

SHALOM

GREENSBORO



A Work of Heart.

Local Photographer Exposes
Elegance and Emotion of Dance  **p6**

Check This Out: Greensboro Jewish
Library Opens for Readers **p4**

Capturing Jewish Heritage in
Handcrafted Jewelry **p8**



UNC
GREENSBORO

Jewish Studies Program and
Religious Studies Department



Join us for The Annual Henry Samuel Levinson Lecture

WOMEN IN ISRAELI SOCIETY: THE ARMY, THE RABBIS, AND ME



LINDA GRADSTEIN

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 | 7 – 8:30 p.m.
UNC Greensboro Elliott University Center
Auditorium | 507 Stirling St.
Free Parking in the Walker Deck

ABOUT THE LECTURE: While Israel is widely admired for including women in army service and for being among the first countries to elect a female Prime Minister, Israeli women face many of the same challenges as females worldwide as well as issues unique to Israel. In this talk, Gradstein addresses the issues as she has seen and lived them: from her own experiences with rabbinic courts to her daughter's army service and beyond.

ABOUT GRADSTEIN: Linda Gradstein is a professor of journalism at NYU-Tel Aviv and Hebrew University as well as a freelance journalist. For 20 years she was the NPR correspondent based in Jerusalem. She has covered every major story in Israel for the past 30 years and won several awards for her coverage. She lives with her family in Jerusalem.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration required at:

lindagradstein2022.eventbrite.com

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*The Herman and Zelda Bernard Distinguished Professorship in Jewish Studies,
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exploring THE ARTS IN JUDAISM

Rene and I recently saw the New York production of *Caroline, or Change*, a musical by playwright, Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*), and composer, Jeanine Tesori (*Fun Home*, *Shrek the Musical*). The award-winning, semi-autobiographical play addresses issues of race relations in the Deep South by exploring the relationships between a Jewish family and a Black woman employed as their maid. At a tense moment, a non-Jewish character makes an ugly statement about Jews. (I apologize for being vague; I don't want to spoil it for you when the play comes to the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, as I am sure it will!) It is intended to hurt, and it does. The line is a pivotal moment in the play; it is a fulcrum for some of the change to which the play's title refers. Growing up in Lake Charles, LA, there is no doubt that Tony Kushner heard such antisemitic tropes, just as many of us have.

And yet, there was a smattering of laughter through the theater - not a lot and not loud, but disturbing nonetheless. The scene and line were clearly intended to be uncomfortable for the characters and the audience; to highlight a fraught relationship and one character's efforts to work through emotions which the character only partly understood. Were people laughing at an insult to Jews? Or was this nervous laughter? The intent of the playwright and actors was clear, but what of the audience? My conclusion - shared by some of the cast with whom we spoke after the performance - was that it was nervous laughter by audience members who were unsure how to respond to an ugly slur. Our friends who joined us for the performance weren't convinced.

Caroline, or Change, like many artistic productions, provides a crucible to explore the world around us. Yet, once created, the results are not entirely in the artists' hands. Even in the controlled environment of a Broadway theater, people bring their own history, biases, and even inscrutability with them.

Art, at its best, helps to illuminate both the dark and light places in our lives; to push us to see from a perspective not our own what we might otherwise miss; and to cause us to think more deeply about something we thought we already understood. I believe Tony Kushner's play did that, even if - like life - it left room for ambiguity. This issue of *Shalom Greensboro* features art in the Jewish world, so I leave you with a question: What do you think?

Tom Cone, President
Greensboro Jewish Federation
2020 - 2022



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ON MY MIND: Faces Captured Through Time

By Marilyn Forman Chandler, *Executive Director, Greensboro Jewish Federation*



Marilyn Forman Chandler

I love taking photographs, especially of sunrises and sunsets. While walking in a nature reserve on a recent trip to visit family in Florida, I saw camouflaged photographers, amateur and professional, hauling huge zoom lenses and tripods, taking endless pictures of herons and egrets, anhingas, alligators and turtles.

My favorite image though, also through the lens of a camera, captures a moment in time of a human face. My friend Edward Serotta, a photojournalist, traveled to Sarajevo just after the siege in 1993 and captured the faces of people in that war-torn Jewish community who had aided the Muslim and Christian communities. Later, he captured images of Jews from the former Soviet Union (FSU) facing hunger, soon to be supported by

federations like ours through the JDC. And even later, when Shelly Weiner and Rachel Kizhnerman returned to the home of the people who had saved them during WWII, Edward was there to capture their faces.

And, while on Federation missions, I have loved taking photos of Jewish community members in Israel, Cuba, Beltsy, and Berlin. I treasure the images and the stories behind them. I miss seeing those faces and long to be close one day soon.

It gives me pause to think about the faces of all the individuals we are helping through our annual campaign in communities far away: places like our sister city of Beltsy, Moldova in the FSU and in Ethiopia. I am especially proud of our federation's long-standing tradition of taking care of Jews no matter where they are. *Klal Yisrael* - all Jews are responsible one for the other - *Kol Arevim Zeh Ba Zeh*.

This issue of *Shalom Greensboro* is dedicated to the arts. We have been blessed in our Jewish community with many creative, talented and devoted artists in their own right as well as lovers of the arts - film, theater, instrumental and vocal music, dance, design, and many other art forms. I invite you in to meet them in this magazine.



Robert Chandler with a representative of Lifeline for the Old in Jerusalem



Erin Rosen (right) speaks with Adela Dworin, President of the Jewish Community in Havana, Cuba

“I am especially proud of our federation’s long-standing tradition of taking care of Jews no matter where they are.”



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Julia Watkins
Editor

Dena Kovach
Design Editor

Nat Bernstein, Mark Bochkis,
Hillary Zaken, Ellen Fischer
Contributing Writers/Editors

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Andrew Bowen Studios

Shalom Greensboro is a publication of the Greensboro Jewish Federation, 5509-C West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410-4211. The publication provides information and news about the Greensboro Jewish community. For questions, please contact us at magazine@shalomgreensboro.org. *Shalom Greensboro* is published in print and online. The online version can be found at www.shalomgreensboro.org.

