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When a child needs a Jewish education, a subsidy to participate in a Jewish experience like Jewish summer camp or a BBYO leadership conference, Federation is there. When a family loses its income or an entire community is devastated by a disaster, Federation is there. It’s a pledge we live by.

We are there to help a distressed family regain its footing; to rescue and rebuild after a catastrophe. We make sure a Holocaust survivor isn’t deserted, and that no one who is disabled is without assistance. Federation holds out a safety net. And we’ll never let it fall.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte has been supporting, sustaining and revitalizing Jewish life for more than 75 years. Today our work is far from finished — and we need your finished.

Thanks to Super Heroes Tracy Brown and Amy Augustine for encouraging others to make powerful donations to the 2016 Annual Campaign during SUPER WEEK!

(Continued on page 4)

Community Commemorates Yom HaShoah with One Act/One Man Play

Sunday, May 1, 4-5:30 PM, Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park

The program will open with a Memorial Prayer, with Holocaust survivors lighting memorial candles, and with a reflection offered by Dr. Kelly Wilson, Charlotte Holocaust Outreach Director, North Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

Roger Grunwald plays the character Christoph Rosenberg, who is a German half-Jew (“Mischling”) and a First Lieutenant in Hitler’s Wehrmacht, in The Mischling Project: “A Mischling in the killing fields of Poland.”

The presentation will be followed by a brief symposium on Germans of Jewish ancestry with Roger Grunwald, writer and actor, New York City, whose late German-Jewish mother was a survivor of Auschwitz, Dr. John Cox, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, UNC Charlotte; and Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, Leon Levine Distinguished Professor of Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies and Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, Appalachian State University.

Sponsors: Butterfly Project, Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies at Appalachian State University; College of Arts and Sciences at Appalachian State University; Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies at UNC Charlotte; Hadassah (Charlotte Chapter); The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Levine Jewish Community Center; The Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center; North Carolina Council on the Holocaust, Queens University of Charlotte; Temple Beth El; Temple Israel; and the Temple of the High Country.

Do Good at the 18th Annual Spring Lecture Featuring Jennifer Teege, Author of “My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family’s Nazi Past”

Thursday, April 7, Temple Beth El

Although she was placed in an orphanage and then adopted at a young age, as a child Jennifer Teege had some contact with her biological mother and grandmother. Yet neither revealed their family legacy, one indelibly marked by Goeth — the Nazi “butcher of Plaszów” — and his crimes as a concentration camp commandant. Now, at age 38, beginning to learn the scope of her grandfather’s crimes, Jennifer Teege realizes: If her grandfather had met her — a black woman — he would have killed her.

Teetering on the brink of severe depression, Jennifer Teege delves into researching her family’s past. Over the two years that follow, she tentatively reconnects with her estranged mother Monika, explores the sites of Plaszów concentration camp and the former Jewish ghetto in Kraków, and returns to Israel, where she once attended college and learned fluent Hebrew.

Ultimately, Teege’s search for
The Global Jewish Agenda: Israel and Beyond

Featuring William Daroff, Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM, Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts

Jews in America and around the world are facing increasing challenges in the global landscape: Anti-Semitism, terror in Israel, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS), the American/Israel political relationship, and conflict throughout the Middle East create a worrisome ship, and conflict throughout the world are facing increasing challenges.

Please join the Jewish Federation’s Community Relations Council (JCRC) on Thursday, April 14 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts as we present featured guest speaker, William Daroff, Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of The Jewish Federations of North America.

As a leader in the worldwide fight on the assault on Israel’s legitimacy, Daroff serves on the steering committee of the Prime Minister of Israel’s Global Task Force; the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations’ Iran Task Force, De-legitimization of Israel Working Group, and Membership Committee; and is a strategic contributor to the creation and ongoing efforts of the Israel Action Network.

Please join us for an informative, provocative, and enlightened conversation on the vital Jewish issues of today with a particular emphasis on community efforts to counter BDS including the latest trends, strategies, and best practices confronting attempts to undermine Israel’s legitimacy.

Space is limited; to RSVP please contact Tal Stein, Director of Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org or call 704-944-6751.

The Current State of Affairs in Israel and the Middle East

Through the Eyes of Judit Varnai Shorer, Israeli Consul to the Southeast US

Sprinkling her presentation with well-known Yiddishisms, and calling upon less well-known anecdotes and facts, Judith Varnai Shorer, the Israeli Consul to the Southeast US, shared her view of the situation in Israel and the Middle East today with a group of Charlotteans at Shalom Park.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte sponsored Varnai Shorer’s visit to the Queen City from her current home in Atlanta on February 23.

Varnai Shorer first talked to the crowd about the missions that brought thousands of Ethiopians to Israel since 1977, and that the influx of 9,000 Ethiopians Jews had been completed in 2015. She recommended a new documentary about an Ethiopian young man who returned to his ancestral land after serving in the Israeli Defense Force. “Mekonen – The Journey of an Ethiopian Jew.”

She continued discussing other events affecting Israel, such as the civil war in Syria. “More than 2,000 Syrians have been treated in an Israeli hospital near the border since 2013,” she explained. “Four hospitals are authorized to treat the Syrians.” While most of the wounded are men, she was happy to report that 10 babies have been born in the Israeli hospitals.

From there, she sadly reported on the increasing violence in Israel: knife attacks, stone throwing, car ramming. Hezbollah is getting more sophisticated weapons and, she claims, ISIS is already in Israel, while Iran now has the resources to divert to terrorism.

Most Palestinian terrorists are young, she says. Their average age is 19. She has the resources to divert to terrorism.

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The Significance of Passover

By Inbal Ozeri, Community Shlichah

Pesach is a great time to tell our children the story of leaving Egypt. The unfolding of our journey as slaves in Egypt and the whole story of how we escaped including the fascinating 10 plagues as well as crossing the Sea of Reeds is definitely a captivating story that both young and old enjoy hearing every year.

I know every year I look forward to the Seder and hearing the story. I always crave a Shabbat challah during Pesach, which of course is great if you are in Israel, since this year in Israel they will break Pesach on Friday evening April 29, just in time for Shabbat.

I am really looking forward to celebrating my first Passover here in the USA. In fact, my family will be joining me here as well to celebrate and I guess we’ll just have to wait until Saturday night to enjoy that first bite of challah. This will also be my family’s first time in the USA and I’m really excited to celebrate with them in Charlotte as well as show them all the sights and sounds that I have grown to enjoy during my last eight months here. I also would love to introduce you to family members so if anyone is interested in meeting up, please email me or call me.

On a last note, I am really excited for this year’s, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut ceremony and celebration, which are both just around the corner. Please save the date for our annual community commemoration and celebration day Thursday, May 12 from 6-9 PM. For more information please contact me. More information and details will follow in the May edition of The Charlotte Jewish News.

Wishing everyone a Chag Kasher and Sameach!

“Hunger Seder” Shines Light on Hunger in Our Community

With spring in the air, the time is ripe to start thinking about Passover. Every year Jews all over the world gather with friends and family to commemorate our people’s liberation from slavery and oppression. While a significant aspect of this holiday is focused on food — delicious, unleavened food — Passover also provides an opportunity for reflection.

During our Seder, we are commanded to retell the Passover story so we will never forget that we were once slaves in the land of Egypt, and we are free. Keeping this history in mind is vital to our identity as Jews.

As Jews, we are commanded to help those in need, pursue justice, practice charity, show compassion, and share our resources. In this spirit, for the first time, The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte in collaboration with Jewish Family Services will be conducting our first annual interactive Hunger Seder on Sunday, April 17 at 4 PM at Temple Beth El. This participatory event will include symbolic holiday readings and reflections from the Haggadah, round table discussions, and a light meal of soup and salad.

Our goal is to begin a dialogue that will shine a light on hunger in the Charlotte community as well as to call upon the importance of a Jewish response to hunger in keeping with our Jewish values and by speaking out and acting. Per Andrew Bernstein, JFRC Chair, “The Hunger Seder allows our community to bring an awareness to such an important issue not only to our community, but the larger community in which we all live, and do it in such a way that we all understand the significance in all of us joining together to alleviate hunger.” We hope to bring together not only our local Jewish community members, but various hunger advocates and North Carolina state, local, and community elected officials so together we may learn and begin to educate ourselves as well as discuss, advocate and address the ongoing problems of domestic hunger.

We encourage you to join us and participate in an engaging and thoughtful afternoon that brings to light the true meaning of the powerful words of the Haggadah “Let all who are hungry come and eat.”

For more information please contact Tal Stein, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs, at tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org or 704-944-6751. RSVPs are required and are due by April 11 and can be made online at www.jewishcharlotte.org.

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Annual Spring Lecture with Jennifer Teege

(Continued from page 1)

the truth leads her, step by step, to the possibility of her own liberation.

Jennifer will share her emotional pilgrimage with our community on April 7, and we invite you to live this journey with her. The evening will begin with a strolling dinner at 6:30 PM and the lecture at 7:30 PM. A dessert reception and book signing will follow the strolling dinner at 6:30 PM and the lecture at 7:30 PM.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit our web-site at www.jewishcharlotte.org or contact the Federation office 704-944-6757.
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The Situation in Israel and the Middle East
(Continued from page 2)

age is 16. “Life is not important to them.” Typical women terrorists used to be poor but are now educated women from supportive homes, some as young as 15 years old. “I can understand the desperation, but can I justify the killing? No,” she declares emphatically.

“Israel needs a strong America, and America needs a strong Israel by its side,” Varnai Shorer said. She was happy to report that in spite of the rhetoric that claims President Obama is not supportive of Israel, his administration gave more in arms and security than Reagan or either Bush.

She asked the attendees to visit their Facebook page, “Israel in Atlanta,” for more updates on the state of Israel, https://www.facebook.com/IsraelAtlanta/?fref=ts.

JCRC is committed to continuing to bring speakers that reflect our core value of a secure Jewish community here and abroad as well as to the strong democratic Jewish state of Israel. For more information about JCRC please contact Tal Stein, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs at tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org.

SAVE THE DATE
Syria and Beyond: A Jewish Response to Today’s Refugees

Date: May 5, 2016
Time: 7:00 PM / Refreshments
Location: Temple Beth El
Speaker: Rabbi Jennie Rosen, Vice President for Community Engagement, HIAS
~ See page 31 for more details ~
Instilling Judaism’s Teachings in Our Children

By Mariashi Groner, director, CJDSS

How do we ensure that the teachings that are inherent in Judaism are instilled in our children throughout their life’s journey?

The following anecdotes illustrate a deep internalization of the Judaic lessons these children have received.

One of our Judaica teachers, Rabbi Cohen, received a phone call from a distraught mother. Their dog suddenly died and her son, his student, was inconsolable. Even though it was 10 PM, he insisted that she call Rabbi Cohen and ask him what prayer he should say for the dog.

