

SHALOM

GREENSBORO



Shining Through the Darkness

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2024

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greensboro UNITES IN SOLIDARITY



John Cohen

On behalf of everyone in our community, I want to extend a warm welcome to Glenda Bernhardt, our new Federation CEO. Since her arrival, she has led us in a truly impressive list of accomplishments.

She began with an intensive, two-week orientation overlap with outgoing CEO Marilyn Chandler. Since then, Glenda has completed a successful emergency campaign for Israel, influenced a resolution on the Israel crisis from the Greensboro City Council, and organized a solidarity mission to Israel. The whole time, she was also systematically reaching out to our most important community partners to build trust and confidence in our Federation.

The Israel Emergency Campaign raised more than \$1.2 million with the leadership and support of Randall Kaplan, Larry Appel, Matt Slaine, Alina Spaulding and others.

When the Greensboro City Council was grappling with the tone of a resolution on the crisis in Israel, a number of our community members helped bring about a positive outcome, including Jenny Kaiser, Tom Cone, Rabbi Andy Koren, Tammy Thurm, Nancy Hoffmann, and Mayor Nancy Vaughn.

Then, at the end of January, 16 people flew to Israel to represent Greensboro in a solidarity mission. The beneficial effects of that mission are still rippling through both the Israeli community and our people here.

Our Annual Campaign Chairs, Michele Gordon and Gary Bargebuhr, have been working hard for months with their volunteer team to bring in the donations that sustain our community's outreach.

We need your generous heart to reach our goal and wrap up a successful 2024 campaign. If you have not made your pledge, I encourage you to make a commitment today.

A successful Federation Annual Campaign has never been more important. Our Jewish "infrastructure" is under great financial stress in the face of the war with Hamas and rising antisemitism. Inflation is hitting everyone hard. And one expense common to nearly every organization we support is the increasing cost for additional security. We encourage all our collaborators to manage their budgets carefully, but unfortunately, security is an expense that simply cannot be ignored.

You can easily make your pledge on the annual campaign page of shalomgreensboro.org.

Or stop by the Federation, say hello, and complete a pledge card!

Please know that I am always grateful for your continued interest and your support of our Federation. Together, we provide crucial financial support to Jewish organizations locally and around the world.

In addition, our Federation programming supports those in need here in Greensboro, as it binds together our greater Greensboro community with bonds of caring and generosity.

John Cohen, President
Greensboro Jewish Federation
2022-2024



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LEADING LIGHT: Reflections on My First 90 Days as CEO of the Federation

By Glenda Bernhardt, *Chief Executive Officer, Greensboro Jewish Federation*



Glenda Bernhardt

Shalom, Greensboro! These words have special meaning as I write this inaugural column as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Greensboro Jewish Federation. I could not have imagined all that would happen in our Jewish world during this time of transition, but I feel honored to lead this community at this moment. I have seen so many examples of light in a time of darkness during my first 90 days.

In November, we led a community-wide Israel Emergency Fund campaign under the leadership of Randall Kaplan, Larry Appel, Matt Slaine, Alina Spaulding, and John Cohen. This dedicated group of volunteers ensured that our community surpassed our goal of \$1,134,000. To date, we have raised \$1,223,725. We also traveled to Washington,

D.C. for the March for Israel with a delegation of 100 from our area. It was incredible to be part of the largest gathering of North American Jewry in history.

In December, leaders of the Board of Trustees and JCRC attended a City Council meeting where dozens of comments supported a ceasefire resolution. This led to a month of community relations work with local partners, allies and government officials that ultimately resulted in a balanced resolution that recognized the local impact of October 7 and resulting Hamas war. We also received a grant from The Leon Levine Foundation to support local needs that have arisen due to the attack on October 7.

In January, we began to refocus our efforts on the 2024 Annual Campaign. This campaign ensures the Federation and our partners can proactively meet the needs of our Jewish community at home and abroad. We also moved forward with a new regional security initiative in partnership with Winston-Salem, Raleigh, and Durham-Chapel Hill that will establish standardized training and response plans between our communities.

At the end of the month, we embarked on an Israel Solidarity Mission to show our support to Israelis and bear witness to the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7. It was an honor to organize, plan and lead this delegation from our community.

I also attended a national professional conference, began an executive leadership experience with Leading Edge, and supported our annual financial audit.

I've had the opportunity to meet many wonderful individuals in Greensboro – volunteers, current leaders, longtime financial supporters of the Federation, new donors, community partners, team members at the Federation, Foundation, and JFS, and many more. Everyone has been so welcoming. I'm learning all the things that make this community special from each of you – individuals who have called Greensboro home for multiple generations, decades, years, or months. There are many more people I still need to meet, and I'm excited to get to know all of you over the coming months.

I'd like to thank Marilyn Chandler for her legacy of leadership. And I'd like to thank the CEO Search Committee for giving me the opportunity to become a part of this community's vibrant future. I can't wait to shape it with each of you and create light in every corner of darkness.

Glenda Bernhardt welcomes your calls and emails. You can contact her at gbernhardt@shalomgreensboro.org or by phone at (336) 852-5433 x292. Read more about our new CEO in the News & Stories section of shalomgreensboro.org.



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On The Campaign Trail: A Tribute to Our Community Spirit

By Michele Gordon and Gary Bargebuhr, 2024 Campaign Co-Chairs



Gary Bargebuhr



Michele Gordon

“Who Knows One?” is a spirited, cumulative tune found in the Passover Haggadah that recalls numerous motifs from our Jewish tradition.

We’ve composed a new, abridged rendition to highlight the ways our Greensboro Jewish Community continues to **do good that goes everywhere**, to bring light into a time of darkness.

One is the Greensboro City Council’s ceremonial resolution that acknowledges the impact on the people of Israel, Gaza, and Greensboro following Hamas’ October 7 attack on civilians. The resolution urges leaders to find a peaceful solution and recognizes that Greensboro residents should live in a city that is safe, secure, and free from hatred and harassment.

Two are the chartered buses our Federation personnel organized and staffed for 94 of us to journey to Washington, D.C., for the Israel rally in November. We gathered on the Washington Mall with 290,000 other participants to lend support for Israel, demand the return of the hostages, and denounce Jew Hatred.

