An Interview with Mary Morris, Author of this Fall’s “On The Same Page” Community Read

On Sunday, November 17 at 11 AM, award-winning author Mary Morris will come to talk about her fascinating novel Gateway to the Moon. We invite everyone in the community to read this book. All are welcome to attend this free program. Light refreshments will be served.

In anticipation of Morris’s visit, CJE program director, Debby Block spoke with the author. The following interview was lightly edited for length and clarity.

Debby Block: Novels about Sephardic Jews are rare and there is a paucity of books about Crypto-Jews (Hidden Jews). How did you get the inspiration to write Gateway to the Moon, which is about Crypto-Jews through many generations (1492-1992)?

Mary Morris: Sometimes a story just grabs you and, as an author, you just cannot walk away from it. This particular story, I stumbled upon when I lived in New Mexico. I don’t want to give too much away before I come to Charlotte, but I look forward to sharing more of the details.

Debby: Some of the most memorable and shocking parts of Gateway to the Moon are the portrayal of Christopher Columbus. How much research did you have to do to create such a rich depiction of history?

Mary Morris: In order to imagine what Christopher Columbus was really like as a person, I did a lot of background research. Believe it or not, I even read all of Columbus’ ship logs. I was also able to secure a grant and traveled through Portugal, Spain, France, and New Mexico to do extensive research to insure accuracy for this book.

Debby: This novel is full of a variety of very diverse characters. Does an author typically have a favorite while writing a book? If so, who is your favorite character in Gateway to the Moon and why?

Mary Morris: Yes, it is common for a novelist to have a favorite character, one who—as many publishers say—“has legs.” From his love of the stars to his evolution as a human being, Miguel is definitely my favorite character in Gateway to the Moon. I love to be surprised by my characters. Flannery O’Connor wrote that “if there are no surprises for the writer, how can there be any for the reader?” I didn’t know what was going to happen to Rachel Rothstein. Elena also surprised me. Some characters come to life and evolve as the book is being written.

Debby: What would you like the readers to come away with after reading Gateway to the Moon?

Mary Morris: I have thought a lot about that. I would like readers to understand that the story of America is not all about the pilgrims. There are many other narratives to embrace as our own, as well.

Debby: What are some of your favorite things to do, when you are not writing?

Mary Morris: I love to paint with watercolors. I truly enjoy swimming. I have three dogs and a parrot and, of course, I love to travel.

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Mary Morris is a tenured writing professor at Sarah Lawrence College. Morris is the author of the award-winning The Jazz Palace. Born in Chicago, Morris currently resides in Brooklyn.

JCRC Fall Lecture: Transforming Enemies into Partners: Creating Peace through Dialogue

November 14, 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

How do Palestinians and Israelis move beyond the cycle of violence that engulfs them? Hanan Schlesinger, an Orthodox rabbi and passionate Zionist settler, and Palestinian Shadi Abu Awwad, the architect and coordinator of the Roots youth movement, share their personal stories and how they are working together to build a better future for their people through Roots. Roots is a Palestinian-Israeli grassroots initiative fostering understanding, non-violence, and transformation. This organization facilitates immediate get-togethers and deep conversations between Palestinians and Israelis living in the West Bank. Our speakers come with no peace plans in place, but with a strong conviction that human understanding and trust are the prerequisites for lasting justice, freedom and peace on the tiny sliver of land they both call home.

The event is free, but RSVP is requested, www.jewishcharlotte.org.
Dear Readers,

It seems like our Jewish community in the Charlotte area continues to grow, with more Jewish organizations and more Jewish people moving here daily. As The Charlotte Jewish News expands to include all the new agencies, services organizations, and opportunities to worship, as well as increases in print production to accommodate new subscribers, costs inevitably rise.

To offset some costs, we’ve expanded our online presence. Every edition can be viewed at charlottejewishnews.org or issuu.com. Any subscriber who would prefer the online edition to the hard copy can change their subscription by emailing us at charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org. Upcoming events are announced on our Facebook page (please follow us at facebook.com/charlottejewishnews). But our core readers continue to utilize our print edition, mailed monthly (except July) to any Jewish person in the area who wants it.

There are many ways you can help The Charlotte Jewish News meet its needs to remain relevant to our readers. Our primary source of revenue is our advertising. Please patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw their ad in The Charlotte Jewish News. Recommend advertising to your favorite retail and service establishments.

Please also consider supporting us with a donation. Use the form below and return it to us in the envelope conveniently included in this month’s edition.

Please remember that there are some local Jewish entities that would not be able to get their message to you with The Charlotte Jewish News. Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated by all.

Todah rabah!

Shabbat Candle Lighting for November 2019
Friday, November 1, 6:11 PM
Friday, November 8, 5:04 PM
Friday, November 15, 4:59 PM
Friday, November 22, 4:56 PM
Friday, November 29, 4:53 PM

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Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

~ JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS ~

PJ Library Parent Connector

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is excited to bring the PJ Library parent connector program to the greater Charlotte area for a second year. PJ Library, a leading program of the Harold Greenspoon Foundation, sends free Jewish children’s books to families across the globe every month. Hundreds of thousands of children and their families receive high-quality Jewish children’s content every month through PJ Library. Through this simple gift, PJ Library connects a new generation to a colorful world of Jewish history, tradition, and values.

One of the key goals of PJ Library’s engagement program is to help parents make social connections. We’ve all heard the phrase “it takes a village” when it comes to raising children. PJ Library connectors introduce families to peers to share in the triumphs and challenges of raising Jewish children today. Whether a parent is choosing a preschool, figuring out what their family is going to do on a Sunday afternoon, or debating the best approach to teaching their children about values, having a peer group makes all the difference. Over coffee, coloring books, Legos, and Shabbat tables, Jewish families are connecting to each other, and to Jewish life.

The HGF has once again received a generous grant from the Leon Levine Foundation to implement the nationally successful parent connector program in Charlotte. Parent connectors in Charlotte have helped over 100 families raising Jewish children meet and connect with other Jewish families in the Waxhaw, Matthews, Weddington, and Lake Norman areas. The parent connectors plan, organize, and facilitate two or three gatherings per month in targeted neighborhoods and deepen connections with families by creating personal relationships. Program participant Rachel Welber said of the connector programs, “Moving to a new city with no friends or family can be very scary. PJ Library events have been a lifeline for making new friends and settling into our new city.”

Our newest PJ Library parent connector as of August 2019 is Carrie Moran. Carrie is the PJ Library parent connector for the Matthews, Weddington, and Waxhaw area. Carrie is a mom of two children, Rachel, age 8-1/2, and Ben, age 3. Carrie and her family moved to the Charlotte area from Greensboro two years ago. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants and breweries. When asked about her role as a PJ Library parent connector, Carrie said, “I look forward to meeting other parents raising Jewish kids and will see you at our next event.”

The PJ Library parent connector for the Lake Norman area is Deborah Toole. Deborah lives in Mooresville with her husband Sean and their three children, Jacob, age 9, Charlotte, age 7, and Josh, age 4. When asked what she loves most about being a connector Deborah said, “I love meeting other Jewish families in the area and planning fun programming that we can all enjoy together. In addition to teaching our kids about Jewish holidays and values, we have quarterly moms’ night outs and monthly Tikkun Olam projects. I have lots of fun things planned for the fall, and I’m looking forward to a great year.”

Interested in attending an event? Reach out to Carrie in the Matthews/Weddington/Waxhaw area: pjlibrarywwm@gmail.com or Deborah Toole in the Lake Norman area: pjlibraryln@ymail.com to make friendly connections.

PJ Library in Charlotte is generously funded by Liz and Brad Winer and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

CONTENTS

Federation News ................................. pp. 1-3, 5 Dining Out ........................................ p. 18
Center for Jewish Education................ pp. 1 Jewish Community Center ....... pp. 22, 23
Sue’s Book Shelf ................................. pp. 4 Youth Visions ........................................ pp. 26, 27
Synagogues/Congregations .............. pp. 6-10 Women’s News ....................................... pp. 27
Jewish Family Services ................. pp. 11, 12 Mazel Tov & Congratulations ...... pp. 28
Community News .............................. pp. 12-21, 25 Schools ........................................... pp. 29-31

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Other
Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy Fall Kickoff

We are grateful to all the Women who attending the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy Fall Kickoff. We hoped you walked away with a deeper sense of gratitude for the good things in your life – no matter how big or small. Maybe you even walked away with a few tips and strategies for how to best record your gratitude. We have great programming opportunities coming up and many ways to get involved in our Jewish community.

Photos by ArtShots Photography

Jenny Sugar, Alexis Fish, Marisa Ziebert, Natallie Rausch

Ann and Andrew are your KEYS to the local Jewish Community.

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Jewish Federation Women’s Philanthropy Fall Kickoff Photos by ArtShots Photography Alyssa Levine, Ellie Kunkes, Amy Novick, Sara Kubersh, Melanie Brown, Kendall Nicholson

FALL INTO SAVINGS ON 2020 EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISES 7-14 Day Itineraries 15+ Day Itineraries FLY FREE TO EUROPE $2,000 SAVINGS plus per couple $2,500 SAVINGS per couple PLUS HORIZON DECK BONUS SAVINGS ADDITIONAL $500 PER COUPLE!

*Valid for new bookings only. No cash value. Some restrictions/blackout dates & expiration dates apply.
November is Jewish Book Month and what better way to celebrate than to read a Jewish book?

The tradition began in 1925 when a Boston librarian by the name of Fanny Goldstein decided to set up a display of Judaic books at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library for one week. “The week caught on, and in 1943 it was extended to a month.” The week became known as “Jewish Book Week.”

The Boston Public Library is still involved in Jewish Book Week. The week is used to support and celebrate Jewish literacy.

The Jewish Book Council was established in 1925 when a Boston librarian by the name of Fanny Goldstein said, “but they’re not necessarily have Jewish themes.” Firestone-Teeter said, “The books don’t necessarily have Jewish themes.”

The Jewish Book Council became the Jewish Book Council and in 1943 it was extended to a week. “The week caught on, and in 1943 it was extended to a month. Soon thereafter, the Jewish Book Council was established to support and celebrate Jewish literacy.”

“I think she would be overjoyed to see what it’s become,” said Naomi Firestone-Teeter, Executive Director of the Jewish Book Council. “[Goldstein produced] a little seed, a spark that developed into a full-fledged organization,” said Firestone-Teeter.

What does the Jewish Book Council consider Jewish literature? “The books don’t necessarily have Jewish themes,” Firestone-Teeter said. “But they’re written with a Jewish soul, a Jewish lens.”

