Even in Uncertain Times, We Are Better Together

Donate Today to the 2020 Annual Campaign

The Greater Charlotte Jewish community has a strong culture of philanthropy and as the 2020 Annual Campaign continues, it is a time to think about Rabbi Hil- lel’s famous quote, “If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?” The time is now to think of our collective identities as Jewish people and our need to support each other. These last few months have seen an incredible outpouring of support for our Jewish community. Thanks to many of you, we have been able to sustain our beneficiary agencies through the challenges they are facing. However, there is more work to be done as the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign continues on the Road to $5 Million.

As our community begins to reopen, we will be looking to you to provide the support our community needs as the recovery process ensues. Many depend on local Jewish organizations to provide social and economic services. Those organizations depend on Federation for support. We of course depend on you. The Road to $5 Million is not just a number. It is what we need to continue the work that we do. If you have not already done so, please make your 2020 Annual Campaign commitment today at www.jewishcharlotte.org or mail your donation to Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, 5007 Providence Rd., Ste. 101, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Temple Israel Welcomes New Rabbi

From Long Island via Louisville, Rabbi Michael Wolk Will Come to Charlotte in July

By Amy Krakovitz

Michael Wolk recognizes the uniqueness of Shalom Park. As the new senior pulpit rabbi at Temple Israel, he is looking forward to working in a community that is already accustomed to working together. “There’s a great deal of value for a smaller community to recognize that our way of being Jewish is not the only way, and that we have so much in common with other Jews.”

Born and raised in Plainview, NY, he grew up in a household where his father was the Cantor of the local Conservative shul. “My Jewish upbringing was very intense,” he admits. “We were Shomer Kashrut and Shomer Shabbos. I attended a Jewish day school till I graduated high school and I spent many years visiting relatives in Israel.”

After receiving dual Bachelors degrees from Columbia and the Jewish Theological Seminary, Wolk spent several years in Jewish communal work at synagogues in Ohio and New York state. He was ordained by JTS in 2012 and has served at Keneseth Yisrael in Louisville, KY ever since.

His move from a small metropolitan area to Charlotte affords him the opportunity to establish allegiances to professional sports franchises. “I am really a baseball fan, I love the Mets. As far as basketball goes, I am a Knicks fan and I’m grateful to find a new team in the Hornets.” He understands, too, the graceful balance in supporting college teams. “I carefully navigated between University of Louisville and University of Kentucky. I think I understand the delicacy needed to weigh allegiances to UNC and Duke,” he joked.

And has all his time in Kentucky given him a favorite bourbon? Not surprisingly, his choice is a small batch label whose brand evokes Biblical connections, Noah’s Mill.

But more seriously, Wolk is fully cognizant of the challenges ahead for him during a time of Shelter In Place and a dangerous pandemic. “My wildest and craziest wish is that we can all be back together inside the shul,” he says, “but at this point we just don’t know when we’ll be back to normal.”

The synagogue leadership is looking forward to Rabbi Wolk’s arrival. “Temple Israel is eager to welcome Senior Rabbi Michael Wolk, his wife, Heidi, and children, Klara Rose and Julia to our community,” said Temple Israel’s president, David Rosenthal. “As Temple Israel’s 21st Rabbi, against the backdrop of COVID-19, our kehillah anticipates a renaissance and renewed energy under his rabbinic leadership, inspiring all to enjoy meaningful relationships with one another, the broader community, Torah, and God through traditional and innovative expressions of Judaism.”

“My initial goal for the first year was to learn about the congregation and not make a lot of changes,” Wolk tells us. “But this new situation is going to be a journey for all of us.”

“My hope is always to see people leading very Jewish lives, but if there is one thing we’ve learned during this time of COVID-19, it’s that synagouge is what you take home with you. We can make our Jewish lives at Temple Israel more meaningful, when we take what we get there home with us.”®
How to Communicate with Skeptics About Zionism

By Carly Pildis

Carly Pildis is a celebrated journalist, speaker, and social justice activist. In 2019, she was named one of The Forward 50. The Forward’s annual list of influential American Jews. In May, the JCRC hosted a two-part community series with Carly entitled, “How to Communicate About Zionism.” To receive a recording of this lecture or to learn more about other programs curated by the JCRC, contact the Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, Laurel Grauer, at laurel.grauer@jewish.charlotte.org.

When we communicate about Zionism with our friends and community members, we often act as if we are talking to policy-makers who are already knowledgeable about Zionism. So many advocates act as if we are at a debate and can never concede a single point. We focus on policies, specifically security, anti-terrorism, and military aid. We talk about the importance of funding the Iron Dome and about victims of Israeli terror.

These are critical priorities, they often fail to resonate with those who are most likely to be skeptical of Zionism, including the latest poll taken by the Millennial. Millennials are less concerned with national security than baby boomers. The latest polling shows that only 27% of Americans under 30 generally feel favorably towards the Israeli government (although it’s worth noting, a majority of Americans feel positive about Israelis themselves, at 64%). It’s no surprise that those who are younger and lean left are more likely to be critical of Israel, but we need to reconsider how we are communicating about Zionism and about why we care about Israel. Leading with a topic that young people don’t connect with, and that many on the left associate with U.S. policies they are deeply critical of (The Mexican Border Wall, the Iraq war, the militarized police force, etc.) can set the conversation up for failure before it’s even begun.

When we lead with policy – especially security policy – we lose an important opportunity. Rather, we need to lead by sharing who we are, what our personal connection to Israel is, what the Jewish historic connection to Israel is, and why we are Zionists. Lead by talking about how Zionism is a deeply progressive philosophy, the story of a people who were victimized by colonization, mass exile, and centuries of violent persecution, finally finding liberation through self-determination. We can also be open about points of disagreement about a particular Israeli government policy, and be unfraid to agree with critics. While this may sound counter intuitive, overall, this will make our broader conversation about Zionism and of Israel stronger.

95% of American Jews identify as pro-Israel, and 59% identify as critical of some Israeli policies. When we welcome debate on Israeli government policies we can refuse to allow Israel to be treated as a place that is uniformly good or evil. In this way, we can reframe any specific policy to delegitimize Zionism. Countless countries, including the U.S., have hotly debated policies and healthy democracies welcome them.

When we create space for policy debate – and for agreeing with those who criticize Israeli policies – we open up new bridges for dialogue with those who are potentially persuadable on the most essential of policies – Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state. It’s reasonable to believe that unilateral annexation is a threat to Israel’s long-term security, which over 220 former Israeli generals attest to. It’s understandable to be upset when we hear instances of Ethiopian Jews being mistreated by Israeli police. You can still be a Zionist and believe that Israel’s immigration policy needs to change, particularly when it comes to African refugees and Filipino guest workers. It’s justifiable to want to be able to pray at the Kotel the way you would at your own synagogue. These policy critiques do not come from a place of hate, but from a place of love. We want those we love to be the best they can be; for Israel to more fully exemplify values we agree on and share. Yes, these conversations are difficult, and yet, they are brave dialogues needed to build new avenues for understanding and allyship.

When we talk about Zionism with skeptics, we need to put into terms and values they care about and understand. While American military aid is vital to Israeli security, that talking point will not resonate with those who are the most critical of Zionism. Instead, we need to frame the conversation in terms of justice, anti-oppression, self-determination, and the liberation of historically oppressed peoples. Zionism is a liberation philosophy. It’s the story of a people who were exiled by colonization and after thousands of years of longing were able to return to their ancestral home and achieve self-determination. It’s a story of freedom and of hope. That is the story we should be telling. When we tell that story in an authentic and honest way that allows for disagreement, we are telling a story those skeptical of Zionism will be willing to hear.

～ JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS ~

CONTENTS

Federation News pp. 1, 2
Sue’s Book Shelf pp. 3
Women’s News pp. 5
Schools pp. 6-8
Dining Out pp. 23
Community News pp. 9-11

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

Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

City _ State __ Zip ____________

Enclosed in my check for $_________

YYYY $18.00 Basic Annual Subscription
YYYY $25.00 Friend
YYYY $50.00 Patron
YYYY $100.00 Grand Patron
YY Other

The CJF does not assume responsibility for the quality or kashrut of any product or service advertised. Publishing of a paid political advertisement does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate, political party or position by this newspaper, the Federation or any employees.

The Charlotte Jewish News
5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone (voice mail after office hours) 704-944-8765
email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Amy Krakovitz - Editor
Advertising Sales Reps: Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950 or Pam Garrison, 704-906-7034
Art Director, Erin Bronkar erin@bronkar.carolina.nc.com
CJN Editorial Board Chair - Bob Davis Members: Bob Abel, David Dellinner, Ann Langman, Linda Levy, Elaine Millen, Andrew Rosen

Published monthly except July

Shabbat Candle Lighting for June and July 2020

Friday, June 5, 8:17 PM
Friday, June 12, 8:20 PM
Friday, June 19, 8:22 PM
Friday, June 26, 8:23 PM
Friday, July 3, 8:23 PM
Friday, July 10, 8:21 PM
Friday, July 17, 8:18 PM
Friday, July 24, 8:14 PM
Friday, July 31, 8:08 PM

The Charlotte Jewish News
5007 Providence Road, Suite 112
Charlotte, NC 28226

Phone 704-944-8765
email: charlottejewishnews@shalomcharlotte.org

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Amy Krakovitz - Editor
Advertising Sales Reps: Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950 or Pam Garrison, 704-906-7034
Art Director, Erin Bronkar erin@bronkar.carolina.nc.com
CJN Editorial Board Chair - Bob Davis Members: Bob Abel, David Dellinner, Ann Langman, Linda Levy, Elaine Millen, Andrew Rosen

Published monthly except July

An affiliate of: Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

This issue will be the last under the leadership of Amy Krakovitz. Amy has been the editor of The Charlotte Jewish News for 22 years. During this time, Amy has worked tirelessly to make sure that CJN keeps us informed while reminding us how fortunate we all are to live in such a vibrant community.

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

Federation echoes the Editorial Board’s comments. We have been truly fortunate to have Amy in this role and wish her all the best. Todah Rabah Amy.
The KEYS to a successful real estate transaction...

Experience and Commitment!

Buying...Selling...Relocating...

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

Serving the Charlotte community for over 30 years.

Keith Greenspon
Advisor

704.247.3033
kgreenspon@windinggroup.com

Since 1974, we have assisted community families and businesses with:

- Group Benefits
- Life, Disability & Long-Term Care Insurance
- Business Planning & Executive Benefits
- Medicare Plans & Annuities

As part of the Windmere Insurance Group, Greenspon & Associates can now also help with:

- Home & Auto
- Commercial Business Insurance
- Risk Management Services

A king was told that a man of humility is endowed with long life. He attired himself in old garments, took up his residence in a small hut, and forbade anyone to show reverence before him. But when he honestly examined himself, the king found himself to be prouder of his seeming humility than ever before. A philosopher thereupon remarked to him: “Dress like a king; live like a king; allow people to show due respect to you; but be humble in your inmost heart.”

– Baal Shem Tov
At Generations at Shalom Park, you can have all of this and so much more.

