Federation 2021 Annual Campaign Planning Underway as Co-Chairs Are Announced

By Shira Firestone

Just as a successful annual campaign is critical to support more than 70 Jewish agencies and programs locally and worldwide, having the right leadership is critical to the campaign. As planning is underway for Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s (JFGC) 2021 Annual Campaign, that leadership has been selected. Jake House and Sara Kulbersh will co-chair what will be a unique campaign for unique times.

As the second milestone on the Road to $5 Million, the goal for 2021 is $4,750,000. While there will be special challenges this year, both Jake and Sara are confident that the community will respond again as it did in 2020 when they not only donated more than $4,500,000 to the Annual Campaign, but also contributed over $500,000 to the JewishCharlotte Emergency Response Fund: Sam Bernstein, chief development and marketing officer for JFGC points out that, “While last year the Emergency Response Fund sustained our agencies during the height of the shutdown, the needs related to reopening still exceed their usual operating expenses. The increased goal for this year’s Annual Campaign reflects those expected needs.”

Jake came to Charlotte eight years ago to lead a statewide education nonprofit. After discovering the entrepreneurial bug and launching his own successful education nonprofit. After catching the attention of his suggested that he get involved with Federation, and before long, he was on the allocations Committee and going to Cuba with the Ben Gurion Society.

Sara is also an eight-year resident of Charlotte, moving here from Los Angeles. She jokes that when planning her move with her husband, Jon, she could not have pointed to Charlotte on a map! But after visiting multiple cities, she knew that Charlotte was the best choice. At first, becoming involved with Federation was a way to meet new people in a new city. She served on the Women’s Philanthropy Spring Lecture committee and became heavily involved in the work of JFGC from that time forward, including serving as co-chair of the Lion of Judah Society. Not only did she meet new people, she made some of her closest friends through her Federation involvement. The coming year will bring unique challenges to the way in which the Annual Campaign is run.

The Main Event, which is the formal kickoff of the Annual Campaign, is the most widely attended event of the campaign season. Last year’s event with Mitch Albom sold out. In 2021, the Main Event will be virtual for the first time. But after ten months of learning how to program virtually, the committee co-chairs are confident that the Main Event will be inspiring and memorable.

In addition, it may be more difficult to have the kind of in-person, meaningful conversations with donors that usually take place. Jake notes that these conversations about donating money can be quite personal and that it is easier to meet face-to-face with someone to talk about how their support will enable JFGC to continue meeting the needs of our community. But this year, many aren’t going to want to sit down and talk in person.

These challenges don’t intimidate Jake or Sara. In fact, quite the opposite. Sara points out that the challenges are just a call for creativity, an opportunity to brainstorm, plan, and execute in untraditional ways to engage with donors. Both co-chairs expressed great faith in the employees and lay leaders of JFGC, but most of all, in the generosity of Charlotte’s Jewish community.

Jake and Sara are excited to work with the other leaders of the 2021 Annual Campaign including Major Gifts chairs: Larry and Dale Polsky, Men’s Division chair: Brian Bernhardt, Family Division chairs: Bill and Angie Zimmer, Women’s Philanthropy Leadership chairs: Lisa Levison and Debra Van Glisch, Community Campaign chair: Jason Tanenbaum, Super Sunday chairs: Jonathan and Rachel Friedman, Thank Chair: Jill Blumenthal, and NextGen chairs: Luis Yaquian and Mark Roth. It’s not too early to make your gift to the 2021 Annual Campaign. You can donate at www.jewish.charlotte.org or call 704-944-6757.

Street Art, Painting Jewish Identity in Charlotte and Beyond

By Rabbi Judy Schindler

Charlotte learned the power of street art this summer as 22 artists came together to paint a Black Lives Matter mural on South Tryon Street between East 3rd and East 4th Streets. Each letter was its own piece of art expressing the artists’ messages combatting racism, illustrating protest and pain, and promoting healing and hope. In the midst of global racial justice protests, the work aimed to inspire social change.

Jewish street art brings Jewish content to the public eye and like secular street art is democratic — accessible to all. Yitzchok Moully, dubbed the Pop Art Rabbi (whose #WeAllBelong mural was created with Charlotteans at Chabad’s Friendship Circle), describes Jewish street art as “bringing it to the people. All my work has deep kabbalistic meaning. It’s a way of communicating. It’s about the free will of people and our power to be agents of change.”

Beyond

Chanhakah menorah painted by Yitzchok Moully in Jersey City, just 12 days after the 2019 attack in a Jersey City kosher grocery store that killed three people.
**From the Editor**

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times December 2020

Friday, December 4, 4:53 p.m.
Friday, December 11, 4:53 p.m.
Friday, December 18, 4:53 p.m.
Friday, December 25, 4:53 p.m.

The Charlotte Jewish News - December 2020 - Page 2

**Gastro Jews: A Journey Through Food virtual culinary series offers a diverse, eclectic perspective on Jewish cooking, culture, and history.**

**Gastro Jews Schedule**

December 6: Michael Solomonov — Hanukkah Cooking Demo
Joshua Wolk, chef and restaurateur, known for his Philadelphia restaurant, Zahavm, Michael Solomonov is the winner of the James Beard Foundation awards for Best Chef.

January 24: Boris Fishman
Boris Fishman is the author of “Sevirot Feast.” Come aboard for a culinary trip through Boris’s family history as an immigrant from Yemen.

February 7: Mandy Silverman
Mandylicious - Challah baking extraordinaire, Mandy has created over 300 unique challah and babka recipes and has developed a worldwide following, including over 25,000 Instagram followers.

March 21: Michael Solomonov — Passover Cooking Demo
Joshua Wolk, chef and restaurateur, known for his Philadelphia restaurant, Zahavm, Michael Solomonov is the winner of the James Beard Foundation awards for Best Chef.

April 18: Julie Taborsky

May 23: Jamie Geller
Jamie Geller is the author of the “Joy of Kosher” cooking series and “Joy of Jewish” by Jamie, an Israeli-American food writer, celebrity chef, television producer, and businesswoman. She is an author of several cookbooks and the founder of the Kosher Media Network. Geller hosts online cooking shows called the “Joy of Kosher” cooking series.

Thank you for all you have done for great 41 years, and here’s to many more.

The Charlotte Jewish News - December 2020 - Page 3

**The KEYS to a successful real estate transaction.**

**Experience and Commitment!**


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

Serving the Charlotte community for over 30 years.

• Group Benefits
• Life, Disability & Long-Term Care Insurance
• Business Planning & Trust Services
• Medicare Plans & Annuities
• Retirement Planning
• Commercial & Business
• Risk Management Services

2456 Hope Mill Road
Charlotte, NC 28210
434-604-3333
info@positivesourcesnc.com

**Jewish Street Art**

This year Jewish street art is back to the city. The theme is #lightoverdarkness. Each night a different artist and city will be spotlighted. Vinitshk Mensch conceived of the idea of bringing a Chani- kah menorah mural to the public eye in 2018, in the aftermath of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting. In an effort to bring healing and hope, Mostly painted a massive Chani- kah menorah mural on the side of a 30-foot RV and drove it around New York night in various locations, com- munity leaders painted a flame as residents added color-filled lanterns to the work. In December 2019, in the after- math of another tragic shooting at a Jersey City kosher grocery store, Mike Wirth brought light to darkness through community art. He placed a second menorah mural on a prominent Jersey City wall, and again he invited community members to add their words of healing.

This year, Los Angeles-based street artist Hillel Smith trans- formed Mostly’s concept of lighting it to a national stage. The two met last year when Smith planned the first-ever Jewish Street Art Festival, which took place in Jersey City. Smith, while engaged in international public art projects, discovered street artists “all sitting in their own corners of the world.” In the fall of 2019, he brought a dozen artists together to create 10 collabora- tive street art pieces on the streets of Jersey City. Mike Wirth, Charlotte’s ac- claimed Jewish artist and winner of the James Beard Foundation awards for Best Chef, is one of the artists participating in the project. Wirth’s design for the menorah mural honors the life of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, whom he met last year when he planned the first-ever Jewish Street Art Festival, which took place in Jersey City. While engaged in international public art projects, discovered street artists “all sitting in their own corners of the world.” In the fall of 2019, he brought a dozen artists together to create 10 collabora- tive street art pieces on the streets of Jersey City.