I was curious to see what favorite Jewish books my community of readers would recommend. So I surveyed my book clubs, friends, and colleagues and received responses from over 30 individuals who recommended 43 titles. The top nine recommended books are as follows:

**First Choice: Exodus by Leon Uris (1958)**

This historical novel connects modern lives to distant ancestors, seamlessly navigating between centuries while addressing universal questions about our need to connect to our past while moving to the future.

The following titles also received highest praise:

* The Chosen by Chaim Potok (1967)

This book follows the narrator Reuven Malter and his friend Daniel Saunders, as they grow up in the Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY, in the 1940s.


Young adult historical fiction, this is the story of two innocent boys who become friends during the Holocaust. One is an officer’s son, and the other a prisoner.

* The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (2018)

The author survived unspeakable horrors and brutality but rather than let her painful past destroy her, she chose to transform it into a powerful gift to help others.

All recommended books can be checked out at the Center for Jewish Education.

**CHECK OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE CJE! NOVEMBER 2019**

**FRIDAYS: NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22** (no playdate on 11-29)

**PJ Baby Playdate, 11:00 AM**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

Shalom Baby – Welcome to the World, 3:30 PM

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

CJE Book Club, 10:30 AM

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

On The Same Page: Chapter 1 with Mary Morris

11:00 AM, Sam Lerner Center @ Shalom Park

The Center for Jewish Education (CJE) enhances community engagement, promotes lifelong Jewish learning, and creates pathways to Jewish identity.

**LIBRARY HOURS:** Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm; and Sunday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Library will be closed November 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

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**Inspiration. Innovation. Imagination.**

**November 17, 2019 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Featuring Mary Morris**

**Author of GATEWAY TO THE MOON**

Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

www.jewishcharlotte.org/CJE

**For more information, contact, Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator 704.944.6780/debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org**
Reserve Your Spot for the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy Day

Join us on Thursday morning, November 7, to learn about three important Federation initiatives that are helping reinvigorate local Jewish philanthropy. The three initiatives - the Shalom Park Freedom School, the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative, and Shalom Green - are helping bring a renewed focus on the areas of education, refugees, and the environment and thereby reflect the Jewish values of tikunik olam, repairing the world. Each of the initiatives are recipients of the JFGC Impact and Innovation Fund and have brought new ideas to bear on these important social justice issues. The half-day program, which runs from 9:15 AM-1 PM in Shalom Park’s Gorelick Hall, will detail the positive impact of these initiatives on the community and participants will do three hands on volunteer projects to benefit each of these initiatives. A small panel of local Jewish women involved in social action and social justice will speak during lunch (which is included in the ticket price of $18).

Be part of the Women’s philanthropy vision on Thursday morning, November 7, as we celebrate the success of three vital Jewish initiatives and learn about their exciting contributions to the greater Charlotte community. Event chairs are Meredith Baumstein, Sara Kulbersh, and Debbie Porter.

This event is open to all women. You can RSVP for the event at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

To learn more about women’s philanthropy, contact Ilana Toch, Development Associate, at ilana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6784.

Tributes to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte thanks and acknowledges the following tributes made May 7 through September 13.

In honor of Jack Gitlin’s graduation, son of David and Stephanie Gitlin. By: Mark and Alison Lerner

In honor of Elise Kosofsky. By: Nathan and Allia Lubin

In honor of Roger and Susan Stiefel’s Grandson’s Bar Mitzvah. By: Rick Abrams and Dr. Dougherty

In honor of Mike and Linda Thailer’s 60th Wedding anniversary. By: Robert and Bonnie Reingold

In memory of Richard Chenkin, husband of Suly Chenkin. By: Mike and Sue Littauer

In memory of Raphael Goldstein, husband of Debbie Goldstein. By: Lynn, Ken, Julie, and Ben Sass

In memory of Dr. Max R. Hickman, father of Holly Levinson. By: Mike and Sue Littauer, Freddy and Susan Robinson

In memory of Martin Husney, husband of Roz Husney. By: Harvey and Sandra Lauer

In memory of Dr. Michael Rotberg, husband of Heidi Rotberg. By: Mike and Sue Littauer

In memory of Ann Girson Schorr, mother of Ken Schorr. By: Mike and Sue Littauer

If you would like to make a Tribute to the Jewish Federation, please contact the Federation office at 704-944-6761.

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Special Shabbat Services Coming Up at Temple Kol Ami

Every Shabbat is a special time. A time to gather with family and friends, to forget the worries of the week past, and to rest. At Temple Kol Ami, we enjoy spiritually meaningful and uplifting Kabbalat Shabbat services generally on the first and third Fridays of each month. We are blessed to be led on occasion by Rabbi Ana Bonnheim as well as our amazing lay leaders.

In the next two months, Temple Kol Ami will have some special Shabbat services that are open and free to the community.

On November 1, our amazing TKA Religious School students will be leading us in an education Shabbat service. We are extremely proud of our kids and all that they learn each Sunday morning, and look forward to kvelling as they show off their skills. Also, Temple Kol Ami will be hosting our Annual Friendsgiving Shabbat on November 15. At TK, we feel like family, and who better to give thanks with than your family? This Shabbat features a short service of thanksgiving followed by a lovely meal of chicken and all the traditional Turkey Day sides. It has become a much-loved tradition at Temple Kol Ami, and we would love for you to join us at our Thanksgiving table.

Looking ahead to December, Temple Kol Ami is pleased to welcome Rabbi Bonnheim back to our bimah on December 7 at 10 AM to lead us in a Saturday morning Torah service. There will be a brunch following service. Once again, all are welcome to worship and break bread with us. Then on December 20, we will celebrate the Festival of Lights with our annual Chanukah Shabbat. This is always a fun and festive service with a special Chanukah oneg featuring latkes and sufganyot.

We hope you will take the time to rest and connect with your community at Temple Kol Ami. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you. We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope you will join us soon and find your Jewish home in our welcoming community. For more information, contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com or check our website www.templeolamisc.org.

Havurat Tikvah to Hold Shabbat Services

Havurat Tikvah will hold a Community Shabbat Service on November 16, 10 AM, at Avondale Presbyterian Church, Village Classroom, 2821 Park Rd. Following services Kiddush, along with challah and blessings, will be held.

Upcoming events slated over the next few months are a Chanukah party in December and an adult education session in January. See next month’s issue for more details.

The congregation has elected new officers for the coming year. They are: Hardin Rubin, religious services coordinator; Julia Westendorf and Kate Kaplan, co-treasurers; and Karen Rubin and Susie Meier, Chicken Soup Committee leaders. Lainey Millen will continue as the congregational administrative liaison.

Havurat Tikvah 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 Reconstructing 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 membership@havuratikkvah.org or visit havuratikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havuratikvah/.
Temple Solel Believes In the Mystery of the Shofar

By Shelley Pawlyk

My former Rabbi was inspired by the memory I shared with him about the time I brought my Yemenite shofar back from Israel for the first time and it continued to demonstrate the mysteries contained in this ancient vessel used by our people since Biblical times. There are texts describing how the ram’s horn was used to sound an alarm of war, but in more modern applications, we use it to call in the new year, Rosh Hashanah.

In 2003, a group and I returning from Israel found ourselves in unexpected additional security lines at the massive Frankfurt airport while connecting with our flight to the U.S. People were being more carefully searched than we had noticed before and it was intimidating. I placed the beautiful burgundy velvet bag containing my recently acquired Yemenite shofar with pink and brown coloring on the x-ray belt. Before it went through the dark tunnel, the Security Officer rescued it, but startled me when he abruptly asked, “Vas is das?” (What is this?) I answered, “Ist ein instrument.” She shookly stated, “Play it.” I dared reply, “It is very loud.” Changing to the tone of an order she said, “Play it.” I answered, “Okay - Schon gut (very good),” then turned to my friend and said, “Here we go.

Let’s hold the longest and loudest Tekiah Gedolah we possibly can without passing out.” That wonderful day in Frankfurt — in the midst of international airport chaos, loud talking, babies crying, and frustrated voices — came forth the sweetest, yet most powerful, mysterious sounds we usually only hear at Rosh Hashanah each year.

Following the blast, it became so instantly quiet you could have heard our hearts beating out of our chests. Then, an outburst of cheers and clapping ensued for what felt like minutes. It is an experience we will never forget, lest we forget, what happened to our ancestors during the Holocaust who may have even placed this request from their heavenly locations — to hear the mystery of the shofar once more.

I am also inspired by a story told by another friend when she visited the Auschwitz Concentration Memorial site in Poland containing her recently acquired Yemenite shofar from country-to-country like a weapon so our Jewish voices are heard in some of the darkest places in the world. Not one of the tour groups, she asked those in charge if she could step away from the group of tourists. A person pointed toward what looked like an empty area during the Holocaust who may have even placed this request from their heavenly locations — to hear the mystery of the shofar once more.

Although the sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah is observed because it is a decree of the Torah, still it has a deep meaning, as if saying: “Wake up from your deep sleep, you who are fast asleep ... search your deeds and repent; remember your creator ... examine your souls, mend your ways and deeds. Let everyone give up his evil way and bad plans.”

—Maimonides, Mishnei Torah: Laws of Repentance 3:4
Sisterhood: The Flame That Ignites Community At Temple Emanuel

Its presence has been going on for a very long time. Easily taken for granted, it’s something that has always been, with its continuity as a staple of our Jewish community. Its mission takes for granted, it’s something that has been going on for a very long time. Easily taken for granted, it’s something that has always been, with its continuity as a staple of our Jewish community. Its mission takes for granted, it’s something that has always been, with its continuity as a staple of our Jewish community. Its mission takes

work, commitment, energy, passion and devotion. What is this thing that demands so much, but is happily embraced and keeps on giving back? It is our Sisterhood. We are a continually expanding group, sponsoring activities and initiatives which build our women’s community and the congregation at large. Sisterhood exists to support our spiritual well-being and the Temple in celebration of Jewish life. The Sisterhood is a cornerstone of knowledge and activity for celebrating Temple holidays, Shabbat onegs, and other special celebrations throughout the year. We create special onegs around each holiday, produce Casino Night around Purim, and magically materialize our annual Seder through fine honed culinary skills.

This year’s activity calendar includes a craft program, a docent guided tour through the Mint Museum in Charlotte, learning how to bake a Shabbat challah, Rauch Mind-Body therapy, lectures on women’s health and well-being, a Chanukah gift swapping at the Temple, and monthly book club meetings. Our organization functions as an incrementally progressive arm of the temple, performing as an Activities Chair or taking on special projects which embrace the relationship between the Temple and its congregation.

Embracing Tikkun Olam, making a difference inside our Jewish community and beyond the Jewish world by actively pursuing programs of social justice is a central core of Sisterhood’s existence. As part of its congregational activity, the Ezra Committee is established for people who are experiencing difficulty in their lives and could use some help or to provide support for the family of someone who has passed away. Recent examples of social action internationally include sending funds to Team Rubicon to help rebuild the Bahamas from the devastation it suffered and support for Federation projects.