Another one of our students fell asleep on his parents’ bed and while carrying him back to his room, somewhat asleep, he stretched out his arm as they walked through the doorway to kiss the mezuzah.

It is summer vacation, and Eve’s mom was walking through the hall gathering laundry where she hears some singing in a language she couldn’t place. She peeked in to her daughter’s room and saw her on her bed singing her prayers from her siddur that she had learned in school. She asked her why she was praying and she said, “It makes me feel good.”

One of our graduates from our day school volunteered to chair a national challah-baking project at her university, where the challah was sold to raise money for people who are hungry. She remembered that when baking challah at the day school, she was taught that baking challah is a mitzvah, aside from the trezdakah that they would be giving from the proceeds. She proceeded to share this with her supervisor and peers and taught them that one must separate a piece of dough that will be burned, and say a blessing. It is symbolic of the times of the Temple when a piece of the bread was given to the Priest. It also teaches us that whatever we are giving is not for our use alone.

Why do these kids feel so strongly about these Jewish practices outside of the typical Jewish framework? Why are they driven to continue to practice what they have been taught, when it is not expected? I believe that there are three foundational practices that can accomplish this goal.

Teaching children, especially of the elementary age, about their heritage and religion is a golden opportunity to light a fire that will continue to burn throughout adulthood. However, we must take care to provide the deeper meanings, sources and explanations for the text, history, holidays, and practice. Skimming the surface and engaging only in the superficial practices of our traditions, like gefilte fish, hamantaschen, and dreidels will not keep our children close. We sometimes forget that children are able to grasp deep, spiritual concepts that one would, at first glance, think might not be suitable. It is insufficient to teach the Judaism without its depth, layers and spirituality. It will end up like a balloon where the air quickly deflates.

Posing questions that challenge status quo, like, “Why can’t we use a trumpet on Rosh Hashana instead of a Shofar?” wakes up their minds to seek the answers in our texts. Or, “How can we find God in the Megilla when at first glance, He is nowhere to be seen?” Or, something even a little deeper like, “How can we leave Egypt in 2016?” since we are told we have to experience the redemption from slavery as if it just happened today.

God needs to be front and center. When God is present during the discussions, the activities, the meals, the games, the lessons, and the conclusions, the message for the children is clear, and that is what children are seeking. They are begging for it. When pulling Popscicle sticks to decide who will partner with whom in class, so that no one is hurt, we point out to the students that ultimately God is deciding who will be partners. When we want to eat anything, a blessing is said, creating an awareness of His presence. Judaism is not just present in the synagogue, during Judaic studies, or at lunchtime. Taking a moment to visualize the pleasure we are giving God when doing a mitzvah is another way to create the connections with God.

Last, but certainly not least, teachers who live what they teach, and teach what they live with joy, are the key to the longevity of the message. As important as it is to have well trained teachers in the field of education, it is just as important, if not more so, to have teachers who actually mean what they say, and say what they mean. When the teachers truly believe, live and love what they are transmitting, the children seize what is being shared and embrace the message completely.

Graduates from our day school return to us after college to reminisce the “long ago” stories of courage and faith that they still remember from their elementary days. Or they come to tell us how thankful they are that the tefillot and jerker hamazon were taught so well that no matter which synagogue they go to, they seem to be one of the most comfortable attendees there. Our graduates are the ones that are excited when approached with a lulav and etrog on Sukkot or tefillin in Manhattan.

They’re not groaning. They’re texting their friends and parents how cool it is that they had the opportunity to do another mitzvah. They’ve come home.

“Everything has an appointed season, and there is a time for every matter under the heaven.”

The season for the Jewish Preschool on Sardis with our Chaya is coming to an end. While we lose an amazing teacher and Judaica consultant, we also feel like we are gaining a new member of our family. Why? Chaya is getting married.

Her marriage to Chaim Meir will take her away from her home in Charlotte and at JPS and off to new adventures in New York.

Please help all of us at the Jewish Preschool on Sardis with Chaya all the best on her new journey. Mazel Tov to Chaya, Chaim Meir, and to the Groner family.
It was an extraordinary day at The Charlotte Jewish Preschool. Our school was full of joy and excitement with the children delighting in having their grandparents and special guests at school with them. Our grandparents traveled from near and far to spend this special day with their loved ones. Everyone was busy in the classrooms doing a special project, snacking on challah and other treats and enjoying a story in circle. The morning culminated at our school-wide Shabbat celebration where everyone enjoyed the blessings and songs with the children dancing in the aisles. What a fabulous day at CJP where we always LEARN, GROW, and CONNECT!

If you are interested in learning more about our program, please contact CJP’s Executive Director, Lisa Shporer, at 704-944-6776.
Three Ways to Support the Shalom Park Freedom School This Spring

Spring Fundraiser May 3 Featuring Educator James E. Ford

Join the Shalom Park Freedom School for its spring fundraiser, Tuesday, May 3 at 7 PM featuring James E. Ford, 2014-15 N.C. Teacher of the Year and program director at the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Ford will discuss the role education can play in young people’s lives and his experiences as a teacher and mentor.

Before deciding to become a teacher, Ford worked as a trauma intervention specialist in high schools and as director of a teen center that provided educational and after-school activities for youth at risk of dropping out of school. He began teaching World History at Garner High School in Charlotte in 2010 and helped lead the school’s peer mentoring program. A graduate of Illinois State University, Ford has a master’s degree in teaching from Rockford University and a school administration license from Wingate University. He has been recognized as Charlotte Magazine’s Charlottean of the Year as well as the National Alliance of Black School Educators’ Teacher of the Year. As a N.C. Teacher of the Year, he traveled the state as an ambassador for teachers and served as an adviser to the State Board of Education.

Ford’s passion for making a difference is evident when he talks of his profession, “I was always told how difficult the students were to teach, but never told just how much they would teach me,” he says. “If my students have learned nothing else from me, my hope is that they now understand the value they all carry and the life-changing potential of a quality education.” Ford is a perfect spokesperson for SPFS’ annual fundraiser, as the mission of the program is to educate and empower children to succeed in school and life. Shalom Park Freedom School is a collaboration of eight Shalom Park agencies working together to help close the academic achievement gap by providing a six-week literacy, character-building summer program to 80 economically disadvantaged children attending Sterling Elementary and Huntingtowne Farms Elementary schools, the two schools in faith-based partnerships with Temple Beth El and Temple Israel.

The fundraiser will be held at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts. Tickets are $10 and are on sale at the LJCC front desk.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.spfFreedomSchool.org or contact Event Chairs Katrina Nichols at knobi1215@gmail.com or Camille Kanofsky at camille@rsdiv.com.

Donate Swimsuits and Towels in April and May

Scholars at SPFS enjoy swimming lessons twice a week. To help with this, swimsuits and towels will be collected April 4-May 8. Grab a beach ball from the display at LJCC and help make a splash for our scholars this summer.

Book Drive: 6 Weeks - 6 Books

Doing some spring cleaning? SPFS needs easy readers and chapter books for elementary school kids (no board books please), educational workbooks, and adult and parenting books. The book drive allows each scholar to take home a book to keep each week during camp and serves the parents of scholars. Books can be dropped off at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. For more information, contact Debby Block at DBlock@shalomcharlotte.org.

Jewish Family Services

Thank You to February’s Volunteers and Donors

Volunteers: Rick Abrams, Ben Azizman, Ilene Cantor, Dan Coblenz, Jennifer Collman, Andrea Cronson, Sheryl Effren, Mel and Caren Frank, Jennifer Golyansk, Robert Friedman, Gail Halverson, June Hirschmann, Bob Jacobson, Karen Knoble, Gary Lerner, Annie Lord, Matt Laflin, Frada Mozenter, Allen Oxman, Barbara Rein, Bill Schwartz, Louis Sinkoe, Harry Sparks, Jeff and Stacy Strauch, Robin Taback, Amalia Warshenbrot, Mary Wennen, Mike Weinberg, Jan Weiner, Dori Whiteman, Lisa Wieluns, Nancy Wieluns

Hadassah Cooks: Barbara Abrams, Bonnie Berman, Ilene Cantor, Sharon Cavanaugh, Gladys Cherry, Lynne Cojac, Gail Green, June Hirschmann, Fran Kaplan, Judy Kaufmann, Penny Krieger, Shelley Leibman, Ivy Saul, Fran Schuler, Joyce Stol, Sun City Hadassah Cooks

Food Pantry Donations: Temple Israel and Temple Beth El Congregants, CJP families, Carol Sandler, Hannah Kaunitz, Stephanie Thompson, Jessica Mazur, Sheryl Effren, Beth Schulman

Food Drives: CJDS 2nd grade, JPS Mitzvah Munchkins, Sally Parker

Simcha Centerpieces: In honor of Daniel Pearlman, Brian Sohe, and Noah Salam B’nai Mitzvah

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JFS Responds to Community with Mental Health First Aid

“There Are Always Red Flags”

One in five Americans has a mental illness. Many are reluctant to seek help or might not know where to turn for care. Even when friends and family can tell that something is wrong, they may not know how to intervene or direct the person to proper treatment, which means that all too often, those in need of mental health services do not get them until it is too late. As a society, we need to learn about the signs and symptoms of mental illnesses. As a community, we need to learn how to respond.

Jewish Family Services sees mental health awareness and education as a priority for our community. In an effort to engage our community in this important discussion, JFS offered our first course in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for leaders, educators and front line staff of organizations in Shalom Park at the end of March.

MHFA is an evidence-based program being taught nationally to leaders and educators at colleges and universities, members of faith communities, policy makers, and those in front line positions dealing with the public. Corey Riddley, Safety and Security Director of Shalom Park, was one of the first people to sign up for the March MHFA class. “One thing we have learned about active shooter cases is that there are always red flags,” says Riddley. “If we as a community can learn to identify the red flags, we can get people the help they need before they harm others.”

Riddley joins JFS in seeing mental health awareness and education as a priority for our community. “Just like in Israel, we need to come together as a community to get the right training to help us all understand how to identify people who need help.” As important, he says, is learning the right way to approach an individual to offer help. “Whether it’s the pre-school parent who’s going through a divorce and is now facing the prospect of losing his kids, or the kid on the basketball court who is always starting fights, we need to learn how to reach out and connect them to help, rather than allowing the circumstances to escalate.”

MHFA teaches non-clinically trained individuals how to:

• Identify the risk factors and warning signs of mental health concerns
• Access information on depression, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, and substance abuse
• Initiate a five-step action plan to help someone experiencing mental health concern or in a crisis
• Refer to available resources

This program is funded by Jewish Family Services and provided through Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, the country’s largest specialty health plan, serving 720,000 individuals throughout North Carolina who are eligible for Medicaid or are uninsured.

