There are very few celebrations or commemorations in the Jewish calendar that aren’t part of a larger unit, a period of time that reflects a transition from one state to another. In his book, *Passion for a People*, Avraham Infeld urges us to view the nine days between Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), and Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day) as a unit of time he terms “The Nine Days of We,” to echo the traditional unit of time we call the “Days of Awe” (Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur). “The Nine Days of We” is a unit in time in which we commemorate the Jewish people’s collective transition, the fundamental shift from destruction and powerlessness to independence and sovereignty. This understanding of the “Nine Days of We” explains why Israel commemorates Yom HaShoah as a national holiday. After all, the Shoah did not take place in the geographical territory of Israel, is a profoundly Jewish event. And as the nation-state of the Jewish people, we have the privilege of commemorating this experience as a majority with all the trappings of government and national expression. Likewise, if I am Jewish and living outside of Israel, I must engage with Yom HaAtzmaut to celebrate my collective connection to the national home of my people.

Yom HaZikaron is a memorial for those people who gave their lives in order for the Jews to attain once again sovereignty and power for the Jewish people. At the same time Yom Ha’Atzmaut is a celebration we recognize that the sovereignty and power that we gained was worth the sacrifice we made on Yom HaZikaron.

Commemorate and Celebrate Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha’Atzmaut

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It has been taught: Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai says: “Three good gifts were given by God to Israel, all of them acquired through trial and pain. They are: The Torah, The Land of Israel, and the World to Come.” Brachot 5a

On Sunday, May 19, Shalom Park will become the Tel Aviv Tayelet (promenade) as we come together for a community-wide celebration of Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day.

One of the most defining characteristics of Tel Aviv is its street art. Tel Aviv’s street art and graffiti scene serve as a unique expression of the city’s geographical location, cultural peculiarities, political movements and artistic sub-cultures. Tel Aviv’s street art tells a story, a multitude of stories, written on the city’s walls.

On May 19, artists from the non-profit organizations “Artists 4 Israel,” a non-profit organization that brings unique arts-based programming to communities to learn about themselves, each other and Israel. “Artists 4 Israel” brings well known and talented, non-Jewish, tattooed, pierced, cool, male, female, black, Asian, Latino, and Italian graffiti artists to communities around the country to work with children and young adults to paint a giant Israeli mural on a tall graffiti wall.

This experiential and participatory creative expression of beautiful art led by unique “Artists 4 Israel” artists will result in a powerful community display of support for peace and Israel.

Customized T-shirts with graffiti images and words of your choosing will also be available for sale at the festival. Festival goers will have the opportunity to participate in a mitzvah project by decorating cards for the “Healing Arts Kits.” During Operation Protective Edge, “Artists 4 Israel” and WIZO NY partnered to bring the “Healing Arts Kits” to the Israeli communities on the border of Gaza. In Kibbutz Alumin and Sa’ad, the children were suffering from hundreds of rocket attacks each day and terror tunnels which made the idea of a “monster under the bed” all too real. The “Healing Arts Kits” are designed by psychiatrists, emergency first responders, art therapists, artists, teachers, and parents blending the most recent research and best practices in dance, drama, play and art therapy combined with the input of care-givers and on the ground medical personnel. After seeing the positive results of the Kits in such a difficult time, the decision was made to apply them in other contexts.

Each of the Healing Arts Kits comes with a card from a student expressing support, love, and hope for the child receiving the Kit. Help write your message knowing that what you do goes directly to help stop new cases of PTSD for children living through traumatic experiences.

11 AM – Movie screening – Fighting for Beauty: Terror Survivors Healed by Tattoos

The movie tells the true stories of Israeli terror victims and war heroes who chose to cover their scars, physical and emotional, with works of tattoo art. This is the quintessential story of Israeli resilience and fighting war with beauty. The film offers a behind the scenes look at television stars, famous tattoo artists, and survivors enjoying Israel and learning about the world and themselves.

Yom HaZikaron - Israel’s Memorial Day, May 7

Yom HaAtzmaut Festival, May 19, 12 noon-3 PM, Shalom Park
This past March, Eliza Carney and Allen Sherman, two of our community’s young adults, had the unique opportunity to travel to Israel as part of our Leadership 2Gether program, which is a program geared for young professionals, and is just one of the many programs that are part of Charlotte’s Partnership 2Gether platform. Partnership 2Gether aims to build connections between Jewish communities across the world and in Israel, one relationship at a time.

During their time in Israel, Eliza and Allen traveled the state of Israel, connecting to the land and her people, working with their Israeli partners to develop ideas that can spread understanding between American and Israeli Jews. Eliza: “Not having been to Israel in over 20 years, I eagerly said yes to the opportunity to join the 2018/2019 cohort of Leadership 2Gether. My first trip to Israel was a journey of self-discovery, and 20 years later I wasn’t quite sure what to expect as I embarked on a very different experience through seasoned eyes and a more solidified sense of self. Through the Federation’s program, Leadership 2Gether participants from the Southeast region were paired with Israelis in the Hadera-Eiron region to learn from each other, and together, to dream big.

“Though we had only met virtually a handful of times, meeting our partners and the entire cohort in person felt like meeting old friends. We all came from varied backgrounds and perspectives, there were instant connections made as we bonded over shared goals: to learn from each other and to dream of the possibilities for our Jewish future. From touring and exploring the land of Israel and standing together in Ben-Gurion’s original office, my mind was stretched as we asked the tough questions and learned openly in a safe, judgement-free space.”

Allen: “How are we different? How are we the same? That was what I hoped to understand from my trip with Leadership 2Gether. What did I discover after several amazing days immersed with my Israeli brothers and sisters? That we share a love of food (no surprise, we value family and community, and we all face challenges with maintaining religious pluralism…. Oh and that it’s cool to be a Zionist. Interesting fact, while attending a Purim party at the Beach Colony of Mikhmoret, I felt as if this Bohemian community of surfers, artists, and musicians had been transported from coastal Northern California … right down to the herbal aroma that wafted through the sea spray blown in from the Mediterranean.

“What makes us different? Well, the most noticeable difference is that you don’t have to be intentional to be Jewish in Israel: the Jewish calendar provides you with all the Jewish holidays, Hebrew is the language you learn without having to study it for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and good Kosher restaurants are a dime a dozen (did I mention the food is amazing?). Yet, there’s a major difference you cannot escape: the need for security is woven into Israelis’ DNA. Homes are built with safe rooms that can withstand rocket attacks; you don’t have to worry about what you will be doing after graduating high school - the IDF has a job waiting for you.

“However, the one difference that stopped me in my tracks is...” (Continued on page 6)
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Love Can Tell A Million Stories

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Falsettos

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William Finn & James Lapine

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Hadassah: The Power of Women Who Advocate

You may have heard that Hadassah women “Do,” and one of the things we do best is advocate. Did you know that we are known for turning Jewish values into action in order to make the world healthier and safer?

As the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah works to nurture and further strengthen the already strong US-Israel relationship. We advocate for security, economic partnerships, and safety and aid for Israel. We also advocate for legislation to fight the delegitimization of Israel. On February 5, the Senate passed the Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 (77 to 23); its companion, H.R. 336 has been introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill combines several very important pieces of legislation that were not passed into law in previous congresses, including The Combating BDS Act and the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act. Hadassah strongly advocates for the passage of H.R. 336, and encourages all of us to reach out to our Representatives to support its passage.

We call on all nations and international entities to address Antisemitism, and ask political and religious leaders to denounce Antisemitic statements, attacks, and propaganda. Hadassah supports the Never Again Education Act (H.R. 943) and salutes the recent appointment of a U.S. State Department Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism. In fact, Hadassah recently opened its Government Relations Office in Washington, DC, which demonstrates our organization’s commitment to these advocacy endeavors.

Hadassah is also a vital champion for health. We work to improve women’s health outcomes by way of public education and legislative advocacy. Hadassah recognizes that women and men can react differently - based on hormones, genetics, metabolism and other factors – so it’s essential that there is gender equity in medicine and clinical trials. As a Jewish women’s organization, Hadassah supports numerous policies aimed at improving the lives of women. We advocate for paid leave, caregiver support, safety from harassment, assault, and exploitation, and strict gun control initiatives.

Hadassah Health Night 2019

Health and wellness are important components of the Hadassah movement. Each year, Hadassah Charlotte sponsors a free community program to promote health and wellness.

Join us on Monday, May 20 at 6 PM at the Morrison Regional Library (7015 Morrison Blvd in South Park, Charlotte) for our annual Health Night. This year, our own lifetime member, Lorrie Klemons, RN, MSN, CDFP, will lead us in dynamic conversation about Health Care Consumer Empowerment. “You have a voice … use it! Be your own advocate!”

The health care arena of the 21st century is high tech, scary, and mysterious. Being an empowered patient has never been more critical. Learning how to advocate for yourself or someone you love is essential for being empowered in that arena. Once you are empowered, you can partner with the health care team in a positive way to make sure all of your needs – or the needs of your loved one – are being met. This will ultimately provide you with the best patient experience ever, which is Lorrie’s passion.

Lorrie is an acclaimed public speaker and patient-senior advocate who has been practicing nursing for over 46 years in a variety of roles. As President of Klemons Healthcare Consulting, she specializes in making sure that every consumer has a voice in the healthcare arena. She teaches, preaches, and lives patient-senior empowerment every day. Her book, Ready ... Set ... Advocate! Your Step by Step Guide to Patient Empowerment is available for purchase on Barnes and Noble and amazon.com and will guide you on that journey to truly empower.

Lorrie sits on the Patient Experience Advisory Councils at Lenox Hill Hospital in NYC, part of Northwell Health, and Atrium Health here in Charlotte. In 2016, Lorrie faced every mother’s nightmare when her younger son faced two concurrent life-threatening illnesses. Lorrie was at his side 24/7 advocating and care-giving for him during that nine-month journey which included six hospitalizations, seven surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation. As a Warrior Mom, she brings both the professional and family perspective to her work. She is the “wow” factor in the patient experience. We hope you will join us for this most informative and important conversation. Bring your family and friends.

Hadassah Charlotte
2019-20 Charlotte Jewish Community Directory

Now is the time for Charlotte Jewish community members to get your personal listings to us, so that we can include you in the 2019-20 Jewish Community Directory put together with love by Hadassah Charlotte. Many thanks to the entire Directory committee: Jena Coen Gartner, Marc Goldberg, Marc Willenzik, Judy Kaufmann, Amy DeLoach, Bonnie Bonorno, Lynda White, Linda Reece, Sharon Goresky, Dana Kapustin, and Tonya Meltzer for all of your help. There is a lot of work to be done, but we will look to you, the community, to help make sure all of the information is accurate. Go to hadassah.org/Charlotte and input your household and advertising information so that we can include you in the 2019 Jewish Community Directory. If you are interested in advertising your business, this is a wonderful way to reach an audience of over 10,000 people. Please do not assume that we have your correct information. The best way to
Sue’s Bookshelf
(Continued from page 3)

Jewish immigrants predominantly from Eastern Europe, asked for advice on various facets of their acculturation to America, including economic, family, religious and theological difficulties. In Yiddish, bintel means “bundle” and brief means a “letter” or “letter.” (Wikipedia) For decades, Eppie Lederer, better known by the pen name Ann Landers, was one of America’s most trusted advice columnists. Landers was born Esther Pauline Friedman in Sioux City, IA, to Russian-Jewish immigrants. She was incredibly close to her identical twin sister, Pauline Phillips, who became the revered advice columnist Abigail Van Buren. Margo Howard is the daughter of Ann Landers and dispenses advice in her columns “Dear Margo” and “Dear Prudence.” When asked why she thinks Jewish women end up giving advice, she said, “It’s likely some stew of family life, a desire to help, a need to be useful, an ability to pass on wisdom and, of course, having the yenta gene.”

When commenting on the same question, “Love Letters” author Meredith Goldstein replied, “It makes sense that giving advice is part of Jewish culture because Judaism is religion that asks ‘why.’ There is this natural analysis of tradition, decisions, and choices. When that is part of your culture it becomes part of your day-to-day life.”

Can’t Help Myself – Confessions from a Modern Advice Columnist by Meredith Goldstein is available for check-out at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education.