Closer to home, we have donated to CAM, Crisis Assistance Ministry but our main thrust has been the support of a local program called OTS. Off The Streets supports women hit hard by misfortune and poverty, offering counseling, tough love and a safe, structured environment aimed at helping them turn their lives around. On a regular basis, we provide donations of food and monetary assistance. The Sisterhood provides a Christmas or Thanksgiving meal as well as gifts during the holidays from individual members to the participants.

This year, Temple Emanuel Sisterhood received the Barbara Wallace Inspirational Award, the highest award for Social Action from Off The Streets, honoring its work and President Suzi Nash for her unceasing efforts of on-going support throughout the year. The Award was created by the Founder of OTS, in honor of the first person who was propelled into a new life from this very special program being created to help others in need.

This year, the Sisterhood, working inside the 90 year old building we call home, (yes, it was built in 1929), contributed time, coordination, engineering expertise and funding towards the installation of a new kitchen at the Temple.

We also have a Casino Night Purim celebration, where a percentage of the proceeds made are directed to support different social action causes. Our Purim costume parties can get quite outrageous and it’s a way for the congregation to have great fun with their friends and kids. Our Pesach Seders are quite simply memorable, filled with dear friends, delicious foods, precious melodies and a warmth which penetrates all who come.

The Sisterhood’s Chanukah Party is always great fun. The entire congregation is invited and each person brings an inexpensive gift. Numbers for an exchange of gifts are drawn, but very often, the gifts are subject to a “trading war” and are stolen in this Chinese auction. Sisterhood also donates funds for the Temple School’s Chanukah celebration. There is also a Silent Auction in December which is usually a part of Chanukah activities. A portion of the proceeds go to support local social action such as animal shelters, Katherine’s House, Off the Streets, and various Federation campaigns.

This year, part of the funds raised by Sisterhood will be earmarked back to the Temple for security issues. Temple Emanuel Sisterhood is open to any interested women, but a great deal of the activities are oriented towards Jewish culture. Sisterhood women need not be Temple members. For more information on Sisterhood activities or membership, contact Suzinash27@gmail.com.

This year, Temple Emanuel Sisterhood is open to any interested women, but a great deal of the activities are oriented towards Jewish culture. Sisterhood women need not be Temple members. For more information on Sisterhood activities or membership, contact Suzinash27@gmail.com.

Sisterhood programs at Temple Emanuel.
Standing at the Door

By Susan Jacobs, Director of Education, Temple Beth El

For the past 20 years I have stood at the door of Temple Beth El Religious School to welcome our students as they enter. Admittedly, not every student walks in with a huge smile on their face. A few look less than thrilled to be there and one or two may have been coerced by their parents to go that day. But by and large, most of our students are genuinely happy to be there and return my smile and greeting.

Many things have changed throughout the years. The Jewish population has spread out from the southeast side of Charlotte to all over the city, county, and into South Carolina. Our families are no longer around the corner and just getting to Shalom Park can be a long haul. Another big change is the number of secular school options our families have. There are private schools, charter schools, faith-based schools, online programs, home schooling, and public schools in both Mecklenburg and Union Counties. More and more, Jewish students find themselves one of very few in their school. In many, there are only one or two Jewish families in the entire school.

That can be so isolating for a young Jewish child, especially in the current political environment. That means that attending religious school becomes vital. It is a safe place where a Jewish child can walk in and feel the relief of having everyone know and understand what it means to be Jewish. Not different or wrong, just Jewish.

Our students are free to talk about their experiences in their secular schools with clergy and teachers who care about them and who can help find solutions.

Temple Beth El Religious School is committed to encouraging our students to make friends and to form community. Teachers set aside class time for social activities. Creating friendships and forming community is as important as the lessons we teach. Every year we take the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades to a weekend retreat and our seventh grade, sheva im, on a Shabbaton to Camp Thunderbird. Amazing changes happen before our eyes. Students who may not have ever been in classes together sleep, eat and have so many fun experiences, that they come back excited and happy to see their Jewish friends every week in school. We have witnessed remarkable changes.

I think about the impact we can have on the families we serve, and I am thankful for their trust. I know that the faculty and staff are deeply committed to our students not only for what they can teach them but as role models and advisors. I am beyond grateful for the time and commitment they make every week on behalf of our children.

There is an Elie Wiesel quote that I think about when I am standing at the front door. “For me, every hour is grace. And I feel gratitude in my heart every time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile.”

We work hard to create the smiles on our students’ faces, and I am filled with gratitude as they enter and greet me, some with smiles, some with high fives and often a hug.

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I want acknowledge the incredible blessing that being a part of both Temple Beth El and the Religious School staff has been. I am thankful beyond words for the opportunity to stand at the door and smile.

JText Comes to the Ballantyne Jewish Center

With teens being on their phones approximately 540 minutes a day, Jtext is a great way to meet them where they are. Teens can put their time on phones to good use by learning important Jewish facts with Jtext.

Every Monday and Thursday at 7 PM, a Jewish trivia question is texted out. The seventh person to respond with the correct answer wins $20. Signing up is simple: Just text the word “bjcteen” to 980-365-8142. The goal is to be the “7th person at 7 PM” to answer the trivia question correctly.

Jtext has featured a range of questions from “Which country had the earliest settlement of Jews?” to “Who were the first set of twins in the Torah?” to “Which location celebrates the longest Shabbat?”

Following the question, the text includes four multiple choice answers. Teens receiving the text can respond “1,” “2,” “3,” or “4.” Once they submit an answer, the teens immediately receive a response telling them if they are correct or not.

Questions? Rochel@Jewish-Ballantyne.com.

The Election is March 3, 2020.
To join the campaign, please visit LeighAltman.com!

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 Children and Seniors
• Attorney Representative on Mecklenburg’s Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
• Mother to Three Boys Attending CMS Schools

Tikkun olam has always been at the core of my Jewish identity. That is why I have used my career to stand for justice and why I am now running for the County Commission which oversees a $1.9 billion budget for health, mental health, education, welfare, and the environment.
The Grand Opening of the New Epstein Family Chabad Center was Truly Grand

800 people from all across the Charlotte Jewish community celebrated with Chabad on Sunday September 15, as they opened the doors to the magnificent new Epstein Family Chabad center on Sardis Road. Guest were treated to an entertaining program led by famed Chasidic comic, Mendy Pellin, who presented the “many faces of Chabad.” The new Chabad center houses Congregation Ohr Ha-Torah as well as the multitude of Chabad Jewish educational activities in Charlotte. Over 550 people filled the Sanctuary and Social Hall. In addition we had 250 children in our youth building and in the JPS building.

Chris Epstein was honored for naming the new facility in loving memory of his grandfather Harry Epstein. Howard and Julie Levine were honored for dedicating the stunning new sanctuary as the Levine Sanctuary. Sergio and Adriana Kielmanowicz were honored for dedicating the Chabad Atrium.

Kosher Charlotte catered the event with a unique gourmet buffet featuring Scotch eggs, beef kebab, chicken gouregge, and much more.

Photos courtesy Genesis Photo Studios, Inc. - Len Weinstein.

Comedian Mendy Pellin with Rabbi Yossi Groner.

Arthur Oudmayer and Brad Rabinowitz share a L’Chaim.

Chris Epstein receives an award from Mariashi and Yossi Groner.

More than 800 people attended the opening.

Leslie and Ed Rusgo enjoyed the festivities.

Howard and Julie Lerner Levine, Currie and Brad Rabinowitz.

Waltonwood wishes you an abundance of joy and good health this holiday season.

Visit a Waltonwood senior living community near you and learn more.
The spirit of generosity is perhaps most evident during the holiday season. At JFS we are blessed, year-round, by the generosity of our community who gives in so many different ways. This month we shine a light on one of the ways our community gives to JFS – through the JFS food pantry.

As food pantries have grown across the US, so too has the food pantry at JFS. What started over 30 years ago as a way to serve just a handful of clients, helped almost 700 individuals and 336 families last year. Designed to serve those in the Jewish community who have been identified as food insecure, without the resources to provide complete meals for themselves or their families, the JFS food pantry is a vital part of our Jewish community. Once qualified, recipients are given the opportunity to “shop” every other week, by filling out a menu request form. And while some people have a hard time thinking that Jews anywhere could be short on food, especially in Charlotte, the numbers of people using the pantry, the number of visits to the pantry, and those calling for emergency bags of groceries are growing.

The Charlotte community is a generous one and the pantry benefits from individual contributors, affiliates, and larger organizations that help keep the pantry stocked and running. JFS Community Liaison and Volunteer Coordinator, Roberta Rodgers, ensures the operations of the pantry run smoothly. “There are lots of moving parts to keep the pantry running and also to ensure that each client is getting what they need and want – we do our best,” Rodgers said. “For some of our senior clients who are ‘shut-ins,’ who are unable to get to the pantry, we take their orders over the phone and ask one of our volunteers to deliver their order.” Rodgers explains that once a month an order is placed with Loaves and Fishes, an organization serving the entire Southeast. “The country is dedicated to supplying groceries for people in need.” JFS is considered one of their mini-pantries. Smaller businesses too like Poppy’s bagels contribute, allowing our volunteers to pick up bagels each week. “We have a lot of volunteers, doing many different things,” Rodgers said.

Frada Mozenter, a retired librarian, and a dedicated JFS pantry volunteer for the past 7½ years organizes and sorts through incoming donations. She collects donations from the bins throughout Shalom Park, completes a weekly inventory, creates the menu, and fills client orders. She has seen many come and go over the years in the pantry. “When I no longer see the younger clients, I often wonder if they got back on their feet or if they simply came on a day I was not there, or even if they’ve moved. I miss talking with them,” Mozenter said. “I marvel at their resilience and confident attitudes, something JFS helps people with.”

The Circle of Generous Hearts, a dedicated group of women who donate homemade, kosher-style, individual meals to the JFS Food Pantry are in large part responsible for ensuring that the JFS Pantry can provide Jewish families with holiday meals for Rosh Hashanah and Passover. Over the past 12 months, they’ve provided 1,299 meals to the Pantry; for every day needs and for holidays. One member shared, “We believe in giving back, and I love to cook,” she said, besides, feeding the hungry is one of the biggest mitzvot in Judaism.” And thanks to Shalom Park Community Garden, a place where Shalom Park community members have the opportunity for service, and learning about growing organic food, the JFS food pantry clients have received over 150 pounds of fresh produce this past year, including tomatoes, squash, peppers, greens, okra, root vegetables, figs, and grapes.

