Shalom Park Plans for Opening Safely

As Shalom Park begins to reopen in the midst of the current coronavirus pandemic, it is the priority of the Foundation of Shalom Park to do so in a way that supports business continuity while ensuring the health and safety of all who work, visit, and worship here. Long before we knew the specifics of what our state’s guidelines would call for, we began the process of developing a plan that would establish responsible criteria for reopening and potentially reclosing facilities as called for as the nature of this pandemic evolves.

Starting in late April, all Shalom Park agencies and Temples began to identify actions and protocols required to successfully reopen Shalom Park. We drew from multiple resources, including the Center for Disease Control, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Redwoods Insurance Group. We also convened key advisors from the medical community: Dr. Esther Chipp, Dr. Lisa Davidson, Dr. Dereck Raghavan, Dr. Steve Teich, Dr. David Weinrib, and Dr. Ross Udoff. Armed with the resulting plans and protocols, Shalom Park began to slowly reopen for essential operations on May 22 when the Stay-at-Home orders were lifted after ten weeks of closure.

Some of the changes you see when you come to the Park will be obvious and visible; others are taking place behind the scenes. Social distancing, reducing touchpoints, and enhancing cleaning standards were some of the priorities addressed for our offices, hallways, event spaces, classrooms, cafeterias, and on playgrounds. To enhance social distancing, you will notice limited visitor access, plexiglass dividers, and directional arrows turning hallways into one-way aisles. We have also developed ways to reduce touchpoints; for example, you will now be able to refill your water bottles with touchless bottle fillers. Cleaning and disinfecting is another important part of reducing exposure to the coronavirus. Behind the scenes, we’ve enhanced our already rigorous cleaning standards by wiping down surfaces multiple times a day and using an electrostatic disinfecting process multiple times per week.

Of course, between our agencies, schools, and Temples, there are more than 500 Shalom Park employees. Our Director of Safety and Security, Michael Philbeck, led the extensive process of training all employees over the course of three weeks, for eight hours a day, via Zoom. You can be assured that all Shalom Park employees have good operational knowledge of their role in helping to create a healthy environment.

Everyone has an important role to play. When you enter any of the buildings at Shalom Park you can expect to have your temperature taken and to answer screening questions. You will notice signage reminding you of the three Ws —

- Wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth,
- Wait and stay 6 feet apart, and
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

We appreciate your participation and cooperation with these changes.

Community Responding to Those in Need

As we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19 in almost every facet of our lives, our community has responded to those in need with compassion and financial support. Through the JewishCharlotte Emergency Response Fund, we have raised over $470,000 from over 500 donors. The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is administering the fund through an Allocations Committee made up of seasoned leaders. Every dollar raised is going directly to agencies to meet critical needs. To date we have allocated $382,576 to twelve agencies. The needs in our community will continue during the recovery process. We are appreciative to those who have donated to this effort. If you would like to help us in our endeavor to sustain our agencies during this time, please donate at www.jewishcharlotte.org or mail your check to Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, 5007 Providence Road, Ste. 101, Charlotte, NC 28226.
From the Editor

On my first day in my new role as editor for the Charlotte Jewish News someone said to me, “This must be a really hard time to be starting a new job.” I’ve reflected on that statement every day when I walk into our building at Shalom Park, greeted by unfamiliar faces hidden behind masks to have my temperature taken and following the latest figures of the sick, dying, and out of work. We took our work home, but sent our parents away to be visited via 9 inch computer monitors. We witnessed or joined as throngs filled the streets, demanding long overdue change.

So I looked around me and I wonder how we are handling this change. Suddenly new words and phrases emerge — “defining times,” “if not now when,” “opportunity.” After the initial anxiety and fear began to subside for some of us, creativity took hold and innovative solutions began to emerge. The comedian Jon Stewart said, “I’m a real believer that creativity comes from limits, not freedom.”

 Those limits and constraints are actually what move us forward. As Jews we are not strangers to change. Every Passover we tell the story of leaving Egypt. The Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitzrayim, which can be literally translated as, “the narrow places.” These places of “stuckness” move us forward to create new realities for ourselves — “new normals.” We may be motivated by pain, but we are inspired by opportunities and vision.

Is it a hard time to start something new? Absolutely. But I doubt I could be stepping into this role at a more perfect time. It reminds me of one of my favorite stories. A mother and daughter are in the kitchen preparing a roast when the mother cuts the ends off before putting it in the oven.

The daughter asks, “Why do you cut the ends off, Mom?” to which her mother replied, “I don’t know; that’s the way my mother always did it. Let’s go ask Nanna.” The two women find Nanna and ask, “Nanna, why did you always cut off the ends of the roast before cooking?” Nanna replies, “I don’t know; that’s the way my mother always did it. Let’s go ask Great Grandma.” The three ladies went to visit Great Grandma. “Great Grandma, why did you always cut the ends off the roast before cooking it?”

“Well dear, I don’t know. That’s the way it’s always been done.”

After 25 years in Seattle, I am a newcomer to the city of Charlotte, the local Jewish community, and the Charlotte Jewish News, with no idea of how it’s always been done. Of course I ask for your patience as I learn, and undoubtedly fumble my way around a little. But I also ask for and look forward to your participation as we preserve the best of what CJN has been since 1979, and together continue to develop a vision for our community newspaper that can expand its ability to represent and serve the Jewish community of Charlotte.

Please reach out to me anytime. I look forward to hearing from you. May these times be for blessing.

Shira Firestone, Editor CJN

Thank you Amy Montoni

Last month the Charlotte Jewish News said goodbye to Amy Krakovitz Montoni. Amy served as the editor of the Charlotte Jewish News for 22 years. During that time, Amy worked tirelessly to make sure that CJN kept us informed while reminding us how fortunate we all are to live in such a vibrant community.

In reflecting on Amy’s tenure, the Charlotte Jewish News Editorial Board praised Amy’s dedication as an editor, the thoroughness she displayed in getting all the news about Charlotte’s diverse Jewish community, her ability to work with its many institutions, old and new, her professionalism, and her writing skills. We wish her many continually rewarding experiences in her retirement.

Federation echoes the Editorial Board’s comments. We were truly fortunate to have Amy as editor and wish her all the best in the future.

Shabbat Candle Lighting
Times August

Friday, August 7, 8:02 p.m.
Friday, August 14, 7:55 p.m.
Friday, August 21, 7:46 p.m.
Friday, August 28, 7:37 p.m.

The Charlotte Jewish News
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An Affiliate of the
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An affiliate of:
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

2020 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN: AT A GLANCE

1453 Donors
Dollars Raised
$4,360,200

as of July 25, 2020

it’s not too late! Please donate today at www.jewishcharlotte.org

ROSH HASHANAH VIRTUAL COOKING CLASS
with James Beard Foundation Award-winning Chef Michael Solomonov
Monday, September 14
8:00 pm EST

Michael Solomonov is the Executive Chef and Co-owner of Zahav, the 2019 James Beard Foundation award winner for Outstanding Restaurant, the first Israeli restaurant to ever win the award.

Zahav was named by Food & Wine as one of the “40 Most Important Restaurants of the Past 40 Years.”

For more information visit www.jewishcharlotte.org
Every summer I look forward to the new crop of “Beach Reads” by my favorite authors, and although it’s early August, there’s still time for you to enjoy my “Beach Read” recommendations written by Jewish authors.

On the top of my list is *Park Avenue Summer* by Renee Rosen, described by PopSugar as “Mad Men meets The Devil Wears Prada.” When Alice Weiss moves to New York City from a small midwestern town to realize her dream of becoming a photographer, she lands her first job as the assistant to Helen Gurley Brown who has just assumed the position as the new editor-in-chief of the dying *Cosmopolitan* magazine. This fast-paced novel gives interesting insight into the back story of the magazine and the life of the famous author and editor. Jennifer Weiner’s new novel *Summer Longing* is about Daphne Berg, a plus-size Instagram influencer who stumbles into a murder mystery while serving as a bridesmaid for a former best friend’s made-for-media Cape Cod wedding. If you’re a Jennifer Weiner fan, you’ll enjoy her 14th novel, which is a breezy read; however, the ending is just too “tied up into a pretty package” for me. I’ve enjoyed reading Jamie Brenner's novels, but *Summer Longing*, in my view, is her best to date. Described by Publisher’s Weekly as a “touching, nuanced summer yarn,” it is a heartfelt, wonderful novel about motherhood, friendship, and finding your way home. When a baby is left on the doorstep of the Cape Cod house Ruth Cooperman is renting for the summer, Ruth’s dream of spending a relaxing, stress-free summer in Provincetown is interrupted, yet the disruption leads to friendship, romance, and family reconciliations. *Summer Longing* is a satisfying read that is well worth your time.

Now that the libraries are back in business for checking out books (contact the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library for information on curbside pickup), the CJE Book Club is meeting once again! We had our first Zoom meeting in July when we powered up our computers to discuss *The Floating Feldmans* written by Elyssa Friedland. When Annette Feldman books a cruise for her entire family to celebrate her 70th birthday, she sets in motion an emotional, heartbreaking and heartwarming family drama on the high seas. Laughter and tears await you with this beach read — or in this case “cruise read.” The next Zoom CJE Book Club meeting is Wednesday, August 12 at 10:30 a.m. We will be discussing *From Sand and Ash* by Amy Harmon. If you’d like to join the meeting, please email me at sueb.littauer@jewishscharlotte.org.

Please note that I haven’t been spending the entire summer reading light breezy novels. Below are a variety of excellent books which I’ll be sharing with you in the coming months:

- *Becoming Eve* by Abby Stein
- *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner
- *The Imperfects* by Amy Meyerson

Thanks to those of you who have been contacting me with recommendations. They are on my nightstand, and I appreciate your suggestions.
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Hadassah Continues Providing Engaging Online Programs

Thank you, Sharon

Hadassah Charlotte would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our immediate Past President and friend, Sharon Goretsky. When Sharon moved to Charlotte in 2015, she got involved with the Charlotte chapter as a way to meet people and contribute to Hadassah and the Charlotte community. Sharon has had a huge impact, especially when she became President of the Charlotte chapter in 2019.