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

**CJE CALENDAR: MAY 2019**

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Please join the Center for Jewish Education Book Club on Wednesday, May 15, when we will be discussing Good Neighbors by Joanne Setling. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM and everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact sueb.littau-er@jewishcharlotte.org.

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Leadership 2Gether
(Continued from page 3)

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Summarizing the experience, Eliza concludes: “We came together as individuals and left as a family with our eyes on the future. This was an experience I will never forget and I’m excited to see what’s next.”

This adventure is not over yet. Participants in L2G will have the opportunity to reunite with their fellow American and Israeli partners during a fall seminar in Jacksonville, FL.

For more information about our P2G programs and ways to get involved, contact Tair Giudice, Director of Education and Engagement, tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6759.

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Grandparents Day at JPS

The preschool years are all about sharing; sharing toys, sharing love, sharing joy…JPS has a special place in all our students’ hearts, so why keep it to ourselves? Throughout the year, we invite family and friends to join us in school for events, holidays, and birthday parties. A couple weeks ago, it was Grandparents’ turn to enter our classrooms and enjoy what we offer their grandchildren - what a beautiful day it was. It was amazing to see the children show off their classrooms and of course (as it was right before Purim) their knowledge of the Purim story. We decorated crowns and dressed up like royalty with jewelry and costumes, while posing for pictures in the castle. Grandparents were able to experience firsthand how JPS affects, enriches, and brightens our students’ lives. We so enjoyed having all our special visitors and can’t wait for them to visit again! 🌟

Aili and her grandparents get ready for Purim.

Chana decorates a crown with her Bubby and Zeidy.

Judah with his grandmother and great-grandparents.

Lochlan brought both sets of grandparents to school.

Leigh Altman
For County Commission At Large - 2020

- Attorney for 17 Years - Served as a Staff Attorney with Charlotte’s Council for Children’s Rights and Georgia’s Office of the Attorney General
- Strong Advocate For Our Children & Seniors
- Current Officer in the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County
- Chair of Precinct 9
- Mother to Charlotte Jewish Preschool Alums

As the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, I was raised on the importance of tikkun olam - repairing the world. As a lawyer, I have fought for social justice including protecting our seniors, at-risk children, and victims of discrimination.

I’m running for the Board of County Commissioners to fight for children and families. Please visit LeighAltman.com and join our campaign!

PAID FOR BY LEIGH ALTMAN FOR COUNTY COMMISSION
Charlotte Jewish Preschool Goes to Italy

By Brooke Amo, Executive Director; Emily Snyder, Curriculum Coordinator

Mama Mia! This spring we have an extraordinary opportunity to join international educators on a weeklong seminar in Reggio Emilia, Italy, where the highly regarded early childhood educational philosophy was established. We will study under the leadership of Mara Bier and Sharon Sherry of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and Lisa Littman of PJ Goes to School (Harold Greenspoon Foundation). These dynamic professionals will challenge us to learn all about Reggio Emilia through a Jewish lens. This seminar will allow us to observe, hear from experts, and learn how to apply strategies that follow a Reggio Emilia approach within the Charlotte Jewish Preschool.

The Reggio Emilia approach was developed after World War II by Loris Malaguzzi and parents in the villages around Reggio Emilia and derives its name from the city. Reggio Emilia is a student centered approach where children learn the ability to express themselves through experience. Reggio Emilia philosophers believe that children are capable learners who deserve respect, real life experiences, authentic materials, and the permission to tell their own stories.

Over the past two years, we have been exploring the concepts of beautiful classroom environments, emergent curriculum, natural materials, the belief that children are capable learners, and the impact this has had on the teachers, the children, and the families. Teachers and children have more autonomy in their learning. Teachers and children are more proud of their environments and materials. Teachers are talking less and listening more. Children are asking questions, driving their instruction, and are more engaged throughout the day. These positive results have left us hungry for more information. In Jewish tradition, we are encouraged to ask questions, continue to learn, and always strive to be our best selves which led us to this unique opportunity with experts in the field.

We were asked by our Reggio facilitators what our hopes and goals are for this trip. This question encouraged us to think specifically about what we need to bring back with respect to our roles within our school: every place, everywhere from a parent meeting, to the boardroom, to the way that Eli and Lucy work through a problem on the playground. Our work to repair the world is the responsibility of our whole community, from our youngest to our most senior stakeholders. We can all strive to make our world a better place.

With this initiative in mind, my main objective in Reggio Emilia is to explore ways that this curriculum and philosophical approach can foster a culture of values, and how I can, as a leader, inspire all of our preschool family to embrace and embody these values.

“How do we inspire our community to be active learners?”

“How do we know we have ‘created a culture’? What does that look like, feel like?”

Emily (Curriculum Coordinator): “My job is to help teach and inspire teachers plan for instruction with a Judaic, Reggio, early childhood, and value-centered lens, all while helping teachers to maintain their individualism and creativity. While in Reggio, I would like to gain a better understanding of how teachers in the Reggio region plan for and prepare for instruction.

“My main objective as a participant in this study is to act as an ambassador for the classroom teachers and staff at CJP and other schools who are on similar journeys. I would like to create a vision for monthly team planning meetings as we think about where we want to go philosophically and practically regarding Reggio Emilia. I look forward to learning more about what goes into creating, maintaining, and improving a Reggio Emilia school from teachers and administrators who are living it themselves in the region where it was born.

We are hopeful that our experience in Reggio Emilia will strengthen our knowledge and philosophical beliefs about how children learn. As we gather more knowledge about the importance of the learning environment, the materials we use, the way we see and listen to children, we know we will be able to provide the best educational experience for our children, families, and stakeholders of CJP.

Overturn is an equal housing opportunity. Amenities and services vary by location. Photo of Overture resident(s). See a Greystar representative for details.
CJDS Students Are Given A Myriad of Choices to Study Pesach

In the continuing effort to give our students choice, input, and a voice in their learning, CJDS created a catalogue of courses about Pesach from which our students were able to choose. Much like choosing college courses, the students in grades three through five were so excited when given the booklet filled with over fifty hours of classroom options. They studied the class descriptions and couldn’t believe that they were going to be able to decide how they were going to learn, experience, and discover the holiday. Each child had to narrow their options to 18 hours, understanding they would only get ten hours of Pesach classroom programming. The Judaica and art teachers created motivating and stimulating opportunities that are not always available in the typical classroom. After reading all of these choices, you might wish that you attended CJDS when you were in elementary school.

Some examples of the classes offered were:

* Cartoon Clips Talk: Students will share their favorite clips and find Chametz vs. Matza “talk,” “actions,” and “thoughts.”
* Turtle Art Coding: Turtle Art Coding on Chametz discovery, Chametz-Matza meaning, and the meaning behind Jewish names.
* Grain Grinds Explore: Students will take a variety of grains from their stalks to the flour and explore combinations and results.
* Pasta Making: Choose your own grain, grind flour, and prepare the dough, explore the dough rising of a variety of grains. Make pasta from the dough. Identify kitniyot vs. chametz and combine multiple flours to make pasta and compare the results.
* Time Traveling in Hebrew: Are you ready to challenge yourself to two hours without a word of English? We will travel back in time with the student from our virtual class to check out the first Pesach and see how it might be different from what we have now.
* Make a collaborative Kahoot: Would you like to learn how to create a Kahoot game? We will create a game of Pesach facts in this class.
* Pesach Cooking: Pesach cooking can be super challenging. All ingredients must be prepared in a special way and use no chametz. Learn how to make charoset just like the Ramban did—from his very own recipe. We will also experiment with ingredients that can be used in place of charoset.
* Make a music video of Pesach songs: Let’s pick a few of our favorite Pesach songs and make music videos that could be used at CJDS to introduce the songs to other students. You will learn how to use Movie Maker.
* Pesach Heroes: Do you like doing research about famous Torah personalities? In this class we will learn about Moshe, Aharon, Miriam, Yocheved, Amram, and Batya and create presentations about them. Artists are welcome.

* Israeli Moon Shot: The Israeli Rocket to the moon attempted to land the week of our activities. With Yitztizat Mitzrayim (redemption from Egypt) we witnessed many miracles as Hashem rescued us from the hands of the Egyptians. Many of these miracles defied the laws of physics. The fact that we Jews are around today is an amazing miracle. At every turn our smaller, less-equipped people have survived against all odds. Today Israel has set out to do what only larger and more prosperous countries have set out to do over the last fifty years. Learn about the science, math, and visionary individuals who made this attempt possible.
* Brit Bein Habtarim: Did you know that Avraham was a time traveler? Learn about this amazing bit of Torah where Avraham had to do a special ceremony and Hashem shows him the future of the Jewish people.
* Elijah’s Cup: We will explore the meaning of having a cup for Elyahu Hanavgee on the Seder table and look at examples made by other artists. You will then have the opportunity to design and create your own cup for Elyahu using polymer clay on glass.
* Matzah Cover or Afikomen Bag: We will discuss why and how the matzah is presented on the Seder table, and look at examples made by other artists. You will then have the opportunity to create your own matzah cover and afikomen bag. Note: This project will require you to do sewing by hand.
* Seder Plate with Glass Paint: We will discuss the Seder plate, what is on it and how it is used at the Seder. We will look at examples by other artists and you will have the opportunity to create your own Seder plate to use at your family Seder.
* Pesach Board Game: Create a board game to demonstrate the ups and downs of the Jewish people during the times of Pesach. As we experience the steps of the game there will be some happy, hopeful moments and difficult times.
* Illustrated Guide for the Pesach Seder: Create an illustrated guide for the Seder steps complete with photos and instructions. Go over each step, write instructions on how to do them, and take a picture acting out each step.
* Be the rabbi at the Seder: Prepare various talks on parts of the Hagaddah for the Seder.
* Create a Pesach animation.
* Experience a mock Seder with a life-size Seder Plate.
* Design a Pesach mural to be displayed on the school walls, starting from when we became slaves through the ten commandments.
* Uncover the deep mysteries of why did we have these 10 makkot (plagues) and why were they sent in this order. Bring home your 10 makkot mystery box to share with your family at the Seder.
* Read and act out some amazing stories about Elyahu Hanavee.

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Certainly you could understand if Eli Setless, 10, and Ranen Taylor, 11, were a little nervous as they prepared to step onto the stage at the International JewQ Competition in Brooklyn, NY. Not only were they about to participate with dozens of kids in a competition testing their Jewish knowledge, they were doing so in front of hundreds and hundreds of strangers, hundreds of miles from home in Charlotte, NC.

As part of the CKids Jewish Adventure program (Chabad of Charlotte’s version of a Hebrew School that’s fun), they were offered an opportunity to challenge themselves in JewQ, an international Torah competition that challenges students not attending Jewish day school to learn independently under the guidance of their local Chabad centers. They began their studies in October right after the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah.

To qualify for the main championship, Eli and Ranen had to excel on a series of concepts from Jewish Traditions, Maimonides’ Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith, exciting mystical and ethical teachings in Judaism, and more.

Students with the top scores were invited to spend a Shabbat together in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn and compete in the final round of JewQ in front of a live audience. Hundreds of Jewish children from more than 77 cities across North America took part in studying for the competition.

Noah Goldman Receives Queens Social Justice Award

Noah Goldman, graduating senior at Queens University of Charlotte, was awarded the 2019 Queens Social Justice Award. This is given to a student who has shown the following characteristics: the individual is caring about all people and expresses that concern in their own lives, has made significant contributions to Queens University in helping make strides toward improving the quality of life for students, and they are active forces for better understanding and acceptance between people of different races, religions, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Dean John Downey recognized that Noah has served Queens in so many capacity it would be easier to mention what he has not done rather than list all he has done. But to name a few he has been a member of Campus Union Board, Residence Life, Hillel and many, many others. Downey remarked: “Noah’s name is synonymous with social justice. … [H]e has demonstrated his integrity by advocating strongly on behalf of so many others, regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion. … He has shown everyone what true character looks like in action. I am so proud of him and he is so clearly deserving of this award.”

Jewish Life at Queens University of Charlotte asks you to join us in congratulating Noah for this honor.
Youth Visions

Friendship Circle Hosts Dual Sensory Friendly Passover Seders

As you may know, the Passover Seder includes a lengthy amount of time spent on reading the Haggadah and relaying the story of the Jewish people’s exodus from slavery and the land of Egypt. On Passover, a special effort is made to engage the children. We encourage questions and make sure the children are part of the Seder. For children with special needs, however, the Passover Seder can be very difficult to sit through and can also be very overwhelming.