On The Campaign Trail: Here for Good on Super Bowl Sunday

By Elizabeth Strasser, 2022 Campaign Co-Chair



Elizabeth Strasser

Well friends, we've made it! "Made it through what?" you may ask. We've made it through the High Holy Days, Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. Seasons have come and gone. Winter is here, and my favorite season, football season, is coming to an end. The Panthers did not do their best this year, but I digress. Speaking of football though, the Greensboro Jewish Federation has a very important event coming up... And, no, we aren't getting together to watch the Super Bowl or play a football game. However, on Sunday, February 13th which also happens to be Super Bowl Sunday, we are having our second telethon.

If you don't already know, we do two telethons a year. Our first one was in December, and the second one is in February. There are many ways we ask for donations. Sometimes, it's over lunch. Other times, we call on the phone. Or maybe, we will meet on Zoom, since that's all the rage now.

During telethons we have volunteers call members of our community to get pledges for the Annual Campaign. Regardless of method of contact, we appreciate all pledges and donations. No amount is too small.

This year, our theme is Here For Good. What does that mean? To me, it means that the Greensboro Jewish Federation, which has been around for more than 80 years, will never go away. We appreciate all of our volunteers and donors. When so much of the last (almost) two years was taken away, our commitment to serving our community only grew. As our new normal evolves, we continue to reach out to those in need, to find creative and innovative ways to engage with our community, and make sure good grows at home, in Israel and around the world. Because with your generous support, the Greensboro Jewish Federation is Here for Good.

So, keep your phones on vibrate during the big game, but please answer them! We'd love to talk to you, and learn more about your story. **We want you to be Here For Good.**



“Regardless of method of contact, we appreciate all pledges and donations. No amount is too small.”

“ANSWER THE CALL”

here for good

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JFS Partners with Art Museums for Virtual Tours

Art helps us see the world, and Jewish Family Services (JFS) brought four virtual docent-led art museum tours to older adults in the community. Weatherspoon Art Museum hosted two programs: *Slow Looking/Deep Seeing* and *Helen Frankenthaler: Late Works, 1990-2003*.

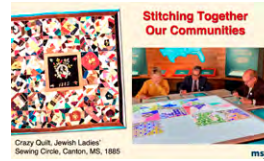


Exhibits featured in The Weatherspoon Art Museum

A third program was a tour of the brand new Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans, LA while another, *Pieces of Now*, was through the Greensboro History Museum.

Maddie Reed, who attended all of the programs, said, "The one that sticks out the most for me was the one at the Greensboro History Museum depicting the art downtown after the George Floyd protests. That was a remarkable exhibit, and for someone who is unable to go downtown and walk around to look at everything, it was amazing to see the impact and creativity of the art. Without the tour being provided for us virtually, I would not have been able to see that. I enjoyed them all but that one was very impactful."

Victoria Milstein joined JFS during the tour of the Greensboro History Museum to discuss the deep impact of the Black Lives Matter protests held locally and the beautiful artwork that came out of them. The words *Tikkun Olam* in large letters on the boarded windows of Milstein's downtown studio hit close to home for many during the virtual tour.



Historical slides provided by the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in New Orleans shared more about historical experiences of Jews in the south. The two exhibits at Weatherspoon enabled all participants to look at the works of art carefully and with new insights. Discussions between Zoom participants and the docents were interactive and illuminating.

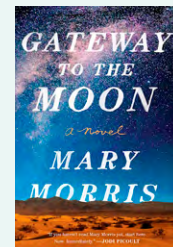
JFS is planning more artistic programs in 2022, including an Elsewhere Museum tour and a program at The Historic Magnolia House.

OPEN FOR CHECKOUT: The Greensboro Jewish Library

The Greensboro Jewish Library, located at the Greensboro Jewish Federation Building, consists of books from the Jewish Book Council and the Federation's own collection. The library has been revived thanks to the interest and commitment of JFS volunteers.

Arlene Henza and Bea Mandel did the amazing *mitzvah* of giving their time to organize the library for our community while Hayden Ross and Michael Loflin helped by moving shelves and packing books. The library is in an open and welcoming space with a computerized system that allows people to check books in and out digitally at www.JFSGreensboro.org. Until the Federation opens back up to the public, books can be picked up in the front foyer of the building. Whether you are interested in a light read or an educational dive into Judaism, the library is your resource.

Arlene Henza said, "I was attracted to this project because I saw these books not being utilized as they sat on shelves that weren't inviting. Books are meant to be enjoyed. It's been a big project but there is now much better access to these books for our community. Most of the authors are Jewish, but the books are diverse and not just on Jewish topics. I look forward to seeing people using this resource."



BOOK HIGHLIGHT

In 1492, the Jewish and Muslim populations of Spain were expelled, and Columbus set sail for America. In *Gateway to the Moon*, Luis de Torres, a Spanish Jew, accompanies Columbus as his interpreter. His journey is only the beginning of a long migration, across many generations. Over the centuries, de Torres' descendants travel from Spain and Portugal to Mexico, finally settling in the hills of New Mexico. Five hundred years later, it is in these same hills that Miguel Torres, a young amateur astronomer, finds himself trying to understand the mystery that surrounds him and the town where he grew up.

Artistic Talent at JFS: JENNY SCHULTZ



“Jenny is inspired by nature and by her heroes, one of whom is Ruth Bader Ginsburg.”

clay can be very meditative and enables you to turn your mind off to the stresses of the day.”

Jenny is inspired by nature and by her heroes, one of whom is Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Her “Notorious RBG” cup (pictured above) is popular. She sent one to Justice Ginsburg who responded with a hand-written thank you note on U.S. Supreme Court stationery.