Ann Langman, 704-302-4322
Andrew Rosen, 704-435-7070

**Shabbat Candle Lighting Times December 2020**

Friday, December 4, 4:53 p.m.
Friday, December 11, 4:53 p.m.
Friday, December 18, 4:53 p.m.
Friday, December 25, 4:53 p.m.
Manischewitz & PJ Library Invite Families to Build a Sweet New Tradition with the Hanukkah House Cookie Kit

(Bayonne, NJ, November 2, 2020) — As one of the world’s most recognizable icon names in traditional kosher products, Manischewitz has been a cornerstone and center in America’s kosher community for generations. This fall, an exciting Manischewitz product is coming to supermarkets across the U.S. that checks off all the holiday boxes: sweet treats, imagination, family fun, and meaningful giving.

The do-it-yourself Hanukkah House cookie decorating kit is available for check out at Ralph’s, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Walmart, and on Amazon among other outlets. 

The Manischewitz Company has been making traditional Jewish foods since Rabbi Dave Balsh Manischewitz first opened a small matzah bakery in Cincinnati, Ohio in the late 1800s. For more than 130 years, the company’s goal has been to bring new traditions and fun activities for families to celebrate the holiday together,” says Mindy Sandler Grinspoon, president of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The multimedia marketing initiative will be supported by social media, influencer marketing, incentives like giveaways and contests, events, and podcasts on kosher.com. In addition, every box will feature a callout encouraging consumers to sign up for Manischewitz’s email list and check out its social media sites. 

Manischewitz has been making traditional Jewish foods since Rabbi Dave Balsh Manischewitz first opened a small matzah bakery in Cincinnati, Ohio in the late 1800s. For more than 130 years, the company’s goal has been to bring new traditions and fun activities for families to celebrate the holiday together,” says Mindy Sandler Grinspoon, president of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The multimedia marketing initiative will be supported by social media, influencer marketing, incentives like giveaways and contests, events, and podcasts on kosher.com. In addition, every box will feature a callout encouraging consumers to sign up for Manischewitz’s email list and check out its social media sites.

For more information, please contact sue-littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

Sue’s Bookshelf

By Sue Littauer

If you’ve read Chicago attorney Ron Balson’s historical novels, you know you’ll want to start Eli’s Promise as soon as possible. If you’re unfamiliar with them, trust me — you’ll want to get started today! All Ron Balson books are available for check out at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. They include: “Once We Were Brothers,” “Saving Sophie,” “Ravens’ Teens,” “The Girl from Berlin.”

The CJE Book Club will meet virtually on Wednesday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. when we will be discussing “The Bookshop of Yesterdays” by Amy Meyerson. For more information, please contact sue-littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

CJE Book Club News

The CJE Book Club will meet virtually on Wednesday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. when we will be discussing “The Bookshop of Yesterdays” by Amy Meyerson. For more information, please contact sue-littauer@jewishcharlotte.org.

The Charlotte Jewish News - December 2020 - Page 4

The Charlotte Jewish News - December 2020 - Page 5

Welcome Back to the Library!

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library is now open for in-person services by appointment. We are carefully re-creating with everyone’s health and safety in mind.

NEW RULES & REGULATIONS

Entry through the LEF will resume for all those who are fully vaccinated. Non-vaccinated visitors are required to wear masks at all times.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Sun 9:30 am – 1:30pm
Tues/Thurs 12pm – 4 pm
Enter through the LJCC main entrance for a brief health screening. Maintain social distancing and wear face masks at all times.

If you’re like me, each fall your schedule starts to fill up with a lot of things. I love to read, but I also love hosting my family and friends for Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah. I hope that the CJE Book Club picks a book that will appeal to everyone.

Ron Balson’s new book “Eli’s Promise” is a masterful work of historical fiction spanning three eras — Nazi-occupied Poland in 1939, the American zone of post-war Germany in 1946, and Chicago at the height of the Vietnam War in 1964. It is the story of Eli Rosen and his family and the uneasy alliance Eli forms with Max Polski, a Nazi collaborator who promises to keep Eli’s family safe. Ron Balson explores the human cost of war, the mixed blessings of survival, and the enduring strength of family bonds.

If you’re like me, each fall you look forward to a new Ron Balson novel being released. Starting with “Once We Were Brothers,” I’ve read through each subsequent historical novel, holding my breath to the last pages when the dramatic storylines are unravelled. I’ve especially enjoyed the characters Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart, the attorney and private investigator, respectively, who team up to work with the main characters of Balson’s novels. In “Eli’s Promise,” Catherine and Liam were noticeably missing. So I reached out to him to ask about them and to clear up some of my other questions.

Sue: Ron, I missed Catherine and Liam — are they on hiatus? 
Ron: Yes. They will return next year in a wonderful book about Denmark during the war. Sue: I thought the book was very interesting, especially the part about the displaced-persons camps. I learned a lot, and I’m thinking this information would be especially informative for Jews and non-Jews alike. It’s important to see how the United States and the rest of the world weren’t willing to open their borders for these refugees. Was this one of the reasons you chose to write about this part of history?

Ron: Absolutely. There is very little fiction written about the DP camps. I tried to personalize the experiences of the residents rather than just treat them historically. Those were survivors who had gone through hell and found themselves in yet another camp. Liberation could only come through a virus. I wanted the Allies would rather pay more to keep them in a camp than let them into their countries to become potential citizens. Sue: What can we look forward to in your next book?

Ron: The next book is about a woman who accuses a Chicago restaurant owner of being a traitor and Nazi collaborator. The matter ends up in court in a definitive suit, which Catherine and Liam Taggart must help her defend. The setting is a little bit in Denmark, which is a fascinating and heartwarming story of how the entire country came together to protect and save in Jewish population. The Danes learned of the Nazi deportation order, transported them to Sweden. Of the 7,600 Jews, all but 476 were saved. Denmark is unique in that

The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library is now open for in-person services by appointment. We are carefully re-creating with everyone’s health and safety in mind.

NEW RULES & REGULATIONS

Entry through the LEF will resume for all those who are fully vaccinated. Non-vaccinated visitors are required to wear masks at all times.

LIBRARY HOURS:

Sun 9:30 am – 1:30pm
Tues/Thurs 12pm – 4 pm
Enter through the LJCC main entrance for a brief health screening. Maintain social distancing and wear face masks at all times.

If you’re like me, each fall your schedule starts to fill up with a lot of things. I love to read, but I also love hosting my family and friends for Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah. I hope that the CJE Book Club picks a book that will appeal to everyone.

Ron Balson’s new book “Eli’s Promise” is a masterful work of historical fiction spanning three eras — Nazi-occupied Poland in 1939, the American zone of post-war Germany in 1946, and Chicago at the height of the Vietnam War in 1964. It is the story of Eli Rosen and his family and the uneasy alliance Eli forms with Max Polski, a Nazi collaborator who promises to keep Eli’s family safe. Ron Balson explores the human cost of war, the mixed blessings of survival, and the enduring strength of family bonds.

If you’re like me, each fall you look forward to a new Ron Balson novel being released. Starting with “Once We Were Brothers,” I’ve read through each subsequent historical novel, holding my breath to the last pages when the dramatic storylines are unravelled. I’ve especially enjoyed the characters Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart, the attorney and private investigator, respectively, who team up to work with the main characters of Balson’s novels. In “Eli’s Promise,” Catherine and Liam were noticeably missing. So I reached out to him to ask about them and to clear up some of my other questions.

Sue: Ron, I missed Catherine and Liam — are they on hiatus? 
Ron: Yes. They will return next year in a wonderful book about Denmark during the war. Sue: I thought the book was very interesting, especially the part about the displaced-persons camps. I learned a lot, and I’m thinking this information would be especially informative for Jews and non-Jews alike. It’s important to see how the United States and the rest of the world weren’t willing to open their borders for these refugees. Was this one of the reasons you chose to write about this part of history?

Ron: Absolutely. There is very little fiction written about the DP camps. I tried to personalize the experiences of the residents rather than just treat them historically. Those were survivors who had gone through hell and found themselves in yet another camp. Liberation could only come through a virus. I wanted the Allies would rather pay more to keep them in a camp than let them into their countries to become potential citizens. Sue: What can we look forward to in your next book?