As in past years, Friendship Circle organized a Sensory Friendly Passover Seder to ensure children with special needs were also included in the Passover experience. From unique games and activities for the children to Passover stories and discussions for the adults, our tailor made Seder was an uplifting experience.

New this year, Friendship Circle also organized a unique Teen #UMatter Seder on the second night of Passover. In conjunction with BBYO, teens learned the meaning of true freedom in their own lives. Freedom from challenging thoughts and obstacles but most importantly the freedom that comes from supporting one another and looking out for that lonely friend who may be silently reaching out for help.

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One Thing I Wish You Knew Almost Sold Out

Everyone has a story. Everyone has something they wish you knew. But all too often we think we truly understand and empathize in what our friends and family members, but sometimes we overlook what they’re actually going through.

Friendship Circle’s U-Matter Campaign has been on the forefront in Middle Schools and High Schools breaking the stigma behind mental health challenges and ensuring everyone feels comfortable to share their story and the challenges they face.

And now we’re proud to present our community event, “One Thing I Wish You Knew.” This event will focus on members of our community and their courage to face their challenges head on. Please join us on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 PM at future site of Friendship Circle’s New Center to support every member of our community and ensuring they know they are not alone and we all matter.

Bonus Features:
- Break out your painting skills as every participant at the event will join us in creating a giant mural with Artist Yitzchak Moul (known as the Chassidic Andy Warhol).
- A Special U-Matter Program led by our U-Matter Board: Char- lie Gorelick, Joshua Friedman, Jordy Miller, and Olivia Potier.

Please visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org/OneThing.
Inaugural Hebrew High Cup Competition

The Inaugural Hebrew High Cup was held on Wednesday, April 3. The games brought together over 50 athletes comprised of both Temple Beth El and Temple Israel students who competed in various activities.

Under the leadership of Blue Team Captain Jason Schechter and Red Team Captain Sam Swire, athletes were divided up randomly by choosing either a blue wristband or a red wristband. The rules were explained by Hebrew High Cup Director Megan Harkavy, including the team with the most points at the end of the games would win the cup. To give teams an advantage, extra points were awarded for good sportsmanship and willingness to go the extra mile.

Competition started in the gym as teams competed against each other in relay races and dodgeball. Referee Stephanie Garner oversaw all aspects of the races and made sure all rules were followed. Athletes put their best foot forward and dashed around the gym hoping to score the most points. Smiles and laughter abounded as the athletes couldn’t contain how much fun they were having.

Each team was then divided into two smaller teams to show their skills in the next two activities. First was the Jewish Iron Chef Charoset Competition. Each team had a variety of ingredients to combine to make a one-of-a-kind charoset dish. Points were awarded for creatively combining eggs, chopped apples, dried fruit, spices, and seasonings, along with writing out their recipes and plating their creations.

Next we moved onto the Mitzvah portion of the Hebrew High Cup where athletes had to showcase different skills by decorating Passover bags for clients of Jewish Family Services (JFS). Again each team was judged on their creativity and how original their designs were. Let’s just say JFS clients will be all smiles when they receive their bags.

The closing ceremonies were held in Gorelick Hall with the winning trophy awarded to the Blue Team. Both teams celebrated with red and blue chocolate coins. We can’t wait for the Second Annual Hebrew High Cup. Stayed tuned!
Jewish Family Services to Host Live Laugh Give Comedy Night Again This Year

What do you get when you combine a funny Jewish comedian and a great show with a VIP experience, live auction, and raffle prizes? Jewish Family Services’ Live Laugh Give Comedy Night. When asked what inspired JFS to start this event, Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director responded, “There are three things that bring people together for a good cause: laughter, prizes, and good food. We happen to have all three at our event.”

This year’s event will be held on Sunday, June 2 at Temple Beth El. The headline for the evening is comedian Omy Adams, best known for his abundant energy, his many appearances on late night television and his role as Coach Bobby Finstock on the TV show Teen Wolf. After last year’s success, returning co-chairs, Suzy Catennazo and Andrea Cronson weigh in about last year’s fundraiser.

JFS: Tell me about your experience with the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night.
Suzy Catennazo: Our goal is to provide a unique opportunity for entertainment while supporting a good cause. The entire event, from the food and drinks at the cocktail reception to the hilarious comedy show was so much fun. My favorite part was watching a packed house of people all coming together and laughing together.

Andrea Cronson: Laughing helps when times are rough. I think comedy is a good pairing for our fundraiser. Comedians make jokes about us, so we can laugh at ourselves and feel good about this. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of a successful event. They provides social services that are easily accessible, serving people of all ages. This event, especially with the auction and call to the heart gave people the opportunity to show how important JFS is to this them.

JFS: Tell me about your experience with the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night.
Suzy Catennazo: I got involved with JFS because I believe they play such an important role. They provide social services that are easily accessible, serving people of all ages. This event, especially with the auction and call to the heart gave people the opportunity to show how important JFS is.

Andrea Cronson: I think we all want to help our fellow human beings. We all run into difficulties from time to time and it’s important to have a safety net and that’s what JFS is, a safety net to so many people. One of the many highlights of the event was the auction. With only three items to bid on the bidding was competitive. Royal Hideaway Playacar and Mann Travels offered a three-night four-day stay at a five-star resort in the Riviera Maya. Wendy and Adam Petricoff won.

JFS: Tell us about the trip.
Wendy Petricoff: My husband bought the trip, not only to get away but because he knows JFS is my favorite charity. I just love the way JFS supports the community. The trip was so relaxing. The property was beautiful and our room was top notch; beautifully appointed.

Snap Av donated a SunBrite 43” 4K UHD Outdoor TV with an all-weather soundbar. Joel Pace won.

JFS: Tell us about your winnings.
Joel Pace: I was determined to win this prize. It’s great. Works beautifully. The event was amazing. From the time you got there until the time you left everything was great.

The Eat-Play-Stay Uptown: The Ritz Carlton, Blumenthal Theatre of Performing Arts, and Ciderworks.

JFS: Tell us about your experience with the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night again.
Mason Skult: We went with the some friends on the tour of the Cider Brewery and had a really nice time. It had that brewery vibe: open, rustic, lots of board games. It was interesting to see how the cider is made. The Book of Mormon was hilarious and had us in tears. We are looking forward to getting some R&R at our upcoming stay at the Ritz.

According to FJS Development Manager Susan Meyer, the committee has been working diligently and putting the final touches on this year’s auction items. “There was so much enthusiasm generated around stepping up packages we even added one more,” Meyer said. “We can’t wait to see how our guests respond.” This year’s items include a Comedy Zone Golden Ticket Package, a stay at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, a one-year membership to Scout and Cellar wine club, and through Mann Travels, a vacation at Royal Hideaway Playacar in Riviera Maya.

Tickets are on sale now for the Live Laugh Give Comedy Night, benefitting Jewish Family Services. To select which experience you would like and pre-purchase tickets, go to jfscharlotte.org.

Donations to Jewish Family Services in March 2019

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Dawne Abrams from Alan and Ruth Goldberg
Stacy Gorelick from David and Suzy Catennazo
Marsha Simon from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes
Joshua Loewenstein from Michael and Jennifer Koss
Wendy Petricoff from Robin Buckler
Sam and Emily Zimmern from Matthew Gromet and Phyllis Schultz
IN MEMORY OF
Janet Hartman to Evelyn Allen from David and Suzy Catennazo

Art Boden to Sondar Boden from Gary Silverstein
Maxine Ebert to Robert Ebert from David and Suzy Catennazo
Rhoda Gleiberman to Jeff and Marcia Gleiberman and Robert and Lynn Gleiberman from Leonard and Karen Fox
Myron Kaufman to Donald and Susan Jacobs from Gary Silverstein
Marilyn Bergman to Paul and Gwen Orland from Eric and Susan Lerner
Sonja Luski to Robert and Eli Valenstein from Adrian and Andrea Mesoznik
Gladyz Nathan to Steve and Barbie Weiner from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Simon Wojnowich to Rose Zimmer from Miles Leon
MAZEL TOV ON
Your new home to Joel and Sandy Hirschman from Marvin Burman and Sharon Taubman
WISHING A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY TO
Bonnie Natal from Leonard and Karen Fox
Sam Natal from Leonard and Karen Fox
Michael and Judie Van Glish from Mark and Harriett Perlman

Jewish Family Services
7809 Northwood Road | Charlotte, NC 28270
(704) 364-4000
www.JFSCharlotte.org
JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors

March 2019


**Comedy Night Committee Volunteers:** Suzi Catenazzo, Andrea Cronson, Maggie Fogel, Jodi Greenwald, Adam Levy, Adina Loewenstein, Staci Mond, Fred Shporer, Liz Wahls, Sherri Zimmerman

**Meal Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts:** Barbara Abrams, Phyllis Berlin, Cathy Bogus, Margie Bower, Ilene Cantor, Gladys Cherney, Denise and Bob Cooper, Donna and Burt Green- spon, June Hirschmann, Johnson and Wales, Judy Kaufman, Penny Kreiger, Helene Rivlin, Eileen Schwartz, Roz Snyder, Joyce Stoll, Shaya Strasser, Ellyssa Vining, Robin Zimmerman

**Food Pantry Donations:** Madeline Aron, Marvin Barman, Tom Cloniger, Dan Coblenz, Marcie Goldberg, Wendy Kves- kin, Marcia Lampert, James Shearer, Olivia Udoft, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Jewish Community Center Members, Hebrew High, PJ Library, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants

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**Community News**

"Turning on the Lights" to the Grieving Process

By Sandra Goldman, Director, Hebrew Cemetery Association

I recently attended both an international cemetery and fun- eral conference and a cemetery convention and expo. Attending these conferences are always refreshing. They are great for net- working and keeping up with the newest trends in the industry; but most of all they remind me of what a privilege it is to serve my community and our families.

By speaking with fellow cem- eterians, one recognizes more of the needs and wants of the cus- tomers and I certainly learned, among many teachings, how to better assist everybody involved in this circle of life and death.

We sometimes forget that our job does not end with the burial of a loved one. The aftercare – engaging beyond the funeral with family members and friends – is just as important. Bereaved fam- ilies might not remember the de- tails of the day of the burial, who attended and what was said but they will recall how I made them feel during such a trying time. We must lead, listen, care, and try to ease their sorrow and pain. Grief can also come and go like the ocean tide. It overshadows us like a big wave at first and makes us feel like we are drowning. Then, slowly, the waves get smaller, and life feels more manageable. This is why there is no timetable for heartache. It is up to me to help create a safe place for everybody involved.

In order to do so, people have to become more comfortable with the subject of death. Yes, it might be a bit morbid and taboo at times but talking helps us to normalize what happens by shar- ing experiences with one another. Prearranged planning is a gift to families but it is also a reminder to be less afraid of death. Things are so much scarier in the dark. Let’s turn on the lights and make everybody understand that they are stronger and braver than they thought.

At the cemetery and funeral conference, I was educated by some of the best in the profession and was taught how to construct creative community outreach events through symposiums, workshops, and other types of gatherings. I also learned how to better communicate and an- swer questions regarding death. Bereavement is part of life but there is neither a linear process nor an end-point to these hard conversations. Death is a sacred space. Planning ahead is no “bab- be-meise” (grandmother fable); it does not mean that pre-ar- rangement will make anything happen. The more one actually prepares and knows ahead of time, the more stress-free every- thing will be at the time of need. It also means that I can walk you through the process, follow your lead, hear your concerns, and re- assure you that you pre-planning does not only give you peace of mind but can also lessen the financial burden because you can lock in the current price.

To learn more about pre-plan- ning or how to become a member of the Hebrew Cemetery, contact me at 704-944-6854 or at direc- tor@hebrewcemetery.org.

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**Klezmer Music in the Mountains**

Looking for something fun and exciting to do for Memorial Day weekend? How about taking a drive up to the mountains to stomp your feet and clap your hands to Klezmer Music?