Sharon has been involved in everything! She coordinat-ed the painting event for the chapter’s ‘Celebrate the Tash’ major fundraiser to raise money for breast cancer research. She managed the Hadassah Heals fundraiser for the 360 Degrees of Healing campaign. Sharon organized Health Nights, where she used her nursing background to educate members about health issues such as Alzheimer’s. She coordinated the ‘Mammovan Mobile Mammography Unit at the JCC, hosted chapter Passover Tastings, and was instrumental in publishing the Charlotte Jewish Community Directory. These are just a few of Sharon’s accomplishments.

Nothing was too big or too small for Sharon to pitch in and help. Sharon and her family are moving to Virginia this summer where she will share her talents with the Norfolk, VA chapter and with the Southern Seaboard Region as Organizational VP.

We will miss her and wish her the best as she starts her new Region as Organizational VP.

Sharon and her family are moving to Virginia this summer where she will share her talents with the Norfolk, VA chapter and with the Southern Seaboard Region as Organizational VP. We will miss her and wish her the best as she starts her new adventure!

Welcome Laurie and Marci

We are very excited to welcome our new chapter Leadership Team! Laurie Sheinhaus now serves as our Leadership Coordinator, and Marci Goldberg serves as her Co-Leader. Both Laurie and Marci have been active in Charlotte Hadassah and bring their considerable talents and experience with them to their new roles.

We are fortunate to have these two wonderful women lead our chapter and are excited to see what new events and plans are in our future.

Hadassah Masks

Protect yourself, your loved ones, and people you don’t even know! Purchase an “I love Hadassah” mask. Masks are 100% cotton, four layers, adult-size, and for non-medical use. Proceeds go to Hadassah’s 360 Degrees of Healing campaign to rebuild the dermatology nurses’ station in the Round Building at Ein Kerem hospital in Jerusalem. Go to hadassahcltevents.org for ordering information. Show your Hadassah spirit!

Zoom from Fundraiser

We sure know how to have fun! On July 14, Hadassah Charlotte held its first-ever virtual Bingo Fundraiser Extravaganza via Zoom for members, friends, and family. There were gift card giveaways for winners and lots of laughs to go around. We’re already looking forward to our next virtual bingo games.

Lunch and Learn

Do you love book clubs but never have time to finish the book? Interested in hearing from authors about their writing process or where they get their ideas? Hadassah Charlotte’s Lunch and Learn program may be the perfect fit for you. The group reads and discusses short stories of Jewish interest. They also invite the authors to talk about their craft and their books.

The next story is “Straps and Boxes” from the book Many Seconds into the Future by John J. Clayton. Lunch and Learn meets at 11:45 a.m. on the third Friday of the month. The next discussion is on Friday, August 21. While the group usually meets at Temple Israel, they are currently having their discussions via Zoom.

For additional information, please email Amalia Wardenbrot at amalialma@att.net or Linda Levy at levyollie@aol.com. The discussions are conducted in a positive, relaxing atmosphere, so come to meet new people and make new friends.

These are just a few of the things Hadassah Charlotte is doing. Want to join us? Please contact June Hirschmann at jshirschmann@gmail.com, or Karen Hauser at kh2603@gmail.com for membership information, or go directly to our website at www.Hadassah.org.
How do you engage 98 children in meaningful and experiential programming to celebrate the Jewish holidays when you can no longer be together? Just three days after our school-wide Purim celebration and Seudah we entered the world of remote learning. We quickly and feverishly adopted our growth mindset mode, and worked to reimagine our school programming for the remainder of the school year. Afterall, we are Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS), and Pesach, Yom Haatzmaut, Lag B’omer, and Shavuot were all just around the corner!

Here is a snapshot of the special celebrations of the year:

**Passover:** CJDS created *Peach EXTREME* using the APP GooseChase. This was a virtual scavenger hunt for our students and families. Each of the 21 challenges was oriented around the Passover story, and the answers were submitted online. Challenges varied from acting out some of the plagues, to how to create something to keep baby Moshe afloat in water, to building a pyramid wall of cups. Not only our students, but most of their families joined in the game.

**Yom H’atzmaut:** To celebrate Israeli Independence Day all of the students and staff dressed up in blue and white or their special Israeli clothes. As a culmination of their year-long project of a “virtual” trip to Israel and learning about many different cities, each third grader made a short video presentation along with slides that were shared at a school-wide assembly.

**Lag B’omer:** Families were asked to think creatively and submit something about the customs and meaning of the Lag B’omer celebration. The responses were so creative, from baked cakes to video of campfires, bows and arrows, and re-enactments!

**Shavuot:** 49 days after Passover we celebrated the holiday of Shavuot and the giving of the Torah to the Jewish People with a drive-by activity where children got out of their cars, one family at a time, and had to go through a short obstacle course to get to the 12 foot high Mount Sinai. The students made flowers at home as part of an art project with Ms. Lerner and brought them to tape onto the mountain. They then had their picture taken with Moshe!

While we can’t wait for the time when we are able to resume our school-wide assemblies and celebrate together, through thinking outside of the box and keeping the goal of providing a meaningful and experiential opportunity for the children, CJDS continues to deliver our mission.
At Charlotte Jewish Pre-school (CJP), we are integrating methods to teach our students and families ways to embrace and associate Jewish values in our everyday life. Even when life takes us for an unexpected twist and turn, we find opportunities to embrace our Jewish values and provide the same devotion and appreciation we would in the class environment when we are outside of the school.

When COVID-19 closed our doors for the remainder of the 2020 schedule, this was an opportunity to embrace the value of Hachnasat Orchim — welcoming visitors or welcoming people into our homes. Each year our Judaica specialist shares the story of Abraham and Sarah and the hospitality they showed to their guests. We teach our students that one of the kindest things we can do is open our homes and provide care to others. How are our teachers and CJP family doing this during COVID-19?

Teachers have been hosting Zoom circles with their classes each day and inviting our classes of students, siblings, parents, and caretakers into our homes. We welcome our young guests, and they also have welcomed us into their homes. We share our homes through completing activities, sharing materials virtually, and providing our young guests with show-&-share opportunities. We have planning meetings each week to brainstorm ways to create a welcoming environment and model for the community we serve. As educators, it is our responsibility to be role models that embrace a welcoming community. While we have given examples in the classroom setting throughout the year, the virtual setting has offered an opportunity, as educators, to model hospitality and has allowed our children to experience it in their everyday lives.

We still embrace the value of learning, as we educate ourselves and those around us on the best ways to stay connected as a community in this virtual environment. Another way we applied Hachnasat Orchim and kept the students connected to the school as a whole is through our CJP Teachers YouTube channel. Not only could teachers share with their own students, but they could also share with students of all ages and welcome them into their homes while teaching and exploring. Teachers used their own kitchens, backyards, families, and even pets as part of the experience of welcoming each other within the CJP community. We have missed the time together in the class, but found ways to reimagine the education we provide to our families through real-life experiences while capturing curiosity, engagement, and commitment in our homes.

One of the largest community-based experiences through our time at home was our Facebook Live Moving Up ceremony. Each and every CJP family could join our CJP home for a celebration. Our Moving Up ceremony is usually a celebration with our full-day and half-day fours and TK program and their families. This year we were able to share this special ceremony with the entire school and families even far away. This has brought a new sense of appreciation and a new perspective on how we can open ourselves to the community, remain welcoming, and stay connected.

While these were uncertain times, we feel even more connected to our classes and the families that make Charlotte Jewish Preschool so special. We have reimagined education, developed a new sense of gratitude, and will continue being innovative to keep our CJP community together no matter what happens. We appreciate our families for helping make this school year possible and for welcoming us into their homes each day.

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

Anonymous* (4): Nancy and Robert Kipnis
Susan and Benjamin Aizenman
Meredith and Michael Baumstein
Susan P. Bessey
Lisa and Barry Blau
Bonnie and David Bornstein
Janice and David Cantor
Sonia and Brian Cohen
Andrea and George Cronson
Dana and Jeffrey Dreesheim
Ellen and Steven Englehardt
Aileen and David Epstein
Nancy and Alec Felder
Linda and Mark Goldsmith
Michelle Goodman
Stacy and Todd Gorelick
Patty (OBM) and Bill Gorelick
Julia and Russ Greenfield
Mariash and Yossi Groner
Paula and Richard Klein
Lorrie and Barry Klemons
Elise and Jaime Kosofsky
Judy and Eric Laxer
Donna and Gary Lerner
Alison and Mark Lerner
Susan and Eric Lerner
Ilana and Binyamin Levin
Barbara and Jerry Levin
Elissa and Joshua Levine
Julie Lerner Levine
Adina and Joshua Loewenstein
Risa and David Miller
Gale Osborne
Richard J. Osborne
Nadine and Arthur Oudmayer
Marcella and Allan Oxman
Harriet and Mark Perlis
Diggie and Lea Pesakoff
Baila and John (OBM) Pransky
Cheryl and Michael Rabinowitz
Dana and Michael Raffler
Karen and David Ransenberg
Chantal and Ilya Rubin
Stacey and Bobby Selkin
Lisa and Fred Shipper
Carol and Bob Spielman
Lauren and Philip Stark
Eleanor and Morton (OBM) Turk
Debra and David Van Glish
Judie and Michael Van Glish
Amy and Mark Vittern
Joanna and Eric Witsotsky

*Donors who wish to remain anonymous: OBM-G of Blessed Memory

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

704.973.4544 • charlottejewishfoundation.org
We’re back at Jewish Preschool on Sardis

The staff and children at the Jewish Preschool on Sardis are absolutely thrilled to be back in the loving environment that is JPS. While enjoying the quiet summer, we are gearing up for a wonderful school year and are excited to see everyone in the fall. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer!

We are learning that Hashem created the world in 6 days. On day 2 He separated the sky from the water. We made fluffy cloud art. We love Judacia!

Leo is busily pasting his flower together.

Hanging out with friends.

Toddlers gear up for July 4th with red, white, and blue art!

How high can we build this tower?

Water play is our favorite!

to the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte for your incredible support during this time
The Stan Greenspon Center: Judaism and Racial Justice

At the Stan Greenspon Center at Queens University, we are proud to offer meaningful and relevant Jewish educational opportunities and avenues for advocacy for those who want to create a more just world. Read on for ways to get involved with us.

