

SHALOM

GREENSBORO



Jewish Life on Campus

Hillel Professionals Foster Success

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JEWISH FOUNDATION
of Greensboro



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A College Experience, A Lifetime Tradition

With this issue of *Shalom Greensboro's* focus on Jewish life on college campuses, I have thought of my own Jewish experience in college. Though my school did not have a particularly active, organized Jewish campus life, three memories still stand out. The first is attending High Holiday services at the very beautiful Helen Hills Hills Chapel at Smith College my freshman year. (The name isn't a typo.) I could have attended services at all-male Amherst, but Smith – all women to this day – was right down the road. That led to some enduring friendships, though I happily ended up marrying a Mt. Holyoke girl. The second memory was a fascinating course covering the Hebrew bible taught by Rabbi Reuven Kimelman who I've mentioned in one of my earlier letters.

The third was perhaps the most meaningful. During my senior year, Rene (the Mt. Holyoke girl) and I decided to host an interfaith Passover Seder. Never having been responsible for one before (and, being a college student, believing everything must start with research), I learned that there were many options. I spent an hour or two on the floor of Hastings Book Store reading each of their half dozen *Haggadot*. I decided against the feminist *Haggadah* (I was, after all, at a men's school) and the ones with too much Hebrew, and selected the then-new *Baskin Haggadah*, so called for the wonderful watercolor illustrations by Leonard Baskin. Most of our dozen guests were not Jewish, so it seemed like the right mix of history and accessibility. We can't remember much about the menu except that it was potluck, and the main course was Rene's very southern (and kosher-ish) chicken divan served in the middle of a quintessential New England village. (It is still one of our go-to comfort food dishes; let me know if you need the recipe.) It is possible we had a bit more than the regulation four cups; nevertheless, we all had a wonderful evening of remembrance and celebration. Like our college experiences, it was educational and fun. That was the first *seder* that Rene and I shared and was the start of our tradition of including non-Jewish friends at our seder table.

As you will see in these pages, our Federation supports a robust Jewish presence on campus through active Hillel and other programming led by very capable lay, professional, and student leaders.

Tom Cone, President
Greensboro Jewish Federation
2020 - 2022



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ON MY MIND: Here for Students

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



Marilyn Forman Chandler

I dedicate this column to Dr. Rosemary Horowitz, z"l, former professor of the Appalachian State Center for Judaic, Peace and Holocaust Studies. Dr. Horowitz was a profoundly impactful and passionate educator who was devoted to her students and profession.

I also thank Ari Gaus, Director of NC Hillel for the past 13 years, for his strong professional leadership and dedication. I wish him well on his next chapter.

This issue of *Shalom Greensboro* magazine focuses on Jewish campus life. Our Federation has played a strong role in funding budgets for Jewish student campus activities and in strategic planning discussions. Our volunteers have held leadership positions internationally (Randall Kaplan), and on the NC Hillel Board (Chairs: Nancy Brenner,

Ellen Fischer, Susan Robinson, Erin Rosen and Joyce Shuman) and at many of the private schools. Through funds established with the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro, we have partnered to provide educational programs focused on the Holocaust, Israel, and philanthropy. Young adults have participated with Jewish peers in Birthright Israel, missions overseas, and study abroad programs. Donors have generously given toward buildings and programming on campuses.

We have seen tremendous growth throughout our state with the NC Hillel presence and centers for Jewish life. Judaic studies programs and departments are flourishing. Two shared *Shalichim* (emissaries) from Israel, trained and funded by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), a Federation beneficiary, can be found at Duke, Elon, Wake Forest and High Point University.

NC Hillel was built as a home away from home by Tobee and Leonard Kaplan, z"l. The Kaplans, with assistance from Dr. Ken Stein of Emory University, consulted with the UNC-Chapel Hill professors who were establishing the UNC Judaic Studies program. It has become a robust program with hundreds of students enrolled.

At UNCG, the annual Henry Samuel Levinson Lecture, the Herman and Zelda Bernard Distinguished Professorships in Jewish Studies, the Henry Samuel Levinson Program Endowment for Jewish Studies, the Barbara Colchamiro Endowment, and the Judith Rosenstock Hyman Jewish Studies Program Endowment support top notch lecturers to speak to students and to our community. Norman and Sylvia Samet will be funding a semester course for college students on philanthropy beginning at UNC-Chapel Hill this semester. I have taught Introduction to Judaism to students over four semesters at Guilford College.

The Associated Campus Ministries Building at UNCG was built as an ecumenical effort inspired by a group of campus ministers. Dr. Gary and Jane Rosen Grandon were involved in raising funds along with Min Klein, z"l, and the Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation. The Leonard J. Kaplan Wellness Center was built by the Kaplan family to honor Leonard.

In the political climate of today, students can be unprepared when faced with the vehemence of rhetoric found in the lecture centers and classrooms. The importance of strong professional staff on college campuses is critical. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks in his book, *Morality*, states: "The university must be the guardian of open debate, courteous argument, civil speaking and respectful learning. It must provide space for dissenting minds and for voices that challenge our comfortable assumptions."