Ron: The next book is about a woman who accuses a Chicago restaurant owner of being a traitor and Nazi collaborator. The matter ends up in court in a definitive suit, which Catherine and Liam Taggart must help her defend. The setting is a little bit in Denmark, which is a fascinating and heartwarming story of how the entire country came together to protect and save in Jewish population. The Danes learned of the Nazi deportation order, transported them to Sweden. Of the 7,600 Jews, all but 476 were saved. Denmark is unique in that
Jonathan Sacks, Former UK Chief Rabbi and Jewish ‘Intellectual Giant,’ Dies at 72

Ben Harris, David Lipton, Gabe Friedman (FIDF)

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, the former chief rabbi of the United Kingdom whose extensive writings and frequent public appearances commanded a global following among Jews and non-Jews alike, has died.

He was in the midst of a third bout of cancer, which he announced in October.

Sacks was among the world’s leading exponents of Orthodox Judaism for a global audience. In his 22 years as chief rabbi, he emerged as the most visible Jewish leader in the United Kingdom and one of the European continent’s leading Jewish voices, offering Jewish wisdom to the masses through a regular segment he produced for the BBC. He had a close relationship with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who called Sacks “an intellectual giant” and presented him with a lifetime achievement award in 2018.

Sacks was also an immensely prolific author, addressing pressing social and political issues in a succession of well-received books. His popular commentary on the prayer book, published by Koren, helped to define the more traditional Artscroll Siddur as the prominent prayer book among Modern Orthodox synagogues.

Sacks was normally averse to mixing religion and politics, something he discussed, along with other hot-button topics with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in August.

When anger erupts in a public body, there is quite often a justified cause. But then the political domain has got to take that anger and deal with it very fast,” he told FJA’s opinion editor Laura Adams. “Because anger exposes the problem but never delivers the solution.”

He did take public stances on two topics that were often ensnared with European politics: Israel and anti-Semitism.

Sacks spoke out publicly as Britain’s Labour Party was engulfed in an anti-Semitism scandal. Speaking under the previous leader Jeremy Corbyn, calling corruption the “treason of the state,” he said, “We have an anti-Semitism as bad as the far right, as leader of the Labour Party and her majority’s opposition.” That is why Jesus said that those who helped him excel in this new position.

That judgment paved the way for the current British Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis to famously condemn the Labour Party, a precedent-setting event.

During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the Southeast region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF Southeast community adopted the Combat Intelligence Corps, funded various projects on IDF bases ranging from the refurbishment of a gym for the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the Southeast region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF executive director of the Eastern Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF executive director of the Eastern Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF executive director of the Eastern Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF executive director of the Eastern Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF executive director of the Eastern Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

FIDF executive director of the Eastern Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.

Seth Baron, who for the past seven years has served as executive director of the Southeast Region, will now serve as the FIDF executive director of the newly merged Eastern region. During his tenure, the South East region experienced rapid growth in both fundraising and donor engagement in support of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) scholarship program.
Rabbi Sacks continued

The video was based on a 2016 speech Sacks delivered in British parliament, arguing for Jews as having proved to the Brit- ain’s adoption later that year of the International Holocaust Re- memberance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism. But the video went far be- yond political and social circles, and became symbolic of Sacks’ ability to reach main- stream audiences. Rachel Riley, a famous British Jewish show television host, last year shared the video, titling her over 600,000 Twitter followers for “fear of the future without you” and what he called a “pivotal mo- ment” in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, citing Thoma- as Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about return- ing a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University while a student for what he called Rabbi Menachem Schneerson — the spiritual leader who is credited with turning the Hasidic Chabad-Lubatvitch movement into a powerful organizing force of Jewish culture all over the world. New York City. Sacks credits this method with inspiring him to get involved with Jewish studies, and he is detailed in a se- ries of videos for Chabad.org in 2017.

He became the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in London’s most Orthodox neigh- borhood in the late 70s and then the rabbi of the Marble Arch syna- gogue.

The U.K. Board of Deputies for British Jewish President Ma- rian van der Zyl also released a statement on Saturday.

Sacks was survived by his wife, Elaine; three children and sev- eral grandchildren.

The video was based on a 2016 speech Sacks delivered in British parliament, arguing for Jews as having proved to the Brit- ain’s adoption later that year of the International Holocaust Re- memberance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism. But the video went far be- yond political and social circles, and became symbolic of Sacks’ ability to reach main- stream audiences. Rachel Riley, a famous British Jewish show television host, last year shared the video, titling her over 600,000 Twitter followers for “fear of the future without you” and what he called a “pivotal mo- ment” in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, citing Thoma- as Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about return- ing a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University while a student for what he called Rabbi Menachem Schneerson — the spiritual leader who is credited with turning the Hasidic Chabad-Lubatvitch movement into a powerful organizing force of Jewish culture all over the world. New York City. Sacks credits this method with inspiring him to get involved with Jewish studies, and he is detailed in a se- ries of videos for Chabad.org in 2017.

He became the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in London’s most Orthodox neigh- borhood in the late 70s and then the rabbi of the Marble Arch syna- gogue.

The U.K. Board of Deputies for British Jewish President Ma- rian van der Zyl also released a statement on Saturday.

Sacks was survived by his wife, Elaine; three children and sev- eral grandchildren.

The video was based on a 2016 speech Sacks delivered in British parliament, arguing for Jews as having proved to the Brit- ain’s adoption later that year of the International Holocaust Re- memberance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism. But the video went far be- yond political and social circles, and became symbolic of Sacks’ ability to reach main- stream audiences. Rachel Riley, a famous British Jewish show television host, last year shared the video, titling her over 600,000 Twitter followers for “fear of the future without you” and what he called a “pivotal mo- moment” in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, citing Thoma- as Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about return- ing a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University while a student for what he called Rabbi Menachem Schneerson — the spiritual leader who is credited with turning the Hasidic Chabad-Lubatvitch movement into a powerful organizing force of Jewish culture all over the world. New York City. Sacks credits this method with inspiring him to get involved with Jewish studies, and he is detailed in a se- series of videos for Chabad.org in 2017.

He became the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in London’s most Orthodox neigh- borhood in the late 70s and then the rabbi of the Marble Arch syna- gogue.

The U.K. Board of Deputies for British Jewish President Ma- rian van der Zyl also released a statement on Saturday.

Sacks was survived by his wife, Elaine; three children and sev- eral grandchildren.

The video was based on a 2016 speech Sacks delivered in British parliament, arguing for Jews as having proved to the Brit- ain’s adoption later that year of the International Holocaust Re- memberance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism. But the video went far be- yond political and social circles, and became symbolic of Sacks’ ability to reach main- stream audiences. Rachel Riley, a famous British Jewish show television host, last year shared the video, titling her over 600,000 Twitter followers for “fear of the future without you” and what he called a “pivotal mo- moment” in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, citing Thoma- as Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about return- ing a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University while a student for what he called Rabbi Menachem Schneerson — the spiritual leader who is credited with turning the Hasidic Chabad-Lubatvitch movement into a powerful organizing force of Jewish culture all over the world. New York City. Sacks credits this method with inspiring him to get involved with Jewish studies, and he is detailed in a se- series of videos for Chabad.org in 2017.

He became the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in London’s most Orthodox neigh- borhood in the late 70s and then the rabbi of the Marble Arch syna- gogue.

The U.K. Board of Deputies for British Jewish President Ma- rian van der Zyl also released a statement on Saturday.

Sacks was survived by his wife, Elaine; three children and sev- eral grandchildren.

The video was based on a 2016 speech Sacks delivered in British parliament, arguing for Jews as having proved to the Brit- ain’s adoption later that year of the International Holocaust Re- memberance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism. But the video went far be- yond political and social circles, and became symbolic of Sacks’ ability to reach main- stream audiences. Rachel Riley, a famous British Jewish show television host, last year shared the video, titling her over 600,000 Twitter followers for “fear of the future without you” and what he called a “pivotal mo- moment” in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, citing Thoma- as Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about return- ing a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University while a student for what he called Rabbi Menachem Schneerson — the spiritual leader who is credited with turning the Hasidic Chabad-Lubatvich movement into a powerful organizing force of Jewish culture all over the world. New York City. Sacks credits this method with inspiring him to get involved with Jewish studies, and he is detailed in a se- series of videos for Chabad.org in 2017.

