Women’s Philanthropy Fall Kick Off September 11

Tickets on Sale Now

Inspired and guided by our tradition of tzedakah (righteousness/charity) and tikkan olam (repairing the world), the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity and thriving future of our Charlotte Jewish community, Israel, and the Jewish people.

We seek to provide significant opportunities for all women to affirm their Jewish identity and spirituality, to be proactive in evolving issues of concern to contemporary Jewish women, to engage new cadres of participants and leaders in our community, and to inspire other Jewish women by example.

It’s easy to look at others and think how lucky they are, and sometimes finding the positives in our own lives can be hard. Success is often measured in tangible ways, and as we strive to achieve more and get more, we forget that it’s often the simple things that can bring us the most joy. After reading about how expressing gratitude can transform one’s life and will include research results from psychologists, doctors, and academics that highlight how gratitude can transform one’s health, marriage, family life, and work.

This event will take place at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for the Cultural Arts. Tickets bought in advance of September 4 will cost $18 which will include appetizers, fruit, and drinks (wine, tea, and lemonade). This event is open to all women and there is no minimum gift requirement to attend. This event is intended to be a warm, cheerful, and inclusive event to welcome all Jewish women in our community and help us kick off the Women’s Philanthropy calendar.

The program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy and co-chaired by Melanie Brown and Lyba Rousso. The Gratitude Diaries will be for sale prior to the event in the Federation office. For further information, contact Ilana Toch, 704-944-6784; ilana.toch@jewishcharlotte.org.

**EVENT CO-CHAIRS:**
Melanie Brown and Lyba Rousso

**EVENT HOSTS:**
Meredith Baumstein, Nancy Bernstein, Lee Bierer, Eliza Carney, Rochelle Carney, Amy Fine, Rachel Friedman, Rachel Helton, Alyssa Levine, Pearl Mann, Jan Marmor, Staci Mond, Amy Novick, Lauren Nussbaum, Dale Polsky, Heather Rousso, Louise Trager, Amy Udoff, Debra Van Glish, and Rachael Weiss

**$18 TICKETS ON SALE NOW**
WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG

Epstein Family Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Grand Opening on September 15

Chabad of Charlotte is excited to announce the naming of its newest building on the Sardis Road Campus. The “Epstein Family Chabad Center for Jewish Life” will be the name of the new magnificent Chabad Center. The building is named in honor of Harry A. Epstein who had an incredible impact on his grandson, Chris Epstein, the visionary benefactor of this monumental project. Chris Epstein, President of BECO South and Midwest, has connected with Chabad of Charlotte from his arrival in 2010 and has grown in his friendship and camaraderie with Rabbi Yossi Groner, director of Chabad of Charlotte, through Torah study and his commitment to Jewish life.

The Epstein Family Chabad Center will house Congregation Ohr HaTorah and the Jewish Learning Institute of Charlotte and will feature a commercial kosher kitchen and a grand multiuse ballroom as well as a junior congregation/weekday chapel.

The main entrance will lead into a beautiful atrium welcoming visitors, members, teens, and preschool families to the new and existing facilities.

A spectacular grand opening celebration is planned for Sunday, September 15 at 5 PM. This event will include activities for the entire family. The celebration will showcase what Chabad of Charlotte offers on its Sardis Road Campus - programs for adults, teens and preschool children. There will be multiple activities happening for all ages concurrently at this gala event.

Adults will be ushered into the new building where wine and cocktail drinks will await them. A magnificent multimedia presentation by internationally known Chassidic comic, Mendy Pellin, will be held in the beautiful sanctuary. The new sanctuary will feature synagogue furniture designed and built by Lavi Furniture Industries in the lower Galilee of Israel as well as other items from artists in Israel and the USA.

There will be a recognition ceremony with an expression of appreciation to the major donors of the new building, including (Continued on page 6)
Veteran Leader, Sam Bernstein, Named Chief Development and Marketing Officer

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is pleased to announce Sam Bernstein as its new Chief Development and Marketing Officer.

In his role as Chief Development and Marketing Officer, Sam will be responsible for implementing a clear and compelling vision to advance the Jewish Federation’s philanthropic goals and strategic objectives. Sam’s many accomplishments, character, and personality make him extremely well suited for advancing Federation’s development and marketing proficiencies.

Sam is a well-known, respected, and long-tenured leader of the Charlotte Jewish community. Among Sam’s many roles in the Jewish community, he is a Past President of the Federation, and has served on the boards of several Jewish organizations spanning over 30 years. Sam has been actively engaged in the Federation campaign for many years and is a seasoned and highly effective campaigner. Professionally, Sam has deep expertise in market research, brand development, strategic communications, and creative content development. We are excited to welcome such a high caliber professional to this critical position.

Sam’s transition from the corporate to the non-profit sector is indicative of many other professionals today who choose to leave their corporate professions in favor of aligning their work with their personal values and interests. Sam’s commitment to Charlotte’s Jewish community has been the focus of his volunteerism for decades, and he is excited for the opportunity to make his passion his focus of his next professional endeavor. The Federation and our community will be the very fortunate beneficiaries - Sam’s professional expertise, as well as his Jewish community experience, will be a tremendous asset to our organization.

Sam says, “I am excited to join Sue Worrel and the Federation team and look forward to sustaining the good work that has been done as Federation looks to meet the ever-growing needs of our vibrant Jewish community.” Together with Sue, Sam, and the rest of the management team, Federation is poised to tackle the multi-dimensional challenges facing Jews today and create the kind of Jewish life we want for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren.

Sam can be reached at sam.bernstein@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6758.

Levine-Sklut Judaic Library Welcomes Freedom School Scholars

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library at the Center for Jewish Education was thrilled to sponsor the “6 Weeks 6 Books” program again this summer for the 75 elementary aged children who attended the Shalom Park Freedom School. Each Freedom School scholar visited the Library once a week to select a donated book for their home library. “Encouraging literacy and reading is an important part of our mission at the Library,” said Tair Giadice, Director of the Center For Jewish Education. “We are pleased to support the Shalom Park Freedom School in its efforts to improve children’s reading skills and prevent summer learning loss.”

Contents

Federation News.......................... pp. 1, 2
Center for Jewish Education............ p. 2
Sue’s Book Shelf.......................... p. 3
Schools......................................... pp. 5-8
Jewish Family Services................ p. 10, 12
Synagogues/Congregations............ pp. 12-18
Community News......................... pp. 21-25, 28-32
Dining Out.................................... p. 18
Women’s News........................... p. 20
Jewish Community Center........... pp. 26, 27
Youth Visions............................ pp. 32, 33
High Holy Days........................ pp. 34-39

I would like to make a contribution to demonstrate my support of The Charlotte Jewish News.

Name:___________________________ Phone:_________________________
Address:________________________ State:__________________________
City:__________________________ Zip:____________________________
Enclosed in my check for $__________
$18.00 Basic Annual Subscription
$25.00 Friend
$50.00 Patron
$100.00 Grand Patron
Other
The month of September is forever associated with new beginnings... the Jewish New Year, back-to-school... a fresh start. On Wednesday, September 18, the Center for Jewish Education Book Club will discuss Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel’s Classroom by Dr. Ariel Burger, the winner of the 2019 National Jewish Book Award’s Biography Category. I found this book to be very compelling reading. My copy has post-it notes on nearly every page, marking passages for further consideration.

The book is about witness, historian, human rights activist, and writer Elie Wiesel, who when asked about his life’s mission, responded, “I am a teacher first.” Elie Wiesel was mentor, trusted friend, and advisor to author Ariel Burger for nearly 25 years. This remarkable book gives readers a front row seat in Elie Wiesel’s classroom at Boston University, and allows us as readers to benefit from his distinct teaching style. He created a classroom environment based on trust which encouraged students to question and voice their innermost thoughts in a safe space. In turn, Wiesel responded, “I am a teacher first.”

Most importantly, Burger’s book honors Elie Wiesel’s truth that “listening to a witness makes you a witness,” and when reading these words, every reader, will become a witness, too. Ariel Burger’s book is an invitation to every reader to become Wiesel’s student and witness. I wish we could put this book into the hands of every Holocaust denier, every student who is no longer required to study about this horrific period in world history, every teacher and school administrator who doesn’t feel compelled to personally denounce the extermination of six million Jews and approximately five million others by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.

According to Rabbi Irving Greenberg, “Read this book and become a better person”- quite an endorsement as we enter a new school year and the Jewish New Year. Let’s hope that the legacy of Elie Wiesel will serve as an inspiration for our teachers, our students, our community and our leaders.

Center for Jewish Education News:
Save the Date for “On the Same Page Chapter One” when Mary Morris, author of the popular historical novel Gateway to the Moon, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, November 17 at 11 AM. Highly Recommended New Books:

The Flight Portfolio, Julie Orringer
* Fleishman Is in Trouble, Taffy Brodesser-Akner
* Maybe You Should Talk to Someone, Lori Gottlieb

September Book Club: Please join us on Wednesday, September 18 when we will discuss Witness: Lessons from Elie Wiesel’s Classroom. We meet at 10:30 AM – everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact sue.littauer@jewish-charlotte.org.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PJ Library Apple Picking 10:00 AM Carmign Farms</td>
<td>Library Closed Today!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PJ Library Baby Storytime 11:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library will be closed Sunday, September 29 thru Tuesday, October 1 for Rosh Hashanah!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Raid Our Shelves! Used Book Sale Ends September 13

 PJ Library Kugelicious 10:00 AM Levine-Sklut Judaic Library

Make books your companions; let your bookshelves be your gardens: bask in their beauty, gather their fruit, pluck their roses, take their spices and myrrh. And when your soul be weary, change from garden to garden, and from prospect to prospect.

~ Ibn Tibbon, c. 1120-1190 (?) Spanish Jewish scholar
None of us can deny that the world was shaken by unspeakable tragedy — from Pittsburgh to Poway and beyond. But you powered vital support in response to the devastation.

Through Federation, you’ve now powered community resilience and trauma-related aid. Increased security. Solidarity and ongoing healing.

This New Year, when vicious bigotry and antisemitism strike, let’s commit to being ready — powering even more of whatever is needed in response.

www.jewishcharlotte.org

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
What’s New at JPS?

We are so excited for the 2019-20 school year! After months of planning and preparing, we are sure this will be a wonderful year for all our students, teachers and families.

Wondering what the new school year will bring, besides the warmth, love, and excellent education that the community has come to expect?

JPS is excited to partner with Kosher Charlotte to offer hot lunches to our families. This is a convenient option for those who choose to order, and the food is sure to be delicious.

With the growth of our student body, we are thrilled to have Morah Chaya join our team as a second Judaica teacher, partnering with Morah Jayme to bring authentic Jewish experiences to our students. Chaya has been a part of the JPS family for many years, and she is loved by all.

We are also excited to share that we have invested in a new curriculum assessment tool which will enhance the Creative Curriculum, which we are already utilizing. The assessment tool focuses on 38 objectives from all developmental domains that we want each child to achieve while in our care. The tool follows each child as the continue their journey at JPS. This will be beneficial for children and teachers as it will allow teachers to plan activities based on objectives that may have not been mastered by some (or all) of the class, as well as give them a greater opportunity to individualize lesson plans to meet the needs of individual children.

It will also paint a clear picture of how each skill builds upon the next, highlighting the importance of intentional planning and providing opportunities for teachers to work as a team.

And last but certainly not least: the new Chabad Center is almost complete. We can’t wait to see the space and benefit from all Chabad has to offer. Join us for the Grand Opening on September 15 at 6619 Sardis Road.
By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDS

My summer is not at peace until we can agree on the message we will be teaching and emphasizing the coming year at CJDS. The motto at CJDS is a tradition and even our graduates come back years later and want to know what mottos they missed.

I knew that we had to address the challenges we are facing as a Jewish People. As much as I believe in sheltering the children, especially children as young as those that attend CJDS, it is becoming more and more difficult to believe that they are not aware of the rising anti-Jewish sentiment out in the world. If they haven’t experienced it yet, then they certainly have seen the fear in the adults around them when they make every effort to blend in and not stand out as Jews.

When there are suggestions that perhaps our kids should not ride on the CJDS bus, or that they should not wear our t-shirts, or God forbid a kippah, I know the children are hearing and absorbing the message that it might not be a good thing to be Jewish and that is not okay. It is our job as a Jewish day school to fill our kids with pride and joy and to strengthen them in times like these.

That is why, our overarching motto is Am Yisrael Chai. We, as a Jewish nation, as a Jewish people will stand strong and proud and we will not back down. We will also hopefully set the example God has asked of us, to be a “light unto the nations.” David Suissa said it best in The Jewish Journal when he wrote about the Lubavitcher Rebbe in honor of the 25th yahrzeit, saying, “By spreading the goodliness of Judaism in such a visible and loving way, the Rebbe showed the world a Judaism that is hard to hate. He responded to Antisemitism with the gentle but potent force of pro-Semitism.” Many times Antisemitism comes from ignorance. If we reach out to educate, explain, and teach, we can grow our circle of friends, rather than close it off. What a wonderful example a Jewish child can set.

Although I believe it is important show pride, that is not enough, we want to teach the children that we have the capacity and the ability to make a difference and to break down the barriers that seem to be breeding this terrible atmosphere. Our motto “Shine a Little Light” is going to energize all of us at CJDS this year, as we seek ways to brighten the world and push some of the black clouds away. We can shine a little spiritual light by doing a mitzvah like kissing the mezuzah or saying a brachah on our food. We can shine a little light, by greeting someone with a smile. We can shine a little light by showing some extra respect for someone. There are so many possibilities. The only problem is, there won’t be enough days in the school year to do them all.

CJDS Motto for 2019-2020 - Am Yisrael Chai - Shine a Little Light

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 6

Charlotte Jewish Day School

Chabad Center Grand Opening

(Continued from page 1)

Chris Epstein and family, Howard and Julie Levine, and Sergio and Adriana Kichmanowicz for their magnanimous support of the new building.

In an exciting development, Leon and Sandra Levine added a gift of $200,000 from the Leon Levine Foundation for a “shot in the arm” earmarked for the new Chabad building.

Other major donors include: Alan and Madeline Aron, BECO South, Diamonds Direct of South Park, David and Aileen Epstein, Larry Schwartz, Bobby and Stacy Selkin, and Ed and Leslie Ragsow.

A huge thanks to the Chabad building team led by Arthur Oudmayer, Brad Rabinowitz, and Barry Klemons for their leadership in steering this project to its fantastic completion; and to the architects — Bill Monroe and Theron Hobbs from WGM design and Roger Hendrick and Scott Cozzali from Hendrick Construction.

A festive gourmet buffet will be served after the ceremonious event with food stations located throughout the new building. The buffet, catered by Kosher Charlotte, will feature delectable dishes like Beef Kebab, Chicken Gougere, Scotch Egg, and Eggplant Bruschetta, plus many luscious desserts.

Children will have their own unique programs in the Jewish Preschool on Sardis building, as well as the new Youth/Friendship Circle building, with a special children’s menu.

The Grand Opening event has been coordinated and led by Ellen Engelhardt and Eliza Kosofsky with a broader participation from the community.

This celebratory event is open to the entire Charlotte community. To RSVP please visit chabad-nc.org/grandopening. For more information please call our office at 704-366-3984.

Come join us to help illuminate the path for the Chabad building.
A bipartisan slate of senators introduced a bill that would fund Holocaust education in schools. The Never Again Education Act would establish the Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund in the U.S. Treasury. The bill would combine appropriated funds and private donations.

A release Thursday from the office of Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., one of the lead sponsors, said the bill would “finance grants to public and private middle and high schools to help teachers develop and improve Holocaust education programs.”

“There is overwhelming evidence that Antisemitism is on the rise in the United States and across the globe,” Rosen, who is Jewish, said in the release. “In order to ensure that an event like the Holocaust never again occurs, we must take concrete steps to address this growing epidemic of hate, and that begins through education and understanding of one of the most horrific chapters in history.”

The other lead sponsors are Sens. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D.; Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; and Marco Rubio, R-Fla. A companion bill in the U.S. House of Representatives has 204 co-sponsors led by two New York representatives, Democrat Carolyn Maloney and Republican Elise Stefanik. Hadassah led the effort among Jewish groups to garner sponsors for the bill, with CEO Janice Weinman calling it urgent.

“Students – and sometimes teachers and administrators, too – are painfully unaware of the Holocaust,” she said. “We must address this because Holocaust education programs are important at reducing extremism, hate and bigotry against all people.”

William Daroff, who leads the Washington office of the Jewish Federations of North America, which also pushed for the legislation, said making the bill law would help “ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten and that future generations are equipped to build a society free from hatred.”

Sen. Jacky Rosen of Nevada, seen in 2016, is one of the lead sponsors of the bill to fund Holocaust education programs in schools. (Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call/Getty Images)
Introducing CKids Extreme for Rising 6th Graders

Chabad of Charlotte is proud to launch a new exciting program for rising 6th graders.

It’s called CKids Extreme.

Based on our popular CKids Jewish Adventure, CKids Extreme will challenge your 6th grader in a fun way to Navigating Their Way Through Life with Torah as our guiding light.