At the Federation, we are proud of our long tradition of assisting students at universities and supporting professionals who work at Hillels, Centers for Jewish Life, and Jewish studies professors on college campuses.



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Cover photography featuring
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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: Sowing Seeds of Value in Young Adults

By Ron Yardenay, 2022 Campaign Co-Chair



Ron Yardenay

here
for
good



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

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Allow me to briefly provide a flashback into my childhood. The year is 1998 and I'm a nine-year-old attending B'nai Shalom Day School. That year, the Argentine Great Depression began; a period of four years that thrust over 50% of Argentinians and seven out of ten children below the poverty line. The Argentine Jewish Community was not immune to the financial hardship facing the country, and B'nai Shalom was quick to organize a fundraiser to help our brothers and sisters on the other side of the equator. It was our duty, as *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazeh* - all Jews are responsible for one another, to help where we could. Though, at the time, my grasp of these events was limited. B'nai Shalom took action in order to fulfill a Jewish obligation as well as sow a seed of intrinsic value in our community's students.

Let's fast forward about ten years. I'm a student at Elon University on a Hillel organized alternative spring break in Buenos Aires. Not only was it a valuable experience for me to see what Jewish life was like for my Argentine peers, I saw with my own eyes the institutions that were able to offer a helping hand to the families in need of assistance. To this day, the Argentinian organizations continue to support families by providing services much like those Jewish Family Services offers to our community. These families are still working towards rebuilding from the economic collapse over 20 years ago. Witnessing the direct impact of the Greensboro Jewish community's philanthropic actions has had a profound experience on me and my Jewish identity.

Our communal efforts don't solely help those who need it; they encourage and support experiences, which ensure that the passion we have for our principles and peoplehood remain alive and successful. These fortifying opportunities are readily available on college campuses where student organizations exist. The goal is to be a foundation and support system for the continuation of Jewish

“Witnessing the direct impact of the Greensboro Jewish community's philanthropic actions has had a profound experience on me and my Jewish identity.”

experiences. The timing is significant because when a young adult leaves the nest, the decision to continue seeking Jewish life becomes a personal decision. It's important we reinforce it.

The Greensboro Jewish Federation recognizes the impact campus organizations have on the upbringing of our community. While supporting these organizations, Federation also subsidizes Jewish experiences through grants. They recognize that in order to be **Here for Good**, as a collective, we must continue supporting the activities that immerse our community in Jewish teaching. Contributing to the campaign allows these vital organizations to continue their mission, and it broadcasts that the Greensboro Jewish Community endorses their work.

save the date

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GUILFORD COUNTY IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE
GREENSBORO JEWISH FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022 • 7 - 8:30 p.m.
hosted virtually online



FEATURING:

- Accomplishments of the Corporation
- President's Update to Membership
- Election and Installation of New Board Members
- Join us After for a Virtual "Bring Your Own" Dessert



here
for
good

JELF Makes College More Affordable



These days, paying college tuition is a financial challenge for many American families. Fortunately, there is a remarkable organization called the Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) headquartered in Atlanta that serves five states including North Carolina, and provides interest-free loans to any full-time Jewish student pursuing post-secondary education. JELF loans help cover costs that other financial aid sometimes does

not, such as travel, rent, food and books. JELF's 0% interest loans can save borrowers thousands of dollars from high interest-bearing debt each year.

Amy and Barry Epstein raised their two daughters, Sydnee and Roni, here in Greensboro. Amy remarked, "JELF gave the girls and our family the opportunity to attend the colleges of their dreams. They were able to study the areas where their passions lie and both will graduate on time, in four years." Roni attended Queens University of Charlotte and had internships that prepared her for work in digital marketing.

Currently living and working in Charlotte, Roni reflected, "I was able to achieve my goals and was on the Dean's List almost every semester. I was Hillel President for two years. JELF helped me throughout college and during my internships." It has been proven that students who have the ability to spend the majority of their time focusing on their studies and extracurriculars are more successful.

Sydnee is currently a senior at Appalachian State pursuing her love for interior design: "In addition to helping me accomplish my goals, JELF connected me to other Jewish students on campus." Sydnee hopes to begin a career in interior design after graduation this May.

“In 2021, JELF provided \$63,240 to 14 Jewish students in Greensboro toward their higher education experiences.”

In 2021, JELF provided \$63,240 to 14 Jewish students in Greensboro toward their higher education experiences. And, since 1985, 295 Greensboro students have received almost \$1 million in loans. JELF is proud to boast a 99% repayment rate and strongly believes that money should not stand between a student and the education they need to follow their dreams.

There are many JELF success stories in Greensboro with recipients in careers such as medicine, law, STEM, research, nursing, and other vocational areas. Each year, JELF applications open in January and close at the end of April. Applications are online at jelf.org. Betsy Gamburg at Jewish Family Services is the local JELF Administrator and questions can be directed to her at (336) 852-4829 or bgamburg@shalomgreensboro.org.