As Jews, we have always learned through questioning and debate. Here are some questions that we have recently heard from our community: Why are the majority of the more than 129,000 people who have died of COVID-19 (at the time of this article’s submission) Black? Why were there national and global protests in the wake of the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, and George Floyd in Minnesota, and how long will they continue? Is racial justice different than before? Why and how should I get engaged as a Jew?

We invite you to join us in exploring the many answers to these questions.

Coffee and Conversation Program

“Why should I, as a Jew, support the Black Lives Matter movement?” Rabbi Judy Schindler, Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies at Queens University will help us explore this topic, so bring your coffee (or favorite beverage) and questions. Jews walked beside people of color during the 1960’s Civil Rights movement. Learn why Jews should, once again, be passionate partners in the struggle towards racial equity and justice. Learn what you can do to create a legacy, individually and as part of the Jewish community, of which you will be proud.

Wednesday evening, August 5 at 5 p.m. or for a lunch break on Thursday, August 6 at noon.

White Fragility Book Discussion

For too long, white people have avoided talking about the ways in which they contribute to the racial oppression in our country. In her book, White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, Dr. Robin DiAngelo invites us to take a look at white behaviors that sustain racial inequality and prevent meaningful dialogue and movement toward a more just society. Led by Donna Tarney in partnership with the Queens Department of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, that is exactly what we will do!

Who are you already involved in this work, are brand new to this idea, or are skeptical about the reality of white privilege, you are welcome. All that we ask is that you arrive ready to share and listen. August 20 and 27, September 3, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Visit our events page for more information: www.stan-greensponcenter.org/events

Restorative Justice Teach-Ins

The Greenspon Center is committed to restorative justice in Charlotte. We helped to create a new organization called Restorative Justice CLT. This organization seeks to invite and convene communities, accountable, and sustainable projects to redress the history of discriminatory practices and policies in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Together we work to achieve these goals. To learn more about how you can be part of the transformative change needed to right historic wrongs, register to attend one of our Tuesday Virtual Teach-Ins. Each session offers a variety of community speakers — from preachers of color and community leaders to grassroots organizers to legislative experts who have drafted resolutions that call for and enact change.

Beyond Oy Vey — Beginning Yiddish with Reb Troyt (Rabbi Tracy Klirs)

Did you fall in love with Shit-stoi? Do you get all farklempt when you hear Bais mir Bistu Shein? Do you kvell when you hear Anderson Cooper say chutzpah? It’s time to learn to speak Yiddish with local Yiddish mayven, Reb Troyt! Using a combination of an interactive online program, games, music, and Yiddish proverbs, curses, and insults, Beyond Oy Vey will help you farshtey dozens of Yiddish words and expressions, and maybe even speak enough to make your Bubbe’s Bubble plotz fun nakhes!! So, nu, what are you waiting for already?

Please join us for a virtual lunch-and-learn on Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. October 6 - December 29. Cost is $180 and material will be provided.

To get involved with our work, contact info@greenspon-center.org.

Shalom Park Freedom School: A New Approach This Summer Programs Online

The Shalom Park Freedom School, a six-week literacy and enrichment summer program for underprivileged children in grades K-5 normally housed on our Shalom Park campus, adopted a drive-thru program to meet the needs of scholars while still maintaining health and safety standards during the current pandemic. Under the leadership of Freedom School Partners, registered children are invited to participate in the Free- dom School RESPONSE program. Freedom School Partners will operate eleven drive-thru RESPONSE sites throughout Charlotte. The program was designed so that scholars and their families will use these drive-thru locations to receive weekly literacy packets, enrichment activities, books, food (from Second Harvest Food Bank), and toiletries.

Students from Huntersville Farms and Sterling Elementary schools (the schools in faith-based partnerships with Temple Israel and Temple Beth El) will be invited to the drive-thru RESPONSE site at Forest Hills Church, which is in close proximity to the neighborhoods served by these schools. The drive-thru sites will operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 29 to July 31. Students will also be invited to attend two Fun Friday in-person events. Fun Fridays will be an opportunity for the scholars to sing and cheer and experience a little of the Freedom School magic and camaraderie, while adhering to safety guidelines.

Behind the scenes, our Sha- lom Park community has been busy preparing for the program by donating books and supplies and volunteering at the Freedom School Partners warehouse. Our Shalom Park Teen Board, composed of high school students, will support the program by fundraising, running a supply drive, and pen-palling with Freedom School scholars. Although this summer looks very different than previous years, our Shalom Park Free- dom School remains committed to helping at risk children over- come summer learning loss. The Shalom Park Freedom School Steering Committee is already looking forward to the summer of 2021 when we will hopefully welcome back all of the Shalom Park scholars for a full-on-site program with in-person literacy activities, exciting enrichment programs, swim lessons, and nutritious breakfasts and lunches!

Have you been wondering what you can do to help level the education gap in our community? Is reading something that you are passionate about? Do you want to help the children of our future? We are currently looking for people to join the Shalom Park Freedom School Steering Committee. We have an amazing group of people that are committed to Tikvun Olam and repairing the world. If you are interested, please contact Annie Lord at anniehlord@mmusa@carolina.rr.com. We are interested, please contact Annie Lord at anniehlord@mmusa@carolina.rr.com. We are looking for people to join the Shalom Park Freedom School Steering Committee. We have an amazing group of people that are committed to Tikvun Olam and repairing the world. If you are interested, please contact Annie Lord at anniehlord@mmusa@carolina.rr.com. We are looking for people to join the Shalom Park Freedom School Steering Committee. We have an amazing group of people that are committed to Tikvun Olam and repairing the world. If you are interested, please contact Annie Lord.
We are spending more time at home than ever, which means more packaging waste is hitting your curbside bins. But when you toss something in the recycling, do you know that it is recyclable, or are you just hoping that it is? There have been so many recent changes to the “rules of recycling,” it can be hard to keep track.

The collection at your home is the responsibility of the municipality in which you live. In this article, we have presented information about Mecklenburg County recycling. If you do not reside in Mecklenburg County, be sure to check the rules where you live. These quick tips will help you recycle right.

Acceptable items for curbside recycling pick up (according to the City of Charlotte):
- Plastic Bottles with necks only — like water bottles or milk jugs
- Milk Cartons and Juice Boxes
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Aluminum and Steel Cans
- Boxboard - Cereal Boxes
- Cardboard Boxes (no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet)
- Pizza Boxes that are clean — this mean no grease, food or spills
- Magazines
- Glass bottles and Jars
- Paper and Junk Mail
- Newspaper

Due to a lack of viable markets for open top plastic containers, Mecklenburg County updated its list of acceptable recyclable items in 2019 to include only plastic bottles with necks. This means you can no longer recycle open top tubs and lids, plastic toys, clamshell packaging, pill bottles, yogurt cups, plastic cups and plastic-ware. Styrofoam is never recyclable.

If you hate throwing these items in the trash bin as much as we do, consider source reduction. Source reduction, also known as waste prevention or pollution prevention, is the elimination of waste before it is created. If you can’t reuse or recycle it, don’t buy it, or buy less of it. Look for alternates and packaging where possible.

While Mecklenburg County has a robust recycling program, there are still things you should never put in your curbside recycling cart. What can you do with these non-recyclable items?

Food waste: Consider composting.
- Plastic bags: These can be recycled at your local grocery store. Even better, bring your own reusable bags to the grocery store, eliminating plastic bags altogether.

Wire hangers: Many dry cleaners will gladly accept wire hangers for reuse.

Stuffed animals, hardback books, clothing, and shoes: Don’t trash these items, donate instead. The Mecklenburg County Compost Central Recycling Center has specific bins where they collect books for recycling.

Batteries: These can be taken to a Mecklenburg County full-service recycling center or collected through a home use bucket battery collection service.
- Light bulbs: These can be taken to a Mecklenburg County full-service recycling center; some home improvement stores will also collect fluorescent and CFL bulbs.

Medicine: Follow the FDA guidelines for drug disposal. There are numerous drop off sites including Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department stations; some drug stores also have collection boxes.

Electronics: These can be taken to a Mecklenburg County full-service recycling center; Best Buy and Goodwill Industries also offer a collection electronics recycling collection.

Not everything can be recycled, just because you wish it could be recyclable does not mean it can be. “Wishcycling,” or placing non-recyclable materials into the recycling bin leads to a lot of contamination, which has serious economic and environmental impacts. Difficult as it may be, it is better to trash the item than to contaminate a whole load. Mecklenburg County uses the slogan “When in Doubt, Leave it Out.” Check out www.recyclemorenc.org and the City of Charlotte’s Waste Wizard tool for more information on how you can be a recycle right advocate.

If you are interested in learning more about Shalom Green, visit our website at www.shalomgreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreen_CLT.

John and I both enjoyed a strong connection to the Jewish community, even though our childhoods were quite different. I grew up in Flint, Michigan which was a small town with a very small Jewish community. My family belonged to a Conservative synagogue where I attended close to eight hours of religious school each week until I was a Bat Mitzvah. There were just a few Jewish kids my age, but we had lots of Jewish education. John was born and raised in northern New Jersey.

His family was less observant than mine, but he says being Jewish in his hometown was “in the air,” it was so common. John and I met through mutual friends in New York City and lived in the area for eight years after we were married. Our journey to Charlotte was quite random. Soon after we decided that we wanted a better work/life balance, John found an opportunity with a Charlotte-based law firm. Two months later, we were looking for a home and have never looked back.

In 1996, the Charlotte Jewish community embraced us completely and was an immediate source of comfort for our family. For me, it felt like a bigger, better version of what I had known in Michigan. On day one, we met friends by the JCC pool and at a barbecue. To this day, those people are still some of our closest friends. We enrolled our children in the Jewish Preschool on Sardis and joined the first class of the Bernstein Leadership Group. Oddly enough, we have felt more Jewish in Charlotte than we ever had living in the New York area, and the Jewish community continues to be a focal point of our volunteer efforts. John and I both served on the boards of the Levine Jewish Community Center and the Federation. I chaired the Federation’s women’s campaign and the Lion of Judah division.