He became the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in London’s most Orthodox neigh- borhood in the late 70s and then the rabbi of the Marble Arch syna- gogue.

The U.K. Board of Deputies for British Jewish President Ma- rian van der Zyl also released a statement on Saturday.

Sacks was survived by his wife, Elaine; three children and sev- eral grandchildren.

The video was based on a 2016 speech Sacks delivered in British parliament, arguing for Jews as having proved to the Brit- ain’s adoption later that year of the International Holocaust Re- memberance Alliance’s definition of anti-Semitism. But the video went far be- yond political and social circles, and became symbolic of Sacks’ ability to reach main- stream audiences. Rachel Riley, a famous British Jewish show television host, last year shared the video, titling her over 600,000 Twitter followers for “fear of the future without you” and what he called a “pivotal mo- moment” in Western history after the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, citing Thoma- as Paine and anthropologists to make an argument about return- ing a culture of togetherness.

Born in London in 1948, Sacks studied at Cambridge University while a student for what he called Rabbi Menachem Schneerson — the spiritual leader who is credited with turning the Hasidic Chabad-Lubatvich movement into a powerful organizing force of Jewish culture all over the world. New York City. Sacks credits this method with inspiring him to get involved with Jewish studies, and he is detailed in a se- series of videos for Chabad.org in 2017.

He became the rabbi of the Great Synagogue in London’s most Orthodox neigh- borhood in the late 70s and then the rabbi of the Marble Arch syna- gogue.

The U.K. Board of Deputies for British Jewish President Ma- rian van der Zyl also released a statement on Saturday.

Sacks was survived by his wife, Elaine; three children and sev- eral grandchildren.
Bal Tashchit and Beyond: How Does Our Garden Grow

By Liz Weiler
The Shalom Park Community Garden is the most visible aspect of Shalom Green, the volunteer-led Shalom Park Environmental Initiative. The garden’s purpose is to be a hub for environmental education and to grow and harvest fresh produce for donation to community organizations. Usually bustling with activity, the garden hosts Shalom Park school groups for outdoor education. Families come to teach their children about growing vegetables, and volunteers come to get their hands dirty, meet like-minded individuals, and learn about gardening.

Despite the many challenges of 2020, the Shalom Park Community Garden had a bountiful harvest. More than 330 pounds of nutritious, fresh produce have been donated to community organizations. A special thank you to all the volunteers and families who took home a cutting from our garden.

The coincidence of the pandemic with the start of the growing season did not stop activities. Volunteer coordinators, and learn about gardening.

In the summer months, our garden coordinator worked with Camp Minyad youth to provide horticultural education while following Shalom Park social distancing and masking protocols. Their efforts helped with the garden’s summer production of tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, squash, zucchini, okra, and hot and bell peppers. Our garden coordinator leads monthly Garden Workdays, which resumed in August following health and safety protocols. In the fall, volunteers harvested figs and muscadine grapes and made jam for donation to the food pantry at Temple Beth El’s Virtual Mikvah Day in Mind.

Funding for the garden, including the salary of our garden coordinator and materials such as seeds, fertilizers, tools, and water, comes from allocations from The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and from private donations to the Shalom Green Fund via our fiscal sponsor, The Foundation of Shalom Green.

Shalom Green is currently in the middle of our 2021 Here We Grow fundraising campaign to raise $5,000 by December 31 to support our 2021 Garden Coordinator Fund. To make a donation to the Shalom Green Fund, please visit the Foundation of Shalom Park website at http://shalomgreenclt.org/ and click “Donate.” You can also support Shalom Green by participating in our annual Fig Tree Cutting event. On Sunday, December 6, join us between noon and 2 p.m. to drive through the porte-cochere at Building C to the garden and pick up a fig tree cutting with care instructions. The event is free and open to the public, with a suggested donation of $10 to support Shalom Green’s 2021 Garden Coordinator Fund. Please register in advance at the Shalom Green website, http://shalomgreenclt.org.

Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in donating your time or dollars to Shalom Green, please visit our website at shalomgreenclt.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on each of us. It has challenged our lives in the same way it has challenged our community. Our Levine JCC is not immune to the challenges of COVID-19 and the impact on us is significant.

In this difficult moment, the Levine Foundation has given us a new challenge—to raise one million dollars—generously agreeing to match your contributions dollar for dollar, and donating for every member who rejoins the JCC or deepens their support, up to $500,000 to ensure our J remains vibrant. In order to meet the challenge, it will take all of us working together.

The challenge has been underway for three months, and the response has been incredible! Over 200 members of our community have made donations to the campaign, totaling over $200,000! Of the over 100 members who have restored their membership or deepened their support by becoming Distinguished members, thank you!

We are also deeply grateful to the Leon Levine Foundation for their leadership in matching every donation made. The results have been outstanding. To date Over 100 members who have restored their membership or deepened their support by becoming Distinguished members, thank you!

You probably know by now that nearly 40% of our members have joined or re-engaged their membership since March, resulting in a multi-million dollar loss. Without a significant re-engagement of our membership, our Levine JCC is faced with continued and deepening challenges. To those who have restored members through the pandemic, thank you.

You may also be aware that due to restrictions put in place to ensure the health and safety of our community we were not able to offer many JCC programs and services throughout the pandemic. However, in order to respond to the present, and to create a more impactful future. And every week your child attends Camp, you ensure that a child with special needs attends several programs and services over the course of the summer. And there is no need to feel guilty. In the real world, people judge you because you’re different. But not at Camp SOAR. At Camp SOAR, everyone is the same and there is no judgement.

The J is vital to our community and is as vital as ever. By taking the One Million Dollar Challenge you double your impact to the community—it’s that simple.

Our hope is that by reactivating your membership, and upping your commitment to the JCC, you will be able to offer many of our programs and services over the course of the summer. And there is no need to feel guilty. In the real world, people judge you because you’re different. But not at Camp SOAR. At Camp SOAR, everyone is the same and there is no judgement.

The J is vital to our community and is as vital as ever. By taking the One Million Dollar Challenge you double your impact to the community—it’s that simple.

Our hope is that by reactivating your membership, and upping your commitment to the JCC, you will be able to offer many of our programs and services over the course of the summer. And there is no need to feel guilty. In the real world, people judge you because you’re different. But not at Camp SOAR. At Camp SOAR, everyone is the same and there is no judgement.
Local Schools Confront Bias and Prejudice

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.

As you begin to mark your calendars for the month ahead, consider yourself invited to our Intensive Programming event, “Rabbi Me and White Supremacy,” on Sunday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. (ET) at 99 Jews. Click here to find out more.
Awesome Feminist Hanukkah Tradition

Middle Eastern and North African— that women and girls from Jewish women. The festival in Turkey, this day is filled with acrobatics, dance, and music. In Jerusalem last year, I...
Member Spotlight: Al Rogat

By Shelley Pearle

It might surprise those who know me, but I haven’t always been a firm believer in the importance of truly getting to know people for who they are. Does that make you gasp? I think because it is possible you may have similar issues and not even realize it. I had to learn many times by my own mistakes that I judged people before truly getting to know them. In the corporate world it is called “unconscious bias.” We all have it. I still find myself growing impatient and becoming exhausted at times when trying to listen to and understand different points of view, especially when others don’t want to take the time to listen to me and understand my perspective. It is helpful for us to be aware of these biases, especially now during these times when so much seems to divide us.

The lesson was reinforced when I met Al Rogat, a member of our congregation. At first I judged Al based on superficial perspective. It is helpful for us to be aware of these biases, especially now during these times when so much seems to divide us. Al has been a longtime supporter of public TV and radio. He enjoys a variety of PBS programs, especially Washington Week, Frontline, Great Performances, NOVA, Independent Lens, as well as many nature and science-related shows. He loves that there are four PBS performance channels in the Carolinas, including creative arts, including performances, NOVA, Independent Lens, as well as many nature and science-related shows. He loves that there are four PBS performance channels in the Carolinas, including creative arts, including performances, NOVA, Independent Lens, as well as many nature and science-related shows.