Led by Sophie Molinari, each month we’ll tackle a new challenge. But rather than seeing it as an obstacle, we’ll approach it like a game. In each lesson, we will speak about the players and the pieces and how to navigate our way through life like a champ.

To learn more visit www.ChabadNC.org/CKids.

A Time to Welcome

By Brooke Amo, director, CJP

Bruchim Habaim! In the months of August and September we welcome many new things to CJP. We are welcoming 50 new families and 190 returning families back from summer break.

We are welcoming five new staff and 61 returning staff members as we kick start both our full and half day programs.

Eight new board members are being welcomed to our leadership team. We are welcoming introspection and reflection within our practice, and we welcome new ideas from one another with in our learning community to serve our children.

In late July, it was very exciting to see and meet our new CJP families at our New Parent Orientation. As we began the morning with a quick schmooze, I was filled with joy as I saw the excitement in parents as they were getting to know one another, become a partner with the school to strengthen their child’s experience here at CJP.

On July 14, our new Board of Directors came together for a retreat to have meaningful conversations around CJP leadership roles, our strategic plan, desired Board practices and culture, and the overall vision for the school’s future. It was a pleasure to welcome our newest Board members: Norm Shapiro, Carrie Rocha, Eliza Carney, Jeff Richeck, Tara Spil, Erica Ellenbogen, Jessica Garfield, and Adina Loewenstein.

We are very fortunate to come across such a dynamic group of people that have volunteered their time to serve the CJP mission.

This year we are proud to welcome five new full time and one new part time staff members.

As our teachers were welcomed back in to our new year at orientation, we discussed ideas around curriculum, educational philosophy, the essence of childhood, and role the role of the learning environment. Staff shared their enthusiasm of their new found knowledge stemming from the Reggio Emilia Conferences and the overall ideals of Reggio that we have been exploring for the past three years.

This year, our focus will be on environments, our image of the child, and observation as it pertains to student driven learning. We discussed these topics at length; addressing both theory and practice, and look forward to sharing them with parents and other stakeholders during curriculum night on September 25.

We hope this excitement and enthusiasm from our teachers is apparent as you walk through our halls to enter warm, inviting, engaging, and intentional learning environments. The classrooms are designed to welcome children and initiate learning by providing provocations (invitations to learn). With this approach, teachers are able observe children in a learning environment to gauge their interests and build upon their knowledge. Therefore, we will be putting higher value on the process in which children learn rather than the product that is created.

Many of the provocations include loose parts, upcycled materials, and open ended objects.

(Continued on page 17)
DAY 1.

A bright new sunrise brings its greetings. 
So gather the apples, all fresh and sweet. 
Now a perfectly round challah to welcome a king. 
Add the honey, and that’s a feast so sweet. 
A bright new sunrise brings its greetings.

Happy new year from all your friends at Publix.
School Violence – Yes, There is Hope and What You Can Do to Help

The headlines appear almost daily - another school shooting. It strikes fear in the hearts of everyone you know: parents, grandparents, and especially the staff, teachers, and students who must enter a school every day. Now that the school year is getting started, safety will most certainly be a major concern. What should be put in place for student and staff safety? What is the best kind of security system? Some schools are hiring more security officers, others are creating training programs for students. Not only should this advanced preparation potentially cut down on harm to students, but it gives students, teachers, and parents a feeling of control. A feeling that something is being done. And yet our anxieties surrounding this are warranted and very real.

New data shows that school violence is linked not only to mental health problems, but to physical health problems and risk-taking behavior, including drug and alcohol use. Social exclusion and low self-esteem are factors of violence and there is a connection between being a victim of bullying or fighting and school violence.

Actually, 30% of young people admit to bullying and 23% of high-schoolers report being in a physical fight in the past year. Students report being threatened or injured with weapons on school property and there were 82 school shootings in 2018. The Safe Schools Initiative Report suggests that 71% of school violence attackers were victims of bullying; a resounding 87% of the offenders left evidence that they were bullied severely. Clearly this is troublesome, but perhaps not as troubling as it seems. Just 1.2% of all youth fatalities occur in school. A full 30% of pediatric deaths are suicides and in several states, the number of pediatric firearm fatalities is greater than pediatric motor vehicle deaths.

And we can’t continue to be inured with horrific news stories, there is progress being made in efforts to prevent school violence. A heightened awareness and structured conversation among parents, teachers, community partners, and students is helpful. Not only is there more awareness but there is a better understanding of the indicators leading up to school violence and possible actions to take to prevent it.

As parents we can help:
1. If you do choose to keep firearms at home, ensure that they are securely locked, that ammunition is locked and stored separately, and that children know weapons are never to be touched without your express permission and supervision.
2. Take an active role in your children’s schools. Talk regularly with teachers and staff.
3. Act as role models. Set clear limits on behaviors that help create and sustain a safe environment. It’s your right. Make your own conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence. Listen to and talk with your children regularly. Find out what they’re thinking on all kinds of topics. Create an opportunity for two-way conversation, which may mean forgoing judgments.
5. Set clear limits on behaviors in advance. Discuss punishments and rewards in advance, too; it teaches self-discipline.
6. Communicate clearly on the violence issue. Explain that you don’t accept or tolerate violent behavior. Discuss what violence is and is not. Answer questions thoughtfully. Listen to children’s ideas and concerns.
7. Help your children learn how to examine and find solutions to their problems. Teach them how to approach a problem and resolve it effectively are less likely to be angry, frustrated, or violent.

Some behaviors often escalate.
9. Insist on knowing your children’s friends, whereabouts, and activities. It’s your right. Make your home an inviting and pleasant place for your children and their friends; it’s easier to know what they’re up to when they’re around.
10. Work with other parents to develop standards for school related events, acceptable out of school activities and places, and required supervision. Support each other in enforcing these standards.
11. Make it clear that you support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn.
12. Join up with other parents, through JFS workshops, school activities and neighborhood and synagogue organized events. Talk with each other about violence problems, and concerns about your children in the community.

At Jewish Family Services, we

JFS Monthly Volunteers and Donors
Month of July 2019
Meals Prep by Circle of Generous Hearts: Ilene Cantor, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherry, Donna and Burt Greenspon, Sari Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Donna and Burt Greenspon, Sari Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Donna and Burt Greenspon, Sari Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Donna and Burt Greenspon, Sari Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherny, Donna and Burt Greenspon. 
Food Drive: Kate Lowenstien in honor of his 3rd birthday
Food Pantry Donations: Rob Fuller, Robert Chab, Stacey Cohen, Danny Fischer, Risa Fogel, Steve Goldberg, Lisa Strouse Levinson, Audrey Madans, Marcia Solomon, Camp Gan Israel, Camp Mindy Teen Camp, Charlotte Jewish Community Center Members, Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants, Shalom Park Community Gardens
WORDS to ACTION
Empowering Students and Parents to Address Antisemitism

Join us at this interactive workshop to learn about antisemitism.

Increase your understanding, explore effective resources and learn how to strategically respond.

UNDERSTAND.
RESPOND.

This program offers tools to strengthen ones capacity and build confidence to address antisemitism.

Sunday, September 15
12:00 - 3:00 PM
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
RSVP @ www.jewishcharlotte.org

CONTACT: Laurel Grauer, Director of Community Relations & Israel Affairs, 704.944.6751, laurel.grauer@jewishcharlotte.org

ADL is a 100+ year old global anti-hate organization founded to protect the Jewish people that relentlessly fights the escalation of all forms of hate, in every community, to secure justice and fair treatment for all • adl.org
Donations to Jewish
Family Services in July 2019

IN MEMORY OF
Steve Weiner from Gloria Goldberg
Bernice Schwartz to Alan and Mark Goldman from Ronald and Janice Weiner
The mother of Russell and Julia Greenfield from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
John Halverstam to Andrew and Jill Halverstam from Jonathan and Stephanie Simon
Fay Sinkoe from Teri Gottlieb-Deal
Bernice Roberts to Carol Shanfranek and Harry and Marilyn Swimmer from Eric and Lori Sklut

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Matt Sidoti to David and Suzey Catanzaro from Michael and Robin Stier, Ronald and Janice Weiner
Bernice Schwartz to Alan and Mark Goldman from Ronald and Janice Weiner
Elaine Schefflin from Paul and Lynn Edelstein
Janice Weiner from Matthew Luftglas and Meg Goldstein

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO
David Kronovet from Elise Menaker
David Feibus from Jack and Vera Mendel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Steven Hockfield from Gary and Janie Levinson
Laura Milgrim from Harry and Ruth Cronin, Carol Gorelick
Pearl Rosenthal from Lillian Buller, Estelle Rosen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Steven Hockfield from Gary and Janie Levinson
Laura Milgrim from Harry and Ruth Cronin, Carol Gorelick
Pearl Rosenthal from Lillian Buller, Estelle Rosen

There is Hope
(Continued from page 10)

make the social, emotional, and physical well-being of our community a priority. We work with our partners on Shalom Park offering educational workshops on parenting and mental health. Through the counseling of parents and adolescents, we are able to provide the skills needed for better outcomes in the home and school. If you or someone you know needs help, call us at 704-364-6594 or go to jfscharlotte.org.

Two High Holiday Mystical Insight Sessions at Chabad

In preparation for the upcoming High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur of the Jewish New Year of 5780, Chabad of Charlotte will be hosting two meaningful and inspirational sessions on the mystical significance of these holy days. The sessions will be led by Rabbi Yossi Groner, senior Rabbi at Ohr HaTorah, where he will share elucidated insights from a rich selection of Chassidic and Kabalistic writings on these most important days of the year.

The High Holidays, also known as the days of awe, bring with them a transcendent spiritual energy which, if tapped into, can lift us from the mundane into a divine experience. These days are devoted to more than asking for God’s blessings for all things good. On a deeper level, these days are filled with life changing inspirations and can help us experience a recharge in our lives.

The sessions will be held on two consecutive Tuesdays in September. The first session will be on Tuesday, September 17, and the second on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:30 PM. Both sessions will be held at the new Epstein Chabad Center for Jewish life. For more information, visit chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3984.

Jewish Council of Lake Norman Sponsors a Community Event at the Lake

Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina

On September 22, Dr. Leonard Rogoff, President and historian of the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina, will lead a program on Jewish history in the state.

The program, which is free and open to the public, includes:
* Down Home: A documentary film (80 minutes, color)
* Panel discussion with native Carolinians
* A traveling museum exhibit

The program will be at Temple Kol Tikvah, 605 South Street in Davidson. For more information, go to JewishCouncilofLakeNorman.org.

Leigh Altman
For County Commission At Large - 2020

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

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

I’m running for the Board of County Commissioners to fight for children and families.

Please visit LeighAltman.com and join our campaign!

PAID FOR BY LEIGH ALTMAN FOR COUNTY COMMISSION

PAID FOR BY LEIGH ALTMAN FOR COUNTY COMMISSION
Welcome the Rabbi Shlomo and Rochel Wolvovsky to the BJC Family

The Ballantyne Jewish Center is excited to announce that Rabbi Shlomo, Rochel Leah, and their two children Mendel and Levi, have moved to Charlotte to join the BJC team. They will be assisting to fill the growing demand for Jewish programming in Ballantyne and the surrounding areas. These responsibilities will include Hebrew School, camp, youth activities, holiday programming, and more.

Rabbi Shlomo was born and raised in Brooklyn. He studied in Rabbinical schools in New York, France, and Jerusalem. Throughout his time studying, he volunteered with youth in the Release Time Program (an after school program for Jewish students in public schools), camps, and outreach programs. Rabbi Shlomo and his family lived in Sydney, Australia for the year of 2018. They were very successful working with the youth through Hebrew school, Cteen, and camp. Rabbi Shlomo is passionate about what he does and will bring new talent and insight to our center.

Rochel Leah was born and raised in Madison,WI. Her parents have been running the Chabad at UW and Madison for forty years. Growing up in this environment she knew that this was what she wanted to do it with her own family. She is honored to have this opportunity here at BJC. Rochel Leah has been a teacher in preschool and High School and enjoys working with children and teens. Rochel Leah brings a new energy to our team with all of her experience and creativity.

Please join us in welcoming the Wolvovsky Family to Charlotte.

High Holidays in Ballantyne

Once again, the Ballantyne Jewish Center will be hosting Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in the Ballantyne area. Join us this year and feel right at home. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at the Ballantyne Jewish Center – where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary – will leave you feeling enriched, connected, uplifted and inspired.

Everyone is welcome free of charge and reservations are not required.

Rosh Hashanah services will be held at the South Charlotte Banquet Center, 9009 Bryant Farms Road, Monday, September 30: morning service at 9:30 AM, Shofar blowing at 12:15 PM. Services followed by a Kiddush lunch at 1:30 PM.

Yom Kippur Services will be held at The Springhill Suites in Ballantyne, 12135 Johnston Road, Tuesday, October 8: Kol Nidrei at 6:30 PM. Wednesday, October 9: morning services at 9:30 AM. Neilah at 6:30 PM.

Our Fantastic Children’s Program

At the Ballantyne Jewish Center we are committed to making the High Holidays a meaningful and enjoyable experience for the entire family. Therefore, we are very excited that once again we will have a fantastic, exciting and interactive children’s program during services for all ages. Parents can enjoy services while their children have a blast. Program highlights include games, songs, activities, food crafts, stories, refreshments, and prizes. Kids love this program and learn so much in the process.

The children are divided into age appropriate groups to ensure that everyone will enjoy.

For more information please contact Rabbi Yisrael and Leah Levin at 704-246-8881 or Leah@JewishBallantyne.com or visit our website www.JewishBallantyne.com.

Mega Challah Bake is Back

We are thrilled to announce the Mega Challah bake is back. Join over 300 Jewish women and bake Challah together just in time for Rosh Hashanah.

The halachic definition of challah is a reference to a positive Mitzvah. It entails separating a section of dough from your kneading and giving it to a kosher piece. This piece of dough is called “challah.” Any dough which is made of wheat, barley, spelt, oat, or rye is obligated in this mitzvah.

When the challah is separated a blessing is recited. This is a special time to ask God for anything that you need, blessings for your family, friends, and community.

Imagine what we can accomplish by joining together with over 300 Jewish women to make challah and say the blessing.

Special thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact Fund for their support.

Sunday, September 22. Doors open at 6 PM. Program begins at 6:30 PM. Chabad of Charlotte, 6619 Sardis Rd. $36 per person.

For more information please visit www.cltmegachallah.com or PerrysJewelry.com

Occasional, Part-Time Typist Needed

New author offers occasional, part-time typist position for experienced with Microsoft Word. Local only. British English or American English your first language only, please. Resume or CV to: JeremyKaplan68@gmail.com or P.O. Box 354 Matthews, NC 28106. Cash. Negotiable.

We Buy Charlotte’s Most Beautiful Jewelry

One of the Southeast’s largest buyers of diamonds, estate jewelry, coins and gold committed to getting you the best price possible.

Purchasing – Consigning – Appraising

Perry’s

Across from SouthPark Mall
6525 Morrison Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28211

No appointment necessary unless requested.

Charlotte Rochouze and Yael Osovski enjoy making the dough at Mega Challah Bake 2017

The Levins and the Wolvovskys.
Temple Solel Has Ties to Guatemalan Jewry

It’s easy to imagine the confusion when many read the Reuters report “Guatemala became the second country to move its embassy to Jerusalem on May 16, 2018 despite the international backlash against the U.S. when it made the same move.” Why Guatemala? Temple Solel member, Tanya Trachtenberg, was pleased by this news because she knows the rich history of Guatemalan Jewry as a direct descendent of a Holocaust survivor, her father, Max Trachtenberg. She said, “You know the Guatemalan Jewish community is very close to Israel. My family is very involved in the Temple there (Centro Hebrew) and it’s where we have been connected through our legacy as a family for many years even though we now live in the United States.”

Tanya continued to explain, “We are headed to Guatemala in August as part of our Mitzvah Project and will be delivering 200 cinch-hag back-packs to some amazing kids at a very rural school in Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta Guisela Fuentesis de Paz de la comunidad Don Pancho, Escuintla. My kids and I have been in the process of this for several years and we greatly appreciate all of your support. We will load with items like: notebooks, crayons, American candy (of course), toothbrushes, hygiene products, socks, and t-shirts.” We also want students to know they are supported and cared about within our local community in the United States. In South Carolina, on August 10, just like Tanya and her sons, Temple Solel members volunteered at the Lancaster County Back-to-School Bash by handing out back-packs and school supplies. Our Hebrew example of tikkun olam explains no matter where we are in the world, ensuring students have the supplies needed for school allows them to concentrate on learning and not what might be a difficulty in their lives.

Friday evening July 26 was a very special night for our congregation, meeting for the second time at our new location. The service was led by guest Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky. It was also an opportunity to honor some of our members. The beautiful tapestry created for Temple Solel was unveiled. Helaine Yancey lovingly sewed each stitch in memory of her son, Kevin Klein, using the design inspiration provided by Shelley Pawlyk in memory of her father, Martin Pawlyk. Social Action Chair, Carol Hahn, then recognized Tanya with a surprise donation on behalf of the Temple towards her journey to Guatemala.