She is also inspired by Jewish themes. She loves the idea of *hiddur mitzvah*: beautifying ritual objects. She made *L’chaim* cups for members at Beth David Synagogue based on their individual preferences. Prior to the pandemic, they were kept at the synagogue for use after Shabbat morning services.

Jenny shows her work locally at Potters of the Piedmont, Art in the Arboretum, and the Summer Solstice Festival. To learn more, email her at JSchultz@shalomgreensboro.org.

Although she had taken a class in college, Jenny Schultz’s love of ceramics didn’t really blossom until she moved to Greensboro. When she became involved in weekly classes offered by the Art Alliance, she discovered a community of artists and a passion for the kind of pottery that is hand-built as opposed to made on the wheel.

“I love the tactile nature of it,” says Jenny who is also the Program Specialist at Jewish Family Services. “And, I find it so rewarding to work with the glazes. It’s science-meets-art and involves a lot of experimentation. Working with

TODAH RABAH

We thank the following people for their contributions to Jewish Family Services. All contributions to JFS are used to support JFS programs and services and those in our community unless otherwise specified by the donor.

DAVID D. FRAZIER FOOD PANTRY

Joel and Simone Liebling
Jane Rosen-Grandon
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Dr. and Mrs. Eugene LeBauer
Steven Friedland and Jennifer Sadock
David and Rodna Hurewitz
Susan Ross

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND Marc Isaacson

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In Honor:

Of: Peggy Bernstein’s Birthday
From: Leonard and Ellen Samet

Of: Adele Weinstein’s Birthday
From: Leonard and Ellen Samet

Of: Debby and Neil Aberman’s
grandchild
From: Steve Shavitz and
Judy Frederick

Of: Sarah Nudelman’s marriage
From: Steve Shavitz and
Judy Frederick

Of: Finn Strasser
From: Alina Spaulding

Of: Lori Heimann
From: Audrey Krakovitz

Of: Susan Ross
From: Audrey Krakovitz

In Memory:

Of: Ron Milstein’s brother-in-law,
Albert Kedansky z”l

From: Steve Shavitz and
Judy Frederick

Of: Maurice Ossey z”l
From: Susan and Gary Simmons

Of: Carol Amsterdam z”l
From: Erin Rosen

Of: Bert Lynch z”l
From: Sara Lynch Hoffman

In Honor:

Of: Rochelle (Shelly) Weiner
From: Rachel Kizhnerman

In Memory:

Of: Gladys Haber z”l
From: Bea and David Mandel

Of: Gladys Haber z”l
From: Lois and Howard Mezer

GLOBAL EMERGENCY FUND: AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

In Memory:

Of: Lenny Dolin, z”l,
Rob Skirboll, z”l,
Walter Spielman, z”l
From: Monday Night Gin Game
“Dinner Pushke” –
Steve Bomibart,
Lenny Samet, Bob Shuman,
Josef Silverman, Allen Ross,
Tomas Levi, Brian Goldberg,
Paul Leib, Andy Aronson,
Victor Ackerman

We apologize if we have missed anyone’s contribution. Please call Jewish Family Services (336) 852-4829 x222 if we missed you, and we will include you in the next issue. The minimum donation for each submission is \$10.00. Thank you.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES AND FEDERATION Welcome New Staff Member



Allison
Crossman

Allison Crossman recently joined Jewish Family Services and the Greensboro Jewish Federation as the full-time Office Administrator. Prior to joining, Allison worked with two local healthcare nonprofits: Health Sciences Health Innovations Group and the North Carolina Serious Illness Coalition. Her previous work experience includes being a Community Outreach, Education, and Administrative Coordinator and working as a Registered Behavior Technician.

Allison is a Northern Michigan native and moved to Greensboro a few years ago where she attended University of North

Carolina-Greensboro and earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in sociology. In her spare time, Allison loves hiking, thrifting, reading, and spending time with her family. She also loves to volunteer with the NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse and the NC Coalition on Aging.



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Moving Photography

local photographer exposes the elegance and emotion of Dance

BY JULIA WATKINS



Andrew Bowen in his studio

*Photo courtesy of
The Jaymes Agency*

Artistry can be portrayed in a plethora of ways and today, there seems to be more effort than ever to make just about everything an “aesthetic.” From dancing on TikTok to the way one organizes their pantry, to decorating a homemade cake, everyone has some artistic flair in their daily lives. Some artists, however, have been perfecting their technique since they were preschoolers. Those artists are often dancers.

Parents sign their children up for dance at an early age for a number of reasons. This art form can help people of all ages build confidence, improve muscle strength, learn discipline, and understand the connection between the mind and body.

Another art form, photography, captures the beauty and emotion of this type of storytelling.

When Andrew Bowen decided to switch careers from engineering to photography in 2010, he didn’t know how successful he would be or the impact he would have on the dance community and beyond. After a family move to Greensboro to send his daughter to the American Hebrew Academy, the former international Jewish boarding school, Bowen found himself photographing families, high school seniors and some bar mitzvahs on the weekends. “The Jewish community dances without shame at bar mitzvahs,” he laughed.

Bowen remembers feeling like he had a lot to learn after shooting his first semi-professional dancer around 2015. “When I first began photographing dancers, there were additional aspects of right and wrong,” Bowen explained. Balancing light and darkness is already challenging for photographers, but adding in basic ballet positions and correct body movements is another level.

It wasn’t until 2018 when Bowen approached the Greensboro Ballet for some pro-bono work to hone his skills. The lighting aspect was easy for him to come by but he knew he’d have to do some extra work to properly serve this population. He embraced the virtual world during the Covid-19 pandemic by joining a two-year dance photography mentorship program out of New York City, signing up for virtual dance classes with a small studio in

England, receiving a Master’s in Photography through the Professional Photographers of America and committing to the study of dance kinesiology, all to improve his craft.

