one of the best parts of the program is that we give our clients, children, parents, and seniors alike, the ability to ask for exactly what they would like to receive. So from toys, and gift cards to clothing and food, we do our best to make the holiday season as personal as possible for our clients. We have found that this brings great joy and smiles to so many.

This year, 93 individuals received Chanukah gifts, ranging from gift cards for food, gas, haircuts, shoes, movies, toys, and more, to actual gifts of clothing, toys, and arts and crafts. One of our 74-year-old senior adults teared up as she shared how impressed she was that someone actually got her the Paint-by-Number set that she requested. She said, “They really listened to me.” Another couple who benefitted from gifts collected during the drive was thrilled that JFS would think of them and remember them at this time.

Even our youth from Hebrew High got involved by contributing to the tape, ribbon, wrapping paper, menorahs, and candles that were collected. We even received a very large, wooden kitchen set that was not requested but was very much appreciated by its recipient.

Seniors – One of the highlights of the Chanukah season is the way in which we engage our seniors in the holiday traditions. This year, one special highlight in addition to the Senior Adult Chanukah Celebration was when one Maggie Fogel, one of our Board Members took a small group of children over to Sunrise Assisted Living to celebrate Chanukah with the seniors. This inter-generational activity was loved by all. So much so that the children are asking if they can go back again. They gathered together to light the menorah, sing songs and play a little bingo. (See pictures on page 11.)

Families in need come to JFS year-round, for counseling services, domestic violence assistance, supplemental food, caregiver support and issues that arise from aging.

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Call today to see if SRT would be right for you.

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EVER WONDER HOW FAR YOUR GIFT TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION GOES?
The answer is right here in this comprehensive overview of the many programs and agencies Federa
donors support each year.

Everyday, the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, together with you, our donors and partners, enric
ishes lives, builds community and fosters a thriving Jewish future locally, in Israel and around the wo
rld. THE IMPACT IS EXTRAORDINARY. Friends, family and neighbors are connected to one anothe
r and to Jewish life. Lives are touched, changed and saved in Israel, around the world and right here in
our own backyard. Children and teens are inspired to discover their Jewish identities, and individuals
of all abilities and backgrounds in our community are welcomed and included.

IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU! You make everything we do possible.

2019 LOCAL BENEFICIARY AGENCIES $3,070,819

Supplemental Gifts and Special Distributions $321,234

- Provides customized giving opportunities over and above Annual Campaign gifts,
  enabling donors to maximize their giving potential and fulfill their philanthropic
  goals. Includes Bernstein Leadership, Birthright Israel, Blumenthal Educator
  Resource Center, CJF Campaign, Campaign and Women’s Philanthropy Event
  Sponsorship, Community Building Initiative, Community Leadership Program,
  Greater Charlotte Community Building, Gorekik Teen’s to Israel, Jewish Community
  Refugee Initiative, JCRG Speaker Series, PJ Library, and Mission Subsidies

Tikvah Charlotte

Jewish education for children with special needs

$7,500

Uptown Chabad

Provides networking and Jewish connections for Jewish young adults

$13,500

ZAB’s Place

Provides workplace training and experience for Jewish young adults with special needs

$15,000

IMPACT & INNOVATION FUND GRANTEES $113,000

The Jewish Federation’s Impact & Innovation Fund grants are intended to inspire
individuals, organizations, synagogues, and agencies to provide innovative and
impactful engagement opportunities for the greater Charlotte Jewish community.

Ballantyne Jewish Center - Megaw Chalilah Bake: Large-scale challah baking

$5,000

events for women and children in

Chabad Lake Norman: Outreach and engagement to the Lake Norman Jewish

community

$5,000

Foundation of Shalom Park: Development of a long-term strategic plan

for the future of Shalom Park

$20,000

Friendship Circle - UMatter: A peer-to-peer program aimed at mitigating

teenage mental health and negative self-image among local teens

$11,000

Jewish Community Refugee Initiative: Welcoming the Stranger to the Table
dessert event, with local refugee families and local Jewish families, in an effort to
educate and engage the Jewish community around issues facing the local refugee
population

$2,000

Israel and Overseas

$879,368

Israel and Overseas

Meets the needs of Jews in Israel and world-wide

- African-Israeli Olga
- Chabad Chessed Center
- Education for Excellence
- Ethiopian National Project
- Gidon Association/Makum
- Hadera Young Adult Center
- Hand in Hand: Jewish-Arab Education
- HIAS
- Jewish Federations of North America
- Jewish Agency: Ulpanim in Ukraine
- Jewish Agency: MASA
- JDC-FSU Welfare
- JDC-Supported Housing Hadera
- Krembo Wings
- Moishe House International
- Partnership/Geller - Haderi Eiron
- Talpiot: Community For Its Children
- Technoda
- Ulpanit Masselet Baruch
- Women’s Association

www.jewishcharlotte.org
JFS Volunteers Visited Sunrise Residents to Celebrate Chanukah

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

November 2018


Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Ilene Cantor, Caren Carr, Sharon Cavanaught, Gladys Cherry, Denise and Bob Cooper, Rony DeRamio, Sara Friedman, June Hirschmann, Fran and Roy Kaplan, Judy Kaufman, Jenny Krieger, Harriet Meetz, Roz Snyder, Joyce Stoll


Food Pantry Donations: Stacy Brink, Jason Clark MD, Dan Coblenz, Robbie McGinley, Diggs Rosoff, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Congregants, Hebrew High, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Preschool Mini Moos and The Oness class

Food Drives: Abby Adams and Enclave Neighborhood

Donations Made to Jewish Family Services in November 2018

IN MEMORIAM OF
Alex Whisenant to Jim Beauty from Edwin and Jill Newman
Joe Badt to Nancy Bernstein from Philip and Marci Goldberg
Steven to Ruth Cohen from Lynn and Myron Slutsky
Your mother to Eugene Kavadlo from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
A forever friendship to Roberta Rodgers from Jennifer Lahn Elliott to Lina Newman and family from Sandra Weinstein
Terri Patinkin to Floyd Patten from Leonard and Judi Strause
Abe and Rose Luski to Berta Sraaz from Harriet Meetz

HAPPY CHANUKAH TO
Philip Goodman from Brett Goodman
Mark and Teri Moffett from Brett Goodman

HAPPY TOV ON
Your daughter’s marriage, to Stuart and Carolyn Hennes from Michael and Jodie Van Glish
Your engagement to Becca Weiner from Elliot and Peggy Gartner

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Sheila Peltzer from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman
Larry Polsky from David and

What To Do When Antisemitism Hits Close to Home

(Continued from page 2)

or vandalism.

2) File a police report - This can be done by you, your child’s school, or the business establishment where the incident occurred.

3) Send an online report to the Anti-Defamation League - Go to https://www.adl.org/take-action/report-an-incident-to-file-your-

Local Advocates and Assistance: When hate strikes, it is easy to feel isolated. In addition to the ADL, please know that the Greater Charlotte Jewish community is prepared to support and assist you.

1) The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte – The Federation’s Jewish Community Relations’ Council (JCRC) is equipped to advocate on your behalf and provide additional resources as needed for schools and businesses. Please contact the Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, Laurel Grauer at 704-944-6751 or laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

2) Jewish Professionals - From our passionate educators and youth leaders, to our licensed counselors and dynamic clergy, Charlotte’s Jewish professionals are here to support you and your family. Let them know what happened and what you need.