Future classes will be provided to our community. If you are interested in offering Mental Health First Aid to your staff or constituents, please contact Nicole Levine at 704-364-6594 or nicole.levine@jfscharlotte.org.

Mother’s Day Friends Run is May 8

1 Mile - 5K - 10K - Moms’ Zone - Kids’ Zone - Family Fun

Registration is now open for this great community event that entertains the entire family and raises awareness of Jewish Family Services. In celebration of National Mental Health Awareness Month in May, proceeds of this year’s event will be used to subsidize therapy services at the Counseling Center at JFS.

Headed by chair Rebecca Levy, this year’s Friends Run committee came ready with great ideas and tons of energy.

This year’s race will be even more exciting because we have special guest DJ Kevin in the house. If you’ve been to a B’nai Mitzvah in Charlotte, you know DJ Kevin.

If you’ve been to a B’nai Mitzvah in Charlotte, you know DJ Kevin.

Sign up before the price increases April 23 and make plans to visit the Kids Zone and Moms Zone. Moms are the stars in this zone, so treat her to “momosas,” massages, and more.

Whether you walk, run, stroll, cheer, or volunteer, when you participate in the Mother’s Day Friends Run, you’re making a measurable difference. Make Mother’s Day a memorable and meaningful day by registering today: www.FRIENDSRUN.com
Donations to Jewish Family Services in February 2016

Thank you for allowing JFS to honor your friends and loved ones.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
Ben Aizenman from Bob and Leigh Jacobson
Hollis Collman from Jonathan and Jennifer Collman
Florence Jaffa from Elise Menaker, Allan and Marcelle Oxman
Anne Weiss from Monty Bennett

IN HONOR OF
Paul and Lynn Edelstein from Gary and Maxime Silverstein
Joshua Gorelick from Carol Gorelick
Leon and Sandra Levine from Gary and Maxime Silverstein

MAZEL TOV ON
Your marriage, to Stanley Greenspon and Maureen O’Keefe, from Harry and Felicity Berzack, Greenspon and Maureen O’Keefe
Your bat mitzvah, to Shayna Matthews, from Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble
Your bar mitzvah, to Brian Menaker, Allan and Marcelle Oxman
Your bar mitzvah, to Sam Matthews, from Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble
Your bat mitzvah, to Shayna Matthews, from Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble

IN APPRECIATION OF
Leonard and Judi Straus from Gary and Maxime Silverstein

IN MEMORY OF
Abe Bober from Bette Bober, Richard Bober, Debbie Bober
Hamilton from Alan and Merle Gotthiem, Bob and Leigh Jacobson, Philip and Lauren Stark, Randy Starkston
Robert Blenner to David and Bonnie Bornstein from Stephen and Nancy Schreiber
Charlotte Dray to Illana Hyman from Monty Bennett
Harold Hurt to Celia Mandel
Harold Mandel from Celia Mandel
Mort Raskin to Harriet Raskin from Bette Schwartz
Neil Sandler to Carol Sandler
from Allan and Marcie Oxman
Mike Schreiber to Sara Schreiber, Philip and Renee Schreiber from Erin Goldstein and Amanda Vestal, Colin and Elaine Cigler, Carol Gorelick, Barry Bobrow and Karen Knoble, Allan and Marcelle Oxman
Rhoda Sharp to Helaine Stone from Martin and Roslyn Husney, Morton and Eleanor Turk
Doris Widis to Phil Widis, Robert Widis, Larry and Florence Widis from Allan and Marcelle Oxman, Gary and Maxime Silverstein

Moishe House April Events

Moishe House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting community among Jewish young adults in their 20s and early 30s. Moishe House looks to fill the void that often exists after graduating college and prior to settling down. The organization brings together groups of three to five Jewish adults who live together and plan local programs, both home-based and external, for other young Jewish adults. There are currently 76 Moishe Houses in 18 countries around the world.

Moishe House Charlotte began in August 2013 and since then has hosted 130+ events ranging from service projects to social events to Jewish learning and more. We are always happy to see new and returning faces, so be sure to join us. We are pleased to share with you our exciting events for this March:

Event 1: Wet Willie’s Improv Comedy Show - Friday, April 1 at 8 PM at 900 North Carolina Music Factory Boulevard, Charlotte, NC.
Join the Moishe House for a night of Whose Line Is It Anyway-style improve. Wet Willie’s also serves adult beverages and grub. Tickets are only $10, so bring your friends and brace yourself for the fun.

Event 2: Good Deeds Day with ZABS Place – Sunday, April 10 at 2 PM at 100 N. Trade St., Matthews, NC.
Join the global movement of doing good. In honor of Good Deeds Day, Moishe House will be assisting ZABS Place, a nonprofit organization that helps adults with special needs, with organizing and cleaning their work space.

Event 3: Seder Plate Making - Saturday, April 16 at 7 PM at Moishe House.
Seder plates for JFS’ Community Hunger Seder taking place on April 17. We might even make some of our own to keep.

Event 4: Kosher for Passover Dinner at Moishe House - Tuesday, April 26 at 7 PM.
Join Moishe House for a Kosher for Passover dinner which may include matzah ball soup, matzah pizza, matzah brei, chocolate covered matzah, macaroons, and more.

Event 5: Post-Passover Pizza Party with Torah on Tap - Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 PM at Moishe House.
Join the Moishe House for a Kosher for Passover dinner, which may include matzah ball soup, matzah pizza, matzah brei, chocolate covered matzah, macaroons, and more. You don’t want to pass-over this event.

Event 6: Post-Passover Pizza Party with Torah on Tap - Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 PM at Moishe House.
Join the Moishe House and Torah on Tap for a Post-Passover Pizza Party. Feel free to bring your whole arsenal of friends, but please RSVP so that we know how much pizza to procure.

To learn more about Moishe House Charlotte, visit us at www.moishehousecharlotte.org or MoisheHouseCharlotte. To contact us, please e-mail mohocharlotte@gmail.com.

Moishe House
A House for Jewish young adults in their 20s and early 30s.

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There is a collection of writings that show we as veterans support American youth through scouting, scholarships, and anti-drug programs as well provide and assist oppressed Jews worldwide. The organization supports strong U.S.-Israeli relations by sponsoring two Allied Veterans’ Missions to Israel each year. 


“Jewish Americans have served in the United States armed forces dating back to before the colonial era, when Jews served in militias of the Thirteen Colonies. Jewish military personnel have served in all branches of the armed forces and in every major armed conflict to which the United States has been involved. The Jewish Chaplains Council estimated that there are currently 10,000 known Jewish servicemen and servicewomen on active duty.” (Military history of Jewish Americans Wikipedia). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Jewish_Americans

Jewish Americans continued to serve in the following two major wars, both of which involved the use of conscripted troops. Over 150,000 Jewish Americans (men and women) served in the Korean War. In Vietnam, 30,000 served. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Jewish_Americans

Brief History and Cause of the JWV Chapter in Charlotte

In 1654, Asher Levy, one of the original twenty-three Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam, demanded and secured for himself and fellow Jews the right to stand guard at the stockade. From colonial time to the present, Jews have played an important role in the defense of the United States of America. On July 31, 1776, Frances Salvador, a plantation owner from South Carolina, was killed in a British incited Indian skirmish. He was the first Jew killed in the Revolutionary War. One hundred and twenty years later, in 1896, a group of Jewish Civil War veterans organized the Hebrew Union Veterans, an organization that was later to become the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. The Hebrew Union Veterans was founded as a direct result of slander that Jews had not participated in the military during the “War Between States.” What concerned Jewish veterans then, and throughout America’s history, concerns Jewish veterans today.

Thousands of Jews have died in combat for their country and thousands more have been wounded. Thousands of Jews have been awarded combat medals for performing their duty in time of war.

“Thousands of Jews have died in combat for their country and thousands more have been wounded.”

Our post is working to get out the message of JWV and form a coherent group to show our compassion for the greater Charlotte community. We are currently searching for the program that will best demonstrate our love of others and provide comfort to those in need or deserve special treatment. We are considering the Homes for Heroes program and others that are locally available.

SPECIAL OFFER
The first 50 people take 50% Off Any Package
Exp: April 30, 2016

Introducing to Charlotte
The Hottest NEW Weight Loss Program
Our Body Shrinking Light Device Will Accelerate Your Weight Loss up to 500%! Lose 25-30 Pounds in just 30 days! Guaranteed!

- Revolutionary Laser Light Technology
- No Surgery-No Diets-No Exercise-No Invasive
- No Pain-No Bruising-No Swelling-No Drugs
- No Downtime
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- No Processed Meals
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Jewish War Veterans (Charlottes’ JWV Post 765)
The Butterfly Project is Soaring to New Heights

By Lorrie Klemons

Good things happen every day at the Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project. Two recent occurrences reflect the Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project’s history, impact, and potential for change.

A few months ago, representatives from the Wells Fargo Foundation met to tour the LJCC facilities. During the tour, they visited the South Charlotte JCC’s Childcare Center and shared with Rabbi Marci and Sarah Schwartz the story behind the Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project. The Levine JCC’s Butterfly Project is grateful to Lynn and Rabbi Cameron, age 17, South Point High School. Ready to change your job, your career, yourself? Call us today for your complimentary consultation. 704-604-1655

Trees Charlotte at the Hebrew Cemetery on February 21? Why, to plant trees and beautify the cemetery, of course. The 2nd annual tree planting event wasn’t held on Tu b’Shevat this year because of the sudden winter storm that canceled many community events that weekend in January. Our enthusiasm wasn’t diminished as we met one month later on the warmest day of the year to date, to honor, celebrate, and embrace the Jewish traditions surrounding planting trees and the environment. Rabbi Tracy Klirs from Temple Israel and Lynn Calnek, Education Director of Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson, led our educational program. Rabbi Klirs taught our volunteers that we are “shitufei KaKadoh Baruch Hu,” partners with the Holy One in the ongoing work of sustaining and perpetuating the works of creation. Planting and caring for trees are a few ways we can fulfill our covenant with God and further serve God when we enjoy those gifts. The Hebrew Cemetery Association is grateful to Lynn and Rabbi Klirs for educating our youth and adult volunteers that day. The tree is symbolic of Judaism in general. Trees have deep roots which require just the right amount of nurturing, fertilizing and watering to set down a stable and strong foundation for continued growth and development. They must be planted into holes that are both deep and wide enough so that the roots can spread and embrace mother earth, while seeking out nourishment and growth. They provide shade and shelter to those who require to sit beneath it. The unencumbered branches reach out laterally, as though to embrace the onlooker. And lastly, the trunk, as it constantly reaches up towards the heavens, depicts our constant striving to be connected to God and to our spirituality. Beautifying our beloved Hebrew Cemetery through the planting of trees is a joyful and meaningful endeavor. The trees serve to remind us of the grandeur of the universe and the power of Mother Nature, both nurtured and orchestrated by God. They remind us of our deep roots to a faith that brings so much joy and passion to so many. In their sapling stage, they remind us of the potential for all humanity which, when given the right care, caring and nurturing, become symbols of all the goodness that humanity can bring. Our sincere thanks to the TreesCharlotte Tree Masters and volunteers led by Dave Cable. Consume tree professionals, they guided us through every step along the way in our planting efforts. A huge thanks to all of the outstanding volunteers who help build the LJCC’s Butterfly Project, to volunteer, or to schedule a workshop for your group or organization, please contact Lori Semel, Butterfly Project Supervisor, at butterflyproject@charlottejcc.org or 704-944-6833.