And what a blessing it is to see a child ask for donations to the JFS food pantry instead of birthday gifts. We’ve even had adults do this, too. This sort of giving is catching on especially at Shalom Park community and partners, with food drives held by the synagogues, schools, library, and schools. This allows us to provide supplemental food to clients in need when they need it the most. We are grateful for the outpouring of support. Each week a list of items the pantry needs is listed on the JFS website, at jfscharlotte.org. The following is a list of often requested items that are often difficult to get:

- Full size toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, pasta sauce, oatmeal, juice boxes, canned salmon, vegetarian baked beans, jelly, mayonnaise, ground coffee, laundry detergent, cookies, chips, snack items.
- Wishing all a happy holiday season. Thank you for considering JFS.

The Need Continues to Grow
Bal Tashchit and Beyond: The Ripple Effect

By Bobbie Mabe, Shalom Green Garden Coordinator

As a parent and a professional in the environmental field, I am always looking for opportunities to positively impact future generations in a way that will strengthen their connection with nature. The concept of tikkun olam, the perfecting or the repairing of the world, reminds me that when it comes to environmentalism; we must act, we must educate, and we must remember that tikkun olam has a ripple effect.

With future generations and the future of our planet in mind, Shalom Green designed a hands-on educational program for young people. Through the process of matching the mission of Shalom Green with the needs of the community, specifically youth and their families, this program offered participants the chance to complete community service hours while working on a self-selected environmentally focused project. Throughout the 12-week session, participants learned more about environmental issues, eventually developing a project on their topic of individual interest, all while honing central skills such as decision making, time management, research skills, advocacy and community service.

Our first session culminated with participant presentations in October. Max, age 12, had this to say about his experience: “I joined this program for my Bar Mitzvah service project, but it turned out to be much more than just a service project. It helped me realize the importance of our environment and ecosystem. I thought it was an amazing program, and I am considering doing it next year.”

Max chose to focus his project on the topic of water quality. In the Torah there are many narratives about the Jewish people and water. In these narratives we learn to appreciate water and to know its source. Today piped water is incredibly convenient, and creating a bright future, that like water will continue to reach far beyond what we have created today.

Max conducted research on the water cycle, learned how contamination enters the water cycle, and how it impacts us on a global level as well as a local level. He even looked specifically at water quality related to the Shalom Park Community Garden. As part of his project Max created a platform to share his research and offer suggestions about how to keep our water clean.

Drop a stone in the pond and the ripples will reach far beyond you. It has been a wonderful experience to guide this group of inspiring young people. I am very proud of this offering and believe that the program serves the community in a unique and necessary way. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Shalom Green and the program’s pilot donor, Cynthia Crane. Thank you to the participants of the Shalom Green Horticultural Education Program for your focus on tikkun olam and creating a bright future, that like water will continue to reach far beyond what we have created today.

Email info@shalomgreen-CLT.org to express interest in participating next year.

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

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

The Greenspon Center – Taking Seriously the Work of Social Justice

At the Greenspon Center, we take Social Justice seriously. Our goal is to present compelling programs to the community. Two of our initiatives, Abraham’s Tent: A Shared Muslim Community and Jewish Community Room in the Inn and the Call to Action: Criminal Justice Education Series offer great pathways for you to get engaged.

For six nights this winter, Jews and Muslims are invited to come together to provide food, shelter, and care to approximately ten neighbors in need as part of our newest program entitled “Abraham’s Tent: A Shared Muslim and Jewish Community Room in the Inn.” As part of Urban Ministries Room in the Inn community, we will open our Belk Chapel one to two Saturdays a month from January to March to our homeless neighbors. Just as Abraham’s tent was open on all sides to welcome friends and strangers passing by his desert dwelling, the Muslim and Jewish communities want our neighbors in Charlotte to feel that spirit of welcome. This program builds upon the success of the nearly two decades of hosting Room in the Inn at Temple Beth El and Shalom Park. We will be building even greater bridges as we move the program to Queens and collaborate with the Muslim community. We invite all community members to join us in providing this place of hospitality on the Queens Campus.

(Continued on page 17)
Why Not the Cemetery?

By Jill Blumenthal

“Why would I join the Hebrew Cemetery board?”

That’s the first thought that popped into my head when Kevin Levine invited me to join the board of the Hebrew Cemetery Association of Charlotte in 2007. I was in my early thirties and, frankly, I was not thinking too much about the Cemetery – I barely knew where the Cemetery was located. But now a member of the Charlotte Jewish community that I respected was asking me to commit some of my limited time and resources to this institution I barely thought about.

But I didn’t dismiss the invitation either and not just because I was flattered. (Although I was. Thanks, Kevin.) I knew that my grandparents, Anita and Herman Blumenthal of blessed memory, had supported the Cemetery and were buried there. I suspected Charlotte was where I would live for the rest of my life, and where else would I want to be buried but close to my family? And my grandparents, along with my parents, had instilled in me the idea that, since I had benefited throughout my life from the Jewish institutions created and nurtured, it was my responsibility to steward them going forward. My grand-father Herman often spoke about how his own father had told him, “If a community is good to you, you have to be good to that community.” I felt I could not “opt out” of Jewish life if I wanted it to continue.

I think I also sensed that a cemetery was an important institution that every Jewish community requires. I soon learned that establishing a burial space – a sacred place to honor the dead – is the first task of a new Jewish community. (This also explains why the Cemetery is the oldest Jewish institution in Charlotte, formed by the Hebrew Benevolent Society in 1867.)

So, after a little reflection, I realized I needed to reframe that original question that had popped into my head: Why wouldn’t I join the Cemetery board? I called Kevin back and accepted the offer; obviously the Cemetery has not been able to get rid of me yet. After joining the board in 2008, I was honored to serve and learn more about the Cemetery. However, it took me a while to find a way that I could contribute other than attending our quarterly meetings, helping out at the registration table at our Annual Memorial Service (held on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), and generally acting as an ambassador in the community.

I found my niche a few years later when the Cemetery joined the new Create Your Jewish Legacy (CYJL) program initiated by the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. As someone who didn’t have a lot of extra income to make large charitable donations, I was excited to learn that I could designate the Cemetery as a partial beneficiary of my employee retirement plan. After my death (hopefully a long time from now so the magic of compounding interest can get to work), the Cemetery and a few other Jewish nonprofits I care about will receive significant donations that will allow me to give back to the Charlotte Jewish community that supported me during my lifetime.

I was honored to become one of the early members of the Cemetery’s Legacy Society. Over the last few years, I have become passionate about introducing the benefits of legacy giving to others. I love sharing that anyone, with a little thought and planning, can find a way to support the nonprofits and causes they love and value. Our Director and I are always happy to speak with anyone about legacy giving. To learn more about the Cemetery in general, how to become a member, or the possibility of supporting the Cemetery with a legacy gift, please contact Director Sandra Goldman at director@hebrew-cemetery.org or 704-576-1859.

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Greater Charlotte Jewish Genealogical Society Chapter Being Formed

You are invited to join a group of interested members of our community in the preliminary discussion of creating a formal Greater Charlotte Jewish Genealogical Society Chapter. There are already approximately 30 people who have signed up and a lot of interest is being generated very quickly.

The organization encourages participation from beginners who want to pass on family history to experienced family historians and help others. Those (including non-Jewish) who are looking for lost Jewish heritage or still searching for extended families of Holocaust survivors may find additional resources through this organization and support from others with similar interests.

The organizer, Elissa Boyet, is an experienced local researcher with a lot of passion to share her knowledge about what this organization has to offer. At the November meeting, there will be a brief introduction, a questionaire to determine levels of interest and experience, and a short presentation on what tools the Jewish Genealogical Society has to offer.

Forming a formal genealogical organization will also open the doors for guest speakers. As a Beneficiary Agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Temple Solel of South Carolina has offered to sponsor the first speaker coming to Charlotte. We are very grateful for this opportunity. Jewish Genealogy fits in with our educational focus of pass on Jewish heritage and culture within our community and families,” said Temple Solel President, Shelley Pawlak and member, Helaine Goldman, who is also experienced in genealogy research.

Please RSVP directly to Elissa Boyet at atflee@msn.com or call her at 203-731-1882 to receive confirmed dates and times of the upcoming meetings.
The Center for Jewish Education is proud to announce our inaugural “LOLA” (Love Our Local Authors) event.

Don’t miss on this unique opportunity to hear different authors, speaking on a vast variety of topics and from different genres, all in one sitting. Each of our six featured authors will give a brief talk about their books. Afterward, attendees can visit one, or two, or all six authors. Think of it as speed-dating for book lovers!

Books will be available for purchase and signing. Refreshments will be served. This is event is FREE, however, registration is requested. Please RSVP by Nov. 30 at www.jewishcharlotte.org/cje

Questions: Debby Block, CJE Program Coordinator
704.944.6780/debby.block@jewishcharlotte.org
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Our professional staff, with the support of our colleagues at Foundation For The Carolinas (FFTC), provides expertise and years of experience to help develop a plan that meets your needs, accomplishes your goals, and benefits organizations and causes important to you. For more information please contact Phil Warshauer (pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org) or Nancy Kipnis (nkipnis@charlottejewishfoundation.org) or call us at 704-973-4544.

Queens Hillel is filled with gratitude after having built their sukkah and painted it with Mike Wirth who is a Professor of Art and Design and a Jewish mural and street artist. President Lugo even stopped by to spray paint some art. Thanks to Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for supporting Jewish Life at Queens and for purchasing the sukkah.

Klezmer Music in the ... Church?

That’s right ... klezmer music will be performed at Providence United Methodist Church. Gene Kavadlo will be performing with a group of his colleagues from the Charlotte Symphony as part of the popular Providence Chamber Music Series. Providence UMC is at the corner of Providence Rd. and Sharon-Amity. The concert will be Sunday, November 3, at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. The show is free.

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Highlights:

- Emcees Matt Olin & Tim Miner of Charlotte is Creative
- Drum Circle Kickoff with David Drum & Special Friends/Talent
- Ability Craft Fair - all Vendors with Special Talents
- Dreamland Carnival PJ Party - sensory-friendly fun for all
- Designated Preschool Zone with Dream Bubble Circus

PajamaWalk.com
Pajama Walk on November 10 - Don’t Miss It

Sunday, November 10 Friendship Circle and ZABS Place be hosting their 3rd annual Pajama Walk at Freedom Park to make dreams come true for individuals with special needs and talents.

Here are four amazing highlights:

1. Ability Fair is Back
Before and after the actual Pajama Walk during the Dreamland Carnival, you’ll be able to check out the unique creations of local crafters and artists with some seriously Special Talents. These unique items make great gifts and support inclusion and ability awareness (and of course the artist).

2. Pajama Catwalk
Yes, you heard that right. You’ll have an opportunity to finally show off those supercool pajamas you’ve been hiding away.