JFS GOES TO COLLEGE

College volunteers are energetic, enthusiastic, and bright young people who are eager to gain experience while making a difference in the world. Jewish Family Services is proud to share results from recent collaborative partnerships with local campuses.



UNCG: The David Frazier Food Pantry at JFS provides non-perishables and "Neighbor in Need" supplies to the Wesley-Luther Spartan Open Pantry. This pantry was also a recipient of the JFS Food Task Force Grant to relieve food insecurity.



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY: Hillel at High Point University in partnership with Jewish Family Services held a month-long book drive and stocked the Maya Angelou Library at Victoria's House with 113 educational books.



NC A&T UNIVERSITY: Jewish Family Services worked with NC A&T's MLK Day of Service in partnership with The Volunteer Center. JFS Staff attended planning meetings and helped identify volunteer roles for members of the Jewish community.

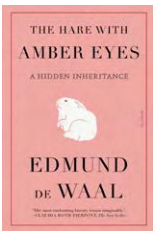


**JOIN US FOR
MITZVAH DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022**

Save the date for Mitzvah Day! On Sunday, May 22, Mitzvah Day will start off with breakfast at Beth David and will have volunteer opportunities for all comfort levels. By participating in acts of social responsibility during Mitzvah Day, we fulfill our shared Jewish obligation of *Tikkun Olam* – repairing the world.



check it out
The Greensboro Jewish Library



The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Hidden Inheritance (2010) is a family memoir by British ceramicist Edmund de Waal. De Waal tells the story of his family, the Ephrussi, once a very wealthy European Jewish banking dynasty, centered in Odessa, Vienna and Paris, and peers of the Rothschild family. The Ephrussis lost almost everything in 1938 when the Nazis confiscated their property and were unable to recover most of their property after the war, including priceless artwork. Only an easily hidden collection of 264 Japanese netsuke miniature sculptures was saved, tucked away inside a mattress by Anna, a loyal maid at Palais Ephrussi in Vienna during the war years. The collection has been passed down through five generations of the Ephrussi family, providing a common thread for the story of its fortunes from 1871 to 2009.

The Greensboro Jewish Library has *The Hare with Amber Eyes* 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. For questions, please email library@shalomgreensboro.org, or call Amanda Loffin at (336) 852-4829 ext. 227.

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.

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Of: Barbara Zimmerman z"l
From: Mike and Misty Mayfield
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Of: Ruth Steiner z"l
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Of: Sarah Pearlman z"l
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Janis and Andy Fields
and Mimi Levin

Of: Gertrude "Goldie" Wetter z"l
From: Sara Hoffman
Steve and Frances Bombart
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Of: Gladys Haber z"l
From: Ellen Wilson, PhD
Janis and Andy Fields
and Mimi Levin

Of: Bill Pines z"l
From: Janis and Andy Fields

Of: Carol Amsterdam z"l
From: Janis and Andy Fields

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

DAVID D. FRAZIER FOOD PANTRY

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Rodney and Emily Kranz
Richard and Jill Auslander
Ellen Haskell
Erica and Andrew Herman
Stephen and Janice Hyman

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Patsy Morgan
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Of: Polly Strasser
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Of: Susan Ross' Bat Mitzvah
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Of: Frank and Nancy Brenner's
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Of: Sara Lee Saperstein's Birthday
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Of: Larry Gains z"l
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In Memory:
Of: Barbara Zimmerman z"l
From: Elizabeth and Tom Cone

2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

In Honor:
Of: Tom Cone
From: Sue Klau

In Memory:
Of: Barbara Zimmerman z"l
From: Toni Puckett

Hillel Heroes: Making College Feel Like Home

BY HILLARY ZAKEN

“Every time I walk through Hillel’s doors I feel like I am at home,” shared Zoe Kurtz, a senior at Elon University from Winston-Salem, NC. “I feel incredibly supported at Hillel, the staff are always there for me.”

Jewish students throughout the world find community, meaning, and leadership opportunities through their campus Hillel. They learn to ask important questions about their faith, deepen their connection to their Judaism, and build relationships with friends and mentors that last a lifetime.

These talented and passionate mentors dedicate their careers to their students by creating an on-campus home, advocating and supporting, listening and offering advice on life. They welcome them into the local Jewish community, build networks, provide academic support, assist with career search, and prepare them for life after college.

For Zoe Kurtz, that mentor is Boaz Avraham-Katz, the Jewish Educator at Elon Hillel, who has been an essential part of her college experience. Avraham-Katz is more than just a teacher or an advisor; he walks alongside his students on their Jewish journeys.

Boaz Avraham-Katz and Zoe Kurtz enjoy homemade hummus at an Israeli cooking event at Elon’s Sklut Hillel Center



“There are truly no words to describe the impact Boaz has had on me,” shared Zoe. “I can’t imagine my Elon experience without him in it, and I know he will be someone in my life forever. Boaz doesn’t just want to teach his students, he wants to know his students, to learn who they are. Boaz has been there for me in good times and in bad, shining a light on me, helping me find my Jewish identity, and always making me feel cared for.”