Meet Gail and John Baron
Book of Life Society Members
and their Jewish Legacy

John and I both feel eternally grateful to Jewish Charlotte for paving the way for us to enjoy rich and fulfilling lives. We have made friends with horses and family, and this community has given us lifelong friendships and our forever home. We created our Jewish legacy because we wanted to help to sustain the organizations which are so important to us and our children. We hope our gift will allow future generations to experience the many benefits we have enjoyed since we arrived.
You’re Never Too Old to Learn Something New

By Jill Lipson

On March 13, the Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) committed wholly and uncompromisingly to community health, making the leadership decision to suspend its normal operations. Oasis staff met that day in person, and over the past 100+ days never missed a beat! Immediately the Oasis staff, led by Director of Senior and Adult Programs Jill Lipson, created call lists for staff. The dedicated LJCC staff continually made 75 wellness calls each week, checking on the members of our senior community — our friends. Soon it became apparent that COVID-19 would last longer than originally anticipated and that Oasis wasn’t returning to the building quickly, so the staff gathered critical information during their calls. They asked questions such as, “Do you have a computer-PC or Mac? Do you have a smartphone, flip phone? iPhone or Android? Do you use Facebook, FaceTime, WhatsApp?” And so the conversations proceeded because the staff had to gauge the best way to expand communications with our senior participants.

What happened next was surprising and encouraging. The staff learned that the seniors were more tech-savvy and connected than expected! Many had smartphones and a computer. Most used email and wanted to learn how to use Zoom. It was an incredible discovery. So, little by little, the Oasis staff helped on-board the seniors to Zoom, making personal calls to walk them through the steps and, when necessary, even reached out to their children for help. A few weeks later, Oasis participants had a Zoom test, and ... It Was Magical! After two months of not seeing their friends’ faces, the Oasis seniors were connected once again in a different way, and it was so much fun.

Since that first Zoom test, Oasis has increased its online programming, offering exercise, bingo, Shabbat song sessions, a book club, Coffee and Conversation, History’s Mysteries, Exercise of the Mind, trivia, cho- ruses, and many other programs, including a walking tour of the city of Hod Hasharon in Israel by former Schlicha Inbal Ozeri! Oasis is offering a variety of offerings to cater to a diverse audience. If someone doesn’t like bingo or exercise, maybe there is something else they will enjoy that week.

We have quickly been reminded of that which is most important — the most vulnerable and isolated members of our community need to engage, have fun, socialize, and stay connected with one another. In a time when technology is needed most, those who have traditionally been afraid of it are now embracing it, tapping into skills that keep our minds active, helping to ward off dementia, depression, and anxiety. There is lots of laughter on the Zoom calls, and we all need a lot of that right now during this challenging time. For those who don’t use technology, Oasis staff continue to make weekly wellness check calls, and they continue to send out regular emails with programming information and links to articles, artwork, poetry, and more.

Of equal importance to the Oasis virtual programming, the LJCC committed to ensuring our seniors’ food security. The staff makes bi-weekly meal deliveries to participants living alone or with children who are themselves seniors, and who ate lunch with Oasis prior to COVID-19. To date, Oasis has delivered over 2,500 meals to 30 unique individuals, all with the help of a grant from the COVID Response Fund (United Way of the Central Carolinas/The Foundation of the Carolinas) and in partnership with local food groups, such as the Carolinas Foundation for Jewish Seniors, Stanley P. Greenspon, and other generous donors/sponsors. Keeping seniors safe, healthy, and engaged has always been Oasis’s top priority. Now, more than ever, making those things happen is critical to the lifeline of those most vulnerable, and we, as a community, have come together to make it happen.

For more information about how to support Oasis during this critical time, please contact Jill Lipson at jill.lipson@charlottejcc.org.
For 96 years B’nai B’rith Youth Organization (BBYO) has offered so much to Jewish teens — leadership opportunities, friendships, a connection to Judaism, an opportunity to improve the world, opportunities to travel, and a place to just have fun! COVID-19 has not deterred BBYO from continuing to meet our mission to connect Jewish teens. Within days of the COVID-19 shutdown, BBYO created and began programming virtually on our new platform, “BBYO on Demand.” Since mid-March, hundreds of chapter and national programs have been taking place virtually and over 75,000 teens have been engaged. These programs have included beautiful Shabbat experiences, top notch speakers, video game tournaments, mental health awareness programs, and much more. There have been online programs for parents as well as special events planned exclusively for BBYO members. The pandemic also disrupted our traditional summer programs. Again, BBYO rose to the occasion and redesigned our signature leadership programs to an online format. Over 500 teens are signed up to participate. Feedback from the first sessions has been incredibly positive. The health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority as planning for the next school year begins. As our policies are finalized, we will continue to communicate what programming will look like as school begins.

Charlotte BBYO has over 220 members in four chapters — two for Alephs (boys) and two for BBGs (girls). The chapters have traditionally met on Tuesday nights at the Levine JCC from 7:00 p.m.-8:30p.m. along with some weekend programming (conventions and sleepovers). With the guidance of their chapter advisors, BBYO teens plan and implement all aspects of their programming. Our newly elected chapter presidents want you to get to know their chapters.

Mickey Barak Aberman
AZA Godol (President) Jacob Russak

Our chapter is built for young Jewish males looking for a way to grow, both as a part of the Charlotte Jewish community and as young men. BBYO gives us a perfect platform to create lifelong friendships and teach skills that help Alephs grow into young men through exciting programs. Our chapter utilizes sports and competition to teach teens Jewish values and life skills as well as create incredible relationships with other Jews from Charlotte and all over the world.

Hank Greenberg AZA Godol (President) Sam Bauman

Hank Greenberg AZA #60104 is more than just a group of guys who hang out on Tuesday nights. It is a fraternity of young Jewish men that make memories and have a brotherhood that lasts a lifetime. Whether it is by playing fruit baseball, having chapter sleepovers, or crowning a pancake king, Hank is a group that loves to have fun while connecting with our Judaism. Hank Greenberg is always looking for new members (eighth graders-seniors) to welcome into BBYO.

Ohavim BBG N’siah (President) Anya Dippold

We’re Ohavim BBG #418! Our mascot is Ariel from the little mermaid and our chapter cookie is the snickerdoodle! We love spending time together, learning about our Jewish heritage, and other fun things! We pride ourselves on our inclusivity and building leadership skills for all our members and board. We are super excited for the upcoming year!!

Chai Chaverim BBG N’siah (President) Zoe Wojnowich

We are Chai Chaverim BBG #1548-552. Our chapter mascot is Minnie Mouse and we are currently thriving at 88 members strong. This past year was fantastic for our chapter. We had meaningful weekly programs, welcomed many new members, celebrated Shabbat and created a strong sisterhood throughout our chapter. While we are sad to have ended the year on such an unexpected note, we look forward to this coming school year and all that our chapter offers. BBYO will be programming this fall, both virtual and hopefully in person. We are welcoming new members in 8th – 12th grade. For more information, please email charlotte@bbyo.org.

Dr. Kevin Berman, DMD, Joins Smilecharlotte Dentistry

Dr. Scott Menaker and Dr. Tricia Rodney are excited to welcome Dr. Kevin Berman as an associate dentist in our practice. Kevin brings all the attributes that our practice strives for – great interpersonal skills, a patient-centered focus, empathy and compassion, and a deep commitment to excellence. Kevin grew up in Charlotte, and at Shalom Park, and joins us after graduating from the University of Kentucky School of Dentistry.

Kevin and our practice are accepting new patients. We look forward to welcoming you and friends to the Smilecharlotte family for a full range of general dental services, with an emphasis on state-of-the-art, digitally enhanced care in a safe environment.

~ YOUTH VISIONS ~

BBYO Leaders Introduce Their Chapters
Finding Home in the Midst of Chaos

By Dave Press, Senior Director of Advancement

For some people, the COVID-19 pandemic forced life to slow down and become simpler. However, for Josh Kindler, the past few months have been a whirlwind.

Originally from Raleigh, Kindler graduated from Appalachian State University in May with a degree in computer science where he was an active participant in Hillel. Shortly thereafter, he ramped up his efforts to land a job and start his career. He was successful in obtaining a position as a software developer at a company in Charlotte, a city where he knew less than a handful of people, and was told that he was scheduled to start in his new role in just a couple of weeks.

“Moving quickly to a new city where I knew hardly anyone in the midst of a pandemic, I could have looked into living by myself in a studio or one-bedroom apartment,” Kindler said. “But I knew that if I did that, especially right now, it would have been easy to fall into the trap of not branching out and meeting new people, which would have been incredibly lonely and isolating.”

That’s when he discovered that Moishe House Charlotte was looking for a new resident.

Kindler grew up attending Camp Ramah Darom and served as a songleader and madrich (mentor) at his synagogue while in high school. “Young Jewish communities have been an element of my life every step of the way, and have informed much of my social development. I was excited about the idea of being able to create programs that serve to connect young adults to each other and build the Jewish community.”

In June, he quickly applied and was accepted to move in and join the existing group of Moishe House residents, consisting of Caleb Seidler, Calvin Newman, and Daniel Rich, who live together as housemates in a rental home in NoDa. In exchange for hosting at least four programs each month for other 20-something young adults, they receive a rent subsidy, a monthly program budget, and school year and we hope you will join us! Please visit www.hebrewhigh.org to learn more and sign up!

“Although I’m starting my Moishe House journey in a very chaotic time, it feels very grounding and brings order to my life.”

Josh Kindler

Kindler is looking forward to the day when he and his roommates can resume in-person gatherings. He can’t wait to explore his new city while helping other young professionals who are new to Charlotte or returning after college become acclimated to what Charlotte has to offer and become part of a fun, vibrant Jewish community.

Summer Series at Hebrew High

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted summer plans for many Jewish teens. Hebrew High students were no exception. As a community of teachers, students, and parents, how could we expand the sense of Jewish community and maintain it even when we couldn’t be physically together?

The answer — the virtual Hebrew High Summer Series! We wanted to give back in a meaningful way by providing programs that our rising 8th-12th graders could sign up for. The Summer Series offered a myriad of choices that were entertaining, educational, and engaging. We also wanted to help the parents of our teens, so all our summer programs were offered free of charge.