3. Special Talent Drum Circle and Boomwhackers
Led by the Uber Talented David Drum, our Friendship Circle Friends and our ZABS Talent will lead an interactive Drum Circle and Dream Boomwhackers to kick off the Pajama Walk.

4. Dreamland
Think of Candyland in a dream … moon-bounces, obstacle courses, races, pajama games, face-painting, and more. There will also be a designated area for preschool-aged kids with their very own Bubble Show.

To learn more or sign up, visit PajamaWalk.com.

Friendship Circle and ZABS Place are beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Greenspons Center Takes Social Justice Seriously

In conjunction with this program the Greenspon Center, in partnership with the Jewish Community and Muslim community in Charlotte, will begin the “Abraham’s Tent: Bridge Building Initiative.” On November 10 and then again in the spring, we will extend an open invitation to a potluck dinner to any members of the Jewish community and Muslim community who want to expand their circles of friendship, connection, and community. We will also hold “Abraham’s Tent: Bridge Building” programs at Shalom Park and at local mosques for Room in the Inn volunteers and others to connect, socialize, and learn.

To volunteer or for more information on either of these two Abraham’s Tent programs, contact Patty Torcellini at mspatyh@gmail.com or Bridget Cohen, bridgetcohen@yahoo.com.

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To volunteer or for more information on either of these two Abraham’s Tent programs, contact Patty Torcellini at mspatyh@gmail.com or Bridget Cohen, bridgetcohen@yahoo.com.

Here at Queens University, the Greenspon Center also dives deep into the issue of ongoing racism in the U.S., particularly as it relates to mass incarceration. Our Call to Action: Criminal Justice Education Series, is scheduled for Tuesday evenings from October 29 through November 12. This education and advocacy series brings together a diverse group of local and national leaders seeking major changes in the criminal justice system. The goal is to educate, infuriate, inspire, and hopefully enlist people from our community to fight for racial equality in all aspects of life. We are enthusiastic about this fourth annual advocacy education series.

The series culminates with the highly anticipated visit to Queens University by Michelle Alexander, the critically acclaimed author of The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. The Learning Society at Queens University is thrilled to be bringing Michelle Alexander to our campus and community on November 19 at 7 PM at the Belk Theatre in Uptown Charlotte.

She will lead a conversation on ending the racial caste in America while providing a new perspective on the challenges facing the civil rights community and a call-to-action for a multi-racial, multi-ethnic human rights movement for justice in America. Tickets for the Alexander lecture can be purchased through the Queens website.

To learn more on these social justice programs and many more, please visit our website at StansGreensponCenter.org.

We hope that you will join us in the work of Tikkun Olam.
November kicks off the holiday season with high expectations for a cozy and festive time of year. However, for many this time of year is tinged with sadness, anxiety, or depression. And while someone suffering from major depression or a severe anxiety disorder benefits most from professional help, what about those who just feel lost or overwhelmed or down at this time of year? Research suggests that one aspect of the Thanksgiving season can actually lift the spirits, and it’s built right into the holiday—expressing gratitude.

The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word gratia, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness. In some ways gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible.

In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

Whether you choose to write a few sentences in a gratitude journal, or simply take a moment to silently acknowledge all that you have, giving thanks can transform emotions, relish good experiences, and it’s built right into the holiday—expressing gratitude.

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Seven Scientific Benefits from Adopting an Attitude of Gratitude

1. Gratitude opens the door to more relationships. Not only have, giving thanks can transform emotions, relish good experiences, and it’s built right into the holiday—expressing gratitude.

2. Gratitude improves physical health. Grateful people experience fewer aches and pains and report feeling healthier than other people, according to a 2012 study published in Personality and Individual Differences. Not surprisingly, grateful people are also more likely to take care of their health. They exercise more often and are more likely to attend regular check-ups, which is likely to contribute to further longevity.

3. Gratitude improves psychological health. It reduces a multitude of toxic emotions, envy and resentment and regret. Robert Emmons, a leading gratitude researcher, has conducted multiple studies on the link between gratitude and well-being. His research confirms that gratitude effectively increases happiness and reduces depression.

4. Gratitude enhances empathy and reduces aggression. Grateful people are more likely to behave in a prosocial manner. Here, when others behave less kindly, according to a 2012 study by the University of Kentucky. Study participants who ranked higher on gratitude scales were less likely to retaliate against others, even when given negative feedback. They experienced more sensitivity and empathy toward other people and a decreased desire to seek revenge.

5. Grateful people sleep better. Writing in a gratitude journal improves sleep, according to a 2011 study published in Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being. Spend just 15 minutes jotting down a few grateful sentiments before bed, and you may sleep better and longer. —a major factor in reduced stress.

6. Gratitude improves self-esteem. A 2014 study published in the Journal of Applied Psychology found that gratitude increased athletes’ self-esteem, an essential component to optimal performance. Other research has shown that gratitude reduces social comparisons. Rather than becoming resentful toward people who have more money or better jobs—a major factor in reduced self-esteem—grateful people are able to appreciate other people’s accomplishments.

7. Gratitude increases mental strength. For years, research has shown gratitude not only reduces stress but it may also play a major role in overcoming trauma. A 2006 study published in Behavior Research and Therapy found that Vietnam War veterans with higher levels of gratitude experienced lower rates of post-traumatic stress disorder. A 2003 study published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology found that gratitude was a major contributor to resilience following the terrorist attacks on September 11. Recognizing all that you have to be thankful for—even during the worst times—fosters resilience.

We all have the ability and opportunity to cultivate gratitude. Rather than complain about the things we think we deserve, take a few moments to focus on all that you have. Developing an “attitude of gratitude” is one of the simplest ways to improve your satisfaction with life.

Adapted from Health.harvard.edu and Psychology Today.

Go, eat your bread in gladness, and drink your wine in joy; for your action was long ago approved by God. Let your clothes always be freshly washed, and your head never lack ointment.

Enjoy happiness with [someone] you love, all the fleeting days of life that have been granted to you under the sun— all your fleeting days. For that alone is what you can get out of life and out of the means you acquire under the sun. Whatever it is in your power to do, do with all your might. For there is no action, no reasoning, no learning, no wisdom in the netherworld where you are going ...

Even if a man lives many years, let him enjoy himself all of them, remembering how many the days of darkness are going to be. The only future is nothingness.

—Ecclesiastes 9:7-10, 11:8
“If we don’t take care of our future, who will?”

NOW IS THE TIME FOR WISDOM

When you create your Jewish legacy, you take an important step toward strengthening Jewish life for generations to come. Planning your gift now will help ensure your children and grandchildren can enjoy the same rich traditions and closeness of community that have given your life so much meaning and purpose.

For more information about legacy giving, please contact, Sam Bernstein, at 704.944.6758 or sam.bernstein@jewishcharlotte.org.

Many thanks to the donors of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte who have created a legacy to provide for future generations:

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Martin Birmbaum
Barry and Lisa Blau
Jill Blumenthal
Lee Blumenthal
Philip Blumenthal
Michael and Lenora Borchardt
David and Bonnie Bornstein
Justin Bregman and
Diana Warth Bregman
Larry and Tracy Brown
Richard* and Suly Chenkin
Steven and Olvia Cohen
Wendy W. Cohen*
George and Andrea Cronson
Arlene and Gary* Davis
Michael and Jill Dinerman
David and Aileen Epstein
Barry and Mary Ellen Ezarsky
David and Stephanie Gillin
Meg D. Goldstein and Matthew Luftglass
Milton and Arlene Goldstein
Leon and Jennifer Golinsky
Barbara Goodman
Michelle Goodman
William and Patty* Gorelick
Marcelle Gorelick
Todd and Stacy Gorelick
Danny and Fay Green*
Keith Greenspon
Stanley Greenspon
Josh and Jodi Greenwald
Bonnie Hart
Stephanie Haynes
Joel Horwich
Andy and Christy Horwitz
Jonathan Howard
Donald and Susan Jacobs
Robert and Leola* Jacobson
Florence Jaffa
Andrew and Dana Kapustin
Robert and Nancy Kipnis
Richard and Paula Klein
Barry and Lorrie Klemons
Jamie and Elise Kosofsky
Alan Kronovet and Cary Bernstein
Eric and Susan Lerner
Gary and Donna Lerner
Harry Lerner
Mark and Alison Lerner
Jerry and Barbara Levin
Ross C. Levin
Julie Lerner Levine
Leon and Sandra Levine
Ellis Levinson
Hal and Holly Levinson
Sam and Linda Levy
Marc and Laura Lewin
Sue Littauer
Abe and Rose Luski*
Scott and Pam Menaker
Laura Milgrim
David and Risa Miller
Ed and Jill Newman
Richard J. Osborne
Allan and Marcelle Oxman
Floyd and Brenda Patten
Larry and Dale Polsky
Steve and Melissa Raphael
Andrew and Jennifer Rosen
Anita “Neet” Rounds
Marvin and Elaine Schefflin
Michael” and Sara Schreibman
Larry Schwartz
Melvin Segal
Linda Seigel
Amy Selitin
Robert and Stacey Selkin
Louis Sinkoe and Kevin Levine
Michael and Anne Sinshheimer
Eric and Lori Sklut
Ira and Stacey Slomka
Steve and Emily Snyder
Joseph and Renee Steiner
Lisa Strause Levinson
Stephanie Townsend
Jeff and Karen Turk
Ross and Amy Udoff
David and Debra Van Glish
Michael and Judie Van Glish
Liz Wahls
Mark Weintraub
Elizabeth Star Winer
Kim and Sue Worrel
Robert* and Anne Yudell
Joe and Marisa Zeibert
Sam and Emily Zimmer
Bill and Angie Zimmer
Mildred Zuckerman*

* of blessed memory
Moishe House Inspires Philanthropy Among Young Adults

By Dave Press

It has been widely reported for years that today’s young adults are intrinsically different from previous generations. Millennials, in particular, are less religiously affiliated than ever before. According to the 2012 Pew Research Center report, “‘Nones’ on the Rise,” nearly one in three millennials do not belong to a faith community. Of those, only 10% reported that they are looking for one.

Further, millennials’ affiliation with legacy institutions is lower than any other generation. Rates of synagogue membership are extremely low among young adults, and membership in other Jewish organizations is lowest among those under 30, with less than one-quarter of Jews in this age group reporting involvement. Perhaps most striking is the significant variation in rates of philanthropic giving to Jewish organizations.

While more than half of Jews over 30-years-old reported having given to Jewish causes, just 39% of young adults under 30 stated that they have done so.

Moishe House is working to reverse this trend.

Once each year, through an ambitious six-week WE ARE peer-led fundraising initiative, Moishe House invites young adults and their friends and family members to make a meaningful contribution to support our ability to continue to support young leaders in creating vibrant and welcoming communities for themselves and their peers. Moishe House estimates that more than 50% of those who give during this campaign are under the age of 35. The WE ARE campaign provides an opportunity for Jewish young adults to demonstrate their commitment to philanthropy and the Moishe House model of building Jewish community. Moishe House has found that this campaign is often the first time many young adults are making a philanthropic contribution and has the potential to inspire them to continue giving in the future with greater capacity.