When asked why this trip was so important to Tanya she explained, “Continuing in my parents humanitarian efforts to help the people of Guatemala is my way of not only honoring my parent’s legacy, but creating my own. My sons, William, Cooper, Ethan, and I are going to the synagogue and the Jewish cemetery to visit my father’s grave, as well as the grave of my maternal grand-mother who fled Aleppo prior to WWII.” We are joining with others in the community by saying to this family rich in heritage, “Viajes seguro a Guatemala! Te amo!” which translates in English to, “Safe Trip to Guatemala! We love you!” Tanya responded back, “Thank you again for all the love and support. We are all set for this trip and have purchased all of the supplies that will be waiting for us in Guatemala. There will be additional trips and we will definitely involve everyone more in the future.” It is not too soon to save the dates for High Holy Day services. Ours are led each year by Russ Cobe and will all take place at the same location as our regular services. Russ is an experienced lay leader, with a degree in religious studies and music from Wesleyan University. Many of our congre-gants will also be called to the bimah to help lead various por-tions of the services, reflecting the inclusive spiritual experiences embraced at Temple Solel. A free one-hour Rosh HaShanah children’s morning service will take place again this year at Blooming Einsteins on Sunday, September 29 at 10-11 AM. Tanya is the business owner of this after-school program center located at 2752 Pleasant Rd #103, in Fort Mill, SC.

For more information about membership, which includes a High Holy Day ticket, write us at info@templesolel.org or call 803-619-9707. Guest tickets are also available. Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. ©

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 14

Your Connection To The Jewish Community

The Ordan Reider Group

“Your Family Serving Yours Since 1980”

Jeremy Ordan • Matti Ordan Reider
704.609.9300 • 704.904.2720
Jeremy.ordan@AllenTate.com • Matti.Oordan@AllenTate.com
TheOrdanReiderGroup.com

Insurance for Home, Auto, Business and Life.

“My father, Harry, founded Swimmer Insurance Agency over 60 years ago offering security to the community and helping families through times of trouble. Today, we continue that tradition of service with everything we do. We will be there for every milestone, every hardship and every transition your family or business experiences.”

— DAVID SWimmer

Swimmer Insurance Agency

725 Providence Rd
Charlotte, NC 28207
704.333.6694
www.swimmerinsurance.com

Larry Horowitz, CLU, ChFC
L² Financial
15720 Brixham Hall Ave., Ste 575
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-609-7505  larry.horowitz@skype
www.L²financial.com
Helping in the CREATION, PRESERVATION & DISTRIBUTION of your Estate
Securities and Investment Advisory Services offered through representatives of Lincoln Financial Services, member SIPC. Lincoln Financial Services and L² Financial are not related. LPS-1586750-081116

Tanya Trachtenberg and Social Action Chair Carol Hahn

Temple Solel

Tapestry designed and created by Helaine Yancy and Shelley Pawlyk

Tanya continued

The Guatemalan students show off their book bags.
Two years ago, we at Temple Beth El experimented with a project that now, three years in, has become a beautiful tradition. Our #ElulBlog brings together the insights and reflections on a variety of topics that speak to themes connected to the Torah portion of the week. Authors of all ages share their stories on our website as a way of helping us all participate in the process Elul leads us through, as we prepare to welcome the new year. We hope that you will join us in preparing your mind and heart for this upcoming High Holy Days season. Follow along with our #ElulBlog, and make sure to check out all we have gone on in the lead up to and throughout the High Holy Days – there are many and varied opportunities to be with us: Choir! Yom Kippur afternoon yoga, learning, or creative writing sessions. A great Sukkot bake-off. An opportunity to dance with the Torah, 80s style. We would love to have you with us as together we shape the next chapter of our communal story.

Charlotte Women of Wisdom Welcome International Speaker Adrienne Gold Davis

By Marissa Brooks

When Adrienne Gold Davis’ children were little, they loved to go way the wrong way on the “down” escalator. Their trip lasted only a few seconds, but it wound them up, they hardly moved. If they stood still, they were carried to the bottom. “They had to run against the downward trajectory in order to get to the top,” wrote Gold Davis in an email.

Using those observations as a metaphor for growth, Gold Davis wrote, “If we are not actively choosing growth, meaning, and purpose, we lose even the level we are at.”

The dynamic, energetic, inspirational and international speaker Adrienne Gold Davis will be in Charlotte on October 27 to share her extraordinary words of wisdom in a lecture entitled “Up the Down Escalator: Maximizing Greatness.”

Before becoming an international speaker and trip leader for the highly subsidized women’s trips to Israel run by the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project (JWRP), now Momentum, Gold Davis was a well-known fashion and beauty personality on Canadian television for over 15 years. She became the Toronto city leader for the JWRP trips and eventually became one of the trip leaders, guiding and inspiring large international groups of women.

As a lifelong learner, Gold Davis wrote that she is inspired to find “fresh new examples of the concepts” she teaches in order to keep the classes “relevant and engaging” for her audiences and for herself. She is motivated by “everyday miracles and by the enormous capacity of the human heart” and enjoys being a part of the process of helping others “to discover and uncover their souls.”

It was in Israel that Gold Davis crossed paths with local Jewish women who were traveling with Women of Wisdom (W.O.W.) on the JWRP trip. W.O.W. is a Charlotte-based inter-denominational Jewish women’s non-profit organization affiliated with the Charlotte Torah Center. Since 2012, W.O.W. members have joined the JWRP Israel trips to connect, learn, and grow.

To further W.O.W.’s mission of empowering, connecting, and inspiring Jewish women from all denominations through engaging social and educational activities, the W.O.W. board decided to start an annual event that would address their mission while being of universal interest to all genders. Thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s impact and innovation grant, W.O.W. was able to invite an international-known speaker to Charlotte.

Gold Davis was an obvious inaugural choice made by the W.O.W. leadership.

“When choosing a speaker to bring to this community, we wanted to bring someone that was impactful, successful and was familiar to at least part of the members of the core W.O.W. group, who had met her and had the opportunity to enjoy her wisdom,” said Sara Oppenheimer, founder of W.O.W.

Bonnie Borstein, W.O.W. president and the W.O.W. board feel that “Up the Down Escalator: Maximizing Greatness” will be meaningful for all adults regardless of gender, age, or religion because it touches on themes of growth and resiliency. “I can’t wait to hear her speak again in our hometown,” said Jodi Valenstein, a former JWRP trip participant who found Gold Davis “mesmerizing, engaging, and so knowledgeable about everything she discussed.”

“Adrienne is one of the most dynamic and inspiring speakers I have ever heard. She is so relatable. There isn’t a topic that she won’t make relevant,” said Suzy Catanzaro, immediate past W.O.W. president. “I wouldn’t miss an opportunity to be inspired by Adrienne.”


VIP tickets: 1/$100, 2/$180. Sponsorships: $360. VIP tickets and sponsorships include a VIP cocktail reception with Adrienne at 6 PM.

Selling a Business?

VR has sold more businesses in the world than anyone.

Adam Petricoff
VR Charlotte
9301 Monroe Road, Suite L
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-360-8998 office
704-905-8658 cell
apetricoff@vrcharlotte.com

Charlotte Women of Wisdom presents Adrienne Gold Davis

ADRIENNE GOLD DAVIS - TALENTED JEWISH LECTURER/SPEAKER

 diseases to share her life story - A HIGHER MEANING TO LIFE

When Adrienne Gold Davis’ children were little, they loved to go the wrong way on the “down” escalator. Their trip lasted only a few seconds, but it wound them up, they hardly moved. If they stood still, they were carried to the bottom. “They had to run against the downward trajectory in order to get to the top,” wrote Gold Davis in an email.

Using those observations as a metaphor for growth, Gold Davis wrote, “If we are not actively choosing growth, meaning, and purpose, we lose even the level we are at.”

The dynamic, energetic, inspirational and international speaker Adrienne Gold Davis will be in Charlotte on October 27 to share her extraordinary words of wisdom in a lecture entitled “Up the Down Escalator: Maximizing Greatness.”

Before becoming an international speaker and trip leader for the highly subsidized women’s trips to Israel run by the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project (JWRP), now Momentum, Gold Davis was a well-known fashion and beauty personality on Canadian television for over 15 years. Several things happened to change the trajectory of her life’s work on her trip to Israel, then September 11.

Gold Davis wrote, “After a life changing trip to Israel, I came back to Toronto and began learning about the wisdom of Judaism. It is not oxymoronic to love both aesthetics and spirituality. After September 11, I felt a desire to pursue The W.O.W. board decided to start an annual event that would address their mission while being of universal interest to all genders. Thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s impact and innovation grant, W.O.W. was able to invite an international-known speaker to Charlotte.

Gold Davis was an obvious inaugural choice made by the W.O.W. leadership.

“When choosing a speaker to bring to this community, we wanted to bring someone that was impactful, successful and was familiar to at least part of the members of the core W.O.W. group, who had met her and had the opportunity to enjoy her wisdom,” said Sara Oppenheimer, founder of W.O.W.

Bonnie Borstein, W.O.W. president and the W.O.W. board feel that “Up the Down Escalator: Maximizing Greatness” will be meaningful for all adults regardless of gender, age, or religion because it touches on themes of growth and resiliency. “I can’t wait to hear her speak again in our hometown,” said Jodi Valenstein, a former JWRP trip participant who found Gold Davis “mesmerizing, engaging, and so knowledgeable about everything she discussed.”

“Adrienne is one of the most dynamic and inspiring speakers I have ever heard. She is so relatable. There isn’t a topic that she won’t make relevant,” said Suzy Catanzaro, immediate past W.O.W. president. “I wouldn’t miss an opportunity to be inspired by Adrienne.”


VIP tickets: 1/$100, 2/$180. Sponsorships: $360. VIP tickets and sponsorships include a VIP cocktail reception with Adrienne at 6 PM.

Selling a Business?

VR has sold more businesses in the world than anyone.

Adam Petricoff
VR Charlotte
9301 Monroe Road, Suite L
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-360-8998 office
704-905-8658 cell
apetricoff@vrcharlotte.com
Join Temple Kol Ami for High Holidays

Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, SC invites you to join us for the High Holidays. We are thrilled to be led this year once again by cantorial soloist Sara Sherman as well as our wonderful lay leaders Michelle Silva, Jonathan Shaw, and Adena Sherman-Adams. For those who have been with us in the past, you will recall Sara’s beautiful voice and deep knowledge of the liturgy. She is an accomplished professional musician with a degree in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She has won accolades for her piano presentations at music festivals worldwide and has performed at such iconic venues as Lincoln Center. We are excited to experience the Days of Awe with Sara. Temple Kol Ami is also pleased to have cellist Jennifer Frisina of the Union Symphony Orchestra once again to perform the Kol Nidre prayer. Sara and Jennifer’s rendition of Kol Nidre last year was beautiful and moving.

Schedule for High Holiday services is as follows: Erev Rosh Hashanah, September 30, 7 PM; Rosh Hashana, October 1, 10 AM; Kol Nidre, October 8, 7 PM; Yom Kippur, October 9, 10 AM. Yizkor will be around 12:30 PM immediately following the morning service and is free and open to the public. All services are at Temple Kol Ami located at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 1691 Highway 160 West, Fort Mill, SC. Tickets are available for purchase at www.templekolamisc.org and is open to non-members as well as members. Breakfast is included in the ticket. Military and college students are invited to worship with us for free. Two tickets are included in TKA membership.

For more information, please contact us at yorksynagogues@gmail.com or 803-701-0149.

Also, it is not too late to enroll your child at Temple Kol Ami Religious School which starts September 8. For more information, please contact us at tka.religiousschool@gmail.com.

If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you.

Havurat Tikvah Welcomes All to Lay-Led High Holiday Services

Havurat Tikvah invites the Charlotte Jewish community to attend its High Holidays Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services during late September and early October at Havurat Tikvah, 5401 Lancelot Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28270.

On September 30, Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 10 AM, followed by a potluck kosher/veggie/dairy/parve lunch. Afterward congregants will gather for Tashlich at 3:30 PM at the Bridge at Sugar Creek Greenway between Tranquil Ave. and Plantation Place across from 3217 Westfield Rd. Services will continue on Oct. 1 at 10 AM, also followed by a luncheon.

Kol Nidre services will be held on October 8 at 6:45 PM. Attendees must be seated by 6:30 PM. On October 9, Yom Kippur services will continue at 10 AM, with Yizkor/Healing services at approximately 1 PM. Services will continue at 5:30 PM after an afternoon break for Mincha. Services conclude with Ne’ila/Healing beginning at 6:45 PM followed by a break-the-fast potluck supper at 7:45 PM.

Members and guests are encouraged to bring tallit and kippah if available, however there is a limited quantity of both on hand. Attendees can bring their own shofar to participate in the shofar services on Rosh Hashanah and the concluding service on Yom Kippur.

Childcare is available if requested in advance.

As in past years, first-time attendees, including students and active military members, are welcome at no cost to attend services and participate in Tashlich, as well as stay for luncheons served after Rosh Hashanah and for Break-Fast after the end of Yom Kippur worship. All others are asked to pay a nominal fee ($54 for individuals, $90 for families). Mail checks to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220. Email adm@havurattikvah.org for more details.

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 980-225-3330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 12684, Charlotte, NC 28220, email membership@havurattikvah.org or visit havurattikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is also on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havurattikvah.
Chabad of Lake Norman

Chabad of Lake Norman opened its doors just one year ago and what a year it’s been. We started off with a public Menorah lighting, Purim in the Stadium, and so much more. It has been a year full of fun, learning and Jewish celebration at the Lake.

This year Chabad of Lake Norman will be hosting High Holiday services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at Chabad of Lake Norman - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, uplifted, and inspired. There is no ticket purchase or membership required to join us in welcoming the New Year. All are welcome regardless of affiliation. For more details check out Chabad.LakeNorman.com.

Welcome to CJP (Continued from page 8)

materials provoke creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem solving. Thus, creating a strong foundation of necessary, lifelong learning skills.

Students are welcomed into the classroom with a Sunflower provocation. Students can pick seeds, feel the texture of the flower, draw what they see, and more. Students will discuss new beginnings and growth to start the school year.

During this exciting time at CJP as we welcome ideas, people, growth, and much more I am filled with gratitude that we have this incredible community to share it with. We can’t wait to see what learning unfolds this year.

The Sunflower classroom.

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 17

BAR/BAT MITZVAH LESSONS

Lowest cost in the USA

Successful executive who prefers teaching over tennis!

• Get together via video chat

• Emphasis on Jewish values

www.jewishmoments.org

Chabad of Lake Norman opened its doors just one year ago and what a year it’s been. We started off with a public Menorah lighting, Purim in the Stadium, and so much more. It has been a year full of fun, learning and Jewish celebration at the Lake.

This year Chabad of Lake Norman will be hosting High Holiday services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at Chabad of Lake Norman - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, uplifted, and inspired. There is no ticket purchase or membership required to join us in welcoming the New Year. All are welcome regardless of affiliation. For more details check out Chabad.LakeNorman.com.

Welcome to CJP (Continued from page 8)

materials provoke creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem solving. Thus, creating a strong foundation of necessary, lifelong learning skills.

Students are welcomed into the classroom with a Sunflower provocation. Students can pick seeds, feel the texture of the flower, draw what they see, and more. Students will discuss new beginnings and growth to start the school year.

During this exciting time at CJP as we welcome ideas, people, growth, and much more I am filled with gratitude that we have this incredible community to share it with. We can’t wait to see what learning unfolds this year.

The Sunflower classroom.

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 17

BAR/BAT MITZVAH LESSONS

Lowest cost in the USA

Successful executive who prefers teaching over tennis!

• Get together via video chat

• Emphasis on Jewish values

www.jewishmoments.org

Chabad of Lake Norman opened its doors just one year ago and what a year it’s been. We started off with a public Menorah lighting, Purim in the Stadium, and so much more. It has been a year full of fun, learning and Jewish celebration at the Lake.

This year Chabad of Lake Norman will be hosting High Holiday services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at Chabad of Lake Norman - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, uplifted, and inspired. There is no ticket purchase or membership required to join us in welcoming the New Year. All are welcome regardless of affiliation. For more details check out Chabad.LakeNorman.com.

Welcome to CJP (Continued from page 8)

materials provoke creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem solving. Thus, creating a strong foundation of necessary, lifelong learning skills.

Students are welcomed into the classroom with a Sunflower provocation. Students can pick seeds, feel the texture of the flower, draw what they see, and more. Students will discuss new beginnings and growth to start the school year.

During this exciting time at CJP as we welcome ideas, people, growth, and much more I am filled with gratitude that we have this incredible community to share it with. We can’t wait to see what learning unfolds this year.

The Sunflower classroom.

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 17

BAR/BAT MITZVAH LESSONS

Lowest cost in the USA

Successful executive who prefers teaching over tennis!