In the ballet world, dancers are constantly in front of mirrors, being coached on perfecting each position and moving their bodies with precise goals in mind. In Bowen’s photography studio, comfortability is of the utmost importance. The dancer’s vision on everything, from what they want to wear to all of the moves they want to showcase, is paramount. “Dancers are often subjugating themselves to other people’s visions. This space is a space for them to do something they’ve always wanted for themselves,” Bowen explained as he walked through the rooms he carefully curated with flexible backdrops and professional lighting equipment.

Equipped with snacks, hair bands and bottles of water, the environment that Andrew has created in his studio connected to his home, feels safe, welcoming, and extremely professional.

“You realize, especially when you’re working with women or girls, or males for that matter, that you have an awesome responsibility to not feed into what society puts on them. If I’m going to work with dancers, I need to step up my game so much more than really good lighting.”

Each session, Bowen creates a collaborative experience while in his studio, encouraging dancers to speak up, take the lead, and be assertive throughout their time together. He treats his clients as peers and works alongside them to achieve a look that shows the dancer at their very best.

“More than anything, you listen to them. Dance is a rare art form where the person is the canvas, the paint, and the brush,” he noted.

Bowen is also known for giving his time and talent to the local community. In addition to this magazine, he volunteers his photography skills to a multitude of nonprofit organizations such as Marva’s Outreach Ministries (M-O-M) which helps survivors of domestic violence. Each year, M-O-M calls on Bowen to shoot their annual calendar at his studio.

“I want to showcase these women for more than their abuse. You have authors, doctors, social workers and entrepreneurs in the room. You get a chance to talk to them and hear their story, not as a victim, but as a human being

“Dance is a rare art form where the person is the canvas, the paint, and the brush.”



Above: Company Dancer, Michela Semenza, with Greensboro Ballet

On the Cover: Andrew Bowen (center) poses with the ballet dancers from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Class of 2022.

Left: Karley Weaver with Dancers Edge
Photos courtesy of Andrew Bowen Studios



and how they've overcome so much. Of course, I want to help do something," he says humbly.

In addition to humble, patient would be the best word to describe Bowen in regards to his art. He wants to capture the entire essence of a dancer and asks for their feedback throughout the entire photography session. Oftentimes, one session takes an entire afternoon. Bowen is constantly showing his camera to his clients as they work together to get the perfect shot.

"Dance is an art form that transcends language. It enables the whole person to express the emotion or feeling or message they are trying to convey. Dance has been a communication form, and a way of passing history that speaks to us at a fundamental level. There's a second aspect of dance: amazing athleticism. We're both in awe of the artistry and the emotion but at the same time, in awe of the physical capability."

The Greensboro community is not the only place where Bowen's talent is widely known. In the two out of three years he has submitted dance photography, Bowen has been a bronze photographer with the IPC (International Photographic Competition). In 2019 and 2021, all four of his submitted photos were designated merit images at the highest quality of photography and will be on display at the Imaging USA Convention this year.

Bowen belongs in the dance world, not only because of his talent, but because he is an advocate for women, dancers, and artists. The average person may never know how passionate Bowen is about his photography but, after spending an afternoon with him, each dancer he works with will be stronger, in more than one way.

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Jewelry Artist Emphasizes JEWISH HERITAGE



Judith Altman

The work of the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro strives to preserve Jewish cultural heritage and fulfill the *mitzvah* of *tikkun olam* through connections to the greater community. Many local philanthropists attempt to weave a similar tapestry through their vocations as well as their charitable efforts. One such example is Judith Altman, an accomplished artist who has been a long standing supporter of both the Foundation and the community.

Judith, who has a background in Art History, has been able to combine her artistry and cultural awareness in her one-of-a-kind jewelry creations. She showcases the rich heritage of her pieces and provides her customers with antique collectibles. “We belong to a global community,” Judith notes. “I hope that my art serves to connect this generation and the next to the rich cultural heritage of the past.” Similarly, her dedication to the continued support of local Jewish institutions through her “Create a Jewish Legacy” helps to ensure the Jewish continuum in Greensboro.

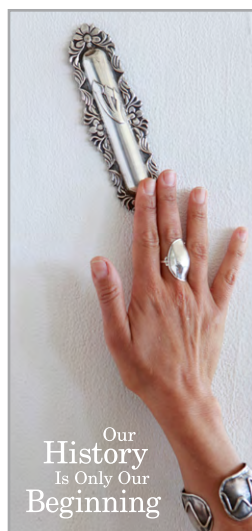
Judith is a self-described “hunter gatherer” who travels the world both marveling at the art of the past and honoring the culture that it represents. She does this with a trained eye and reimagines her “findings” into new designs. Spending countless hours in the *shuks* in Israel, Morocco or Tunisia, her discoveries — an amulet, an ancient coin or a *hamsa* — fuel her creative passion. An inquisitive artist, she most often asks, “Where did this item come from, who wore it in the past, what role did it play in that person’s life?”

Much of her art revolves around Jewish symbols, many of which represent the talismans of our people; an ancient *mezuzah*, that tarnished *hamsa* — all combined with a unique Jewish story, often of hardship, but always representing the unbroken connection to Judaism and its people. She is able to create new from the old, always remembering the heritage that her art embraces.

All photos courtesy of Judith Altman



“I hope that my art serves to connect this generation and the next to the rich cultural heritage of the past.”





JEWISH FOUNDATION
of Greensboro



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To learn more about creating a Jewish legacy, contact Susan Gutterman at (336) 852-0099 or sgutterman@JewishFoundationNC.org.



JEWISH FOUNDATION
of Greensboro

CELEBRATING

25TH

ANNIVERSARY



ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE Honors Morry and Ruth Jacobs



Ruth and Morry Jacobs

A donation of one pint of blood can help save three lives. That is what donors remembered while giving their time and blood on Sunday, November 7 at the Jewish Community Blood Drive in Memory of Morry and Ruth Jacobs.

This year, the blood drive was held at Chabad Jewish Center Greensboro. Forty-three people signed up to give blood and 41 pints of blood were collected.