Educational Resources:

While the Federation’s JCRC should be your first point of contact, the following is a list of local and national resources available to parents, teachers and students:

A. The Anti-Defamation League in addition to advocacy and reporting, the ADL also offers trainings, lesson plans and family discussion guides. www.adl.org and click on the “Education” tab.

B. The North Carolina Holocaust Council is a state commission that offers teacher trainings and materials on the Holocaust.

Find out more at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaustcouncil or contact Chal- lotte Area Council Representative Talii Dippold at tdippold@gmail. com.

C. The Butterfly Project offers workshops at Shalom Park that address the Holocaust and modern manifestations of hate. Find out more from LJCC Butterfly Project Supervisor Lori Semel at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org or 704-944-6833.

D. The Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice offers tailored curriculum on Holocaust and human rights education, and diversity inclusion programs.

Find out more at http://www. stangreensponcenter.org/ or con- tact Education Coordinator Don- na Tarney at tarneyd@queens. edu.

Janet LeKowitz, Elliot and Peggy Gartner

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
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Patti Weisman from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

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Fighting Antisemitism Locally and Globally

Across the globe, economies and societies are in the midst of change. Along with this change comes unrest, uncertainty, and frustration. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a rise in Antisemitism. According to the Anti-Defamation League’s most recent report, acts of Antisemitism increased 60% in 2017 as compared to the numbers for 2016.1 Several countries are combatting this surge in Antisemitism by stepping up their enforcement of existing hate crime laws.2 Others are meeting hate with new legislation or declarations of the government’s intent to stop Antisemitism.3 In the US, the FBI and state police agencies have released new reports on the rise of Antisemitism in our country. Local communities are highlighting the issue, and some are actively seeking ways to build safer spaces for their Jewish brothers and sisters. In Charlotte, The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, The Greenspon Center offers a variety of resources to schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg area and surrounding counties. The Center provides the most current professional development for teachers who address lessons of the Holocaust and human rights in their classes. They are excited to bring, for the first time in the US, the Yahad In Unum Teachers Seminar. This two-day training explores the legacy of the Holocaust by Bullets today.

The Greenspon Center also assists with school wide programs that help students appreciate the benefits resulting from recognizing and respecting diversity. New this year are in-school programs that challenge students to have intentional conversations around the topics of bias and prejudice. With the support of the Jewish Federation Impact Fund, these programs give students the opportunity to evaluate their own biases and the tools to combat prejudice in their school communities. The Center also partners with individual teachers who need help integrating lessons from the Holocaust into their classes.

The Greenspon Center staff works diligently to build a strong educational foundation knowing that there is more to be done. Knowledge of injustice must lead to acting for justice in our communities. During the past two years, the Greenspon Center has done exactly that. The Affordable Housing Committee, for example, contributed to the successful passage of the housing bond referendum and hosted an interfaith workshop to help Charlotte congregations understand the many ways that they can engage with expanding affordable housing in our city. From affordable housing to immigrant justice to criminal justice, we support students and community members in organizing to respond to critical issues in our city, state and country. The staff would like to thank everyone who attended our Second Anniversary event. We had over 400 people in attendance. Moving forward we hope to become an even more powerful force for justice in the Charlotte area and beyond. In order to do this, we rely on you. Please visit our website to find out how you can become part of the solution in Charlotte and register for our upcoming events in 2019:


The Greenspon Center is dedicated to fighting Antisemitism by steping up their enforcement of existing hate crime laws. They are excited to bring, for the first time in the US, the Yahad In Unum Teachers Seminar. This two-day training explores the legacy of the Holocaust by Bullets today.
Bal Taschit and Beyond – Resolving to be a Greener Shalom Park

Shalom Green recently had the opportunity to sit down with Terri Beattie, the executive director of The Foundation of Shalom Park. The Foundation of Shalom Park is the land owner and the landlord for all of the facilities and infrastructure surrounding the cemetery, with the exception of Temple Beth El and Temple Israel. The Foundation of Shalom Park also provides services to Park agencies including security, maintenance, janitorial, event space, and landscaping. We learned about current and future initiatives that are making Shalom Park a greener place to learn, work, play, and worship.

* SG: What steps have been taken to date to move toward a more environmental- ly-friendly Shalom Park campus?

**Foundation of Shalom Park:** In 2017 and 2018, The Foundation of Shalom Park focused on LED lighting retrofits. We changed all surface parking lot and parking deck fixtures to LED bulbs. We changed all pole lighting fixtures to LED bulbs at Camp Minyá. We also changed interior light fixtures to LED bulbs within most Foundation buildings and in both gym areas at the LCCC. By replacing the existing bulbs with energy efficient LED technology, we are saving over $900 per month in utility costs.

* SG: What changes are on your wish list for the future?

**FSP:** We are currently completing a well project that will take Shalom Park off of city water for outdoor irrigation. Between the well project and the lighting retrofits, we expect to lower our utility cost by 10% from 2018 to 2019. Through the use of smart irrigation controls, we hope to further reduce the amount of water used for outdoor irrigation.

* SG: The Foundation of Shalom Park is leading the charge to reduce the carbon footprint of Shalom Park. What will you focus on in 2019?

**FSP:** In 2019 The Foundation of Shalom Park will increase our efforts to influence personal habits that can drastically impact building energy, water, and waste performance. While everyone is interested in being more environmentally friendly, we find it beneficial to educate Park agencies with specific tips that can help building occupants make changes to their personal habits.

How can you help make Shalom Park more environmental- ly friendly in the New Year? Resolve to 1) turn off the lights when you leave a space, 2) recycle properly using the blue bins located around the Park, 3) make smart consumer choices, get involved, and be an agent for change.

If you have an idea for an article, please email info@sha-}

Simple Ways to Break The Post-Holiday Blues

It’s January. The holidays and New Year’s celebrations have come to a screeching halt. The days are short, and you can over-eating and over-indulging are a thing of the past. New Year’s resolutions are made and some unrealistic goals may have even been broken or changed already. The non-stop flurry of activity has left little time for your usual self-care routine of eating healthy, exercising, and getting a good night’s sleep. With any busy time of year or planning of a special event, it is not unusual to be left feeling depressed, tired and anxious. Here are some easy tools to help break through the post-holiday blues.

* Smile - Yes, sounds cheesy but it works. If you smile at others it can immediately change your mood. It will change you and you will feel better. And you will help put the person you smiled at in a better mood as well.

* Tell yourself an affirmation - If you wake up in the morning and think of just one positive thing, it can keep you positive throughout the day. If something irritates you during the day or you just feel down, remember that one positive thought of the morning.

* Wear a favorite piece of clothing - It can be a sweater, pair of shoes, even a pair of socks. Wearing something that you like helps you feel good about yourself.

* Reach out to a friend, relative or colleague you haven’t heard from in a while - Make a call or send a text or email just touching base. You will feel good about yourself for making the simple effort to reach out.

* Do one fun thing you enjoy that you have been putting off - it may be going to a movie, bowling, or just playing cards. Don’t make a big fuss about it, just do it. You’ll find it takes your mind off of other things and you’ll feel good about doing something you enjoy. These are just some easy things you can do that take little effort but can have a big impact.

If the suggestions above don’t have any impact on you mood and you are depressed and believe it is more than just post-holiday blues, reach out to a professional Mental Health professional, call Jewish Family Services at 704-364-6594.

The Past and the Future of the Hebrew Cemetery

By Barry Blau

Like many of my fellow board members, my family has a long history of being a part of Jewish organizations in the Charlotte region, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, CJP, CJDS, and the LCCC. Although I am a relative newcomer of the Hebrew Cemetery’s board, as the current Treasurer and now as the presumptive incoming President, I hope to be involved with the cemetery for many years to come.