Clarinetist Gene Kavadlo will be performing klezmer music with the Rutherford Chamber Consort. Gene is known throughout the coun- try as a leading interpreter of klezmer music. He will perform three concerts with the ensemble, to take place as follows:

- **Friday, May 24, 7 PM**, Maple Street Theater, 132 Maple St., Rutherfordton, NC 28139
- **Saturday, May 25, 7 PM**, Ascension Lutheran Church, 300 N. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28150
- **Sunday, May 26, 4 PM**, Chapel of the Prodigal, Montreat College, Montreat, NC, north of Black Mountain

The concerts are free. Please plan to attend and enjoy!
AIPAC Policy Conference 2019: The View from Participants

Sam Zimmern: An enthusiastic group of people from Charlotte attended the AIPAC annual Policy Conference held in Washington from March 24-26 this year. Early on the first day of the conference, Howard Kohr, AIPAC’s CEO, addressed the 18,000 people attending the event. He described the large number of recent attacks on supporters of Israel and the American-Israeli relationship. He pointed out that “… intense hatred of the Jewish state is creeping from the margins towards the center of our politics.” And he noted that supporters of Israel were being called evil and even disloyal Americans. He characterized our critics as using “defamation masquerading as discourse.” Then he set about countering the attackers. He made a strong case for Israel as the needed homeland for the Jewish people and as a nation with admirable values and practices including a democratically elected government and a free press. He pointed out Israel’s many contributions to the world in fields including medicine, the digital economy and water use. Next, he demonstrated that Israel continues to garner strong support from big majorities of both political parties in Congress as well as from large numbers of citizen activists across diverse groups of Americans. Finally, Howard charged us to fight back and make our movement even stronger in the future.

The next two days of the Policy Conference provided impressive confirmation of many of the points made in the opening dedication to replace Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister in the recent election, spoke to the main session. He explained his views on Israel’s current problems and made the case as to why he is the best person to address them. The audience responded with many loud standing ovations. Mr. Netanyahu’s speech. We learned more about the forces of history that led to terrible consequences for Jews and proposed the need for a Jewish homeland. Current threats to the country’s existence were described. Some of the many achievements were illustrated including the upcoming landing of an Israeli explorer on the surface of the moon. Members of Congress, including the leaders of the House and Senate, spoke emphatically about the support for Israel that is maintained in a bipartisan fashion in their institution. Representatives from the administration including Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo told us about the many achievements of the executive branch in backing Israel.

Opposition to the current government of Israel was not ignored. Benny Gantz, the leading candidate to replace Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister in the recent election, spoke to the main session. He explained his views on Israel’s current problems and made the case as to why he is the best person to address them. The audience responded with many loud standing ovations. Mr. Netanyahu’s campaign included in the creation of Israel. Current threats to the country’s existence were described. Some of the many achievements were illustrated including the upcoming landing of an Israeli explorer on the surface of the moon. Members of Congress, including the leaders of the House and Senate, spoke emphatically about the support for Israel that is maintained in a bipartisan fashion in their institution. Representatives from the administration including Vice President Pence and Secretary of State Pompeo told us about the many achievements of the executive branch in backing Israel.

I came back from this year’s AIPAC Policy conference more convinced than ever that a strong American-Israeli relationship is essential and that AIPAC provides an effective way for citizens like me to contribute to sustaining that relationship. Alyson Grossman Trau: I had the pleasure of attending my third policy conference in DC March 23-26, and this conference was the best yet. The engagement started on my plane ride to DC, where I met a Christian ally student leader from my alma mater – the University of South Carolina. She spoke about her passion for Israel, as well as her involvement working to identify and combat BDS on campus. Once in DC, the energy at the Walter F. Washington Convention Center was palpable. Four thousand students joined us at this conference, including campus leaders from historically black colleges and universities, college Democrats, and college Republicans. We also had lots of new folks in the Charlotte area delegation, and it brought me great joy to see their excitement and engagement.

During policy conference, we enjoy large general sessions, as well as smaller breakout sessions. AIPAC’s bi-partisan message is strong, as evidenced by pro-Israel messages from both Democrat and Republican Congressional leaders. General session highlights for me included combat veterans Sen. McSally (R-AZ) and Sen. Duckworth (D-IL), sharing the stage to discuss their commitment to the strong American-Israeli relationship. Nikki Haley is always a crowd favorite, and she received a rock star reception. NASA Administrator Bridenstine and the SpaceIL leaders discussed the recent launch of an Israeli spacecraft toward the moon for the country’s first attempted lunar landing. IsraAid spoke about the work they did in Puerto Rico after the hurricane, and the humanitarian aid they provide every day, all over the world. My favorite breakout sessions were about Lawfare (use of the law as a weapon of war) and Israel, and hearing from Amanda Berman, founder of Zioness (formerly with The Lawfare Project). Policy conference concludes with a day of lobbying our elected officials. We had productive meetings with Rep. Virginia Foxx, Rep. Patrick McHenry, Rep. Alma Adams, Sen. Thom Tillis, and Sen. Richard Burr. Lobbying our elected leaders on issues related to the Israel/America relationship is a quintessential opportunity. I am thankful that AIPAC provides this amazing opportunity.
Shalom Park Welcomes Senior Living

More than 200 people gathered in the Sam Lerner Center for Culture Arts at Shalom Park on March 25 to learn about the vision of a senior living community at Shalom Park and the details behind the zoning petition recently filed to enable the project. Since the creation of the park in the late 1970s, Charlotte’s Jewish leadership has dreamed of creating a senior living community that takes full advantage of all of the services and activities on the existing 56-acre campus.

“Senior housing was discussed in the very early stages of Shalom Park’s history, well before ground-breaking, but it never came to fruition,” said Eric Sklut, community leader and philanthropist. “It now appears the stars are aligned, and Shalom Park will have services and facilities available for all ages – everything from infants to elders. A dream fulfilled!”

Project History

Several years ago, Temple Israel’s leadership began exploring ways to sell properties previously acquired adjacent to its property along Providence and Jefferson streets. They were determined to do this in a way that would enhance Jewish life at Shalom Park and were drawn to the idea of adding senior housing to the Shalom Park campus. “Judaism commands us to show respect and honor to the elderly, so using the Temple-owned property to develop a senior living community seemed a perfect use for the land,” said David Rosenthal, President of Temple Israel. “We knew from the outset, though, that we needed to find a partner with operational expertise to make it happen.”

To that end, Temple Israel, along with the leadership of many of Charlotte’s Jewish institutions, began the search for a partner with the expertise to design, finance, construct, and operate a senior living community that would specifically meet the needs of Jewish seniors.

“Bringing on a partner wasn’t undertaken lightly,” said Barry Bobrow, president of the Foundation of Shalom Park. “Our goal was to ensure the best possible outcome while minimizing the financial burden and risks to the Jewish community.” He added, “With Aldersgate we found the perfect combination of skills and commitment to meet our needs. The Aldersgate team has significant expertise in developing and operating a full continuum of senior living community, and their recent expansion at their main location has showcased their ability to finance and build high-quality independent-living residences.”

Discussions with Aldersgate Life Plan Services began in 2016. Since that time members of Charlotte’s Jewish community have worked alongside representatives from Aldersgate to design a residential community that will meet the needs of Jewish seniors. The planning efforts culminated with the signing of a letter of intent (LOI) in January of this year, which addressed ways in which the senior community would be fully integrated into the programming and infrastructure of all of the agencies on campus.

“The senior living project will be a wonderful addition to Shalom Park. It will create opportunities for greater social and physical interaction for the senior residents and enhance the long-term sustainability of Shalom Park through infrastructure and building improvements and financial participation in the development and security of the Park,” said Terri Beattie, Executive Director for the Foundation of Shalom Park.

“We’re honored to be Shalom Park’s partner,” said Suzanne Pugh, Aldersgate’s CEO. “We are a not for profit senior living operator and have been in Charlotte for over 70 years. We pledge to support the Jewish community in every way we can in creating a community that honors Jewish faith traditions and upholds the dignity of all people. We have developed similar residential units on our campus over the past few years and while the process takes time, we are highly confident in our ability to achieve success.”

Community Design

The Temple Israel properties, when combined with land sold by the Foundation of Shalom Park, will permit the new senior community to occupy more than 11 acres, with a design that is fully integrated into Shalom Park. Plans include 120 plus independent living units in a series of five residential buildings. There will be a smaller number of assisted living and memory care units, and a community center for administrative offices and food service. Because of the operational and licensing issues involved in operating a skilled nursing facility, the Shalom Park community will take full advantage of existing services available at Aldersgate’s main campus, on Shamrock Drive, in Charlotte.

Next Steps

The recently filed zoning application to the City of Charlotte is an early step in the process. Once that is accomplished later this year potential residents will have the opportunity to view detailed plans and express their interest in living in the community. Construction will begin when sufficient interest is received. Occupancy is currently anticipated to begin in 2023.

“We couldn’t be more excited to be in sight of the development of a senior living community at Shalom Park,” said Bobrow. “While there is much work to be done, completing this project is critical to the original vision of Shalom Park.

If anyone has questions or comments regarding the community, they should contact the Foundation of Shalom Park at SPSL@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-554-2022. The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Moishe House, Hebrew Cemetery Association, B’nai Brith Youth Organization, and The Charlotte Jewish News.

Help Us Kvell!

Do you know a Jewish teen who has shown Jewish pride through his or her actions? Share your story with us!

The Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award was created in the Spring of 2012 to honor the memory of our beloved alum, Zachary Shporer, who attended the Charlotte Jewish Day School from kindergarten through eighth grade. While Zachary possessed many amazing attributes, the one that sticks out most in many of our minds is his Jewish pride.

Zachary incorporated Jewish values into every aspect of his life. He did not necessarily choose easy mitzvot or popular mitzvot. He didn’t call attention to himself. But he carried the Torah in his heart and acted according to its teachings.

At CJDS, we want to continue Zachary’s legacy by celebrating and recognizing Jewish pride among our students. While Zachary’s story is undoubtedly unique, we are confident that there are other teens in our area who embody the values he demonstrated.

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Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award*  
Nomination Form (please print clearly)

*All Charlotte, NC area Jewish teens are eligible. Nominee does not need to be a CJDS student or alumnus to participate.

Nominee’s Name __________  
Nominee’s Contact Phone  
Nominee’s Email  
Nominee’s Mailing Address  
Person submitting the Nomination  
Nominator’s Contact Phone  
Email  

Zachary incorporated Jewish values into every aspect of his life. He did not necessarily choose easy mitzvot or popular mitzvot. He didn’t call attention to himself. But he carried the Torah in his heart and acted according to its teachings. He demonstrated Jewish pride. Feel free to attach supporting documentation as a way to illustrate your discussion. Please note, because supporting documentation may not be included, only copies should be submitted.
What Refugee Resettlement Looks Like and Why We as Jews Should Care

By Amy Lefkof

The Social Club of Temple Israel, co-chaired by Ruth Goldberg and Irving Bienstock, invited Marsha Hirsch, Director of Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (CRRA), a HIAS affiliate, to speak at its March 24 luncheon.

Hirsch’s overview of refugee resettlement began by defining refugees as persons forced to flee their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

There are nearly 25.4 million refugees worldwide and refugees must find a way to a UN facility (camp) or an urban area where they have to register and be recognized as a refugee by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Whereas in previous years, the number of refugees resettled in Charlotte was between 500-750, from nations as diverse as Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, and Iraq, the number has been cut back dramatically, with the current administration’s Presidential Determination (the maximum number of refugees that can be resettled in the US during 2019) set at only 30,000 — a much reduced ceiling from 75,000 during the Obama administration.

The vetting procedure which can take between 1½ to 2 years is conducted by the Department of State and involves various US national security agencies. And even then it is not easy to get to the United States. As Hirsch said, “One client just got off the plane [in 2019], and that refugee had applied in 2000.”

Once refugee status is granted and the refugee arrives in Charlotte, the refugee is entitled to certain benefits that CRRA provides: cultural orientation, an apartment, a checklist of items to be in the apartment, a case manager, staff to bring them to social service agencies for temporary assistance, and help with finding work within 90 days.

Hirsch spoke of the fortitude of refugee families, and how at the five-year mark they are ready to apply for citizenship. CRRA provides citizenship classes and help with filling out those documents. Hirsch concluded on this upbeat note: “These families are then moving forward, not as refugees but as citizens.”