Three are our local rabbis who planned the Israel 101 series: the Federation’s Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) Director Rabbi Eli Sniderman, Temple

Emanuel’s Rabbi Andy Koren, and Congregation Beth David’s Rabbi Grace Gleason. The rabbis provided a five-part course on Israeli history open to the entire Greensboro community.

Four are the days that our community members spent in Israel for the Solidarity Mission with our new Greensboro Jewish Federation CEO Glenda Bernhardt. We bore witness, volunteered, and offered moral support to our *mishpachah* (Jewish family) in Israel.

Five are the members of the Israel Emergency Fund solicitation team. *Yasher Koach* to Larry Appel, John Cohen, Randall Kaplan, Matt Slaine, and Alina Spaulding who raised more than \$1.2 million for immediate humanitarian relief efforts in Israel. Our Federation campaign and finance staff processed these 380 gifts.

With your continued support, we will add additional stanzas together. Our Greensboro Jewish Federation is a volunteer-driven nonprofit led by a great professional staff. We ask and need you to contribute to our Annual Campaign to fund these opportunities that build a stronger community. We thank you for your assistance so that together our community may **do good that goes everywhere**.

The help we provide the Jewish community through our Annual Campaign is dependent on your support.

Please donate now by scanning the code below or by visiting shalomgreensboro.org.



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Thank you to Event Co-Chairs Emilie Samet, Michele Slaine and 2024 Campaign Co-Chair
Michele Gordon. Required minimum contribution is \$5,000 per individual or household.



SEEDS OF LOVE: JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES CULTIVATES SUPPORT AND UNITY IN GREENSBORO

Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Greensboro has been responsive to individuals and families displaced from Israel and living here in our Greensboro community, especially since the horrific events of October 7.

JFS has been providing support groups, brokering resources, offering financial support, collecting donations, and listening with open hearts.

“Happily, during this time at JFS, the benefits of the work have been clear.”

In human services, staffers often plant seeds of change, but rarely get to see those seeds germinate and flower in the lives of those served. Happily, during this time at JFS, the benefits of the work have been clear.

JFS Director Alicia Kaplan said, “It has been truly an honor and a privilege to witness not only the positive growth and change from those who were displaced here in our community, but also the amazing response of our Greensboro Jewish Community coming together.”

JFS asked the community for clothing and furniture donations and received such an abundant response that they ended up with more than they could use. “What a great problem to have!” Kaplan said.

Some Greensboro community businesses even took it upon themselves to hold a clothing and shoe drive for the displaced Israeli families here in Greensboro. One of those businesses was Leon’s Beauty School, where students also volunteered to provide additional services for free. “The students love to give back to the community by helping people feel beautiful again,” said the school’s director Sarah Smith Duffy.



Therapy dog Bella, from NC Pet Partners

JFS staff have been inspired by this support from the greater Greensboro community, where people are showing up for those in need by giving back in solidarity.

JFS also hosted several support groups for anyone in the Greensboro Jewish Community who needed a safe space to process feelings. At the first support group, attendees soaked up furry friendship from Bella, a therapy dog from NC Pet Partners. With her was her owner, Don Henza, who has often witnessed the benefits of animal therapy in hard times. The work is his way of giving back to the community. He enjoyed seeing Bella lift people’s spirits in the support group. “Everybody smiles when the dog comes in the room!” Henza said.

Attendees to the groups also created artwork to show their love and support for Israel.

Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving kindness) are always important, but in times like this, they become even more vital. JFS is honored to provide a welcoming space for everyone, and to witness the seeds of love from Greensboro taking root across the world.



JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) is proud to partner with JFS to help local Jewish students reach their academic goals.

JELF offers 0% interest, last dollar loans for Jewish students! JELF serves students pursuing a full-time education who are from FL, GA, NC, SC and VA (excluding metro D.C.), but students can attend the U.S. accredited school of their choice. **LEARN MORE at jelf.org.**

Apply now through April 2024 for the full 2024-25 academic year.

For more information, please contact Jenny Schultz at (336) 852-4829 ext. 235 or visit jelf.org to apply.

A LIGHT in the WINDOW

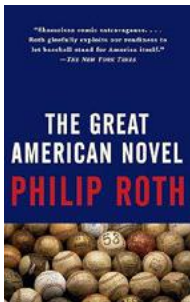


B'nai Shalom Day School and JFS took part in International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Jamie Schleuning, Volunteer and Senior Program Coordinator at JFS, spoke to the student body about the importance of honoring those lost in the Holocaust and educating our neighbors about genocides past and present. The children were provided a battery-operated tealight, bag, and informative flier to take home so they could place the candle in their home's window on January 27. Children also received extra lights to give to neighbors, relatives and friends. The hope was to spread the message by lighting the city of Greensboro.



check it out

The Greensboro Jewish Library



The Great American Novel by Philip Roth

Gil Gamesh, the only pitcher who ever literally tried to kill the umpire. The ex-con first baseman, John Baal, "The Babe Ruth of the Big House," who never hit a home run sober.

If you've never heard of them—or of the Ruppert Mundys, the only homeless big-league ball team in American history—it's because of the Communist plot, and the capitalist scandal, that expunged the entire Patriot League from baseball memory.

In this ribald, richly imagined, and wickedly satiric novel, Roth turns baseball's status as national pastime and myth into an occasion for unfettered picaresque farce, replete with heroism and perfidy, ebullient wordplay and a cast of characters that includes the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The Greensboro Jewish Library has *The Great American Novel* available to borrow. Visit JFSGreensboro.org to browse the vast collection built from a combination of those received from the community's membership in the Jewish Book Council, PJ Library, and donations from private collections including those from Debby and Ken Miller. The Greensboro Jewish Library is maintained due to the volunteerism of Arlene Henza. A special thanks for her organizational skills and love of books! For more information, please email library@shalomgreensboro.org.

HANUKKAH AT Abbotswood

2023 saw the welcome return of Hanukkah to the Abbotswood Senior Living Community. Residents and staff joined JFS staff and volunteers with Rabbi Andy Koren and Rabbi Libby Fisher as they led a music program. Afterward, heavy hors d'oeuvres were served with blue Hanukkah punch. Lots of smiles made it clear that folks were happy to have the program back again.