"It's a mitzvah to give blood to help others," said Karen Gould, co-chair of the event.

Rick Jacobs, son of Morry and Ruth Jacobs, drove three hours from Wilmington, N.C. to attend the blood drive. His sister, Barbie, donates funds annually to help subsidize the cost of snacks and drinks for donors at the drive. According to Rick, his father, Morry, was always involved in the Greensboro community.

"In the late 70's many churches had blood drives but the synagogues didn't. Starting the blood drive was another way for my father to be involved in the community, but specifically the Jewish community."

In the early years of this annual event, Rick would help his father call people to sign up for the blood drive. In 1992, Morry passed away and the blood drive was named for him. In 2013, when his mother, Ruth, passed away, organizers of the event added her name as well.

Each year, after Rick donates a pint of blood, he drives to the cemetery to visit his beloved parents before making the trek back to the coast.

"When you walk up to donate blood and see that picture of your parents.... as I've done for years.... it still stops you. The synagogue was so important to them."

Although time has passed, the gift of giving will continue. For one person, it could make all the difference.



Karen Gould, co-chair of the Blood Drive and Dan Wolf, blood donor



Elisa Liss with Rick Jacobs as he gives blood in memory of his parents

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MAKING CONNECTIONS

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Clive Lawton

here
for
good



This year's Major Gifts Event, held on Zoom, was entitled Small Community, Big Impact and featured the inspiring Clive Lawton, a British educator, broadcaster and writer. He is most known for his current role as Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Jewish Council and as the founder of Limmud International, a volunteer-driven Jewish learning experience that holds events across the globe.

Mr. Lawton spoke about the power of small communities and stated, "Judaism was never meant to be a majority – we were always meant to be a minority. And we should not just strive to survive as such – we should endeavor to thrive."

Special thanks to Larry and Caren Appel, co-chairs of the event, who spoke about their involvement with the Federation and the positive impact it has had on so many community members.

More than 100 people were in the Zoom room. All major donors local to Greensboro received goodie bags, dropped off at their homes, prior to the event containing Federation branded mugs as well as tea and crumpets in honor of the event's British speaker.



Jenny Kaiser welcomes the crowd



Lee Bretan and Maya Gurfinkel smile with the sponsor of the event, Alina Spaulding (center)

LATKE VODKA & TZEDAKAH: A Party with a Purpose



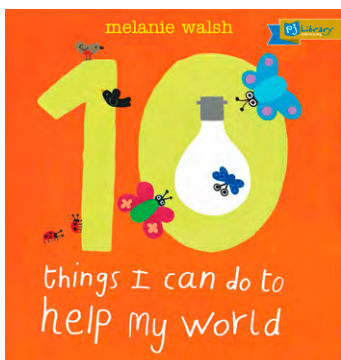
A full house gathered for Latke, Vodka, & Tzedakah on Wednesday, December 1 at 913 Whiskey Bar and Southern Kitchen. This year, the event was put on in-person by the Engagement Committee for both men and women who wanted to "party with a purpose!" Jenny Kaiser, a member of the Engagement Committee and Vice President of Marketing at the Jewish Federation spoke to the crowd before introducing Matt Marks. Marks, who brought friends along from his nursing program, lit the menorah, as everyone sang the Hanukkah candle-lighting blessing.

Salad, fried okra, fried pickles, flatbread pizza, and latkes with all the toppings were served by 913 Whiskey Bar, owned by Dan and Alyssa Gatto who are members of the Greensboro Jewish community. In addition, the mixologists at 913 Whiskey Bar concocted a festive "Maccabee Mule" for the "Vodka" portion of Latke, Vodka, & Tzedakah.

As for *tzedakah*, attendees were able to donate their drink ticket to help subsidize rides on the JFS Van. Funds were raised, and many friends were made throughout the evening! Special thanks to Alina Gerlovin Spaulding for sponsoring this event and to the G-FLI Alumni Committee and J-Triad for helping to promote it.



G-FLI cohorts enjoyed the in-person outdoor event.



PJ Library Caring for the Earth



A sunny fall afternoon under the trees provided a perfect afternoon for PJ Library's Caring for the Earth event. Six families, 12 kids and two grandparents attended with picnic baskets in tow. Each family had their own picnic table to unwind after attending religious school or other Sunday morning activities.

After snacking and running around Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, the kids listened to the PJ Library book, *10 Things I Can Do to Help My World* by Melanie Walsh. The group sat in a circle and answered the book's questions about how to be more environmentally conscious. After the book reading, everyone searched for rocks to keep and paint as their own. The group also inspected trees on the property and identified each one from the *Trees of North Carolina* coloring page.

The group welcomed two new families who signed up to begin receiving PJ Library books. For information about future events, follow PJ Library Greensboro on Facebook or email Maya Gurfinkel at mgurfinkel@shalomgreensboro.org.



THE PLATT BROTHERS Entertain and Educate at Campaign Kickoff

Campaign Kickoff took place in early December and is rumored to have been the best virtual event ever! Prior to the event, local Greensboro residents who signed up online received a bag of "good" themed snacks and a cup to match this year's Campaign theme, Here for Good.

Tony, Grammy and Emmy award-winning star Ben Platt, multi-platform creator and performer Jonah Platt, and LGBTQ and mental wellness advocate Henry Platt joined Congresswoman Kathy Manning for a discussion on their achievements, their challenges and how Judaism has played an essential role in their lives.

Chaired by Rachel Pront, Campaign Kickoff provided viewers with an evening of entertainment and heartfelt fun. There were songs, videos about what Here for Good means to members of our Jewish community, personal testimonies from our Campaign Co-Chairs Elizabeth Strasser and Ron Yardenay, and even an activity where audience members could submit a word that was synonymous with Here for Good.

"The Greensboro Jewish Community as a whole, from the Federation to the Temple to B'nai Shalom, has always made me feel very welcome and comfortable. It doesn't matter that I'm technically not Jewish. My interfaith family and I are always welcome with open arms," said Strasser in an emotional speech about why she wants the Jewish community to thrive and be Here for Good.