When I first joined the Hebrew Cemetery Association Board, I was not very familiar with the cemetery, especially its long history and tradition. However, as I became more involved and my role on the board grew, my passion for the cemetery has grown immensely.

Continuing with current practices, the board of directors feels it’s our duty to provide a respectful and final resting place for all Jews in our community, regardless of means and affiliation. One thing that sets our cemetery apart from many others is that it’s a community cemetery and is not governed by or affiliated with any one synagogue. In keeping with the spirit of inclusiveness, the cemetery established sections for each of the religious streams, inclusive of Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox rabis but not only preside over burials, they sponsor the cemetry’s religious policies.

As many of you have seen, vast improvements have been made to the cemetery’s grounds in the past decade, and it’s something of which the entire Jewish community should be proud. The memorial building, Silverman circle sculpture, and other beautification and improvement projects have had a profoundly positive impact. It’s the board’s vision that the coming years will see a continuation of those already begun and new ones commenced. If you have either never been to the cemetery or it’s been a while, I strongly encourage you to walk our hallowed grounds and see what many consider to be one of the most special final resting places in the Charlotte region.

Consistent with long-standing objectives, we want, above all, to provide a setting that properly honors the memory of loved ones, including members, non-members, and those in need. I can assure you, the board is not going to rest on our laurels of more recent accomplishments, and it is our full intention and fundamental duty to continue maintaining the grounds at a level the entire community will be proud of. In doing this, the board is looking forward for the Hebrew Cemetery of Greater Charlotte to become the cemetery of choice for the Jewish community.

As I mentioned previously, I was not fully acquainted with the cemetery. One of my initial learnings was that, according to Jewish tradition, establishing a cemetery is one of the first priorities for a new Jewish community. In keeping with that tradition, the Hebrew Cemetery was the first Jewish organization in Charlotte, dating back to 1867. Last year was a milestone year for the cemetery, as we celebrated 150 years since the first burial.

In order for the cemetery to sustain itself for the next generation and beyond, there are many wonderful opportunities for increased funding. Through annual ($72) and lifetime ($1800) membership oppo- tions, including the cemetery in your estate planning (Create your Jewish Legacy initiative) and other forms of giving, you can help ensure the cemetery’s important role in Jewish customs and values is continued throughout and even beyond our lifetimes.

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Nancy involved the crowd by joining in the song. During the song, the band incorporated these words into the performance: "Eight day burning of the one-day oil," the band played a one hour set that included some songs from their album "The Chanukah Experience" and some that they usually play only for The Rosh Hashanah Experience. In addition to "Haya Nes," they played other Chanukah favorites, as well, including a rock version of Peter, Paul, and Mary’s, "Light One Candle." And, of course, no Chanukah concert today would be complete without Adam Sandler’s now classic Chanukah Song, which the band played making one slight change to the words: "The owner of the Carolina Panthers-kh cel- ebrates Chanukah." This was met with roars of approval from everyone there.

Said Temple Solel president, Shelly Pawlyk, “We’ve hosted The Ruach before for Shabbat and love them. We knew that we had to have them play for our Chanu- kah event. They are really fantasti- c musicians and truly dedicated to playing worship-FULL music. Their energy is contagious.”

The Ruach played its last Shabbat Experience of 2018 at The Rabbit Hole in Plaza-Midwood on December 21. The Ruach Shabbat Experiences are always joyous, spiritual, and uplifting; this one was no different with everyone clapping and singing along with the band. And, Rabbi Rachel Schechter, who hosted it, does, delivered words of inspira- tion and hope.

One of the things the band does during its Experiences is in- corporate a popular song or two that have themes of peace, love, and understanding. Members of The Ruach Community are familiar with the band’s fusion of “If Everyone Cared” by Nickelback and Craig Taubman’s “I’m Not N’ran’nah.” For the last song of 2018 The Ruach pulled out all the stops and totally rocked the house with Elvis Costello’s version of Nick Lowe’s Classic, “What’s So Funny ‘Bout Peace, Love, and Understanding?”

“We have 613 commandments. The last one is probably the most important because it includes all the others: Kitvu lakhem et nashirah hazot. ‘You must write this poetry.’ To be Jewish means to be a poet. There is poetry in the Jewish existence, and we are commanded to see its poetic dimension. We are to write it down in a way that is as poetic as possible; every Jew is commanded to read the Torah, to write it, and thus to transmit it.”

- Elie Wiesel, Against Silence
Shabbat Shira and Tu BiShevat Shabbaton
Friday, January 18

Ohr HaTorah will host a winter family Shabbaton on Friday, January 18, to celebrate Shabbat Shira, when we commemorate the song of the crossing of the sea and Tu BiShevat, the New Year of the Trees, which falls on the following Monday. This will be a historic event, as we celebrate our first Shabbaton in the new Friendship Circle Building. To combine this triple celebration, the Family Shabbaton will feature a gourmet meal along with a wine bar for the adults featuring an array of Israeli wines. The Shabbaton will include fun activities for children, as well as adults and in honor of Tu BiShevat, will feature the special fruits of Israel which are mentioned in the Torah. The event will be held on Friday, January 18 and will begin at 5:15 PM with services and candle lighting, followed by Shabbat dinner at 6:30 PM. The cost for the Shabbaton is $27/person or $69/family. To reserve or purchase, please call 704-366-3984 or email: info@chabadnc.org.

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Meet TKA President Andrew Lyons

For the president of Temple Kol Ami, Andrew Lyons, Jewish community involvement has been a lifelong pursuit. Growing up in Charlotte, he became a bar mitzvah at Temple Beth El, participated in BBYO/AZA as a teenager, and worked as the kosher kitchen supervisor for the Hillel at UNC-Chapel Hill. Jewish communal involvement is a tradition handed down from his father and grandfather. Jeffrey Lyons served as president of Temple Beth El in the past, and grandpa Bennett Lyons held many board positions at the synagogue he attended in Johnstown, PA. So it was only natural for Andrew to take the baton and run with it at Temple Kol Ami.

Andrew came to Temple Kol Ami four years ago in search of a small, welcoming Jewish community where he could make an impact. Temple Kol Ami, he knew, was the right place for him and his three sons could receive a dynamic Jewish education. He definitely found both at Temple Kol Ami. He immediately jumped in, joining the board initially as a marketing/outreach lead and soon taking on the role of treasurer. Andrew assumed the presidency in June of this year and relishes the opportunity to help grow the Jewish community of South Charlotte/York County, SC. His long-term vision includes having a building and full-time rabbi. “I have seen it happen in Charlotte during my lifetime, so I believe we can make it happen in York County,” he says. “But I understand it takes baby steps, and right now our immediate goals are to continue to enhance our already thriving religious school and add more adult programming.” Temple Kol Ami will certainly benefit from Andrew’s skills developed over a 19-year business consulting career.

Andrew’s passion for volunteerism extends to theavic community as well. He is a speaker/facilitator for Habitat for Humanity, giving financial guidance to new homeowners. Additionally, he coaches youth soccer, basketball, and baseball for his sons. We are certainly grateful that this busy dad has made time for Temple Kol Ami. How does he manage to do it all? “I am a lucky man to have Courtney as my wife and partner on this fun journey,” he smiles.