• Get together via video chat

• Emphasis on Jewish values

www.jewishmoments.org

Chabad of Lake Norman opened its doors just one year ago and what a year it’s been. We started off with a public Menorah lighting, Purim in the Stadium, and so much more. It has been a year full of fun, learning and Jewish celebration at the Lake.

This year Chabad of Lake Norman will be hosting High Holiday services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at Chabad of Lake Norman - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, uplifted, and inspired. There is no ticket purchase or membership required to join us in welcoming the New Year. All are welcome regardless of affiliation. For more details check out Chabad.LakeNorman.com.

Welcome to CJP (Continued from page 8)

materials provoke creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem solving. Thus, creating a strong foundation of necessary, lifelong learning skills.

Students are welcomed into the classroom with a Sunflower provocation. Students can pick seeds, feel the texture of the flower, draw what they see, and more. Students will discuss new beginnings and growth to start the school year.

During this exciting time at CJP as we welcome ideas, people, growth, and much more I am filled with gratitude that we have this incredible community to share it with. We can’t wait to see what learning unfolds this year.

The Sunflower classroom.

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 17

BAR/BAT MITZVAH LESSONS

Lowest cost in the USA

Successful executive who prefers teaching over tennis!

• Get together via video chat

• Emphasis on Jewish values

www.jewishmoments.org

Chabad of Lake Norman opened its doors just one year ago and what a year it’s been. We started off with a public Menorah lighting, Purim in the Stadium, and so much more. It has been a year full of fun, learning and Jewish celebration at the Lake.

This year Chabad of Lake Norman will be hosting High Holiday services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at Chabad of Lake Norman - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, uplifted, and inspired. There is no ticket purchase or membership required to join us in welcoming the New Year. All are welcome regardless of affiliation. For more details check out Chabad.LakeNorman.com.

Welcome to CJP (Continued from page 8)

materials provoke creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem solving. Thus, creating a strong foundation of necessary, lifelong learning skills.

Students are welcomed into the classroom with a Sunflower provocation. Students can pick seeds, feel the texture of the flower, draw what they see, and more. Students will discuss new beginnings and growth to start the school year.

During this exciting time at CJP as we welcome ideas, people, growth, and much more I am filled with gratitude that we have this incredible community to share it with. We can’t wait to see what learning unfolds this year.

The Sunflower classroom.

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 17

BAR/BAT MITZVAH LESSONS

Lowest cost in the USA

Successful executive who prefers teaching over tennis!

• Get together via video chat

• Emphasis on Jewish values

www.jewishmoments.org

Chabad of Lake Norman opened its doors just one year ago and what a year it’s been. We started off with a public Menorah lighting, Purim in the Stadium, and so much more. It has been a year full of fun, learning and Jewish celebration at the Lake.

This year Chabad of Lake Norman will be hosting High Holiday services for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Whether your background in Jewish prayer and practices is extensive or limited, attending services at Chabad of Lake Norman - where the warmth and authenticity of the traditional are blended with the comfort and practicality of the contemporary - will leave you feeling enriched, uplifted, and inspired. There is no ticket purchase or membership required to join us in welcoming the New Year. All are welcome regardless of affiliation. For more details check out Chabad.LakeNorman.com.

Welcome to CJP (Continued from page 8)

materials provoke creativity, innovation, collaboration, and problem solving. Thus, creating a strong foundation of necessary, lifelong learning skills.

Students are welcomed into the classroom with a Sunflower provocation. Students can pick seeds, feel the texture of the flower, draw what they see, and more. Students will discuss new beginnings and growth to start the school year.

During this exciting time at CJP as we welcome ideas, people, growth, and much more I am filled with gratitude that we have this incredible community to share it with. We can’t wait to see what learning unfolds this year.

The Sunflower classroom.
Temple Emanuel Revives Religious School in Gastonia

Temple Emanuel, a Reform community that dates back to 1913, serves 60+ Jewish families in and around Gastonia. The small – but very vibrant and welcoming – community has prided itself on its Religious School for decades. Temple families, many of whom are interfaith, have always ensured that their children learn to read and write Hebrew, lead both Friday night and Saturday morning lifelltif (prayers), study weekly Torah portions, celebrate all of the Jewish holidays, and feel very prepared for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Last year, Temple Emanuel hired a new Religious School Director. Morah Rochelle Wilen-sky, who lives in Charlotte and has over 20 years of experience in domestic, international arts and Jewish/Hebrew education, began lending the school and teaching all students. She brings renewed energy and creativity to the School and adores all of the Temple families and children. With the small student population, Morah Rochelle teaches Hebrew with a “one-room schoolhouse” model, where students learn together in two groups and receive a lot of individual attention to excel. Last year, students ranged in age from 6-16, with some parents opting to accompany their children and learn Hebrew alongside them. By the end of her first year of teaching, all pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah students had made significant progress with their Hebrew and were learning new prayers easily and confidently. Younger students worked with a volunteer teacher – who specializes in Hebrew education for young children – and learned their Aleph Bet and vowels. All students came together to learn and study Torah, celebrate Jewish holidays, and discuss Jewish ethics with art projects, games, play/stories, and celebrations. Older students mentored younger ones, with high-schoolers volunteering each week to assist Morah Rochelle with set-up and clean-up all of her art projects. Families enjoyed using holiday packets that Morah Rochelle created to fully celebrate all of the Jewish holidays at home. Favorite events included a Sukkot family dinner under Morah Rochelle’s Sukkah in Charlotte, Chanukah party, Tu Bishvat Seder, Purim Party at the JCC in Charlotte, Pesach Sed-er, and Shabbaton Weekend in Charlotte for older students.

This year, Temple Emanuel Religious School is very excited to welcome some new families to its school. School families hail from Belmont, Shelby, Bessemer City, Lowell, Clover, SC, and even Charlotte. Members relay that they enjoy the warm, welcoming and relaxed environment created by the Temple families. Students receive a lot of one-on-one attention – not only from the Director/Teacher, but also during Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. All Bar/Bat Mitzvah students receive free weekly tutoring from the Director for one year prior to their B’nai Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel. The Religious School meets on Sundays from 10 AM-12:30 PM following the Gaston County School calendar, with Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring occurring before/after school. Families are very committed to their children’s Jewish education and enjoy volunteering during school hours for special events, holiday celebrations, etc.

Morah Rochelle is also starting a new Gastonia Jewish Youth Group for middle/high school students that will be based at Temple Emanuel (but is open to any Jewish student in the Gastonia surrounding area). Youth group participants will plan their own activities to have fun together and meet Jewish peers.

The only requirement for Religious School enrollment is: 1) Temple Emanuel Membership; and 2) Child is age 5+. Member families ensure that religious school tuition is kept at a very reasonable cost. If you are interested in learning more about Temple Emanuel’s Religious School and enrolling your child, or in the youth group, please contact the Religious School Director (Rochelle Wilensky, Rochelle.rrr@gmail.com). Temple Emanuel Religious School looks forward to another great school year with our 1st day beginning Sunday, September 8.
JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISER HONORING
Larry and Dale Polsky

"CHAI ON LAUGHTER"

ONE OF THE TOP 100 STAND UP COMEDIANS OF ALL TIME!

with Paul Reiser

NOVEMBER 2

MCGLOHAN THEATRE AT SPIRIT SQUARE • 6PM-10PM
Heavy Hors d’Oeuvres, Open Bar, Auction, & Great Laughs

Purchase tickets at www.templebethel.org | All tickets are $200 each
Women’s News

Sixth Annual Celebrate the Tatas Soccer Tournament

On the heels of the United States Women’s 2019 World Cup soccer championship in Leon, France, Charlotte Hadassah and NCASA (North Carolina Adult Soccer Association) are teaming up once again to host the 6th annual Celebrate the Tatas Soccer Tournament for Women Champions.

You may have not made it to the World Cup, but the Tatas Soccer Tournament is only a short drive away. And, you are all invited. Come and cheer women of various ages as they descend upon Hine Park Soccer Complex in Winston-Salem. The athletes will arrive on October 5 for the weekend, clad in spunky team uniforms. They will be accompanied by their extended families including four-legged members. Six states will be represented, including NC, SC, FL, VA, GA, and TN, with common goals in mind: Raise funds for breast cancer research and go home with the coveted Pink Bra award.

Funds for breast cancer research at Hadassah Hospital are raised on and off the soccer pitch. The invited twelve teams will compete in a variety of games, raffles, and contests. The DJ will be blasting music, the photographer capturing the action, and the volunteers distributing lunch and snacks. There will be fresh fruits, drinks, and games for the youngsters. LaNie Pope, chief meteorologist for WCCB (Winston-Salem) will do her best to bring us lots of sunshine, which will complement the bright and joyous smiles of those participating in this effort to create a world in which breast cancer is a distant memory.

Join us October 5-6 on the soccer fields. Where: Hine Park Soccer Complex, 5895 Bethabara Park Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

Time: 9 AM-3 PM Saturday; 9 AM-2 PM Sunday.

Donate online in honor of a hero or in memory of a loved one at www.celebratethetatas.com and click on the soccer ball.

Maccabi USA U18 Junior Girls’ Soccer Team Wins Gold at 14th Pan American Maccabi Games

Philadelphia – The Maccabi USA U18 Juniors Girls’ Soccer Team won a gold medal at the recent 14th Pan American Maccabi Games, which took place in Mexico City, Mexico, July 5-15. Maccabi USA brought a team of 400+ athletes to join the 2,500 Jewish athletes from 19 countries, participating in 24 different sports.

The soccer team went undefeated at 5-0, scoring 35 goals throughout the entire competition while allowing only three goals against. The team defeated Brazil in the Semi-Finals, 5-0, and defeated Mexico Invitado in the Finals 7-2.

Led by Head Coach David Parks and Assistant Coach Julia Cohn, the team of 18 players was selected from a pool of applicants representing 12 different states. Six players have already committed to D1 or DIII college programs.

“The greatest challenge we faced was the Pan Am Games is having never played together as a team prior to two days before departure for Mexico,” admits Parks. “This is, by nature, a team of All-Stars who are each used to being the focal point of their club and high school teams. They were asked to put in individual needs and desires aside and buy into a system different than what they typically experience on the field in order to find success at the international level. This meant occasionally playing out of their primary position, perhaps dealing with less playing time in games than they were used to, and coming together as a team in a very short amount of time. Obviously, they were quite successful and now have this amazing experience to look back on. Among the athletes from all over the US were Olivia Halperin of Weddington and Maya Lesack of Tega Cay, whose families are members of Temple Israel.

The Games were hosted by the Confederacion Latino-Americana Maccabi (CLAM) and are conducted in cooperation with Maccabi World Union. They are held every four years, two years after the World Maccabiah is held. The Pan American Maccabi Games are a high-level athletic competition for Jewish athletes all over the world aimed at connecting Jews from the Diaspora. Maccabi USA builds Jewish pride through sports, generating the emotional intensity, high ideals, and powerful camaraderie of competition. We connect athletes, volunteers, and supporters with the global Jewish community. Our athletic, educational, and cultural experiences build Jewish identity, perpetuate Jewish continuity worldwide, and strengthen support for the State of Israel & American pride.

The whole team: Olivia and Maya are in the second row (hands on knees), 2nd and 3rd from the right.

American pride.

The team celebrates their gold.

OOPS! Last month we made an error in the spelling of Olivia’s last name. Please note, the correct spelling is Halperin.

Maccabi USA builds Jewish pride through sports, generating the emotional intensity, high ideals, and powerful camaraderie of competition. We connect athletes, volunteers, and supporters with the global Jewish community. Our athletic, educational, and cultural experiences build Jewish identity, perpetuate Jewish continuity worldwide, and strengthen support for the State of Israel & American pride.
Charlotte City Council Vote Clears a Major Milestone for a Jewish Senior Living Community

Following the execution of a Letter of Intent between the Foundation of Shalom Park and Charlotte based senior living provider Aldersgate Life Plan Services in January, both parties have been working diligently to bring the project forward. On July 15, Charlotte City Council unanimously approved rezoning of the 11 acres required to develop the Jewish senior living community on land currently owned by Temple Israel and the Foundation of Shalom Park. City Council members complimented the proactive engagement by Shalom Park and Aldersgate with the surrounding neighbors in this process, showcasing how smoothly the process has been and how cooperation and understanding build a stronger community. During the rezoning process, Shalom Park and Aldersgate held multiple meetings, incorporating the thoughts and support of the communities and neighbors of the project to inform and gather comments prior to any formal meetings. Approval of the rezoning allows for the team to continue the planning and development of the project. The senior community is anticipated to be complete and beginning occupancy in 2023.

Shalom Park has been a vital and important part of the Charlotte community since the 1980s. Creating a senior living community as part of the Shalom Park campus has always been a dream of Charlotte’s Jewish community leadership. The Temple Israel owned property, combined with land sold by the Foundation, will permit the new senior community to occupy more than 11 acres, with a design that is fully integrated into Shalom Park. The senior living community will include at least 120 independent living units in a series of five residential buildings. There will be a smaller number of assisted living and memory care units, and a community center for administrative offices and dining. Aldersgate will utilize the existing skilled nursing facility available at their main campus on Shamble Rock Drive to provide short term rehabilitative services.

“The addition of a senior living community to Shalom Park addresses a critical need for the Charlotte Jewish community. Through our partnership with Aldersgate we have the opportunity to create a residential community for seniors that can take full advantage of all of the services already available on Shalom Park,” shared Barry Bobrow, President of the Foundation of Shalom Park. “This is a perfect way to celebrate the New Year. We are grateful and excited that Charlotte City Council members unanimously recognized the need for this project.”

“Today, almost 700 million global citizens are over the age of 60. Predictions are that by 2030 that number will be 1.4 billion people and by 2050, 20% of the world’s population will be 60 and older. More and more communities are recognizing the need for a senior living focus that honors our elders,” said Suzanne Pugh, Aldersgate’s CEO. “Aldersgate has been serving the seniors of Charlotte for over 70 years, and we are excited to partner with Shalom Park on this new senior living community. The support of the Jewish community and neighbors of Shalom Park resulted in a rezoning approval process that was handled with grace and dignity. We have worked with representatives from Shalom Park to design a residential community that will meet the needs of Jewish seniors. We are ready and excited to be moving forward to the next stage.”

If anyone has questions or comments regarding the senior living community, they should contact the Foundation of Shalom Park at SPSL@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-534-2022. The Foundation of Shalom Park is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that owns and manages the properties and facilities for most of the organizations located on the central campus of Shalom Park, which includes: Temple Israel, Temple Beth El, the Levine Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Jewish Family Services, Consolidated High School of Jewish Studies, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Charlotte Jewish Day School, the Center for Jewish Education, Hebrew Cemetery Association, B’nai Brit Youth Organization, and The Charlotte Jewish News.

Are you a Bubbe, Zayde, Savta, Saba, Tootsie, Grandma, or PawPaw?

Grandparents can now receive the gift of PJ Library® too!

How to sign up:
1. Go to pjlibrary.org/enrollGP
2. Fill out the form
3. Click Submit

To enroll you must have a grandchild with an active PJ Library subscription and provide their information for verification upon sign-up.

Grandparents new to this initiative will receive two PJ Library books 6-8 weeks after their account is verified.

PJ Library is made possible by thousands of generous supporters, your Jewish community, the PJ Library Alliance, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.
APPLE PICKING
Sunday, September 1, 10:00 am
Carrigan Farms, Mooresville, NC

Early bird pricing: $8/person before Aug 26
After Aug 26: $11/person

Includes: Hayride, tour, activities, crafts, cider tasting and half a peck of apples to take home!

First 60 families to register receive a Swag Bag full of treats!

Optional $5 Kosher hot dog lunch available for purchase during registration.

KUGELICIOUS
Sunday, September 15
10:00 - 11:00 am
Charlotte Jewish Day School

Come make yummy noodle kugel, decorate candlesticks and eat apples and honey to get ready for Rosh Hashanah.

FREE, but space is limited. RSVP Required by Sept 10 (Ages 2 and up)
Camp SOAR 2019: Inspiring for All

By Al Tinson

Again this summer volunteers and campers alike drew inspiration from each other at the 19th Annual Camp SOAR in June at the Levine JCC in Charlotte.

Campers inspiring volunteers to encourage them and volunteers motivating their “buddies” to give it their best effort has been a key to the event’s success through the years according to founder and director, Bob Bowler. “That bonding is what makes our camp unique,” he said and it was very apparent again this year. Smiles, hugs, and “high fives” were abundant throughout the week.

Camp SOAR (Special Olympics Athletic Retreat) offers a full summer camp experience for children and adults with intellectual disabilities which parents and other caregivers say is not available to the special needs community at other venues. Sports such as swimming, tennis, basketball, bocce, boxing, and volleyball combine with arts and crafts, dancing, and bingo to provide a broad range of activities.

This summer the camp continued the practice of honoring men and women for their commitment to serve the Charlotte community and the nation. This year the campers honored the men and women of the Charlotte Fire Department. They presented the firefighters with goodie bags and the opportunity to be a part of the camp.