---Chinese proverb

The Butterfly Project is Soaring to New Heights

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is today.”

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---Chinese proverb

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Charlotte Jewish News - April 2016 - Page 11


725 Providence Rd
Charlotte, NC 28207
704.333.6694

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www.swimmeinsurance.com
Elise and Jaime Kosofsky are among the 327 individuals and families in our community who have created 674 unique legacy gifts to support its future. Please take the time to read their story and thank them for their generosity. It is our hope that you will be inspired and encouraged to join them to help sustain our Jewish community by creating your own Jewish legacy.

By Elise Kosofsky

Jaime and I grew up in families committed to Judaism and determined to provide children with the necessary tools to develop their own Jewish identities. I was born in Arkansas before moving to Memphis, TN, where we attended an Orthodox shul. My parents, especially my mom, were very community oriented. The Federation’s Super Sunday and giving back have always been part of my life. I remember my parents giving gifts of their time, and now realize they were also philanthropic in other ways. I attended Northeastern University in Boston and met Jaime after moving to Lansing, MI.

Jaime received a traditional Jewish education in the small, one synagogue town of Terre Haute, IN. His parents were also very community minded and active in their temple, Federation, and many non-Jewish causes. His parents and grandparents led by example and gave back so others had opportunities to embrace their Jewish heritage. He attended Indiana University and later Thomas Cooley School Law School. Following another difficult Michigan winter, we looked to relocate and defrost. It was critical to us to find a community with an Orthodox shul, kosher butcher, and a school for future family to receive a strong Jewish education. We would not move to a city unless these things were available to us. We moved to Charlotte in 1998 and were married that same year. What we found was not just a Jewish infrastructure but a community. You can’t see this when you first visit a city.

Jaime and I feel that religion is very personal and children should not be trained to be “Orthodox,” “Conservative,” or “Reform.” Our children have learned this, and so much more, at the Charlotte Jewish Day School. While Congregation Ohr Hatorah is our spiritual home, the mitzvah of tzedakah is not limited to our spiritual journey but part of who we are and what we do. Giving back is a way of showing gratitude to others, who came before us and built our community from scratch. When our children are in Shalom Park or in the Levine Jewish Community Center, waiting for me while I attend a meeting, they are giving of their own time.

It is our hope and expectation that the Jewish community of Charlotte will always be a place for children to be exposed to our religion, culture and heritage enabling them to create and maintain their own Jewish identity.

Our Jewish Community’s Newest Legacy Gifts

We thank the following individuals/families who have recently informed our community, through Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) or one of the ten Create Your Jewish Legacy community partners, that they have created a legacy gift to support the future of Charlotte’s Jewish community or added an organization to their legacy plan. There are now 327 individuals/families throughout our Jewish community who have included a local Jewish organization in their legacy plans creating 674 unique legacies. Charlotte’s Jewish community now has estimated future gifts of more than $24 million.

We welcome our newest donors into our community’s Book of Life Society:

Anonymous (2)
Judy and Stan August
Jena Coen
Albert and Phyllis Garten
Lorrie and Barry Klemons and Family
Bruce and Candace Naliboff
Daisy Shapiro Rieke/Julie Irma Shapiro
Harold and Cynthia Turtletaub

“The man whose good deeds exceed his wisdom is like a tree with few branches and many roots: all the raging winds will not move him.”

– Ethics of the Fathers 3:17
Have a joyous Passover. And share what it means to you.

#PassoverPublix
Two Jewish Authors Highlight CPCP’s Sensoria

Sensoria, CPCP’s annual celebration of literature and the arts, will take place April 8 through 14 this year. Highlighting the festival will be the Irene Blair Honeycutt Distinguished Lecturer, Amy Bloom, on Wednesday, April 13. Displaying an unparalleled beauty of language, depth of psychological exploration, and narrative authority, as well as the novels The Flame Alphabet and Notable American Women.

In his introduction to New American Stories, Marcus says, “A story is simply a sequence of language that produces a chemical reaction in our bodies. When it’s done well, it causes sorrow, elation, awe, and fascination. It makes us believe in what’s not there, but also pour color over what is, so that we can feel and see the world anew. It fashions people, makes us care for them, then ladles them with conflict and disappointment. It erects towns, then razes them. A story switches on some unexplainably sophisticated machine inside us and we see, gloriously, what is not possible.”

Some of his books are available at the Levine Sklut Judaic Library and some of his short stories can be found at the newyorker.com. Marcus will speak at Tate Hall on the CPCP campus at 11 AM on April 12, focusing on the contemporary American short story, including his own work. This event is free and open to the public.

Acclaimed fiction writer, Ben Marcus, will visit Charlotte on Tuesday, April 12. Editor of the popular anthology New American Stories and regular contributor to The New Yorker, Marcus is known for bold formal innovations, sly humor, and emotional punch. He has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Berlin Prize, and American Arts and Letters. He is the critically lauded author of the short story collection Leaving the Sea and The Age of Wire and String as well as the novels The Flame Alphabet and Notable American Women.

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Other events at Sensoria this year include:

Author and food blogger Amelia Morris, Thursday, April 14, 9:30 AM at Tate Hall.

Visual artist, Charles Williams, whose exhibit will be available for viewing Monday-Thursday, April 11-14, 10 AM-2 PM in the Ross Gallery. The artist will lecture in Tate Hall Thursday evening with an opening reception in the gallery, 6-9 PM.

“The Hip Harpist” Deborah Henson-Conant will perform Monday, April 11, 7-8 PM, at Halton Theatre.

CPCP’s Opera Theater will present Gian Carlo Menotti’s The Old Maid and the Thief and The Medium (two one hour operas) on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, at 8 PM; and Sunday, April 10 at 2:30 PM in Halton Theater. For tickets, contact the SunTrust Box Office at 704-330-6534 or 704-330-6534.

Rosencrents and Guildenstern Are Dead, Friday and Saturday, April 8, 9, 15, and 16 at 8 PM; Sunday, April 10 and 17 at 2:30 PM; and Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 PM in Pease Auditorium. For tickets, contact the SunTrust Box Office at 704-330-6534 or 704-330-6534.

Other events that will perform Thursday, April 14, 7-8:30 PM in Halton Theater. For tickets, contact the SunTrust Box Office at 704-330-6534 or 704-330-6534.
At any hour on any given day—in Charlotte, in Israel and around the world—there may be Jews calling out for help. So on Super Sunday - The Sequel, please answer our call with a generous donation. You’ll not only be helping Jews in crisis, you’ll be helping to strengthen our entire community.

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

APRIL 17, 2016

www.jewishcharlotte.org
Children and parents are invited to

**FAMILY NATURE PROGRAM**

**Celebrate Earth Day with PJ Library!**

- Featuring a special presentation by the Carolina Raptor Center
- Mitzvah craft to help take care of the world

**Sunday, April 17**
10:30 am
Gorelick Hall

Cost: FREE, however, space is limited and reservations are first come, first serve

Register at www.NEXTGENCharlotte.org

Questions? Contact Nancy Kaunitz, 704.944.6858, nancy.kaunitz@jewishcharlotte.org
It’s Not Easy Being Green

By Bette Andrews

I’m not talking about Kermit the Frog, but I am leaps with excitement about the progress of the Shalom Park Environmental Initiative, also known as Shalom Green. The initiative set out in late 2014 to help Shalom Park shape the future of the Jewish Community as an activity and which was built to serve the Jewish Community Garden on May 1, 10AM-1PM. The garden has quickly become a part of religious school curricula and a cool place to be. Come on out for the official opening of the garden.

The Carbon Footprint Reduction was established to arrange for energy assessments of Shalom Park facilities to determine what property, equipment and supply purchasing improvements could be made to reduce carbon footprint. We were fortunate enough to receive grant dollars from North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light to conduct the assessments of Temple Beth El and Temple Israel. Implementation of recommendations described in the assessments are at the discretion of the temple leadership and both temples have established Green Teams. The LJCC Performing Arts Department Presents

The Tony Award winning Musical by William Finn

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The LJCC Performing Arts Department Presents

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

The Tony Award winning Musical by William Finn
and Rachel Sheinkin in which six awkward spellers
learn that winning (and losing) isn’t everything

Saturday, May 21 @ 2pm & 7pm
Sunday, May 22 @ 2pm

Purchase tickets at LJCC Customer Service Desk
704-366-5997 or charlottejcc.org/spellingbee

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Suitable for ages 12 and up

Ticket Sales Begin April 25!

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

$10 per ticket

Charlotte Jewish News - April 2016 - Page 17
Early Childhood

JChildcare
7 weeks – 7 years old
Children will enjoy a nurturing environment to explore and have fun with crafts and activities, while parents workout.
Mon-Fri AM................ 8am-1pm
Mon-Thu PM ............ 4pm-7:30pm
Saturday .................. 12pm-3pm
Sunday ..................... 8:30am-2pm
Per Hour: M/$4.50 NM/$5.50
Reservations Required! 704-366-5007, or visit LJCC’s customer service desk.