Four campuses in the Triad, Elon University, High Point University, Wake Forest University and UNCG each have a vibrant Hillel staffed by dedicated and talented Jewish professionals. These campuses are all affiliated with Hillel International, the world’s largest Jewish student organization, which has communities at more than 550 colleges and universities.

Boaz Avraham-Katz, Gail Bretan, Vicki Cathcart, Amy Epstein, Amit Melchior, Ginny Vellani, and Hillary Zaken, who all live in Greensboro, are focused on creating joyful Jewish experiences for students on their campuses, and their creative mentorship has had a lasting impact on the Jewish students who attend colleges in the Triad.

Boaz Avraham-Katz is a career Jewish educator who has taught at B’nai Shalom Day School, worked at Beth David synagogue and Temple Emanuel, and tutored bar and bat mitzvah students from the entire Triad region. Now Avraham-Katz is the Jewish Educator at Elon University, a role he describes as his dream job.

“I have had the chance to work with all the ages, and I feel like I have the most important job now,” he shares. “At Hillel, we have the last opportunity to send students off with a basket of Jewish values, something they can hold on to and take with them for their entire lives. Our work is beyond the typical Jewish education. It is about reaching out my hand, taking theirs, and walking with them for a little bit, whatever that means for each student.”

Avraham-Katz is always texting his students to check in, liking and commenting on their social media (yes, he knows what TikTok is, and uses it), and finding opportunities to cook the foods they love. He can often be found in the homey kitchen at Elon’s Sklut Hillel Center, making a large pot of matzah ball soup or a plate of homemade hummus. He encourages students to gather over food and open their minds and hearts.

For Zoe, that care (and the food) is a large part of what makes Hillel her home away from home: “Among my favorite Hillel memories are cooking with Boaz in the Hillel house, and having great conversations doing it! He even invited us to his house, where he cooked us a delicious dinner.”

For Amy Epstein, Jewish Life Coordinator and Hillel Director at High Point University, mentorship is also reciprocal: “For me, being a good mentor includes integrity, being a champion, leading by example and being available to listen. I have mentored a student and not realized the impact that it had on them. Truly, I think we mentored each other. Championing students and being in their corner is one of

“Championing students and being in their corner is one of my most favorite parts of being a Hillel Director.”



my most favorite parts of being a Hillel Director. You never know where they are going to go.”

NC Hillel’s Vicki Cathcart, Assistant Director of the NC Link program, concurs. She also believes that a key part of mentorship is connecting students to opportunities in Greensboro’s local community: “As a commuter student, Samantha Brody spent countless hours in between classes in the UNC Greensboro Hillel lounge. We had wonderful conversations about being Jewish in the South, Disney, her love of books, and so much more. When Samantha wanted to be more involved in the local Jewish community, I connected her to Beth David Synagogue, where she teaches Hebrew School, and she also works at both B’nai Shalom Day School and Temple Emanuel.”

While a creative and fun event, or perhaps the lure of a quiet place to study with free snacks can bring a student through the door of their campus Hillel, what makes them stay are the friends they make and the Hillel staff with the open doors and the listening ears.

These Hillel pros not only help students. Jewish parents can also rest assured that a caring adult is always there for their students, walking alongside them on their Jewish journeys, helping them find their passions, and supporting their students every step of the way.

Perhaps Elon senior Zoe Kurtz said it best: “Hillel has had a huge part in helping me find my Jewish identity. I truly am so thankful and appreciative for all my Hillel mentors, and would not be the person I am today without their support. They challenge me when I need to be challenged, they celebrate with me, and they are the shoulder to lean on when I need one. Hillel is where I found the people I can always count on.”



The Rosenblatt Family Hillel at Wake Forest University provides meaningful student-led Jewish programming for students, faculty, and staff. The number of Jewish students attending Wake has grown rapidly, with undergraduate Jewish student enrollment between 300-350.



High Point University has a thriving Jewish community on campus. About 200 students identify as Jewish, a number that grows each year. The university is committed to religious diversity and a spirit of openness, and HPU Hillel welcomes all students to events and programs.

ON THE COVER



Amit Melchior

Israel Fellow for Triad Hillels of North Carolina (Wake Forest University, Elon University, High Point University)



Dr. Gail Bretan

Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life
The Office of the Chaplain, Wake Forest University



Vicki Cathcart

Director of Student Life, Greensboro
Assistant Director, NC Hillel Link



Amy Epstein

Jewish Life Coordinator and Hillel Director,
High Point University



Boaz Avraham-Katz

Jewish Educator at Hillel, Elon University



Ginny Vellani

Director of Statewide Initiatives, NC Hillel Link



Hillary Zaken

Assistant Director of Jewish Life, Elon University



The UNCG Hillel community welcomes all students to programs, events, and services. There are approximately 150 undergraduate Jewish students at UNCG, and students have forged strong relationships with other faith groups and won on-campus recognition as a Student Group of Excellence.



The Jewish community at Elon is welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant. Hillel offers a home away from home, and fun and meaningful programs for all students. The campus Jewish community currently comprises about 13% of the student population community, and grows every year.