Bienstock, a Holocaust survivor, explained to the forty members in attendance that refugee resettlement should be important to all of them because HIAS helped many Jewish families resettle in the United States. His own personal refugee story makes Bienstock compassionate towards today’s refugees: “The person that helped me was a Dutch woman by the name of Gertrude Wijsmuller, of blessed memory, who was not Jewish but saved thousands of Jewish children. I, today, feel for these refugees, who have been vetted by the United States and are now being helped by HIAS to resettle in the Charlotte area. I know how they feel.”

DRUMSTRONG 2019 “Lucky 13” Anniversary - May 18 - Drumming to Beat Cancer

Free For All
Drum, yoga, foodtrucks, Drum, kidzone, health resources, Drum, hammock garden, aerial silks, Drum, survivorship support, parade, non-stop Drum Circle, Drum!
Join us at our fun, uplifting anniversary - May 18 - Drumming to beat cancer. In the beautiful pastures of Misty Meadows Farm, 455 Providence Rd. S. and Ennis Rd, Wendington, NC 28173; Saturday, May 18 10:30 AM-6 PM, rain or shine (We have big tents!).
We are joined by over 70 cities in 27 countries holding DRUMSTRONG events to support their communities. Volunteers please contact scott@drumstrong.org.

Volunteers please contact scott@drumstrong.org.

For information on how to volunteer locally with refugees, or make donations, please contact Amy Lefkof, chair of the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, afleko@carolina.rr.com.

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The Leon Levine Foundation Awards Camp Judaea $500,000 To Support New Arts Center

The Leon Levine Foundation (TLFF) has awarded $500,000 to Camp Judaea (CJ) to support the building of a new Arts Center. The new center will be named the Leon Levine Arts Center. It will replace the current arts space which CJ has outgrown. “Camp Judaea is honored to receive this support from The Leon Levine Foundation. The foundation’s generous grant will enable CJ to realize its dreams of building a first class dedicated Arts Center. Our arts program continues to gain popularity each year and having this amazing facility will benefit generations of campers,” said Camp Judaea Board Chair Sam Levy.

When asked about the Foundation’s decision to make this gift, Tom Lawrence, executive director of TLFF, remarked: “We’re honored to partner with Camp Judaea by investing in the new Arts Center, and, ultimately, future Jewish communities. We see this Arts Center as a safe place for young people to have meaningful Jewish experiences that will shape the expression of their faith for years to come.”

In 2013, Camp Judaea began the process of revitalizing the omamut (arts and crafts) program. The decision to focus on improving this program not only came from the desire to enhance the Judaica component of the camp’s mission, but also to meet the creative development needs of campers who are not receiving extensive arts education in schools due to underfunding or budget cuts. As the curriculum developed in sophistication and the numbers of campers increased, it became apparent that CJ’s current program space could no longer meet the camp’s needs. In summer 2019, Camp Judaea will debut the new Leon Levine Arts Center. The center will triple the size of the camp’s current arts space and expand program offerings. Plans include a woodshop, ceramics studio, general arts and craft space, and a general open studio.

About The Leon Levine Foundation

Started by Leon Levine – the founder of the first Family Dollar Store in Charlotte, N.C. – in 1980, The Leon Levine Foundation’s mission is to improve the human condition by creating permanent, demonstrable, and life-changing impact throughout the Carolinas. The organization invests in non-profits with strong leadership, a successful track record, and a focus on sustainability in the areas of health care, education, and social services. For more information, please visit www.leonlevinefoundation.org.

The Mental Health Initiative
Helping To Break the Stigma Surrounding Mental Health

Over the past eighteen months, through the work of the Mental Health Initiative, our community has been exposed to a diversity of facts, programs and marketing messages regarding the impact mental health has on our day-to-day lives. In recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, it would seem wise to highlight some of the more significant issues affecting our emotional well-being.

* 1 in 5 adults in the United States live with a mental health condition.
* 60 million people in the United States face the day-to-day reality of living with a mental illness.
* Half of all lifetime mental health conditions begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24, but early intervention programs can help. Yet only 50.6% of children with a mental health condition aged 8-15 receive mental health services.
* 90% of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, but suicide is preventable.
* In North Carolina, suicide rates for youth 10-17 have doubled in the last 10 years and is now the 2nd leading cause of death for that age group, second only to auto accidents.
* The best treatments for serious mental illnesses today are highly effective; between 70 and 90% of individuals have significant reduction of symptoms and improved quality of life with the right treatments and supports.
* 56% of American adults with a mental illness do not receive treatment.

With the prevalence of mental health issues growing so significantly, the reality is that almost everyone in today’s society is impacted by knowing someone; a family member, friend, co-worker or neighbor who is struggling with a mental health issue. Why is it that mental health is affected by number one on our list – the “stigma” of seeking mental health counseling? For so many, there is still the long-term belief that seeking treatment for a mental health issue is a weakness. If as individuals we acknowledge that mental health is affected by our lives; and if as a friend or loved one we recognize that accessing treatment can help those that we care about; then as a community it is critical that we collectively work to change the culture of how we perceive mental health. Just as we don’t think twice about seeking treatment for diabetes or taking medication for high blood pressure or getting physical therapy for a torn knee, so should we just as easily seek treatment for depression, anxiety, or any other issue that is impacting our emotional and well-being.

As we look to raise awareness regarding Mental Health let us all promote good emotional health and recognize that accessing treatment is a strength, not a weakness. Personally, take the step to reach out to a family member, friend or co-worker that is struggling. Talk to them, encourage them to seek the treatment they need and support them in taking a positive step towards healing an emotional wound.

If you are interested in helping to break the stigma around Mental Health or you want to learn more about accessing treatment, contact Jewish Family Services at 704-319-5700.
Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop Held at Shalom Park

Given today’s ever-changing threat environment, preparing for and training employees to cope with workplace violence is a key piece of an organization’s incident response planning. A Unique Training Opportunity Foundation of Shalom Park and the National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Infrastructure Protection, within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), hosted a one-day Security Workshop at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts to enhance awareness of and response to an active shooter event. On March 12, over 150 security leaders representing companies, religious and educational institutions, and first responder organizations throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg County were in attendance. Senior leaders from the Foundation of Shalom Park, the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, the Charlotte Jewish Day School, and the Levine Jewish Community Center were also present.

DHS, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Emergency Management Center educated the participants on the history of active shooter events and described common behavior, conditions, and situations associated with active shooters. They fostered communication between critical infrastructure owners and operators and local emergency response teams.

Building Emergency Planning Capabilities

The event also described how to incorporate key elements of successful incident management into planning efforts including:

- Communication and incident planning for employees;
- Emergency action plan development;
- Recognizing behavioral indicators; and
- Coordinating with first responders.

The planning process focused on the core planning components of recognition, prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Crisis Management Training – Shalom Park Leadership

Continuing with the theme of training and preparedness, the senior leadership of all Shalom Park agencies and Temples participated in four hours of training with the goal of creating a standard approach for handling critical incidents.

The training was led by Threat Suppression, Inc., an international leader in public safety training. The course looked at lessons learned during major critical incidents and explored how to use these lessons as a platform for critical event planning and mitigation at Shalom Park.

Dedicated to Promote Proactive Strategies for Emergency Preparedness

The Shalom Park agency executives are dedicated to promoting proactive strategies to improve emergency preparedness of all kinds – from an active assailant situation to addressing weather and utility events. Our drive is to make a difference and continue to lead in the evolution of emergency preparedness and response tactics. At our core, the Foundation of Shalom Park wants to provide training to empower everyone to make safe and life-saving decisions. Safety is everyone’s job.

The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations that are located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Temple Israel Religious School, Temple Beth El Religious School, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Center for Jewish Education, Moishe House, Hebrew Cemetery Association, B’nai Brith Youth Organization, and The Charlotte Jewish News.

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- David Swimmer

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Memorial Day Hours / Monday, May 27th
Building: 7am–7pm • Indoor Pool: 7am–6:45pm • Main/Bubble Pools: 10am–6:45pm

JCHILDCARE.
7 weeks – 7 years old
Children will enjoy a nurturing environment to explore and have fun with crafts and activities, while parents workout.
Mon-Fri AM....................8am-1pm
Mon-Thu PM ..............4pm-7:30pm
Saturday .....................12pm-3pm
Sunday ....................8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/$4.50     NM/$5.50
Grades K-5th
A great, supervised space for your elementary age child to have fun and hang out with friends, while you workout!
Sundays, 8:30am–1pm
Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service
M/$2/hour
NM/$5.50 per hour
Reservations Required! 704-366-5007, or visit LJCC Customer Service.

2019 SUMMER TENNIS CLINICS & CAMPS
Cardio Tennis (18+) A great way to get the blood pumping! An energetic workout complete with basic tennis skills and medium to high impact cardio training.
Wednesdays, 6-7pm June 12–August 14 (all ages 17/3) Fridays, 9-10am June 14–August 16 (all ages 18+)
M5159 $5/13 NM/$29 (9 wks)

Men’s Drill (18+)
Open to 3.0 – 4.0 USTA
A drill and play session with the Pros.
Emphasis on point play, drills, and match strategies.
Wednesdays, 6-7pm June 12–August 14 (all ages 18+)
M5189 $5/13 NM/$29 (9 wks)

Junior CRUSH Tennis Camps
Ages 6–16
Weekley Sessions, Fall or Fall/Day Camps
Contact Coach Greg for Daily Options.
June 10–August 16
Camp registration is open!
For pricing and details to download the complete forms packet, please visit charlottejcc.org/tennis

Private/Semi-Private Tennis Lessons
Special Packages available.
Now pricing and details at charlottejcc.org or contact LJCC Customer Service at 704-366-5007

Questions? Greg O’Connor • 704-944-6748 • gregory.oconnor@charlottejcc.org

JCHATS.
A SERIES OF ENGAGING COMMUNITY EVENTS & CONVERSATIONS
Author Avi Jorisch

Author Avi Jorisch profiles 15 wondrous Israeli innovations that are changing the lives of billions of people around the globe. Jorisch will explain the Israeli revolutionaries that helped solve some of the world’s biggest problems and why this movement is a shining light in the face of darkness.

Avi Jorisch is a seasoned entrepreneur and Middle East expert, Senior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC), member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Wednesday, May 22nd
7–9:30pm
Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park
$18 Donation includes a signed copy of Thou Shalt Innovate: How Israeli Ingenuity Repairs the World

JUNIOR CRUSH

J-TENNIS. J-STEPS. JDAD. JMENSCH. JFIT. JTOTS. JSWIM. JSTAGE. JRUN.
Early Childhood
3.5–5-year olds
6 Weeks of cool summer afternoon classes for active, curious preschoolers! Classes take place in the Camp Katan Building.

“Groove Shoez”
Kids will dance, make music, move, and groove with Ms. Lo.
Tuesdays, 1:15–2pm
June 18–July 23
6-week session:
M/$90 B/$60 NM/$108
Creative Art
Have fun while creating masterpieces. Kids will explore their creative side with art and crafts in different mediums.
Wednesdays, 1:15–2pm
June 19–July 24
6-week session:
M/$90 B/$60 NM/$108
Cooking Club
Our little chefs will learn about cooking by watching, feeling, smelling and tasting. Each class is themed and packed with learning, creating, tasting and fun! Kids will be making recipes that are fun to make and yummy to eat.
Thursdays, 1:15–2pm
June 20–July 25 (No Class 7/4)
5-week session:
M/$75 B/$50 NM/$90

K–6th
Fencing
7 years - Adult
Students will learn the skill of attacking and defending with either the foil, epee or sabre. After developing a general understanding of these movements, students will learn a series of fencing drills and open fencing with other students. The final stage is tactics and strategy for competitive situations.
All equipment will be provided and included in the class fee. Equipment is also available for purchase. Instructor: Daniel Makogon A2018 Rating
June 4– June 26
July 2–July 31
August 6– August 28
Choose one OR two days per week
A) Tuesday, 6:30pm–7:30pm (All levels)
B) Wednesday, 6:30pm–7:30pm All levels
Camp Mindy Rec Hall
Price per month: 1 class per week
M/$80 B/$48 NM/$100
Price per month: 2 classes per week
M/$140 B/$94 NM/$155

Summer Taekwondo
K – 6th grade
Teaches blocks, hand strikes, kicking, forms, self-defense, sparring combos, footwork and board breaking. Students will also practice discipline, focus, goal-setting, respect, positive attitude, honesty, teamwork and perseverance. Uniform and Belt testing fees are separate. Master Alyssa Watson.
Tuesdays, 4:15–5:00pm
June 18 – July 30
Upstairs Aerobics Studio
M/$115 B/$70 NM/$140
6 Weeks of cool summer afternoon classes

Teens
Summer Employment Opportunities
• Lifeguards
Competitive pay, flexible schedule, paid lunch, great working environment. The LJCC offers American Red Cross® Lifeguard Training Courses and job placement after completion.
704-944-6476 or joshua.steinberger@charlottejcc.org
• Summer Camp Counselors
Fun filled environment and membership privileges
Preschool through Teen Camp counselor positions available.
Half Day • 8:30am-1:30pm or Full Day • 8:30am-4:30pm
704-944-6739 or mark.didonato@charlottejcc.org

Adults
Oasis Book Club
May’s Book: The Nest, by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney
Friday, May 24, 1–2pm
Free

Art with Parkinson’s
Spend time with others who have Parkinson’s disease, and immerse yourself in art to help you relax. We will use a variety of mediums of art, and you should experience emotional, physical, and social benefits. The act of creating art can reduce tremors, freezing, isolation, depression, and anxiety.
Instructor: Eileen Schwartz, BFA, MAE, CDP
Fridays in May (May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31) 2:30–3:45pm
Weinberg Senior Center
Monthly Fee: M/$65 B/$55 NM/$80
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.
704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@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

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

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

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A Jew, A Muslim, A Seventh Day Adventist, and An Atheist Walk into Shabbat Dinner

“My time at Queens has been very special to me. Thanks to being active in Hillel, I feel more connected to the Jewish Community of Charlotte and the larger Global Jewish Community. I hope to take what I have learned in my time at Queens and in Hillel to continue being active in Jewish Life and the Jewish Community.”