Generations will be an intergenerational lifestyle that honors Jewish values and traditions while also embracing people of all faiths and beliefs.

We believe that that living your best life is living the life you want:

• Living your life with others, both young and old
• Living where your needs are cared for as life changes
• Services and amenities that address your every need … and so much more.

What are you waiting for?
Become a priority member today!

(704) 554 - 2013
generationsatshalompark.com
Fighting COVID-19 at Hadassah Hospital

Even though Hadassah has had to modify some of our planned activities, Hadassah CLT members have been busy leading, learning, helping the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel, and having fun.

Just as the U.S. military is doing hospital Byovers, the Israeli Air Force is celebrating Israel’s healthcare workers. On Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, the IAF Aerobatic Team flew in perfect formation over Hadassah Medical Center Ein Kerem, to salute the country’s health workers, heroes in the COVID-19 battle. Hospital workers came outside, waved Israeli flags, and sang Hatikvah in solidarity and appreciation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world. Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem was chosen by the Israeli government as one of the select few hospitals to treat those infected by the virus. The Round Building at the hospital has been transformed into a COVID-19 hospital and has converted three floors into coronavirus wards and an ICU unit. To support the effort, Hadassah National has established the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to raise money for the fight against COVID-19 at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in Israel. Hadassah has challenged every region to raise funds for our COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Our region’s goal is to raise $13,500 for one ICU bed at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem. A very generous donor has pledged to match up to $3.75 million of contributions, so every dollar you donate will have double the impact. If you would like to donate, please go online to Hadassah.org, or send a check, made out to Hadassah COVID-19 Appeal to Hadassah, P.O. Box 1100, New York, NY 10268-1100.

On Sunday morning, May 17, Hadassah Super South held its virtual Tri-Region Conference – “Plug In and Power Up!” – instead of their previously planned three-day conference in Atlanta. Almost 200 people from the South attended. We heard updates on Hadassah, the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel, and learned from a social media expert about using best practices to connect with people.

Last month, Hadassah CLT planned a virtual art workshop with Nailed It DIY, since we physically couldn’t meet together in the studio. Each person chose their own colors in advance, received a kit with supplies, and created a 9 x 7 wooden hamsa. It was so much fun to see how different each person’s creation turned out even though we all started with the same basic materials. We’re also excited about our upcoming tie-dye event later this summer at a new art studio in Waverly, COVID-19 permitting.

Hadassah recently launched Hadassah@Home, a program for members to stay connected with Hadassah from the comfort of home. Hadassah@Home has online articles, podcasts, speakers, concerts, discussion groups, Q&A sessions about current topics, and lists of resources you might need. There have been guided meditations on “Finding Balance in a World Out of Balance,” an online heart healthy exercise class, videos about Hadassah medical innovations, women in politics, Antisemitism, and ethical dilemmas faced when working in the Middle East from the perspective of a Hadassah midwife. There was an online briefing with Ron Dermer, Israel’s ambassador to the U.S. The site is always being updated with interesting and uplifting updates from Hadassah about the special people and projects in Israel’s communities during the pandemic.

Hadassah has also started The Branch podcasts on various subjects of interest. Virtual discussions about the podcasts will take place on Sunday afternoons at 4 PM. Look for more info coming soon.

There are just a few of the things Hadassah CLT is doing. Want to join us? Please contact Amy DeLoach, Membership VP, at amybdeloach@gmail.com or go directly to our website, Hadassah.org, for membership information.
Virtual Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom at CJP

By Becca Green

On March 13, the Charlotte Jewish Preschool Executive Director Brooke Amo called a last minute staff meeting to let teachers know that it was possible the school would have to close in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. She advised teachers to bring home a few materials from the classroom that could help with teaching virtually from home. What we didn’t know at the time was that we would not be returning to school for 11 weeks.

Just three days later, CJP shifted its education platform to virtual learning. In early childhood education, you will rarely see screens and technology used in the classroom. As a play-based preschool that uses authentic materials to encourage exploration we knew that distance-learning would be a challenge for everyone, from our youngest students to our most seasoned teachers.

Teachers began to use Zoom as a platform to reach their students for live circle times every morning. We strived to maintain as much routine as possible in our wake of COVID-19 pandemic and created a new learning environment for all of our CJP families.

The COVID crisis pushed our educators to stretch themselves in unimaginable ways and the CJP staff stepped up to meet the challenge and exceed all expectations. The school bonded together through our “diaspora learning” and created a new learning environment for all of our CJP families. Kol HaKavod to our teachers for their creativity and our families for their patience and support.

I would say that behind all my ideas, the strongest idea of mine which is conveyed in my thinking, even more than in my writing, is the freedom of choice. If feel that freedom of choice is the very essence of life. Although the gifts which God has given us are small in comparison to the gifts which He has given maybe to the angels or to the stars, we have one great gift - and this is to choose.

--Isaac Bashevis Singer, in Isaac Bashevis Singer: Conversations, ed. Grace Farrell

Mazal Tov Class of 2020
YOU WILL ALWAYS SHINE A LITTLE LIGHT

CJDS Charlotte Jewish Day School
704.366.4558 | CJDSchool.org

CJDS SETS THE STANDARD FOR ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BASED ON JEWISH BELIEFS
How to Make Teachers Feel Appreciated and Families Feel Loved During Quarantine?

As the month of May happened upon us (time seemed to move both slowly and quickly at the same time), we knew we had to put together a different type of teacher appreciation than usual to recognize and celebrate our hard-working staff. Together with our PTO Presidents, we put together an amazing package that was hand-delivered to each teacher’s door. The package included a special treat for each day, including a delicious lunch and a DIY mani set. We wrapped up the week by showing the teachers an adorable video of the students thanking their teachers and saying “I love you/I miss you.” Our teachers were surprised and definitely felt appreciated.

Once it became clear that we would not be able to reopen in May, we wanted to show our families some extra love and support. We wanted each student to have a set of materials for May projects they would be doing with their teachers on Zoom, so we took the opportunity and put together beautiful Shabbat bags for each family to take home. The bags included tzedakah, candles, challah, chicken soup, and cookies. Our families were so excited to receive some extra treats and we loved seeing everyone as they came through carpool to safely grab their bags.

We can’t wait to see everyone in person soon. Until then, we continue to Zoom, keep in touch, and support each other in ways we can.

Shabbat bags.
Teacher appreciation.
Gratitude, Empathy, and Forgiveness

By Mariashi Groner, Director,
Charlotte Jewish Day School

Leading a full-time remote learning elementary school has been an experience I could have never imagined in my wildest dreams. Watching our teachers and staff turn themselves, their homes, and their families into pretzels has been awe-inspiring. Hearing from families how their lives have been turned upside down has been humbling. And, yet, we are all rising to the challenge that has been put in front us, albeit often with difficulty.

If there was ever a time where gratitude, and I mean the real kind, not the obligatory notes or checked off thank you, it is now. There are people all around us providing for our needs like never before. Even if it is a service that has been bought, the energy and wherewithal that it takes to deliver that same service is exponentially greater. And often it is a service given straight from the heart. In addition, there are many providing a service without any compensation, just because. It is sometimes difficult to find the right words and the best way to deliver our gratitude, and yet in these times, more than ever, we must.

It is also a time for an extra dose of empathy, that even though we may not be experiencing the same set of challenges, someone else may be facing a more dire situation, and walking in their shoes is essential to be able to truly help and support. Our teachers need to empathize with our parents, and our parents need to empathize with our teachers. And more than anything those of us that are leaders need to find that extra dose of understanding for those with whom we work.

And last, but not least, forgiveness. We are all going to mess up, we are being asked to operate in environments that are less than optimal, without the tools that we are used to having, and often alone in our own homes without the tangible support of our colleagues.

At CJDS, we try to keep these three values in mind throughout this storm. We’re going to get through this by strengthening those very muscles we haven’t used too often, and hopefully with sincere gratitude, empathy, and forgiveness, we will come out on the right side of this alternate universe, stronger and kinder.

Some “thank you’s” from our parents:

“I’ve been so impressed by the online learning CJDS has provided for my daughter over the last seven weeks. I’ve talked to a few moms whose kids are in 2nd grade in our local public schools and they’re all so disappointed at how bored their kids are and the near non-existent amount of student engagement their schools/teachers have employed. When I tell them about Leah’s daily Zoom meetings, assignments, optional Zooms, small group Zooms, they’re completely in awe. With in a week of everything shutting

(Continued on page 13)
Community News

Bal Tashchit and Beyond: Tikkun Olam in the Time of COVID-19

We recognize that these are difficult times, and that many aspects of our lives have changed because of the pandemic. Although we currently are not able to engage in many of the environmental activities we could previously, there are still many ways you and your family can be effective environmental stewards.

Regen Composting

In the last issue of CJN, we shared tips for creating a garden at home. And now, if you have a garden, it is the time. There are two types of composting: cold and hot. Cold composting is as simple as collecting yard waste or taking the organic materials from your trash (such as fruit and vegetable peels, coffee grounds and filters, and eggshells) and then collecting them in a pile or in a bin. Over the course of a year or so, the material will decompose. Hot composting is a bit more complex, so we will discuss that in a future article.

Collect these materials to start off your compost pile:
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Grass and plant clippings
- Dry leaves
- Shredded paper
- Make sure not to put fats, meat, or dairy items into your compost pile

As you collect materials in your compost pile, try to keep a 3:1 ratio of brown (dry, brown leaves and fibrous plant parts) to green (food waste and other green plants) materials, and make sure the pile stays moist, but not too wet. You will reduce your landfill contributions and will produce nutrient-rich compost for your garden.

Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat at Home

Recognize your commitment to wildlife and certify your yard, balcony container garden, schoolyard, work landscape or roadside greenspace into a Certified Wildlife Habitat® (https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildifeHabitat). It is fun, easy, and makes a big difference for neighborhood wildlife. Wildlife habitat gardens are a haven for local birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Tell the National Wildlife Federation how your yard or garden provides habitat and they will recognize it as a Certified Wildlife Habitat®. Once certified, you can share your accomplishment and commitment to helping wildlife with your whole neighborhood by purchasing and posting an exclusive Certified Wildlife Habitat® sign, Clean Out Your Closets

While many of the organizations that take clothing donations are not currently open for donation drop-offs, a Charlotte-based non-profit has developed an innovative program which addresses this need, while providing jobs and personal protective equipment for those who need them most.

The mission of Spring Clean (https://springcleango.org) is to create jobs and reduce landfill waste through the repurposing of donated textile material. Spring Clean is partnering with Labels Dry Cleaning to collect your donations from your homes, and the donated materials are then sewn into masks. People who sew the masks earn 50% of the proceeds, and 50% goes to Spring Clean, providing much-needed work for many. Volunteers are also invited to donate their time by sewing masks. Pickups are every other Wednesday, beginning June 10. If you would like to donate, sew masks or to buy masks, please email info@springcleango.org.