Grades K-5

Taekwondo
Students will learn the basics of taekwondo along with discipline, focus, goal setting, respect, positive attitude, teamwork and perseverance.
Choose one or two days per week
Price per month: M/$65 B/$60 NM/$75
Price per month: 2 classes per week M/$120 B/$110 NM/$140

Parent’s Night Out
Children 7 weeks to 7 years
Drop off your kids for a fun Under The Sea-themed night at the JCC while you enjoy your own night out! Together we’ll enjoy a special guest, fun and games, have a pizza dinner and watch a movie with popcorn. Space is limited call 704-366-5007 to make your reservation.
Saturday, May 14
5:30-8:30pm
$18/child $30/2 siblings $40/3 siblings

J-Hoops Private
Basketball Training
Join J-Hoops individual and small group training. Sessions available for all ages. Each session will be tailored to the specific needs of the players involved.
Individual Lessons (1 hour)
M/$50 or 4 for $180
N/M $60 each or 4 for $220
Group Lessons (1 hour)
M/ $35 each or 4 for $120
N/M $45 each or 4 for $160

Teens

Volunteers Needed!
Save the date for the 16th Annual Camp Soar (Special Olympics Athletic Retreat). Must be entering 9th grade or older to volunteer.
June 13-17th from 9am - 4pm
For more information contact Stephanie Gamer at 704-944-6743 or stephanie.gamer@charlottejcc.org

LJCC 5th Annual
Kids Triathlon
Sunday, June 5 @ 2pm
To benefit Pediatric Rehabilitative Services at Levine Children’s Hospital!
REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN
www.ljckidstri.org

LJCC APRIL HOLIDAY HOURS
Erev Passover
Friday, April 22
5:30am-4pm
1st Day Passover
Saturday, April 23
1-7pm
2nd Day Passover
Sunday, April 24
1-7pm
7th Day Passover
Friday, April 29
1-5pm
End of Passover
Saturday, April 30
1-7pm

Cabaret!
An Evening of Musical Theatre Performances
With LJCC Performers and Special Guests from the Charlotte Theatre Community
Saturday, April 16
7pm • Corelick Hall
Light Refreshments • Beer & Wine
Tickets $10
Ticket sales start Mon, 3/28
Call 704-366-5007, or visit the LJCC Customer Service Desk
Questions? susan.gundersheim@charlottejcc.org

www.charlottejcc.org • 704-366-5007

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

Puppy and Dog Training
Canine Good Citizen Certificate
Mondays, 6-7pm
Prepares dog for the Canine Good Citizen Test. For more information visit www.akc.org
Puppy Training (10+ weeks old)
Mondays, 7:15 – 8:15pm
Puppies learn sit, down, come and to play nicely with others.
May 2 – June 12
Polisoff Pavilion Camp Mindy
M/S110 B/S68 NW/S125
Questions contact Jessica Cohen
704-944-6739

It’s a Novel Thing!
Join the LJJC & Levine-Silktut Judaic Library Adult Book Club for this informal yet thought-provoking opportunity to share your love of fiction. Group discussions will be facilitated.
3rd Tuesday of each month
10:30am
Free
For more information contact the Levine-Silktut Judaic Library at 704-944-6700

HEALTHY LIVING, HEALTHY AGING for all adults 50+
Join us for this free monthly lunch and learn. This month’s topic “Seasoned Brains Can Still Be Powerful!”
Christie Ray from Waltonwood Retirement Living will give our brains a workout! Learn ways to strengthen the connections between both halves of your brain and keep your brain intact and powerful as you “season.” Join us for a light healthy snack or feel free to bring a dairy/vegetarian lunch.
Tuesday, April 19
12-1pm – FSP Boardroom
For more information contact Nurse Larrie 704-944-6880

Meditation Circle
Are you looking for ways to decrease your stress and make positive changes in your life? Join the LJJC’s first Meditation Circle.
Mondays, 10:45-11:45am
M/S65 E/S45 MW/S90
Drop in classes available.
Register by calling the LJJC Customer Service Desk at 704-366-5007

Senior

Painting & Beyond Art Class for adults 50+
Ignite your creativity, and learn from an art instructor.
1st & 3rd Mondays, 10-11:30am
Room A110
Oasis/LJJC Member $15/class
Non-Member $20/class
Register with LJJC Customer Service at 704-366-5007

Congratulations to Lorrie Klomos on winning the NC Association on Aging Service Excellence Award!

LJJC Department Directory
Please contact us if you have questions!

Membership
Susan Lerner 704-944-6742
susan.lerner@charlottejcc.org

Early Childhood
Patty Torcelli 704-944-5891
patty.torcelli@charlottejcc.org

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

Teen Programs
Jessie Cohen 704-944-6739
jessie.cohen@charlottejcc.org

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

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

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

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

J-Chillcare
Maxine Serrano 704-944-6726
maxine.serrano@charlottejcc.org

Oasis Senior Passover Seder

ALL SENIORS WELCOME!

This Event Made Possible & Sponsored By
STANLEY P. GREENSPON

A Passover luncheon and a community Seder led by Rabbi Jonathan Freirich, Cantor Mary Thomas, Cantor Elías Roochvarg and musical accompaniments by Miss Patty.
Friday, April 15 • 12-2pm
Gorelick Hall, Levine JCC

$5

*Advance Registration (w/payment) due by April 11
704-944-6735
sharrri.benjamin@charlottejcc.org

An annual administration fee of $20 per individual or $35 per family is required for non-member participation in programs and services.
A Fun Bat Mitzvah at Shalom Park

By Kelly Reed Keeling

With two banquet halls and numerous conference rooms equipped with audio-visual equipment, Shalom Park is the perfect venue for your party, conference or meeting.

On January 16, 2016, Talia Schulken celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park. Her mother, Toni Shub, won the Foundation of Shalom Park’s contest to win the free AAA Entertainment DJ by Joe Kerner. Recently, I sat down with Toni and her husband, David, to hear how everything went.

Question: Why did you choose the Foundation of Shalom Park for your event?

Answer: Shalom Park has beautiful facilities. We were looking for a Kosher facility, so Shalom Park was a perfect fit. The Foundation staff was very helpful in planning Talia’s Bat Mitzvah.

Question: Were you excited when you won the free DJ for Talia’s Bat Mitzvah?

Answer: Absolutely! Jay Parton, Operations Manager at the Foundation of the Shalom Park, says he never saw anyone get their paperwork in so fast. We were in tent on being eligible for the free DJ. We’ve had three major events this year: The Bar Mitzvah for Talia’s older brother Ryan (age 13), the Bat Mitzvah for Talia (age 12), and our wedding. We were definitely excited to save some money.

Question: What’s your general impression of AAA Entertainment?

Answer: AAA Entertainment is phenomenal. We would recommend them to anyone looking for a DJ. [For more information about AAA Entertainment, please contact Joe Kerner at jk@citynet.net or 866-422-2357 or visit www.aaalentice.com.]

Question: What specific things did AAA Entertainment do to make evening special?

Answer: AAA Entertainment had fun games, karaoke, special giveaways, and got everyone up on the dance floor. They put Talia’s name up on the big screen and had cool lights that made the presentation very professional. We are Orthodox, so we were very specific about starting the evening with girls on one side and boys on the other. We wanted the evening to be very respectful of Orthodox law and we didn’t want activities where the boys and girls would be touching. AAA Entertainment had no problem with these parameters. They started the evening with a divided dance floor and traditional music. Later in the evening, all the games and fun were completely appropriate. Everyone had a great time.

Question: I understand that AAA Entertainment brings dancers who help facilitate the activities. What was that like?

Answer: It was awesome. The AAA Entertainment staff were really great dancers, super nice people and they got everyone involved. The kids loved it. We had people on the dance floor we never would have expected.

Question: Did Talia have a good time at her Bat Mitzvah party?

Answer: Yes. She was so happy. She had fun dancing and singing karaoke with her friends on the stage in Gorelick Hall. The Foundation of Shalom Park really went above and beyond. The setup was perfect. And AAA Entertainment had many nice touches. For instance, they asked me to fill out a survey of questions about Talia before the party so they could tailor the event to her interests. We wrote that her favorite movie was “Fault in Our Stars.” The DJ ordered an autographed photo of the two main characters. Talia was over the moon.

Are you looking for ways to add pizzazz to your next event? Contact Jay Parton, Operations Manager of the Foundation of Shalom Park, at jparton@shalom-charlotte.org or 704-944-6842. Jay will be happy to explain all the options offered by the Foundation of Shalom Park and give you a tour. Jay and his staff strive to make event planning stress-free for you and the events themselves memorable and enjoyable. For events large and small, the Foundation of Shalom Park is the perfect place for your next meeting, conference or party.
ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

JAVA-N-JEANS
Saturday, April 2, 10:00am
Location: LJCC - Weinberg Center
This learner’s service is a place to ask questions and learn about individual prayers. The service will be followed by in-depth Torah discussion.

ROCK HASHABBAT
Friday, April 15, 6:15pm
Rock Hashabbat is a fast-paced, multigenerational service led by the Reuch, Temple Israel’s own “house band.” Come and sing along!

KAVANAH with YOGA
Saturday, April 16, 9:30am @ LJCC
The Kavanah service combines the ancient practices of Jewish prayer and meditation in an effort to create space for reflection and growth. The first hour is devoted to yoga, led by Melinda Farbman. This is followed by a brief Torah study, led by Rabbi Tracy Kliros.

TORAH TOTS
Friday, April 8, 5:45pm & Saturday, April 23, 1:00pm (Passover Special)
Preschool families! Join Ms. Patty (Friday), Miss Nancy (Saturday) and our clergy for a high energy, vibrant Shabbat. A healthy, bountiful Kid-ush snack follows this family-friendly service.

YOUTH

MAHAR Jumps Sky High
(3rd-5th Grades)
Sunday, April 17 (12:15-3:30pm)
Are you ready to bounce off the walls? Join your friends as we bounce into action at Sky High for an afternoon of intense trampolining. Cost also includes laser maze, ropes course, and sports simulator at Sky High. Pizza lunch provided. Drop-off and pick-up at TIRS building. $15/11-Y Members; $20/Non-Members. RSVP to amayo@templeisraelinc.org by Wednesday, April 13.

BONIM Goes to Inner Peaks
(6th-7th Grades)
Sunday, April 10 (12:30-4:30pm)
Join us at Inner Peaks for some Rock Climbing and a Brixx Pizza lunch! $30/11-Y Members; $40/non-members. Price includes rock climbing, lunch and transportation. Drop-off and pick-up at Temple Israel. RSVP to amayo@templeisraelinc.org by Wednesday, April 6.

GESHER "Casino" Lounge Night
(8th-12th Grades)
Wednesday, April 6 (6:00-7:00pm)
Location: LJCC Teen Lounge

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANTOR & FRIENDS
Sunday, April 10, 4:00pm
Music Lovers in Europe had a wonderful custom: in France it was called a “Soiree Musicale” and in Germany & Austria, a “Liederabend” (evening of song). Please join us for our next “musicale” when Cantor Elias Roorchvarg (accompanied by Monty Bennett) welcomes special guest Cantor Mary Thomas (Temple Beth El) for a SONDHEIM SONGFEST!

YOUNG ADULTS (Torah on Tap)

TAKE ME OUT TO HAYDALLAH
Saturday, April 16, 6:05pm
Location: Charlotte Knights Stadium
Join us at BB&T Ballpark to watch the Charlotte Knights take on the Durham Bulls. We will enjoy cold beverages, tasty food, and wrap things up with Havdallah on the lawn or at Romare Bearden Park.

Please purchase “Berm/Standing Room Only” tickets at bbballparkcharlotte.com, and join us as we sit together on the outfield lawn!