He has been a generous donor to our congregation and purchased most of our first siddurim. When we needed a station in the Fort Mill area, Al went beyond asking to donate a refrigerator to Pad Haven used to house victims of human trafficking. Al is also working on Temple Solel’s mask-sorting project in response to COVID. Al believes that you don’t have to be wealthy to be generous with your time, friendship, or finances. He encourages others to have a legacy gift emphasizing that anyone can do it. “Regardless of your current financial situation, a gift from your estate will not affect your lifestyle, but it will be a lasting way to support worthwhile endeavors.” He adds, “Of course, it can be afforded now, as well as leaving a legacy gift, that’s even better.” Al speaks frequently about what he learned growing up from relatives who passed along their Jewish traditions and passion for the creative arts, including his father, Stan, who also did glasswork and was the president of their Temple for many years. The greatest lesson I learned from Al is that we can disagree and still be friends. We can talk about things openly and not be afraid to be judged. Al is a true mensch, and this member highlight isn’t just to honor him, but to serve as an example to all of us.

Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month via Zoom. We also have an abbreviated service on the first and third Fridays. We hope to resume services when appropriate at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelly Mail Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. For more information, see templesolelSC.org, write us at info@templesolelSC.org or call 803-610-1707.

Member Spotlight: Al Rogat

Al Rogat

Al Rogat was born and raised in Long Island, where he learned growing up from relatives who passed along their Jewish traditions and passion for the creative arts. He has been a firm believer in the importance of truly getting to know people for who they are. He has been a generous donor to our congregation and purchased most of our first siddurim. When we needed a station in the Fort Mill area, Al went beyond asking to donate a refrigerator to Pad Haven used to house victims of human trafficking. Al is also working on Temple Solel’s mask-sorting project in response to COVID.

Al believes that you don’t have to be wealthy to be generous with your time, friendship, or finances. He encourages others to have a legacy gift emphasizing that anyone can do it. “Regardless of your current financial situation, a gift from your estate will not affect your lifestyle, but it will be a lasting way to support worthwhile endeavors.” He adds, “Of course, it can be afforded now, as well as leaving a legacy gift, that’s even better.” Al speaks frequently about what he learned growing up from relatives who passed along their Jewish traditions and passion for the creative arts, including his father, Stan, who also did glasswork and was the president of their Temple for many years.

The greatest lesson I learned from Al is that we can disagree and still be friends. We can talk about things openly and not be afraid to be judged. Al is a true mensch, and this member highlight isn’t just to honor him, but to serve as an example to all of us.

Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month via Zoom. We also have an abbreviated service on the first and third Fridays. We hope to resume services when appropriate at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelly Mail Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. For more information, see templesolelSC.org, write us at info@templesolelSC.org or call 803-610-1707.

Do you want to receive a check for $27,000? Or $12,000? Or even $1,600?

Hadley Perry has actually written checks to real clients for these amounts in the past few weeks. The cash you need may just be minutes away at Perry’s Diamonds & Estate Jewelry.

Hayley Perry has actually written checks to real clients for these amounts in the past few weeks. The cash you need may just be minutes away at Perry’s Diamonds & Estate Jewelry.

We buy: New jewelry - Designer jewelry - Diamonds - Silver in ANY condition - Estate and vintage pieces - Unique and antique jewelry items in ANY condition even broken.

We pay top dollar.

Call 803-624-3101 or visit our website.

Perry’s Jewelry

4223 Providence Rd in the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center

Perry’s Jewelry

4223 Providence Rd in the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center

Open for business in AND OUT OF TOWN

*Perry’s Jewelry located at 6525 Manchester Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28211.

Perry’s Jewelry

4223 Providence Rd in the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center

Open for business in AND OUT OF TOWN

*Perry’s Jewelry located at 6525 Manchester Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28211.

Perry’s Jewelry

4223 Providence Rd in the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center

Open for business in AND OUT OF TOWN

*Perry’s Jewelry located at 6525 Manchester Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28211.

Perry’s Jewelry

4223 Providence Rd in the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center

Open for business in AND OUT OF TOWN

*Perry’s Jewelry located at 6525 Manchester Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28211.
Reimagining our Rededication

By Rabbi Beth Nichols, Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning

It is hard to imagine the emotions the Maccabees felt as they stepped back on the Temple grounds. Perhaps they felt joy to be returning to a sacred space; perhaps they felt sadness for the years of worship missed, or perhaps they felt anxiety at the work still to be done. These possible emotions resemble the mixed emotions we ourselves hold as we slowly return to our sacred spaces. Our sanctuaries, of course, have not been desecrated by pagan statues or sacrifices, but we too have been prevented from gathering in our houses of worship. The Maccabees were able to overcome a formidable enemy, and we, I pray, will soon defeat a daunting virus.

I wish that this comparison could end with our Jewish community rededicating our sanctuaries and celebrating together for eight days. But unfortunately, the continued threat of COVID-19 demands that we seek out a different kind of Chanukah — a different form of “dedication” this year. We should not gather for Chanukah parties filled with children, have latke-making events where dozens of cooks fill the kitchen, or gather for concerts featuring our Chanukah favorites. Chanukah, in fact, does not need any of these joyous traditions to convey its messages. Chanukah means “dedication,” and we can dedicate ourselves in new ways this year; we can reimagine our rededication.

Rabbi Harold Schulweis taught, “The Chanukah lights remind us that miracles are as real as the transforming power of ideals.” His words remind us that Chanukah is a story of standing up for our ideals. Tradition teaches us not only to kindle the Chanukah lights in our homes but also to place in our windows for all to see. Chanukah prompts us to both physically and metaphorically “shine the light” for others to see. Where do you want to shine your light? What causes need our attention? What injustices need our voices speaking out against them?

On Chanukah, we bless God for performing wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season. This Chanukah, may we add to this blessing by partnering with God to perform wondrous deeds in our times. May we “shine the light” and inspire transformation.

Shine the Light

Chanukah with Temple Beth El

Celebrate Together

Nightly Candle Lighting
Thursday, December 10 – Thursday, December 17 | 6:00pm
Join us on Facebook @TBECLT

Shabbat and Chanukah Service
Friday, December 11 | 6:00pm

Tot Shabbat Chanukah
Saturday, December 12 | 9:00am

Epic Chanukiyah Contest Tour
Saturday, December 12 | 1:00pm
Sunday, December 13 | 11:00am

The Magic of Chanukah: Let’s Make 2020 Disappear!
Saturday, December 12 | 7:15pm
Presented by Tribes (Small Groups at TBE)

WWW.TBECLTGWATAY.COM

Chanukkah Blessings

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivanu l’hadlik ner shel Chanukah.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu bayamim haheim baz’man hazeh.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

For first night only
Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v’kiy’manu v’higianu laz’man hazeh.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.
Celebrating Hanukkah

CELEBRATING HANUKKAH IN GREATER CHARLOTTE

By Wendy Gordon-Pate
Statesville, NC (November 10, 2020)

Statesville’s Congregation Emanuel synagoge, built in 1892, was illuminated on the evening of November 9 to commemorate Kristallnacht, Crystal Night, the Night of Broken Glass. Kristallnacht’s name symbolizes how the streets were covered with broken glass from all the Jewish windows. #LetThereBeLight campaign’s message was one of hope, to illuminate the world against the darkness of hate. #LetThereBeLight inspired synagogues worldwide to leave on lights with a promise of hate. #LetThereBeLight captured the Jewish windows. #LetThereBeLight.

Congregation Emanuel is home to Holocaust survivors and to the families of Holocaust survivors. Congregants who were born in Dusseldorf, Germany, fled the Nazis but not before losing family members and witnessing unspeakable horrors, once remarked that Congregation Emanuel is a real duplicate of the synagogue in their hometown of Dusseldorf, which the Nazis destroyed on Kristallnacht. On this night, the government-ordered “popular wrath”—destroys everything known to be Jewish. The official Nazi order from Reinhard Heydrich read, “Places of business and apartments belonging to Jews may be destroyed. Non-Jewish businesses are [to be] completely protected against damage (and) the demonstrations are not to be prevented by the Police. As many Jews as can be accommodated in existing prisons are to be arrested.” Heydrich added, “The concentration camps are to be contacted immediately for prompt accommodation of the Jews in the concentration camps.”