Listen to an Environmental Podcast

Listening to a podcast is a great way to learn about environmental issues, and there are many wherever you get your podcasts. Here are just a few suggestions to get you started:

- Creation Care is a podcast that shares stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to have a positive environmental and social impact.
- Climate Cast is a podcast from Minnesota Public Radio that discusses the latest research on our changing climate.
- National Wildlife Federation Outdoors explores conservation issues and conservationists from across the country.
- A Sustainable Mind is a podcast for earth-conscious individuals who would like to take action to be the change they want to see in the world.

Donate to an Environmental Organization

There are many incredible organizations that are continuing to work on environmental issues during this time. Consider donating to these groups:
- Catawba Lands Conservancy: https://catawbalands.org/
- North Carolina Coastal Federation: https://www.nccoast.org/
- Sustain Charlotte: https://www.sustaincharlotte.org/
- The National Park Service encourages you to find your park (https://www.nps.gov/). Make sure to wear a mask when you visit.

As civilization advances, the sense of wonder declines. Such decline is an alarming symptom of our state of mind. Mankind will not perish for want of information, but only for want of appreciation. The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living. What we lack is not a will to believe, but a will to wonder.

~Abraham Heschel, Between God and Man

After COVID-19: R U OK Shalom Park?

While our world is trying to get back to normal with businesses beginning to reopen, schools hoping to start up again in the fall, and folks slowly getting back to work and as Shalom Park starts opening its doors once again, the impact of the trauma we are all experiencing may start manifesting itself.

While it is hard to imagine being more stressed and anxious than dealing with social distancing and bunkering down at home, we already know there has been an increase in calls to national hotlines related to suicide and depression and that increase in the sale of alcohol is a roadmap for increased substance abuse down the line. For some, however, survivor instinct has kicked in and you have positioned yourself for battle. However, once the battle is over and you begin to calm down, the impact of the trauma we are all experiencing may start manifesting itself.

In a recent opinion piece published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Sandro Galea, MD, MPH, DrPH, a professor at the Boston University School of Public Health, warned of an upcoming wave of mental disorders because of coronavirus. He noted that “large-scale disasters, whether traumatic (the World Trade Center attacks or mass shootings), natural (hurricanes), or environmental (Deepwater Horizon oil spill), are almost always accompanied by increases in depression, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorder, and a broad range of other mental and behavioral disorders, domestic violence, and child abuse.”

And while this may seem pretty foreboding for the future mental health of our community, there is something each of us can do:
- Talk with a friend or family member about how you are feeling. You will probably find you are not alone.
- Acknowledge the fact that more than ever we need to recognize the importance of getting help if you or a loved one is struggling.
- Fight the stigma that getting help is a weakness for yourself or for others.
- Learn about the signs and symptoms of someone struggling with a mental health issue—do some research or attend a workshop.
- Check in with your friend, co-worker, or loved one—open up the conversation to give someone you think might be suffering the opportunity to talk about how they are feeling.
- Call JFS to find out how to access professional help.

Catawba River Keeper: https://www.catawbariverkeeper.org/
Clean Air Carolina: http://www.cleaneurrubricolina.org/
North Carolina Coastal Federation: https://www.nccoast.org/
Sustain Charlotte: https://www.sustaincharlotte.org/
The Jewish tradition teaches the importance of caring for the environment, for we must act as partners in preserving creation. If you are interested in supporting Shalom Green, please contact us at info@shalogreenCLT.org. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ShalomGreenCLT and visit our website at www.shalogreen-CLT.org.

Josh Rubin’s Plumbing, LLC

LICENSED ­ BONDED ­ INSURED COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
Layouts for slabs - Rough-in and Finish Water Heater Repairs and Replacement Kitchen/Bath Remodeling
Toilets, Tubs, Faucets, Sink, and Disposal Repairs/Replacement
10 YEARS EXPERIENCE
NC State Lic. #29197
NC State Lic. #8110508
704-517-4918

WORK WITH THE LEADERS IN CHARLOTTE REAL ESTATE

SARAH ROSE  STEVE LEPOW

SarahRose@remax.net  SteveLepow@remax.net
704 619-0422  704 975-8500

RE/MAX®
Executive
Queens Jewish Studies – Never Distant

The Greenspon Center Team invites you to consider the choices you face in your lives. There are lots of things we can’t do at this challenging time in our history. However, there are plenty of things we can do to infuse this time of adversity with actions and events that will go down in history as an example of humanity at its best.

The Stan Greenspon Center continues to work for justice, to bring Holocaust and human rights educational programs into the community, and to bring engaging programs into your homes. From our weekly “Peaceful Pauses” to our thought-provoking Wine and Wisdom classes, we hope there is something for everyone. In this time of social distancing, Queens Jewish studies has never been closer. In the summer months, here are great choices you can make to stay connected:

**Peaceful Pauses**
Join us on Wednesdays from 5-5:30 PM, as we take a break, relax, and explore topics of resilience, hope, and self-care. Led by Greenspon faculty, often alongside special guests, each week brings something new. Join us live or on YouTube. (Or join us afterwards, as all programs will be uploaded on our social media sites.)

**Wine and Wisdom**
Rabbi Judy Schindler invites you to join her virtually for study and socializing. Great conversation over iced tea or wine and join us for an exploration of Mussar – Jewish ethical literature. Judaism teaches that we have 48 character traits and we all carry varied measures of each trait. In the end, our lives are measured by the character that we have. Mussar helps us intentionally develop our inner virtues to improve our lives. The topics for Wednesday, June 3, will be generosity and truth. On Wednesday, July 8, we will focus on the traits of moderation and lovingkindness. On Wednesday, August 12, we will study responsibility and trust. All sessions run from 5-6:15 PM.

**Midrash Mondays**
Each Monday in June and July, from 5-6 PM, join Rabbi Judy virtually for a weekly afterpay happy hour that will be lifted by an encounter with sacred texts. Scholar Vanessa Lovelace defines midrash as “a Jewish mode of interpretation that not only engages the words of the text, behind the text, and beyond the text, but also focuses on each letter, and the words left unsaid by each writer.” Explore the many faces of Torah as you see new faces and meet new members of our Charlotte community to learn with and from them.

**Southern Jewish Roots:**
**Inaugural Queen City Jewish Tour**
Join us on Sunday, August 9, at 1 PM to kick off our Charlotte Inaugural Jewish Tour. Charlotte’s 165 years of Jewish history is rich with civic leaders, business leaders, religious leaders, and philanthropists. As part of Queens Jewish Life’s Southern Jewish Roots Queen City Jewish Bus Tour, participants will enjoy a unique, entertaining, and educational hike through our city’s history. The experience will include a tour through the Hebrew Cemetery that was founded in 1867 and is rich with stories of the famous Jews who were buried there from the Civil War to the Civil Rights era to today. We will pass through historic uptown and Elizabeth and Dilworth sites that highlight Jewish historical contributions to our county and state and conclude our journey at Shalom Park as we explore the pluralistic and powerful Jewish community that thrives in Charlotte today. We will learn of the history of Shalom Park and its development. We will commemorate Holocaust memory and the contributions of more than three dozen Charlotte survivors and take time for reflection at the Margaret and Lou Schwartz Butterfly Garden Holocaust Memorial. The tour will be developed and led by Susan Jacobs, a fourth generation Charlottean, and Roz Cooper, both esteemed Charlotte Jewish educators who have been at the helm of our Charlotte religious educational institutions for decades. This tour will follow state guidelines for safety in light of Covid-19 and involve travel in individual cars and a microphone with amplifier at each stop of the tour so that everyone can maintain a safe distance. Cost: To be determined. Space is limited and fees will include noshes such as rugelach, challah, knishes, and entertain personal connections and inspire and engage people to embrace the religion that is so central to their lives.

The Greenspon Center thanks you for your continued support. During these difficult times people tend to look for a silver lining, and we have found that you are our silver lining. We are preparing to meet with us, please contact info@stangreenspon.com.

The Ruach Proposes Its Contingency Plan

On April 29, we received an email from the Assistant Director of Operations for the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center at Queens University of Charlotte. She was reaching out to us to let us know that we would be the point of contact for The Ruach’s High Holy Day and year-round Shabbat Experience when we aren’t able to gather physically as a community. In the last line of her email she said, “Right now, I am feeling optimistic that we will be back by September and able to host [The Experiences] but would want to discuss your COVID plan in case social distancing continues through September.”

Contingency plan for the High Holy Days? Of course, we have one. Livestream. And we most definitely will not be alone in doing so that should be required. Livestreaming is the new normal. Webinars have now become a part of daily life and are used in business, pleasure, as well as, religion. Even before being unable to gather physically as a community, The Ruach has been exploring better ways to provide The Shabbat Experience online. We’ve come a long way; from not being able to make to stay connected:

Selling a Business?
VR has sold more businesses in the world than anyone.*

Adam Petricoff
VR Charlotte
9301 Monroe Road, Suite L
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-360-8886 office
704-905-4658 cell
apetricoff@vrcharlotte.com
www.vrbcharlotte.com

The Shabbat Experience
* Joyful
* Uplifting
* Different
* Amazing
* Inspiring
* Spiritual
* Meaningful

The Ruach
Funerals During Pandemic Times

By Sandra Goldman, director, Hebrew Cemetery Association

Death is bringing us together because funerals are a communal affair, especially in Judaism. With the arrival of COVID-19 and the stay-at-home order, everything has changed. How can we fulfill our responsibility to honor the dead (k’vod hamet), comfort the mourners (nicham aveilim), and protect the community (pikuach nefesh)?

A simple hug and a gesture of acknowledgement face to face. A gentle hand stroke that injects love and care. Human physical contact expresses so much more than words could ever be capable of doing. We have probably never realized this loss of human connection as much as we do now. Jewish funerals are full of rituals and connections, but because of the contagious nature of the disease, most people who die during this historic period—either with or without COVID-19—are doing so alone. Their loved ones are left to mourn on their own.

While doctors and nurses risk their lives working tirelessly to treat those infected with the virus, the cemetery’s staff, clergy, and funeral directors risk their lives guiding the deceased to a dignified burial. Staff and board members have stood graveside, recited Kaddish, acted as pall bearers, held phones for FaceTime and Zoom services to give the grieving family a sense of normalcy.

There is a fine line between courage and fear. Sir Winston Churchill once said that fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision. That is also the reason that the Hebrew Cemetery worked with clergy and other involved parties early in the pandemic cycle to establish guidelines on how to conduct funerals during the Coronavirus outbreak.

The results are that, for the foreseeable future, all funerals—whether COVID-19 related or not—take place graveside, with the casket already lowered and the grave filled. It is our guidance that no more than ten people in the cemetery’s staff, clergy, and funeral directors risk theirs and the community’s lives working tirelessly to treat those infected with the virus, the cemetery’s staff, clergy, and funeral directors risk their lives guiding the deceased to a dignified burial. Staff and board members have stood graveside, recited Kaddish, acted as pall bearers, held phones for FaceTime and Zoom services to give the grieving family a sense of normalcy.

There is a fine line between courage and fear. Sir Winston Churchill once said that fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision. That is also the reason that the Hebrew Cemetery worked with clergy and other involved parties early in the pandemic cycle to establish guidelines on how to conduct funerals during the Coronavirus outbreak.