OUT WITH THE MATZO, IN WITH THE MOZZARELLA!
Saturday April 30, 7:30 - 10:30pm
Location: Charlotte Moishe House
We all love matzah, but enough is enough! So let’s nosh on some serious hametz right after Passover. Join Torah on Tap and Charlotte Moishe House for a Post-Passover Pizza Party! Feel free to invite all your friends, just let us know how many people will be attending so we can make sure to have enough pizza and beer.

RSVP by April 27th to Jason at jmleckler@aol.com, and email: mohocharlotte@gmail.com for the MoHo address.

LIFELONG LEARNING

SEDER? B’SEDER!

Wednesdays, April 6 & 13, 7:00-8:30pm
Join Rabbi Raucher for a two-evening program to expand our understanding of two key aspects of Passover:
Class 1: How to prepare and lead a Passover Seder. We’ll go over the traditional structure, and teach you how to add your own creative spin.
Class 2: We will address such Passover questions as: Are you really free? Everyone’s got an “Egypt” or “Pharaoh.” We’ll explore the task-masters in our lives and what it takes to be free from their bondage. FREE for members, and $36 for non-members. Please register by contacting the clergy office at 704-362-2796.

HAPPY PASSOVER! April 22 - 30

Your Passover Headquarters
Seder plates, Elijah Kiddush Cups, candle sticks, decorations for your Seder table, Afikomen prizes, & gifts!

GIFT SHOP HOURS:
Sunday, 9am – 12:30pm; Tuesday – Thursday, 10am – 1pm; Friday 11am to 1pm; or by appointment at 704-443-7643.
Youth Visions

Two Eastern Region Teens Elected to BBYO’s International Board

Presidents Day weekend, 118 teens from Eastern Region BBYO (35 from Charlotte) joined more than 4,000 teen leaders, educators, professionals, and philanthropists from 48 states and 27 countries in Baltimore to hear from distinguished change makers and break a Guinness World Record for the largest Shabbat dinner ever at BBYO International Convention (IC) 2016. With an attendance growth of 182% since 2012, IC 2016 served as a dynamic meeting place and real-world classroom providing today’s teen leaders an invaluable opportunity to join together for insights, shared leadership resources and new skills they will use to change the world.

“It was extremely powerful and inspiring to spend five days with Jewish teens, educators, and philanthropists, a priceless experience that I hope to have again,” said Marissa Uri, Ohavim BBG of Charlotte. “The energy and passion that surrounded each event of the convention reinforced my beliefs that BBYO teens will be the ones leading the Jewish people into the future.”

Some of the speakers and plenaries at IC included Cornell Brooks, president and CEO of the NAACP; Justin Baldoni, American actor and director; Casey Neistat, film director and popular YouTube creative, Meighan Stone, president of The Malala Fund; Dr. Einat Wilf, Israel’s Ravning Ambassador, and award-winning singer and songwriter, Jason Derulo were all a part of IC 2016. One other significant event included the election of the next International Board, a ten-member teen board that will help chart the organization’s vision for the coming year and provide leadership and support to teen leaders in local communities throughout the BBYO system.

All of us in Eastern Region BBYO are extremely proud of two local teens that were elected to serve on the AZA (boys) International Grand Board. Grey Silverman, Hank Greenberg AZA, was elected to serve as Grand Aleph S’gan (Vice President). Grey is a junior at Myers Park High School and the son of Dr. Marshall and Suzanne Silverman. In reaction to being elected Grey said, “In BBYO’s 92nd year, I look forward to diligently working alongside my fellow board members and counterparts across the globe to develop quality programming with a goal of progressing our movement. The more Jewish teens we can reach out to through meaningful experiences, the stronger we inevitably come together ensuring a vibrant Jewish future for today’s Jewish youth.”

Aaron Cooper, Ne-shama BBYO in Winston-Salem, NC was elected to serve as Grand Aleph Godol (president) for AZA. Aaron will take a gap year, travel the world, and strive to strengthen our movement. Aaron said, “I am looking forward to bringing a fresh perspective on the meaning of brotherhood and service to BBYO at the International level. My hope is to create an atmosphere that places a renewed emphasis on the ‘how’ and ‘why’ of our actions as a Jewish youth movement.”

Grey and Aaron have an exciting year ahead. BBYO is a place where Jewish teens can stay connected to their Judaism, explore their leadership skills and make friends to last a lifetime. For more information charlotte@bbyo.org.

Calling All B’nai Mitzvah Alumni

Temple Israel Reunion
May 20-22, 2016

Special guests confirmed! Both Rabbi Richard Rocklin and Rabbi Dov Kantof have confirmed that they will be joining us for the weekend, and each will be participating in our services on Friday night and Saturday morning.

Reservations are currently being accepted for Friday Shabbat Dinner, Saturday Kiddush (no cost), and Sunday Closing Brunch (no cost). And, Sponsorships are available! Visit templeisairenc.org.

DON’T GET LEFT OUT IN THE COLD... REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

COOLEST SUMMER EVER!

CAMP MINDY

Sessions run June 14 thru Aug 19
Half-day / Full-day
AM/PM Extended Care

CAMP MINDY

Pre-school
Grades K-5th
Teens
Arts & Drama

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

PRE- SCHOOL

Renaudo Turnbull Flag Football
• Turn & Burn Lacrosse
• Ruff Cut Baseball

JCC Charlotte

704-366-3007
charlottejcc.org/camp
“Respect” Is the Watchword at Hebrew High

Not everyone can wear the color orange, but the students at Hebrew High looked great as they sported their self-designed orange t-shirts on February 10. The school, along with its sister Jewish agencies, was participating in a campaign to encourage teens to advocate for and promote healthy relationships during “Respect Week” which took place February 8-12. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Individuals were encouraged to “wear orange” and to talk about the meaning behind their fashion choice by discussing the importance of promoting respect and healthy relationships with their peers, while raising awareness about teen dating violence. Teens and parents can learn more at www.loveisrespect.org and www.jwi.org.

The project was made possible by Eric Lerner of Action Plus Ideas who generously donated t-shirts for all the students. “Respect Week” is an annual event nationally and is implemented locally by the Teen Dating Violence Committee comprised of interested agencies and volunteers. For information on how to get involved, contact Marsha Stickler at info@shalombayit-nc.org.

“Respect” Is the Watchword at Hebrew High

Tyler Lewis and Emma Garfinkle

Isabella Turtletaub, Ricky Friedman, Lauren Mond, and Israeli Shlichah Inbar Ozeri

SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

Congregation to Host UNCC Professor for Adult Education Program

On April 9, 7:30 PM, Havurat Tikvah will welcome Professor James Walsh for an adult education program at a member’s home. Walsh will speak on European public attitudes toward Muslims and Islam, the rise of the European right-wing parties and a comparison of European and American reactions to Muslims and Islam.

He is a professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and teaches European politics. Walsh is the author of two books regarding international relations and 19 refereed journal articles. He received his B.A. with Honors in Political Science from Trinity College in 1990 and his Ph.D. in International Relations from American University in 1996.

Email the congregation at info@havuratikvah to learn more and to get information on the program’s location. At press time that was still being determined.

Professor James Walsh

Havurat Tikvah is a warm, supportive and nurturing Jewish Reconstructionist congregation with Shabbat services and a full spectrum of holiday observances, as well as religious educational options for both adults and (Continued on page 24)
Celebrating Chai
In Her Own Words: An Interview with Rabbi Judith Schindler

In April 2016, Rabbi Judith Schindler will celebrate 18 years leading the clergy of Temple Beth El. We asked her to reflect upon her time at Temple Beth El. Here is what she said.

**What do you think makes Temple Beth El special?**

I am most proud that Temple Beth El is a community that lives the values of Jewish community. Our members understand the power of a minyan not just in prayer but in study, in celebrating sacred time, in healing each other, and in healing our world.

For example, our S.P.I.C.E. (Shalom Green) program captures our commitment to creating vibrant community. Our active retirees (and even those who are still working) flock to Temple two Mondays a month for learning and lunch. More than one hundred people regularly attend. S.P.I.C.E. has travelled to Israel, engaged in annual courses of serious monthly study, provided support for Sterling Elementary School, and most of all, SPICE members have been family to one another. They have studied together, celebrated together, traveled together, socialized together, and grieved together as they mourned the deaths of those they knew. The commitment of our congregants to be ready to change the course of their day to fulfill a commitment to Jewish community is also reflected in other Caring Community groups such as those that prepare meals for and visit those who are sick or who make bereavement phone calls to check in with those who have lost a loved one.

**How has Temple Beth El formed community outside the congregation?**

Temple Beth El has built a strong reputation in Charlotte and the region for its commitment to social justice and action. From being the lead organization to inspire the creation of a Shalom Park Freedom School and Shalom Park environmental initiative (Shalom Green), to 19 years of Room in the Inn providing meals and shelter to our homeless neighbors and 19 years of Mitzvah Day, Temple Beth El fully practices what our ancient Biblical Prophets preached. We use our hands to make meals at Urban Ministry, our minds to tutor at Sterling Elementary, and our voices to work for equality, equity and justice. I am proud of Temple Beth El’s civic engagement on issues of affordable housing, LGBTQ rights, public school education, domestic abuse awareness, and issues surrounding aging.

**What was one of your proudest moments?**

On Sunday, September 5, 2005, 523 Hurricane Katrina evacuees from New Orleans arrived at the Charlotte Coliseum. Some were rescued from attics and plucked from rooftops just hours before. They were dazed, disoriented, and asked for maps to see where Charlotte, North Carolina was located. On Monday, just one day later, our Sisterhood organized an undergarment campaign for the evacuees and within hours, the office was covered with donations. We quickly partnered with Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte and Grubb Properties and found eleven families places to call “home.” We set up an instantaneous free store for our adopted families to furnish their homes and clothe their bodies. In caring for these 25 individuals through the next year, we learned the power we had at Beth El to organize, collaborate, lift up, and save lives.

**What message would you like to give Shalom Park and greater Charlotte Jewish community?**

We are tied together. Each institution has great gifts to share. Visit and celebrate and care about them all. Consider multiple affiliation. That is a value my grandfather embraced in Germany (as he belonged to Orthodox and Reform synagogues in Munich) and passed down to me.

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**Havurat Tikvah Guest Professor James Walsh**

(Continued from page 23)

For more information on upcoming services, programs, membership or other queries, call 980-225-5330, write to Havurat Tikvah, P.O. Box 17664, Charlotte, NC 28220, email membership@havurattikvah.org or visit havurattikvah.org. Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of Hadar and a member of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. Visit and celebrate and care about it all on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/havurattikvah.