NC HILLEL AND THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREENSBORO: Long-standing Connections Continue

Hillel
North Carolina

According to a study completed by the Avi Chai Foundation in 2010, “A student’s involvement with Hillel is one of the strongest predictors of future Jewish leadership – stronger than Jewish day school enrollment, Jewish camp experiences, or membership in a Jewish youth group.” This is certainly the case with NC Hillel and the greater Greensboro Jewish community. Many Jewish Foundation of Greensboro donors can trace their first involvement in the organized Jewish community to their college experiences at Hillel which has translated into continued philanthropic support for the eight campuses NC Hillel serves that engage Jewish students throughout the state. The list of community members who have served in or are currently in leadership roles at NC Hillel reads like a Who’s Who of the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro, starting, of course, with Leonard and Tobee Kaplan. “I can’t say enough about the Kaplans as well as the many other dedicated, generous leaders from Greensboro who have played critical roles in making NC Hillel what it is today,” noted Ari Gauss, Executive Director of NC Hillel.

Many long-time supporters of the Jewish Foundation of Greensboro have fond memories of their college days in North Carolina and the role that Hillel played in providing both a nurturing Jewish environment, as well as a place to hone their community leadership skills. Susan Robinson, former chair of the board of NC Hillel, explains, “Many of us attended UNC-Chapel Hill or another state school as have many of our children. I got involved with Hillel as did many of my friends. We’ve served on the board and some of us have become chairs. Those experiences helped shape my family’s philanthropy over the years.” Susan’s involvement is more than personal as she remembers fondly that “Freddy and I met at a party at UNC Hillel. Having a strong Hillel on campus was important for us then, and it is perhaps even more important on campus today, providing a strong presence that promotes Jewish values.”

Relationships between NC Hillel, the Jewish community of Greensboro and the Foundation also have strong, deep roots. While many alumni and friends have provided support to Hillel since their graduations, the direct connection between NC Hillel and the Foundation began in 2000 with the opening of the first fund under Foundation management. Currently there are 12 funds with almost \$2.5 million invested with the Foundation and the number of donor-advised fund grants continue to grow each year.

How will the Foundation continue to support NC Hillel programs? The most recent example of Greensboro leadership can be seen in the generous grant from Sylvia and Norman Samet, long-standing members of the NC Hillel Board of Governors. Their grant is funding a philanthropy education program for UNC-Chapel Hill Hillel students. One of the goals of the program is to help young people become the Jewish community philanthropic leaders of tomorrow. Under the leadership of Campus Director of UNC Hillel, Hannah Gutterman Spinrad, the Samets’ program will emphasize Jewish identity, mission and *tzedakah*, using strategic philanthropy to help build community. Students participating in the Samets’ program will partake in training sessions with staff and professional advisors. The overall goal is to engage in thoughtful philanthropy, collective giving and decision-making. “We believe that the next generation of Jewish community leaders, in Greensboro, other North Carolina cities, as well as throughout the country, will emerge from this program,” stated Gutterman Spinrad.



Freddy and Susan Robinson

“Relationships between NC Hillel, the Jewish community of Greensboro and the Foundation also have strong, deep roots.”

JFNA's Q&A with the Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs



Nachman Shai

Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs Nachman Shai sat down for an interview with the Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA). Shai served as Director General of Federations' office in Israel and Senior Vice President of UJC before being elected to the Knesset more than a decade ago, serving first as a member of the Kadima Party and then being re-elected as a member of the Labor Party.

What do you think are the most important tools for connecting North American Jews, particularly the younger generation, to Israel?

"The best way is for them to visit the country through Taglit-Birthright, MASA, and other programs. If we can't get them to come here, then let's reach out to them wherever they are, especially on college campuses. We have at least three national organizations—Hillel, Chabad, and Olami—who are running programs on behalf of the Ministry of the Diaspora. We haven't done enough on the digital front, through what I call digital dialogue. It's the most important challenge of

my present position—not to lose the young generation, but to gain their confidence and attention, to bring them into the system either while they are in university or after graduation. That's the best investment in the future of the North American Jewish community and even for the Jewish world as a whole."

You worked for a number of years as the head of the Federations' Israel office and then you worked for the UJC, the predecessor organization to JFNA. What was the most important thing that you learned during that period?

"I learned more than anything the strategic importance of the relationship between Israel and the North American Jewish community. I realized that we have to invest a lot on both ends. On the Israeli side, we need to form relationships with Israeli politicians and other leaders so that they can understand better the relationship between American Jewry and Israel. We have also led a number of delegations of members of the Israeli media to the United States. There's a mix of arrogance and ignorance on both sides that we need to overcome to find better ways to communicate with each other."

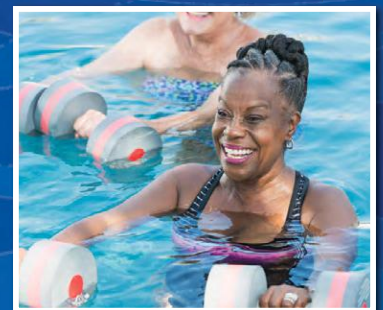
Read the full interview in the News & Stories section of www.shalomgreensboro.org.