The evening concluded with another beautiful song recorded by the Platt Brothers, followed by Marilyn Forman-Chandler who lit the menorah, in celebration of the eighth night of Hanukkah.

Special thanks to the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts for sponsoring this event.

Students Draw Inspiration from Jewish Traditions at B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL



Dr. Karen Dresser joined the faculty at B'nai Shalom Day School last August and brings Jewish tradition into her art classes whenever possible. "If I could do every art class with a Jewish theme, I would," said Dr. Dresser. She encourages her students to see how Jewish history, tradition, and spirituality can be reflected visually in pieces they create in her classroom.



Jonah Wolf stands in front of his and his classmates' art, inspired by Jewish teachings. *Photography courtesy of Karen Dresser*

When looking back on a recent project she completed with her Upper School students, Dr. Dresser reflected, "I want my students to do something that's different from things they've been asked to do before. I want them to do things that are a bit more meaty." Her students studied manuscript art called *Shiviti* which artists used to prepare themselves for prayer. Then, they examined the work of contemporary artist David Friedman whose colorful work was inspired by *Kabbalah*. Students drew inspiration from these Jewish artistic traditions to design their own meditative pieces that contained the phrase "I put *HaShem* before me." Students' pieces illustrated what was studied. The intention behind the students' own pieces was to remind the viewer to put G-d before themselves.

Seventh-grader Jonah Wolf created a piece that featured an olive tree in the center. "The olive tree represents Israel and G-d led us to the land of Israel," Jonah said. "My thinking was that when people see the olive tree in my piece it will remind them of what G-d did for the Jewish people."

Dr. Dresser has inspired the students to take creative risks and think in a more intentional way about the integration of art and Judaism.



Donors to Beth David's 75th Anniversary Endowment Campaign admire the photos from the memorabilia exhibit. (Cheryl Kersky, Joyce Shuman, and Janice Hyman)

BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE Celebrates 75 years with Memorabilia Exhibit



Art helps to tell the story of people and places; it chronicles Jewish life at a specific time and place. As Beth David celebrates its 75th anniversary, art is taking a prominent role. The committee poured through photographs of the past seven and a half decades to find candid moments that illustrate Beth David through the years.

"Pictures tell a story. And over the course of time, that story becomes the memories of our younger selves and eventually the story of us when we aren't around to tell it ourselves," said Joyce Shuman, 75th Anniversary Chair.

"Print photography is a critical part of memory, and in particular multi-generational memory. Prints exist on walls and in albums that beg for interaction. They ask for their stories to be told and moments remembered," said Andrew Bowen, a professional photographer and member of Beth David.

Viewing the photographs can be a time machine.

The photos that line the foyer and hall show families celebrating weddings, b'nai mitzvahs, and evenings out. They enable the present to have a glimpse into what life was like for our parents and grandparents, and even show children of today what life was like a decade ago. How has life changed? What is the same?

Bowen added, "A printed photograph is an ever-present opportunity to stop and remember that requires no booting a device or searching through a mountain of digital clutter. It meets you on your terms with no required planning or forethought. It is your story."

The importance of art in Jewish life is critical. Paintings, sculpture, and photography all have a place in our collective history. Taking photographs is easier than ever. Who knows? They may be used to help chronicle the next 75 years.

“The photos that line the foyer and hall show families celebrating weddings, b'nai mitzvahs, and evenings out.”



G-FLI participants and their *Middah* bracket with session speaker, Rabbi Rebecca Ben-Gideon (second from right).

YOUNG LEADERS Explore Needs and Jewish Values in G-FLI SESSIONS



G-FLI Cohort 3 closed out 2021 with three more sessions on Wednesday evenings at the Federation. Young Jewish leaders took an assessment called FIRO-B to help them understand their interpersonal needs and how applying this knowledge may help them with job satisfaction, effectiveness on teams, and identifying their own strengths and weaknesses in leadership styles.

Dr. Karen Dyer from the Center for Creative Leadership spent an evening going over the FIRO-B results and individual's preferences. Broken into three different areas, the FIRO-B measures how a person both expresses and wants inclusion, control, and affection from their peers or colleagues. "The FIRO-B was really eye opening. My scores made perfect sense. When it comes to leadership, I think self awareness is incredibly important," said Valentina Giraldo, member of Cohort 3.



Lolly Schweninger shows off her new book from the Federation: *A Passion for a People*

In addition to the FIRO-B session, Cohort 3 learned about Jewish leadership principles from Rabbi Rebecca Ben-Gideon. In this session, cohort members competed in the *Middah* Bracket Challenge where they went head to head debating which values were most important for good leadership.

The last session of 2021 was all about analyzing the results of the MBTI (Myers Briggs Type Indicator) assessment and understanding that leadership is more of a "balancing act" than anything else.

Typical G-FLI sessions occur monthly in the evenings. This 18-month leadership course helps emerging leaders identify and develop their leadership styles while exposing them to leadership opportunities within the Greensboro Jewish Federation and its constituent agencies. Participants are paired with a mentor during their second year in the program.

To sponsor a G-FLI session, contact Maya Gurfinkel at mgurfinkel@shalomgreensboro.org.

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Qualifying organizations must provide vital services to Jewish seniors. Examples include, but are not limited to Case Management, Transportation, Mentally Stimulating programs, Food Pantry.



For more information, email Wendee Cutler, at wcutter@carolinajewishseniors.org, call (336) 854-8400, or visit www.carolinajewishseniors.org.

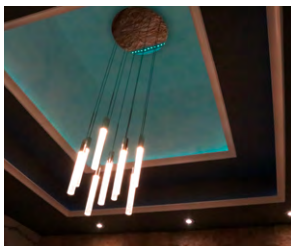
COMMUNITY

Chabad's New Mikvah Beautified by Brooklyn Designer



Argentinian raised and educated, interior decorator Tzivia Lehrer has long appreciated that art can be found in all spaces. So when asked for help in giving expression to Judaism's appreciation of femininity in the textures and colors of Chabad of Greensboro's mikvah, she was up for the challenge.