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**A WEEKEND TO HONOR RABBI JUDY**

April 8 - 9, 2016

**FRIDAY, 7:00 PM - SHABBAT SERVICE**

Honor of Emerita Bestowed

**SATURDAY, 7:30 PM - CELEBRATION**

Music, Dancing, and Fun
Hors d’oeuvres and Drinks
Snappy Casual Attire
Tickets $54/person

RSVP required at www.templebethel.org

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**www.templebethel.org | 704-366-1948**

The entire Charlotte community is invited to join us.
Passover Enthusiasm at Ohr HaTorah

Passover is undoubtedly one of the most important holidays on the Jewish calendar. Judaism considers Passover to be the birthday of the Jewish people and it represents one of the most momentous events in Jewish history.

Passover is rich in family traditions and many interesting rituals. The focus of the Passover Seder is transmission to the next generation which is seen by the involvement of children in every detail of the Seder. The Seder reaffirms our trust in God that He will once again deliver us from the evil oppressors.

Ohr HaTorah will be providing a educational and instructive class to help people in Charlotte prepare for this festive yet complex holiday. A Practical Guide to Celebrating Passover will be held on Tuesday April 12, 7:30-9 PM. The class will cover practical laws of Passover, and give tips on how to conduct a Seder. This exciting class is also a benefit for those who are not conducting the Seder but would like to learn what the dynamics of the Seder and would also benefit from understanding thewhy of many of the rituals and customs that make the Seder special.

It’s important to note that one of the traditions in today’s times is to sell one’s chametz through the Rabbi before Passover. This ensures that there is no chametz in our possession from the eve of Passover through the entire holiday. Sale of chametz forms through Ohr HaTorah will be available on our website www.chabadnc.org. The forms will need to be completed by Thursday April 14.

Shmurah Matzo Available at Ohr HaTorah

A rich Passover tradition in many Jewish communities is the use of round Shmurah matzo for the Passover Seder. One of the reasons for this custom is that the Shmurah Matzo is the closest replica of the original Matzo the Israelites ate when they left Egypt in haste. This is especially true of the hand-baked Shmurah Matzo where the matzo is prepared and baked by hand in the old fashioned way.

In addition the Shmurah Matzo is baked with extra care which begins from the time of selecting and milling the grains for wheat. Thus the name Shmurah which means guarded. The matzo is made of only two ingredients, natural unbleached wheat and pure well water. The entire process of baking the matzo including the mixing and kneading needs to be completed in less than 18 minutes. The matzo is baked in an old style brick oven fired by wood logs which reach very high temperature. The average time it takes to bake the matzo is less than three minutes. The matzo bakery shuts down production every 18 minutes and goes in to a total scrub down. After a careful inspection of all the hand equipment the bakery starts up again. The oven remains fired up all day as the intense heat helps sanitize the oven interior.

A limited amount of Shmurah Matzo will be available for sale at congregation Ohr HaTorah by special order at $20.50 per pound. If you are interested please visit our website at www.chabadnc.org or call our office at 704-366-3964.

Thank you Legacy Donors

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

Anonymous* (6)
Ann and Bob Abel
Bennie and Toni Ackerman
Michele and Harvey Barer
Raymond Monty Bennett
Brian and Gwendolyn Bernhardt
Samuel and Nancy Bernstein
Lillian and Irving Biernacki
Benny Bobrow and Karen Knoble
David and Bonnie Bonstein
Bunny Branson
Denis Cagle (CBM)
Sully and Richard Chenkin
Steven and Olivia Cohen
Irvin and C. Gould Cigler
Gene and Deidre Dauert
David and Alisen Epstein
Rabbi Murray and Barbara Erzing
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Rhoda and Aaron (OBM)
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Meg O Goldstein and Matthew Luftglass
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Sol (OBM) and Janet (OBM) Jaffa
Dana and Andrew Kapustnik
Nancy and Robert Kipsas
Paula and Richard Klein
Lorrie and Barry Klemenson and Family
Sheila (OBM) and Lee Kritzer
Dale Lederer
Alison and Mark Lerner
Harry Lerner
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Hadassah Israeli Products Fair Seeks Corporate Sponsors and “Healers” for 3rd Annual Event on November 20

After the success of last year’s Fair, Charlotte Hadassah is pleased to announce that the 3rd Annual Israeli Products Fair will take place in November at Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park. We were thrilled with the turnout and community interest in last year’s event, and are looking forward to making this year’s event bigger and better with even more vendors showcasing Israeli made products. Through this event last year, the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah was able to donate over $10,000 to the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower at Hadassah Hospital. Proceeds from this year’s event will again benefit this Hospital. Proceeds from this event will again benefit this Hospital.

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Women's News

Hadassah Health Night 2016 – Ask the Doctor

The 2016 Hadassah Health Night: Ask the Doctor took place on February 22 at Temple Israel. As always, this annual event was free and open to the community. Scott Menaker, DDS, of Menaker/Rodney Dentistry, gave a terrific presentation on the future of dentistry, focusing on the exciting new technologies that are transforming the practice of dentistry and improving both the dentist’s and patient’s experience. Crowns done while you wait, improved implants and braces, and new X-ray and office procedures were some of the topics highlighted.

Adam Spitz, MD, of Novant Presbyterian Medical Center, is a Board Certified Endocrinologist. Dr. Spitz and Judy Fischer, RD of My Diabetes Dietician, acted as a tag team, showcasing up to date approaches for preventing Type 2 diabetes, which has become dangerously common. Some of the ideas they discussed were nutritional, physical, and lifestyle changes that can reduce our risk of getting diabetes. She discussed the Mediterranean diet, rich in fish, vegetables, and olive oil, and the audience was also happy to learn that coffee has newly proven helpful in the prevention of diabetes. She discussed the importance of managing your stress levels. She also highly encouraged everyone to get a thorough evaluation every year.

Mike Van Glish, MD of Charlotte, Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Associates, is a Board Certified specialist in Otolaryngology. He discussed the various types of hearing loss in adults and explored some of the ways this problem can be treated. He emphasized the need for a thorough evaluation of the underlying causes of hearing loss, and expressed lots of hope for improving quality of life through better hearing. He also reminded everyone to avoid sticking anything into their ears.

Following the presentations, there was a question and answer session, during which several members of the audience asked a variety of questions about the topics our doctors discussed, and more.

Thanks to our presenters, our attendees, and our hosts at Temple Israel.

Ross Udoff, MD of Charlotte, served as the moderator for the event.

As always, this annual even was open to the community.

This event benefits Levine JCC Oasis Senior Enrichment Program

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Committee: Mike Van Glish (Co-Chair), Arthur Lavitt (Co-Chair), Phil Berman, Ron Gordon, Scott Menaker, Frank Scibelli, David Van Glish, Marc Wojnowich
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Babies in the Library

A brand new generation is learning to love the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library. Every Thursday morning, the library is buzzing with babies, toddlers, moms, dads, nannies, and grandmas. This free program – called “Come with Me to the Library” (formerly known as Playdate and Rhythm, Rhyme and Storytime) - is co-sponsored by PJ Library, the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. Every week our littler library-goers (ages six months to two years) love playing and exploring.

On alternative weeks, the children enjoy the age-appropriate stories, finger plays, and songs with “Miss Debby” Block.

What a wonderful way for young children to learn to associate books and literature with fun. For more information on this class, please contact Debby Block at dblock@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-944-6780.

Babies in the Library

By Sara Verskin (Jewniverse via JTA) - Do your bosses and clients oppress you? Have you spent years getting an education only to enter a low-paying, low-status profession? If so, this Haggadah is for you.

Published in 19th-century Odessa, Sefer Hagadah La-Melamdim (The Schoolteachers’ Haggadah), is complete with the laws, liturgy, and commentaries of traditional Haggadahs. But this parody playfully reconfigures the text so it tells a different story. The oppressed is not the Israelite but the melammed, the Hebrew schoolteacher. The oppressors are not the pharaohs but the ba’ale ha-battim, the parents and school board members.

This Haggadah’s Four Questions ask: “Why is teaching different from all other professions?”

The answer?

“In all other professions, non-experts are never haughty toward the professionals, but with teaching, boys and girls and everyone else interferes and imposes as though it was their duty.”

The downtrodden author explains: If we could have earned a decent living, but did not get any respect, dayenu. If we could have been given some respect, but did not earn a livelihood, dayenu. But, as it is, having neither, we must pray to God to save us from our servitude and to help us exit the profession.”

Of course, there were some escapes. Daniel Chwolson converted to Christianity in 1855 and went on to become a professor of Oriental languages. Asked if he converted out of conviction, Joseph Telushkin recounts, Chwolson answered: “Yes, out of the conviction that it is better to be a professor in St. Petersburg than a melammed in Eishyshok.”

Jewniverse is a daily email list and blog featuring extraordinary, inspirational, forgotten, and just-plain-strange dispatches from Jewish culture, tradition and history. Sign up at www.TheJewniverse.com.
Three Items That Say Passover: Which Do You Choose?

By Edmon J. Rodman

Los Angeles (JTA) - Can the essence of Passover fit into a box? Fans of Manischewitz and Streit’s will undoubtedly answer, “Yes, in a matzah box.”

But a successful Kickstarter campaign called Hello Mazel aims to reinvent that box, promising a package filled with Passover-related “Jewish awesomeness” that will be delivered to your door (or someone else’s).

The project was a smash on Kickstarter, to the tune of more than $152,021 with 1,395 backers.

Investors who pledged a minimum of $45 will receive a box in April containing “three twists on the tastes of Passover, a Haggadah like none you’ve ever used, and a Seder plate that is not a Seder plate,” says the enigmatic pitch.

Thinking inside the box, I wondered what would go into a box of my own creation. Perhaps a jar filled with the essence of full-strength maror to revive them to the awe of liberation. Also a Seder clock; one that doesn’t mark the time but rather the steps of the clock; one that doesn’t mark the essence of Passover foods that twist my wine stains from my shirt — that wander off could find their place. Also, something to clean what Hello Mazel was really of — something to clean the box's mix of food, ritual object and text. Schlesinger says he hopes the food will provide an entry point to the Jewish content, and the Jewish content will provide a “framework in which to understand why the foods are relevant.”

Yet I still wondered how even a brilliant new Haggadah could hold everyone’s interest — especially of a generation used to doing practically everything on-line.

Schlesinger responded that Judaism — contrary to recent attempts to project it into virtual communities — has always been about the senses, the “tactile” experience of “touch, feel, and taste.” "What is a moment we can hold everyone's interest — especially that of a generation used to doing practically everything on-line?"

As for the Seder plate, its design has them reaching creatively, moving beyond “symbolic ethnicity” — a term coined by sociologist Hebert Gans describing a nostalgic relationship with Judaism that relies on a “love for and pride in a tradition that can be felt without having to be incorporated in everyday behavior” — Schlesinger said one question driving the project was: “How do we get Torah to more people and into more people’s hands?”