The Summer Series was about having a fun summer, and something scheduled to look forward to. With programs that included scavenger hunts, cooking classes, trivia games, comedy shows, and more, we were able to provide a break from the disappointment teens faced with camps being cancelled, being isolated from friends, and not being able to get out. The Summer Series offered that opportunity virtually.

Most Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m., teens and their families were able to Zoom with Hebrew High’s Summer Series lineup. Thank you to all students who joined the fun and for allowing us the opportunity to come into your homes. Community is just another word for family at Hebrew High.

As we look toward the 2020-2021 school year, we are working on the optimal plan to keep our students and teachers safe and healthy. We just can’t predict if we will begin the year holding classes in person on Shalom Park, online, or a mix of the two, but we do know that Hebrew High will continue to provide the warm and engaging classes you expect, regardless of the format. Registration is now open for this upcoming school year and we hope you will join us! Please visit www.hebrewhigh.org to learn more and sign up!
COVID-19 and The Mental Health Implications of Returning to School

It’s August, that time of year when we would typically talk about how best to transition back to school. And yet as this is being written, no decision has been made as to what school will look like this year. We are uncertain if students are going back full time, part time, learning virtually, or a combination thereof. There is even a possibility that schools may reopen for a period of time and then close again, temporarily, depending on the local environment. Will there be regular temperature checks, physical distancing, hybrid schedules, and restrictions on how students eat lunch? None of this has been announced yet. And because this is a continuously evolving situation, we are required to be flexible and ready to adapt as the safety of everyone’s minds.

The one thing you can be sure of is that school will not look anything like it has in the past. Imagine being your child. It’s the first day back at school. You’ve been away for almost half a year and are excited to see your friends. Only this go around there’s no touching, no high-fiving, fist-bumping, or hugging. There’s just a wave and perhaps a big smile, hidden by a mask. A very different experience and a very individual experience as each student has been affected by the pandemic differently.

Students, parents, and educators all may be preparing for the same school year, but each brings with them their own anxieties, expectations, and pre-conceived notions. Some may have been directly impacted by a family member becoming ill or dying from the virus; some will have experienced financial hardships due to a loss of income. Some may still be processing unusual family stress, and while it may sound crazy, some may be returning to school with a completely different experience, having enjoyed incredible bonding time with their family. All bring their diverse experiences with them as school restarts.

Also, note are the increasing levels of stress many families endured while adjusting to the “stay at home” mandate. We anticipate that issues related to the pandemic will become exacerbated during back to school, which we already know is typically a highly stressful time. If students are physically going back to school, they may be thinking:

- How will this social distancing happen?
- Will we still have PE and recess?
- What are the chances I could catch the virus?
- Do I really have to wear a mask all day?
- Should I hug my friends?
- How will I re-acclimate to a new schedule and a new way of doing school?
- Am I going to miss out on my summer break because I have to make up for all of the time I was out?
- I’m supposed to graduate this year, is that still going to be possible?

These may be just the tip of the iceberg in terms of anxieties and fears about the unknown resulting from the pandemic. So, what am I to do as a parent? First, the most important thing is to recognize and acknowledge that things will be different. It is critically important that you talk with your children about the changes.

For young children, they need to understand what will be different — that their teacher may not hug them, but it doesn’t mean they don’t care about them anymore; they may not have recess or playtime or be able to eat with their friends anymore. They need to hear that it is not their fault. Let them know the changes are so that everyone can remain healthy. Provide structure at home. Give them a routine — same bedtime, mealtime, homework time, playtime, etc. Structure gives young children a sense of security when they know what to expect. This is especially important if they are not physically in school and still participating in virtual classes.

For older students, those conversations are equally important. Let them know that you are aware of how challenging the situation may be. Ask questions. Be patient. Listen to what they do and don’t say. Strategize together on ways to reduce stress, anxiety, and fears. It could be as simple as writing in a journal, listening to music, doing an art or craft project. Maybe they like cooking, or maybe there is a Zoom activity that fits their interests.

If they aren’t comfortable talking to you, explore who they may be comfortable talking to. If there are particular stressors at home, be honest and let them know what is going on. If the family is having financial issues, personality clashes, marital challenges, or other issues, talk with your kids as they will have already picked up on the tension. Acknowledging this issue will help everyone involved.

Lastly, if your child has an existing mental health issue, make sure you are connecting with a mental health professional. During these times stability is easily shaken. Ensure that your child is getting the necessary professional support they may need to manage this challenging environment.

Would you like to become/ have a Friend on Call? Friends on Call are people who will make weekly contact with each other through FaceTime, Hangouts, or even a simple phone call. As a part of Friends on Call, you will be matched with someone who shares similar interests and is interested in forming a social connection. We’ll also help arrange a mutual day and time for your call. Interested in Friends on Call? Visit www.FriendshipCircle-NC.org/FOC. You’re just a step away from starting a truly meaningful friendship.

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. The Friends on Call program is made possible with a grant from the Jewish Charlotte Emergen-cv Fund.
**Friends Together Again**

Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne Summer 2020 is off to an awesome start. Our campers were thrilled to join camp after not seeing their friends for over three months. This year, more than ever, camp is a great opportunity for children to create lasting friendships and a warm feeling of Jewish pride. Please enjoy a glimpse of the fun we’ve had during our first week of camp.

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**Temple Kol Ami Prepares for Religious School and High Holidays**

The only thing constant is change. Throughout history, there has always been change—some for good, some for bad, some questionable. In response to new developments, humankind has largely learned to adapt. Currently we are in the midst of a huge change that will leave a permanent mark on the way society functions. We do not yet know what the “new normal” will be, so planning for upcoming events like the start of Religious School and High Holidays is challenging.

At Temple Kol Ami (TKA), we have every intention of resuming our religious education and observing the High Holidays. The hope is for in-person classes and services, but we know that circumstances may not allow that. The TKA Board and Religious School administrators have been evaluating our options and are ready to face whatever the world throws our way!

The administrators and teachers of Temple Kol Ami have been busy all summer investigating distance learning platforms in preparation for this possibility. At the end of the last school year, we transitioned to eLearning due to COVID-19 and were able to successfully complete another year of wonderful Jewish education. Is your child ready for Hebrew School? No matter where they are on their path of Jewish learning, we can accommodate their needs and get them up to speed. Our Religious School meets three Sundays per month from 10 a.m-noon at Walnut Grove Christian School in Fort Mill, conveniently located to the Greater York County/Ballantyne/South Charlotte area. We can accommodate Torah Tots through B’nei Mitzvah. We hope to have an Open House and Ice Cream Social on August 23 from 10 a.m-noon at Walnut Grove; however, we may need to switch to a Zoom Open House as circumstances dictate.

Please check our website at www.templekolamisc.org or contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com for more information. Either way, you will have the opportunity to speak with our amazing staff and have any questions you may answered.

“Regardless of what the future may bring, our commitment to Judaism remains unwavering. We greatly anticipate a time when we can reunite to pray and play together as a Jewish community.”

Temple Kol Ami has been looking forward with great anticipation to welcoming Rabbi Bruce Aft to lead us in High Holiday services. At the time of this writing, it is unknown if we will be able to conduct services at our sanctuary located at Philadelphia United Methodist Church in Fort Mill. The possibility of virtual High Holidays is being examined, and a decision will be made closer to September. No matter what format is utilized, TKA will observe meaningful and spiritually uplifting Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. Once again, please check our website for details in late August/early September.

Regardless of what the future may bring, our commitment to Judaism remains unwavering. We greatly anticipate a time when we can reunite to pray and play together as a Jewish community. If you live in York County or the Ballantyne area, Temple Kol Ami might be the place for you! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation comprised of Jews from diverse backgrounds. We hope you will join us soon (either virtually or in-person) and find your Jewish home in our community.

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**For our first day, we surprised our campers with a helicopter dropping candies as a special treat**

**Taking turns with our homemade pinata!**

**Hiked to the top of Crowders Mountain**

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**Camp Gan Israel Ballantyne Summer 2020 is off to an awe-some start. Our campers were thrilled to join camp after not seeing their friends for over three months. This year, more than ever, camp is a great opportunity for children to create lasting friendships and a warm feeling of Jewish pride. Please enjoy a glimpse of the fun we’ve had during our first week of camp.**
Great Things are Happening at Chabad

We are all living through the challenges of our current situation, and Chabad is here to help meet the needs of our community.

Chabad of Charlotte and the Epstein Family Chabad Center for Jewish Life have implemented every precaution to keep our participants safe. Classes and activities continue with an exciting combination of both virtual and in-person experiences.

Daily prayer allows us to come together to cultivate our spiritual connections. To pray with a minyan is a privilege and a responsibility. Once the government permitted small group gatherings in North Carolina, Chabad (with the approval and guidance of the OHT board) gradually implemented daily services for the community. Each morning and evening, 10-15 people come to recite Shacharit, Mincha and Maariv services, including daily Kaddish and Torah readings on Mondays and Thursdays. All Shabbat services do take place, but there is no socializing or kiddush lunches. Social distancing is practiced at all times and everyone wears protective face coverings. Health questionnaires and waiver forms are required to participate. For information on minyan or to sign up, please contact Chabad at 704-366-3984 or rabbicohen@chabadnc.org.

Our campus at the Epstein Family Chabad Center for Jewish Life is humming with activity, and we are taking every precaution to keep our participants safe. The Jewish Preschool on Sardis is, once again, hosting their summer camp with many exciting activities for the children, both indoors and outdoors. The children are being kept in separate, small groups and every health guideline for preschool is being followed to the T.

The children are thrilled to be back at JPS with their friends and teachers! Morah Shterni teaching Judaica to a group of students.

The Ballantyne Jewish Center is hosting its summer camp this year at the Selkin Friendship Circle Center. Tents were installed to allow both indoor and outdoor activities to take place with distancing for all campers and staff. Delicious healthy lunches are spread out in the Social Hall and served to small groups. Adult education is an important part of our Judaism, and this summer we have many courses going on:

- Elijah the Prophet, Harbinger of the Redemption — His Purpose and His Function
  - He yelled at kings. He went up to heaven alive. He visits every year for Passover, and he’s the man with the special chair at every brit milah ceremony. He will one day come and announce the future redemption. He’s the most interesting man in the world. He’s Elijah the prophet. Discover everything there is to know about this fascinating man. To register for this Zoom virtual course, please visit chabadnc.org, 24/6.