The results are that, for the foreseeable future, all funerals—whether COVID-19 related or not—take place graveside, with the casket already lowered and the grave filled. It is our guidance that no more than ten people in total attend non-COVID-related funerals, with a family member or designate filming the burial if the family so chooses, and everyone at the burial needs to follow strict physical distancing. The services will be brief to limit the possibility of exposure. All COVID-19 related or presumed positive funerals will be held virtual. No presumptive positive people or individuals who have been in contact with the deceased will be allowed to the burial.

The choice of the clergy member to attend the burial is up to each individual, and mourners will be asked to consider hosting a memorial gathering at a later date, when health concerns have subsided. All these decisions have been made with a responsibility and motivation to honor and care for the deceased and the deep sense of love for the living in our community.

The pandemic is pushing death into the forefront, to mourn with the living in our care for the deceased and the deep ability and motivation to honor and the feelings of connection that it brings.

That’s why we’re offering a uniquely designed Shabbat Set complete with fresh challah, chicken soup, Shabbat candles, and other goodies to celebrate Shabbat @ Home. You can request a Shabbat Set for yourself and/or a friend who could use some Shabbat love.

We’ll be offering a limited number of sets each week on a first-come-first-serve basis. But, don’t worry, if we reach our limit by the time you place your request, we’ll put you at the top of the list for the next Friday. Visit ShabbatSet.com to learn more and to request a set.

Friendship Circle is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. To learn more about Friendship Circle visit FriendshipCircleNC.org To learn more about Chabad visit Chabad-NC.org.

Shabbat is a time of rest and tranquility. Even though we’re not able to invite our friends over for a Shabbat Dinner right now doesn’t mean you should miss out on experiencing the warmth of Shabbat and the feelings of connection that it brings.

(Continued on page 16)
Graduating Seniors Say Good-bye to Hebrew High

Hebrew High is extremely proud to announce the graduation of seven seniors in the class of 2020. We are proud of their commitment to Judaism and to the way they handled themselves finishing Hebrew High during a pandemic. Graduation is a time of reflection, and some of our seniors wanted to share their thoughts about Hebrew High. When asked what they liked most about Hebrew High or what they have learned throughout their time as a Hebrew High student, they said: Samantha Baum, a graduate of Myers Park High School and member of Temple Israel, said that she really enjoyed having the open conversations relating to Judaism and current events during post confirmation. Hebrew High also taught her how to better combat Antisemitism, cook some Jewish foods, and learn more about all minorities and religions. Rayna Weiss, a graduate of Ardrey Kell High School and member of Temple Beth El, said what really had an impact on her during her Hebrew High experience was how the staff and teachers treated everyone like fellow adults instead of children. Instead of a strictly student-teacher environment, Hebrew High talked and led discussions like the students were grown people. “It was nice,” Andie Sly, a graduate of Hopewell High School and member of Temple Beth El, said her highlight of her Hebrew High experience would be her confirmation trip. She got very close to some of her fellow classmates and overall felt a connection to her religion that she had never experienced quite before. She thinks Hebrew High prepared her to be able to take her Jewish culture and experiences wherever she ends up, and to be an advocate for all minorities and religions. Samantha Weinstein, a graduate of Butler High School and a member of Ohr HaTorah, said her highlight was meeting her best friend and being proud of her Jewish identity for the first time. Hebrew High gave her a safe place and her teachers helped her realize who she was and what she wanted to do with her life. She owes Mrs. Montoni a lot as she was the one who introduced her to creative writing in the first place. A lot of her favorite high school memories were made through Hebrew High. It also strengthened her desire to want to join Hillel and start other Jewish organizations on college campus.

Six seniors in the class of 2020 and good luck next year in college. No matter where you are, no matter what you do, never stop believing in the genius within you. We will miss you. Samantha Baum - University of Delaware Jacob Laube – University of North Carolina at Charlotte Andie Sly - North Carolina State Leah Harrison - Appalachian State Aaron Hart - North Carolina State Rayna Weiss - Savannah College of Art and Design Samantha Weinstein - Warren Wilson College

Sign Up for UMessage

UMessage is UMatter’s interactive texting platform created by teens for teens designed to approach mental health and self care with surprising simplicity. UMessage will send out weekly trivia questions as well as motivational quotes with interactive activities. During May, which is also mental health awareness month, UMessage launched a bonus challenge to keep teens engaged with each other and themselves during these tough times. Encourage your teen to sign up. Just text the word “Umatter” to 833-222-2619.

What is UMatter? UMatter is an initiative developed by Friendship Circle, an organization that provides support to those who experience social isolation, with a focus on individuals with special needs. UMatter helps teenagers take a step back from daily stresses and refocus on life’s positivity. Our goal is to build a support network and eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health in our community. We believe that everyone is created with a Godly purpose and has something to contribute to the world. It’s up to each of us to know, and show, that you matter.

UMatter is a project of Friendship Circle and an initiative powered by the Jewish Federation’s Impact and Innovation Fund.
BBYO Teen Creates “Mediumize,” a Platform to Help the Most Vulnerable During COVID-19 Pandemic

Jonah Liss Seeks Volunteers for His Online Service, Delivering Food, Medicine, and Other Necessities

By Jennifer Lovy, reprinted with permission from The Detroit Jewish News

When Jonah Liss heard schools were closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, his thoughts turned to finding a productive way to fill his spare time. The 16-year-old junior at the International Academy of Bloomfield Hills had been busy with a rigorous academic schedule and many extracurricular activities. But now, Liss’ goal is to help the community get through the coronavirus pandemic quicker by protecting those most vulnerable.

Mediumize is a platform Liss designed to bridge the gap between those who cannot safely leave their homes during the coronavirus outbreak and those who are healthy and want to help. Liss, who lives in Michigan, is enlisting volunteers to run errands such as delivering food, medicines, and other necessities at no additional cost.

By minimizing potential exposure to the virus, Liss says Mediumize can also mitigate its spread.

“I believe in what we’re doing and think we can make a difference,” Liss said. “It’s important that people aren’t putting themselves or others at risk.”

Liss, an avid investor in the stock market, first noticed the effects the coronavirus was having on the market in China and started to track the virus. When it paralyzed Italy, Liss knew he wanted to do something to help once it reached the United States. He just wasn’t sure what that would be.

As the virus spread and schools canceled, he turned his ideas into a concrete plan. With a passion for coding and web design, he created a website for Mediumize.

Liss had the site up on Saturday, March 14. A few days later, he recruited nearly 60 volunteers, almost exclusively teens. Liss hopes to turn this endeavor into a nonprofit organization. He would also like to see the concept implemented on a national level.

“My grandparents here do not have to use it because they can just call me,” he said. “However, one of my inspirations for expanding the regions Mediumize covers is so my grandparents on the West Coast can eventually use it,” he said.

A lot of businesses are also delivering food, medicine, and other necessities. However, some are expensive or can be hard to navigate, especially for those unaccustomed to using the internet.

Liss has volunteers who can offer phone support, helping maneuver online ordering as well as other technology-related issues, like telemedicine. The services are free, but delivery volunteers can accept tips.

“I’m not surprised he thought of something like this. It’s what he does,” said his mom, Jennifer
The previous June, when Mia and Pearl had moved into the little rental house on Winslow Road, neither Mrs. Richardson (who technically owned the house) nor Mr. Richardson (who had sold it) had given them much thought. They knew there was no Mr. Warren, and that Mia was thirty-six, according to the Michigan driver’s license she had provided. They noticed that she wore no ring on her left hand, though she wore plenty of other rings: a big amethyst on her first finger, one made from a silver spoon handle on her pinky, and one on her thumb that to Mrs. Richardson looked suspiciously like a mood ring. But she seemed nice enough, and so did her daughter, Pearl, a quiet fifteen-year-old with a long dark braid. Mia paid the first and last month rent, and the deposit, in a stack of twenty-dollar bills, and the tan VW Rabbit—already battered, even then—puttered away down Parkland.

The LIBBY APP is the easiest way to get started with digital and audio books!

1. Install the LIBBY APP from the app store on your phone or tablet or, visit libbyapp.com in your web browser.
2. In Libby, follow the prompts to find the Center for Jewish Education and sign in with your Levine-Sklut Judaic Library card. Browse your library’s collection and borrow a title.
3. Borrowed titles appear under Shelf > Loans and download to the app automatically when you’re on Wi-Fi, so you can read them when you’re offline. From your Loans, you can:
   - Tap Read with... to choose whether you’d like to open a book in Kindle (U.S. libraries only) or Libby.
   - Tap Open Audiobook to start listening to that title.
   - Tap Manage Loan to see options like Renew and Return.
The Blessing of Transitions

By Rabbi Asher Knight, Temple Beth El
The Mishnah’s Tractate Berakhot starts with a discussion about how and when we sing of the Shema—a reminder of the foundational prayer of our faith. The rabbis ask a question about whether the中断 one’s singing of the Shema—a reminder to prayer to God—to acknowledge and greet another person. The tradition is clear in its recognition that human connection and relationships are key elements of spiritual living. This is much more than the custom of congregation decorum. It’s a reminder that our places of prayer and spiritual practice are sacred spaces, physical, emotional, and spiritually. My mentor, Rabbi David Stern, teaches that this is why we honor every human moment. Regardless of physical distancing, it is the human connections that help us have hope and courage in the face of fear. It is the human connections that help to unite our sense of belonging to community and to something greater than ourselves.

June will be the last month in which we share the gifts of Susan Jacobs as our Director of Education. On June 5, during our Shabbat services, we will share messages and prayers from Temple Beth El’s current and previous clergy in celebration of all that Susan has offered our Temple Beth El community and Charlotte Jewish community. This is not the celebration that we had initially planned. Yet, the car-pool and our prayers are an inspiring reminder of the beauty of our community to celebrate the human moments in the ways that we can, regardless of the challenges that this moment in time creates.

It is precisely because Susan matters to each of us, to her family, to our community, and to God. As many of you know from our earlier announcement, in July we will welcome Rabbi Beth Nicholas as our new Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning. We are excited for the arrival of a new partner and leader. Rabbi Nicholas joins us from Temple Israel of New Rochelle, NY, which is well known for its innovative approaches to Jewish learning. She played a key role in the creation of Chava-yav, a camp-style experiential religious school, and the Kehillah School for Early Learning, a full-time Jewish childcare program. As Rabbi and Director of Congregational Learning at Temple Israel, Rabbi Nicholas served as a full member of the clergy team, oversaw Chavaya and the Kehillah School, provided rabbinic leadership for the congregation’s youth programs and partnered with lay leaders and staff to create dynamic learning opportunities for adults.

Rabbi Nicholas’ first priority at Temple Beth El will be to bring her tremendous strengths and educational vision to our Religious School that has been built by Susan Jacobs and our faculty. Rabbi Nicholas will partner with our Religious School, Kehillah School, Hillah School, and the Religious School that has been built by Susan Jacobs and our faculty. Rabbi Nicholas will partner with our adult education class, taught by her “absolute favorite” and one of prayer” Shelley described as “the glue dry up, hence, nothing bold. Did this happen overnight? Take Nothing for Granted” – The Path.”