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MAKING CONNECTIONS



THE BRIDGE BUILDER: Federation Welcomes New Staff Member



Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Sneiderman

Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Sneiderman is not a stranger to creating a community of inclusion and diversity. Rabbi Sneiderman was the Campus Rabbi for 23 years at the University of Delaware. In this capacity he helped create the University Religious Leaders Organization where he worked alongside Methodist, Catholic, and Muslim leaders on campus.

It is with this spirit of relationship-building that Rabbi Sneiderman steps into the new role of Director of the Jewish Community Relations Committee. In his new role he will be working with local leaders and government officials, media, and the Jewish community. He also will also oversee Greensboro's role in the Partnership2Gether Hadera-Eiron and the Southeastern Consortium partnership. He describes the new position as dedicated staff to deal with politics, antisemitism, and other issues. The role is also about building allies, protecting interests of the community, and honoring diversity, equity and justice.

A major part of the new position is world outreach and Israeli advocacy, both of which are very dear to Rabbi Sneiderman. The Rabbi has led over 30 Birthright trips to Israel with 1,200 students and knows the experience can be lifechanging; he has personally witnessed campus Jewish life before and after the existence of Birthright Israel. Once the students began going, Israel became "the fabric" of the school, and it was on their radar. "To advocate for something you have experience with is much easier than something you don't have experience with," he said.

Rabbi Sneiderman's sagacious philosophy that it is better to be "proactive than reactive" will serve the community well in these uncertain times.

To learn more about JCRC and Rabbi Sneiderman, email him at esneiderman@shalomgreensboro.org.



LIONS OF JUDAH Celebrate Five Decades of Philanthropy



On January 9, 2022, nearly 3,000 female-identifying philanthropists from all over the world came together virtually for the Lion of Judah 50th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration.

Current and future Lions from across generations celebrated accomplishments, inspired each other and learned from one another while strengthening their collective ability to give back to the communities they cherish. Women at the virtual event heard from some of the most influential and thought-provoking leaders across the global Jewish community, leaving them empowered and with an even deeper appreciation of what it means to be a woman with the power to make a difference.

Along with thousands of women from around the world, eight of our very own from Greensboro participated in this powerful event.

Lions can look forward to December 2022, when the International Lion of Judah Conference will take place in Phoenix, Arizona.

The minimum annual campaign gift required to be a Lion of Judah is \$5,000. To learn more, contact Carly H. Dunno, Campaign Operations Manager at cdunno@shalomgreensboro.org

Save the Date

LION OF JUDAH CONFERENCE

December 11-13, 2022

Phoenix, Arizona



Friends of the Festival, Jeri D'Lugin and Judith Hyman at *Asia*



Two Communities Join Together for SECURITY TRAININGS



Dr. Brian Van Brunt

More than 120 members of the Greensboro and Northeast Florida Jewish communities met virtually for Secure Community Network (SCN) training sessions led by Assistant Deputy Director of Training Dr. Brian Van Brunt.

BeAware: Introduction to Situational Awareness Training, instructed participants on how to recognize suspicious or dangerous behavior and how to take action.

The second session, *Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)* was developed specifically for faith based institutions and houses of worship. It taught participants how to prepare for potential threats and commit to action during an "Active Threat" event.

SCN is the official homeland safety and security initiative of the organized Jewish community in North America. Founded 18 years ago, under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, it serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community. SCN works across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities as well as with other partners in the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors.

TRIAD JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL Wraps Up Hybrid Entertainment



Opening night brought out 74 community members to watch *Tiger Within*, starring Ed Asner. The crowd was a hum after watching the movie, joyous to be back together in person for the first time in two years.

The Triad Jewish Film Festival (TJFF) Committee chose a hybrid film festival this year following suit of other film festivals across the country. This platform allowed patrons to watch from the comfort of their own homes, and at the Virginia Somerville Sutton Theatre & Lobby at Well-Spring.

TJFF committee members prepared for the festival by collecting movie suggestions and attending monthly meetings to hash out every detail. Fifty movie trailers were viewed and through a voting process, a top 10 list was created. Movie distributors gave the committee private viewing opportunities to narrow down their lists. The final line-up included two documentaries, a comedy and three dramas. Three of the movies were in English and three were in Hebrew.

TJFF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- David Kaplan, *Chair*
- Eric Chabrow
- Marilyn and Ken Cherry
- Pinna Fogel
- Maya Gurfinkel
- Paula Justice
- Lois Losyk
- Edna Mhashilkar
- Rachael Smith-Vaughan

In addition to *Tiger Within*, the movies *Asia* and *Honeymoon* were viewed on the big screen at Well-Spring for in-person showings.

"For 21 years, the Triad Jewish Film Festival has brought the community exposure to Jewish related films that they might not have known about otherwise. We're fortunate to have been able to adapt during the pandemic and offer these films virtually from the comfort of the viewer's home," said David Kaplan, chair of the Film Festival Committee.