The Jewish Learning Institute is active with many virtual courses offered by Rabbi Yossi Groner and Rabbi Shlomo Cohen.

- Daily Talmud class taught by Rabbi Shlomo Cohen
  - Kabbalah and Chassidut study takes place a couple times each week taught by Rabbi Avrohom Gordon and Channie Weiss

- Weekly Torah Studies taught by Rabbi Bentzion Groner
  - Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) is taught by Rabbi Binyomin Weiss. Rabbi Weiss also offers a special story to look forward to each Saturday night after the conclusion of Shabbat.

For more information and links to join any of these classes, please visit chabadnc.org, 24/6.

An exciting brand new JLI course is being written to be offered in the month of August. Just after the observance of Tisha B’Av, when we mourn the destruction of the temple, we go into the seven weeks of comfort, when we reflect on the future redemption. To better understand what this means practically, we will embark on a five-lesson course on the Redemption of the Jewish people, followed by another seven lessons to be released before the High Holidays.

The following is a brief description of one of the featured lessons:

- Elijah the Prophet, Harbinger of the Redemption — His Purpose and His Function
  - He yelled at kings. He went up to heaven alive. He visits every year for Passover, and he’s the man with the special chair at every brit milah ceremony. He will one day come and announce the future redemption. He’s the most interesting man in the world. He’s Elijah the prophet. Discover everything there is to know about this fascinating man. To register for this Zoom virtual course, please visit chabadnc.org or email rabbicohen@chabad.org. The course will be taught on Tues-

day evenings at 7:30 p.m., specific dates and more details to be announced.

Chabad has also been pounding the pavement by delivering dozens of Shabbat kits each week, reaching out to community members and friends to schmooze, providing optimism and good cheer, and helping the community get through this together!

Mikvah Mei Leah at Chabad is in operation for the Jewish women of our community daily, and every precaution and extra sanitization is implemented to keep everyone safe and healthy. For information on using the Mikvah, please visit chabadnc.org/mikvah.

For more information and please contact:
Director, Sandra Goldman
director@hebrewcemetery.org
704-576-1859
Welcome Rabbi Beth Nichols, Temple Beth El’s New Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning

By Andy Harkavy, Director of Congregational Engagement Temple Beth El

We are excited to welcome Rabbi Beth Nichols as our new Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning. Rabbi Nichols will partner with Temple Beth El (TBE) Clergy, staff, faculty, and lay leaders to create dynamic learning opportunities.

Rabbi Nichols sees the rabbinate as an opportunity to help people form meaningful relationships with Judaism, God, and the Jewish people. She strives to make Judaism feel accessible, relevant, and applicable by developing and supporting a diversity of ways for people to connect and find meaning.

Rabbi Nichols enjoys the dual role of designing innovative Jewish educational opportunities and serving as a member of the clergy team. She values the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with kids while partnering with parents to support their development. She especially enjoys working with teenagers who call her “RBN.”

Rabbi Nichols was ordained in 2007 at the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she also completed her Master of Arts in Jewish Education. Rabbi Nichols most recently served for 13 years as Rabbi and Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Israel in New Rochelle, New York, for 13 years, following my ordination in 2007 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. When looking for a new job opportunity, I wanted to find a position that would allow me to both serve in a rabbinic capacity and focus on creating educational opportunities for all ages. Temple Beth El’s opening provided those opportunities along with working with a clergy team that I already knew and greatly respected.

What is your favorite part of your job? Why?

My favorite part of being a rabbi is developing long-term relationships with kids. It is a privilege to partner with parents and help them support their children’s spiritual development.

What is your most memorable moment?

Times when I was about to officiate at lifecycle events for my family, such as my nieces’ baby namings because I was able to bring together my professional passions and the people I love the most.

If you could have dinner with any person living or deceased, who would it be, and why?

I can trace my dad’s family back to Colonial New England. I would want to have dinner with some of my ancestors who came to America in the 17th century so I could better understand their religious beliefs and the choices they made to protect them.

What is something about you that TBE congregants might not know?

I attended a two-week woodworking school in Maine as part of a sabbatical. Anything else?

Coming to a new community during the coronavirus pandemic is challenging. It might take us longer to get to know each other, but I cannot wait to be part of the Charlotte Jewish community.

Welcome Rabbi Nichols!

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What drew you to working at Temple Beth El and what have you found most sustaining?

The opportunity to continue my focus on creating innovative Jewish educational experiences, the chance to work as part of a strong team of staff and lay leaders, and the chance to live near family.

Tell us about your journey to Charlotte and Temple Beth El.

I served as a Rabbi and as the Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Israel in New Rochelle, New York for 13 years, following my ordination in 2007 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. When looking for a new job opportunity, I wanted to find a position that would allow me to both serve in a rabbinic capacity and focus on creating educational opportunities for all ages. Temple Beth El’s opening provided those opportunities along with working with a clergy team that I already knew and greatly respected.

What is your favorite part of being a rabbi? Why?

My favorite part of being a rabbi is developing long-term relationships with kids. It is a privilege to partner with parents and help them support their children’s spiritual development. It might be a challenge to develop curriculum that would allow me to both serve in a rabbinic capacity and focus on creating educational opportunities for all ages. Temple Beth El’s opening provided those opportunities along with working with a clergy team that I already knew and greatly respected.

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What is your most memorable moment?

Times when I was about to officiate at lifecycle events for my family, such as my nieces’ baby namings because I was able to bring together my professional passions and the people I love the most.

If you could have dinner with any person living or deceased, who would it be, and why?

I can trace my dad’s family back to Colonial New England. I would want to have dinner with some of my ancestors who came to America in the 17th century so I could better understand their religious beliefs and the choices they made to protect them.

What is something about you that TBE congregants might not know?

I attended a two-week woodworking school in Maine as part of a sabbatical. Anything else?

Coming to a new community during the coronavirus pandemic is challenging. It might take us longer to get to know each other, but I cannot wait to be part of the Charlotte Jewish community.

Welcome Rabbi Nichols!

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Any hobby that involves creating things — sewing, woodworking, collaging, glass etching, and more.

What is your favorite hobby?

Any hobby that involves creating things — sewing, woodworking, collaging, glass etching, and more.

What is your favorite part of the rabbinate?

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Welcome Rabbi Nichols!
Temple Solel Peacefully Protests

By Shelly Pawlyk, Temple Solel

Do the words “peaceful” and “protest” go together? They did on June 7 in Lancaster, SC, when multiple leaders from the surrounding communities shared words of prayer, vigilance, support, and acknowledgment of the painful experiences that our Black neighbors and friends are experiencing.

As Jewish people, we too understand within our own history and in present times what slavery, bigotry, and hatred do to bring pain upon groups of people. Even as recently as this month, a worker was in my home and asked me, “Are you Jewish?” I answered, “Yes.” He said, “Are you going to try and put those in my family who can’t pay less?” I controlled my reaction but still felt defensive. Why would you say such a racist comment to me in my own home? You couldn’t be more wrong. A majority of Jewish people strive to be known as generous, pluralistic, kind, and supportive people.” It also served as a sobering example to me that at that moment there were “just” word-exchanges, I did not fear for my life. Our Black brothers and sisters fear for their lives.

Hearing discussions taking place about racism on the news, online, and television specials reminds me of how many challenges we still face. What we have in common as human beings is wanting to be free from fear, rejection, mistreatment or abuse. We want to be respected, listened to, valued, treated fairly, and accepted for who we are.

Many groups experience discrimination based on inherent qualities such as race, gender, cultural or economic background, age, sexual orientation and many other traits. As a result, we experience discrimination, as well. How are those with disabilities treated? Or those living with addictions, depression, PTSD, or hoarding? What other groups experience discrimination that we might not even be aware of?

There are other topics that come to mind that contribute to de-escalation even within our own families and friends. We can commit personally to do our part to model behavior that leads to peace.

Shortly after my personal experience with antisemitism, I received a call from Reverend Linda Land, who was leading a prayer of support to the Black Community at a Peace Protest. “Everybody should be a part of the conversation to build a better country and a better society,” Francis said. “It’s a wonderful way for us to come together as one to pray, listen, plan, create, and deepen our relationships.”

We must stand “side-by-side” to our Black friends and experience the same. In the words of the Chofetz Chaim (1838-1917), “How do I survive as a Jew in this forsaken place?” In response, he says, “How do I survive as a Jew in this forsaken place?”

The Chofetz Chaim replied, “Even if it is impossible for you to observe any mitzvot, don’t be discouraged. There is one thing you can do. Whenever you have a free moment, speak to G-d, and whenever you do so, face east as to direct your thoughts towards Jerusalem. By so doing, you unite yourself with the Jewish People and with your own. I believe in the Messiah. I believe he will come, and I believe he will be a Messiah of peace.”

Remembering Jerusalem

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

There’s only one really sad day on the traditional Jewish calendar. It’s not Yom Kippur, which is actually supposed to be a day of vibrance — a sort of rejuvenation of the soul. The sad day is Tisha B’Av, a day I never learned about in Hebrew school because it comes in the summer, long after the end of the year for Hebrew school. The ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av is the day when Solomon’s Temple was destroyed, as was the second Temple hundreds of years later. But why shed tears over tragedies that happened thousands of years ago? No one mourns for the Colosseum, or the Pantheon in Greece. They are tourist attractions, shedding no light on history and humanity, but all part of the solution and remembered.

The Chofetz Chaim (1838-1917) was renowned for being one of the greatest scholars of his era. He was a religious leader in Poland and later in Greece. He is the author of the book Lamentations, which he dedicated to his daughter. He lived a life of Torah and Talmud, and his teachings have had a profound impact on modern day Judaism.

For many Jews, the wedding ceremony concludes with the singing of the phrase, “If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget how to dysfunction.” Then a glass is broken as a symbolic gesture of grief so that even though the marriage is a joyful occasion, the newly married couple recalls the destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple.