As an answer, The Kitchen’s crew created a Haggadah, a prototype of which Schlesinger and others successfully tested at their own Seders last year.

“We reinvented and re-engineered a way of telling the Passover story, which is what the Seder and Haggadah are meant to do,” he said.

The Haggadah could serve as either a supplement or a replacement, Schlesinger added.

“For a Seder newbies it certainly would be an appropriate first-level, Haggadah-like experience,” he said.

As for the Seder plate, its design has them reaching creatively, looking for a way to present something that is “heavy, expensive and beautiful” in a box that’s 10 by 12 by 4 inches (and also needs to contain the rest of the offerings).

Long accustomed to my table’s magic I needed to keep everyone’s interest — jokingly wondering what kind of plays into Los Angeles (JTA) - Can the essence of Passover fit into a box? Fans of Manischewitz and Streit’s will undoubtedly answer, “Yes, in a matzah box.”

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Confession: I Secretly Love Passover

By Amanda Bradley

(Kvell via JTA) - I have a confession to make. Not only do I enjoy Passover, I also enjoy making Passover.

For years I hid this fact. Living in a prevailing culture where it was obligatory to begin moaning about Passover cleaning not long after Hanukkah, I felt that enjoying making Passover was a flaw in an otherwise perfect character. I was embarrassed to admit that I really enjoy tipping out the contents of my kitchen drawers and lining them with paper, and that washing down the insides of my kitchen cabinets to a background of heavy rock is a spiritual experience for me.

But I think that I'm old enough now to admit the truth.

The truth is, I love Passover. I love cleaning for Passover and I love preparing for Passover. I love the feeling in the air of possibility that springtime feeling love preparing for Passover. I love now to admit the truth.

The truth is, I love Passover. I keep stricter laws than they do. I've been raised by friends and relatives who feel something wrong, and feel patronized (or the plague — get it?). My family avoids them like they're poison. They're fearful of getting chametz products, which (to me) are a feel-good time of eating matzah and not eating obvious chametz products, which (to me) would not be enough to create such a complete feeling of being in a different dimension, one where you really can achieve your potential. And as a person who only gets things done by the deadline, I know that if the laws of Passover were optional, I wouldn’t follow them at all.

I think that like so many things in life, this one might come down to our mothers (I know, I know, if in doubt, blame the mother). I do because I have friends who scrub their skirting boards with a toothbrush, but are happy while they do so, and others who do the bare minimum with anxiety and resentment.

A quick Facebook poll has shown that the deciding factor in how people feel about making Passover is definitely the atmosphere in which they grew up. People who grew up with mothers who were happy about making Passover feel happy about making Passover. People who grew up in homes where making Passover was an overwhelming chore or anxious stress factor report that their generation would not make Passover. That is the atmosphere of Passover. It seems to make little difference if they make Passover in three days or three months, whether or not they have a Passover kitchen, if they work full time or not at all, or how old their kids are.

I grew up with an excitement about Passover. As a child, I loved the turn-around-house-upside-down unexpectedness of cleaning, the way that long-lost toys and favorite games would resurface, the stir and bustle in the air. I loved the excitement of taking out the Passover dishes and reuniting with my favorite Passover mug. And call me childish, but I have never lost that feeling.

Between you and me, though, can I tell you what I really hate? I hate unmaking Passover. Believe me, I miss my bagels as much as the next woman (or more, if the next woman is one of the many who’s on a gluten-free diet). So I can’t wait to rise to the leaven again. But oh do I resent putting everything away. It’s a heavy and wearisome task, with none of the joy of creating a new atmosphere of lightness and festivity that buoys me through my pre-Passover preparations.

Please don’t depress you with that. Instead, I’ll end this article here and go on to put on a Bon Jovi track while I joyfully clean and know that no one did Passover cleaning before the advent of rock music, right?

I won’t stone me for being sexist. I know that men also make Passover. But at least in our parents' generation, 95% of the time it was the women who bent the brunt of the preparations.

Kvell is a thriving community of women and parents who connect online to share, celebrate, and commiserate our experiences of raising kids through a Jewish lens. Visit Kveller.com.

Strawberry Almond Mini Muffins for Passover

By Whitney Fisch

(The Nosher via JTA) - Passover and I haven't always been friends. There was a time when I thought about Passover approaching and my mind would be overrun by what I wouldn’t be allowed to do. As a girl who has always loved carbs, the thought of saying goodbye to my beloved noodles and bread, even for eight days, caused me to have a little anxiety attack.

But as the food world has become increasingly creative to help accommodate the never-ending list of folks with food allergies, Passover has become less about what I can’t have and more about what I can have by flexing my creative foodie muscles.

The recipe below is a great example of that easing of restrictions. I hope you enjoy.

Ingredients:
- 3 c. roasted strawberries
- 2 T. coconut oil
- 1/2 c. vanilla yogurt
- 1 egg
- 1 T. vanilla extract
- 2 c. blanched almond flour
- 1/4 t. sea salt
- 1/2 t. baking soda

DIRECTIONS:
- To make the roasted strawberries:
  - Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toss 3 c. of quartered strawberries with a pinch of salt and 2 t. melted coconut oil or other cooking oil that you prefer. Spread strawberry bites in a single layer on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Roast for 25-30 min. or till juicy and reduced in size. Set aside to cool.
- To make the muffins:
  - Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine all the wet ingredients in a bowl. Add the dry ingredient mix with a spoon. Add the dry ingredient mixes and mix well. Fold in the strawberries. Place cupcake liners in a baking pan and fill the liners halfway with batter. Bake for about 15 minutes, or till a toothpick placed in the center of a muffin comes out clean and the tops are starting to brown. Allow to cool for at least 15 minutes before serving.

The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNosher.com.
I Celebrate Passover Because My Parents Couldn’t

By Olga Chernov-Gitin

(From the April 16 issue)

My son is the new generation American, he hears the words “when I was little…” from us a lot.

It’s followed by a comparison of how different his American childhood is from our Soviet childhood. He eats dill pickles and food, to freedom of religion and celebrating diversity.

Once we went to our local Chabad for a model matzah baking. At the end, the kids received real shmurah matzah, and the rabbi even mentioned to us that it comes from Dnepropetrovsk, in Ukraine. (When I was little, there were no matzah bakeries in Dnepropetrovsk.) That morning, as I was getting my tortilla out of the fridge, I mentioned to Will that once Passover starts, I won’t be eating any tortillas and we goggled about the difficulty of spreading peanut butter and jelly on matzah without breaking it.

Somewhat thoughtfully, Will remarked: “You’ll probably be really sick of matzah by the end of Pesach. My grandad, you can’t have pancakes.”

Even though I was already risk- ing being late for work, I decided that the moment was right to share my thoughts on Passover with my son since he had brought it up.

“You know what? You’re right, by the end, I do miss real bread,” I said. “But you know what else? I’m really happy when I eat matzah. It reminds me that I’m free to eat it and free to celebrate Pesach. Did you know that when I was little, we weren’t allowed to?”

“Aha! I saw the spark of interest in his eyes; my cue to continue.

“When I was little, and even when Grandma Yana was little, we weren’t allowed to celebrate Pesach and eat matzah,” I said. “In the Soviet Union, the government didn’t want Jews to celebrate their holidays. We couldn’t go to the library and learn to make matzah. And Jews couldn’t even speak Yiddish in public. Can you imagine what it would be like if you were only allowed to speak Russian at home and never, ever outside?”

Confused surprise flashed across my son’s face.

“Is that why everyone only remembers some words in Yiddish but not all?” he asked. “And is that why you want me to speak Russian? So I don’t forget it like they forgot Yiddish?”

Bingo! A connection had been made. It was imperfect, but I’ll take it.

I came back to eating matzah. Yes, I miss hametz but by least Day 5. But the truth is, Passover is one of my favorite holidays precisely because it celebrates freedom. Freedom of my Jewish people from slavery, freedom of refugees/ Americans by choice like us to be Jewish, and most recently, freedom of self-determination for Jews in Ukraine, who joined Ukrainians of all backgrounds to proclaim that they, too, want to live free of corruption and outside political influence.

My son is the new generation that will not know political oppression and religious suppression.

He is the pure generation that hears about things so unthinkable to him that he probably assumes we exaggerate. Watching him grow up free and teaching him what it means to be Jewish is an honor and a joy. It is something I do openly, buying Jewish books in Barnes and Noble and celebrating holidays in public spaces.

These are such simple things, yet so unthinkable for my parents and grandparents. They managed to pass on what little they knew out of sight and with some apprehension. I eat matzah for them, to be reminded that Jewish freedom comes with a heavy price. But in today’s America, passing on the significance of that freedom is both my luxury and my responsibility.

(Olga Chernov-Gitin is a first-generation American who lives with her husband and two children in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.)

How to Choose a Passover Haggadah

By Julie Wiener

(MyJewishLearning via JTA) - With thousands of published Haggadahs available for purchase, choosing the one that is best for your Seder can be overwhelming.

For an overview of the many possibilities, we recommend “How Is This Haggadah Different?”

Here are some things you might want to consider when selecting a Haggadah:

Cost

Remember, you’ll need a copy of the Haggadah for each guest (or every two guests, if people are comfortable sharing). Unless you plan to buy one copy and then do some extensive photocopying - we should note, that’s illegal for copyrighted publications - you’ll have to multiply the book’s price by the number of guests.

There are also many free downloadable PDF versions online, like at mezuzzahstore.com and chabad.org, or you could choose to make your own.

Length

If your guests are expecting the traditional Seder, complete with Hebrew, they might be uncomfortable with an abridged Haggadah, an LGBTQ Haggadah, or one that emphasizes contemporary examples of oppression and slavery. On the other hand, if many are first-time Seder-goers or lack the patience for a really long Seder, something like “The 30-Minute Seder” or a book that relates the Exodus to modern social issues might be just the thing.

Children

Since children generally don’t like sitting still at the table for long, we recommend an abbreviated or child-oriented Haggadah. There are many great children’s and “family” Haggadahs that engage adults as well as kids. Be sure to check out this list on Kveller for the best Haggadhas for kids. For the older kids, think about acting out skits from the Seder.
FACT: Every Passover we open the door for Elijah, the Hebrew prophet whose unseen presence is felt helping people throughout the world.

FACT: We invite Elijah in to drink from his cup on our Seder table.

FACT: He never drinks. What's up with that?

FACT: The cup isn’t actually for Elijah. It’s for us. To remind us of all the times we’ve been helped by his unseen hand, and to inspire us to return the favor.

PLEASE GIVE TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHARLOTTE AND EXTEND ELIJAH’S TOUCH TO YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD THIS PASSOVER. FACT: ELIJAH WOULD APPROVE.

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