STOCKINGS OF GRATITUDE



The Friday before the Christmas holidays, a few dozen Jewish community members got together to spread cheer to police officers working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

On one side of the Federation conference room, a team filled "Stockings of Gratitude" with snacks. On the other side of the room, volunteers filled bags with cookies contributed from the Jewish community. In total, 196 stockings and 196 bags of cookies were assembled by our devoted volunteers! Stockings of Gratitude, cookies and hot cocoa was delivered to the police officers to help them feel remembered and appreciated.



Gifts of Light during dark times

BY ALLI LINDENBERG

The enormity of the war in Israel and Gaza has taken a huge toll on Jewish people around the world. Seeing the countless headlines, videos, and photos is enough to leave anyone feeling overwhelmed by shock and sadness.

The goodness of people prevails, though, and the Greensboro community has been on the receiving end of numerous acts of kindness, creating light during a time of continuous darkness. While the Jewish community has come together to support each other in powerful ways, people from other walks of life have also shown up to offer meaningful support.

That support is even more meaningful because of the rise of antisemitism since October 7. According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), 3,283 incidents of antisemitism have been reported since the attack, an estimated 360% increase year over year.

“Every word, every action, no matter how small, can make a meaningful difference.”

But for all the voices lifted in hatred, there are also people answering with love and support.

Rabbi Andy Koren was at Temple Emanuel on the Shabbat morning of the Simchat Torah attacks on Israel by Hamas terrorists from Gaza. As he learned of the events, he knew that his Torah study that morning would be radically changing from what he had planned. While he was preparing, an email came in from a local Christian colleague expressing support. It was early — roughly 8:15 in the morning.

“That email, one of many that came in from local ministers, meant so much,” the rabbi said. “The past months have been painful and rather lonely. Colleagues and friends from Greensboro, from both within and beyond the Jewish community, have lessened that pain, reminded us that antisemitism must not be the norm. They have reinforced that we are not alone.”

Another kind of support came from artist Morgan Dreese.

New to the Greensboro area, Dreese has several Jewish friends and a Jewish in-law. Upon hearing about the tragedies of October 7, she painted an original painting and donated it to the Greensboro Jewish Federation.

“My way of expressing myself is through art. Right after everything happened, I was inspired by a couple of different scenes that I saw. I couldn’t even fathom the emotions



Reverend Odell Cleveland

they must be experiencing, but I was trying to understand how they might be feeling over there,” said Dreese. “This is my way of showing support.”

Another member of the Greensboro community who has shown up in solidarity is Reverend Odell Cleveland. A longtime supporter of the Jewish people, Cleveland has been to Israel multiple times with local Jewish clergy. After October 7, he made it a point to

show his support by speaking up and reaching out. “It was easy for me to stand up,” said Cleveland. “We have a history of standing up for the Jewish people, and the Jewish people have a history of standing up for African Americans.”

For Cleveland, that history of support is deeply personal. When he was a little boy living in public housing in South Carolina, his mother suddenly became seriously ill. The hospital would not admit her, even though she had medical insurance. They told her to wait and come back on the free clinic day. When Cleveland’s grandmother found out that the hospital had denied her daughter care, she called her doctor, who happened to be Jewish. “That white Jewish doctor argued with the hospital and made them admit my mother. She stayed in the hospital for four months. Otherwise, she would have died,” said Cleveland.

The light the Jewish doctor brought to Cleveland and his mother has sustained his passion for supporting the Jewish community ever since. Cleveland hopes that others will rise to the occasion and show their solidarity with the Jewish community. He believes that every word, every action, no matter how small, can make a meaningful difference.

“I’m not saying you have to get up there and make a speech. But I think it behooves us to stand up and say something, even if we have to say it in a soft voice. Say something, do something,” said Cleveland.

Bill Goebel is another person taking action to support the Jewish community. Following October 7, Goebel put up an Israeli flag in his front yard alongside the American flag and Ukrainian flag. Shortly thereafter, the Israeli flag was torn down. Goebel was not deterred, though, and ordered another Israeli flag to replace it. Only this time, he put it up higher.



Goebel also happens to be a good friend of Cleveland's. The two have a podcast called The Common Ground Show where they aim to "inspire people to find a common ground to come together." Since October 7, Goebel and Cleveland have featured Rabbi Andy Koren, Rabbi Fred Guttman, and Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon on their show. By doing so, they have expanded the rabbis' platforms for sharing their views and processing the ongoing conflict during a critical time.



Bill Goebel

The rabbis discussed their own behind-the-scenes knowledge gained from their travels in Israel. They explained misinformation coming even from major news outlets, influenced by falsehoods by Hamas. In addition, the rabbis offered a larger historical context of antisemitism and how it has morphed over time, specifically since the founding of Israel.



Goebel's Israeli flag flies high in Greensboro

Another crucial type of support has come from the Greensboro Police Department. Beth David Synagogue expressed gratitude and appreciation to the GPD in a statement to *Shalom Greensboro*. "Even before October 7, GPD has always made sure we are safe and secure. GPD officers understood the

threat to the Jewish people post October 7 and continued to show their support and care for our people."

All the people who reached out in a moment of crisis and pain share a passion for supporting the Jewish community and Israel. Through their words, art, and actions, they are extending kindness that is helping sustain spirits. It is kindness met with immense gratitude and will undoubtedly be remembered.

"At the end of the day, everybody remembers who stood up for them," said Cleveland.



Morgan Dreese with "Depicting War"

MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY: Morgan Dreese Shares Her Art

Morgan Dreese is a native North Carolinian who was born in a small town in the piedmont. After graduating with a degree in art from East Carolina University, Dreese continued her studies abroad and earned a master's degree from Domus Academy in Milan, Italy.

Dreese often works in high-texture oil paintings. Her goal is to capture a brief, translucent moment in time that is dreamlike and infused with emotion.

Dreese was deeply affected by the images that came out of Israel after the attacks of October 7. Her donated work of art on this issue's cover is a gift to the Jewish community made through the Federation.

Her uncle served in WWII and once told her with great emotion about his experience on the beach at Normandy and the lives lost. "So many people died for what is right, and here we are again having hatred raise its ugly head!" Dreese said.