The Lyons Family certainly reflects one of the strongest tenets of Judaism, īdor v’īdor, from generation to generation. Temple Kol Ami is strongly focused on passing on Jewish traditions, religious practice, and culture to our youth. “I feel so fortunate to have found Temple Kol Ami,” muses Andrew. “It is the perfect Jewish home for my family with a great blend of younger and older congregants, interfaith families, and meaningful Shabbat services. I can’t tell you the joy I get in seeing my 100-year-old grandfather watch his great-grandkids lead Friday night service.”

Temple Kol Ami is fortunate to have Andrew Lyons to lead us for the next two years. His talents, positive attitude, and dedication are sure to help continue the growth and stability of the York County Jewish community. However, he can’t do it alone. You are invited to join Andrew and Temple Kol Ami on our journey to the revival of Judaism in York County and the surrounding areas. Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat services the first and third Fridays of each month at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 SC-160 in Fort Mill. Check our website www.templekolamisc.org for more Jewish events.

Charlotte Jewish Film Festival 2018

(Continued from page 1)

Miller and basketball player Josh Zied to Charlotte for a Q & A discussion after the film.

Wednesday, February 13 - 7:15 PM at Temple Israel ($11)

In the adorable 14 minute short Wend- dy’s Shabbat, a lively group of Jewish senior citizens observe Shabbat at the local Wendy’s fast food restaurant, with Hebrew blessings, along with burgers and fries. Restoring Tomor- row shows how in these divided times, religious institutions are losing young members and even closing their doors at an alarming rate. Wilshire Boulevard Tem- ple, a Los Angeles treasure near demise, needs to raise millions to restore its majesty and vibrancy. Writer, director, and star Aaron Wolf will be with us to tell his story in person.

Sunday, February 24 – 2 PM at Regal Ballantyne ($11)

Shoelaces tells the story of a complicated relationship between an aging father and his son with special needs. Their relationship full of love, rejection, and co-de-pendency, sheds light on the importance of human connection and if life is even possible without it. Jewish Family Services will be with us for a panel discussion after the film.

Wednesday, February 27 – 7:15 PM at Regal Ballantyne ($11)

The Twinning Reaction examines the profound result of a tragically failed research experiment in the 1960s, which involved the separation of identical twins and triplets during infancy in a misguided attempt to understand. We are thrilled to welcome Producer/Director Lori Shinseki as our special guest.

Closing Celebration - Sunday, March 3 – 7:15 PM at Regal Ballantyne ($15)

A film of the stage production of the acclaimed Broadway show Golda’s Balcony, starring Tovah Feldshuh, this amazing story follows the life of Golda Meir, from Russian immigrant to American schoolteacher, to a leader of international politics as the fourth Prime Minister of Israel. David Fishelson, who produced the Broadway show and the film, is scheduled to appear, and there will be a special dessert reception after the film.

We are very excited about our 15th CJFF season; a special thank you goes out to our Community Partners, our Corporate Partners, our Patrons, our hard working volunteers and our loyal audience members for making the CJFF a wonderful community event that is not to be missed. Please think of some new friends or family that you can invite to the film festival this year. See you at the movies.
Family Engagement

JOIN US FOR SUPER SUNDAY!

Special PJ Library Program

TOOT THE HORN WITH BILLY JONAS

Sunday, January 13, 2019 | 10:30 am

Gorelick Hall @ Shalom Park

• Funky Jewish music for the whole family with renowned musician BILLY JONAS!
• Craft and snack.
• Let’s give back! Bring joy and hope to homeless & impoverished children by bringing a small birthday gift.

Suggested items include:
• Travel-sized board game
• Pre-k flash cards
• Preschool books
• Small stuffed animal

FREE - Limited Space
Registration Required:
www.nextgencharlotte.org

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

jewishcharlotte.org/CJE
New JLI Course to Examine Crime and Consequence

New Course Asks: Is Our Criminal Justice System Fair?

This February, the Jewish Learning Institute of Charlotte will offer Crime and Consequence, a new six-session course by the acclaimed JLI. It will explore 3000 years of Jewish perspective on corrections, sentencing, and criminal rehabilitation.

Beginning Tuesday, February 5, at 7:30 PM, for the evening class and Wednesday February 6, 11 AM for the morning class, participants in the course will challenge the assumptions about the implications of ancient Talmudic wisdom for complex modern cases, and get to the heart of the most pressing injustices facing our criminal justice system today.

“DNA testing is proving that we’ve been convicting innocent people. When we incarcerate first-time offenders, we’re turning them into hardened criminals. Known as the, we’re walking free on a technicality. How can we stand by and remain silent to these serious flaws in our criminal justice system?” asked Rabbi Yossi Groner, the evening JLI Instructor. “I believe the first step is for us, as a community, to acknowledge the issues and explore possible solutions. And can you think of a better place to look for guidance than Judaism’s wisdom of the ages?”

Participants in the course will ponder foundational questions: What is the goal of criminal punishment — to gain retribution for the victim, to keep criminals off the streets and safeguard from future crime, to set an example and instill the fear of law, or to rehabilitate the criminal and reintroduce him to society? Should we consider testimonies given in exchange for a reduced sentence as reliable evidence?

The course also seeks to address some of society’s most serious sentencing questions: Is life-without-parole a justifiable penalty? May we sentence a person to death? When would these options be warranted? Is there a better way?

“Crime and Consequence is for people who care deeply about humanity, who are troubled when they see injustice, and who are fascinated by real-life catch-22 scenarios,” remarked Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI’s marketing office in New York. “Participants in the course will uncover the humanity within all people — including criminals — question judicial practices that seem unethical and unfair, and explore effective crime deterrents.”

“It is a profound irony that the United States is a true beacon of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law while it imprisons more of its own citizenry than any other country,” wrote Professor Alan Dershowitz, Professor Emeritus at Harvard Law School, in his endorsement of the course. “Crime and Consequence… brings rigorous legal analysis, statistical data on incarceration and rehabilitation, and case studies into a uniquely profound dialogue with the values undergirding our entire political tradition.”

Scott Turow, attorney and author of Presumed Innocent and thirteen other best-selling novels on criminal law, commented that this course “…shows that this is a subject that involves our oldest and most treasured ideas of right and wrong.”

Crime and Consequence is accredited in North Carolina and South Carolina for attorneys and other law professionals to earn continuing education credits. Like all JLI programs, this course is designed for people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call our office at 704-366-3984 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Charlotte as a project of Chabad of Charlotte. All classes are held at Chabad of Charlotte, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte. Fees for the 6 week course are $99 per person and $180 per couple. Text books are included in the fee.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 960 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries.

Havurat Tikvah Kicks New Year with Services and Festival Observance

Havurat Tikvah will hold a community Shabbat service on January 5, 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, Vanguard Classroom, 2821 Park Rd. Following services kiddush, along with challah and blessings, will be held.

The congregation will observe Tu B’Shevat this year in a unique way by making a trip to the University of North Carolina Botanical Garden on January 20 from 1-3 PM. Participants will be able to enjoy the afternoon touring the garden and selecting fruit for coffee at a nearby coffee shop. To join in the excursion, email admin@havurattikvah.org.

This winter, monthly minyan services continue on the third Wednesday of the month. Information on times and locations can be found on the congregation’s website’s calendar, as well as other upcoming service dates and events.

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

We value and depend upon our criminal justice system. But men are more wont to be astonished at the sun’s eclipse than its unfailing rise.”

- Hayyim Luzzatto, Orhot Tzaddikim

CGI Ballantyne Summer 2019

Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne began the Summer of 2014. Just 25 campers per week but lots of energy and excitement. We have now grown to over 130 campers from ages 3-11. Get ready for our sixth Summer of awesome CGI Fun. Our camp is part of the fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world. Camp Gan Israel enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trend setter in Jewish camping with innovative ideas and creative programs being introduced continuously. Your child will wait all year to come back to camp. Campers enjoy a wide range of exciting activities and field trips in a warm, caring environment, cultivating pride and love for their Jewish heritage.