While the mikvahs of yesteryear were largely functional, with nondescript tile and neutral colors, today's mikvahs are often a cross between a synagogue and a spa, with opulent tile and rich Jewish motifs.



A view inside the brand new Mikvah at Chabad

"We wanted to show that when a woman immerses in the mikvah, she's extremely close to G-d and it is a time for her to pray for anyone and anything," explains Lehrer. "We chose Jerusalem limestone for that room which gives the feeling of being at the Kotel, which has long been a place where Jews have prayed."

Recognizing that the mikvah is primarily a feminine space, she chose wallpaper with hues of pink and flower patterns and matched it with rose scroll tiles.

While Lehrer mostly designs homes in the New York area, she jumped at the opportunity to apply her skills to express the special place that the mikvah has in Jewish life.

"The mikvah is the bedrock of Jewish life," explains Hindy Plotkin. "From the ruins of Masada to everywhere that Jews have lived, we have built mikvahs. We are fortunate that this new mikvah is not just functional but also beautiful."

The new mikvah is surrounded by a breathtaking garden sponsored by Sylvia and Norman Samet. With a serene fountain and meandering walkway, the garden allows women to cast aside whatever be on their minds and enter the spiritually uplifting and cleansing space of the mikvah.

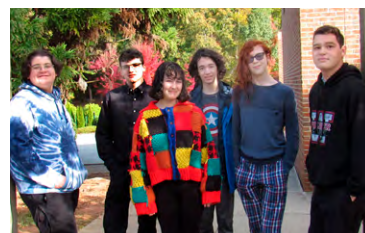
The mikvah dedication will be held at a later date.

SIX TEMPLE EMANUEL TEENS Thrive at Weaver Academy



Temple Emanuel is proud of its teens who are involved in the arts at the Temple and who find a way to include their Jewish roots in their performances at Weaver Academy.

A theatre major, Jacob Gers, stated, "The arts at Temple Emanuel are one of its greatest assets. Students get to express themselves, [relating] stories of the Torah in all sorts of artistic mediums... We've done several plays over the years ranging from a Purim spiel to an emotional Holocaust story. This range in theatre programming allowed me to develop my skills in both dramatic and comedic acting and exercise my technical theatre skills such as lighting and design." Jacob attests that arts at Temple "have been integral to my growth as an artist" and prepared him for Weaver Academy. He never feels excluded as a Jew: "Weaver's staff and students make extra effort to include Jewish representation in the school's art, theatre, and music."



Gavin Rubin, Hayden Ross, Julia Ringel, Aiden Kranz, Donovan Block, Jacob Gers
Photography courtesy of Karen Dresser

Gavin Rubin, a voice major, reports that his experiences at Temple have been great. "Singing is my passion; I started choral singing at Temple Emanuel, which helped me get into Weaver." Gavin has already performed cantorial versions of *K'dusha* and *Oseh Shalom* with the choir at Weaver, and feels "very included, represented, and at home" at school.

Julia Ringel is a theatre major and said, "I wouldn't have been as prepared as I am for Weaver if not for theatre at Temple Emanuel. I'd never done any serious shows before Temple [and] specifically *Hannah Senesh* taught me the intricacies of acting in a sad play."

Donovan Block and Aiden Kranz are piano majors at Weaver. Donovan appeared in several musicals and dramatic plays with Eitz Chayim Teen Theatre. Aiden played piano for senior residents living at Abbotswood for his Bar Mitzvah project and recently performed 'Light One Candle' in a piano ensemble for the school's holiday concert. Hayden Ross, a senior, is a classical guitar major and, likewise, an involved teen at Temple Emanuel.

All six students volunteer as *madrachim*, or student guides, in the Temple Emanuel Religious School where they share their artistic experiences and encourage younger students to pursue the arts in a Jewish way.

Weaver Academy is a magnet school for students focused on careers in performing and visual arts and advanced technologies.



Photography courtesy of York Pimiento

JTRIAD DJ Inspired by Jewish Cantor



Taylor Lively, also known as DJ Tay Lively, has taken her talents to several parts of North Carolina, playing an eclectic range of electronic music. When asked to describe all of her recent experiences, she only needed one word: gratitude. "I am blessed to have such a supportive group of people behind me, and a strong passion for music," Lively said.

She recently started DJ-ing. After only seven months, her hobby has taken a path of its own. What started as a fun way to keep busy has now landed her gigs in Greensboro, Charlotte and Charleston, South Carolina. Lively stated, "This is just the beginning; I can feel in my heart this was always meant for me." Lively said her passion for music started as a young child. Her parents are both music enthusiasts and exposed her to a wide range of music genres. She also recognizes how her Jewish faith has opened her eyes to what music really means to her. "From the time I was young in Florida, whether it was my Jewish Day school or Hebrew school or even celebrating the holidays with my family, there was never a moment without some kind of music. In Judaism, music is used for prayer, for celebration and community; it reminds me of how important music is to the Jewish faith and to me."