Synagogues around the world are built facing Jerusalem. Why is there so much emphasis on remembering Jerusalem in our lives, and is there one day (Tisha B’Av) set aside to mourn it?

Tisha B’Av is not everyone’s favorite day. It doesn’t have the family fun element of Passover and other holidays, but there is something unique about it. It lets us know that people who remember that our past leads to a future. One of the ways we do that is to mourn in a manner similar to the traditional mourning of the shiva of one who loses a family member. We remove our leather shoes and even dim the lights to create a somber and sad mood. With a sad heart, we read from the book of Lamentations and weep for the millions of Jews who were denied their hopes and dreams because they were killed for the crime of being born Jewish. Yet, on the same day, we think about the future and how we can improve our community and the world around us.

One of the main reasons for the original destruction of the Temple and our exile was baseless hatred among Jews; unfortunately, it still exists among us. Tisha B’Av is a good day to think about unity and tolerance. It’s also a day of hope due to an ironic remark made by the sage. They tell that the Messiah is born on Tisha B’Av; i.e., the saddest day of the year is also the day that redemption and a bright future begin. We don’t dwell in the past; we look for solutions for the future. Tisha B’Av might not be the most popular Jewish holiday, but it’s the time where we find the strength to not let the awful thing to not have unity. Let us all look for how we can be part of the solution and remember where we come from so that we can unite for the future. May this Tisha B’Av (July 30, 2020) be especially meaningful for us all.
Welcoming the Stranger During This Pandemic

By Amy Lefkof

The COVID-19 crisis has made life even more difficult for refugees who have settled in Charlotte, refugees still abroad, and asylum seekers at our country’s southern border. In the last few months, creative and compassionate partnering has enabled members of the Charlotte Jewish community to continue to help these vulnerable populations.

In May, the Jewish Community Refugee Initiative (JCRI), a Charlotte Park lay-driven initiative, in partnership with Temple Beth El, was able to deliver 60 kitchen kits, as part of a Temple Beth El Mitzvah Day project, to Refugee Support Services (RSS) for their weekly COVID-19 relief box distribution of fruits, vegetables, and supplies to over 110 local refugee families. Bridge Cohen, a member of both TBE and JCRI, used TBE’s Mitzvah Day fund to purchase items such as boxes of tissues, dish soap, bar soap, and cotton dish towels for these kitchen kits.

In June and July, RSS again reached out to JCRI for volunteers to help with the distribution of extra CMS-provided breakfasts and lunches to the children of RSS refugee families. And once again, members of the Charlotte Jewish community immediately responded to this call for help.

HIAS, which is one of nine primarily faith-based organizations partnering with the federal government to help refugees start their lives in safety in the United States, asks members of our Jewish community to consider being the voice for refugees and those seeking asylum by doing the following during this pandemic:

Ask your representatives in the House and Senate and those running for office to include refugees in any legislation providing relief to Americans during COVID-19.

Sign a petition or write a letter calling on the Department of Homeland Security to respect the human rights of asylum seekers during the time of COVID-19 (stressing that the Jewish people have been refugees and asylum seekers and that the Torah mandates that we welcome and take care of the stranger).

Listen to HIAS’s webinars to learn about how HIAS is taking action for refugees in the U.S. and around the world at this unprecedented time and what you can do to help.

On Sunday October 25, JCRI will host (via Zoom) it’s Third Annual Welcoming the Stranger to the Table dinner reception and program, and many members of the Charlotte Jewish community immediately responded to this call for help.

HIAS, which is one of nine primarily faith-based organizations partnering with the federal government to help refugees start their lives in safety in the United States, asks members of our Jewish community to consider being the voice for refugees and those seeking asylum by doing the following during this pandemic:

As we look forward to the High Holy Days, we have listened to members about their needs for a meaningful experience and looked at projections about the health and preparedness of the area. There is much to balance here, and we are moving cautiously and deliberately to weigh all the options. We are hopeful that we can provide an in-person and online experience to meet the needs of all our community. What we do know is that we may not be using space at Davidson College this year as they are focused on creating a safe boundary for the students on campus. So we are looking for new space that could safely accommodate our prayerful community.

Our plans are in development and could change repeatedly over the next 60 days. Patience and planning and communal values are key to finding the right plan for us.

Planning for the Future

By Rabbi David A. Lipper, Temple Kol Tikvah

Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman is busily working on plans to plot our re-opening. Our plans are based on the decisions of the State and Medical advisors who are guiding the conversation in North Carolina. Currently we are considering opening for outdoor Shabbat worship beginning later in July and have created a team to focus on our High Holy Day planning for September 2020.

Temple Kol Tikvah places the highest value on the safety and health of our members, families, and guests and is committed to providing multiple options for worship and learning. The Jewish value of “Pikkuah Nefesh” or preserving life is our lens through which we evaluate our plans.

While we are a small congregation with limited staffing, we have continued to provide a high level of service and engagement while navigating these days of the pandemic. From check-ins with our members to online worship, classes, and meet-ups, we have tried to maintain our personal connections to members and their families as well as provide a spiritual home for the Jews of the Lake Norman region.

As we look forward to the High Holy Days, we have listened to members about their needs for a meaningful experience and looked at projections about the health and preparedness of the area. There is much to balance here, and we are moving cautiously and deliberately to weigh all the options. We are hopeful that we can provide an in-person and online experience to meet the needs of all our community. What we do know is that we may not be using space at Davidson College this year as they are focused on creating a safe boundary for the students on campus. So we are looking for new space that could safely accommodate our prayerful community.

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HIGH HOLIDAYS
5781/2020
The High Holidays at Temple Israel will be observed virtually this year. For the latest information and service schedules, please visit our website at templeisraeln.org.

TORAH TOTS
BIM BAM SHABBAT SERVICE
Friday, August 14 at 5:30 p.m.
Join Rabbi Kornfeld and Mr. Caleb, along with your Torah Tots Friends (on the 2nd Friday of each month) as we welcome in Shabbat with songs, prayers, and movement! Details at templeisraeln.org/upcoming-programs.

TOTS FAMILY ART FUN - CELEBRATE BEING JEWISH!
Sundays, August 2, 16, 30 at 9:30 a.m.
Join us for some family fun art projects as we celebrate our Judaism. Cost: $18 per child - includes a wallet with 3 art projects included! To register, visit https://bit.ly/TotsArtFun.

LILAH TOV: HAVDALLAH, SONGS & STORY TIME
Sunday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Get into your pajamas and join us for Havdallah, Songs & Story Time on the last Sunday of the month! For details, visit https://bit.ly/TTLilahTov.

YOUTH
JEW CREW KIDS CLUB
Sundays, August 2 & 16 at 11 a.m.
Do you miss hanging out with your TIRS friends? Join us as we explore Judaism through song, dance, and crafts on Zoom! (Rising Aleph, Bet, and Gimel TIRS students). Connect via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/91300531803.

JOIN TI YOUTH GROUPS ONLINE FOR SOME ENGAGING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS!
Cooking/Baking - Mondays at 4:30 p.m. (3rd-12th grade)
https://zoom.us/j/9200946969
Games - Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. (3rd-12th grade)
https://zoom.us/j/9365137415
Ir Ha-Malka USY Hangout - Sundays at 4:30 p.m. (rising 9th-12th grades only)
https://zoom.us/j/9527480677

MENS CLUB
TASTE OF KENTUCKY – BOURBON TASTING
Sunday, August 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Join us for a semi-virtual tasting, featuring Rabbi Michael Wolk, Dan Ruda and Michael Fink as our resident bourbon masterminds. Choose to join a small, socially-distanced group at one of our member’s homes or join us virtually from yours. For details, visit https://bit.ly/BourbonBoys.

LIFELONG LEARNING
LUNCH ‘N’ LEARN WITH GABRIELI TALLITOT: FROM ISRAEL TO YOUR LIVING ROOM
Thursday, August 6 at 12 Noon
Have you ever wondered how tallitot are made? Are you looking for a beautiful new tallit to enhance your collection or for the upcoming High Holidays? Or to purchase a tallit for a loved one? Join Rabbi Wolk and Ori Gabrieli live via Zoom from the famous Gabrieli Hand Weaving in Israel for a fireside chat and a virtual tour of Gabrieli’s studio and showroom. For details, visit https://bit.ly/ENTallitot.

BEING HOLY, BEING WHOLE – LIVING IN SCARY TIMES
Thursday, August 20 at 8 p.m.
How do we respond to the anxiety and fear that this pandemic may have stirred up within each of us? As we enter the month of Elul and begin preparing for the High Holidays, what spiritual tools and perspectives can our tradition offer us in a moment like this?
In this hour-long Zoom class, be in a virtual community as Rabbi Kornfeld explores some relevant and thought-provoking Jewish texts. Details at templeisraeln.org/upcoming-programs.

WELCOME HOME SHABBAT
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 6:15 P.M.
Join your Temple Israel family and friends as we “Welcome Home” Rabbi Michael Wolk to our congregation. The evening will include an uplifting Friday night Shabbat service, followed by a special L’Chaim and torah to our new Rabbi.
To connect (via Zoom), please visit our Livestream page at https://www.templeisraeln.org/livestream.html.

EDUCATING AND INSPIRING FUTURE JEWISH LEADERS
K - 7th Grade Classes Begin September 13
For information or to enroll, please call 704-944-6785.
Grants Assist Jewish Family Services Meeting the Needs of Seniors

Two grants recently awarded to Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte will assist in responding to the immediate needs of seniors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will also provide assistance to the longer term issues impacting our aging population.

JFS is dedicated to ensuring that older adults feel supported, engaged and connected and can live as independently as possible for as long as possible. The JFS senior engagement team has always used a variety of techniques to achieve these goals, often deploying staff and volunteers for face-to-face, friendly in-home visits, especially to those who are homebound. The pandemic, of course, changed all of that.