The mission of CGI is to instill Jewish values in children of all Jewish backgrounds and all levels of observance. Our camp program and activities are imbued with Jewish ambiance and culture. Challah baking, stories, Israeli dance, drama, Jewish and Hebrew songs, group discussions, and beautiful Jewish crafts combine to create an atmosphere of joy, fun, and spirit in each child that attends. This is all part of the unique Gan Israel experience. We have brought it all here. Allow your child to experience the magic. This summer, enroll your child in Camp Gan Israel.

Four weeks of non-stop fun: June 24–July 19

Sign up for single weeks or all four and save.

Our campers are divided into three main groups:

- Mini CGI: (Preschool) Ages 3-5
- Junior CGI: Rising K - Rising 3rd Grade
- Senior CGI: Rising 4th - Rising 6th Grade

Interested for more details and information.

Visit www.CGIballantyne.com for more details and information.

Visit www.myJLI.com for registration and course-related information.
**JCHILDCARE.**

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

- **Mon-Fri AM** 8am-1pm
- **Mon-Thu PM** 4pm-7:30pm
- **Saturday** 12pm-3pm
- **Sunday** 8:30am-2pm

**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.

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**JFIT.**

**20 Classes in 30 Days!**

**JAN 1 ➔ JAN 31**

**You MUST take at least 4 Different Types of Classes:**
- Group Exercises Classes (Aerobic/Strength, Cycle, Mind/Body)
- J-Force Fitness Sessions
- Pilates Studio Classes
- Tennis or Swimming Lessons
- Personal Training (Private or group)

Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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**OPTION FOR ALL AGES TO STAY FIT IN 2019!**

**ADULTS**

**SORE TODAY. JFIT. STRONG TOMORROW.**

**JAN 7 ➔ FEB 28**

4 or 8 weeks of goal oriented workouts and challenges to help build muscle and burn fat!

- **Kickoff event:** Mon, January 7 at 6:15pm
- **Weekly workouts:** M/W: 6:15pm OR Tu/Th: 9:15am
- **Weekly nutritional sessions:** Tu, 6:15pm OR Wed, 9:15am

Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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**GIRLS**

**3rd-5th Grades**

**Spring 2019**

**Feb 25 – May 9 (twice per week/10 weeks)**

Girls will have fun, make friends, increase their physical activity levels and learn important life skills. The season ends with a noncompetitive 5K event.

**Tue/Thu 3:30-4:45pm**

Q? jenny.crow@charlottejcc.org

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**For Fitness Challenges + Girls On The Run**

**Register at LJCC Customer Service • 704-366-5007**

For pricing and more info go to charlottejcc.org

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**JTEennis. JSTEPS. JDAD. JMENSCH. JFIT. JTOTS. JSWIM. JSTAGE. JRUN.**

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**Membership**
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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
Teens
Levine JCC Aquatics Employment Opportunities:
School Year Group and Private Swim Instructors
Summer 2019 Swim Instructors
Summer 2019 Lifeguards
704-944-6746 or joshua.steinerberger@charlottejcc.org

Adults
Four Pillars of Wellness
Start off the new year with David Bonilla of Two Trees Acupuncture, who will talk about nutrition, sleep, movement/exercise, and meditation/mindfulness.
Tuesday, January 15 • 7pm
Sam Lerner Center • Free
704-944-6730 or julie.ritz@charlottejcc.org

Ladies’ Night Out
Dinner and Broadway
Thursday, February 21
Dinner 5:30pm at Fresh Chef
Show 7:30pm at CPCC
M $28 NM $36+ plus cost of Dinner
704-944-6737 or robin.stier@charlottejcc.org

SHIIP
Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program
Free Medicare Counseling Available year round! Please call Senior & Adult Director Jill Lipson at 704-944-6792 for information

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
Free
704-944-6753 or shari.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

The Power of Aging
Discover and uncover the basic physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs which the aging experience challenges you with on a daily basis. Life can be exciting, purposeful and meaningful! Meets once per month on Tuesdays. A collaborative program between LJCC’s Senior & Adult Department and First Hand Success’ Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN.
Tuesday, January 15 – Sweet defeat: control your cravings for sweets before they control you!
9:15–10:15am
FSP Board Room • Free
704-944-6753 or shari.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Tai Chi/Qigong
Adults 50+
Improve your strength, balance and flexibility through this gentle form of fitness.
Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm (all levels)
Swimmer Family Aerobics Studio
Oasis/M/$30 B/$20 NM/$42 per month
Drop-in fee: M/B/$12 p/class NM/$14 p/class
704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

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

HOURS
Monday–Friday • 9am-5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center
704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

REGISTER FOR WINTER & SPRING CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!
charlottejcc.org

like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc
Temple Solel Celebrates Two B’nai Mitzvah

What wonderful celebrations and friendships we have experienced recently. Nate Rodney’s dedication to himself to study in preparation for his recent Bar Mitzvah. It was a heartfelt and meaningful life-event. Nate read from the Torah surrounded by his parents, Oscar and Lizzi Rodriguez, visiting family members, friends, and the community. Lizzi’s father Michael said, “What a beautiful Torah, Where did it come from?” It still means so much to us to tell the story of how the Temple Hadar Israel congregational members in Pennsylvania gifted the Torah to our congregation through the URI, which is our affiliation even though our members come from diverse backgrounds and represent multiple sects of Judaism. It was with much pleasure we continue to email pictures and remind them how they have taken a real interest in learning about their Jewishness to Temple Solel lives on in our future generations.

The following week, William Coughenour, son of Tanya Trachtenberg, read his portions from the Torah with family members taking turns doing Aliyah blessings. In his D’var Torah, William recounted his rich family history as the descendant of Holocaust survivors. He proudly explained he wouldn’t have been a Bar Mitzvah had his grandfather not striving to live every day so the Mitzvah had his grandfather not. In his D’var Torah, William recounted his rich family history as the descendant of Holocaust survivors. He proudly explained he wouldn’t have been a Bar Mitzvah had his grandfather not striving to live every day so the Mitzvah had his grandfather not...

Congregants Create Bonds at Temple Beth EI

“Judaism is less about believing and more about belonging. It is less about what we owe God and more about what we owe each other, because we believe God cares more about how we treat each other than He does about our theology.”

- Harold Kushner, To Life!
WOW Chanukah Event

By Dr. Melissa Karp

Here are the opening lyrics to a song familiar to many of us:

Chanukah, Oh, Chanukah
Let’s light the menorah
Let’s have a party
We’ll all dance the hora
Gather ‘round the table,
We’ll give you a treat
A dreidel to play with and
latkes to eat

That’s a pretty good summary of the W.O.W’s (Women of Wisdom) annual Chanukah event. (W.O.W is a Jewish women’s organization comprised of women mostly from the Charlotte metro area, who are either affiliated or not with a synagogue or other Jewish agency. Although we offer highly subsidized trips to Israel and have done projects for Israel’s special needs children and wounded soldiers, Israel is not our cause. The raison d’etre of WOW is to be empower, connect, and inspire Jewish women through engaging social and educational activities.)