In fact, according to Moishe House’s 2018 external evaluation, only 20% of Charlotte-area respondents stated that they were making financial contributions to Jewish organizations or causes that were important to them prior to involvement with Moishe House. However, that ratio more than doubled to 43% following Moishe House participation.

The 2019 WE ARE campaign was record-setting; we are excited to share the official results of the campaign and the success Moishe House Inspires Philanthropy Among Young Adults (Continued on page 25)
Highlights of My Recent Trip to Israel: Final Installment

By Elias Roochvarg
Israel Journal, Monday, April 29

Our taxi came to take us to the airport at 2 AM. At the airport, surprise! We were visited by (a thin!) David Ben Gurion himself to see us off.

Epilogue

I will close with two additional experiences I had, one negative, one positive.

First, the negative: Our final experience with Israelis came after we had already left Israel. We flew from Tel Aviv to Madrid. The plane taxied to the arrival gate, five or at most, 10 minutes late. Linda was on the aisle seat, so she, along with many others, stood up to retrieve our things from the overhead compartment. The plane door had not yet even been opened. Nobody was pushing or shoving anyone else, just standing in the aisle... until along come two Israeli fellows who had been several rows behind us. They were pushing their way through the line, saying that they had a flight to catch in half an hour. Linda did not like the idea that they were assuming that merely saying shlichah that Tel Aviv - and maybe all Israel - is a safe place for children, but even more important, their parents felt that Tel Aviv - and maybe all Israel - is a safe place for children. And I believe they are correct.

Last Thoughts: A Solemn and Sad Farewell

On our last morning in Israel, before leaving our Air BNB, Linda and I did an inventory, going through all the rooms to make sure we were leaving nothing behind. Now I am sitting down to contemplate the spiritual inventory of just what I am leaving behind:

I am leaving behind the modern miracle that is the State of Israel, which welcomed its people back after almost 2,000 years of their homelessness.

I am leaving behind the miracle of the resurrection of the Hebrew language, for 2,000 years used exclusively as the language of prayer, now the language of teens on the street, disk jockeys on the radio, doctors, lawyers, and, to paraphrase the remark of David Ben Gurion, spoken by Jewish policemen when they arrest Jewish prostitutes ... who also speak Hebrew (... uh ... so I’ve been told).

Don’t get me wrong: I love, and am proud of, my American identity and heritage. But there is just a feeling I get in my soul every time I return to Israel, which I just don’t get when I visit Washington or New York. Each visit to Washington, or to NY is just that, a visit. But each return to Israel is a homecoming.

I am leaving behind all that and more:

The central bus station in Jerusalem, with its Biblical inscription on its wall: Sha’alu shalom Yerushalayim ... (the actual inscription is in Hebrew letters, of course).

A city of between 500-1,000 synagogues, depending on whom you ask; the only country in the world where Jews, Christians, and Muslims all serve in the government; a country that welcomes any and all Jews to “return” and become citizens.

I know I’ll be back, but it can’t be soon enough. Meanwhile, I’ll just keep thinking of the lines from Psalm 122:

My feet were standing at your gates, Jerusalem; Jerusalem the rebuilt ... Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you prosper.
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.

Music and Me
8 Months–2 year olds
Interactive music and age-appropriate movement for mommy, daddy, or caregiver and their baby/toddler. (Patty Torcellini)

Mon-Wed, January 6 – February 10, 12–12:45pm

Explore Science
3–5 year olds
Eds. enjoy real, hands-on investigation and experiments about JL science all around them. Explore and learn through stories, games and experiments. (Marc Jacobs)

Mon-Wed, January 6 – February 10, 1:30–2:00pm

Spanish for Preschoolers
3.5–5 year olds
Children learn Spanish through dramatic play, interactive games, and music. (Milos Mijo)

Tuesdays, January 7 – February 18, 1:15–2:00pm

Let’s Play- Back to Basics
Ages 3.5–5 year olds
Children will have fun playing all the games we used to play as kids: kick, duck, punch, shorts, and more. (Jennifer Haberman and Patty Torcellini)

Fridays, January 10 – February 21, 1:15–2:00pm

Exciting Programs for Your Young Ones!
Adults

“Nosh & Know” about Parkinson’s Disease
Join us monthly for a series of topics. We’ll provide refreshments and snacks. November topic: “Meditation and the Benefits it May Have On PD Management” presented by Jenny Plaus, Transformational Meditation Certification and Meditation Teacher.
Tuesday, November 19 • 11:30am-12:15pm
Weinberg Senior Center • Free
Must RSVP each month, by the Friday before to 704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org
This program is offered in collaboration with Oasis Book Club
November’s Book: *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee
Friday, November 22, 1–2pm
FSP Boardroom • Free; just show up!
704-944-6753 or sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

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

Winter & Spring Programs for all Ages!
Hundreds of Classes for Seniors!
Enrichment & Exercise
Educational Seminars
Painting Classes
Oasis Book Club
November’s Book: *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee
Friday, November 22, 1-2pm
FSP Boardroom • Free; just show up!
704-944-6753 or sharri.benjamin@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

Holiday Cooking Demonstration
Come learn how to make Thanksgiving side dishes with local, seasonal ingredients. Chris & Emily Russell will show you how to make simple side dishes – come for the lesson and samples and leave with recipes and ideas!
Sunday, November 3rd • 3pm
Dumas Activity Center
M/F/F • NM/$8

Available at the LJCC
Medicare Part D Counseling
Prescription Drug Plan Open Enrollment
Oct 15 through Dec 7
To make an appointment with a Volunteer SHIIP Counselor:
Jill Lipson: 704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

WINTER & SPRING PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES!
- Monthly Field Trips
- M/W/F Kosher Lunch
- Enrichment & Exercise
- Educational Seminars
- Painting Classes

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life for all seniors, regardless of religious affiliation. We welcome all adults age 50 and up from the greater Charlotte area.

HOURS
Monday-Friday • 9am-5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center
Jill Lipson • 704-944-6792

like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc
**TORAH TOTS**

BIM BAM SHABBAT THANKSGIVING DINNER & SERVICE
Friday, November 22, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
All are invited to gather for a special Torah Tots Thanksgiving Shabbat. After delicious dinner, we will welcome in Shabbat, with songs, prayers and movement led by Rabbi Kornsgold and Mr. Caleb. Register for dinner online by November 19 at templeisraelnc.org.

**MEN’S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE (STATESVILLE AVE.)**

Join us as we cook a healthy, delicious dinner at Temple Israel, and then serve it to 120+ men in need at the Statesville Ave Men’s Shelter. We are also collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. For details, visit templeisraelnc.org.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

MEN’S SHELTER OF CHARLOTTE (STATESVILLE AVE.)
Sunday, November 24, beginning at noon (Sunday before Thanksgiving)
Join us as we cook a healthy, delicious dinner at Temple Israel, and then serve it to 120+ men in need at the Statesville Ave Men’s Shelter. We are also collecting donations of clothing, toiletries, etc. For details, visit templeisraelnc.org.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB MEETING**

Wednesday, November 13, 7 p.m.
JOIN US WHEN AUTHOR JANE S. GABIN DISCUSSES HER BOOK

“THE PARIS PHOTO” IN PERSON AT OUR MEETING!

Inspired by a true story, The Paris Photo describes the unrelenting fear and despair felt by those – especially Jewish families - living in occupied France during World War II. Copies of The Paris Photo are available from the Public Library and the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, or can be purchased on-line for less than $18. Questions? contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362, levycy@me.com). New members are welcome!

*“A quietly powerful book... a thoughtful delineation of characters and a sensitive study of a culture and an era.”* - Kirkus Reviews

**KABBALAT & KIBBITZ**

Friday, November 15, 6:15-9 p.m.
(6th-12th Graders)
Join Kadima, Ir Ha-Malka USY and Camp Ramah for Kabbalat Shabbat - Ramah style! Following services, hang out with your friends with board games and dinner. All that is missing is you! Drop-off and Pick-up at Temple Israel.

**LIFELONG LEARNING**

LUNCH N’ LEARN WITH RABBI HOWARD SIEGEL
Thursday, November 12, 11 a.m.
The Lord Is My Shepherd - Healing Wisdom of the 23rd Psalm
Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought, and join Rabbi Howard Siegel once a month at Temple Israel for an engaging discussion on one of Harold Kushner’s thought-provoking books, followed by a delicious catered lunch (menu: An Italian Feast – vegetarian option available). Registration required. Cost: $10/TI Congregants; $18/Guests. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

**SWIMMING IN THE SEA OF TALMUD**

Sunday mornings, 11 a.m. (beginning November 3rd)
Location: Temple Israel Board Room
Talmud is the vast compendium of Jewish law. The morals, ethics, and values taught in the Talmud are of universal interest. Join Rabbi Howard Siegel and come prepared to learn, discuss and debate theological, political, and everyday concerns of living. English texts will be provided. No previous background in Talmud is required! *dates to coincide with TI Religious School schedule

**SOCIAL CLUB**

GUEST SPEAKERS: ANDREW TANGALOS (RETIRED U.S. DIPLOMAT), AND WIFE, BONNIE
Sunday, November 17, 12:30 p.m.
Location: Leon & Sandra Levine Social Hall
Andrew Tangalos, retired U.S. diplomat, and his wife, Bonnie, will speak to the Social Club about their family experience living and working in American Embassies in foreign countries. Cost: members/$16 and guests/$20. Mail payment to Temple Israel, c/o Social Club.

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To volunteer, please contact Jonathan Berger (jbergertisa@gmail.com or 704-995-1732).

Proceeds support Temple Israel, Women of Temple Israel, Temple Israel Youth Programs, and Social Action Initiatives.
The Ruach: A Different Take on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services

“What an amazing Rosh Hashanah Experience. So magnificent, so Jewish – I loved every moment.” That’s what Ruth Scherr had to say about The Rosh Hashanah Experience held at the Fillmore September 30. Based upon other comments made by several of the nearly 700 folks in attendance, Ruth was not alone in her sentiments.

The Experience appealed to people of all ages. Chantial Rubin, who attended The Experience with her husband and children remarked, “Thanks to The Ruach for creating services our whole family loves.”

The Ruach was joined this year by Jill Levinson, one of the original members and co-lead vocal-ist of The Ruach, jazz and gospel recording artist, Robyn Springer, who captivated everyone by sing- ing the classic, “Why Can’t We Live Together,” and local musician, Eric Marder, who provided not only backing vocals but also some very fine acoustic guitar work. Their voic-es, together with those of lead singer, Nancy Good and bassist Dan Ruda, delivered harmonies that were rich and beautiful.