The Festival would not have been possible without the generosity of sponsors and the commitment of the TJFF committee members. For a full list of sponsors, please visit www.mytjff.com.

B'NAI SHALOM Alumna Reflects on JEWISH IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT



During her junior year at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ariel Nissan knew that something was missing. After a childhood spent at Jewish day schools, including B'nai Shalom, Ariel started college wanting to chart a new path. She wanted to find out who she was and her place in the world without viewing them through a Jewish lens. However, that changed. "I started to realize that what was missing were the Jewish conversations I grew up with," Ariel remembered.



Ariel Nissan at her graduation ceremony in Chapel Hill

As a *Mizrahi* Jew, raised in a Hebrew speaking home, Ariel's Jewish identity was different from many of her classmates at B'nai Shalom. Her time there, however, gave Ariel the opportunity to explore her Judaism in many ways. Ariel recalled, "I learned from different teachers who had unique Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds. I tried wrapping *tefillin* and reading from the Torah. I met other students from other Jewish backgrounds who practiced in different ways." Throughout all these experiences, Ariel found herself steeped in a rich Jewish environment.

Ariel said, "Those experiences inspired me to think analytically about Judaism, how it fits into my life, how it fits into other people's lives, and how it fits into the story of Israel."

After receiving a degree from UNC-Chapel Hill with a double major in Advertising and Public Relations and Jewish Studies, Ariel is now the Springboard Innovation Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Hillel where she develops student programming. "I try to connect students to Hillel in whatever way they want to be connected and make sure they have a place at Hillel no matter what," Ariel said. She designs programs that engage students Jewishly above and beyond religious practice, including art, mental health and well-being, and Hebrew language.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE in STUDENTS At BETH DAVID SYNAGOGUE



According to a survey conducted by the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) in 2021, nearly one-third of Jewish students personally experienced antisemitism directed at them on campus or by a member

of the campus community. In addition, the survey found that many of the incidents went unreported. This issue has become a growing concern for students, parents, and Jewish faculty/staff. Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon is taking a proactive step and helping Beth David's high school students address it.

"Kids need to be equipped to discuss two significant issues. First, they need to be able to talk about Israel from their personal perspective in a positive and affirming way. Second, they need to know how to deal with antisemitism," said Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon.

Rabbi Ben-Gideon and Education Director Jason Cathcart developed a curriculum for confirmation classes that broadens these skills. The classes read and discuss two books: *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* by Yossi Klein Halevi and *How to Fight Anti-Semitism* by Bari Weiss. The curriculum is designed to help students become comfortable addressing and respecting Palestinian views. The confirmation class also learns how to be confident when discussing Judaism and Jewish life.

“Confirmation class taught me to be strong in my stance and how to be a more confident Jewish man in America.”

The class also helps its students develop and strengthen their relationships with each other while having fun. Recently the students learned how to make homemade pita and tahini. "I enjoyed the confirmation class and bagels and coffee. It was a good way for me to socialize with other Jewish kids, plus Jason made some pretty good coffee," said Leo Kaiser, a sophomore at Middle Tennessee State University.

Rabbi Ben-Gideon stresses that there are no easy answers. Leo Kaiser agrees and has seen the benefits of the class. "I've learned that many people have antisemitic or anti-Israel opinions because they are following a popular opinion. Confirmation class taught me to be strong in my stance and how to be a more confident Jewish man in America."



Conference attendees celebrate the Hillel International Global Assembly Opening

Greensboro Hosts HILLEL INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL ASSEMBLY



Dr. Gail Bretan, Associate Chaplain for Jewish Life at Wake Forest University Hillel, Amy Epstein, Jewish Life Coordinator and Hillel Director at High Point University, Vicki Cathcart, Assistant Director of the new NC

Hillel Link, and Rabbi Danielle LeShaw, Campus Support Director at Hillel International, co-hosted the Hillel International Global Assembly Women's Solo Professional and Small Campuses Conference at the Smith Center at UNC Greensboro from December 12-14, 2021.



Hillel professionals explore Kaplan Commons on UNCG's campus

At the conference, twelve Hillel Professionals from around the country, including Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, New York and Hillel International learned and collaborated to find meaningful ways to support college students on their Jewish journeys. Small and large group conversations focused on the value that Hillel adds to the wider campus community: the diversity of Jewish college experiences

on our campuses and the importance of taking time for reflection and celebration.

Highlights of the conference included: training of Hillel International's new "Understanding Antisemitism on Campus" curriculum, peer-led workshops on best practices in social media and technology, a seminar entitled "Gender Equity in the Workplace" presented by Sara Shapiro-Plevan, CEO and Founder of The Gender Equity in Hiring in the Jewish Community Project, as well as virtual gatherings with hundreds of Hillel professionals around the country. The retreat capped off with a guided tour of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

To find out more about Hillels in the Triad NC area and around the world, visit hillel.org.