Fortunately, the Jewish community of Charlotte is large enough to offer various options for Chanukah events and ours can now be added to that list. With a lit menorah in the background and the aroma of latkes in the air, we had our annual Chanukah event. Thanks to Janice Zacks, we had a smorgasbord table of latkes including potato, zucchini/carrot, cheese, tuna, sweet and savory, as well as a gluten free option. But it wasn’t just the food (or the blue Chanukah-inspired martini), it was the camaraderie. It was a beautiful sight to see women from different backgrounds and denominations join together to celebrate Chanukah. We don’t all have to worship the same way but we can celebrate our Jewish identity and femininity together. Some women light Chanukah candles for eight nights; for others, this night was the only night of Chanukah they would celebrate. The main thing was the feeling of unity and belonging.

After much noshing and socializing, Sara Oppenheim opened the evening by sharing an idea about the unique relationship women have with Chanukah. Many of us heard about the Maccabees, but few were aware that the heroine of the Chanukah story was a woman named Yehudit. In addition, there were a number of other significant instances in which women benefited from the victory over the Greeks more than men. In recognition of this, an interesting custom exclusive to women that evolved is that we don’t work for the first half hour after the candles are lit. Due to the various ideas and customs revolving around women, we all sensed that it seemed appropriate that a group of women came together to celebrate Chanukah.

The event was co-chaired by Jaymie Kreitmen and Ellen Swerdlow. As always, Jaymie lead an engaging, clever interactive activity. Afterwards we had a White Elephant Gift Exchange, which turned into one of the funniest and most enjoyable parts of the evening.

We have events each month. Our next event is on January 8; it is a movie night featuring the film When the Smoke Clears: A Story of Brotherhood, Resilience, and Hope. It tells the true stories of young Israeli soldiers whose injuries leave them fighting for the strength to live. When all seems lost, a revolutionary idea gives them the hope, courage, tools, and community to survive, and to embrace their identities as heroes both on and off the battlefield and demonstrates that massive growth and healing can come through giving to others.

In honor of Tu BiShevat, we will be hosting a wine and paint event on January 22.

If you would like to know more about this or others events, or get involved, please be in touch with Sara or friend us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/55149188292686/).

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Mike Sadri

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know more about this or others events, or get involved, please be in touch with Sara or friend us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/55149188292686/).

Mike Sadri
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SouthPark at Phillips Place
Where Families Come Together

SouthPark at Phillips Place

Featuring 124 beautifully decorated guest rooms and suites conveniently located in Phillips Place

Complimentary amenities include:
Hot breakfast, internet access, transportation to Shalom Park
Hospitality Suite
Great Room: Special rates available for Friday night dinner

For more information, contact:
Erin.Dennis@hilton.com

Hampton Inn & Suites SouthPark at Phillips Place, Charlotte, NC 28210  704-319-5700
www.hamptonsouthpark.com

Hotel Inn & Suites
by HILTON

The Charlotte Jewish News - January 2019 - Page 23
Always a warm welcome.
An inclusive and dynamic Reform Jewish congregation • More than 1,200 families strong

WORSHIP

Celebrating Shabbat

First Friday in January
5:15 pm Preneq
5:30 pm SongFest
6:00 pm Family Shabbat Evening Service
8:00 pm Shabbat Evening Service

All other Fridays
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturdays
11:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

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

COMMUNITY

JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS IN JANUARY:

Justice Shabbat Evening Service with Mayor Vi Lyles
Friday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 pm, Temple Beth El
Join us as we welcome Mayor Vi Lyles, a nationally recognized leader with over 40 years of public service in Charlotte. Mayor Lyles has worked to help make our city a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Rabbi Knight will have a conversation with the mayor exploring some of the key issues facing Charlotte and how all citizens can work together to create a more equitable city.

Martin Luther King Interfaith Prayer Service and Parade
Saturday, Jan. 19 at 9:30 am, Uptown Charlotte
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in celebrating and promoting the worth of every human being. Join Temple Beth El for this community commemoration.

LEARNING

Elements of Judaism

Seven sessions starting Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 pm
Elements of Judaism is designed for anyone who wants to reinforce or establish a foundation in understanding Judaism. (Registration required)

22nd ANNUAL COMPARATIVE RELIGION SERIES

SPIRITUALITY:
How Do You Connect with Your Higher Power?

6 Tuesday Evenings • 7pm
Starts January 29

Spirituality: How Do You Connect with Your Higher Power?

Made Possible by the Ted and M.E. Hessberg Endowment

Discovered Traditions

Shop well, do good! Did you know proceeds from Discovered Traditions support Temple Beth El Religious School? Your purchases help build our future.

Discovered Traditions is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Wednesday and Friday, before and after Friday night services, and on Religious School Sundays.

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

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

A Proud Member of the URJ
Welcome to the new members of our Hadassah Charlotte Executive Board. Our meetings are usually every 3rd Monday at 7 PM in Room A111 at Shalom Park, and are open to everyone. Our first meeting of 2019 is January 14 at 7 PM. We are grateful for those of you who are new to Hadassah Charlotte, and who have expressed an interest in joining the “Women Who Do.” As you can see, we have a fabulous group of women serving on our board. If you are interested in helping out, we are seeking a Communications VP, i.e. someone to help us with social media and communications. For more information please email sharon.goretsky@gmail.com if you are interested.

We are also proud to share that in a couple of weeks we will be ready to begin the information collecting phase of the 2019-20 Jewish Community Directory put together with love by Hadassah Charlotte. I’d like to thank Jena Coen Gartner for all of her help for the past six months. Jena is a lifetime member of Hadassah, and a native Charlottean. She has volunteered to help us streamline and digitize the information collecting process of the Directory even more than it was in the past. Please be patient with us as when anything is new, there might be a few glitches along the way. However, by January 15, you should be able to go to hadassah.org/Charlotte and input your household information so that we can list you in the Jewish Community Directory. As always, there are advertising opportunities, as this directory is a great way to share your business with the community. If you would like to help with marketing or advertising for this directory, please email dkapustin@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Shalom Park Freedom School’s Spring Movie Fundraiser

Thursday, May 9, 7-9 PM, Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
Join us for a movie and refreshments.

Please come support the Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS). Each year there is a movie night which serves as the largest fundraiser to support the SPFS. The Shalom Park Freedom School (SPFS) has helped address issues impacting educational differences for the past eight summers, and will continue to do so in the summer of 2019. Supported by our Shalom Park community, the SPFS location is one of 16 in the Charlotte Metro area, and is the first Jewish-run Free... (Continued on page 27)
**TORAH TOTS**

**SHABBAT SERVICE & ONEG**

Friday, January 11 (5:45 p.m.)

**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.

**REMEMBER**

Please plan to attend:\n
Friday, January 11 (5:45 p.m.)

TORAH TOTS SHABBAT SERVICE & ONEG

Saturday, February 2 (5 p.m.)

PAJAMA-DALLAH

**TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**TIRS ALL-SCHOOL SHABBAT SERVICE**

Friday, January 25 (6:15 p.m.)

Please join us as Kitah Dalet (4th grade) helps lead services in the Morris & Sylvia Speizman Sanctuary.

**SOCIAL CLUB**

**ANNUAL PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

Sunday, January 27 (12:30 p.m.)

Join us for a delicious lunch and an enjoyable afternoon spent socializing with friends. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Tom Hanchett, an expert on Charlotte’s History. Cost: Free for 2019 paid up members and $20 for guests. For more info, contact co-presidents: Ruth Goldberg (704) 366-8903 or Irving Bienstock (704) 542-0094.

**LIFELONG LEARNING: TWO NEW CLASSES!**

**PIRKEI AVOT, ETHICS OF THE FATHERS: WITH RABBI KORNSGOLD**

Tuesdays (Noon-1 p.m.)