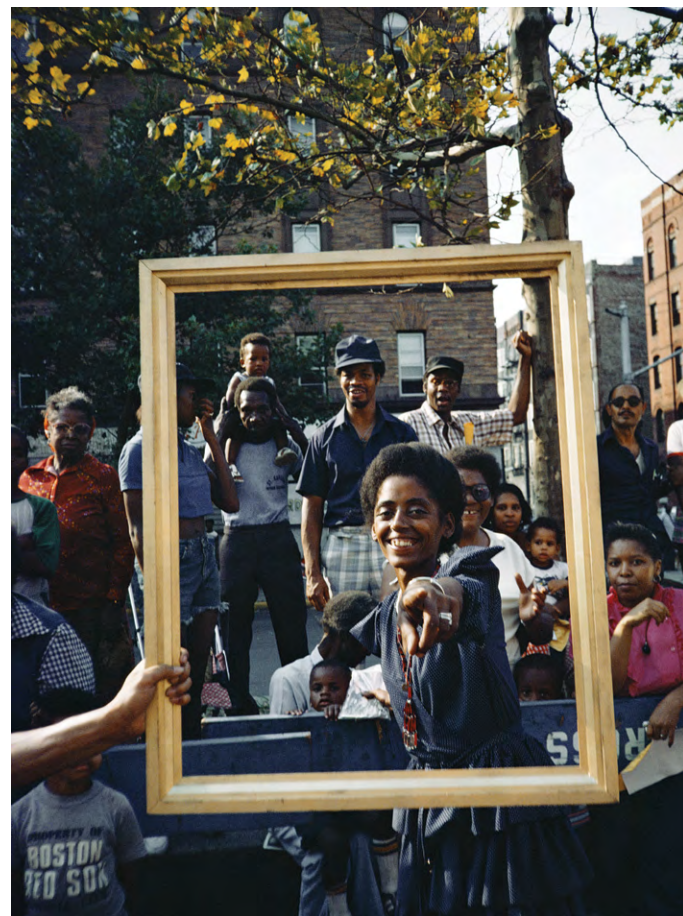
Lively also found inspiration from the female cantor at her reform synagogue, Temple Beth Torah, in West Palm Beach. She was drawn to the cantor, as much of the other staff were males. Lively explained that the DJ world is currently male dominated: "To come into a music space like this, as a woman, is empowering. If it weren't for the women who made an impact on my life as a child, I may not have the confidence to do what I love."

Lively has big hopes and dreams, as a full time reporter and a DJ on the side, she feels a great sense of purpose to share her love with others; just like she does for her Jewish faith.

“In Judaism,
music is used
for prayer, for
celebration and
community.”

LORRAINE O'GRADY: BOTH/AND

January 8 - April 30, 2022



Lorraine O'Grady, *Art Is . . . (Girl Pointing)*, 1983/2009. Chromogenic photograph in 40 parts, 20 × 16 in. (50.8 × 40.64 cm). Edition of 8 plus 1 artist's proof. Courtesy of Alexander Gray Associates, New York. © Lorraine O'Grady/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

The first comprehensive overview of the work of **Lorraine O'Grady** one of the most significant figures in contemporary performance, conceptual, and feminist art.

A Conversation with Lorraine O'Grady
Thursday, March 24, 5:30pm, virtual event

Lorraine O'Grady: Both/And is organized by the Brooklyn Museum. Its presentation at the Weatherspoon Art Museum is generously supported by Bank of America, Beatrice Schall, Sydney Gingrow, Carol Cole Levin, Tim Warmath and Edward Comber.



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VIRTUAL EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

While physical separation is critical to controlling the pandemic, this is a time when we can use technology to increase our social connections and maintain strong social bonds. **Social distancing does not have to mean social isolation.** Participation in virtual and interactive events is a great way to stay connected to our Jewish community.



GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION helps you stay involved! www.shalomgreensboro.org is your one-stop connection to virtual events hosted by the Federation and our Greensboro Jewish community. Visit our events page and Community Calendar to stay connected. Follow the Greensboro Jewish Federation on Facebook and Instagram.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES presents programs that are designed to enlighten, educate and build community. Information on upcoming programs can be found at www.jfsgreensboro.org and on our Facebook page.



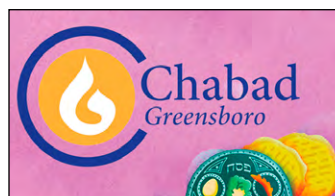
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER brings together Israeli and American Jews through meaningful programs for the purpose of creating people-to-people relationships. Information and ways to access P2G programs for our Hadera-Eiron-SE Consortium can be found by exploring the events section of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/P2GHaderaEironSE.



BETH DAVID is online! Join us every day for engaging and interactive classes, programs, and services; there is something for everyone! Online offerings are open to all via Zoom and social media. More information can be found by visiting www.bethdavidsynagogue.org.



Is the Coronavirus keeping you away from **TEMPLE EMANUEL**? Not to worry! Temple Emanuel is virtually hosting classes and programs, and live streaming many other events on their Facebook Page. We look forward to seeing you online! Virtual events can be found at www.tegreensboro.org/virtual-events.



CHABAD GREENSBORO is hosting a slew of online events to cheer each other up, be inspired and celebrate! Visit the Virtual Chabad Center at www.chabadgreensboro.com for the latest on all upcoming events.



B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL has been rooted in the Greensboro community since 1970. Through the study of Hebrew language and Jewish heritage, students strengthen their identity as Jews. For more information, visit www.bnai-shalom.org.

Programs such as these are made possible through the generosity of donors to the Greensboro Jewish Federation and affiliated organizations and foundations. The views, findings, or recommendations expressed by speakers are their own and are not necessarily endorsed by, and may not reflect those of, the Federation or sponsoring organizations.



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STEP 2: Apply for camp.

STEP 3: Apply for the One Happy Camper Grant!

First time campers, regardless of need, receive \$2,250 to go to an approved nonprofit Jewish overnight camp that is greater than 18 days long. For programs between 12-18 days, campers receive \$875. There are additional scholarships for first time campers attending specific camps.

Greensboro Jewish Federation has additional grant opportunities for first and second year campers. **For more information on grant opportunities to help pay for Jewish overnight camp, contact Maya Gurfinkel (336) 852-5433 x243.**

Jewish Family Services offers needs based scholarships to help get your children to camp. The camp scholarship application can be found at www.jfsgreensboro.org. **Scholarship applications are due the last day of February** and notifications are made by mid-March. **For information on camp scholarships, contact Betsy Gamburg (336) 852-4829 x225.**

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