For many citizens of Düren, a total of 1,150 Jewish synagogues were burnt to the ground or destroyed; 91 Jews were killed; 30,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps; 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed. Torahs were burned. Jewish cemeteries were destroyed. Houses were sacked, often by neighbors and acquaintances of the victims.

Across Germany and Austria, the Jewish synagogues were burnt to the ground or destroyed; 91 Jews were killed; 30,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps; 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed. Torahs were burned. Jewish cemeteries were destroyed. Houses were sacked, often by neighbors and acquaintances of the victims.

As 2020 comes to a close, we wish you a healthy (secular) new year! Wishing you a happy and healthy (secular) new year! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation composed of Jews from diverse backgrounds.

Safe Social Gatherings Help Keep Us Together

By Dave Burack

The term “social distancing” has become part of the vernacular these days. At Temple Kol Ami, we prefer to say “physical distancing” because we have found ways to be safely socially together.

In September, we came together for a lovely Sukkah picnic hosted by TKA congregants David and Rebecca Burack. With the help of hand sanitizer and masks, we enjoyed picnics on a beautiful fall day. We kept our six-foot distance but were still able to celebrate our holiday.

We again gathered outdoors on November 7 to bid farewell with Heshvik and some social distancing. We also socialized with fellow congregants while staying safe. Knowing the days will grow colder, we knew we had to take advantage of the crisp autumn days. It was a wonderful evening of yummy treats, prayer, and conversation.

Temple Kol Ami continues to observe Shabbat with Zoom services. A recent poll of our congregants while staying safe. As many Jews as can be accommodated in existing prisons are to be arrested.” Heydrich added, “The concentration camps are to be contacted immediately for prompt accommodation of the Jews in the concentration camps.”

For many citizens of Düren, a total of 1,150 Jewish synagogues were burnt to the ground or destroyed; 91 Jews were killed; 30,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps; 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed. Torahs were burned. Jewish cemeteries were destroyed. Houses were sacked, often by neighbors and acquaintances of the victims.

As 2020 comes to a close, we wish you a healthy (secular) new year! Wishing you a happy and healthy (secular) new year! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation composed of Jews from diverse backgrounds.

Safe Social Gatherings Help Keep Us Together

By Dave Burack

The term “social distancing” has become part of the vernacular these days. At Temple Kol Ami, we prefer to say “physical distancing” because we have found ways to be safely socially together.

In September, we came together for a lovely Sukkah picnic hosted by TKA congregants David and Rebecca Burack. With the help of hand sanitizer and masks, we enjoyed picnics on a beautiful fall day. We kept our six-foot distance but were still able to celebrate our holiday.

We again gathered outdoors on November 7 to bid farewell with Heshvik and some social distancing. We also socialized with fellow congregants while staying safe. Knowing the days will grow colder, we knew we had to take advantage of the crisp autumn days. It was a wonderful evening of yummy treats, prayer, and conversation.

Temple Kol Ami continues to observe Shabbat with Zoom services. A recent poll of our congregants while staying safe. As many Jews as can be accommodated in existing prisons are to be arrested.” Heydrich added, “The concentration camps are to be contacted immediately for prompt accommodation of the Jews in the concentration camps.”

For many citizens of Düren, a total of 1,150 Jewish synagogues were burnt to the ground or destroyed; 91 Jews were killed; 30,000 Jews were thrown into concentration camps; 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed. Torahs were burned. Jewish cemeteries were destroyed. Houses were sacked, often by neighbors and acquaintances of the victims.

As 2020 comes to a close, we wish you a healthy (secular) new year! Wishing you a happy and healthy (secular) new year! We are a warm and inclusive Reform congregation composed of Jews from diverse backgrounds.
### Celebrating Chanukah

By Rabbi Dr. Grover

The lights of Chanukah will shine for eight days this year, as they will illuminate the holiday of Chanukah event on Sunday, December 13.

The theme of this year’s event will be “The Magic of Chanukah: A Time of Joy, Hope, and Love.” The celebration will feature music, dance, storytelling, and the lighting of the menorah. The event will conclude with a special prayer for world peace.

### Jewish Ballantyne

#### Light Up the Night at Stonecrest
- **Date**: Sunday, December 13
- **Time**: 5:30 p.m.
- **Location**: SouthPark mall
- **Description**: A light show will take place in the parking lot of the SouthPark mall.

#### Waxhaw Menorah Lighting
- **Date**: Tuesday, December 15
- **Time**: 5:30 p.m.
- **Location**: Waxhaw Menorah Lighting on Sunday, December 13, and will celebrate Chanukah on December 14, 2020.

#### Jewish Birthday Box
- **Date**: Monday, December 21
- **Time**: 5:30 p.m.
- **Location**: Jewish Birthday Box on Sunday, December 13, and will celebrate Chanukah on December 14, 2020.

The celebration will feature music, dance, storytelling, and the lighting of the menorah. The event will conclude with a special prayer for world peace.

### U Matters: Selected Pairs

Better Together in a Box, which is modeled after the Four-Year Better Together program, is designed to encourage young Jews to make meaningful connections with each other and build a sense of community. The program is open to all Jewish teenagers and young adults between the ages of 17 and 24.

Better Together in a Box includes several components, including:

1. **Virtual Meetings**: Participants in the program will have the opportunity to participate in virtual meetings with their assigned pairs.

2. **One-on-One Meetings**: Participants will have the opportunity to have one-on-one meetings with their assigned pairs.

3. **Interfaith Activities**: Participants will have the opportunity to participate in interfaith activities that will help them build connections across different faith traditions.

4. **Social Events**: Participants will have the opportunity to attend social events together, such as conferences, retreats, and other local events.

5. **Resident Support**: Participants will have access to resident support throughout the program, including guidance and support for their participation.

The program is open to all Jewish teenagers and young adults between the ages of 17 and 24.

### Jewish Ballantyne

**Address**: 2200 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277

**Phone**: 704-796-3070

**Website**: www.jewishballantyne.com

**Email**: info@jewishballantyne.com

**Social Media**: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn

### Jewish Ballantyne

**Address**: 2200 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277

**Phone**: 704-796-3070

**Website**: www.jewishballantyne.com

**Email**: info@jewishballantyne.com

**Social Media**: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn

### Jewish Ballantyne

**Address**: 2200 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277

**Phone**: 704-796-3070

**Website**: www.jewishballantyne.com

**Email**: info@jewishballantyne.com

**Social Media**: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn

---

**By Rabbi Dr. Grover**

**Light Up the Night at Stonecrest**
- **Date**: Sunday, December 13, and will celebrate Chanukah on December 14, 2020.

#### Waxhaw Menorah Lighting
- **Date**: Tuesday, December 15
- **Time**: 5:30 p.m.
- **Location**: Waxhaw Menorah Lighting on Sunday, December 13, and will celebrate Chanukah on December 14, 2020.

#### Jewish Birthday Box
- **Date**: Monday, December 21
- **Time**: 5:30 p.m.
- **Location**: Jewish Birthday Box on Sunday, December 13, and will celebrate Chanukah on December 14, 2020.

The celebration will feature music, dance, storytelling, and the lighting of the menorah. The event will conclude with a special prayer for world peace.
New Year Resolutions Aren’t About What You “Should Do”

By Bonnie Bonomo

Recently, I’ve started to think more about the benefits of social contact, green spaces, and the reasons why we all should be doing more of them. Across the country, we hear about the benefits of outdoor activities for mental health and wellness. During the summer and fall months, we often encourage people to get out and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.

But what about winter? While we all know that outdoor activities can be limited during the colder months, there are still ways to enjoy the outdoors and benefit from its calming effects.

So what are some winter activities that you can do to improve your mental health and wellness? Here are a few ideas:

• Go for a walk or hike in the woods
• Visit a garden center or local nursery
• Join a local book club and read books that inspire you
• Volunteer at a local animal shelter or pet rescue
• Participate in a winter sport like snowboarding or skiing

Remember, the most important thing is to find activities that you enjoy and that make you feel good. Whether it’s a simple walk in the park or a more challenging outdoor activity, the key is to be active and engage with nature.