Join Rabbi Kornsgold for this weekly class as we explore Pirkei Avot, Ethics of The Fathers. This section of the Mishna (which was authored in the third century C.E.) is one of the most fundamental works of the Jewish Oral Law.

**EXPLORING AND DEEPENING JEWISH PRAYER: WITH CANTOR LISSEK**

Thursdays (Noon-1 p.m.)

In this class, we’ll unpack and study the structure and meaning of Jewish liturgy. We’ll explore both communal, liturgical engagement as well as individual prayer expression including honest discussions about the rewards and challenges of each, in order to deepen and enrich our prayer experiences.

**YOUTH**

**MAHAR - GET READY TO CATCH SOME “BIG AIR”!**

Sunday, January 13 (12:30-3:30 p.m.)

(ALL 3rd & 5th Graders)

Join Mahar for a fun afternoon of jumping, dodgeball, climbing, and more! $15/TI-Y members; $20/non-members. Drop-off and Pick-up @ TIRS Building. RSVP by Wednesday, January 9 @ templeisraelnc.org.

**SIDE NOTE**

Yom Gemilut Hasadim

A Day of Performing Acts of Loving-Kindness with Temple Israel

**EMPTY NESTERS**

**SHABBAT SERVICES & DINNER**

Friday, January 11

Empty Nesters: Let’s get together for Shabbat services (6:15 p.m.) followed by a special Shabbat dinner, catered by Fran’s Filling Station. For details and/or to register (by January 3), visit templeisraelnc.org.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

WORLD WIDE WRAP XIX

Sunday, February 3

Join Men’s Clubs and congregations around the world for WORLD WIDE WRAP (which originated at Temple Israel!) as we teach the mitzvah of wrapping tefillin.

“We’re in it for the Tie!”

**THE ROSE ROOM – WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP**

GIFT SHOP HOURS

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Friday - 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

Stop by and see our expanded product selection and let us help you find that perfect gift for simchas, holidays & more!

Proceeds support Temple Israel, the Women of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.
**Shabbat Comes Alive at JPS Thanks to a Grant from the Lenora Stein Fund**

At the Jewish Preschool on Sardis, our goal is for each child to love and take pride in being Jewish. We bring Judaism to life and create warm memories and experiences that children will carry with them forever. Shabbat, which is celebrated every week, is a cherished time in Jewish homes. Everyone at JPS looks forward to Fridays, when we prepare for Shabbat in all kinds of ways, by eating challah, singing Shabbat songs, with make-believe Kiddush and candle lighting.

As always, we look for ways to bridge the gap between a child’s experiences here at school to their homes.

We are thrilled to announce that we were awarded a $1200 grant from the Lenora Stein Fund for Community Creative Learning which allowed us to put together a beautiful “Shabbat Bag” which our 3s and 4s will take home on Fridays. In addition to the Shabbat staples (candles, grape juice, challah, etc.) this year’s bags will include a book featuring our own students getting ready for Shabbat. Professionally bound, the book follows the same model as *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and is titled *If You Give a Jewish Family a Challah*. We can’t wait for the children to see themselves in the book and we know their families will treasure it for years to come.

To find out more about JPS call 704-364-8395 or email info@jpskids.org | website www.jpskids.org.
Chanukah Was a Multi-Day Celebration at CJDS

Chanukah week at CJDS was a whirlwind of fun. From the moment the students walked in the door on the first day of Chanukah, they saw the blow-up menorah, decorations, and smelled the latkes and sufganiot frying and baking. Assemblies were held each day to light the menorah built by our fifth graders from oversized Everblock Legos, sing the brachot and Maoz Tzur and take part in an exciting Chanukah activity. On Monday, the students created word clouds made up of words that describe Chanukah, each group choosing their own shapes, fonts, and colors. Working cooperatively, the groups created descriptive and creative works of art that are now hanging in our stairwell. Cantor Mary visited us that day, told us a Chanukah story, and honored us by leading our Menorah lighting. On Tuesday, the school was split up into seven groups. Each group was assigned a different part of the Chanukah story and asked to create improv skits. The students’ interpretation of the Chanukah story was thoughtful and energetic. Menorah lighting on Tuesday was led by Annie Herson, our student council vice president. On Wednesday, we were honored by a visit from former CJDS graduate, Yoni Raffler, who is now a lone soldier in the IDF. We were so proud to have him visit, lead us in the menorah lighting and answer some of our questions about being a soldier in Israel. We were also honored to have Cantor Shira lead us together with her children, Maayan and Reuben, in Chanukah singing. Because no Chanukah celebration is complete without latkes, Wednesday’s treat was a sumptuous latke bar. Several types of latke batter including sweet potato, cottage cheese, and zucchini were prepared in advance by our third, fourth, and fifth grade students and fried on site by our devoted volunteer parents. Lerner Hall smelled wonderful. On Thursday, the students were treated to a Treasure Hunt of 12 rhyming clues that had them running all over the school collecting twelve puzzle pieces. When all the puzzle pieces were collected, it was a picture of a place in the school where they finally found the treasure, a plate of homemade sufganiot. Niyana Sorell, our student council president led us in the menorah lighting that afternoon. Finally, on Friday, the CJDS staff put on a Reader’s Theatre, telling a dramatic Chanukah story that took place during the time of Chanukah. And last, but not least, Cornelius Zielinski led us in our last menorah lighting. Oh, and how can I forget the Chanukah treats that were handed out? Emoji dreidels, chocolate gelt, Chanukah cookies lovingly baked in the CJDS kitchen, sufganiot, and real Chanukah gelt (a fifty cent piece) in a mitzvah purse. I imagine that the children wanted Chanukah to go on and on.
My Journey While Exploring the Environment as the Third Teacher

By Stephanie Zabrinsky

Step into my classroom as I share with you my journey as an educator over the past two years. At Charlotte Jewish Preschool, teachers are provided opportunities to grow and learn as professionals through articles shared by our administration department, conference seminars, and classes. It is up to us as teachers to take this information, learn, and apply it in the classroom and our practice. As I took advantage of these opportunities and continued to read more articles and books, it became very clear that children will use higher level thinking skills and be more engaged if they have the right materials and environment available for them. I slowly started integrating open-ended materials into my room to see how the children would respond. Open-ended materials are activities that emphasize the process versus the product, activities that do not have a “right” answer and activities that can sustain attention for longer periods. It was invigorating to see the children using an item such as a cork in different ways. They would count by putting some in baskets, cups, and containers and then dump them out to see what happened. They would use their creativity and pretend they were people, make patterns, and stack them like blocks. This was one of the many “aha!” moments that I had. I decided to take 80% of traditional toys, blocks, and containers out of my class and replace the materials that are more open-ended. Everyone’s thought process is different and if you don’t have the patience, attentiveness, or persistence to complete this task, you will eventually get frustrated and give up. This is exactly what happens to a child who is told there is only one way to play or to solve a puzzle. Another child might solve the puzzle immediately and become bored. Each child has different abilities to learn, different interests, different levels of frustration, and different ways of displaying this frustration. This can lead other children to show frustration, get distracted, and eventually cause the teacher to become frustrated. This can quickly turn a calm environment into a chaotic environment. We need to give the children opportunities to create their own learning, try new things, and experiment with materials.