One of the highlights for the campers was getting to sit in the cab of a CFD fire truck. Campers also were visited by therapy dogs and even a therapy pony throughout the camp week.

Bowler asserts that a vital part of this 19 year success story is the relationship forged between Camp SOAR leadership and the Levine JCC. Stephanie Garner, the LICC Sports Director, calls Camp SOAR Week “one of the best programs we are involved in each year and a highlight of the summer” at the spacious campus. “We all look forward to it every year,” she adds.

A crucial part of Camp SOAR’s history is the outstanding turnout of volunteers each year. This summer over 350 campers (age12-60+) were joined by more than 400 volunteers, many of whom started in high school and have continued throughout college and beyond.

An excellent example of that commitment is Grace Flanagan, Myers Park class of 2010 who just completed her 15th year with the camp. She earned undergrad and graduate degrees from North Carolina State University and is a special education teacher in Fuquay-Varina, NC. A newly-wed, Flanagan, takes the week off from teaching to return to camp where she heads up the leadership development program.

Another annual example of the commitment volunteers make is the legacy created many years ago at Charlotte Catholic High School. Each year their students comprise the largest share of Camp SOAR volunteers. This summer more than 100 CCHS students were on hand along with many graduates who began when they were students there. One of those was Ella Little who graduated from UNC Chapel Hill and is now a nurse at Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte. She was presented with the Vickie Bowler Award this summer as the volunteer of the year.

There’s no better summary of the spirit the campers bring each year to this event they all look forward to than the Special Olympics oath which they recite at camp: “Let me win. But if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt.”

There is nothing like the power of song to open the soul (with break for minyan)

Tuesdays, September 17 and 24, 7-8:30 p.m.

(TWO-PART SERIES)

Cost: $10/TI Members; $18/Non-Members. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

& Forgiveness,” followed by a delicious catered lunch.

Join Rabbi Howard Siegel this month for an engaging discussion on Harold Kushner's book, “How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt and Forgiveness.”

Thursday, September 12, 11 a.m.

Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought.

Join Rabbi Howard Siegel for this month for an engaging discussion on Harold Kushner’s book, “How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness,” followed by a delicious catered lunch. Registration is required.

Cost: $20/TI Members; $28/Non-Members. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

Lunch ‘n’ Learn: How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness

Thursday, September 12, 11 a.m.

Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought.

Join Rabbi Howard Siegel for this month for an engaging discussion on Harold Kushner’s book, “How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness,” followed by a delicious catered lunch. Registration is required.

Cost: $20/TI Members; $28/Non-Members. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

Kicking Knocking at Our Hearts: A High Holiday Preparation [Two-Part Series]

Tuesdays, September 17 and 24, 7-8:30 p.m.

(with break for minyan)

Location: Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel

There is nothing like the power of song to open the soul to the practice of teshuvah (repentance, return). Join both Cantor Shira Lissek and Rabbi Helene Kornsgold for a two-part series as we learn more about teshuvah through singing, meditation, and teaching to prepare our heart, mind, and soul for the upcoming High Holidays.

Mind, and soul for the upcoming High Holidays.

singing, meditation, and teaching to prepare our heart,

two-part series as we learn more about teshuvah through

both Cantor Shira Lissek and Rabbi Helene Kornsgold for a

to the practice of teshuvah (repentance, return). Join
both Cantor Shira Lissek and Rabbi Helene Kornsgold for a

Cabo Fish Taco! Seating is limited—register at templeisraelnc.org today! Location:

Join the Empty Nesters for an evening of good food, drinks and great company at

Sunday, September 15, 6 p.m.

(just before the High Holidays).

Prepare to be wowed by a wonderful array of foods from our partners at Cabo Fish Taco—located at Ballantyne Commons! Cost of the meal is $15/TI Members; $20/Non-Members. Special appointments outside of normal business hours are available. Please contact Tess Berger (704) 488-3842 or Cindy Joness (203) 450-1251.

Let Us Help You Find That Perfect Gift for Simchas, Holidays & More. We Also Do Wedding, Shower & Bar/Bat Mitzvah Registries!

For details about our services and holiday programs, please visit templeisraelnc.org or call 704-362-2796.

Registration is required.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, 7 p.m.

Location: Temple Israel Boardroom

Described as a “well written, darkly comedic novel of historical fiction, with memorable characters and a delectable touch of the absurd,” The Yid by Paul Goldberg is our book for discussion. For additional information contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362, levyollie@aol.com). New members are welcome!

L’Chayim 5780 New Year Celebration

Sunday, September 8, 3 p.m.

Location: Leon and Sandra Levine Social Hall

We will welcome in Rosh Hashanah with a L’CHAYIM 5780 NEW YEAR CELEBRATION STARRING MONTY BENNETT, PIANIST. Wine, Cheese, and Desserts will be served. Cost: members/$14 and $18/guests.

For details about our services and holiday programs, please visit templeisraelnc.org or call 704-362-2796.

HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICE SCHEDULE 5780/2019

EREV ROSH HASHANAH - SUNDAY, SEP. 29
Erev Rosh HaShanah Service, 6:15 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 1 - MONDAY, SEP. 30*
Main Service, 9 a.m.
Family Service, 9 a.m.
Evening Service, 6:15 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH DAY 2 - TUESDAY, OCT. 1
Morning Service, 9 a.m.
Program For Preschool Families, 9:30 a.m.

KOL NIDRE - TUESDAY, OCT. 8*
Kol Nidre Service, 7 p.m.**
**Please Be Seated By 6:45 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR - WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9*
Program For Preschool Families, 9 a.m.
Morning Service, 10 a.m.
Family Service, 10 a.m.
Yizkor Service, 1 p.m. (Approximately)
Mincha/Ne’ilah Service, 5 p.m.
Break Fast, 7:45 p.m.

*Parking Pass Required On Shalom Park
For details about our services and holiday programs, please visit templeisraelnc.org or call 704-362-2796.

Lunch ‘n’ Learn: How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness

Thursday, September 12, 11 a.m.

Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought.

Join Rabbi Howard Siegel for this month for an engaging discussion on Harold Kushner’s book, “How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness,” followed by a delicious catered lunch. Registration is required.

Cost: $10/TL Members; $18/Non-Members. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

Lunch ‘n’ Learn: How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness

Thursday, September 12, 11 a.m.

Power up your lunch hour with an appetizing array of food for thought.

Join Rabbi Howard Siegel for this month for an engaging discussion on Harold Kushner’s book, “How Good Do We Have to Be? A New Understanding of Guilt & Forgiveness,” followed by a delicious catered lunch. Registration is required.

Cost: $10/TL Members; $18/Non-Members. To register, visit templeisraelnc.org.

Kicking Knocking at Our Hearts: A High Holiday Preparation [Two-Part Series]

Tuesdays, September 17 and 24, 7-8:30 p.m.

(with break for minyan)

Location: Mindy Ellen Levine Chapel

There is nothing like the power of song to open the soul to the practice of teshuvah (repentance, return). Join both Cantor Shira Lissek and Rabbi Helene Kornsgold for a two-part series as we learn more about teshuvah through singing, meditation, and teaching to prepare our heart, mind, and soul for the upcoming High Holidays.
By Sandra Goldman

Ten years ago my husband came home from morning prayers and said that someone told him that I should inquire about a job as part time Director at the Hebrew Cemetery. I had been looking for a while for a job within the Jewish community but nothing had really appealed to me. Now he had my ear. I followed up and applied. I got the job and have never looked back.

Truth is that back then I knew very little about cemeteries and not too much about death either. Years before, when we still were living in Las Vegas, a good friend lost their eight year old daughter in a car accident. I attended the little girl’s funeral and never forgot about her mom hugging the casket and screaming her name out in agony. The memory stuck with me for all those years and maybe somehow it prepared me for taking on this special opportunity.

Once in the position, I had a lot to learn about the cemetery and each distinct section of the 14 acres: the traditional, all Jewish section; the cremation; and later on the Orthodox section. I had to learn the layout of graves and how to read the map that explains the position of the plots.

After that I would go out to the cemetery and locate graves before funerals and flag them for the grave diggers. I learned to work with funeral directors, Rabbis, and Cantors, and how to guide them and the mourners at the burial sites. I picked up caskets, lowered them sometimes by hand with straps only, and I covered graves by myself. I learned how to record reserved and time-of-need graves into the cemetery’s database. All this was possible only with the help of some extraordinary people.

Back then Kevin Levine was President of the Association. As a Charlottean, he has a unique knowledge of the Queen City and its Jewish Cemetery. Kevin, always ready to jump in, always ready to jump in when help is needed, is incredibly passionate about these holy grounds. He taught me everything I needed to know about the cemetery’s operations and his passion definitely spilled over to me. The late Hilbert Fuerstman filled me in on many stories pertaining to illustrious and mundane souls that have been buried at our cemetery. Marc Silverman and Bill Gorelick literally took me under their wings and mentored me over the years. I can’t put into words how grateful I am to these seasoned men. They helped me grow, exposed me to their vision in when help is needed, is incredibly passionate about these holy grounds. He taught me everything I needed to know about the cemetery’s operations and his passion definitely spilled over to me. The late Hilbert Fuerstman filled me in on many stories pertaining to illustrious and mundane souls that have been buried at our cemetery. Marc Silverman and Bill Gorelick literally took me under their wings and mentored me over the years. I can’t put into words how grateful I am to these seasoned men. They helped me grow, exposed me to their vision and taught me life lessons way beyond the actual cemetery trade. These are but a few of the many people who have been an important and integral part of the cemetery’s past, present and future.

So what are the lessons I have learned over the past ten years?

On any day when death occurs, people experience their most broken moment, and quite possibly, the worst day of their lives. Whatever personal grievance I might have at times seems insignificant in comparison to their grief. I am able to embrace their frustration or even anger because I understand it is not really aimed at me. By showing compassion and understanding I have realized that I can provide some relief to the family. I have come to understand that sometimes I am the bridge between the departed and the ones who are left behind. It is important to lend an ear, to listen and stay humble. When you’re surrounded by death, you gain perspective on what really matters. I’ve learned that grief affects everybody differently. A spouse’s grief is not the same as a daughter’s or son’s who lost an elderly parent. There is no right way to mourn: Sometimes people need to laugh and joke. Sometimes they need to cry and whimper and sometimes there is no voice at all that can explain the sorrow.

Each and every person I help to bury and each person I meet for pre-planning has somehow become part of my extended family and I deeply care about them. ‘I’ve learned to honor each and every one who I have come in contact with – both the living and the departed. Sometimes I bury people I have never known, while other times I knew them well and it is not an easy task, but they all receive the same respect. It is an incredible honor to be entrusted to escort Holocaust survivors and Veterans to their final resting place. Everybody, rich or poor, big or small, has a story to tell. Read their obituaries. They paint the picture of a person. Sometimes that life was colorful and sometimes it just was simple yet teaching one life-long lesson.

There is so much love and compassion in our community. Our cemetery is not a dark and dreary place but rather a positive and peaceful space for the living that rejoices in the past while encouraging hope and a positive outlook to the future. Truth is, having spent so much time on these holy grounds over the last ten years, I now know much more. I have learned how to celebrate life, how to honor our loved ones and how to embrace the fact that this is so much more than a job. Helping to bury someone is supposed to be the biggest deed there is because the deceased is not able to thank one for doing so. For me, it is simply the biggest honor there is.
September 2019

JTEENIS. JSTEPs. JDAAD. JMENsCH. JFit. JTOTS. JSWIM. JSTAGE. JRUN.

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-Thru PM ................. 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday ......................... 12pm-3pm
Sunday ......................... 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/$4.50 NM/ $5.50

Grades K-5th
A great, supervised space for your elementary age child to have fun and hang out with friends, while you workout!
Sundays, 8:30am-1pm
Location: Check with LJCC Customer Service
M/$2/hour
NM/$5.50 per hour

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

LJCC Department Directory
Please contact us if you have questions!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.charlottejcc.org  704-366-5007

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

September 2019

NO JOINING FEE
THROUGH SEPT 30TH • STOP BY TODAY FOR A TOUR!

HOLIDAY HOURS CLOSINGS:

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day ........................................... 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Sunday, September 29 – Erev Rosh Hashanah .......................... 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Monday, September 30 – Rosh Hashanah .................................. CLOSED
Tuesday, October 1 – Rosh Hashanah ........................................ CLOSED
Tuesday, October 8 – Kol Nidre - Erev Yom Kippur ...................... 5:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Wednesday, October 9 – Yom Kippur ............................... CLOSED
Sunday, October 13 – Erev Sukkot ............................................. 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Monday, October 14 – Sukkot ............................................. 1:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Tuesday, October 15 – Sukkot ............................................. 1:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Sunday, October 20 – Erev Shemini Atzeret ......................... 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Monday, October 21 – Shemini Atzeret/Erev Simchat Torah .... 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, October 22 – Simchat Torah ..................................... 1:00 PM – 9:30 PM

JHOOPS.
YOUTH LEAGUES

Don’t Drop the Ball – Register EARLY!

Micro-Basketball (4–5 years)
Jan 5 – Feb 23
Under 8 Hoopsters (6–7 years)
Dec 8 – Feb 23

Under 10 Hoopsters (8–9 years)
Dec 8 – Feb 23
Girls Interfaith (Grades 4–10)
Boys Interfaith (Grades 4–12)
Mid-Nov – mid-Feb

Ages (all leagues) determined by August 1, 2019

LJCC Members: Sept 15 – Oct 18
Non-Members: Oct 17 – Oct 18

07704-944-6743
stephanie.garner@charlottejcc.org

JOPWIM.

• Early Childhood Swim Instruction
3–5 year olds  • Lessons offered Sundays–Fridays

• Youth Swim Instruction
5–10 year olds  • Lessons offered Sundays–Fridays

• JCC JAWS Multi Season Swim Team
5–18 year olds  • JCC Membership Required
Sign up for Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer or Multi Season

• JAWS for Private & Homeschool Students
For high schools with easily discounted  • TUE/WED, 5:35-6pm

Don’t Miss the Latest Wave

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

Levine JCC Butterfly Project – Volunteer Training
Join us to learn about volunteering for the LJCC Butterfly Project workshops and/or for a refresher course.
Thursday, September 5 OR Tuesday, September 10
9am – New Volunteers
10am – Returning Volunteers
Family Place
RSVP to Lori Semel at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org

Butterfly Project Workshop for Home-Schooled Students
If you home-school your 9th–12th grade students or know someone who does, please join us for a Butterfly Project workshop. These workshops have been attended by more than 37,000 students from schools in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties since 2011. Workshop (2.5 hours long) includes:
• A Holocaust survivor telling his/her story.
• Anti-Defamation League’s Pyramid of Hate – students will examine what can happen when individuals and governments fail to respect and protect all people. Students are encouraged to Take a Stand against bias and discrimination.
• The painting of a ceramic butterfly in memory of a specific child who perished in the Holocaust.
• A visit to the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial.
Friday, September 20
10am–12:30pm
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
Free
Q? Lori Semel at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org

Precision Medicine
Dr. Mark Pippenger, Behavioral Neurologist with Novant Health, will discuss the genetics of the major forms of Dementia and the genetics of Parkinson’s Disease. He will talk about genetic testing, what is influences current research into treatment.
Friday, September 6, 1–2pm
Gorelick Hall • Free
704-944-6753 • sharri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

Making Space for Yourself, Finding Balance and Setting Boundaries
with Joanna Lindenbaum
Life can get so busy: Family responsibilities, Home responsibilities, Appointments, Career. Aging parents... and so much more. We strive to live full lives and be of service to others. Yet, what often happens is we neglect ourselves. We put our own need for space, time, and real well-being last. And when we do this, we become exhausted, overwhelmed, resentful and disconnected from our most authentic selves. In this workshop we will take a deep and important look at how to show up in our lives while also showing up for ourselves.
Thursday, September 19 • 7pm
Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts
Free (registration required, 704-366-5007)
704-944-6730 • julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

Feeding the Hungry
Children ages 7 and up are welcome with a parent
Join LJCC Cares to make bag lunches for the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope (homeless shelter for women and children). We will make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and pack them with other items in lunch bags. We ask that everyone attending also donate supplies. If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate supplies, we appreciate all donations. Please drop off supplies at the LJCC Customer Service desk by Friday, September 20.
Please do not attend if you have a peanut allergy.
Sunday, September 22 • 1:30–3pm
Camp Mindy Rec Hall
704-944-6730 • julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

“Nosh & Know” about Parkinson’s Disease (PD)
Join us monthly for a series of topics. We’ll provide refreshments and snacks. September topic: “Music and Its Benefits For Parkinson’s Disease” – presented by Gretchen Chardos Benner, LMSW, MT-BC Director/Owner, Piedmont Music Therapy, LLC
Tuesday, September 17
11:30am-12:15pm
Weinberg Senior Center
Free
Next month’s topic:
October 29: “Non-Motor Symptoms of PD, Including Sleep Disturbance, Anxiety, and Depression.” Presented by Dr. Craig Chepke, MD, FAPA, Psychiatrist, Excel Psychiatric Associates.
In collaboration with Parkinson Association of the Carolinas
Must RSVP each month, by the Friday before to
704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

Ladies’ Night Out:
Sports and Fitness Party with Dinner at the J
Wednesday, October 16 • 6:30–9pm
704-944-6737 or robin.stier@charlottejcc.org

Flu Shot Clinic
Friday, October 4 • 9am–3pm
Weinberg Senior Center • Walk In Only
704-944-6792 or jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org

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

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 27

like us! • facebook.com/levinejcc

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

HOURS
Monday–Friday • 9am–5pm
Weinberg Senior Adult Center

Please read our monthly newsletter online; or pick up a hard copy in Weinberg Senior Center.

Jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org • 704-944-6792
We’re ready to kick off the new school year and you can help us expand our work. Do you have a school in mind with which we can work? We offer unique in-school Holocaust and human rights half day or full day programs, called “Becoming One Human Family.” Support us through the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, these dynamic programs are offered free to our regional middle and high schools and can be custom-tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual educational institution. Please contact Donna Tarney, tarneyd@queens.edu. For more information contact Talli Dippold, dippoldt@queens.edu. If you’d like to make a gift for your organization, contact Talia Goldman, goldmant@queens.edu.

Do you know an educator who could benefit from our Holocaust and human rights teacher workshops? Our calendar is filled with timely, meaningful educational programs that address a myriad of topics ranging from contemporary Antisemitism to addressing bias and hatred - including partnerships with Facing History and Ourselves, Centropa, TOLI (full week summer program), and the ADL (Anti-Defamation League). For more information contact Donna Tarney, tarneyd@queens.edu. Please visit our website to view our 2019-2020 Jewish Studies program Guide. Here is a sample of our upcoming community course offerings:

- Explore Mussar: A Workout for our Souls with Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklat Professor of Jewish Studies. This new Holocaust Speaker Bureau will keep the lessons of Jeff’s generosity and commitment to the Jewish community alive. To book a Holocaust speaker for your organization, contact Talli Dippold, dippoldt@queens.edu. If you’d like to make a gift in support of this program, please contact Talia Goldman, goldmant@queens.edu.

- Are you ready to go back to school? Visit our website to view our 2019-2020 Jewish Studies program at Queens Program Guide. Here is a sample of our upcoming community course offerings:

US Holocaust Memorial Museum Trip Report

Wednesday morning, June 26, 44 North Carolina public school teachers departed Shalom Park to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and DC. The teachers talked about what stood out for them at the Holocaust Museum, how they thought this visit would impact their teaching, and for how many, how the visit to the Holocaust Museum vividly brought the Holocaust to life as they strive to bear witness to their students.

Irene Weiss, a Holocaust survivor, spoke to the teachers. Ms. Weiss spoke in detail about her life in Hungary before the war and of her time at Auschwitz. The administrators of the UHMM led a discussion on the Best Methods recommended by the Museum to teach the Holocaust and tolerance in the classroom.

On Friday evening, the teachers when to Sabbath services at Asis Israel Congregation. On the trip home, the teachers discussed their overall trip experience and talked about how to make it relevant to their students by others at school and how to create activities in the classroom that will promote empathy.

The trip was funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, Stan Greenspon, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The Stan Greenspon Center’s Immigrant Justice Team was honored to help organize the Tisha b’Av: #CloseTheCamps Vigil on August 11 in partnership with Carolina Jews for Justice and Temple Beth El. We gathered at Marshall Park to read Lamentations, mourn, and demand an end to the awful conditions confronting immigrants, including children, in detention camps. Our Charlotte Jewish community could be counted as one of fifty cities across our country to hold a Tisha b’Av Vigil. To get engaged with our Greenspon Center’s Immigrant Justice Team, Affordable Housing Team, or Healthcare Justice Team, please contact Reverend Dr. Willie Keaton, our Justice Organizer at keatonw@queens.edu.

The idea that everyone, regardless of religion, could have been a target. Jewish people were the main targets, but if you look in your circle of people, you would probably find multiple people that would have been targets as well.

“The most profound part of the experience for me as an educator was visiting the third floor of the Permanent Exhibit…made me feel more connected with the Holocaust. In history, telling stories is important, so I will start with just speaking of the trip and will share pictures to open up the conversation to the students and see how much each student knows or has experienced. This trip will be a great foundation for my Holocaust unit next year.”

“I want just to thank you all for the amazing opportunity. This trip was very powerful and I believe it will help me greatly in my teaching experience.”

“By far, visiting the Permanent Exhibit at the museum was so powerful.”

“I feel so blessed that opportunities like these are available for teachers. Thank you so much.”

“I was most profoundly affected by touring the Permanent Exhibit…Thank you so much for the ‘Student-Teacher-Human Writer’s Walk’, to help me see the exhibits in a different way. I learned so much.”

“This has been a life-changing experience for me and for my teaching.”

“The biggest takeaway I have is... I don’t think I’ve ever been a Holocaust educator previously. I realize I haven’t begun to scratch the surface. This has been an absolute life-changing experience. I cannot thank you all enough for providing it and encouraging it.”

Please visit our website (stangreensponcenter.org).

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 28
Yahrzeit is that Friday and Shabbat—the list includes those whose yahrzeit occurs on that day. Thursdays, those casualties whose yahrzeit service, and the names are read of at 11 AM, there is a brief memorial when the city was reunified.

The gates of the Old City of Jerusalem entrance was once at one of the eternal flame. The mezuzah at the alized. At the entrance stands and as military casualties are memorialized. At the entrance to the new underground memorial. The stairs leading to the entrance to the new underground memorial.

Inside Government Memorial Hall to Casualties of Israel’s Wars.

By Elias Roochvarg

I have not mentioned that although our madrichot speak excellent English, the soldier who gives us our daily instructions does not. Since I had the distinction of being the most Hebrew proficient among these 12 volunteers, I acted as translator. Between what I understand (I don’t know any of the Hebrew names for tools, probably because I don’t use them much in any language) and some pantomime, we had no major snafus.

On Thursday morning, April 11, we went to Jerusalem to visit the new (2017: opened on the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem) Government Memorial Hall to Casualties of Israel’s Wars on Mt. Herzl, adjoining the military cemetery. It is so new that they have not yet put together a brochure in English, only Hebrew.

It is all underground. The above-ground architecture, the bell-shaped roof of the hall, is quite remarkable. Civilian as well as military casualties are memorialized. At the entrance stands eternal flame. The mezuzah at the entrance was once at one of the gates of the Old City of Jerusalem when the city was reunified.

Sundays through Thursdays at 11 AM, there is a brief memorial service, and the names are read of those casualties whose yahrzeit occurs on that day. Thursdays, the list includes those whose yahrzeit is that Friday and Shabbat. In addition, photographs, parents’ names, and date, and age at death of as many of them as possible are electronically displayed. This morning, several family members of at least one of the names were present and in fact, though the Yizkor prayer was recited by a military Rabbi, and the Eil Malei Rachamim was sung by a military Hazan, the Kaddish prayer was recited by a family member. The Memorial Service concludes with the singing of Hatikvah.

Quotations from Jeremiah are inscribed throughout the hall, but the quotation at the exit is from the conclusion of a magnificent poem by the late Israeli poet Natan Alterman. The poem is called “The Silver Charger,” and makes the point that this wonderful state of Israel we now have was given to us “on a silver charger” by the whole generation of young men and women who died in its defense. The last line is, “And the rest will be told by Israel’s future generations.” A perfect thought as one is leaving this place.

On the following Friday evening, I decided to pray at the Mizrahi (non-Ashkenazi and non-Sephardic) synagogue near the house of my Israeli cousins. I arrived a few minutes before Shabbat services began, and took a photo. The sanctuary is really lovely, with fancy crystal chandeliers.

I was welcomed by one of the congregants who spoke no English, but gave me a prayer book, and showed me exactly where they were. Perhaps because they don’t get many strangers, he asked me if everything was all right, if I needed any help of any sort. I thanked him profusely for asking, and said that I was just fine.

The Minchah service was led by a congregant, who remained at his seat. For this, as well as the Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma’ariv services to come, every word was recited; not one word was skipped. Furthermore, there was no professional Cantor leading any service: every word of every prayer was recited in unison by the whole congregation in a special, sing-songy kind of Nusach, which I eventually was able not only to follow (which in itself is an achievement, because they zip through everything lightning-fast), but sing along. Almost none of the melodies were familiar to me, but the music was very repetitive, which made participation easier... as long as you could keep up.

We continued with Kabbalat Shabbat. Ironically, for the most famous prayer of Kabbalat Shabbat, the “Lecha Dodi,” they lustily sang an Ashkenazi, Hasidic melody. Between that and the evening service, the man whom I presumed to be the congregation president, gave the announcements.

There was then a ritual that I did not quite understand at the time: the president seemed to be auctioning something off. I asked later, and was told that they auction off certain honors for the intermediate days of Passover, to help the synagogue make money. It’s a custom that was very common in the synagogues of the Lower East Side, but is rarely encountered nowadays... among Ashkenazim.

A lovely experience altogether, followed by a lovely walk home, and a tasty meal with my cousins.

Q/A & Discussion with Author Steven Rogelberg

“The Surprising Science of Meetings”

Wednesday, September 4th • 7:00-8:30 pm
Gorelick Hall, Shalom Park

FREE! Register at www.charlottejcc.org by 8/30

$18 Donation includes a signed book!
Bal Tashchit and Beyond: The Plastic Problem

Plastic is part of our lives in so many ways that it is nearly impossible to imagine our world without it. But the world has a growing plastic problem that can only be solved by public awareness and action.

Please join Shalom Green and LJCC Cares for a special screening of A Plastic Ocean on Tuesday, September 10 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. This documentary follows an expedition to the so-called Great Pacific Garbage Patch and brings attention to the dire situation of our oceans and emphasizes the importance of addressing global plastic pollution.

Great Pacific Garbage Patch and an expedition to the so-called Art's. This documentary follows Sam Lerner Center for Cultural on September 10 at 7 PM in the LJCC Cares for a special screening of Bal Tashchit and Beyond: The Plastic Problem.

What Can You Do?

1. Reduce. Be mindful about the plastics you choose to buy and seek out alternatives whenever possible.

2. Reuse what you can.

3. Recycle the plastics that you purchase and cannot reuse.

Our future depends on us.

If you have an idea for an article, please email info@shalomgreenCLT.org. Learn more about Shalom Green by visiting our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @shalomgreenCLT.

---

Former Bobcat Creates “We Got Next”

Tamar Slay Teaches Basketball Camp in Jerusalem

Former NBA Bobcat player Tamar Slay has made Charlotte his home. And it is here that he is setting up his new non-profit, “We Got Next,” building underprivileged youth into leaders through basketball.

But this summer, he had a unique opportunity to use his knowledge and skills at a youth basketball camp in Jerusalem.

Back when he was in high school, Slay heard about a basketball player in Maryland who was close to his same age, Tamir Goodman. Sports Illustrated had dubbed Goodman “The Jewish Jordan.”

“Fast forward to seven years later and I signed a contract to play basketball in Israel,” Slay explains. “While I was there we played against each other multiple times.

“Even after I came back to the states, Tamir and I stayed in touch. Once I retired, I started doing basketball training. … A few months ago, Tamir called me up to see if I wanted participate in his annual basketball camp in Israel. For me, it was a no-brainer, because I loved playing there from 2006-2008.”

Slay spent a week at the Tamir Goodman Basketball Camp, but this time his tenure in Israel was different. “When I had been playing basketball there before, I was much younger and basketball was a way of life. Now, the goal was to show and teach the campers what it means to be a basketball player.”

Slay is setting up his new non-profit camp in Jerusalem later this year, with plans to take it on the road all over the world. There is an increased interest in camps like this, Slay said, and he wants to do all he can to help the kids.

The Charlotte Jewish News - September 2019 - Page 30
The Key Ingredient to Jewish Education at Moishe House

By Rabbi Brad Greenstein

I have a friend, a native New Yorker, who thinks that if you put pineapple on pizza, it’s no longer pizza. We all know these food connoisseurs – perhaps you yourself are one – who likes to stake their claim on what constitutes authenticity. Coffee without caffeine shouldn’t count as coffee, a s’more made with dark chocolate instead of a Hershey’s milk chocolate bar isn’t really a s’more … you get the idea.

At Moishe House, we’ve come to the conclusion that when it comes to Jewish education, the essential and non-negotiable ingredient is traditional Jewish text. Jewish education can (and should!) be experiential, innovative, and compelling. Deploying the latest modalities. But without incorporating traditional Jewish text into a Jewish education session, well, it’s like coffee without caffeine.

This conversation all started with one question that kept coming up among our staff and the young adult community builders around the world that we support: “What counts as a Jewish education program?” That is to say, what needs to happen to transmute text – so why not include that as a guide for facilitators crafting educational programs?

This rubric accommodates, and more importantly, encourages the most creative and innovative modalities/approaches to Jewish education, with the interweaving of Jewish text, because we have concluded that Jewish education, however experimental and imaginative, is rooted with Jewish text, and we want to share that message with others. With the help of the Jewish Learning Tree, we’re hopeful that Moishe House community builders will feel empowered to create Jewish education programming that is deep and impactful for their peers in communities around the world and that even those who have never led or participated in this type of educational setting will walk away feeling confident and empowered by their experience.

In my ideal world, the leading pluralistic Jewish education organizations will come together to affirm the inclusion of text as the key ingredient of Jewish education. For now, we’ll focus on Moishe House sharing the message of the critical nature of text, using the Jewish Learning Tree, and giving young adults around the world the opportunity to grow and explore together, with text as their guidepost.

Rabbi Brad Greenstein is Moishe House’s Senior Director of Jewish Learning.

Tamar Slay Teaches Basketball in Israel

(Continued from previous page)

by Rabbi Brad Greenstein

The result of that work is the Moishe House Jewish Learning Tree, a rubric that will now serve as a guide for facilitators crafting educational programs.

The Tamir Goodman Basketball Camp is attended by kids from all over the world. This year’s class had a lot to say and that even those who have never led or participated in this type of educational setting will walk away feeling confident and empowered by their experience.

In my ideal world, the leading pluralistic Jewish education organizations will come together to affirm the inclusion of text as the key ingredient of Jewish education. For now, we’ll focus on Moishe House sharing the message of the critical nature of text, using the Jewish Learning Tree, and giving young adults around the world the opportunity to grow and explore together, with text as their guidepost.

Rabbi Brad Greenstein is Moishe House’s Senior Director of Jewish Learning.

Tamar Slay Teaches Basketball in Israel

(Continued from previous page)

my main focus,” he continues. “But this time I had such a beautiful experience with the people, with the country. … I absolutely fell in love with Israel.”

While he was there, Good- man gave him the time to reall y look around the old city. He hired a tour guide for Slay, who taught him more about the roots of Christianity and Jewish culture. He visited Yad VaShem and the military cemetery. “The tour guide explained to me about the military and all the sacrifices that young Israelis make for their country,” Slay says.

The Tamir Goodman Basket- ball Camp is attended by kids from all over the world. This year’s class had a lot to say and that even those who have never led or participated in this type of educational setting will walk away feeling confident and empowered by their experience.

In my ideal world, the lead- ing pluralistic Jewish education organizations will come together to affirm the inclusion of text as the key ingredient of Jewish education. For now, we’ll focus on Moishe House sharing the mes sage of the critical nature of text, using the Jewish Learning Tree, and giving young adults around the world the opportunity to grow and explore together, with text as their guidepost.

Rabbi Brad Greenstein is Moishe House’s Senior Director of Jewish Learning.

Tamar Slay Teaches Basketball in Israel

(Continued from previous page)

my main focus,” he continues. “But this time I had such a beautiful experience with the people, with the country. … I absolutely fell in love with Israel.”

While he was there, Good man gave him the time to really look around the old city. He hired a tour guide for Slay, who taught him more about the roots of Christianity and Jewish culture. He visited Yad VaShem and the military cemetery. “The tour guide explained to me about the military and all the sacrifices that young Israelis make for their country,” Slay says.

The Tamir Goodman Basket ball Camp is attended by kids from all over the world. This year’s class had a lot to say and that even those who have never led or participated in this type of educational setting will walk away feeling confident and empowered by their experience.

In my ideal world, the lead ing pluralistic Jewish education organizations will come together to affirm the inclusion of text as the key ingredient of Jewish education. For now, we’ll focus on Moishe House sharing the message of the critical nature of text, using the Jewish Learning Tree, and giving young adults around the world the opportunity to grow and explore together, with text as their guidepost.

Rabbi Brad Greenstein is Moishe House’s Senior Director of Jewish Learning.

Tamar Slay Teaches Basketball in Israel

(Continued from previous page)

my main focus,” he continues. “But this time I had such a beautiful experience with the people, with the country. … I absolutely fell in love with Israel.”

While he was there, Good man gave him the time to really look around the old city. He hired a tour guide for Slay, who taught him more about the roots of Christianity and Jewish culture. He visited Yad VaShem and the military cemetery. “The tour guide explained to me about the military and all the sacrifices that young Israelis make for their country,” Slay says.