The path was clearly marked as the story unfolds. Some will perish by fire, disease, and countless other ways. Some by natural causes over years or weeks or days. Yes, we are just another staff, faculty, and lay leaders to understand the strengths of our program and set a course for new horizons. She will also begin to collaborate with our adult learning programs as part of her responsibility for nurturing Jewish learning throughout our congregation.

The ultimate wisdom of the Mishnah is that the human greeting is actually not an interruption of the Shema at all. It is the fulfillment of the Shema: of the Oneness that is God, and of the Oneness to which God calls us. So as we bid farewell to a gifted teacher, we prepare to welcome gifted teacher, and we know that our greeting will share the sacred act saying Shalom – hello and goodbye and peace.

The Talmud gives us a blessing for these moments of transition. May these ancient words resonate for Susan Jacobs and Rabbi Beth Nicholas, and for all of us blessed to be part of this Temple Beth El family: “May the Holy One whose name dwells in this house cause love and kinship, peace and friendship to dwell among you.”

---

**SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS**

Temple Solel Shabbat Song and Prayer

We added a new on-line service we call “Shabbat Song and Prayer” on the first and third Fridays with an opportunity to be together online more often as a congregation. These services are a shorter gathering to light Shabbat candles, sing a couple songs, and have a time of sharing with an open chat at the end.

Our first meeting included a discussion about prayer. Shelley Pawlyk explained the fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet has a numerical value of four and one of its meanings is “door” – our door to communication, comfort, relationships, or even a door to a new beginning.

The first “door of prayer” she spoke about can be our tradition of pre-written prayers as we read them connected to our hearts (during services like we do or chanting pre-written prayers). The second “door of prayer,” especially during this challenging time when we have few words, is what our lay leader, Russ Cobe, describes as a niggun—a tune or melody often with repetitive sounds like “bim-bim-bam,” “Lai-Lai-Lai,” or “Ai-Ai-Ai,” instead of actual words in the lyrics of a song. The third “door of prayer” can be a very special way we pray our texts from the Hebrew bible. Tzadik, an acronym for the first Hebrew letter of each writings.”

Then, there is a fourth “door of prayer” Shelley described as her “absolute favorite” and one she learned at Temple Beth El’s adult education class she did with Cantor Mary Thomas years ago. Kavanah prayer is the type of prayer said spontaneously with our voices or even expressed in other ways. Maybe through the voice of instruments in worshipful song like King David, sewing wonderful tapestries, creating art, acting, jewelry making, medical help, gardening, wood working, writing, film productions, dance, providing business support, being a good listener, teacher, cooking, friend, caring for others … what do you do with knowledge through the door of God’s heart to have a spiritual relationship.

This type of prayer is similar to how Tsevye in Fiddler on the Roof talks to God in a conversation. Speaking and expressing ourselves and hearts to God creates a personal and relational interaction and becomes the most heartfelt of all.

Then Shelley led the congregation in a kavanah prayer using it as an example – “We pray together for everyone on the Zoom call tonight that we will experience this closeness to You, Adonai, in a personal way, especially during this very difficult time of isolation and uncertainty. We are reminded and speak some of your Names reverently out loud together and keep them in our hearts on this Shabbat Song and Prayer night … Adonai TziqKetum – Our God of Righteousness; Adonai Rappoh – Our God Who Heals Us; and Adonai Tvir – Our God Who Provides for Us” – Amen.

Then she turned it over to Su-san Wexler to hear the poem she wrote to God, called, “Pray and Take Nothing for Granted”—The world is abundant, rivers over flowing with gold, but the inhabitants were greedy, brazen, and bold. Did this happen overnight? How do these events unfold? Did the glue dry up, hence, nothing would hold? Are we following his path or did we go astray? There is only one path and we must follow His way. History repeats itself over a set-given time, as clear as two points shall form a straight line. Did we follow directions or get lost on these roads?
Virtual Hebrew School at the Ballantyne Jewish Center

This past month has been full of exciting learning opportunities for BJJC Hebrew School students and their families. While we miss seeing all of our teachers and students in person, we have enjoyed our online Hebrew School teams. We were able to learn a little about Pesach, see our friends, and engage in fun and interactive activities. As one of the parents expressed, “Hebrew School was up and running, faster than anyone else, making sure my child does not miss out on her Jewish education.”

The classes and games have been so enjoyable, the rest of the family is watching, too. We are so grateful for the practicing Mah Nisthana, crafts, and games.”

With less than 12 hours’ notice, a network of Chabad Hebrew Schools around the world put together a Virtual Pesach Experience on the first Sunday that Hebrew School was cancelled. This amazing group of Chabad teachers have been working together, to bring the Pesach lessons and stories to our students every Sunday. They made matzah together, played interactive game shows, had a global mock Seder, and so much more. The lessons were offered virtually, with options for three different age groups.

Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Leah Levin, Shlomo Volovsky, and Rochel Wolovsky have a virtual Zoom class. It is special for the students to see their teachers and friends from Hebrew School and to have that social interaction they so crave. We have tefillah, practice Mah Nisthana, and learn something in a fun engaging way. Together via Zoom, we have done crafts, games, and a virtual Challah bake. We sent a beautiful matzah cover craft to each home that we all did together. This ensures that the students do not miss out on their personal touch and connection to Passover at their family Seder this year.

We are so grateful to have the amazing staff that we do. The teachers have reached out to each and every student to practice Hebrew reading one on one. The beauty of this personal interaction has been so special for each student – they can get that time and attention to grow in their reading. A huge thanks to the teachers Galia Lapidot-Boaz, Donna deGroot, Tracy Farrell, Chaya Groner-Greenberg, Mindy McShane, and Denise Sussman, for taking the time and effort to make sure our child continues to thrive in their Hebrew education.

We feel honored to be bringing Torah and Judaism to so many homes.

The Show Goes on at Temple Kol Ami

As the saying goes, the show must go on. At Temple Kol Ami of Fort Mill, we are adapting to the new normal and zooming right along. Over the millennia, there have been plagues, wars, and natural disasters, but Judaism has always survived. Every generation has faced their challenges; it is now our turn to step up. We are so thankful for technology that allows us to continue to pray, play, and learn together. KaBbalat Shabbat services have continued every other Friday night with our wonderful lay leaders as well as a virtual visit from Rabbi Aft the weekend of May 15. In addition to leading us in Friday night service, Rabbi Aft also facilitated Torah study with a focus on Passover. There was a lively discussion entitled “Covid-19: God’s Punishment or Wake Up Call?” The TKA Religious School did not miss a beat and continued with eLearning. Our dedicated teachers developed online learning plans and the students picked up where they left off.

Additionally, Temple Kol Ami has stay connected with a virtual Passover Seder, book club, board meetings, sisterhood brunch, and Havdalah. Although communicating via computer has been great, we look forward to being together again hopefully sooner than later. In August, Religious School will start up again, and we anticipate wonderful High Holiday services in September lead by Rabbi Aft. We are also excited to reschedule our weekend with Jewish musical artist Joe Buchanan. Whatever the future brings, Temple Kol Ami is prepared to embrace it and continue our traditions – either virtually or in-person.

Temple Kol Ami is a reform congregation in Fort Mill, SC. We are a small but growing community and would love for you to join us. Please check our calendar at www.templekolamis.org for upcoming events and contact us at yorksynagogue@gmail.com with any questions.

Israeli Inventors Create Face Mask with Slot for Eating in Public

By Marcy Oster

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli restaurateurs reopened and require about 5 feet between patrons, but what about people who aren’t ready to take off their masks when they eat in public?

Some Israeli inventors have created a face mask for the coronavirus age that will allow wearers to eat food without removing it.

The mask has a slot that opens with a hand-relebate lever to allow food to go through, Reuters first reported. Drippy dishes might not fare very well, the story said, but solid foods “can be gobbled up in a flash la a Pac-Man.”

The developer, Tel Aviv-area based Avitopus Patents and Inventions, told Reuters that it has already submitted a patent for the mask and plans to start manufacturing in the next few months.

Funerals During a Pandemic

(Continued from page 11)

The Hebrew Cemetery has always embraced the community and is honoring and celebrating its departed. One of its mission is to guide people in how to pre-plan their funerals. The comfort of knowing that family will not have to make funeral arrangement decisions during the difficult time of their initial grief, the assurance that informed, thoughtful decisions have been made about the funeral and burial prices are locked in is priceless and gives ultimately peace of mind.

For more information how to purchase a grave, prefund a funeral or leave a bequest, contact Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or email director@hebrewcemetery.org.

Jonah Liss Creates Mediumize

(Continued from page 13)

any symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to others with symptoms. Further, they cannot live with someone who is in a high-risk group. Every day a volunteer is assisting, he or she must send Liss a video of themselves taking their temperature. He expects these helpers to wear masks and gloves and disinfect all items purchased.

“This is a great program and we’re encouraging all our neighbors to try it. These are scary times and it’s nice to have something positive coming out of it.”

To volunteer, teens are encouraged to contact Jonah at jonah@mediumize.com.
Chabad of Charlotte fulfilled the motto of “desperation leads to innovation.” Every year on Lag B’Omer, Chabad of Charlotte hosts a magnificent outdoor musical event that attracts many people from the greater Charlotte area. The event features musical concerts and an extensive Kosher barbecue. This year, due to the Covid virus, which forced everyone to either remain at home or practice strict social distancing, there was no practical way to bring the community together for the traditional event.

Creative minds at Chabad came up with a novel idea to overcome the challenge ... a “Drive-through” Lag B’Omer event. Music, Chassidic dancing clowns, a vivacious bubble man, and a variety of Jewish entertainers were stationed in the large parking lot of the new Epstein Family Chabad Center. Close to 100 cars, packed with adults and children, drove slowly through the parking lot. What’s more was the Kosher barbecue galore, provided by Kosher Charlotte, featuring freshly grilled burgers and hot dogs. Lag B’omer s’mores were added to the orders as each family received their pre-ordered packages from the gracious staff of Chabad.

People were tooting their horns with excitement and children were dancing through sun-roofs to the beat of Israeli music. It was a great break from the new routine as it brought joy and happiness to the community.

Chabad of Charlotte fulfilled the motto of “desperation leads to innovation.” Every year on Lag B’Omer, Chabad of Charlotte hosts a magnificent outdoor musical event that attracts many people from the greater Charlotte area. The event features musical concerts and an extensive Kosher barbecue. This year, due to the Covid virus, which forced everyone to either remain at home or practice strict social distancing, there was no practical way to bring the community together for the traditional event.

Creative minds at Chabad came up with a novel idea to overcome the challenge ... a “Drive-through” Lag B’Omer event. Music, Chassidic dancing clowns, a vivacious bubble man, and a variety of Jewish entertainers were stationed in the large parking lot of the new Epstein Family Chabad Center. Close to 100 cars, packed with adults and children, drove slowly through the parking lot. What’s more was the Kosher barbecue galore, provided by Kosher Charlotte, featuring freshly grilled burgers and hot dogs. Lag B’omer s’mores were added to the orders as each family received their pre-ordered packages from the gracious staff of Chabad.