"Art has always been our ancestors' way of telling their stories, capturing major events throughout time and history," Dreese stated. "This painting is how I captured this particular moment in this young man's life in Israel. I try to convey how he is feeling through the brushstrokes. The light that is shining through the clouds is my way of shining my support down on him and the Jewish community."

Foundation DAF Donors Respond to the ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FUND



We Stand with Israel

ALLOCATIONS FROM
56 DAFs
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\$485,000

REPRESENTING
APPROXIMATELY

40%
OF THE ISRAEL EMERGENCY
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Within days of the attack in southern Israel on October 7, the Jewish Federations of North America united with other national Jewish organizations to raise funds. The campaign focused on humanitarian priorities such as medical supplies, equipment, and housing. Other funding goals included longer-term rebuilding of infrastructure and rehabilitation needs such as trauma counseling.

Many federations began to raise significant sums committed to this campaign, and the Greensboro community was no exception. The Greensboro Jewish Federation created the Israel Emergency Fund in conjunction with Temple

Emanuel and Beth David Synagogue. One hundred percent of the dollars raised supported the immediate relief efforts of our strategic partners: the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Israel Trauma Coalition.

Donors in Greensboro responded quickly to the crisis by tapping their Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) accounts to address these urgent needs. The Jewish Foundation was able to pivot and respond quickly and effectively through expedited recommendations from our donors who have DAFs.

To many of the generous supporters of the Greensboro Jewish community, the overwhelming support from Foundation DAF assets comes as no surprise. They know that funds contributed to their DAF accounts make it possible to deploy swift and flexible distributions when needs arise. Each year, DAF dollars flow to a variety of Jewish and secular charities in Greensboro, throughout North Carolina, across the USA, and overseas. The crisis that began on October 7 demonstrates again that those contributions are vital to respond to dire emergencies, in addition to the support DAFs give to ongoing charitable programs.

Recent years have seen major emergencies including

the COVID-19 pandemic, the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue, and an increasing number of natural disasters. In each emergency, grants from Jewish Foundation of Greensboro DAFs have kick-started campaigns to provide necessary philanthropic relief.

DAFs encourage donors and their families to develop long-term giving plans so charities will have the resources to realize their philanthropic visions far into the future. The Jewish Foundation remains committed to working with the greater Greensboro Jewish community to grow this essential giving tool. DAFs are an increasingly important source of philanthropic support.

When considering gift planning strategies, you should always consult with your own legal and tax advisors. For more information on opening or contributing to a DAF, contact Susan R. Gutterman, JD at (336) 852-0099 or sgutterman@JewishFoundationNC.org or Frandee Woolf at (336) 852-1123 or fwoolf@JewishFoundationNC.org.

“DAFs are an increasingly important source of philanthropic support.”



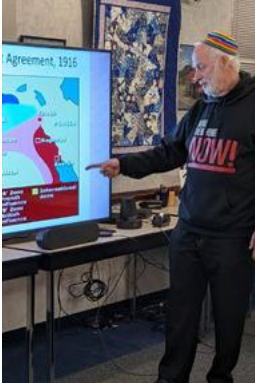
THE FUTURE Starts with You

Establishing a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) at the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro allows you to take an active role in helping the Jewish community with professionals who can guide you along the way.

- It is an easy way to carry out your philanthropic vision
- A DAF can be established with as little as \$5,000, or \$2,500, if you are under age 40
- A DAF can be established for a child or grandchild, in cash or appreciated stock
- The fund makes grants to charitable organizations recommended by the donor
- The minimum amount for grant recommendations is \$100
- You receive a tax deduction at the time you make your gift
- Simplified record-keeping along with centralized donation and grantmaking
- The assets in the fund continue to grow to be used for future philanthropic grants

For more information or to discuss opening a Donor Advised Fund, please contact Susan R. Gutterman at sgutterman@jewishfoundationnc.org / (336) 852-0099, or Frandee Woolf at fwoolf@JewishFoundationNC.org / (336) 852-1123.

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK: Dispelling Myths through ISRAEL 101



Guest Speaker Rabbi Fred Guttman, Senior Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Emanuel

After October 7, one of the biggest questions facing the Jewish community was, “What can we do to help?”

As false information and antisemitism began to spread, several rabbis from the community decided that a class on Israel’s history had become essential. Rabbi Eli Sneiderman, the Federation’s Director of Community Relations, Rabbi Andy Koren of Temple Emanuel, and Rabbi Grace Gleason of Congregation Beth David came together to plan the five-part class. Rabbi Fred Guttman would also step in to teach.

“There is so much misinformation out there when it comes to Israel,” said Rabbi Sneiderman. “There are so many young people marching and chanting, and they have no idea what they are talking about. They don’t know which river or which sea is being referred to on the signs.”

The goal of the Israel 101 class was simple – to use knowledge to dispel harmful myths. Attendees first learned about the long connection of the Jews to Israel. The Torah includes the names of Jewish leaders for 1800 years between Abraham settling in Canaan

and the destruction of the Second Temple. Israel is the historical Jewish homeland, despite repeated invasions by foreign armies.

The rabbis also showed that the violence Israel is experiencing today is not a result of “Israeli occupation of Arab land.” Arab violence against Jews preceded the formation of the State of Israel. There were six Arab attacks before 1921, seventeen pogroms in 1929, and more in the 1930s, after British rule. Because of the experience of Arab pogroms, the Jewish Agency already had a nascent army when they declared Independence.

Attendees came away from each Israel 101 class with historical facts to counter misinformation in the news. In chaotic times, relevant education becomes even more crucial to keep the Jewish community strong.

*Thanks to the Annual Campaign, Greensboro has a strong Federation ready to educate, engage and advocate for the Jewish community. Through the Greensboro Jewish Federation, you can **do good that goes everywhere**. To contribute, visit shalomgreensboro.org or call (336) 852-5433.*

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MAKING CONNECTIONS

JOURNEY OF SOLIDARITY: Witnessing Tragedy, Hope, and Resilience



"The hope for this hour depends upon the hopes themselves, upon ourselves."-Martin Buber

Sixteen people flew to Israel in late January to represent the Greensboro Jewish community on a Solidarity Mission.

What did it mean to them in that moment, *solidarity*? Dictionaries say it is a "unity of feeling or action."