Avinni Malekine is a staple of every High Holy Day service. Nancy Good sang the rendition made famous by Barbara Strei- sand. As Alyson Grossman Twar shared, “Avinni Malekine was soul-stirring and powerful.”

A highlight of every Ruach Expe-rience is Rabbi Rachel Smookler’s sermon. She always delivers a message of that is uplifting and thought-provoking. Her Rosh Hashanah message was no excep-tion. It was a powerful and very personal sermon about the pow-er to change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and reconciliation. It was a powerful and very personal sermon about the power to change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation. Rabbi Smookler reminded us that believing that we can change, of acceptance and the importance of reconciliation.

Rabbi Smookler chants the Torah portion on Rosh Hashanah.

en’t felt that way in a long time.” Writer Jack Grossman who has attended many of The Ruach Experiences, summed up The Rosh Hashanah Experience like this, “When tears flow you you’ve made a spiritual connec-tion.”

This year, for the first time, The Ruach and Rabbi Smookler added a Yom Kippur service: The Kol Nidre Experience. Like all Expe-riences this one contained lots of contemporary Jewish music. And, for the song/prayer “Kol Ni-dre” the congregation was treated to three different renditions. The first, Louis Lewandowski’s tra-ditional version was sung beau-tifully by Dr. John Hall, former bass leader of Temple Beth Eli’s High Holy Day choir. Then, the second time Jeremy Lamb of the Charlotte Symphony played the same version on cello, which pro-vided a wonderful musical pal-eate for each person’s reflection of the meaning of Yom Kippur. For the third, The Ruach played a totally original version called, “We’re Only Human.” It really brought home the meaning of the prayer. We all make promises to God and try to keep them but no matter how we try, we can’t keep them all and it is for these broken promises to God that we prospectively ask for God’s forgiveness. Sometimes, the liturgy of Yom Kippur can feel distant and does not always resonate with our lives and personal journeys and strug-gles. The Kol Nidre Experience changed many minds about this. Said Ellen Martin, “I never en-joyed the Kol Nidre service be-cause I found it negative which is problem for me because I believe that people are innately good. The Kol Nidre Experience gave me feeling of hope and optimism; I felt lifted up rather than weighed down. Like all The Ruach Experi-ences, it really fed my soul.” If you’d like to be on The Ru-ach’s distribution list and stay informed about upcoming Expe-riences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. To learn more about The Ruach “like” the band on Facebook, follow them on Ins-tagram @the.ruach.new.jewish. music and Twitter @TheRu-ach.Spirit.

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Ju-daism through new Jewish music and personal connectivity. Sometimes, the liturgy of Yom Kippur can feel distant and does not always resonate with our lives and personal journeys and struggles. The Kol Nidre Experience changed many minds about this. Said Ellen Martin, “I never enjoyed the Kol Nidre service because I found it negative which is problem for me because I believe that people are innately good. The Kol Nidre Experience gave me feeling of hope and optimism; I felt lifted up rather than weighed down. Like all The Ruach Experiences, it really fed my soul.” If you’d like to be on The Ruach’s distribution list and stay informed about upcoming Experiences, email the.ruach.band@gmail.com. To learn more about The Ruach “like” the band on Facebook, follow them on Instagram @the.ruach.new.jewish. music and Twitter @TheRuachSpirit.

The Ruach on stage at the Fillmore during Rosh Hashanah.

Moishe House Insipres Philanthropy

(Continued from page 20)

generated over the course of just six weeks, driven by our young adult community builders in Charlotte and around the world: Moishe House received 2,800+ donations, primarily from Jewish young adults and their communities, raising $160,821, surpassing our goal and increasing the campaign by 16% from 2018. The Moishe House Charlotte community surpassed its original goal by more than 250%.

One anonymous Charlotte do-nor left the following comment:

when making their donation: “Moving to a new city without knowing anyone is always hard. Moishe House Charlotte not only gave me a Jewish community to feel welcome but also lots of friends to help make Charlotte a home. I’m very grateful for the Charlotte house and all the fun events that are held for the commu-nity.”

For more information about Moishe House, visit www.moishehouse.org. © Dave Press is Moishe House’s Southeastern Director of Advancement, based in Charlotte.
BBYO Happenings

It has been a great start to 5780 in Charlotte BBYO. Our teens have led some pretty incredible programming this year including sports tournaments, high holiday programming, chapter lunches and more. In October, we were excited to host Scott Fried for a new parent event where he discussed how to communicate with Gen Zers. It was eye opening and we want to thank everyone who was able to make it. Scott also joined us for a weekend with juniors and seniors in Eastern Region BBYO to discuss consent, self-worth, and Jewish life post high school. As always, Scott was inspiring and our teens walked away with a new understanding of themselves. Charlotte BBYO is thrilled to invite 8th graders to their first BBYO event. This event is open to any Jewish 8th grader in the Charlotte area. We will be going to the Hornets vs. Bulls basketball game on Saturday, November 23. We will meet at the Levine JCC at 5 PM for a 5:15 PM departure. Tickets are $20 and include transportation to and from the game, a Hornets t-shirt, behind the scenes experience, and a ticket to the game. Teens can register at https://ti-nyurl.com/cffallfest19. If you have any questions please contact Lauren Revenson at lrevenson@bbyo.org.

Campaign for Friendship Circle’s New Center Is Underway

Welcome to the Ultimate Dream - The Selkin Family Friendship Circle Center

Friendship Circle’s new Center will be a space – the first of its kind in the area – offering recreational, therapeutic, and fun-based social and educational opportunities for children, teens, and young adults with special needs to enjoy alongside their typically developing friends. Our Center will include an Art and Creativity Zone, Music and Movement Studio, Multi-Sensory Dream Room, Teen Leadership Hub, Friendship Loft, and an Indoor Sensory Park.

We’d like to thank the Selkin Family and the Sklut Family for each providing major gifts to kickstart our campaign.

To learn more, see our list of partners and to get involved, please visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org/NewCenter. The Friendship Circle is a Beneficiary Agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

Youth Visions

The Art of Social Skills

Learn how the arts can help you explore creative and positive ways of self expression! Through theatre, poetry, music and dance, we can develop social, emotional and communication skills vital to success in school, work and life. Registration required. 1:1 Aids welcome to participate.

AGES 5-12

uada, November 12 • 6:00-7:00pm

AGES 13+

uada, November 13 • 10:00-11:00am

The Art of Access

Access isn’t only about ramps and sign language interpretation; access is an attitude! Art of Access is an interactive workshop that examines how to design every day experiences, from classes of every variety, to performances, worship services or events, for people of all ages and abilities. We adapt this program for a wide range of participants—from family members, educators, support staff, care givers and organizations—anyone interested in using creative strategies to make day to day experiences more accessible to people with disabilities.

uada, November 15 • 9:00-11:00am

REGISTER ONLINE

carlotttejcc.org/upstreamarts

The Levine JCC is a fully accessible, ADA compliant facility.

For more details on Upstream Arts, Inc., visit: www.upstreamarts.org

LJCC Program questions? Email: susan.gundersheim@charlottejcc.org

LOCATION OF ALL CLASSES:
Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park
5007 Providence Road, Charlotte NC 28226
Hebrew High Kick-Off at Squirrel Lake Park

Hebrew High kicked off the 2019-2020 school year on Sunday, September 22 at Squirrel Lake Park in Matthews. Over 60 students from 8th-12th grade were greeted by teachers and clergy and welcomed to Hebrew High.

We decided to do something new this year and brought Hebrew High outdoors. Teens socialized while playing corn hole, giant Jenga, and throwing a football around. They also had the opportunity to meet others through the “Human Bingo” ice breaker. Four lucky students went home with a Starbucks gift card as prizes. New friends were made, and old friendships were rekindled.

After dinner, we broke into groups and teachers led another ice breaker for students. One group used a ball of yarn to pass around to each other. The person with the yarn said a fact about themselves and then threw the yarn to someone else who could retell a similar fact to that person. In the end, you can see that everyone is connected somehow. Other groups tossed around a ball with “get to know you” questions on it. After some games, teachers talked about the new and innovative Hebrew High school year. The smaller groups made it easier for students to understand the amazing changes we’ve made to Hebrew High. By the time the teachers were done explaining, the students were extremely excited and eager for Hebrew High to begin. The pictures show how much fun and excitement was shared by all.

Our evening continued with yummy pizza and King of Pop popsicles. Everyone then gathered in a circle to share what we are looking forward to this year and the clergy from Temple Beth El led us in singing the Shehecheyanu, a beautiful way to end the night and start this new year.

If you haven’t signed up for Hebrew High, it’s not too late. Please visit www.hebrewhigh.org for registration forms and general information. Or contact Megan Harkavy at 704-944-6782 or mharkavy@hebrewhigh.org.

(Continued on page 28)

Women’s News

Hadassah Plans, North Carolina

Hadasah Laughs

By Sharon Goretsky, president, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Many of you know the story already, but for those who don’t, there is an old Yiddish proverb that says “Man plans and God laughs.” I suppose I had never given it much thought until last week, but I am now a firm believer.

Apparently, the State of North Carolina laughs too. Due to a change in the law governing gaming permits, we are unable to hold our Let the Good Times Roll. A Roaring 20s Casino Fundraiser scheduled for November 16. I would like to thank the casino night committee for all their hard work for what I am certain was going to be a great event.

I wouldn’t want the members of the committee to be bored, so instead of casino night, please join us for Hadassah Heals: Renovating the Hospital at Ein Kerem, a beautiful luaucheon at Maggie’s on Friday, November 15 at 11:30. Of course there will be a delicious lunch, but we will also have our famous Wine Pull, door prizes, and a live auction…just in time for gifts for Chanukah.

Your support of this event will allow Hadassah Charlotte to sponsor the construction of a Nurses’ Station in the newly renovated Dermatology Department at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem. This state of the art nursing station will serve as the hub for nursing care and will be equipped with all necessary communication equipment including computers, printers, loudspeakers and telephones, as well as the notification system for patients requesting attention. Hadassah Medical Organization is a world leader in melanoma research and treatment. In addition, The Marie and Aaron Blackman Department of Dermatology and Venerology has recently established several foundations.