– Noah Goldman, Queens Class of 2019

On March 22, Hillel at Queens hosted an interfaith Shabbat. Over 30 students, faculty, and staff attended. The students organized every aspect of the event from the food to the program. The evening included student speakers from the Muslim faith, the Hindu Center, and an amazing graduate), an off-campus trip to the many reasons I don’t want to be proud to have here and one of community, and the atheist community.

Hillel President Noah Goldman welcomed the group with words of ancient days, the rabbis challenged to be co creators of a radically new world. They explore the silencing of women in traditional Judaism that can help encourage ongoing discourse.

“There is a concept in Judaism called ‘Kavod HaBriyot’ which calls for respecting the humanity of our fellow human beings. Even in the intense rabbinical debates of ancient days, the rabbis challenged, not ideas.

“These debates put every idea to the test and yet, in defending complex ideas, personal attacks were not permitted. Even ideas that were widely unaccepted, were recorded for history to be the eternal judge of their value.

“We should remember, like the rabbis, that there is more to someone than their worldview. They have favorite hobbies, foods, goals, dreams, and so much more. We need to humanize those who challenge us because ultimately, they make us better human beings. Their ideas make us think better, see the world more critically, and demand growth.

“Even when I strongly disagree with others, I remind myself that there is more to my friends than their opinions. There is more to them than their religion. I know that our friendship doesn’t have to be consumed by difficult dialogue. There’s more to us than controversy.

“That is where the beauty of Shabbat enters. We welcome a time to rest, try to ground ourselves and silence the outside noise. What better way to find humanity in each other than in falafel and hummus? I try to take Shabbat as a time to quiet the politics, the debates, the tweets, and focus on this radical concept called rest. Rest and dialogue, two things we could do better at.

“Believe me, it is worth taking a day to rest. Try it. Stay off social media. Stay away from the news. Eat food with friends. Just for 25 hours. The universal theme of Shabbat, whether you are in the US, Argentina, Israel, or anywhere else is to spend time with family and friends, your neighbor, and the stranger in your land. “So, for the rest of the day and tomorrow, relax with your neighbor and the stranger. Welcome them into your home. Discuss each other’s lives together, what makes you happy, and what things you enjoy. Save the work – being difficult dialogue – for the weekdays. Interfaith is more than just dialogue. For me, the biggest and best part of interfaith is enjoying food together and reaffirming each other’s humanity.

“Let there be peace in our communities and between our communities.”

For more information on Queens University of Charlotte, please contact Talli Dippold, dippold@queens.edu or visit www.queens.edu/queenscenter.org.

(Noah Goldman will be graduating from Queens University of Charlotte in May. He was actively engaged and on the Hillel Board during his entire tenure at Queens. He was as Hillel President over the past two years. Noah is the recipient of the Gasser Jewish Leadership Scholarship and Rabbi Judy Schindler and Talli Dippold (his Hillel “moms”) have no doubt that he will go on to do incredible things.)

Cirque Du Purim 2019

Over 75 young Jewish professionals joined together to celebrate Purim with Chabad Young Professionals. The event was sponsored in part by Sazerac Company Inc.

Stay tuned for more events at theuptownchabad.com

Hadassah Directory

(Continued from page 5)

ensure that you are listed in the directory is to submit your information on our website. Thank you and we look forward to a wonderful new year in Hadassah Charlotte.

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

BECOME A PART OF YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY TODAY

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2019-2020 CHARLOTTE JEWISH COMMUNITY DIRECTORY, GO TO www.hadassah.org/charlotte

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Stay tuned for more events at theuptownchabad.com
Tuesday, May 7
YOM HAZIKARON
Israel Memorial Day
6:30 PM, Memorial Ceremony
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

Sunday, May 19
YOM HA’ATZMAUT FESTIVAL
Israel Independence Day
Shalom Park
12:00 - 3:00 PM
Israeli food, music, children’s activities, crafts and more.....

For more information visit www.jewishcharlotte.org or call 704.944.6757
Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Reduce Your Environmental Footprint

The planet is warming, and our climate is changing. Since 1906, the global average surface temperature has increased by more than 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius) – even more in sensitive polar regions. The effects of global warming are appearing right now; the heat is melting glaciers and sea ice, raising sea levels, shifting precipitation patterns, and setting animals on the move.

In Jewish law, it is forbidden to waste a resource if one can find a way of accomplishing the task without any waste. All the more so, it is forbidden to waste a resource for no reason whatsoever. We all have the power to make a difference and to address climate change, by doing just a few small things differently in our daily lives. Just in time for summer, we’d like to share some quick tips about how you can reduce your personal environmental footprint by reducing your impacts related to travel.

Reduce Your Environmental Footprint While Traveling

Travel is an amazing way to learn about other people and other cultures; however, travel also can have significant environmental effects. Use these tips to minimize the impact of your travel, while still having a great time on your trip.

Before You Leave Home

* Unplug all of your electronics. Items that are still plugged in draw power from outlets even when they are not turned on.
* Make sure your thermostat is set to low. Since no one will be home, there is no need for air conditioning or heating.

During Your Trip

* Bring a reusable water bottle and a reusable coffee mug. If you are flying, you can fill them up once you’ve gone through airport security. This will eliminate the need to buy disposable water bottles and coffee cups while traveling.
* Use public transportation. It is a great way to learn about a city and its culture.
* Rent a hybrid or electric vehicle while you’re on vacation.
* Try a Bike Share Program. All around the globe, cities have implemented bike share systems. This is a great way to get around in a new place while getting some exercise.
* Purchase carbon offsets. The purchase of carbon offsets from a company such as Terrapass (www.terrapass.com) will go towards projects benefiting the environment, like landfill gas capture and wind power. You can also calculate your personal travel carbon footprint at Sustainable Travel International (www.sustainabletravel.org).
* Eat locally sourced food. Just like using public transportation, this is also a great way to more deeply engage in the local culture.

* Bring a reusable shopping bag so that you don’t need to use single-use plastic or paper bags.
* Locate recycling bins so you can recycle materials such as newspapers, bottles, and cans.
* Select a green hotel. As you choose a hotel, consider those that have environmental programs. TripAdvisor has a Green Leaders program that ranks leading hotels for their green practices (www.tripadvisor.com/GreenLeaders). Just look for the TripAdvisor GreenLeaders badge on the hotel’s listing page and click to see the property’s green practices.
* Book an eco-trip. There are a variety of vacations and conservation service trips available.

Hopefully we have shared some tips here that you can use every day to reduce your personal environmental footprint. Please

Book an eco-trip. There are a variety of vacations and conservation service trips available.

(Continued on page 26)
Rabbi Smookler and The Ruach Already Preparing for 5780 High Holy Day Experiences

It is only May, but Rabbi Rachel Smookler and The Ruach are hard at work putting together this year’s Rosh Hashanah Experiences which will happen at The Fillmore at the NC Music Factory in Charlotte on Monday morning, September 30. “We are incredibly excited to be at The Fillmore for Rosh Hashanah. The venue has between 700 and 750 chairs so there should be no problem with anyone getting a seat,” says Dan Ruda, bassist and backup vocalist for The Ruach. “The sound system is incredible so everyone will be able to hear, and . . . there is plenty of parking.”

And, for the first time, there will be The Kol Nidre Experience. It will be held Tuesday evening, October 8 at the Queens University Sports Complex and Conference Center on Tyvola Road. Both High Holy Day Experiences are free and open to everyone. They are supported solely by donations and, Rabbi Smookler and The Ruach band members all give of their time and talents and receive no compensation.

The High Holy Day Experiences are an alternative to traditional services and provide a unique, modern approach to observance of the Jewish New Year. Last year, the band was joined by finest jazz and gospel singers, and her two daughters. So, what should folks expect this year? “Expect the unexpected,” says Rabbi Smookler.

The Experiences combine modern Jewish music with familiar elements from traditional Reform and Conservative High Holy Day services to provide an uplifting, engaging, and truly meaningful spiritual experience. “The Rosh Hashanah Experience was a breath of fresh air that brought a new dimension to celebrating the High Holy Days,” said Milton Silver who attended last year’s Rosh Hashanah Experience with his wife, Karen.

Last year The Rosh Hashanah Experience brought together about 450 people of all ages to celebrate the Jewish New Year. “Even though there were a lot of people there, the Experience felt warm and friendly. Our family felt like participants, not just observers – the energy was palpable,” remarked Mary Damstetter. “My husband and I loved it. And I was amazed how into it my eight-year-old daughter was. The Experience engaged our spirits, minds, and bodies. It is so wonderful to have this alternative opportunity to observe our High Holy Days.”

Alyson Traw agrees. “Watching my children connect with our Jewish culture and faith through song and dance is magical. We are so blessed to have Rabbi Smookler and The Ruach provide a soulful, approachable way to experience Judaism. We look forward to starting the New Year by opening our hearts, minds, and souls to renewal through Jewish music. The music of The Ruach touches my soul, and opens my eyes to a whole new way of experiencing Judaism.”

Linda Green, lives in Durham, grew up Jewish and was involved with synagogue most of her adult life until a few years ago. Once her children were adults and living on their own, she stopped going to temple. When she heard about the Rosh Hashanah Experience, she decided to drive to Charlotte seeking to reconnect with her roots. “For the first time in more years than I can recall, I had the true heartfelt experience of connecting and celebrating Rosh Hashanah,” she said after being at last year’s Rosh Hashanah Experience. “It was life changing. I was moved by the music, the service, the sermon, the people . . . every aspect of The Experience.”

“When I walked through the doors of the Infinity Ballroom last year, I was awed by the level of engagement and excitement that permeated the room,” says Jason Boschan. “I’m looking forward (Continued on page 26)

First Jewish Justice Installed in NC Supreme Court

Justice Mark Davis has been formally invested as associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina during a swearing-in ceremony in the Supreme Court courtroom on Wednesday, April 3. Dignitaries attending the ceremony included Governor Roy Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein, former chief and associate justices, and representatives from all three branches of state government.

Justice Davis grew up in Jacksonville, NC, with his two siblings. “It was such a small Jewish community that we had a circuit-riding rabbi who visited only occasionally,” he reminisced. “After that our family moved to Fayetteville where we did have a full-time rabbi.”

Justice Davis was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 2012 and was elected to a full eight-year term in 2014. He served as a Special Deputy Attorney General in the North Carolina Department of Justice for five years. He spent thirteen years as an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, where he was a member of the firm in the Litigation Section. He also served as General Counsel in the Office of the Governor for approximately two years.

Justice Davis received his law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2018, he received a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Judicial Studies from the Duke University School of Law.