Solidarity meant that the cruelty and loss of October 7 would be shared: that the 16 delegates on that journey were going to shoulder some of that pain. And that is in fact what happened, as the travelers have reported. As anyone knows who has ever experienced deep soul pain, the willingness of others to share the burden is part of the healing process.

Upon arrival in the Tel Aviv airport, the delegation saw face after face on posters of the 136 women, children, and men held hostage in Gaza. The group's first day was then devoted to the hostages, as they experienced the artworks of Hostages Square and listened to the stories of family members. Of all the sights and sounds the Greensboro group experienced, these were some of the hardest.

Returning from that memorial to a nation striving to recover, the delegates visited the massive volunteer effort known as Brothers and Sisters for Israel. It was a welcome and needed reminder of the Jewish people coming together in love.

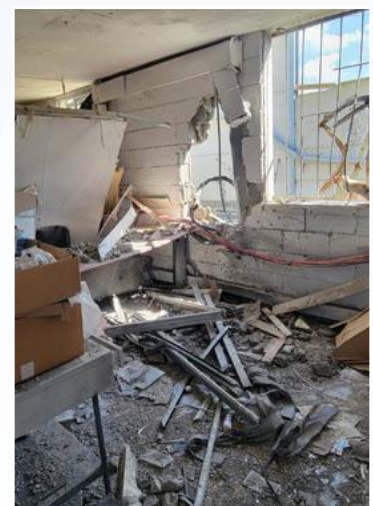
On the second day, the group heard about the work of JFNA in Israel and the tremendous impact of \$775 million in crisis donations from Jewish communities across the world. Next, a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs brought the valuable perspective of Israeli Arabs who are hoping for peaceful coexistence in an inclusive society. The United Hatzalah headquarters brought more insider stories of the sacrificial and courageous work of their civilian volunteers to bring rapid emergency response.

On the third day, the group gave their time to Leket Israel, the national food bank. By cleaning and packing vegetables, they kept supplies moving to grocery stores.

But afterward came a difficult trip to the Gaza envelope to witness the scenes of Hamas atrocities from October 7. It was a day that would stay with any witness forever.

The fourth day brought renewed hope with visits to two schools that embody joy, inclusion, and kindness. The Jaffa campus of Hand in Hand allows Israeli Jews and Arabs to learn together with both Jewish and Arab teachers. The Federation's Annual Campaign has been supporting Hand in Hand for more than 15 years. In the Partnership 2gether Region of Hadera-Eiron, the delegation visited a high school full of teens bursting with the positive energy of community and strong relationships.

The hope and the pain both ran deep, as the Solidarity Mission reinforced the love and unity shared by Jewish people across the world. ***Am Yisrael Chai!***



Images above from Kibbutz Kfar Aza, near the Gaza border. Hamas attacked this peaceful community on October 7, murdering 65 community members and kidnapping 19 more.



Volunteering at Leket Israel, the leading food rescue organization in Israel, by sorting and packaging rescued food for Israelis in need.



Nathalie Ross, Tom Cone, Phyllis Kritz, Alan Kritz, Ron Milstein, Marty Feinberg, Michele Gordon, Andy Aronson, Jenny Kaiser, Glenda Bernhardt, Victoria Milstein, Joshua Gould, Rabbi Andy Koren, Dori Goebel, Susan Feibelman, and Rabbi Grace Gleason



Meeting with Knesset Member Debby Biton



Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, where families keep alive the cause of their kidnapped loved ones through weekly rallies and other gatherings of support. The space also features artwork installations of hope, anger and sadness.



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Live Q & A session with Zev Harel and Jenny Kaiser

TRIAD JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL Shines with Local and International Films



The 2024 Triad Jewish Film Festival brought people together for laughs, tears, and immersion in Jewish culture. With four in-person films and four streaming films, the festival continued a successful hybrid format offering maximum choice for attendees.

The festival celebrated its 23rd year this January. In-person screenings took place at the luxurious Virginia Somerville Sutton Theater at Well-Spring.

Opening night featured the Greensboro-based film *She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots*, an emotion-packed documentary about the creation of a women's Holocaust memorial statue for Lebauer Park (see feature on p. 20). Other in-person showings included *Menashe*, a tragicomic tale about a hapless father in the Hasidic community, *Goy*, a tale of intercultural love, and *Golda*, a biopic about the inimitable Golda Meir.

Four films were available to watch on-demand with online streaming: *Matchmaking*, *Barren*, *Arranged*, and *She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots*.

Festival coordinator Taylor Lively witnessed the benefits of the festival for attendees.

"It was great to see the Jewish community and our non-Jewish neighbors come out to support and enjoy the richness and diversity of our Jewish and Israeli films," Lively said.

The festival's committee started the selection process back in August, with over 20 films to watch. The process was a pleasure for these film buffs, as all the films were either recommended or shown in other major film festivals across the country.

The committee is seeking more members for next year. "We encourage people of all ages who have a love for films to get involved!" Lively said.



Friends of the Festival help TJFF bring great films to Greensboro while keeping ticket prices affordable for the entire community.

We are pleased to acknowledge the generosity of the 2024 TJFF FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL:

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2024 TJFF Committee Members:

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- Marilyn Cherry
- Paula Justice
- Davida Levine
- Steve Levine
- Taylor Lively
- Edna Mhashilkar

ROOTED IN TRADITION: Celebrating Tu B'Shevat with Shinshiniot



ShinShinim
young ambassadors program
GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION

The PJ OurWay Avivim Social Group with Shinshiniot Noga Bareket and Noa Balfour hosted a delightful Tu B'Shevat event for students in Grades 4-7 on January 25. This vibrant celebration brought together young minds to embrace the essence of the Jewish New Year for trees.

Students celebrated the spirit of Tu B'Shevat with hands-on participation. Creativity took center stage. Potted flowers became canvases for young imaginations, adorned with color and personal touches. The symbolism of growth and renewal of Tu B'Shevat lived in each painted masterpiece.

Students also used beans to craft images of trees, experiencing both a tangible representation of nature and a deeper connection to the ecological significance of Tu B'Shevat.

Avivim Social Group and the Shinshiniot enjoyed an event that not only celebrated tradition but also fostered creativity and community spirit. Delicious treats and artistic activities made this Tu B'Shevat celebration a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.