By Peter Levinson

As Wendy Garden notes, “Many of us face the challenge of finding new ways to stay connected with family and friends.” In today’s virtual world, it’s more important than ever to make an effort to stay connected and maintain healthy relationships.

In this article, we’ll explore some tips and strategies for staying connected with loved ones, even when we can’t be together in person.

1. Schedule regular check-ins

Set aside a specific time each week to catch up with loved ones. Whether it’s a phone call, video chat, or text message, make sure to keep up with each other and stay informed about each other’s lives.

2. Share your experiences

When you’re with someone, try to be present and engage fully. Ask questions, listen actively, and offer your own thoughts and opinions.

3. Be patient and understanding

When you’re dealing with stress or emotions, it can be easy to become impatient or critical of others. Try to approach these situations with patience and understanding, and focus on what you can do to support each other.

By Rabbi Rachel Smolicki

As many of us plan our New Year’s resolutions, it’s important to remember that these goals are not just about what we want to accomplish, but also about the process of achieving them.

One of the keys to success in any endeavor is to focus on the journey and not just on the destination. This means setting realistic expectations and being patient with ourselves as we work towards our goals.

When we set unrealistic expectations, we put ourselves on a path that is likely to lead to feelings of disappointment and anxiety. By setting realistic goals and being patient with ourselves, we can avoid these negative emotions and enjoy the process of achieving our goals.

In addition, it’s important to remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. By focusing on the process, we can learn more about ourselves and develop new skills and perspectives.

Finally, it’s important to remember that the journey is not always easy. There will be times when we face challenges and setbacks. But by staying focused and determined, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to grow and learn.

By Helen Levine

As we look forward to the new year, let’s remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. By focusing on the process, we can learn more about ourselves and develop new skills and perspectives.

In addition, it’s important to remember that the journey is not always easy. There will be times when we face challenges and setbacks. But by staying focused and determined, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to grow and learn.

By Rabbi Rachel Smolicki

As many of us plan our New Year’s resolutions, it’s important to remember that these goals are not just about what we want to accomplish, but also about the process of achieving them.

One of the keys to success in any endeavor is to focus on the journey and not just on the destination. This means setting realistic expectations and being patient with ourselves as we work towards our goals.

When we set unrealistic expectations, we put ourselves on a path that is likely to lead to feelings of disappointment and anxiety. By setting realistic goals and being patient with ourselves, we can avoid these negative emotions and enjoy the process of achieving our goals.

In addition, it’s important to remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. By focusing on the process, we can learn more about ourselves and develop new skills and perspectives.

Finally, it’s important to remember that the journey is not always easy. There will be times when we face challenges and setbacks. But by staying focused and determined, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to grow and learn.

By Helen Levine

As we look forward to the new year, let’s remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. By focusing on the process, we can learn more about ourselves and develop new skills and perspectives.

In addition, it’s important to remember that the journey is not always easy. There will be times when we face challenges and setbacks. But by staying focused and determined, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to grow and learn.

By Rabbi Rachel Smolicki

As many of us plan our New Year’s resolutions, it’s important to remember that these goals are not just about what we want to accomplish, but also about the process of achieving them.

One of the keys to success in any endeavor is to focus on the journey and not just on the destination. This means setting realistic expectations and being patient with ourselves as we work towards our goals.

When we set unrealistic expectations, we put ourselves on a path that is likely to lead to feelings of disappointment and anxiety. By setting realistic goals and being patient with ourselves, we can avoid these negative emotions and enjoy the process of achieving our goals.

In addition, it’s important to remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. By focusing on the process, we can learn more about ourselves and develop new skills and perspectives.

Finally, it’s important to remember that the journey is not always easy. There will be times when we face challenges and setbacks. But by staying focused and determined, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to grow and learn.

By Helen Levine

As we look forward to the new year, let’s remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. By focusing on the process, we can learn more about ourselves and develop new skills and perspectives.

In addition, it’s important to remember that the journey is not always easy. There will be times when we face challenges and setbacks. But by staying focused and determined, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to grow and learn.
Love and Creativity At the Heart of CJP

By Lauren Althoff

The Charlotte Jewish Pre-school (CJP) has been home to my family for the past eight years. In that time, the incredible teachers and staff at the CJP have helped our family through many challenges. They helped us through potty training, they identified when one of my children needed occupational therapy. They helped my children overcome their fears and curb their ears when terrified of fire alarms. They have wiped countless tears. Most importantly, the CJP has solidified to my children the importance of Judaism and our wonderful community at Shalom Park. My children are proud to be Jewish and proud to be a part of this community, and I have no doubt that this came from their time at the CJP.

When I look back to some of my favorite memories of my children’s time at the CJP, I identify two underlying themes — the unconditional love the teachers and staff give to all the children and the unbelievable creativity used to weave Judaism into every single lesson and activity while making it fun.

Creativity used to weave Judaism into every single lesson and activity while making it fun.

These are the memories that have helped our family through countless tears. Most importantly, the CJP has provided safe, reliable childcare and a sense of normalcy for parents and their children when that is what is most needed right now. Even in these unprecedented times, the CJP is managing to mold and create passionate little people who will continue to love Judaism and our Charlotte Jewish community long after they graduate from preschool.

The 2020-2021 school year has been like no other; at the same time, it has been just as wonderful as every other year we have spent at CJP. While there are temperature checks and protocol questions at check-in, and parents can no longer walk their child into their classroom, the magic is still very much there. Children continue to learn and grow through play and art. With his classmates, my three-year-old has gone on a rocket ship adventure to space-flight that has harvested fruits and vegetables in the garden, gone on countless nature hikes, and so much more.

The CJP has provided safe, reliable childcare and a sense of normalcy for parents and their children when that is what is most needed right now. Even in these unprecedented times, the CJP is managing to mold and create passionate little people who will continue to love Judaism and our Charlotte Jewish community long after they graduate from preschool.

Last year, my son’s 2s class experienced the ultimate outcome. It is also an expression of joy when they continue to love Judaism and our Charlotte Jewish community long after they graduate from preschool.

(Continued from page 26)

Jewish Day School is Good for Your Health

By Mariashi Groner

Attending a Jewish day school can be good for your health.

A study from Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health, first reported in Forbes, finds that kids and teens who are raised with religious or spiritual practices tend to have better physical and mental health as they age. Interestingly, the findings showed that how much a person prayed or meditated on their own time was at least as important as how often they attended religious services. Those who prayed or meditated every day had more life satisfaction, were better able to process emotions, and were more forgiving compared with those who never prayed or meditated.

At Charlotte Jewish Day School (CJDS), we don’t have to look far for religious and spiritual opportunities to provide our children. Judaism and spirituality are infused in each student’s day — in the classrooms, the hallways, and even the cafeteria. They learn that being Jewish is who they are. They experience it practically and mindfully and are proud of it!

The results of the study come as no surprise to me. I have seen the effect of teaching Judaism to our students. I have seen students turn to their prayer book and pray in times of discomfort and heartache. I have seen moments of delight when they recognize the chain of which they are a part. And I have experienced the most beautiful expressions of joy when they appreciate the incredible gift of Judaism.

As parents seek the most suitable placement for their young kindergarteners children, we at CJDS continue to educate the community regarding the treasure we offer the Jewish children and families in our community. We recognize how important this decision is and how many factors play into the ultimate outcome. It is also an appreciation of joy when they appreciate the incredible gift of Judaism.
Share your thoughts on teaching, your education, your experience, or any other topic that you feel passionate about. Your insights can be valuable to others in the field of education. If you have a story to share, feel free to submit it, and it will be considered for publication. We look forward to hearing from you and learning more about your experiences. This can be an excellent opportunity to reflect on your journey, share your thoughts, and engage with others who are passionate about education.
Giving in the Time of COVID

By Marcie Goldberg

As 2020 nears an end, we cannot help but reflect on the changes Hebrew High has faced as a supplemental program on Wednesday nights. It would be so simple just to say we switched from in-person classes to virtual classes. How hard can that be?

The reality of switching to virtual classes affects teachers in different ways. We thought it would be interesting to survey both teachers to see what the teachers’ responses were to a few questions about the challenges teachers now face.