open-ended materials had on children, I wanted to go further and create a calm, cozy, and inviting classroom like a home away from home. I continued to get rid of traditional items and integrated more natural items. By doing this, the children got along better and shared with greater ease. With traditional toys such as plastic farms or cars, they were territorial and it would always cause frustration among the children. I turned off the overhead fluorescent lighting and incorporated softer light throughout the room. This was another “aha!” moment. I continued to read more articles and read the book Working in the Reggio Way: A Beginner’s Guide for American Teachers by Julianne P. Wurm. This book gave me inspiration on how to create an inviting home away from home classroom. Having a wonderful space to start with was only the beginning. The open feel of the new natural floors was my starting point. The book, along with articles provided previously by my administration, taught me that in order for the environment to be the third teacher, things should be at the child’s eye level, materials should be open-ended and developmentally appropriate, and the room needs to have different spaces to meet the needs of each child. Having several spaces is more inviting and opens up teaching moments throughout the day. The classroom is for the child, not the teacher or parents. I use daily routines as teaching moments. An example of this is as simple as changing a diaper. Each child is recognized by a natural wood sphere, decorated with a color and their picture hanging over the changing table. So how does this teach? The child is curious and will point or ask what is that? We let the child start the teaching moment and we answer the question. Having materials out for the children to see is also a constant teaching moment. They have curious minds and want to learn about things so this gives them the opportunity to grow in their language skills and ask “What’s that?” My journey has only just begun as I continue to learn what it is that makes the environment the third teacher. I am so thankful for having the opportunity to express my love for learning and teaching at the same time here at Charlotte Jewish Preschool.
The Power of Communications in Raising Healthy and Engaged Kids
Featuring Dr. Wendy Mogel

New York Times Bestselling author Dr. Wendy Mogel will deliver the keynote address to kick off JIE 2019. Mogel’s deft approach to parenting is both practical and precise, applicable to parents of children of all ages. Mogel will speak about her new book Voice Lessons for Parents - What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Keep Quiet. She begins with the tone and cadence with toddlers to negotiating with preschoolers and setting boundaries with older children. Dr. Mogel last appearance in Charlotte was to a sold-out audience at Knight Theater and a second sold out talk at Temple Israel.

The conference will continue the following day with a second keynote from NPR National Education Reporter, Anya Kamenetz, who will speak on Surviving Social Media and Technology with Your Family and Real Life. Following the keynote, there will be additional interactive workshops for parents and technology as well as a dynamic track of educators featuring Dr. Mogel, and Better Lessons, a workshop to help educators implement more individualized curriculums in their classrooms. This is an incredible gathering of nationally recognized parenting experts in Charlotte, January 30 and 31. Tickets are available at www.joinedineducation.org/tickets. Group discounts available at info@joinedineducation.org.

Sue’s Bookshelf
(Continued from page 5)
in office when he was shot by a homophobic fellow supervisor. Milk’s assassination at the age of forty-eight made him the most famous gay man in modern history; twenty years later Time magazine included him on its list of the hundred most influential individuals of the twentieth century.

Promised Land by Martin Fletcher
Set in the fledging state of Israel, Promised Land is the story of two German Jewish brothers who lost their family in the Holocaust only to be driven apart by their love of the same woman.

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

Good Neighbors by Joanne Solinger
A searing portrait of suburbia, friendship, and family strained by a devotion to false appearances.

House of Gold by Natasha Solomon
An in-depth portrait of World War I, this sweeping family saga is rich in both historical atmosphere and heartbreakingly human characters.

Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel’s Classroom by Ariel Burger
A devoted protégé and friend of one of the world’s great thinkers takes us into the sacred space of the classroom, showing Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel not only as an extraordinary human being, but as a master teacher.

The Wartime Sisters by Linda Cohen Loigman
Two estranged sisters, raised in Brooklyn and each burdened with her own shocking secret, are reunited at the Springfield Armory in the early days of WWII.

Night of Miracles by Elizabeth Berg
A delightful novel of surprising friendships, community, and the way small acts of kindness can change a life.

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

For more information contact sueb.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.
Homemade Granola Bars for Tu BiShevat

By Shannon Sarna
(The Nosher via JTA) - I had not even heard of Tu BiShevat until college, when I attended a Seder celebrating the holiday. And while it may sound a bit crunchy to celebrate a holiday for the trees, nuts, and fruit, it comes at a time in our lives as modern Jews when appreciating our natural resources and the environment is more important than ever.

You can host a full-on Seder, or also just take a moment to appreciate and acknowledge our relationship to the land. You can even make a batch of fruit-filled sangria, though my daughter and I decided to try our hand this year at chewy granola bars packed with dried fruit and almonds in honor of Tu BiShevat. We chose to use a combination of dried cherries, blueberries, and raisins, though you could use any combo of dried fruit that you like. Enjoy.

Ingredients:
2 c. oats
1/2 c. raw sunflower seeds
1/4 c. packed brown sugar
2 T. butter
1/2 c. honey
1 t. vanilla extract
1/4 c. ground flax seed
2 t. cinnamon
1/2 t. salt
1 c. sliced almonds
1 c. mixed dried fruit such as apricots, raisins, cranberries, cherries, blueberries

Preparation:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8” x 8” square pan. Spread the oats and sunflower seeds out on a baking sheet. Bake for 15 min., stirring 1-2 times. Meanwhile, heat butter, brown sugar, honey, and vanilla in a small saucepan over medium heat till brown sugar has completely melted. Once the oats and sunflower seeds are done toasting, remove from oven and reduce heat to 300 degrees. Place oats, sunflower seeds, flax seed, cinnamon, salt, almonds and dried fruit into a lg. bowl. Add melted butter-sugar mixture and combine till completely coated.

Pour mixture into the prepared pan and spread out evenly using an offset spatula. This step is important to ensuring even granola bars. Bake for 25 min. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely. Cut into bars and store in an airtight container.

Where to Find a Tu BiShevat Haggadah Resources for Hosting a Tu BiShevat Seder

By My Jewish Learning
Interested in hosting a Tu BiShevat Seder (a structured meal inspired by the Passover Seder)? My Jewish Learning has one sample ceremony here. However, a number of Tu BiShevat Haggadahs (Haggadot is the Hebrew plural) are available for free online, most as downloadable PDFs.

RitualWell
A variety of full Tu BiShevat Seder texts, along with individual Tu BiShevat readings and suggested activities. Hosted by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, RitualWell is a clearinghouse for creative Jewish rituals and liturgy.

Hazon Family Seder for Tu BiShevat
Hazon is a Jewish environmental organization. Hazon Tu BiShevat Seder Leaders Guide

Hazon Tu BiShevat Haggadah: Seder and Sourcebook
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Long Island CSA Fair Trade Tu BiShevat Seder
CSA stands for community-supported agriculture, programs in which members pay a farm at the beginning of the season to receive regular (usually weekly) shares of produce from that farm.

Jewish National Fund Tu BiShevat Haggadah
The Jewish National Fund plants trees in Israel and invests in various infrastructure and environmental projects there.

COEJL Simple Tu BiShevat Haggadah
COEJL (the Coalition on the Environment in Jewish Life) is a Jewish environmental organization.

PJ Library Child-Friendly Tu BiShevat Haggadah
PJ Library is an organization that distributes free Jewish children’s books.

Velveteen Rabbi Tu BiShevat Haggadah for Adults
Velveteen Rabbi is Rachel Barenblat, a Renewal rabbi.

Pri Etz Hadar, the Original Tu BiShevat Haggadah
Hebrew text and English translation of the first-ever Tu BiShevat Haggadah, first published in 1728. The text is available through the Open Siddur Project.

COEJL Simple Tu BiShevat Haggadah

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