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Of: Jay Seigel, z"l
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We apologize if we have missed anyone's contribution. Please call Jewish Family Services at (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.

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SUPER SUNDAY SUCCESS: Telethon Raises Funds and Spirits



Super Sunday Telethon is a tradition in the Greensboro Jewish community. Each year, dozens of volunteers gather to raise funds for the Annual Campaign — to **do good that goes everywhere**.

February 11 was a morning filled with joy and success. Thirty members of our community came together at the Federation building to participate in raising more than \$27,000 generously donated from our Greensboro Jewish community.



Kids enjoyed snacks and playtime while parents volunteered

Thank you to everyone who pitched in by making calls and writing thank-you notes!

Most of all, thank you to those who answered the call. If you haven't yet donated to the Annual Campaign, you can easily do so on the annual campaign page of shalomgreensboro.org.

Special thanks to Super Sunday Telethon Co-chairs Ron Yardenay, Eva Turner, and Ginny Vellani, and 2024 Campaign Co-chairs Gary Bargebuhr and Michele Gordon.



John Cohen



David Weiner, Susan Feibelman, and Alina Spaulding



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FROM GREENSBORO TO GAZA: A Journey of Solidarity and Service



Barely a month after Israel had been drawn into war by the shockingly brutal Hamas attacks, Chabad of Greensboro member Jerry Wertman stood in the synagogue and shared his intention to visit the Holy Land to help in the Jewish people's time of need.

"My parents were Holocaust survivors," he said to his fellow congregants. "All our lives, we talked the talk about 'never again.' This is my chance to walk the walk."



Wertman with soldiers at the border

With Rabbi Yosef Plotkin's encouragement, Wertman was soon on an El Al flight with his cousin, Jeff Dienstag of New York. The duo touched down in Israel with no concrete plans, but lots of goodwill and a willingness to throw themselves into whatever G-d placed in their way.

That turned out to be plenty of work as they volunteered at soup kitchens, farms, and wherever anyone needed extra hands and hugs.

Upon seeing a crowd outside a restaurant, they made inquiries and spent the day packing meals for 3,500 displaced families. They cooked dinner for 1,000 soldiers on the Gaza border. They packed 1,200 IV kits for Hatzalah, Israel's volunteer EMS Service, which had gone through a year's supply in the first week of the war. Then they spent a day clearing weeds from a strawberry field in the north.

Wertman said that he was especially moved watching Kabbalat Shabbat services in Tel Aviv. An air raid siren blared, and thousands of evacuees from the south began dancing and singing, "We have no one to rely on other than our Father in Heaven."

Wertman and Dienstag also spent as much time as possible with the troops — purchasing shawarma and pita for as many hungry soldiers as possible — and the families of the hostages, whom they cried with, hugged, and supported in any way they could.

After nearly two weeks, it was time to go home. But Wertman is already planning their next trip.

"We were so humbled in the face of greatness," said Wertman about the people he had met. "The people of Israel are strong, faithful, and united."

Small Efforts Make a Big Difference at B'NAI SHALOM DAY SCHOOL



After the horrifying attack on Israel on October 7, many people were left feeling helpless and wondering how to support those in need.

Then B'nai Shalom got a phone call: a family connected to the school had a large number of socks that needed to be sorted and sent to Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Soldiers.

B'nai Shalom students jumped at the opportunity to help. Over 20 boxes of assorted socks were delivered to the school, and the students dove in. They spent hours pouring out sock after sock, organizing them, finding sock pairs, then boxing them back up to be shipped to Israel. In the end, this seemingly small task supplied over 2,500 pairs of socks to IDF soldiers and provided students with a tangible task instead of feelings of helplessness.

A week or so later, B'nai Shalom Day School welcomed new students to their community whose families had fled from Israel amid the crisis. Knowing that these students were coming to a new school in a new country, with no existing friends in the community, Upper School students took time to decorate their new classmates' lockers and make posters to welcome them to B'nai Shalom. "We wanted to make sure they felt welcome," said Madelyn Renee, a seventh-grade student. "We wanted them to want to be here."

The students collected school supplies to stock the lockers of the incoming students. They made mini paper chains and notes of welcome to hang on the outside. These seemingly small deeds communicated a world of care and comfort to the new families, letting them know that they are not only welcome, but also safe and loved at B'nai Shalom.

Somewhere out there, an IDF soldier's feet are warm and blister-free simply because a sixth-grade student found two socks that matched and bundled them together. Here in the community, there are middle school students laughing with new friends because another student made the effort to befriend them.

Always remember, no matter how small, your effort matters.



Huge thank you to the Mostofsky family and Alina Spaulding, among other caring community members, whose generosity made this opportunity for B'nai Shalom students possible.

Finding Light in Community at BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE



“Minyan at Beth David brings light to those who need it,” said Sylvia Berkelhammer, regular member of the Daily Minyan service.

Five days a week, at 5:45 p.m., people gather in the Beth David Chapel for Minyan. It’s a simple, brief service: *Ma’ariv* (evening) in the winter months and *Mincha* (afternoon) the rest of the year. The service opens a space where people who need to say *Mourner’s Kaddish* have freedom to do so.

While many begin attending because of a death, they continue for many reasons. Some find time to reflect. Others cherish the community — the chance to check in with old friends or to share a laugh before the service while telling jokes or sharing trivia.

Joan Gould started attending Daily Minyan after her mother passed away. She found the sense of community comforting. “Minyan is something we look forward to, a time when we don’t have to think about the rest of the world and its troubles,” Gould said. “It gives us space to feel good, surrounded by friends and community.”

Giving someone a sense of belonging during difficult times in life is one of the benefits of Judaism. “After my husband died, I started to come every night,” Berkelhammer said. “I found it deeply comforting, and I still do. It’s a very short 15 minutes. I can meditate, think about the day, and think about others. It’s a very nourishing place.”

Joan Gould’s husband, Sig Gould, pointed out that someone is always saying Kaddish for a loved one. For a mourner to recite it, Jewish law dictates that 10 people must be in attendance. When the group is small, everyone becomes that essential tenth person.

“It’s rewarding to continue a Jewish tradition by making it possible for them to say prayers for their family members,” Sig Gould said. “To me, Minyan has a great sense of community and meaning. I’m looking forward to seeing people, but also to a nice evening.”