People were tooting their horns with excitement and children were dancing through sun-roofs to the beat of Israeli music. It was a great break from the new routine as it brought joy and happiness to the community.

Temple Solel holds regular Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month via Zoom during the pandemic and hopes to resume services when appropriate at Belair UMC Family Life Center, 8095 Shelley Mullis Rd., Fort Mill, SC 29707. For more information see templesolelSC.org, write us at info@templesolelSC.org or call 803-610-1707.

We do not succeed in changing this according to our desire, but gradually our desire changes. The situation we hoped to change because it was unacceptable becomes unimportant. We have not managed to surmount this obstacle, as we were totally determined to do, but life has taken us around it, led us beyond it.

--Marcel Proust, Remembrance of Things Past
Celebrating Our Community’s 399 Legacy Donors

Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community thanks the 399 individuals and families who have created unique Jewish legacies to ensure the future of our Jewish community. These generous donors have collectively committed to more than $26.5 million through bequests, individual retirement and life income plans, without affecting current disposable income or lifestyles. Already, local Jewish organizations have received over $2.5 million in legacy gifts which have been realized. If you are interested in learning how to create your own Jewish legacy, please contact your favorite Jewish agency, Phil Warshauer or Nancy Kipnis.

Anonymous (3)
Am and Bob Abil
Bermie and Teri Ackerman
Susan and Benjamin Almquist
Yvonne Altman
Bernard and Lea Amt
Anthony and Brooks Aron
Malladin and Alona Aren
Wilton and Garson Aural
Joy for the Less August
Amy Augustine
Jill and Craig Balick
Michelle and Harvey Barer
Gail and John Barnett
Michael and Meredith Bairstein
Sanford and Lois Benjafield
Sharon and Jeff Benjafield
Raymond Monte Barnett
Benjamin and Elizabeth Benson
Philip M. Berman
Robert Berman
Brian and Glenda Barnhardt
Adam Barnettson and Tammy Seigal
Andrew and Elka Bernstein
Bobbi and Don Bernstein
Mark (OBM) and Louis (OBM) Blumberger
Nancy and Sam Bernstein
Susan P. Boyan
Lillian (OBM) and Irving Bronstein
Lee and Jeffrey Brier
Martin Birnbbaum
Peter Blau
Larry and Lisa Blau
Harman (OBM) and Anita (OBM) Blumenthal
Jill Blumenthal
Lee and Alan Blumenthal
Philip Blumenthal
Karen Knieblic and Barry Robrow
Gary and Susan Bogard
Michael and Lonesa Borchardt
David and Bonnie Bernstein
Bruno Brannon
Marion and (OBM) and Werner Brauner
Diana Worth and Justin Brogman
Harr B. Brodsky
Tracy and Larry Brown
Charles and Hannah Barkes
Doris Cagle (OBM)
Bobby Cain
Sara and Martin Chip
David and Jeneice Center
Susan E. Cernyak-Spatz
Gracia Bishop-Chen and Joan Rosenberg
Soly and Richard (OBM) Chenkin
Judith and Richard Cotes
Michael and Karen Costao-Traynor
Jena Coen
Aharon and Minna Leah Cohen
Brian and Sonia Cohen
David Cohen
Paige and Mark Cohen
Silvano and Yoko Cohen
Steven and Olivia Cohen
Wendy Williams Cohen (OBM)
Jennifer and Jonathan Cohens
Denise and Bob Cooper
Andrea and George Crossen
Michael and Beth Capai
Irvin and Donnie Cold Galcy
Gene and DeeDee Daumit
Andrea and Jeremy Davids
Arlene and Gary (OBM) Davis
Jill and Michael Dinerman
Dana and Jeffrey Dismuke
Ellen (OBM) and Dan (OBM) Dubin
Marcy and Fred Dumain
Steven and Eileen Block Englehardt
David and Alan Epstein
Barry and Mary Ellen Etsky
Rabbi Murray and Barbara Ezing
Larry Farkner and Sherri McGinn
Hannah (OBM) and Margaret (OBM) Felderlin
Alic and Nancy Felder
Ron S.
Doritis and Peter Flur
Adam Foodman
Michael W. and Karen N. Frank
Robert and Beverly Friedman
Jacob M. and Hunter F. Friedman
Albert and Phyllis Gatten
Lori Saeder Greenblatt
Goodlyn Gelpur
Yshmatan E. Gimbrel
Stephanie and David Gitlin
Rick Glaser and Elliot Renich
Nancy Glass
Rhoda (OBM) and Aaron (OBM) Goldbloom
Alan and Ruth Goldberg
Ken and Tammy Goldner
Sandra Goldman
Mark and Linda Goldsmith
Maggie L. Goldstein
Miton and Arlene Goldstein
Shelton and Ellen Goldstein
Joy and Neil Goldmark
Jennifer Cohen Galesky and Leon Galesky
Barbara and David (OBM) Goodman
Brant H. Goodman
Michelle Goodman
Scott and Rebecca Goodman
Alan (OBM) and Eithel (OBM) Gordon
Bill and Patty (OBM) Giroulot
Jeff and Barry Giroulot
Marcelle and Sandy Giroulot
Shelton and Carol (OBM) Giroulot
Todd and Stacy Giroulot
Alan and Merle Gottheim
Fay (OBM) and Don (OBM) Goren
Karen Greenblatt
Julie and Russ Greenfield
Keith E. Greenspan
Roshly Greenspan
Stan Greenspan
Jodi and Josh Greenfield
Bill and Gloria Grishin
Phyllis Shultz and Matt Greeno
Yossi and Miriam Grenier
Delroy and Clay Grubb
Elizabeth Ren and Michael Grunwald
Anna Gunshor
Bonnie Hart
Stephanie Haynes
Richard (OBM) and Barbara Hurt
Ted and M. Heisberg
Steven and Sharon Hoschfield
Vicki Hopkins
Jodi Horwich
Christy and Andy Horwitz
Jonathan M. Howard
Jodi, Michael, Ivya and Alex Iagnocco
Robert and Linda Isner
Donald L. and Susan Sachs Jacobis
David Jacobson
Jake Jacobson
Robert and Lisa (OBM) Jacobson
Florence Kaufman Jaffe
Sol (OBM) and Janet (OBM) Jaffa
Brian and Roshel Kahn
Allyson Kalik
Ronald and Mary Margaret Kantor
Martin and Marcia Kaplan
Dana and Andrew Kapustin
Anhove and Susan Karp
Barbara and Alan Katz
Joan and Kimberly Katz and Family
Nancy and Robert Keynes
Paul and Roberta Klein
Robert and Moira Quinn Klein
Lorrie and Barry Klemans and Family
Elisa and Jaime Krafitz
Lee and Sheila (OBM) Klitz
Gary Bernstein and Alan Kronovetz
Sara and Jonathan Kleinberg
Anita Strauss-Lawliss and Bruce Lawliss
David A. Lash
Carla and Arnie Lash
Gladyis (OBM) Latvian
Judy and Eric Latner
Dale Lodker
Jenifer and David Lawlowski
Alistair and Mark Lerner
Eric and Susan Lerner
Gary and Donna Lerner
Harry and Garry Lerner
Barbara and Jerry Lavin
Benyamin and Sana Lavin
David and Brenda Levin and Family
Donna (OBM) and Norman Levin and Family
Ros C. Lavin
Aviva (OBM) and Helena Lavin
Elissa and Joshua Levinish
Howard and Julie Lerner Leviner
Lori and Sandra Levin
Mikes and Debra Lurie
Sd (OBM) and Levin
Aviva (OBM) and Debra Levin
Eli Levinson
Gary and Janine Levinson
Holly and Hal Levinson
Jack and Allison Levinson
Lisa Strawman Levinson
Sam and Linda Levy
Laura and Marc Levin
Robert and Irta Lizl
Andrew and Swondenbluck Lindor
Marshall (OBM) and Gaylinda Lindor
Jill and Marc Lipson
Don and Elice Liss
Ron and Frances Liss
Sue and Michael Litvak
Joshua & Adina Loewenstern
Arina and Harrison Lord
Meg G. D. Goldman and Matthew Luftglass
Isaac and Soni (OBM) Loech
Rose (OBM) and Abe (OBM) Loech
Audryn Levitz
Karen and Gary Mandell Family
Linda McLendon
Peggy Mische (OBM) Melisantse
The Melisantse Family
Elisa Menaker
Polly and Steve Menaker
Scott and Pamela Menaker
Jenine and Gena Meyers
Laura Motlhin
Rosa and David Miller
Staci and Darrin Mord
Jennifer Monrose
Yosef and Helen Mosthage
Elisa and Martin Muller
Margarita Mousa
Safiya Puga Miduler
Bruce and Candace Nolfoff
Leah M. Nolfoff
Elisa and Mark Nolfoff
John Nolfoff
Karen and David Nolfeussen
Joseph and Renee Nolfeussen
Lee and Jeff Nowick
Laura and Carrie Nolfoff
Michael and Judith Norman
Eve Novo
Dawn and Paul Orland
Andrew T. Osborne
Gale Osborne
Richard J. Osborne
Victor (OBM) and Evelyn (OBM) Osborne
Nadine and Arthur Oudmayer
Marcelle and Alan Ouenen
Brenda and Floyd Patten
Cyndra Petronius
Harriet and Mark Perlin
Dipgie and Lee Peskoff
Wendy and Adam Peryst
Stephen and Laura Philipsson
Rachel and Darren Pierce
Debra and Ed Poirier
Miton and Gene Rother
Larry and Dale Polsky
William and Debra Porter
Babs and Jo (OBM) Pransky
Jason and Casey Prossberg
Michael and Cheryl Rabinowitz
Dana and Michael Ratner
Karen and David Rassenberg
Malena and Michael Rassenberg
Laura and Marc Rassenberg
Robert and Leora Raymond
Herold and Cynthia Tuttelfield
Amy and Ross Rubel
Robert and Elia Raszvil
Fred and Katie Raver
David and Dan Van Glize
Julie and Michael Van Glize
Amy and Mark Vurda
Liz Waith
Man and Amy Waizman
Phil and Bob Warshauer
Jermaine and Roland Warner
Alexander Weinstroin
Marc Weissman
Arnie and Michael Weiss
Evan and Dovby Weiss
Susan and Richard Weiss
Elizabeth Star Winer
Kris and Joanna Westralty
Marc and Kim Wiatrowski
Mary and Simon (OBM) Wiatrowski
Nora Wolf
Robert and Sandra Wolf
Kim and Sue Worral
Michael and Nancy Yaffe
Scott M. and Lisa Braverman Yardsheugh
Martha and Brian Yousowitch
Robert (OBM) and Anne Yoved
Mania and Joe Zeltzer
Barbara and Herman Ziegler
Emily and Samuel Zimmerman
William and Allison Zimmer
Michael and Johanna Zuckerman
Dorothy and Robert (OBM) Zuckerman
This list is not all inclusive. We know there are individuals and families who have created Jewish legacies but have not chosen to make their plans public. We thank them as well.