His Jewish education guided him on the strict requirements of impartiality. “I learned broad principles of judging from the Talmud and the Torah. My faith has a nice dovetailing effect.”

One of his siblings is Bob Davis, who is a member of Temple Beth El in Charlotte. “This is such a proud time for our family. Seeing my brother sworn in as the first Jewish justice on the NC Supreme Court couldn’t make me happier. We all feel very fortunate to have seen this momentous event,” he concluded.©
Moishe House News

MoHo NoDa is keeping the fun rolling with another slew of events for the Charlotte young Jewish professional community. We took in a movie with friends at the house, and we also went to a yoga class with members of our community. We hosted a pizza, wine, and social learning event at the house, and Rabbi Motti Groner of Chabad Young Professionals of Charlotte was kind enough to bring kosher pizzas and lead a short learning session on some pre-Passover topics. We supported Moishe House Charlotte as they hosted their last event and helped them “pass the torch” to the MoHo NoDa house in a meaningful havdallah. We are looking forward to volunteering at the Little Sugar Creek community garden and hosting our own “Sustainability Shabbat” dinner which we hope will provide an opportunity for our community to reflect on the food we eat and the energy we use. Take a look at some of the photos of our recent events.

Thank You

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

Anonymous* (4) Wilma and Gerson Asrael Judy and Stan August Michelle and Harvey Barer Gail and John Baron Michael and Meredith Baumstein Sanford and Lois Benjamin Philip M. Berman Brian and Glenda Bernhardt Andrew and Elka Bernstein Peter Blair Justin Bregman and Diana Warth Bregman Suly and Richard Chenkin Jena Coen David Cohen Andrea and George Cronson Gone and Deedee Daumit Andrea and Jeremy Davids David and Aleen Epstein

To learn how you can create your own Jewish legacy, contact Phil Warshauer (704) 973-4544 or Nancy Kipnis (704) 973-4554.

Footprint

(Continued from page 24)

share any ideas you may have to reduce environmental impacts, or ideas for future articles, with Shalom Green by emailing us at info@shalomgreenCLT.org. If you are interested in learning more about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenclt.org. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT.

(Continued from page 25)

to being at both High Holy Day Experiences this year with my fiancé. I can only imagine how fantastic the service will be at the Fillmore."

This year, don’t just celebrate the High Holy Days … experience them. The Ruach is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through music. To get updates about The High Holiday Experiences and become part of The Ruach Community, email The Ruach and get on the band’s information and invitation list: the.ruach.band@gmail.com. Also, you can follow The Ruach on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

“The heart is glad, the feet are ready to dance.”

– Folk Saying
JScreen Can Test for Jewish Genetic Disorders

By Hillary Kener Regelman

Rabbi Asher Knight of Charlotte’s Temple Beth El states that “we need to increase awareness about Jewish genetic disorders” - and he could not be more spot on. Most Jews of childbearing age have not considered genetic screening, but it’s not because they opted out, but rather because they have no idea that it’s available to them. For those of you who were getting married in the 1970s and 1980s, you are probably familiar with Tay-Sachs disease because of a Jewish community initiative across the country promoting screening for this devastating disease. Fast forward to 2019, a revamped version of this program is changing the way millennials can access genetic carrier screening.

The modern day public health initiative bringing this matter to the forefront is JScreen, a national non-profit genetic screening initiative that uses the innovative technology of DNA sequencing and lets people complete testing from the comfort of their homes. JScreen tests for over 200 different genetic diseases, including those that are common amongst people of Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi Jewish ancestry and others that are common in the general population. Science has come a long way since just screening for Tay-Sachs disease, making testing appropriate for all couples, including interfaith.

This testing informs you about whether you are a healthy carrier of a genetic disease, meaning that you aren’t affected by the disease and do not have symptoms, but have the capacity to have a child with the disease if your partner is also a carrier. It’s quite common to be a carrier, in fact, 2 in 3 Jews tests positive as a carrier for at least one of the diseases on the JScreen panel. Rabbi Knight goes on to say, “that means that many healthy individuals are unaware of the risks of passing disorders to their children. While discussing this may feel scary, the truth is that screening empowers people to be proactive in family planning and can prevent potentially heart-wrenching decisions and painful experiences.”

Whether you are single, dating, or married, genetic screening is important for every member of our community who plans to have children in the future. Rebecca Weiner is engaged to be married and says, “It’s imperative that the Charlotte Jewish community have access to JScreen and the services they provide. The more you know and can prepare for with your partner, the better future you will be able to provide for your future children.”

It’s estimated that 80% of children with a serious genetic disease are born to parents with no known family history for the disease, making JScreen important for anyone planning to start or grow their family. It’s important to point out that the majority of couples receive reassuring results from JScreen’s certified genetic counselors. For those that are at increased risk, there are many available options, such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF) with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), to help them plan ahead for healthy children. Weiner adds, “getting tested with JScreen gives you the information you need to make informed decisions.”

JScreen is an essential resource for the Charlotte Jewish community and is dedicated to informing and empowering those that are considering starting a family. Do your part and spread the word to your family and friends - you’ll be giving them the best gift of all.

To learn more about JScreen or to request a screening kit visit www.JScreen.org.
REMEMBER THE DAYS: SPLASH INTO SHABBAT
Friday, June 21
During the summer months, all pre-school families are welcome to SPLASH INTO SHABBAT with Torah Tots, at the LICC Pool/Splash Park! There will be open play, songs, and a Shabbat service, capped off with a delicious kid-friendly meal. RSVP at templeisraelnc.org by Monday, May 13.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE & ONEG
Sunday, May 19 (10:45 a.m.)
Join us as we celebrate our Confirmation class with a beautiful service and dessert reception. All are welcome to attend and celebrate.

SATURDAY EVENING BBQ
Saturday, May 18 (7:30 p.m.)
Join us for a Saturday evening BBQ to celebrate Lag B’Omer! Location: address given with RSVP.

MOTHER’S DAY LUNCHEON
Sunday, May 19 (12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.)
RSVP at templeisraelnc.org by Monday, May 13.

young professionals

LAG B’OMER BBQ
Saturday, May 18 (7:30 p.m.)
Join us for a Saturday evening BBQ to celebrate Lag B’Omer! More details to come.

SOCIAL CLUB

MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT
WITH JOHN LEON LEWIS
Sunday, May 26 (3 p.m.)
Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall
John Leon Lewis will return for an encore musical performance of PATRIOTIC MUSIC, in honor of Memorial Day. We will enjoy wine and fancy desserts, and sing and dance along with the music. Cost: $14/members and $18 non-members.

EVENTS

TEMPLE ISRAEL ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, May 19 (10:45 a.m.)
All are welcome to celebrate a year in the life of our Temple and our community’s accomplishments over the past year.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE & ONEG
Wednesday, May 22 (7:30 p.m.)
Join us as we celebrate our Confirmation class with a beautiful service and dessert reception. All are welcome to attend and celebrate.

THE ROSE ROOM - WOMEN OF TEMPLE ISRAEL GIFT SHOP

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

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

Proceeds support Temple Israel, the Women of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.

Temple Israel Honors
Rabbi Murray Ezring

Please join us as we honor Rabbi Murray Ezring’s 25 years of service to our community. Rabbi Ezring has dedicated countless hours to our synagogue over the years and ensured that Temple Israel has been here to serve the congregation and the greater Charlotte Jewish community. We look forward to bestowing upon him the title of Rabbi Emeritus.

As part of the weekend’s celebration, Temple Israel is delighted to bring to Charlotte Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community. The scholar-in-residence weekend is graciously supported by the Wendy & Frank Rosen Endowment Fund and the Gorelick Family Foundation.

Friday, May 31, 2019
6:15 P.M. - Shabbat Services
7:15 - 8 P.M. - Dessert Oneg (No Cost - Reservation Requested)

Saturday, June 1, 2019
9:30 A.M. - Shabbat Services Honoring Rabbi Ezring
Noon - Kiddush Luncheon (No Cost - Reservation Requested)
1:15-2:15 P.M. - Relational Judaism: A Workshop with Dr. Ron Wolfson on Crafting Community
7 P.M. - Celebration Dinner (Doors open at 6:30 P.M.)
Cost: $90 - By Reservation Only
Seated Dinner
Dress: elegantly casual

Ayn k’mo babayit – there’s no place like home.
The Hebrew word for home, bayit, transcends the brick and mortar structure, as it also describes a state of mind. Temple Israel is not only a gathering place, but it is a place to engage with Judaism and to transform your life through Torah, worship and acts of loving kindness.

Our egalitarian kehillah kedosha was founded in 1895 by visionaries who worked to keep the Jewish community together. For over 120 years our congregation has connected to each other and to Judaism. This is the festival of Lag B’Omer, and it is a time to celebrate the destruction of the two Temples by the Romans, and to remember that our historic sites are not just in Israel. They are also right here in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION
May 5, 4 pm at Temple Israel
Meetings and Memory

By Cantor Mary Rebecca Thomas

I had not noticed before this year, but, goodness, May is filled with Ms! Here are just a few:

* Memory – Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Temple Israel on May 5 at 4 PM
* Meeting – Temple Beth El’s Annual Congregational Meeting on May 6 at 7 PM
* Mother’s Day is May 12
* Mitzvah – TBE’s Mitzvah Day is May 19 and begins at 8:30 AM
* Memorial Day – Both the Israeli one on May 8 and the American one on May 27.

All of these Ms are days, events, and observances that are just off the top of my head. That is a lot and there are certainly more meetings, b’nai Mitzvah, and family events, and observances that are making memories and meaning in our lives - organize our years. Our holidays and rituals are like buoys anchoring our existing to the Eternal, even as time itself seems fleeting.

Time without structure seems limitless. As children, teens, and young adults, time seems to stretch out indefinitely. As we grow and experience more and more of life, we learn how time passes, how it is ephemeral, and how moments slip away as quickly as they occur.

Time is our single greatest non-renewable resource.

On the one hand, how we choose to spend the precious gift of time is entirely up to us. On the other hand, we are bound by responsibility and societal norms that demand that we spend our time in certain ways. Some have children and parents who need care. Some have demanding jobs that afford the opportunity to care for those loved ones. Some have long commutes by necessity in order to reach the jobs they need to survive. Some have school, some have sickness, and some have sadness that limit our ability to fully manipulate our time. There are things that we can change and things that we simply cannot. At once, there are limitless options and then there are the limits that we choose or accept for ourselves.

Now, back to my list of Ms. Each of these moments are opportunities to choose to bring more meaning, more connection, and more community into our lives. Some are opportunities that we can share with children and partners, others are opportunities to bring ourselves to help our community to thrive, others still might be an opportunity to show love, gratitude, and respect to others who help to create the rich fabric of our society. In deciding where and when to show up, knowing that we cannot be everywhere everywhen, we must ask ourselves: Where will I have the greatest impact on my community? Where will I be most greatly impacted? Where can I give of myself? Where can I grow?

As we move through the many Ms of May and all the months that follow, may we each be intentional with the precious gift of our time. May we be open to allowing new experiences into our lives while having the courage to reclaim time when necessary. May we show up with open hearts and minds, ready to make a difference for ourselves, for those we love, and for our community.

Lag Ba’Omer at Hall Family Farm

Join us for a bonfire and BBQ at Hall Family Farm in honor of Lag Ba’Omer. Enjoy a delicious BBQ Dinner, crafts and activities for the kids, strawberry picking and the Farm’s famous Hayride. If you haven’t already heard, Hall Family Farm is moving after this season, so get in your last licks of strawberry picking at this location.

Lag Ba’Omer is the anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. Why are we celebrating on what should be a sad day? Because that was his wish. Mark this date as a day of joy. We celebrate with outdoor outings, bonfires and sometimes parades. Lag Ba’Omer also commemorates another joyous event. The Talmud relates that in the weeks between the Jewish holidays of Passover and Shavuot, a plague raging among the disciples of the great sage Rabbi Akiva (teacher of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai), “because they did not act respectfully towards each other.” These weeks are therefore observed as a period of mourning, with various joyous activities prescribed by law and custom. On Lag Ba’Omer the deaths ceased. Thus, Lag Ba’Omer also carries the theme of loving and respecting one’s fellow (shuvat Yisrael).