Another option to connect through a Minyan service is on Thursday mornings at 7 a.m. That service is longer, including a Torah reading and followed by community breakfast.

“It gives us space to feel good, surrounded by friends and community.”

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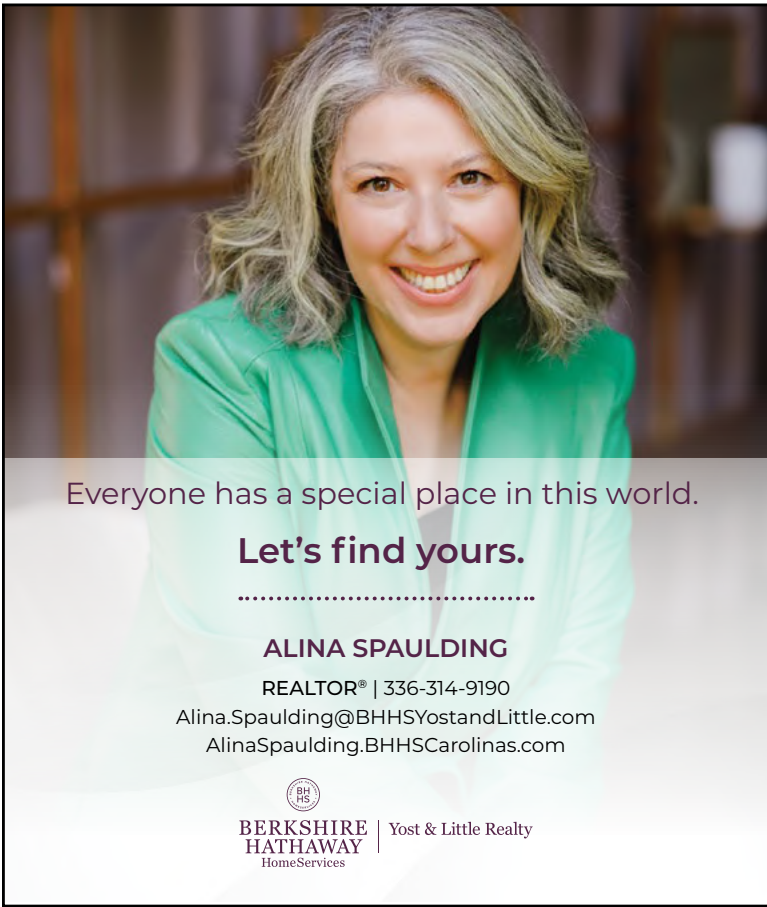
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TEMPLE EMANUEL: A Labor of Love



Temple Emanuel member Josh Ritter was shocked and horrified by the massacre in Israel on October 7. As the days unfolded afterward, Ritter felt driven to make a tangible difference. He wanted the Israeli people to see that the Jewish community cares about them deeply, and that American Jewish people are with them in body and spirit.

He found his opportunity through the Birthright Onward Israel volunteer program. From December 25 to January 7, he traveled in Israel, donating his labor and spiritual support.

The Birthright Onward program serves Jewish undergraduates and young professionals between the ages of 18-40. As an outgrowth of the original Taglit Birthright Israel initiative, Onward Israel provides free trips to Israel to strengthen Jewish identity around the world. The program includes educational components and networking opportunities.

At this difficult time, the program has allowed volunteers to show support for the people of Israel.

Ritter comes from a family that has always supported Israel. Their actions made a deep impression on him as a child. His mother, Dr. Susan Seider, attended Tel Aviv University and volunteered on a kibbutz picking apples near the Lebanon border during the 1967 war. And his grandparents were passionate, life-long supporters of Israel and many Jewish causes.

While in Israel, Ritter and his fellow participants in the program picked grapefruit, weeded, adjusted tomato plants in trellises, and trimmed flowers for approximately six hours every day, except on Shabbat.

Palestinian workers usually do much of this work, but they were not allowed to enter the country due to security concerns. So, Ritter and his cohort were helping to prevent waste and provide nourishment to Israelis during the crisis.

The cohort also prepared meals for displaced people and soldiers and attended events and exhibits in support of the Israeli hostages.

Ritter gained insight on the conflict from numerous knowledgeable people with personal connections to recent events. "My appreciation and support for Israel and its beautiful and resilient citizens continues to grow deeper because of this visit," Ritter said.

He quoted the words of the popular anthem, "We're all together here, no one is alone... *Am Yisrael Chai!*"



RECONNECTING IN THE TRIAD: JTriad Fosters Community Among Jewish Young Professionals



Navigating the post-pandemic world has left many people craving genuine human connection. Socialization levels have not returned to their pre-pandemic norms. And isolation is not good for the soul.

“We have a diaspora of Jewish young professionals around the Triad area,” said Jeremy Reiskind, co-chair of JTriad. “We are not as connected to each other as we have been in the past. And after the horrors of October 7, it’s even more important to feel the support and understanding of other young people from the Jewish community.”

JTriad has been working to provide the safe space and connection wanted and needed by young Jewish professionals from around the Triad area. Over the course of the past year, JTriad has supported a wide variety of in-person events. In the fall and in February, the group co-sponsored learning opportunities with Rabbi Grace Gleason and Rabbi Libby Fisher about *Things You Didn’t Learn in Hebrew School*. “This series connects us to our past and to our roots as Jews,” Reiskind said. “That feels more tender in

today’s tumultuous times.”

JTriad has also built bridges with other Jewish young professional organizations. The group encourages JTriad members to attend events with Moishe House and Chabad in Greensboro. They also promote events hosted by the young professional group of Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem. Both young professional groups attended a Tu B’Shevat wine tasting and DIY charcuterie afternoon coordinated by Temple Emanuel. There, Rabbi Cryton-Walker shared with attendees the history of the holiday and the reason for a Tu B’Shevat seder.

Building community is the most essential part of what JTriad does. “We encourage all of you to come out and feel the support of the JTriad connection,” Reiskind said.

JTriad is run by a small committee of dedicated volunteers and is supported by the Greensboro Jewish Federation, Temple Emanuel of Greensboro, Temple Emanuel of Winston-Salem, and Beth David Synagogue. To stay updated on all events, visit JTriad.com and join the JTriad: Jewish Young Professionals Facebook group.