So when we learned there were funds available that could help us remain committed to our strategic goals we applied for and received a grant from the United Way/Foundation for the Carolinas COVID-19 Emergency Fund. According to Howard Olshansky, JFS Executive Director, “JFS staff adapted quickly at the onset of COVID-19, developing new ways to deliver all of our services as we migrated over to operating as an agency without walls. One of the biggest challenges we faced, though, was finding meaningful ways to work with the senior population. We tried Zoom get-togethers but for many seniors who are unfamiliar and uncomfortable with this technology, it was a challenge.” Olshansky said. This grant allows JFS to come up with an alternative way to deliver services to seniors, keeping them engaged and connected and at the same time strengthening alliances with community partners.

A major component of the grant provides funds to purchase iPads which will be given to senior living communities. “We are so excited that four of the senior living communities that JFS used to visit regularly prior to the pandemic have agreed to partner with us to enable residents to use this technology to participate in programs,” Sheryl Gerrard, JFS senior engagement manager said. The four communities — Sunrise on Providence, Providence Meadows, Waltonwood Cotswold, and Brighton Gardens all agreed to supply staff to help residents use the iPads that have each been pre-loaded with links to live-stream programs the seniors are accustomed to attending. It opens up a whole new world for them as they can now participate in Zoom programs, internet activities, Shabbat services, individual mental health therapy, and tele-health medical appointments. We even anticipate some virtual family visits.

“Our aging community is more challenged than ever. They are living longer and many of them have exhausted their financial resources.” Rachel Green

A second grant received from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (formerly BJH) will significantly enhance JFS’ ability to help seniors manage the challenges of their day-to-day lives. By funding case management, the grant addresses the changing landscape of the aging population and the depth of their varying needs. “We are so appreciative that the Foundation has acknowledged that seniors in the greater Charlotte Jewish community are no longer living just around the Shalom Park area, but are in areas such as Sun City in SC, Union County, and the Lake Norman area,” said JFS Director of Programs and Services, Rachel Green. These funds allow JFS to expand and deliver services wherever they are needed most.

This year’s award, which is 35% higher than last year’s, is an indication that The Foundation recognizes the increased needs of our aging population. According to Green, “Our aging community is more challenged than ever. They are living longer and many of them have exhausted their financial resources. Many live on limited fixed incomes, and sometimes one month’s rent for a decent apartment eats up someone’s entire monthly income.” This grant enables JFS staff to work with clients to develop a customized plan connecting them to resources that will help them age in place with an eye toward ensuring safety, stability, and security.

Not too long ago, JFS identified the expansion of services to seniors as a priority in their strategic plan. According to Olshansky, “The needs of our aging community are complex and growing. As the number of seniors rise, issues such as mental health, financial security, and social engagement rise too.” JFS has been fortunate to have on-going funding support for our senior engagement services from the Jewish Federation, the Leon Levine Foundation, the Blumenthal Foundation and the Stan Greenspon Family Foundation. “It is due to the support from these funders that JFS is able to create a strong continuum of services to support our seniors. As a result, JFS is well positioned to access these additional resources and strengthen our leadership in continuing to respond to the needs of our community’s aging population.”

Stay Connected with Waltonwood

Now welcoming new residents into our community!

Our communities offer seniors a carefree lifestyle and peace-of-mind in this ever-changing world. Our care team is on-site 24/7, and with amenities and neighbors, there’s always opportunities for engagement and socialization.

Fresh, fun, and interactive dining experiences
Forever Fit wellness programs encouraging resident independence
Life Enrichment programs allowing for opportunities of continued learning and special interests
Housekeeping and maintenance teams providing a truly worry-free lifestyle

Call and schedule a video chat with us today!

Assisted Living & Memory Care
5215 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
704-495-6031

Independent Living, Assisted Living & Memory Care
11945 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-246-3055
In Memory of

Hy Bruck to Susan Bruck from Sanford and Lois Benjamin, Daniel and Nancy Coblezw, Barbara Leve to Caren Gale from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Richard Herd to Barbara Herd from Sanford and Lois Benjamin, Daniel and Nancy Coblezw

Mary Wojnowich to Samuel Kaplan, Pearl Mann, Lyba Rouoso, and Rose Zimmer from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Steven Edward Kridel to Honey Kridel from Rose Atkinson, Shelton and Ellen Goldstein, Matthew Luftglas and Meg Goldstein

Martin Leonard Lipson to Marc and Jill Lipson from Daniel and Nancy Coblezw

Sandra Rosen to Jennifer Margulis from Cecile, Lauren, Susan H., Susan K. and Julia

Marshall Rosenfeld to Barbara Rosenfeld from Barnet and Harriet Weinstock

Mazel Tov On

The birth of Eleanor Hazel from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

In Appreciation of

The “Taste of Passover” Jewish Family Services from Rose Atkinson

Happy Birthday to

Richard Klein from Deborah, Rachel Ilana, and Andrew

Adina Loewenstein from Elizabeth Clarke Poon, Leon and Jennifer Golinsky, Steven and Susan Meyer, Dan and Hilary Rosenbaum

Ruth Richardson from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman

Fran Schuler from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

David Thrope from Marvin Barman and Sharon Taubman

Happy Anniversary to

Marvin and Anita Shapiro from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Happy Father’s Day to

Robert Still from Rebecca Usadi

Mazel Tov On

The birth of Eleanor Hazel to Stuart and Carolyn Hennes from Mark and Harriet Perlin Your new position with Tikvah Charlotte to Lucky and Lisa Levinson from Monty Bennett

Happy Anniversary to

Leon and Sandra Levine from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Adam and Kim Levy from Stuart and Ellie Bantit

Happy Birthday to

Adina Loewenstein from Steven and Janice Zacks

Leonard and Judi Strause from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Wishing a Full and Speedy Recovery to

Elise Menaker from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Donations to Jewish Family Services in May and June 2020

Donations Received May 2020

IN HONOR OF

Your Bat Mitzvah project to Amelia Baron and Sophie Buckler from Darren and Stacy Mond

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Wojnowich

Daniel and Nancy Coblezw

Richard Herd

to Barbara Herd

Marcelle Oxman

and Nancy Coblenz

Barbara Leve to Caren Gale from Allan and to Susan Bruck

from Sanford and Lois Benjamin, Daniel

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Wishing a Full and Speedy Recovery to

Elise Menaker from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Donations Received June 2020

IN MEMORY OF

Archie Berman to Marion Berman from Marcia Lampert

David Fortson to Anne Fortson from Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Barbara Leve to Caren Gale from Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble

Mary Wojnowich to Samuel Kaplan, Alan and Pearl Mann, Harold and Lyba Rouoso, and Alan Zimmern from Marvin Barman, Stuart and Carolyn Hennes, Shelton and Ellen Goldstein, Sam and Aileen Polk, Stephanie Hinojosa

Hy Bruck to Glenn and Lauri Kaufman from Jonathan and Stephanie Simon

Steven Edward Kridel to Honey Kridel and Philip and Dee Kridel from Shelton and Ellen Goldstein

Alvin Meltser to Lauren Meltser and Marcy Meltser from Leonard and Judy Marco Shirley Hodes Millender to Gregory and Margaret Musa from Jonathan and Stephanie Simon

Arkadir Kurgan to Lee and Irena Rimler from Adam and Kim Levy

Pearl Rosenthal to Rich and Jenny Rosenthal from Melanie Barson, Marcia Lampert, Shelton and Ellen Goldstein

Bill Schwartz to Fran Schwartz from Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble, Paul and Lynn Edelstein

Ginger Snitz to Arnold Snitz from Shelton and Ellen Goldstein

Don’t just observe the High Holy Days…EXPERIENCE THEM!

If not in person…where?

The 5781 High Holy Days Experience

on YouTube and facebook


Rosh Hashanah

Saturday September 19 10:00 am

Kol Nidre

Sunday September 27 7:00 pm

Joining The Ruach will be several special guests including Josh Nelson, Joe Buchanan, Sheldon Low and Hadar Orshainy, Nefesh Mountain and, members of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra…just to name a few.

To receive updates about the High Holy Days Experience, “Like” and “Follow” The Ruach on Facebook, SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel, or email the.ruach.band@gmail.com to join our email list.

Don’t just observe the High Holy Days…EXPERIENCE THEM!
Jewish Family Services
Monthly Volunteers and Donors

Month of June 2020


Special Thanks: Publix Supermarket Cotswold for the wonderful donation of Kosher pantry items, Temple Beth El Men’s Club

Food Pantry Donations: To the generous members of our community for continuously donating much needed items for the JFS food pantry.
At every age we are discovering and connecting with who we are and what we can share with others. We cherish our Jewish values more deeply, including the importance of embracing those of different beliefs and backgrounds. A community that models inclusivity and naturally intertwines the wisdom of age with the energy of youth builds the well-being of all.

This is the opportunity we are bringing you, right here in Charlotte. The region's first and only intergenerational Jewish community intentionally integrates programs and services of some of the area’s most respected not-for-profit organizations. The result will be a Jewish community for those 62 and older unlike any other in the country. This boutique community will include 125 elegant, comfortable residences that are maintenance free, include access to any future healthcare needed, and are centered amid unparalleled lifestyle options on a dynamic, intergenerational campus.

Generations at Shalom Park will offer you the trusted, top-rated care and service of Aldersgate Life Plan Services, along with the exceptional programs, resources and community life of the Shalom Park campus.

Whether you’re an artist, a scholar, a community leader or an entrepreneur, pursuing a life passion or learning something new, you’ll find Generations at Shalom Park brings you a circle of individuals who share your values and traditions. Those who choose this exciting new community will discover true connections—among generations, faiths and backgrounds—that show we never finish growing.

Call to learn more

Generations at Shalom Park
L’dor V’dor.
From Generation to Generation.

704-900-1013
GenerationsAtShalomPark.org

Cynthia McCullough, Sales Director
cynthiam@aldersgateccrc.com

Charlotte’s best dining, shopping and more in nearby SouthPark

A vibrant, intergenerational neighborhood

Israeli dance performers are warming up at the cultural center. Hebrew class is about to begin. People are walking to the Conservative and Reform synagogues to celebrate Shabbat together.

It’s a typical afternoon on the Shalom Park campus in Charlotte. Friends and families of all ages are thriving, connecting and sharing their lives and traditions with each other.

It’s the perfect place for a community unlike any other—a new community for those 62 and older called Generations at Shalom Park.

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Imagine how many more classes, concerts and workouts you’d attend if they were right outside your door.

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