James Zacks wrote: “Although I prefer teaching in person, teaching Jewish Cooking is working very well virtually. I feel connect- ed to the students over Zoom, and everyone seems to be having a lot of fun during class. Also, all the students get to make their own recipes, which they get to share with their families after class each week. With on-line teaching, I am able to have the students cook the entire recipe at home. This allows us to make a new recipe every week, providing a new twist on traditional recipes each week. An extra bonus for me is that I only need to clean up after myself at the end of class!”

Jennifer Bawyer wrote: “When we first started teaching online, I felt like I was in front of a bunch of potatoes—many eyes, but no voices. It is a lot like try- ing to start a conversation in a random stereo on an elevator. I quickly realized (with horror) that my teaching style depended heavily on the give and take between teacher and student. After the first few minutes of uncomfortable silences, a student began to reply to my questions, and suddenly everyone was engaged.

By the end of class, they were much more comfortable. From this, I have learned that it takes longer for kids to open up and bond over Zoom, but it does eventually happen. Although I totally believe that teaching on-line is the best choice right now, it has been a challenge for me, partially because I do not get to see my kids, offer them a hug or give them a fist bump for a great answer. In addition, I am the type of teacher who loves experiential learning, and my classes have always included fun hands-on projects. Online lessons are go- ing well, but I still look forward to the day we can once again sing hotdog water ballads at Gilboa, humbly Joseph, and give each other henna tat- tos.”

When we asked students why they decided to sign up, many of them said because they love it, even if it is online. A few students commented that they felt they could keep the same friends and continue to be involved in their Jewish communi- ty. “I decided to take Hebrew High even though I knew that it was going to be virtual because I really missed my friends. Hebrew High allows us to have a time when we can hang out and connect with our friends, even when we cannot see them in person. I also missed my Jewish education. Hebrew High allows me to continue to experience Judaism even though it’s not exactly the same,” said Rossi Smolowitz, 9th grade.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.

When asked whether students prefer Hebrew High online or in person, the most common response was in person. Rossi Smolowitz said, “I prefer Hebrew High in person because it is more fun. In person, we have more friends and teachers in person. Of course, we are still able to do it online, but being able to eat dinner, take classes, and have a cookie party each week in person with our friends is the best.”

We cannot say enough about our teachers and our students. While our overall registrati- on numbers are down due to COVID, we have reimagined, redesigned, reinvented, red- uced, and resurrected Hebrew High to its new Zoom format, and the result has been amazing. The commitment and dedication from our teachers and the spirit and willingness of our students of having Hebrew High online is the feeling that they are all in this together. They also said that everyone was adapting well and that their teachers were very pa- tient. They added that they like to be able to relax from school.
Hadasah Invites You to 2021 Events

Nancy Kerstein has kindly volunteered for many years to send out beautiful Hadasah cards for births, illnesses, sympathy, and other life events. You would like to send your family or loved one a personalized card? Please call Nancy at 704-495-6031.

Do you know someone who wants to connect with a fabulous volunteer? Please call Nancy at random...@random.com.

Beatrice T. Shevat, the "New Year of the Trees." Please join Hadasah CLT on January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 17, and June 14 at 11 a.m. for our "First Fruits" event — and you're invited! 

When our children were young, we made shark stories and sang shark songs, and our block decided that the best way to socialize and get to know each other was to throw a shark-themed end of the school year party. Of course, we picked a hot day, but I still look forward to lighting Hanukkah and lit the menorah, experiencing a loss? Hadassah to help console and center us, to help us find our place in the world again. For more information about this Zoom event, please email Nancy at ran...@random.com.

Join us for a Hanukkah event — and you're invited! Hadassah Charlotte’s "Dreidel, Menorah, Money, and Rice.

Wishing you peace, love, and joy on the Hanukkah Season.

Cooking is Caring

The Hebrew Cemetery: A Caring Bridge

By Steve Firestone

What do you think of when you think of food? I probably think of pasta and cans of soup and beans. You probably don’t think of brochet or chicken and rice. But that’s because you might be unaware of the work of the volunteers who make food for those in need.

In 2008, a handful of volunteers, known as the Circle of Caring, began cooking packets of an overall meal in their homes and would then gather in Judy Kaufman’s kitchen to come, assemble, and package the meals, which were then delivered to the elderly, pregnant women in need, and families in the Jewish community.

Very quickly, another special volunteer emerged — Penny Keiger, who has been an organizing force ever since.

For many of the group, volunteering together has been a way to socialize with the giving back to the local community. Elisa Vinog, who began volunteering six years ago as a way to get involved after moving to Charlotte, stresses that it is not uncommon to see families with as many as 19 volunteers showing up on one occasion.

WALTONWOOD.COM | SINGHCAREERS.COM

December 9th
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at Waltonwood Cotswold
RSVP 704-495-6031

Assisted Living and Memory Care
5215 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

December 10th
2 - 4 p.m.
at Waltonwood Providence
RSVP 704-246-3055

Innovative Living, Assisted Living & Memory Care
11945 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277

WALTONWOOD.COM | SINGHCAREERS.COM

11945 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277

December 9th
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at Waltonwood Cotswold
RSVP 704-495-6031

Assisted Living and Memory Care
5215 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

December 10th
2 - 4 p.m.
at Waltonwood Providence
RSVP 704-246-3055

Innovative Living, Assisted Living & Memory Care
11945 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28277
W.O.W. Recaps 2020 While Planning For 2021

We continued our learning on November 29 with an insightful book discussion about Mitch Albom’s book “Have a Little Faith.” We hope that you were able to join us for some of our 2020 events. We have something for everyone, and we continue to learn all the time!

What’s left for 2020? Did someone say food? Our Charlotte Jewish News, they will spend at least 60 hours together in one kitchen or another before Shavuot, baker extraordinaire Janis Zacks hooked up two cameras in her kitchen to teach us how to make delicious blintzes. Ever since, my family has been clamoring for more blintzes. Over the summer, our annual hamantaschen event continues to delight with Rabbi O in January: 5,000 oil that are cornucopia for your table, led by the creative June Hirschmann. We look forward to seeing you on December 15! Join us and continue to learn all the time!

Looking Back

Newspaper archives are a treasure trove of collective memories and experiences, providing a snapshot of our history. The Charlotte Jewish News has been in print since 1979, providing a nearly bottomless opportunity to delve into the history of the greater Charlotte Jewish community. The following is an excerpt from an article originally printed in the Charlotte Observer sometime after 1979.

Rita Mond and Ann Langman sort papers, edit stories, type and talk. Phone calls and meetings for creating a beautiful publication are made. Three times a year, twice in October and once for camp schedules, the newspaper is put together. Each edition is created to improve the community more cooperatively. They already know dreams and continue to improve it all the time.

The “right” time came when the Jewish community more co-operated. They already know dreams and they can be self-sustaining. “I think it has made the Jewish community more cooperative,” said Mrs. Mond. “We try to improve it all the time, and we strive each issue to do something a little different.”

Three sponsors pay the $100 to $600 cost of each of the paper’s 11 editions a year (June and July are combined). Advertising from Jews and non-Jews help cut costs, but the 1,600 copies are free to readers. Three times a year, twice for class schedules at JCC and once for camp schedules, 2,200 copies are sent out.

Most of Charlotte’s Jewish population receives the paper, as do non-Jews who are center members. Some readers live in Gastonia, Hickory and Rock Hill, N.C.
ONE MILLION DOLLAR
CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

Your J Needs You Now!

The Leon Levine Foundation has generously agreed to match us dollar for dollar up to $500,000! You donate. They match. It doubles. You join the J, or unfreeze your membership. They match. It doubles. You upgrade your membership. They match. It doubles. It’s that simple.

“Over these past eight months we have seen the value and power of community, we all need community now more than ever.”
Peter Blair
LEVINE JCC CEO

“Reactivating your Membership:
Call 704-944-6737 or visit www.charlottejcc.org/join

Upgrade your Membership Level:
Call 704-944-6737 or visit www.charlottejcc.org/update

Make a Donation:
www.charlottejcc.org/donate

MAKE THIS MOMENT COUNT! HERE’S HOW:

LJCC TENNIS

LJCC CULTURAL ARTS

LJCC BUTTERFLY PROJECT

Your J Membership not only supports this...

...it also supports this.

Your J Membership not only supports this...

...it also supports this.

thank you