(Continued on page 28)

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

Anonymous* (2)
Sanford and Lois Benjamin
Bobbi and Don Bernstein
Mark (OBM) and Louise (OBM) Bernstein
Nancy and Sam Bernstein
Susan P. Bessey
Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble
Diana Warth Bregman
Steven and Olivia Cohen
Adam Foodman
Ken and Tammy Golder
Allen Gordon (OBM)
Bill and Patty (OBM) Gorelick
Jeff and Bari Gorelick
Nancy and Robert Kipnis

Lorrie and Barry Klemons and Family
Alison and Mark Lerner
Harry and Gloria Lerner
Leon and Sandra Levine
Holly and Hal Levinson
Annie and Harrison Lord
Rose (OBM) and Abe (OBM) Luski
Polly and Steve Menaker
Eliot and Shirley Rosen
Marty and Elaine Schellfin
Melvin Segal
Lori and Eric Sklut
Marilyn and Harry Swimmer
Mort Wise

*Donors who wish to remain anonymous

OBM - Of Blessed Memory

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

704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org
Hadassah Plans, North Carolina Laughs

(Continued from page 27)
new clinics, each one specializing in the treatment of specific diseases or populations: Pediatric Dermatology, Contact Dermatitis, Mole Tracking and a MOHS Surgery Unit. The department is also a leading center for treating patients suffering from various hair and scalp disorders, such as Alopecia Areata. This is in addition to their Oncodermatology Clinic, Center for Genetic Diseases of the Skin and Hair, and their Clinic for Ulcers and Difficult Wound Healing, among many others. I hope you will join us. Please check out our website at www.hadassahcltevents.org for additional information and to purchase your tickets.

While this year’s philanthropy event is for the renovation of the Round Building at Ein Kerem, Celebrate the TaTas is always near and dear to our hearts. All proceeds from our Wine Pull at Hadassah Heals: Renovating the Hospital at Ein Kerem will go directly to Celebrate the TaTas. Speaking of TaTas, another Celebrate the TaTas Soccer Tournament of Champions was a great success the weekend of October 5-6. Six teams of women from around the south (Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and more) descended on Winston-Salem for competition, fun times, good food, raffles, and friendship. Novant Athletic Trainers were on hand to help when needed, and there was even yoga on the soccer fields. An awesome DJ helped make everything even more festive. A huge thank you to Talia Goldman for coordinating another amazing tournament. Thank you also go out to the North Carolina Adult Soccer Association for being such a valuable partner for the past seven years. Hadassah Charlotte and NCASA are the best team out there and we look forward to many more years of this strong partnership.

Richard A. Klein of Charlotte has been named to the national board of the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP), www.jcl-project.org. The announcement was made by Noah Levine, Senior Vice President of the Atlanta-based organization.

JCLP is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of congregations with fewer than 100 members and facing demographic challenges. By helping community leaders craft strategic plans to address their most pressing concerns – usually cemeteries, preservation of histories, buildings and religious objects – JCLP assists these sacred communities as they seek to sustain quality Jewish experiences within an environment where they may be the only Jewish establishment. Partners such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte are instrumental in the planning process.

Klein retired last year from The Jewish Federations of North America after serving 21 years as Associate Director of the Network of Independent Communities. He had joined Federation in a professional capacity after 30 years as a filmmaker with the Walter J. Klein Company, Ltd., from which he retired as President. His Charlotte communal Jewish roots are deep, as an active congregational leader and as a past President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte.

“Richard Klein brings a special sensitivity to the JCLP board,” says Levine. “While at JFNA Network of Independent Communities he was the first to make a connection between JCLP and a small-town congregation in need of legacy planning.” Congregations in South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and elsewhere engaged with JCLP through his efforts.

“The guidance JCLP gives is a blessing,” he says with an empathetic understanding of the challenges facing lay leadership.

Richard Klein

Mazel Tov & Congratulations

Richard Klein Appointed to Board of Jewish Community Legacy Project

Time is life. Use it or lose it. Seize it as if you have every right to it, like air; take it in, hold it, expand it, shape it to your dreams or it will gallop out of control and disappear.

—Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Getting Over Getting Older

Overflowsing
with Gratitude!

Hadassah at the TaTas Soccer Tournament of Champions.

TODAH RABAH!
We are thankful for our wonderful students, parents, and staff at CJP!

704-944-6776 • charlottejewishpreschool.org

Charlotte Jewish Preschool
LEARN • GROW • CONNECT

CJP is a partnership of Temple Beth El, Temple Israel & LJCC
The Many Colors of JPS

Red are my apples, to taste, stamp, and eat.
Dipped into honey, for a new year that is sweet

Orange are the pumpkins and the leaves that fall.
They flutter to the ground. Let’s collect them all.

Yellow is my etrog, which smells so very nice.
Pair it with a lulav, shake it once, shake it twice.

Green is the grass and the trees on my playground.
Our muscles get stronger as we swing and run around.

Blue is my stuffed Torah, hold it close and hold it tight.
And when we sing our Torah song it always feels just right.

Purple is my play-doh, I’m a creative child.
I roll it, cut it, shape it; imagination going wild.

On Fridays we eat challah, for Shabbat we do prepare.
It’s brown, fresh and yummy and it quickly disappears.

Silver is my nickel, so shiny and so round.
When I drop it in the pushka, I hear a clinking sound.

Our world is full of wonder, of colors bright and fun
We take the time to notice the beauty of each one.
Guided by our teachers and the classroom which surrounds us
We learn about the mitzvot and the world that is around us.

Jules Oringel Wins UN International Service Award

Jules Oringel, a senior at Providence High School, was recognized on September 27 as one of fifty Everyday Young Heroes in 2019 by Youth Service America. Everyday Young Heroes are young people from across the world, ages 5-25, who make significant progress towards the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals through grassroots service, advocacy, and philanthropy. Through her gun violence prevention nonprofit, Return Home Supplies, Oringel has traveled the nation speaking about gun safety legislation and her personal connection to the Parkland shooting. Additionally, the organization sells school supplies with messages designed to spark meaningful conversations in classrooms and offices about gun violence prevention and civic engagement. These supplies have raised thousands of dollars for March For Our Lives and Moms Demand Action and Oringel’s advocacy has reached more than 60,000 people since June 2018. Return Home Supplies believes that every student and teacher deserves to return home safely from school each day, and Oringel plans to keep working toward this reality until it is achieved. To learn more about how Return Home Supplies is working to create sustainable cities and communities alongside the United Nations, visit www.returnhomesupplies.com.
What’s Jewish About a Guinea Pig?

By Danielle McLaughlin, 3’s Teacher at CJP

“The child who cares for a pet knows that what he does matters, and so he’ll want to do more of it. The more successfully he feeds, walks, or emotionally bonds with the pet, the more confident he’ll feel.” - Shari Young Kuchenbeck, Ph.D., research psychologist at Loyola Marymount University

Here at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool we are lucky enough to have our very own pet guinea pig, “Mazel.” Mazel came into our lives in the spring of 2018 and has enriched our lives ever since. Pets, like Mazel, are a wonderful opportunity for children to learn respect and care of other living things. Mazel has helped our children to connect many of Charlotte Jewish Preschool’s core values into their daily lives here at school, and recently he has made weekend trips into the homes of many of our precious students. Mazel helps children build a sense of responsibility as well as to learn empathy while caring for others.

Each day when children arrive to school, Mazel lights up their morning by waiting for them in the main entryway. He is there each day to love and care they have for Mazel. Students connect Mazel with their experience at school, and recently he has made weekend trips into the homes of many of our precious students. Mazel helps children build a sense of responsibility as well as to learn empathy while caring for others.

At the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, we truly value our role as caretakers and those who protect and repair the world. Tikun olam is about connecting the values we teach each day to love and care they have for Mazel. Check out Mazel on his adventures by following him on Facebook - simply search for “Mazel on the Move.”

The child who cares for a pet knows that what he does matters, and so he’ll want to do more of it. The more successfully he feeds, walks, or emotionally bonds with the pet, the more confident he’ll feel." - Shari Young Kuchenbeck, Ph.D., research psychologist at Loyola Marymount University.
Step It Up

Over $100,000 was raised on behalf of Charlotte Jewish Day School on Thursday, September 26 in a celebration of the 21st year of being a community day school. More than 60 grandparents, former parents, current parents, and donors, all friends of CJDS, spent the evening at the new Epstein Chabad Family Center enjoying curated sake and bourbon tastings. A delicious buffet of hors d’oeuvres was served as everyone reminisced the beginnings of CJDS, the difficult and good times, and rejoiced in the success and growth of the school of today.

Jerry and Barbara Levin, long-time supporters of CJDS, in fact one of the first donors, stepped up by offering a $36,000 challenge match to all who would also step up and reach beyond their annual contribution. Elise Kosofsky led the charge, and before we knew it, not only was the $36,000 matched, it went way beyond the goal.

Personal stories were shared, some with tears, of the impact the school made on their children, now adults. We were reminded of the mission of the school and that is to instill, imbue, and impart Judaism to the next generation. The school is supported because it is one of the crucial puzzle pieces in ensuring the future of the Jewish nation, its practices, and traditions. Everyone in the room felt the responsibility of safeguarding our heritage and our traditions so that they will continue for generations to come.

Charlotte Jewish Day School has many milestones and accomplishments, here are but a few:

Charlotte Jewish Day School

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100% of CJDS students are accepted into middle school program of their choice
87% of CJDS students outperform the national average on the CTP4/ERB testing
216 hours in project-based learning/STEM/STEAM per year
210 hours per year, per student engaged in art & music
7 languages spoken fluently by CJDS students and staff
83% of CJDS teachers have advanced degrees
36% years in the average tenure of CJDS teachers
100% of parents participate in the Annual Fund
91 CJDS Net Promoter score (customer satisfaction indicator)
1610 Kosher lunches served per month
602 students have benefitted from a CJDS education
$3.9 million in college merit scholarships (2014-2019)
JCRC FALL LECTURE

November 14, 2019
7:00 pm
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

TRANSFORMING ENEMIES INTO PARTNERS

SHADI ABU AWWAD
the grandson, son and nephew of strong proud Palestinian leaders who were at the helm of the First Palestinian Intifada (Uprising). He grew up imbued with a deep hatred for Israelis. When still a child, his family underwent a major transformation and were among the pioneers in reaching across the divide to their Jewish neighbors to work together in order to create a shared vision for the future. As the Palestinian architect and coordinator of the Roots youth movement, Shadi facilitates shared encounters and experiences among Palestinian and Israeli teenagers, building a new generation of leaders who can confront the real problems between their communities while acknowledging each other’s shared humanity.

HANAN SCHLESINGER
an Orthodox rabbi and teacher, and a passionate Zionist settler who has been profoundly transformed by his friendship and interaction with local Palestinians. His understanding of the reality of the Middle East conflict and of Zionism has been utterly complicated by the parallel universe that they have introduced him to.

JOIN SHADI AND HANAN as they tell their personal stories and of their efforts to build a better future for their peoples. They come with no ready peace plans in hand, but only with the conviction that human understanding and trust will be the prerequisites for lasting justice, freedom and peace on that tiny sliver of land that they both call home.

Please RSVP by Nov. 11 @ www.jewishcharlotte.org