The Tamir Goodman Basketball Camp is attended by kids from all over the world. This year’s class had a lot to say and that even those who have never led or participated in this type of educational setting will walk away feeling confident and empowered by their experience.

In my ideal world, the lead ing pluralistic Jewish education organizations will come together to affirm the inclusion of text as the key ingredient of Jewish education. For now, we’ll focus on Moishe House sharing the message of the critical nature of text, using the Jewish Learning Tree, and giving young adults around the world the opportunity to grow and explore together, with text as their guidepost.

Rabbi Brad Greenstein is Moishe House’s Senior Director of Jewish Learning.

Tamar Slay Teaches Basketball in Israel

(Continued from previous page)
The Ruach Back-to-School Give Back(pack) Social Action Shabbat and the Free High Holy Day Experiences

Classes are back in session but many Charlotte-Mecklenburg kids returned to school last month without the supplies they need to be academically successful. To help underprivileged students, The Ruach Community joined together at Alexander Graham Middle School on August 23 for the inaugural Give Back(pack) Social Action Shabbat. Everyone was asked to bring a new school backpack stuffed with school supplies such as notebooks, highlighters, pens and pencils. These were donated to the school to be given to those who need them.

And, back by popular demand, Charlotte’s own award winning Jewish smokemaster Rob “Ernie” Adler was on hand serving up plates of his famous Apple Charlotte’s own award winning given to those who need them. portion of the proceeds received from the sales of food were donated to Bulldogs Matter, Alexander Graham’s after school program serving students with academic, emotional, and social development needs.

The Shabbat Experience that night was all about tzedakah and giving back. Rabbi Smookler talked about it in her sermon and the service included the band playing The Beatles “With a Little Help from my Friends,” performed Joe Cocker style. Looking ahead, The Rosh Hashanah Experience will be held Monday, September 30 at 10 AM at The Fillmore located at 820 Hamilton Street in Charlotte where The Ruach will be joined by recording artist, Robyn Springer. If you’ve been uplifted by and felt the joy of The Ruach Shabbat Experience, The Rosh Hashanah Experience will take you deeper and higher.

And, if you’re looking for a Yom Kippur service that will feed your soul and move you to understand the true meaning of the Day of Atonement then you’ll want to join Rabbi Rachel Smookler and The Ruach on Tuesday, October 8 at 7 PM in the Myers Park High School Auditorium for The Kol Nidre Experience, an engaging, and relatable High Holy Day service.

Both High Holy Day Experiences are free. Each will offer soulful prayer, inspirational music and thought-provoking messages. Consider making them a part of your observance of the Jewish New Year.

If you’d like to receive up-to-date information about the Ruach Community and stay informed about upcoming Experiences, email the ruach.band@gmail.com. Also, to learn more about The Ruach like the band on Facebook, and follow them on Instagram (@the.ruach) and Twitter (@TheRuachSpirit).

The Ruach is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to spread the joy of Judaism through new Jewish musical experiences that are meant to create and maintain personal connections and, inspire and engage people to embrace the religion and all that it has to offer.

Scott Fried Returns to Shalom Park

On Thursday evening, October 17 from 7-8:30 PM, in Gorelick Hall, Health Educator and Motivational Speaker, Scott Fried, will be speaking about “The ABC’s of GenZ Parenting - A Survival Guide for Raising Post Millenniums.” The event is free and open to all parents in the community. Scott Fried has been a guest speaker for teens and parents in both BBYO and Hebrew High for the past twenty years. His talk offers specific ideas and techniques on parenting a teenager through this difficult time of adolescent against and their experiences as they travel through the stages of their teenage years. Scott always gets rave reviews from both teens and parents – mark your calendar for this incredible event.

BBYO Fall Meeting Schedule

As school begins, Charlotte BBYO is back and in full swing. We kicked off the year with a fun pool party where we had pizza, Kona ice and our favorite DJ playing music at the Levine JCC pool. Teens were excited to re-connect with old friends and welcomed new faces to our BBYO family. We are excited to be back to our regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings at the Levine JCC from 7-8 PM the entire month of September. Each Tuesday in September, we will be meeting in the teen lounge at 7 PM and all Jewish teens in the Charlotte area are welcome to come and check out what BBYO is all about. On Tuesday, September 24, Associate Regional Director, Lauren Revenson will be hosting our first parent meeting of the year at the Levine JCC. All new parents are invited to come to learn about BBYO in Charlotte and in Eastern Region. She will also be discussing our new member convention that will be held November 1-3. During the month of October Charlotte BBYO will be meeting on the following dates: Sunday, October 6 from 1-2:30 PM, Sunday, October 13 from 1-2:30 PM, Sunday, October 20 from 1-2:30 PM, and Tuesday, October 29 from 7-8:30 PM, to accommodate for the Jewish holidays. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Lauren Revenson at lrevenson@bbyo.org.

Friendship Circle UMatter Teens Featured on Charlotte Today

Jordy Miller and Joshua Freedman joined Sophie Molni to represent Friendship Circle on WCNC’s Charlotte Today Show in promoting their recently launched UMatter program that empowers teenagers to support each other in taking a step back from daily stresses and refocus on life’s positivity.

“UMatter is out to prove that everyone has a purpose and everybody matters” Joshua Freedman proudly told an inspired Colleen Odegard and Eugene Robinson, hosts of Charlotte Today.

“We’re out to break the stigma of mental health” concluded Joshua.

Jordy Miller added “I feel it’s really important for teens who are struggling with mental health to have a place where they feel that they belong, feel stress free, and be supported by their peers.”

To learn more about UMatter (and watch the full interview) visit www.FriendshipCircleNC.org/UMatter.

UMatter was created with the generous support of a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Impact and Innovation Fund.

Friendship Circle UMatter Teens Featured on Charlotte Today

Jordy and Joshua proudly representing Friendship Circle and UMatter.
Why Hebrew High is the Place for Jewish Teens to Be on Wednesday Nights (and a Few Sundays ...)

There will be surprises galore this year at Hebrew High. Here are just a few:

* Join us on September 22 for our Kick-Off to Hebrew High at Squirrel Lake Park from 5-7 PM. Come to see your friends, meet new ones, and learn about the new Hebrew High experience and have dinner. There will be other surprises as well.

* Forget everything you thought you knew about Classes – we got rid of them. This year most of our classes will be mixed between grades and even with hands-on experiences. No more just sitting around.

Opportunities for creativity abound: Music, drama, art, cooking, and science electives are offered to meet the interests and needs of all types of learners. There is really something for everyone at Hebrew High.

* As part of the curriculum (and cost of tuition) the 8th and 9th Graders will be going to the White Water Center for a fun afternoon on Sunday, October 27. Save the date.

* Grab coffee with your clergy. Students will have the opportunity to select a coffee house (Starbucks, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Caribou, etc.) during three different Wednesday nights throughout the year to learn from their clergy. Coffee (or other drinks) is on Hebrew High.

* Post-Confirmation Experience for 11th and 12th graders will be better than ever. In this very special class, students are given an opportunity to take two six weeks “tracks.” The second track is in partnership with the Jewish Studies at Queens University in Charlotte. This class is titled “The Tea” about College: Big Questions, Casual Conversations. (*Urban Dictionary definition of Tea: the best kind of gossip, typically shared between friends. It’s a bonding tool for people of all ages.) Students will have an opportunity to enjoy a nosh and have dinner. There will be surprises galore this year at Hebrew High.
Yom Kippur and Shakespeare

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

Imagine if someone who had never been exposed to Jews or Judaism encountered a Jew and asked, what’s your holiest day of the year?

“Yom Kippur.”

“What do you do on that day?”

“We fast for 25 hours and spend most of that time in the synagogue praying and asking for forgiveness.”

“Wow, that’s incredible. How do you inaugurate the day; what’s the first thing you do?”

“We recite Kol Nidre, a formal declaration to annul unkept vows of the previous year.”

“Seriously? You begin a unique 25 hour period, the holiest day of your year, by annulling vows? It’s seems so mundane and unemotional — and even uninspiring. Please explain.”

How would you answer? Before doing so, you would need to explain how seriously we regard vows, oaths, and other forms of verbal commitments. When a person declares, “this money is designated for tzedakah (charity),” that person has actually changed the status of the money for themselves; it can no longer be used for anything other than tzedakah. When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, a person could pledge anything from a cup to an animal for the Temple and can no longer be used for mundane day to day purposes. Even today, a piece of parchment has no intrinsic holiness but when a scribe designates it for a Mezuza or Torah scroll and writes the first letter, it gets transformed into a holy object; one can no longer use it for scribbling or even a personal letter. Your words contain power.

Let’s consider marriage. One minute before the traditional marriage declaration, both bride and groom are free agents with the ability to date or marry anyone they choose but after uttering a few words under the chuppah, a new reality has been created. Both are now forbidden to everyone else in the world and are now “holy,” i.e., set aside for each other. Whether it’s marriage or anything else, when words of commitment come out of your mouth, make sure you fulfill them. If you said you would give a certain amount to tzedakah, make sure it’s not an empty promise.

There’s nothing casual about the commitments we make and, if not taken seriously, we might be nonchalant and irresponsible about being true to them. In the 21st century, our fingertips have become extensions of our mouths. Once something leaves the screen in front of you, its imprint is eternally engraved in the cyberworld. We should ask ourselves, “is this message going to be helpful to someone? Will it build, or will it destroy?” This doesn’t mean that every conversation — face to face or in the cloud — has to have existential, theological, or philosophical ramifications; there is plenty of room for small talk, too. What is the value of small talk? It is the foundation of a relationship. If I only talk to you because there is an agenda to our conversation, then I am not interested in a relationship with you, I am interested in your help to advance my agenda. No matter how noble that agenda might be, ultimately, it’s about me and my agenda. How do you know if a relationship is real? There will be small talk. For example, if every time a child calls his or her parents, the first response is, “is everything okay,” it is an indication that the only time the child calls is for “something.” When the child says, “I just called to say hello and see how things are doing,” that’s when small talk becomes a holy endeavor.

Why do we begin Yom Kippur with Kol Nidrei? Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik answers that we should realize at the commencement of Yom Kippur that we are about to spend the next 25 hours offering words. We ask for forgiveness with words, we express regret and remorse with words, and we make commitments for the future with words. It’s not enough just to feel bad about the unfulfilled promises I made the previous year, I have to actually annul those verbal commitments through a formal process that presses the message that words matter.

Whether it’s your relationship with God, your family, or the neighbor whose dog you promised to walk, words matter. If it’s a life of meaning you pursue, make sure you remember, To thine own self be true.

May you have happy, blessed, and sweet new year.
The Awesome Power of the High Holy Days

By Rabbi Asher Knight, Rabbi Dusky Klass, and Cantor Mary Thomas, Temple Beth El

“Un’taneh tokef kedushat hayom, v’hu nora v’ayom – Let us proclaim the sacred power of this day; it is awesome and full of dread.

The words of the High Holy Day Amida begin exactly as they do each Shabbat until Un’taneh Tokef. These words mark a shift, a shot across the bow calling to us. This is not a normal service, this is not a normal day. As the prayer begins, the organ heralds a human being like a trumpet, ensuring that each worshipper feels the personal pull of the prayer. This is not a normal service, this is not a normal day.

The High Holy Days are known in Hebrew as the Yamim Noraim – most often translated as the Days of Awe, but also understood as the Days of Dread. Indeed, true awe does contain a bit of fear – to experience awe is to become aware, even if just for a moment, of just how small each of us is, how fragile and fleeting the world and all that is in it can be. To grasp, at the very core of one’s being, the vastness of the universe and all that is in it, and the incomprehensibility of that vastness – that can be terrifying. The Yamim Noraim call us to ontological confrontation – to confront our mortality. Later in Unetaneh Tokef we are reminded that “each of us is a shattered urn, grass that must wither, a flower that will fade.” These sacred days remind us that nothing is forever.

And yet, to zoom in on that single blade of grass, the delicate beauty of a flower, the intricate detail of the inside of an orange – is also awe. Awe is watching from afar as two people interact, caring about each other in the smallest of ways, ways they may not even notice themselves. There is awe in the healing of a broken bone, the mending of a tattered relationship, and the way the human spirit is inherently resilient. To recognize that in each and every moment, millions of individual intricacies are blossoming, hundreds and thousands of seemingly insignificant moments of caring are unfolding, and galaxies beyond galaxies continue to spin into existence – that is also awe.

Each year, after studying Rabba Abraham Joshua Heschel’s idea of radical amazement, our seventh graders go on a “Radical Amazement Scavenger Hunt.” The hunt requires no preparation on the teacher’s part – no hiding of clues, no setting up of materials. The students are merely instructed to wander the grounds of Temple Beth El and Shalom Park and… notice. That which they are seeking is there, all the time – they only need to be reminded to look. They are given a few categories: “something big, something small, something beautiful, something ugly” and most importantly, “something that you have never noticed before” and “something you want to make sure everyone else sees.”

Each year when they come back with reports on what they noticed, they are surprised by all that they had never seen before, all that they found that was new to them, or that they were able to see from a new perspective.

To experience awe, to recognize the awe-filled nature of the High Holy Days, we must be willing to be radically amazed. Of radical amazement, Heschel wrote: “Get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.” Sometimes, the world we live in can feel like the “dreadful” aspects of nora are entirely outweighing the “awe-filled” aspects. We are inundated with bad news. Some days, it seems as if the world is falling apart. The headlines need not be listed here.

And while the Yamim Noraim do call on us to recognize that dread, and to tremble at the truth of it, these days also call on us to hold off the overwhelming, to stem the tide of pain and anger and sadness and fear – to practice a little radical amazement. Because when we are able to acknowledge the other side of nora, the millions of individual, intricate, beautiful moments that occur at every single moment of every single day, we can recognize how unimaginably special it is that we each exist and are able to experience both the pain and the joy of living.

This holiday season, may we take time to simply notice, and be radically amazed. May we acknowledge our fear, and temper it with awe, and may we be sealed in the Book of Life. ☩

Project Renewal

By Rabbi Howard Siegel, Temple Israel

Another name for Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur is “Project Renewal.” It’s about the existential rediscove...
Our Identity Crisis and How We Solve It

By Rabbi Yossi Groner, Congregation Oh HaTorah

The High Holidays are days of inner reflection and self-examination. We look at the past, present, and future. We review how we lived the past year - did we accomplish what we set out to do? Did we utilize our time, health, and wealth in a productive way? We examine our present standing in life. Are we pleased where we are? Is God pleased with where we are? How are our relationships? As far as the future, we assume that we have some control of how we will embrace it.

The above mentioned reflection goes to the very heart of a question that many people struggle with. Who are we? In today’s climate, the question is compounded by the growing identity crisis where people are trying to figure out which group they belong to or if they belong at all. Many psychologists agree that today’s new generation of young people suffer from loneliness. This may seem strange, as we live in the most connected generation ever.

One of the greatest risks to inner security and tranquility is ambiguity. If we are not grounded in our identity, if we are not certain who we are and for what we are, we don’t stand a chance when we encounter fierce winds of cultural change that could blow in any given direction.

The Talmud teaches, in Ethics of Our Fathers, that a tree with deep roots outlives a tree with few roots and lots of branches. Even when strong winds blow, deep-rooted trees cannot be uprooted. It goes on to explain that deep roots are the good deeds that we do for others, through which we build community.

In Judaism there was never an identity question. We know who we are and we are where we come from. Our ancestry dates back to the time of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebecca, and Jacob, Leah, and Rachel. Each of us has been gifted to carry their genes and the everlasting gifts of character they bequeathed us. The Talmud specifies three characteristics that we inherited from our ancestors: compassion, kindness, and humility.

These three distinctive traits are not inherently Jewish, but you can’t be Jewish without them. It is in our DNA.

This brings us to our reflection on identity. We were not brought into life in a vacuum. Rather, there is a chain of history that plays itself out in each generation and we are the stars. It’s all dependant on us. We can repair the past and improve the future. We are not here for the ride or the adventure, we are in this world to improve it, make it a better place and, yes, to bring recognition of the creator in creation, as we so eloquently express in the Rosh Hashanah liturgy.

In the chain of history are all the good deeds our ancestors did in their lifetime. It is what they founded for and what they bequeathed to us. As a child growing up, the most inspirational stories that affected me were the ones where goodness did not come easy and it took heroic actions and selflessness on the part of ordinary people to do the extraordinary to achieve the goodness desired.

My maternal grandfather spent four years of hard labor in a Siberian gulag, in the turbulent era of Soviet communism for the “crime” of preparing a young boy for his Bar Mitzvah. He never regretted his deeds and actually continued doing these activities after his release. Here was a man grounded in his identity and the identity of his people, and in his heart he knew that Am Yisra-el Chai! The Jewish people will outlive the winds of Communism and will forever be bound together in our quest for a better future. This long chain of Jewish history is part of who we are. The children of God were commanded and thus, empowered to bring light, dignity and Goodliness to the world. Each encounter in life provides us with multiple opportunities to accomplish this divine mission.