Thursday, May 23
5:30 PM
At Hall Family Farm
10713 Providence Rd. W
$18 per person/Max $54
per family
Free for children 3 and under

RSVP:
Leah@JewishBallantyne.com
or visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com.
Rabbi Ana Bonnheim moved to Charlotte, NC in 2016 when her husband, Rabbi Asher Knight, was appointed senior rabbi at Temple Beth El. Little did we know that Temple Beth El’s decision would have such a huge impact on Temple Kol Ami. Rabbi Bonnheim immediately fit our needs. After spending a Shabbaton with her in December 2016, TKA knew we had found our rabbi to lead us both spiritually and educationally. Starting in January 2017, Rabbi Bonnheim has led us in Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services as well as some Saturday morning Torah services. Her D’var Torah discussions are creative, insightful, and engaging. The small, intimate setting of TKA’s services makes for easy interaction and lively discussion facilitated by Rabbi Bonnheim.

At Temple Kol Ami, religious school education is one of our top priorities. Our all-volunteer staff of parents and other volunteers works hard to educate our youth. Rabbi Bonnheim has been a tremendous addition to our small, intimate setting of TKA’s Religious School. The Board of Directors would like to thank Rabbi Bonnheim for being so dedicated and for helping our Religious School thrive.

Rabbi Bonnheim on a more frequent basis to Sunday school so that our students would have the opportunity to interact with her and benefit from her wisdom. Rabbi Bonnheim was previously associate director of the URJ Greene Family Camp in Dallas, TX, where her focus was on Jewish youth education. With this background, she has been a wonderful addition to our Hebrew School program. Her knowledge and experience in this area has been invaluable to the Religious School on Sundays as well as in guiding some of our b’nai mitzvah to their big day. Temple Kol Ami is so thankful that fate brought her to the Carolinas and into our congregation’s lives. Rabbi Bonnheim is also available to perform Jewish life cycle events such as weddings and baby namings for those outside of TKA. You may contact her at yorksnyagouge@gmail.com.

The Strawberry Festival in Fort Mill, SC will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, and Temple Kol Ami is so thankful to be a part of it for the first time. Please stop by on May 4 to visit our booth at Valerie Ella Park in Fort Mill. The Strawberry Festival is a wonderful event for kids and adults featuring live music, food, rides, and of course, strawberries.

Looking forward into June, Temple Kol Ami is so excited to host Temple Beth El’s annual picnic on June 2 at McDowell Nature Preserve in Fort Mill. The Strawberry Festival is a great first stop for people who have never been to Fort Mill. The Strawberry Festival is a great first stop for people who have never been to Fort Mill or those who have not made the strawberry festival a part of their Fort Mill experience.

The community is welcome to attend the Strawberry Festival and enjoy the music and parades in his honor. To this day there are bonfires, festivals, and parades in honor of Shimon Bar Yochai. Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai lived in Israel some 2,000 years ago and was revered in Israel and when his time to depart this world came, his body was buried in a cave in northern Israel with his students. Shimon was a fearless leader who introduced Kabbalah to the Jewish people. According to Kabbalah, the introduction of Kabbalah as a form of Jewish spirituality was a significant event in Jewish history.

This May, Rabbi Yossi Groner and Rabbi Shlomo Cohen of Chabad of Charlotte will offer With All My Heart, a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) that will examine the Jewish art of prayer and spiritual practices.

Beginning Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30 for the evening class and Wednesday, May 15, at 11 for the morning class, participants in the course will study the history, philosophy of Jewish worship, seeking to discover the deep, elegant structure embedded within the Jewish prayer book and within Judaism’s ancient synagogue traditions.

“Rituals pull us in so many directions that we seldom get a chance to reflect on our lives, our mission in this world, who we are, and what really matters to us,” Rabbi Yossi Groner, the local JLI instructor said. “Formal prayer has become routine and devoid of heartfelt feeling and spirituality. This course is out to debunk the notion of prayer and reclaim the ‘spirit’ within spiritual practice.”

According to JLI’s website, the course promises to “outline profound mystical techniques that lend wings to our emotions and words to our yearnings. By learning to speak with God, we can communicate with something much larger than ourselves, and feel comfort and shelter within a reality that’s more meaningful, more real, and more beautiful.”

“We tend to turn to prayer when we’re out of options, seeking some kind of magical intercession when we’re having trouble dealing with what life throws our way,” explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham, of JLI’s New York headquarters. “Prayer is meant to be so much more than that. It’s a way to relieve stress; find focus, clarity, and connection to a raw and vulnerable place deep within us; or even just to start each day from a positive, humble, and grateful frame of mind.”

With All My Heart explores questions such as: What is Jewish prayer? How do we achieve intimacy with God? What is the mystical meaning, power, and impact of our prayers? If prayer is a journey, what is its destination? And how do we practice focused meditation when we’re having trouble dealing with what life throws our way?”

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to 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 704-366-3984 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Charlotte as part of Chabad of Charlotte Jewish education program.

Fees for the class are $99 per person, $180 per couple. This includes illustrated textbooks and access to the JLI website where one can expand their exploration with multi-media presentations. All classes will be held in the new FC/Youth building at Chabad, 6619 Sardis Road, Charlotte.

Rabbi Ana Bonnheim

Rabbi Bonnheim brings spiritual and educational growth to TKA.

JLI Charlotte Participants to Explore the History and Philosophy of Jewish Spiritual Worship

Lag Ba’Omer Celebration at Chabad

Lag Ba’Omer commemorates the anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. Rabbi Shimon lived in Israel some 2,000 years ago and was revered in Israel and when his time to depart this world came, his body was buried in a cave in northern Israel with his students. Shimon was a fearless leader who introduced Kabbalah to the Jewish people. According to Kabbalah, the introduction of Kabbalah as a form of Jewish spirituality was a significant event in Jewish history.

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

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

Havurat Tikvah Welcomes Shabbat with Prayer

Havurat Tikvah joins the greater Charlotte Jewish community on May 5, 4 PM, at Temple Israel, 4901 Providence Rd., in the Morris and Sylvia Specman Sanctuary for a Yom Ha’Shoah Commemoration Service and Hechal Yedidah program honoring those who perished in the Holocaust. Then on May 18, 10 AM, the congregation will hold a Commemoration Service and Hechal Yedidah program honoring those who perished in the Holocaust.

To this day, there are bonfires, festivals, and parades in his honor. To this day there are bonfires, festivals, and parades in his honor. To this day there are bonfires, festivals, and parades in his honor. To this day there are bonfires, festivals, and parades in his honor. To this day there are bonfires, festivals, and parades in his honor.
An American Holocaust Survivor Recalls Fighting in Israel’s War of Independence

By Josef Dolsten

Teaneck, N.J. (JTA) — Mordechai Schachter didn’t know he would see so many soldiers. He traveled from his native Romania to prestate Israel in 1948. He was a 17-year-old with a passion for Zionism, leaving behind a country that was becoming increasingly anti-Semitic a few short years after at least 270,000 Romanian Jews died during the Holocaust.

At the end of 1947, Schachter had boarded one of two boats of 7,500 Jews each that were to take them to the promised land, despite a British ban on Jewish emigration there. Many of the passengers were lone children whose parents sent them on the boats to escape Romania.

Schachter’s parents had meant to come, but his father fell ill before the trip, so they stayed behind. The journey went as planned until the boats hit the Dardanelles, a narrow strait in northwestern Turkey. They were met by seven British ships. Passengers decided not to fight back since a significant number were children and elderly; their boats were rerouted to Cyprus. Three months later, the British agreed to allow the children, including Schachter, to go on to Palestine.

Schachter remembers arriving in Ramaana, and eating hamen- taschen and oranges on his first day. He was with brothers, who had arrived in prestat Israel four months earlier. Five weeks later he was ordered to join the army, where he was taught how to shoot a gun and given an Italian rifle from World War I and 25 bullets. Others got “whatever they could find,” Schachter recalled.

“Everybody had a different type [of weapon] at that time,” he said. “They had very little ammunition,” he told JTA in his home in this northern New Jer- sey township about 11 miles from Manhattan.

Schachter remembers the exu- berance felt in Israel a few weeks later, on May 14, 1948, when the army declared its independenc. “Everybody was dancing in the streets celebrating,” he said.

The nation would be the origin of neighboring Arab states — Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq that entered in an attempt to destroy the country, Israel’s War of Independence would end the following year with an Israeli victory. Seventy years lat- er, as Israel prepares to mark the milestone anniversary, Schachter spoke to a reporter about his role in Jewish, and world, history. Schachter served as a mortar commander, which meant he did not have to be in the first line of fire. However, he had to deal with incoming mortars fired at him from the enemy side.

“We were in a couple of cases in very dangerous situations, but you don’t think about it because you are too young to realize how dangerous it is,” he said. Schachter fought alongside native Israelis, immigrants from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Iran and Iraq, and foreign fighters from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zea- land.

“It wasn’t easy for a com- mander to give orders,” he said. “Sometimes he had to give orders, which means trust and commit- ment we show to each other as human beings – especially when we talk each other, ‘I believe you.’ Judaism teaches us that our judge- ments and choices deeply matter – our actions shape not only our lives, but the life and future of the world.”

During the discussion a local Christian Bible Study Leader and Veteran described a disturbing experience he witnessed. He was surprised to learn other countries view the term “nationality” on our passports differently than we do. An official in Eastern Europe told his fellow soldier who was African American his nationality was not listed correctly because he was part of the Black Nation not “America.” It is shocking for us to think of someone making such a comment; and even hear- ing such an example is offensive. However, it pushes us to think about our social contracts – “Are we really part of particular groups we think we are? What is an app- propriate description we use for ourselves and other people? Do we ignore what is said or do we stand up and take action to lessen racism and hate?”

Rabbi Bonnehim shared, “The Torah’s word for emunah, which means trust and commit- ment we show to each other as human beings – especially when we talk each other, ‘I believe you.’ Judaism teaches us that our judge- ments and choices deeply matter – our actions shape not only our lives, but the life and future of the world.”

For more information write us at info@templesolel.org or call 803-619-9707. Temple Solel holds periodic Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope to see you soon in the Community Room at St. Philip Neri Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC.

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Temple Solel members celebrate Purim

by Josef Dolsten

Teaneck, N.J. (JTA) — Mordechai Schachter didn’t know he would see so many soldiers. He traveled from his native Romania to prestate Israel in 1948. He was a 17-year-old with a passion for Zionism, leaving behind a country that was becoming increasingly anti-Semitic a few short years after at least 270,000 Romanian Jews died during the Holocaust.

At the end of 1947, Schachter had boarded one of two boats of 7,500 Jews each that were to take them to the promised land, despite a British ban on Jewish emigration there. Many of the passengers were lone children whose parents sent them on the boats to escape Romania.

Schachter’s parents had meant to come, but his father fell ill before the trip, so they stayed behind. The journey went as planned until the boats hit the Dardanelles, a narrow strait in northwestern Turkey. They were met by seven British ships. Passengers decided not to fight back since a significant number were children and elderly; their boats were rerouted to Cyprus. Three months later, the British agreed to allow the children, including Schachter, to go on to Palestine.

Schachter remembers arriving in Ramaana, and eating hamen- taschen and oranges on his first day. He was with brothers, who had arrived in prestat Israel four months earlier. Five weeks later he was ordered to join the army, where he was taught how to shoot a gun and given an Italian rifle from World War I and 25 bullets. Others got “whatever they could find,” Schachter recalled.

“Everybody had a different type [of weapon] at that time,” he said. “They had very little ammunition,” he told JTA in his home in this northern New Jer- sey township about 11 miles from Manhattan.

Schachter remembers the exu- berance felt in Israel a few weeks later, on May 14, 1948, when the army declared its independenc. “Everybody was dancing in the streets celebrating,” he said.

The nation would be the origin of neighboring Arab states — Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq that entered in an attempt to destroy the country, Israel’s War of Independence would end the following year with an Israeli victory. Seventy years lat- er, as Israel prepares to mark the milestone anniversary, Schachter spoke to a reporter about his role in Jewish, and world, history. Schachter served as a mortar commander, which meant he did not have to be in the first line of fire. However, he had to deal with incoming mortars fired at him from the enemy side.

“We were in a couple of cases in very dangerous situations, but you don’t think about it because you are too young to realize how dangerous it is,” he said. Schachter fought alongside native Israelis, immigrants from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Iran and Iraq, and foreign fighters from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zea- land.

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