704.973.4544 • www.charlottejewishfoundation.org
Lessons from a Virtual Jew

By Rabbi Chanoch Oppenheim, Charlotte Torah Center

These past few months have presented us all with challenges without a preexisting model of how to deal with them – especially when it comes to the pharmacy of isolation, so positive that even people who left Charlotte years ago are reconnecting. We even have our daily minyan with Zoom allowing us to connect it grants us the opportunity to pray for people in the greater Charlotte community who have been stricken with coronavirus. But perhaps amidst the upheaval, there is a silver lining that we can no longer say that a virus is responsible for one other, because we can no longer say that a virus on the other side of the world is not my problem. We do need to remember that as Jews we have a delicate balance of having a global consciousness and caring, while remembering that we also need to keep our distinctly Jewish values, the values around which our communities stand. An example of this is the absolute value of human life, which cannot be compromised. Upholding our values sometimes calls for us to maintain boundaries and remain distinct from the rest of the world.

3 - Isolation. The Torah speaks about a unique disease that only existed thousands of years ago called tzarrat. If a person contract ed it, he was sent out of the camp, like a leper, for a minimum of one week. The Talmud recommends that while one is in isolation, he should use the time to think about his interpersonal relationships: 2 – family, friends, and business associates in his circle when he is not isolated. Does (s)he speak negatively of others (lashon hara); does (s)he honor all people and treat them with dignity or only his superiors or others he wants something from? Isolation can teach us to reflect on how to have positive and constructive social interactions and avoid the negative and destructive ones.

Eventually this will end and, somewhere down the road, life will return to normal. This is the time to ask ourselves, will this plague lead me to rethink some of my behaviors – to see things from a new perspective? If we internalize the message that we are not in control, it allows us to make room in our lives to let the Almighty in. If we learned the lesson that we should put others’ needs before our own, even if it causes us inconvenience or discomfort, our relationships will be more real and allow us to feel safe and make sure others do too.

Jewish Family Services Continues Its Impact on the Community

As states begin easing lockdown restrictions, graduates attend virtual commencements, and many of us now work from home, we are all learning exactly how to get back to business, JFS marches on with business, almost seamlessly. 1 - humility, the sense that while our programs and services are being delivered in a different way, they are still being delivered. Adults, children, and families alike are consistently receiving services, without much interruption. Well, there is a bit of a learning curve with Zoom technology, but all seem to be adapting.

It has been through the commitment, tireless efforts, and ingenuity of our staff, board, volunteers, and you, our community, that we are able to continue to provide for our pantry clients, continue to outreach to seniors and Holocaust survivors and host online workshops that assist in coping with the new norms. And as the latest research indicates a tripling in mental health disorders vs. pre-pandemic times, JFS has also been able to continue providing these services.

Every day we hear heart-warming stories from staff and volunteers about the services we are providing. When we were told that we would share a few with you.

Online Workshops – In a recent year our preventing elementary age workshop group, participants were discussing the challenges associated with creating a structure in their homes, maintaining schedules and getting their children to do chores. Alex, The JFS Child Parenting Adolescent Therapist, shared the science behind setting routines and the role it plays in creating compliance with children. This year Participants began collectively brainstorming and exchanging ideas. One mom with younger children said she was going to create a routine chart with pictures. By the end of the workshop two moms exchanged contact information so they could support each other outside of the call. The workshop provided a platform for sharing much needed information and allowed these two moms to feel more empowered.

Counseling – Online therapy is allowing clients to process and cope with the many changes and challenges. Recently, one client who is a veteran from Korea shared that her elderly parent had been diagnosed with COVID-19. The constant worry, sleepless nights, and intense anxiety were so strong it was preventing her from getting her work done. Through her session, her therapist helped her work on techniques to manage unhelpful thinking patterns, especially surrounding the possible death of her parent. She also suggested several strategies to bring a sense of calm back into her life, including creating a daily routine, practicing deep breathing exercises, journaling, and the downloading of a mindfulness app. With the advice of her therapist she is now able to manage her anxiety and cope better with the stress of her parent’s illness.

Senior Outreach – In a Home Client – Seniors are hardest hit when it comes to feeling isolated. Recently, one of our 76 year-old clients who lives alone, emailed JFS to share his appreciation for everything we have done. Even during the pandemic, he receives a volunteer visitor call each week to check in and see how he is doing. Recently, when he was feeling down and disconnected from the family, friends, and business associates in his circle when he is not isolated, his volunteer visitor brought him prepared meals with his personalized order and fresh produce from the Shalom Park garden. He said “JFS is my lifeline.”

Volunteering – Being socially distance and stay at home is a tall order, especially for long-time JFS volunteer, Fred Shporer, a man always on the go and who never says no. And while the list of his contributions throughout the year is exhaustive, we shine a light on his giving over these past few weeks. From pick ing up bagels at Poppy’s so our food pantry clients don’t go without, to delivering food to an isolated senior who lives far away, to loading up carts of food during food drives, Fred, who feels fortunate to have what he has, considers it his duty and honor to give back, “I give from my heart because I know that many are not as lucky as I am,” Shporer said. “I give to JFS, because the people who work there are so kind. Every time I walk through those doors, I feel so much love – I feel included and to be a part of this wonderful place brings me to an other level.”

Thanks to a grant from the JewishCharlotte Emergency Relief Fund JFS is able to provide these services that are impacting our community. Need assistance? Contact JFS at 704-364-6594 or info@jfscharlotte.org. JFS is here to help.

Jewish Family Services

THANKS TO THE AMAZING WORK OF VOLUNTEERS
12,000 blankets have been donated to the Levine Children’s Hospital
10,000 chemo hats have been donated to facilities for cancer patients around Charlotte

WEDNESDAYS 8-11 AM at the Levine Jewish Community Center
THURSDAYS 9 AM - 5 PM at the home of Lynn Edelstein 3802 Columbine Cir.
All proceeds go to local charities

704-366-6765

Yours Truly
Needlepoint and Knitting
Join Us - Knit. Crochet. Needlepoint
Handpainted needlepoint canvases
Expert finishing
Large selection of yarns
Complimentary lessons

THANKS TO THE AMAZING WORK OF VOLUNTEERS

The Charlotte Jewish News - June-July 2020 - Page 19
LIFELONG LEARNING

LUNCH N’ LEARN WITH RABBI SIEGEL
Thursday, June 11, 12 Noon - “Thoughts on A Year in Charlotte: Part 2”
Thursday, June 18, 12 Noon - “What’s on Your Mind: A Town Hall Farewell to Rabbi Siegel”
Don’t miss Rabbi Howard Siegel’s final Lunch N’ Learn sessions of the year! Not only will you be able to hear more reflections on his year in Charlotte, but you will also have the chance to tap in on his wisdom as he opens the door to your questions.
https://zoom.us/j/98433500306

THOSE FUNNY RABBIS - THE CRAZIEST TALES FROM THE TALMUD
Wednesday, July 15, 8 p.m. – Location: TBD

GETTING READY FOR TISHA B’AV
Monday, July 27, 8 p.m. – Location: TBD
Join Senior Rabbi Michael Wolk for his first classes at Temple Israel. Location information will be announced closer to the dates.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MIXING WITH MISHPACHA
Thursday, June 4, 11 a.m.
Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m.
Don’t miss this fun and engaging baking class led by (WoT President) Karen Knoble and her daughter, Anna, and learn to bake something delicious while celebrating our Judaism. The featured recipe and its ingredients will be made available within a week of each event.
https://zoom.us/j/92710217259

TEMPLE ISRAEL BOOK CLUB MEETING
Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.
Location: TBD
Join us as we discuss Michael David Lukas’ novel The Last Watchman of Old Cairo, winner of the National Jewish Book Award (2018 – Fiction), The Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and numerous additional accolades. Everyone is welcome to attend whether or not you have read the book. For additional information contact Linda Levy (704-366-6362 or levydole@aol.com).

EREV TISHA B’AV Service
Wednesday, July 29, 9 p.m.
Location: TBD

“Abandoned sits the city, that was once filled with people”
(Lamentations 1:1)
Join us this evening for an opportunity to come together and mourn over the destruction of our present-day temples that are now sitting empty.
*Tisha b’Av services on Thursday morning, July 30, will take place at 7:30 a.m., location: TBD.

TEMPLE ISRAEL WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Temple Israel is pleased to welcome Tayuanee L. Dewberry as Temple Israel’s new Executive Director, effective June 1, 2020.

Tayuanee has served as the Executive Director of Right Moves for Youth, a nonprofit student support and youth development program in Charlotte, NC for more than 15 years. A champion for operational excellence, Tayuanee led RMFY to transformational growth and fiscal stability. Along with a passion for empowering others, Tayuanee is committed to continual growth and learning for herself. She was a member of the inaugural cohort of Women’s Leadership Corp, a professional development program offered in conjunction with Flynn Heath Holt Leadership. She also completed Leadership Gift School, a year-long professional development training for non-profit leaders offered by the Institute for Philanthropic Leadership, to enhance the cultivation of philanthropic giving and fund development for organizations. Tayuanee has served as vice-chair, and later the chair, of the United Way of Central Carolinas Council of Agency Executives (CAE), and has served on the leadership team for the Mecklenburg County Children’s Alliance. She is a 2016 recipient of the Z. Smith Reynolds Sabbatical, a prestigious honor awarded to non-profit executives with a track record of phenomenal leadership, strategic planning and non-profit vision, and organizational growth.

Tayuanee earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration, and a Master of Arts in Counseling, with an Education Specialist certification, from Gardner-Webb University. In October 2017, Tayuanee was inducted into Gardner-Webb University’s “Gallery of Distinguished Graduates.” She is also a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), and Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC) in North Carolina. Tayuanee is the mother of two boys, Jeremiah and Tremayne. She has always been a scholar-athlete through high school and collegiate basketball. She is an avid runner and skilled musician.

NEW MEMBER REFERRAL PROGRAM: If you refer a friend or family member to Temple Israel, you and your referral will get a one-time $250 credit off of Standard commitment rates* to be deducted from your balance at the end of your payment cycle.

Join Us
Are you interested in becoming part of a really amazing community? We invite you to experience Temple Israel. For singles and couples, young and old, students and families, for those seeking religious knowledge, for those seeking kindred spirits, for fun and a true celebration of all that it means to be Jewish, there is something here for you. Temple Israel’s 2020-2021 Annual Commitment campaign has commenced!

NEW THIS YEAR: Register or Renew online at templeisraelnc.org

EDUCATING AND INSPIRING FUTURE JEWISH LEADERS

Registration for Temple Israel Religious School’s 2020-2021 school year is currently underway. Classes meet on Sunday mornings (9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.). Additionally, students in grades 3-7 will choose one weekday session to attend (Tuesday, from 4:45-6:15 p.m. or Wednesday, from 5:15-6:45 p.m.).

NEW THIS YEAR: Register online at templeisraelnc.org

*We offer a multi-child discount of $75 per child (after your first child). This amount will be deducted from your tuition if REGISTRATION IS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE (JUNE 30, 2020). Any registrations received after July 31, 2020, will not receive the discount.