So, before we venture out to change the world around us, we first need to know who we are and repair those internal issues we have within ourselves. Then, look at yourself in the mirror and realize that the person looking back at you is someone that has been befaced with amazing powers and strengths throughout thou-sands of years. It’s now in your hands to do with it what you can to help create a better community and a better world.

L’shanah Tovah! A good sweet and healthy year to all.

Sam’s Kitchen

“Not Your Bubbe’s” Gefilte Fish

By Sam Marshall

Editor’s Note: Sam’s Kitchen will be an occasional feature about Jewish food. The cooking, the eating, the feeling – everything we associate with eating Jewishly.

For weeks I have been delib-erating on what to write about. What are people interested in? Who will read it? My original thought was to take traditional and favorite dishes and convert them to suit our modern needs. With the holidays upon us, the thought of how to satisfy every-one’s every changing dietary re-quests is daunting. You know, Auntie Judy’s gluten allergy and little Jack’s nut allergy, oy vey, not to mention the vegans and lactose intolerant. With every passing year we focus more on our health and less on the foods of our past. Does anyone still keep a jar of shmaltz on the stove? I would love for you to share your favorite family recipes with me, especially the ones you are no longer able to enjoy due to dietary restrictions, and allow me to rework them to suit your needs. Cross fingers, still keeping the flavor. Coz rest me at samman-tharshall@hotmail.com.

For this month, take a look at the oldest and most well known of all Jewish foods, albeit, the least liked, Gefilte Fish. Here is my attempt at turning this, once bland and boring dish, into something gluten and dairy free, into something delish.

1 lb. halibut filets
1 lb. salmon filets
All fish deboned and skinned
4 oz. diced red bell pepper
4 oz. diced white onions
4 oz. diced celery
1 T. olive oil
2 T. diced fresh garlic
2 T. capers
2 T. Dijon mustard
1 T. Tabasco
2 lg. eggs
Cut fish into large chunks (1/4-1/2”). In pan heat, olive oil, add onions, celery, red peppers, capers, and garlic. Sauté till soft.
In a mixing bowl add fish, black pepper, Tabasco, mustard, and eggs. Mix together and add the vegetable mixture in food
In the Blink of an Eye – Yamim Noraim 5780

By Rabbi David Lipper, Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman and Davidson College

October 8 through 11 are some of the most memorable moments in our tradition. They are liturgically a time of preparation and for the most of us, a time of awe. How do we prepare ourselves for these holy moments? How do we enter into this time? How do we stand the event unmediated and we don’t see or understand the event until time affords us the opportunity to reflect and absorb the moment. A colleague of mine, Dannell Schwartz, taught me that God is experienced in the moment. Whether we are taking only a glimpse of God when we stop and reflect and open our hearts and souls to the holy encounter. When we rush and worry and fly through the moments of life, we don’t make the time for holy moments. We miss out on life.

The High Holy Days are full of holy moments. Whether they are found in the sacred melodies that float around us, or in the eyes of the children as they stare the stirred blast of the shofar, our holy moments ahead are full of life altering possibilities. That is what is so warming and comforting about the days and the week. By countering God and our fellow congregants, we can create the most special of relationships, the sacred and soulful moments.

I believe that the Holy Days require preparing. For me, it’s the organizing of worship, the writing of sermons and messages, and the annual cleaning of my tallit and robe. Around the synagogue, it’s the painting of walls, the cleaning of carpets, the polishing of silver and the buzz of organization needed to create the tempo of holy moments. Deliberate, intentional steps towards readying ourselves for a spiritually and communally uplifting moment.

Along my rabbinic path, which has led me from coast to coast and northern to southern borders of the US, I have grounded myself in the study of text and tradition. From my college years and beyond, I immersed myself in the study of Kabbalah. One of the lessons I carry with me at this time of year is the Kabbalistic view of the Torah mandate, so to start the new year right away by violating the Torah mandate, so to start.

According to Kabbalah, the human soul has five levels. The first level is “nefesh.” This is our intuitive soul. It is here that we find our mission in life. As you look to the year ahead, what do you see as a person? What do you wish to accomplish? The second level is “ruach.” This is our spiritual soul. It is here that we find security with who we are and what we believe. We jettison all the hatred and mistrust of others and find peace in our own mission. We must have become secure in our role and no longer use the denigration of others as a ladder upon which we must stand. The third level is “neshama.” It is here that we feel and find God’s presence in our lives. Imagine your mind as a calm and placid lake in which you can see your reflection. Love of God and other people become unconditional. We live our lives with integrity and maturity. The fourth level is “chayah.” Here we begin to feel the connection in a more physical sense to God and our surroundings. The final level is “yechidah.” This is the apex of the mystical universe where Moses stood once and for which we can only hope. In short, we can always ascend.

These windows on our soul open wide at this time of year. Many of us sit in shul and shudder when the prayers surrounding the “Book of Life” are read. Will we enter this year? Do we suffer from mistrust, from fears of others, from lack of interest or involvement? Have we placed our own needs over the needs of our family or our community? Is our soul weak or can we through “repentance, prayer, and tzedakah” strengthen ourselves and those around us? These are but a few of the questions we are asked at this season of holy moments. And where are the answers? Our sagesses, the teachers, the answers are in our hands. We are in control. We are responsible for our own growth potential. We are the light that dispels the darkness. We are the key that unlocks the door to our own future.

The sacred is unfolding all around us. Our potential has yet to be tapped. Join us with an open heart and open soul as we embark upon yet another sacred journey. Let’s create a sacred moment together. L’shannah Tovah Tikatevu.atitis

Sam’s Kitchen

(Continued from previous page)

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Rabbi David Lipper, Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman and Davidson College

October 8 through 11 are some of the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]

and comforting about the days and the

By Josef Dolsten

New York (JTA) — The truth is, the curry, I mean, the date syrup is ac-
dient in cooking and baking, and dis-

[Image 126x871 to 202x969]
A Jewish Atonement Ritual (Not the Chicken One) Gets an Eco-Friendly Makeover

By Penny Schwartz

Somerville, MA (JTA) - On the first afternoon of Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz will lead her congregation on a walk to the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse on the Mystic River for tashlich, a centuries-old ritual when Jews symbolically discard their sins from the past year into a moving body of water.

But instead of the customary bits of stale bread, breadcrumbs, or even bits of matzah saved from last Passover, congregants will toss small pebbles.

Members of Temple B’naï Brith, a non-affiliated congregation in this Boston suburb with historic ties to the Conservative movement, have likely been tossing bread into the Mystic during tashlich for over a century.

The congregation, which has been this reporter’s Jewish home for more than a quarter-century, was founded in 1904 by immigrants from Eastern Europe who settled in Somerville’s Winter Hill neighborhood, less than one mile uphill from the river.

The recent shift in the tashlich practice from bread to pebbles follows the city’s new environmentally friendly rules that no longer allow bread to be tossed into the river, a measure to protect river wildlife and address other concerns.

“Yes, our congregation is environmentally conscious and this was an appealing reason [to change] something we care about on a social justice level,” Jacobowitz said.

The challenge of creating an environmentally friendly tashlich is emerging beyond this city. An article in Reform Judaism magazine last year highlighted new practices, including one congregation in Ontario using untreated wood chips instead of bread.

Whatever they use, congregants aren’t meant to think that the ritual is a substitute for the hard work of teshuvah, or repentance, which extends from Rosh Hashanah (it starts this year on September 29) to Yom Kippur (October 9-10).

In Somerville, the subject was first raised three years ago when its Parks and Recreation Department notified the synagogue that tossing bread violated guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency and local efforts to protect the environment. The city said feeding wildlife is harmful to their nutrition, leads to poor water quality and disrupts the ecosystem.

In addition to the potential harm to birds, feeding animals brought “an unintended invitation for animals around the boathouse, including issues with geese on the docks,” Jill Lathan, the Parks and Recreation director, wrote in a recent email to JTA.

At the time, efforts to clean up the river from decades of relentless pollution from industry, development and storm drainage were paying off. In 2017, the river scored an A-minus for water quality from the EPA, up from a D 11 years earlier. The success story was the result of years of collaboration between Somerville and other local communities, the EPA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the nonprofit Mystic River Watershed Association.

The seven-mile-long Mystic River flows through 22 towns just north and west of Boston. From Somerville, it goes downstream through Everett, Charlestown, and into Boston Harbor.

The appropriately named Blessing of the Bay boathouse where Temple B’naï Brith holds tashlich services is named after a 17th-century wooden ship, the first oceangoing vessel built in Massachusetts, according to the Mystic River Association.

In September 2015, before the start of the High Holidays, the city granted a one-year waiver to the synagogue, acknowledging its longstanding tradition of using bread during the tashlich ceremony. The congregation assured the city that it would educate members about the issue and evaluate environmentally acceptable options ranging from birdseed to earthworms to small pebbles.

After some rabbinical considerations, Jacobowitz concluded that for tashlich, small pebbles had greater resonance than birdseed. Pebbles will sink to the bottom of the river, an echo of the last verses of the prophet Micah (7:19), that is the textual basis for the tashlich ritual, she explained: “God will take us back in love; God will cover up our iniquities. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

The change brought mixed emotions.

“There was a bit of communal grief,” acknowledged Jacobowitz, who was ordained in 2010 at a Rabbinical school.

Many people had a strong attachment to the bread tossing, she said, and a few synagogue members have a tradition of saving bits of matzah from Passover for tashlich.

“There was this element of planning” long in advance, the rabbi said.

In a touch of irony, Jacobowitz pointed out that in her native Israel, bread is not used during tashlich. She said Israelis more commonly stroll to the sea or other body of water and turn their empty pockets inside-out, reflecting the idea that “you are not bringing your sins with you” into the new year.

As a resident of Somerville, Jacobowitz said the environmental improvements on the river in the past few years are noteworthy.

“It’s lovely. The water is better,” she said. Sometimes she visits the area to think about her High Holiday sermons and “I see that it is being transformed.”

Avid to the challenge to create an environmentally friendly tashlich, Jacobowitz has created a new tradition for Temple B’naï Brith’s younger tashlich-goers: She brings a bedsheet to the river and invites them to write something that they are sorry for and hope to change in the new year. They use pens with ink that dissolves after 24 hours. She returns the sheet to the synagogue on Yom Kippur and the kids see that their regrets have disappeared.

“When we reflect the new year, I do feel proud of our community for taking that step, especially in the [High Holiday] season when we are thinking of how we can do better in the world,” Jacobowitz said.

After much reflection, the rabbi has concluded, “This is not about bread versus pebbles,” but rather about exchanging a ritual that has content with another that is just as compelling. Over time, she anticipates the newer ritual will take hold in a meaningful way.

“It’s about replacing the spiritual experience with another practice that will feel equally spiritual,” she said. 0
Rosh Hashanah Needs a Little Preparation; We Have a Digital Solution

By Wendie Bernstein Lash, Lex Rofeberg, and Estee Solomon Gray

Chicago (JTA) - Too often, Rosh Hashanah resembles Kram-er from “Seinfeld.”

Barging onto the scene in a haste, it takes us aback. Its entry neither upsets nor disappoints us. But it comes with little warn- ing, out of nowhere.

The Jewish New Year isn’t experienced most effectively as a rude, Kramer-like entrance. It works far better as the culmina-tion of a month-long crescendo. A rolling-out of one year, a roll-ing-in of the next, and an annu-al window (winkle?) in time marked by zooming in, zooming out, looking forward, looking back and gathering ourselves upon our own two feet.

Luckily, the Jewish calendar provides exactly that slow, steady climb. It’s called Elul, the month directly preceding Rosh Hasha-nah. Traditionally it has served as a Jewish “on-ramp” (or maybe an escalator) so that we can ascend, gradually, toward the High Hol-idays, 10 intense days of course, which many of us hadn’t heard of until recently, has new life. Slow-ly but surely it’s migrating into the digital world.

And awakening our hearts and minds.

But none of us knew anything about Elul’s role as the on-ramp to the High Holidays until adulthood. When we talk to many Jew-ish friends today, they generally haven’t heard of it.

Why might this be?

For one, Elul hasn’t been par-ticularly well-defined. Sure, there are a few core practices: hearing the shofar blast each day, and re-citing Psalm 27 (“The Lord is my light and my help”). And in Sephardi communities, Selichot (pen-tential poems) are recited during the month (Ashkenazi Jews typ-ically only say them the last few days before Rosh Hashanah).

But the reality is this: The over-whelming majority of American Jews do not attend synagogue every day to hear a shofar. While they could crack open Psalm 27 on their own (and we’d encourage people to wrestle with it), it may or may not speak to them.

We need to reclaim and re-define Elul today. We need to experiment, and collaborate, to determine what this “on-ramp month” could look like and how it could speak to us in a deeper way. Because without an on-ramp, the High Holidays are – if you ask us – a little too high.

We don’t want the shofar’s blast to feel like one of Kramer’s abrupt entrances. We want to be ready.

Elul serves a vital function as a period of inner exploration and preparation. But when we look around, it is only playing that cru-cial role for a very small group of people.

What needs to change for that small group of people to grow? How could we reshape Elul so that it speaks to more hearts and minds, and achieves that important purpose of preparing us for a new year?

We asked ourselves those questions a few months ago. We didn’t find any magical elixirs or silver bullets, but we did decide to try out an experiment. Might it be possible – for purposes of individual meaning and commu-nal connection – for Elul to mani-fest in the digital world? Might this be a way to help channel the meaning and purpose of Elul into the lives of Jews who aren’t con-necting to traditional liturgies and spiritual practices?

We set out to find the answer to those questions by claiming Elul as a “holomonth” and launching a project called Elul Unbound.

Elul Unbound is a daily form of Elul observance that takes place primarily through digital channels. Each day, participants receive an email containing a podcast, a video, a poem, a joke – something creative – along with questions for reflection or a call to action. The content of each email is chosen to (hopefully) help par-ticipants on a monthlong journey of awakening, so that each is more ready for the reflection that will come on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

We were hoping, ambitiously, that we could recruit 100 partici-pants. Turns out we were mistak-en about how much interest there would be.

By the 1st of Elul, 400 people had signed up. Hundreds more have joined since the month be-gan.

Dozens have gathered via vid-eo chat, on a weekly basis, to share their experiences of Elul across time zones and denomina-tional divides. Dozens more have taken advantage of our one-on-one spiritual guidance sessions.

Initiatives like Jewels of Elul, now in its second decade, first set the tone for what a meaningful, digital Elul could look like. New-er projects like The Elul Journey have arisen as well. My Jewish Learning offers a series of emails with holiday rituals, customs, voc-abulary and recipes.

In other words, this isn’t just about our project. It’s not about any individual initiative. This is about a trend in contemporary Judaism with huge ramifications.

Without realizing it, more and more Jews have embraced Elul in ways that are transformation-al. An often overlooked month, it’s about our project. It’s about the world.

Over the course of time, the tradition became crucially important for understanding our wishes for a new year, that they’re sweet,” she said.

It also helped that bee honey is kosher, even thought the bee itself is not. Rabbi explain that unlike milk from a nonkosher animal, which may not be consumed, bee honey is derived from the nectar of a flower and not from something that’s part of the bee’s body.

A Honey Substitute for Vegans

By the 1st of Elul, 400 people had signed up. Hundreds more have joined since the month be-gan.

Dozens have gathered via vid-eo chat, on a weekly basis, to share their experiences of Elul across time zones and denomina-tional divides. Dozens more have taken advantage of our one-on-one spiritual guidance sessions.

Initiatives like Jewels of Elul, now in its second decade, first set the tone for what a meaningful, digital Elul could look like. New-er projects like The Elul Journey have arisen as well. My Jewish Learning offers a series of emails with holiday rituals, customs, voc-abulary and recipes.

In other words, this isn’t just about our project. It’s not about any individual initiative. This is about a trend in contemporary Judaism with huge ramifications.

Without realizing it, more and more Jews have embraced Elul in ways that are transformation-al. An often overlooked month, which many of us hadn’t heard of until recently, has new life. Slow-ly but surely it’s migrating into and awakening our hearts and minds.

If you’re looking to join that awakening, we have good news. It’s not at all challenging to do so. You all need is an internet con-nnection.

(Wendie Bernstein Lash, M.S., is a spiritual entrepreneur blend-ing mentoring, meditation, chant, ritual, and her love of Judaism to support Jewish seekers around the world. Lex Rofeberg is a co-host of the Judaism Unbound podcast and the strategic initia-tives coordinator for the Institute for the Next Jewish Future. Estee Solomon Gray is a senior fellow at Judaism Unbound/Institute for the Next Jewish Future.)
Thank You!

Together we raised a record-breaking $4,248,004* for our community!

Thanks to YOU - Federation fulfills our mission by making our community and the world a better place.

• CARING and COMPASSION (Chesed)
• JEWISH LEARNING (Limud)
• REPAIRING THE WORLD (Tikkun Olam)
• SOCIAL JUSTICE (Tzedakah)

*as of August 14, 2019

WWW.JEWISHCHARLOTTE.ORG