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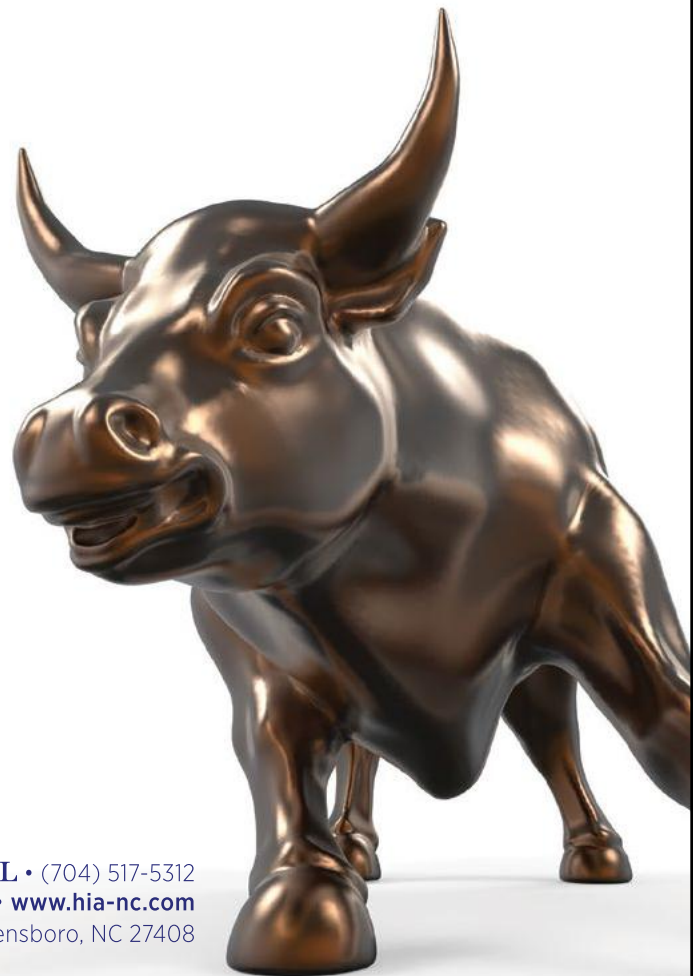
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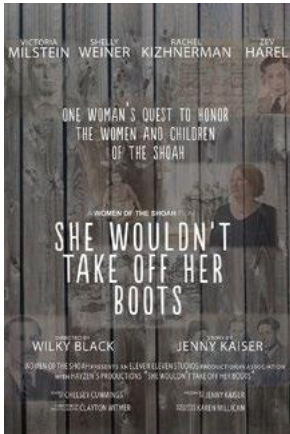
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GREENSBORO-BASED DOCUMENTARY Makes Stunning Public Debut

The Triad Jewish Film Festival hosted a remarkable event this year with the debut of a local documentary film on Holocaust history.

She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots is the story of how artist Victoria Milstein spearheaded

an effort to create the first Holocaust memorial in North Carolina. The bravery and beauty of the sculpture that Milstein eventually created is breathtaking. But there is much more to the film.

Jenny Kaiser structured the film's narrative. "From the beginning, it wasn't just the story of Victoria making the monument — it was also the stories of the survivors," Kaiser said. "The Holocaust survivors were Victoria's 'why' for making the monument. So, we decided to interview all survivors and family members in Greensboro."

The filmmakers captured survivors' voices that rend the heart with their testimony to what they endured as children. Whether they saw the horrors of concentration camps or hid in the freezing cold in holes in the earth, the suffering and trauma is clear. But so is the resilience and the courage that it took for survivors to move on with life afterward.

"It didn't happen long ago and far away," Kaiser said. "It happened to people right here, who you pass in the grocery store. They're not across an ocean — they are people living here with us in Greensboro. That was the reason to include all the survivors and their families."

A hush descended during the screening. Some of the

audience members had seen the film at least once before, at a private premiere for participants and donors in December. But it didn't matter. The survivors' testimonies stopped time and brought the audience together with essential truths — that humans can be unimaginably cruel. That antisemitism reached its ugly hand into these people's lives and killed their families. That even those who survived would never forget — and neither should the world.

Viewers were united in their determination to fight antisemitism, whether they were Jewish or not.

Karen Kopperud is not Jewish, but when she heard about the sculpture project, she immediately gave it her support. "The movie is spectacular. It deeply moved me," Kopperud said. "I visited the sculpture several times. We all brought flowers one day — I think it was *Kristallnacht*, so we brought flowers. This film shows the real deal. And yes, it could happen again."

Joan Paltrineri went with Kopperud to lay flowers on the monument. They visited again after an act of vandalism in December. "We saw the article in the newspaper about the antisemitic spray-painting of the swastika," Paltrineri said. "We were just appalled. Fortunately, by the time we got there, they had cleaned it up."

Zev Harel, a Holocaust survivor who tells his story in the film, has one major wish for the effects of projects like these. "The only hope that I have is for people to respect diversity, and to be supportive of life and living. And not to have antisemitism, or anti-any-ism."

Irene Cohen described the emotional power of the gathering when people attended a candle-lighting at the monument on the last night of Hanukkah. "So many people came, not just Jewish people, but of all religions."

For Judy Hyman, the film furthers the educational power of the monument. "I see a lot of my non-Jewish friends here today," Hyman said. "And I'm happy that they are seeing this, because we are very concerned about the rise in antisemitism. I had not seen the film before, and it is amazing. It just brings me to tears."

“Viewers were united in their determination to fight antisemitism, whether they were Jewish or not.”



Holocaust survivors Rachel Kizhnerman and Shelly Weiner



The Women's Holocaust Memorial is located in Carolyn's Garden at LeBauer Park, in downtown Greensboro, 208 N. Davie Street.

More information can be found at womenoftheshoahjp.org.



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- **LIVE MUSIC Wednesdays is Back!** AM rOdeO (Jessica Mashburn & Evan Olson) 7 PM. printworksbistro.com.
- **Great News!** GVG & PWB Rated Top 100 in USA for Date Nights!



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Thank you to Event Co-chairs Rachel Pront, Michelle Lunney, and Molly Harbaugh, and 2024 Campaign Co-Chair Michele Gordon.

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