To learn more about Temple Israel and membership opportunities, please contact Erin Goldstein at 704-362-2796 or egoldstein@templeisraelnc.org.

*If you are contributing less than a Standard commitment level, you will receive a 15% credit off your total commitment balance - up to a maximum of $250.
IN MEMORY OF
Judy Biber to Daniel Biber
from Jennifer Cohen Golynsky
The mother of Marla Brodsky
from Myron and Lynn Slutsky
Hy Bruck to Susan Bruck from
Paul and Ellen Goldstein, Shelton and El-
len Goldstein, Gary Silverstein, Michael and Judie Van Glish
Poli Cohen to Joel Cohen from
Stuart and Carolyn Hennes
Alvin Goodman to Rachel Da-
vis from Paul and Lynn Edelstein,
Shelton and Ellen Goldstein,
Leonard and Karen Fox
Richard Herd to Barbara Herd
and Tonya Meltzer from Paul
and Lynn Edelstein, Leonard
and Karen Fox, Shelton and Elle Goldstein, Michael and Judie Van Glish,
Phil and Marci Goldberg,
Marie Cox to Claire Krusch from
Leonard and Karen Fox
George Wurzel to Laura Wur-
zel from Jeffery and Marcia
Gleiberman, Lawrence and Shei-
la Margolis
IN APPRECIATION OF
Susan Jacobs from Jillian
Bockenek
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Eric Lerner from Paul and
Lynn Edelstein
GLAD YOU HAD A SPEEDY
RECOVERY
Marvin and Anita Shapiro from
Floyd and Brenda Patten
WISHING A FULL AND
SPEEDY RECOVERY TO
Florie Gusman to Berta Straz
from Allan and Marcelle Oxman

Food Pantry Donations: In addition there has been a small army of people who have been committed to ensuring that our JFS Food Pantry clients continue to get what they need. Each food pantry community drop-off has been more successful than the one before; complete with people who have brought food, essential items, prepared meals and more. We even had one volunteer/family host a community food drive in their own neighborhood. Sadly, we did not capture all of your names. But you know who you are! Because of all of you JFS has been able to help hundreds of Charlotteans get through this pandemic.

Thank you does not seem adequate enough for all of your support. You Rock.

Donations to Jewish Family Services in April 2020

IN MEMORY OF
Judy Biber to Daniel Biber from Jennifer Cohen Golynsky
The mother of Marla Brodsky from Myron and Lynn Slutsky
Hy Bruck to Susan Bruck from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Phil and Marci Goldberg, Shelton and Ellen Goldstein, Gary Silverstein, Michael and Judie Van Glish
Poli Cohen to Joel Cohen from Stuart and Carolyn Hennes
Alvin Goodman to Rachel Davis from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Shelton and Ellen Goldstein, Leonard and Karen Fox
Richard Herd to Barbara Herd and Tonya Meltzer from Paul and Lynn Edelstein, Leonard and Karen Fox, Shelton and Elle Goldstein, Michael and Judie Van Glish, Phil and Marci Goldberg, Marie Cox to Claire Krusch from Leonard and Karen Fox
George Wurzel to Laura Wurzel from Jeffery and Marcia Gleiberman, Lawrence and Sheila Margolis

IN APPRECIATION OF
Susan Jacobs from Jillian Bockenek

Every person born into this world represents something new, something that never existed before, something original and unique. It is the duty of every person in Israel to know and consider that he is unique in the world in his particular character and that there has never been anyone like him in the world, for if there had been someone like him, there would have been no need for him to be in the world. Every single person is a new thing in the world and is called upon to fulfill his particularity in the world.

--Martin Buber, The Way of Man
By Joe Freiberg

Since 1980, the City of Frankfurt am Main has organized a visitor program for former Jewish citizens of Frankfurt and those who were politically or religiously persecuted during National Socialism. Over 3,500 interested persons from all over the world have already participated in these events.

In 1994, my mother (Minna Lewin Freiberg), who was born in Germany, was invited and attended Projekt Judisches Leben Frankfurt as a first-generation Frankfurter. I applied to attend this program along with all four of my children. This past summer my daughter, Dara Beth, and I received invitations and spent a wonderful week in Germany.

This generous and heartwarming experience began the first night with a get-together and information session before dinner. Our group of 32 included some first-generation but mostly second- and third-generation Frankfurters. As we talked about our expectations, a fairly common remark was made that survivors, parents, and grandparents did not want to talk about their experiences. We all brought our families’ stories as well as organized school talks with students.

Our itinerary included a guided city tour, a welcome reception hosted by the Jewish Mayor (Peter Feldmann), a visit to the Philanthropin School (which my mother attended as a student), the Jewish Lane Museum and Old Jewish Cemetery, and the East End High-Rise Bunker. There were many optional opportunities such as Shabbat services at local synagogues, a night at the opera, or theatre, and interacting with high school students at many different area schools.

During our free time, my daughter and I visited several places that linked directly to our heritage. We went to the location of my grandfather’s tailor shop (Efroim Lewin married to Cypola), the hospital where my mother was born, and the area where her home and synagogue had been. We also visited my father’s (Alfred “Al” Freiberg) hometown of Winnweiler. While there, we met Sven Bischoff at the Bischoff Brewery. He is the grandson of the family that helped liberate my father out of Dachau and his family out of Germany. Meeting Sven was a highlight of this day. While exploring outside of Frankfurt, and as much as I did not want to, I felt I needed to go to Dachau. It was a very cold and emotional experience. The museum there was very informative.

We met David and Becky Hirsch on the first night and bonded with them, as they too were a father-daughter pair as well as second- and third-generation guests. We spent Father’s Day on a cruise down the Rhein River and they are our newborn lifelong friends. We want to recognize and thank the City of Frankfurt and the program staff and guides for making our trip so memorable. We also want to single out Angelika Rieber (Chair of the Association Projekt Judisches Leben in Frankfurt) who went out of her way to make sure we were able to connect to our roots. Since meeting on our trip, Angelika has become another lifelong friend.

A resolution of the Frankfurt City Parliament provided that the children and grandchildren of former Frankfurt citizens should also be invited to visit their parent’s native town. Every year the Mayor invites on behalf of the municipality and the city council about 25 guests and a companion to a weekly visit to the former native town of your parents or grandparents.

The city assumes the cost of your flight, hotel accommodations with daily breakfast, receptions with interesting opportunities for contact and cultural events, a rover ticket for local public transportation on the S-Bahn, Underground, trams, and buses, and admission tickets to the Palmengarten, the Senckenberg Museum, the zoo as well as a Museum Embarkment-Ticket.

Were your parents or grandparents obliged to leave Frankfurt during the Nazi regime? Would you like to see the native town of your parents or grandparents and find out more about Frankfurt today?

Contact: Judisches Be- suchprogramm, Hauptamt und Stadtmarketing, Romerberg 23, 60311 Frankfurt am Main; http:// www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/

If your direct family roots were in Frankfurt before and during the Nazi regime, this program could be an important step in your uncovering of your family’s history and roots.

How Frankfurt Has Handled the Holocaust Since 1980
Projekt Judisches Leben Frankfurt am Main

The Charlotte Jewish News - June-July 2020 - Page 22
Moishe House Launches World’s Largest Virtual Color War
Creating Community and Connection for Young Adults During Quarantine

Moishe House’s “Expedition Nai” invited teams to engage in month-long creative socially distanced challenges instead of coming together at an annual, in-person Camp Nai Nai Nai. With communities worldwide largely under quarantine, Moishe House pivoted its focus from in-person immersive Jewish experiences to a completely interactive, online expedition, providing people a creative outlet to come together from their own homes.

Launched as a month-long reimagined summer camp experience, “Expedition Nai” has become the world’s largest virtual color war, as daily, more individuals and teams join the ongoing adventure. Almost 800 players from 191 cities in 28 countries have accepted the challenge, submitting more than 2,500 videos and images in response to weekly prompts posted online.

As participants lip sync “Summer Loving,” count the Omer, turn boxes into face masks, and give their pets makeovers, weekly highlight reels featured teams’ submitted challenges thus far.

“Color war is a quintessential part of summer camp that builds community and brings people together in friendly competition,” said Camp Nai Nai Nai Director, Lisa Klig. “Expedition Nai’s challenges were designed to be inclusive, accessible and to generate creativity, an opportunity to engage in Jewish identity, and a sense of relief from the day-to-day experience of quarantine.

We look forward to seeing more people join us in what has become a shared experience during a time none of us will soon forget.”

Expedition Nai is named after Camp Nai Nai Nai, Moishe House’s annual Jewish summer camp for young adults. After hosting two sold-out camps in 2019, Camp Nai Nai Nai was set to host three summer camps for adults this year. Camp East, the first and largest of the three, was scheduled to host over 300 adults in its 20s and 30s over Memorial Day Weekend. Unable to continue with in-person programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Moishe House acted quickly to create an alternative opportunity for people from around the world to come together in the spirit of Jewish summer camp. The Midwest and West Coast camps are slated for the fall.

Inspired by “challenges” announced each Friday, participants would vie for points and prizes by spontaneously singing songs with neighbors from across the street, making music videos, recreating science experiments, and celebrating Jewish traditions. New participants could start playing at any point and could join as individuals or teams of up to five people.

Each week, Camp Nai Nai Nai announces the winners of $50-100 prizes based on points earned for submitting responses to challenges. Additionally, Week One paper plate awards honoring creativity in the style of those awarded at camp were presented via a video compiling winners’ submissions. A pop tart chef won cookbooks, a tailor team that turned a skirt and top into Mick-ey Mouse ears took home an Etsy gift card, and the Hive Golden Five turned Passover leftovers into matzah croutons, leading to earning a $100 gift card to a local restaurant of the winner’s choice.

The competition culminated May 22 as all teams were invited to join a global gathering. The best of the expedition were celebrated, and the team earning the most points was announced as the grand prize winner, taking home the glory with $1,000 cash plus five $100 gift certificates to businesses local to their areas.

Throughout the month, Expedition Nai offered additional opportunities to come together live with fellow participants. Those registered were invited to join daily “playshop” sessions – because there is no “work” at camp – with specialists on a variety of topics leading sessions on do-it-yourself projects and Jewish engagement.

“More than anything right now, people need imaginative ways to be together and celebrate each other,” said Moishe House Founder and CEO David Cygelnan. “Through our global network, Moishe House is committed to providing resources and activities that inspire Jewish community and build meaningful spaces for Jewish life, wherever that may be, and whatever is going on in the world around us. We encourage people of all ages to join Expedition Nai as a much-needed respite from our current reality. We look forward to continuing to showcase the unique ways our community is coming together at this unprecedented time.”

Dining Out, Catering & Hospitality

To advertise, contact one of our sales representatives:
Jodi Valenstein, 704-609-0950
Pam Garrison, 704-906-7034
If you’d like to make a donation to the Jewish Charlotte Emergency Response Fund, donate today at www.jewishcharlotte.org.