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

COMMUNITY

College Students Find Connection at Chabad on Campus



For many, attending a college away from home is a rite of passage full of possibilities but also many unknowns. This is compounded for

Jewish students who need to find their way and establish patterns of Jewish observance in their new environments.

Many Greensboro teens who are familiar with Chabad of Greensboro have fit right in to Chabad on Campus, finding comfort in the beloved tunes, traditions, unquestioning acceptance, and family atmosphere that is the hallmark of Chabad all over the world.



Adin Friedland (left) with friends at Chabad at UNC-Chapel Hill

“Going to Chabad at UGA has provided me with an immediate sense of belonging,” said Greensboro native, Abby Samet, a freshman at the University of Georgia in Athens. “It is where I go when I need a comfortable place that feels like home.”

There are currently full-time Chabad centers on more than 260 campuses worldwide, serving every college in the country that has a sizable Jewish population.

The seamless transition from a community Chabad center to a campus Chabad house brings assurance to parents as well.

“I am so pleased my daughter, Celia, and her friends sought out High Holiday services, Shabbat dinners, and other holiday festivities at Chabad during their first semester at college,” said Michele Gordon, whose daughter is a freshman at Haverford College in Haverford, Pa. “It’s comforting to know Celia has a warm, welcoming Jewish home to frequent while she is at school.”

Chabad on Campus provides an environment for Jewish students from all different cities to come together. “Chabad at UNC gives me a chance to connect with the Jewish community and meet lots of new people,” said Adin Friedland, a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill. “I am so grateful that I have had the opportunity to move from one incredible Chabad community in Greensboro to another in Chapel Hill.”



Ilyssa Salomon (center) with Sarah Montgomery (left) and David Portney (right) at Latke Vodka Tzedakah in December 2021

COMING FULL CIRCLE: JTRIAD Welcomes New Member



As a first-generation college student at the University of Miami, Ilyssa Salomon found comfort and friendship at Hillel events during her freshman year. With both paternal grandparents being Holocaust survivors, it was important for Salomon to continue connecting to her Jewish roots.

“Neither of my parents went to college. It was such a new world. So much of what you know changes. In the process of having to start from scratch, Judaism was something I could easily step into,” reflected Salomon.

One year later, she attended Birthright with other Jewish students from school and, soon after, dove deeper into Jewish extracurriculars.

She became an intern for The David Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing communities together for dialogue and understanding around Israel. She even traveled to attend a leadership training conference at the Harvard Hillel. It was one of the most impactful experiences of her college career.

After graduation, Salomon attended graduate school at the University of Kentucky to pursue a doctorate in Developmental Psychology. When she wasn’t researching how social media and technology affect adolescent social development, she found herself enjoying Friday night dinners and events with the Young Bluegrass Jews, an organization similar to JTriad. There, she met her now fiancé and, together, they moved to Greensboro after Salomon graduated and landed a job as an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Elon University.

“It’s a full circle thing. One of the components of this job is service. As I move along, I’ve identified that I want to be involved in Jewish life on campus. I want to give back and contribute because it was such a pivotal piece of my college experience.”

Shortly after arriving in Greensboro, Salomon sought out an organization for young Jewish people and found JTriad. She has attended several events, including Latke Vodka Tzedakah, and is looking forward to joining JTriad’s kickball team this spring.

TEMPLE EMANUEL Provides Foundation for Campus Leaders



Years before students begin their college lives, Temple Emanuel is helping to prepare them. Temple's goal is to provide a well-developed sense of Jewish identity, a connection to Israel and Jews worldwide, as well as the expectation of being Jewishly involved.

Each year over 80% of Temple's 12th grade confirmation class are teens who became Bar and Bat Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel. Such auspicious engagement has positive impacts that reach well beyond Temple Emanuel and Greensboro.

"Shortly after I left the world of Hillel to work in a Temple context, it dawned on me that the vitality of campus Jewish life is deeply dependent on what congregations are or are not doing," said Rabbi Andy Koren, Temple Emanuel's Senior Rabbi.

This is why he and Rabbi Emeritus Fred Guttman built a program which involves high school students in meaningful ways by connecting them to Judaism through active roles as Religious School *Madrichim*, social action projects, advocacy training, regional and international travel, and learning sessions. Rabbi Libby Fisher continues this work in her role as Temple's Director of Religious Education.

A perfect example of a success story is Ethan Savino who grew up going to Temple Emanuel and is currently finishing his studies at Sewanee: The University of the South. As the current president of the Sewanee Jewish Association, Savino has brought vital Jewish programming to a campus where inclusion of Jewish students was often overlooked.

"I'm proud that the Jewish organization here at my school has been able to expose people to a culture which isn't really present in this part of Tennessee," reflected Savino.

Temple Emanuel is not only proud of the work that it has done to prepare Jewish young adults for their next steps, but also of how those young adults have built upon the foundation Temple has provided to emerge as Jewish leaders.



Ethan Savino

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

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

Saturday Docent Drop-In Tours
Saturdays through April 30, 1-1:30pm

Lorraine O'Grady: Both/And is organized by the Brooklyn Museum. Leadership support for this exhibition is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation. 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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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.

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